

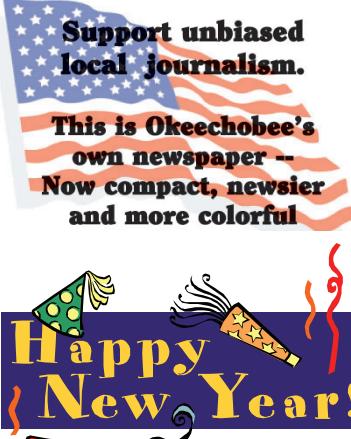


OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 1

Friday, January 1, 2010

50¢ Plus tax



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Lake Levels

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See page 4 for information about how to contact this newspaper.

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Special to the Okeechobee News

In the Capriole, one of the "Airs Above the Ground," the horse finds his tempo, leaps into the air, drawing his forelegs under his chest and, at the height of elevation, kicks out violently with the hind legs.

Lipizzaners visit Okeechobee

White stallions to perform at Agri-Civic Center

The "World Famous" Lipizzaner Stallions will perform at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center on Sunday, Jan. 10 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The "World Famous" Lipizzaner Stallions includes many of the traditional movements and exercises presented at the world-renowned Spanish Riding School of Vienna.

While maintaining a classical presentation of the Lipizzaner, also featured is the forefather of the Lipizzaner – the Spanish Andalusian. Other exciting departures from tradition include a rousing number set to the big band music of the swing era.

Many of the horses and

riders who appear in this special Anniversary edition were hand picked by producer Gary Lashinsky to perform in this family oriented arena attraction. Over the years, more than 25 million people throughout North and South America, The United Kingdom, Europe, Australia and Hawaii have seen this internationally acclaimed spectacle.

The graceful dance of the Lipizzaner Stallions is a breathtaking ballet over 400 years in the making. A highlight of the performance is their spectacular leaps and maneuvers known as the "Airs Above the Ground" which were born in the fury of the battlefield. Now these stunning maneuvers are preserved as an equestrian work of art that you can witness.

See HORSES — Page 2



Special to the Okeechobee News

In the Mounted Levade, the horse must maintain a haunched position at a 45-degree angle to the ground, requiring muscle control and balance that is most difficult to perfect.

Depot plans stalled

Old train depot restoration movement plans slow down

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A topic that aroused a lot of public opinion in 2008 was restoration of Okeechobee's train depot. It would have been used as a passenger depot for the two passenger trains that stop here each day as well as office space of Okeechobee Main Street. Public opinion ran high and many people made calls to CSX Transportation, the owner of the building. There were negotiations between the city and CSX. City officials also met with Amtrak officials, who operate the passenger trains serving Okeechobee. Amtrak officials expressed a willingness to help with restoration. Grant funds may also be available for other sources.

This year there has been little public activity concerning the building. According to city manager Brian Whitehall, the current holdup is insurance. He said that CSX is requiring liability insurance. With the building being staffed by volunteers, Mr. Whitehall said it would not be feasible to pay insurance.

The eastern end of the building, which once housed the passenger waiting room has been unused and boarded up for some time.

See DEPOT — Page 2

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HORSES

Continued From Page 1

from the safety of your seat!

The Lipizzan is a rare and unique breed; its history and culture is known worldwide. The Walt Disney movie "The Miracle of the White Stallions," depicting General George S. Patton saving them at the end of World War II from certain extinction, created an even greater worldwide interest in the Lipizzaner breed. Had it not been for Patton, there would be no Lipizzans today.

For more information on the show online, go to www.tickets.com. Locally, tickets will be on sale at Eli's Western Wear.



Special to the Okeechobee News

The "Pas de Trois" is a series of maneuvers involving three horses. The precise movements, set to music, are like a dance on horseback.

DEPOT

Continued From Page 1

The western end, which was originally used for shipping freight, had been used for a feed business until some time last year.

The building, which was once in danger of demolition, appears to be in good shape.

"It is very solid and can be fixed very easily," stated city engineer Oscar Bermudez.

The roof over the waiting room would have to be replaced because the ceiling has fallen in several places indicating leaks. However, the floors are concrete and the walls are block construction so there is no water damage to the walls or floors.

A fireplace flanked by windows dominates the east side of the waiting room. Doors on the north and south sides give access to the street and to the track. Restrooms adjoin the waiting room. Behind a frosted glass window is the ticket booth which is not accessible from the waiting room.

The depot was built in 1924 for the Florida, Western & Northern Railroad, a subsidiary of the Seaboard Airline Railway.

The building was built in the Mediterranean Revival architecture style that was popular in the 1920s. Okeechobee's city hall and courthouse are also built in that same style.

The depot was designed by the architectural firm of Henry Stephen Harvey and Louis Phillips Clark. These same architects designed the depots in at Deerfield Beach and Delray Beach. Both of those structures are listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. They also designed the Palm Beach Town Hall and Fire Station.

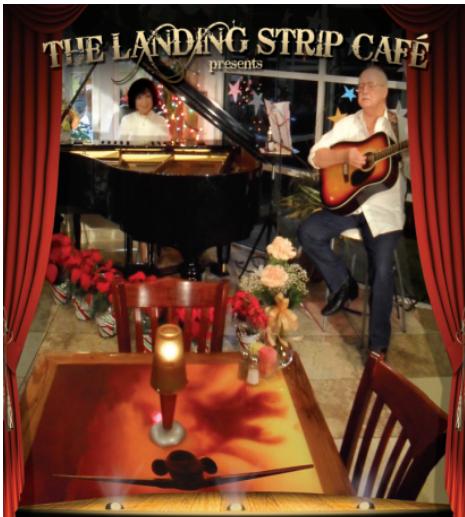
The importance of the railroad to Okeechobee is indicated by the fact that in 1926 the Okeechobee News carried this caption in large letter across the bottom of the front page: "South Florida's Chicago - Okeechobee the highway, railway and waterway center."

In fact the City of Okeechobee owes its existence to the railroad. In 1912 the Florida East Coast Railroad formed the Model Land Company which laid out the plat for the City of Okeechobee. Flagler Park is named after railroad baron Henry Flagler. The main north-south street, Parrott Avenue, is named for the president of the Florida East Coast

Railroad, J. R. Parrott.

Lifelong Okeechobee resident Betty Chandler Williamson recalls waiting for the train in the old depot. She said that the mail came twice a day by train. Whenever residents heard the train whistle they knew that mail would soon be in their post office boxes.

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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Thieves take advantage of unlocked cars

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

For some reason people refuse to lock their car doors and, consequently, they are losing their valuables.

Detective Ted Van Deman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), said there have been at least 15 vehicle burglaries in the northwest section of the county recently, and that all could have been avoided.

"All of the vehicles were unlocked," he said Wednesday, Dec. 30.

The detective said thieves are simply walking through neighborhoods and checking the doors on parked vehicles. Once they find an unlocked vehicle, they simply open the door and take what they want. The thieves

are taking cash, cameras, cell phones, compact discs, purses -- anything of value.

"We know there are a lot more burglaries than that but they just haven't been reported," said Detective Van Deman. "They're (the thieves) walking from house to house -- right through people's yards."

He said most of the thefts are occurring late at night -- sometime after midnight.

The detective then offered these simple suggestions to avoid losing your valuables:

- Make doubly sure all of your vehicle's doors are locked.
- Whenever possible, remove all your valuables from your vehicle.
- If it's not feasible to remove your valuables, store them where they can't be seen.
- Should you see or hear someone

prowling around your house or vehicle call the sheriff's office immediately -- don't wait until the next day.

Detective Van Deman said it's still not known what the thieves are doing with the stolen goods. He suspects, however, that

they are being sold to a fence.

If anyone has information on the recent spate of car burglaries contact the case officer, OCSO Detective Bryan Lowe, at 863-763-3117. To report any crime, contact the sheriff's office at that same number.

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 Brown, 45, N.W. 12th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 24 by Deputy Donald Ellis on a felony charge of battery. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Robert Edward Marley, 55, Silver Spur, Orlando, was arrested Dec. 25 by Deputy John Hazy on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Tony Andrew Jackson, 20, N.E. 31st Way, Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 25 by Deputy Matt Crawford on a charge of possession of cocaine. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Jacqueline Babbs Summers, 47, S. Parrott Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 26 by Deputy Paul Jackson on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felony of worthless check. Her bond was set at \$2,500.

- William Skinner, 73, N.W. 98th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 28 by Deputy Tammy Serafini on a charge of driving under the influence. He was released on his own recognizance.

- Mark Glen Deschamps, 40, N.E. 436th Ave., Old Town, was arrested Dec. 28 by

Deputy Dale Hardy on a Levy County warrant charging him with failure to appear - driving while license suspended. His bond was set at \$15,000.

- Michael Goins, 40, N.E. Fourth Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 28 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with kidnapping a person. He is being held without bond.

- Daniel Gary Johnson, 40, S.W. 16th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 28 by Deputy Dale Hardy on an Osceola County warrant charging him with failure to appear - deer hunting out of season. His bond was set at \$2,000.

- Michelle Corsetti Stephenson, 47, S.E. 94th Trail, Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 29 by Deputy John Ashby on a charge of driving under the influence. Her bond had not been set as of newspaper deadline.

- Samantha O'Hara, 16, Elizabeth Ave., Bartow, was arrested Dec. 29 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with violation of probation - burglary while armed. She is being held without bond.

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

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Jonathan Sanders, M.D., J.D.

Happy 15th Anniversary
Carl & Cecilia



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!

Exploitation

The story in last Sunday's paper about exploitation of the elderly is something everyone who has elderly relatives should think about. Many of these older folks still want to be independent, but it is easy for con artists to take advantage of them. And too often, the person who takes advantage is a family member. The suggestion to have an accountant do an annual audit of the elderly person's finances is an excellent one.

It is so sad that in today's society people do not take care of their elderly relatives. That is why it is so easy for others to prey on the elderly and steal from them. If the old person's children and grandchildren were taking care of them and checking on them, they would not be at such risk.

Congress

Honestly, is there anyone out there who is as disgusted with our congressional representatives as I am? When did bribery become such an open part of passing legislation? Who is being represented? Surely, not the people, the majority of whom are against what Congress is doing in Washington in the middle of the night. Can 2010 come soon enough? It seems now that Obama is a one termer, and may not even seek the nomination in 2012 that will go to Hillary. Heaven help us all.

What do you do when your government is made up of traitors who spit on the Bill of Rights? I know what George Washington would do if he were alive.

Resolutions

- What's your New Year's Resolution?
- Resolution # 1 - Don't make resolutions. You won't keep them anyway.
- As we start a new year in Okeechobee, I wish we could focus on what we can do to improve our community instead of always complaining about what is wrong.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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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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A new beginning

Will Christmas '09 be remembered as the time Americans made the greatest change in the country's history? I don't mean that Healthcare is that great change. What I mean is that because of the way Healthcare has been passed, could this be the beginning of the time when Americans begin reclaiming their country?

So the closed back room deals hidden from view, the blatant buying of votes and the exorbitant bribing is the way you think we, as a country, should be going?

I don't think it will be the beginning of the time when Americans will be reclaiming our country, but it may well be the time when we look back after it's too late and wish we did!

A sad 'thank you'

I have an odd thank you to convey. Our dog was struck and killed Thursday night around 8 p.m. on Berman Road. I wanted to say a heartfelt thank you to the young man. I know you didn't mean to hit her, and it wasn't your fault she was in the road, but I just want you to know that I truly admire the fact that you came to my door to say you were sorry. So many people just drive off, not caring that there may be a family who loves that animal. So, truly, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for caring enough to let us know so she wasn't just lying there in the road on Christmas morning for us to find.

Turn off the cell phone

The use of cell phones is just out of hand. Some people can't seem to do anything without the phone attached to their ear. It is terrible when they are driving as it endangers everyone on the road. But the distraction of the cell phone is annoying at other times too. The other day I was in line for the self-checkout lane at a local store. The woman in front of me was busy talking on the phone, so she only had one hand free to scan in her purchases. Not only was she annoying all those in line behind her by moving so slowly through the checkout, but she was also completely ignoring her toddler who nearly fell out of the cart. It was a good thing strangers were there to keep the child from being hurt as mom was so busy chatting that she didn't even notice.

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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Letter to the editor

Thanks for support

The Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee would like to express our gratitude toward our generous community for making our annual radio auction fundraiser a success, despite the troubled economy. We'd like to begin by apologizing if we miss anyone as we try to recount all the people and businesses who contributed to our event. We raised a record amount in three hours on Saturday, Dec. 12, during our Radio Auction; but we could not have done it without Billy Dean and the wonderful management at WOKC. Your help with pre-event promotions and airtime for the auction itself is priceless. Also Riverside Bank graciously allowed the Kiwanis Club to use their facility to house our auction and your staff was so accommodating. Waste Management's Okeechobee Landfill sponsorship of our Pennysaver advertisement, which previewed the auction items, helped us keep our overhead low. Thank you to the Law Office of Gerald Lefebvre, Riverside Bank, Pritchard Insurance and the Chamber of Commerce for promoting our event on your marques. Greg at Jersey Mike's, we appreciate the delicious subs you sent over for our volunteers—thanks so much. A special thank you to the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office for their support.

Thank you business owners for donating items and services for our auction: Judge Bill Hendry, Dr. Bravo, Lunker's Sports Grille, Advanced Water Technology, Seacoast National Bank, Sandra Pearce, K&M Nails, Platt Chiropractic, Walgreen's, Hi-Tech Auto, Cowboys, Mike's Okeechobee Guns, Big Mike's Sports Bar, Gilbert Chevrolet, Walpole, Inc., Eli's Trailer Sales, St. Lucie Battery and Tire, Hampton Inn, Need-a-Ride Taxi, Ding-a-Ling Deli, Winn-Dixie, Let's Party, Taylor Rental, First Bank of Indiantown, DeHays Design, Wicks Brown Williams & Co., KOA, Okeechobee Motor Company, Anita Nunez, Riverside, Walpole Feed, Okeechobee Golf & Country Club, Car Quest, Quail Creek, CVS, Wal-Mart, Okeechobee The Magazine, Wagon Wheel Horse Farm, Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney, Sportsman's Edge, Brahman Theater, Eli's Western Wear, Tires Plus, Eagle Marsh Country Club, Golden Corral, Skip Jacks Restaurant, Sun Cruz Casino, 14Kt Gold Store, Lehman's Auto, Strippling Entertainment, Eagle Bay Airboats, Farm Bureau, The Oil Can, Okeechobee Fitness Center, Massage by LiAnn, Mary Kay representative Cheri Watford, Domino's Pizza, Silver Palms RV Village, Bearshop Exchange, Lar-

son Dairy, Curren Electric, Lori Mixon & Ben Sims, Okeechobee County Fair, WOKC, Austin's Septic, Southfloridabassfishing.com, C&C Charters, T's Performance, Southern Style Fashions, Okeechobee Feed, J&J Snacks, Paddock Farms, Okeechobee High School, Elliott's Pawn Shop, Captain Don's Florida Airboat and Pontoon Tours, Syfrett Feed Co., Like New Furniture, Diva's Boutique & Consignment and Brady Ranch.

A special thank you to our community for participating by calling in and bidding on these great items. Thank you Okeechobee High School Key Club for the great job you did 'running the bids' to everyone. On behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee please accept our most sincere gratitude for your help; and we look forward to another successful auction next year.

The Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee is part of an international network of Kiwanis Clubs, all of which strive to serve the youth of their communities. Locally we will continue to do so, applying these funds to the following programs: Kiwanis Scholarship funds for OHS graduates, mathematics mini-grants for local teachers, Reading is Fundamental, G4S Halfway House Christmas Party, Terrific Kids Awards program for 4th & 5th Graders, Key Club, Builder's Clubs, Non-Alcohol Graduation Night Party, Santa in the Park and more.

Brad Stark & Jenny Pung,
Event Co-Chairs
Kiwanis Radio Auction

Okeechobee Forecast

New Year's Day: A 40 percent chance of showers, mainly before 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 72. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 39. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 65. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 36. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 65. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 36. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

- 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.
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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.

Adaptation and mitigation motivate wildlife managers

By Patricia Behnke

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Despite some of the drama that emerged during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December, the leaders of the world's major polluters – Brazil, India, China, South Africa and the United States – agreed on a compromise with a nonbinding agreement. Some thought the agreement a good step; others were not so sure. German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the media that the outcome in Copenhagen was a first step toward a "new world climate order, nothing more but also nothing less." That seems to be the consensus among many of the 193 nations represented at the summit.

The accord states that greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced enough to prevent average global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius. It is a major accomplishment to have such disparate nations agreeing that something must be done and giving it a name. It is now up to the folks on the ground to do the real work on mitigating climate change impacts while adapting to those changes already in place.

The number of Floridians who benefit from the Lifeline Assistance program grew by 236 percent this year, according to the Florida Public Service Commission's (PSC) Annual Lifeline Report. The Lifeline program makes telephone service more affordable for low-income residents.

"I am happy that more Florida residents are signing up for Lifeline and staying connected to family, as well as to vital community services," said Matthew M. Carter II, PSC Chairman. "Our efforts to make sure that no one remains phoneless in Florida are reaping results."

As of June 30, 2009, 618,774 eligible residents participated in the Lifeline program, an increase of more than 434,800 participants over the previous year. In its 2009 report sent to the Governor and the Legislature, the PSC attributed increased Lifeline participation to the automatic enrollment process initiated in April 2007 by the PSC and Florida's Department of Children and Families and to the significant enrollment of new Lifeline customers by SafeLink, a prepaid wireless phone provider.

Under the federal Lifeline program, telephone customers who participate in certain public assistance programs are entitled to receive a basic telephone service discount of at least \$13.50 per month, a savings of \$162 per year. Link-Up Florida (Link-Up) provides a 50 percent reduction in the telephone service installation charge, up to a maximum of \$30, for qualifying households that do not currently have telephone service.

Chairman Carter said, "The PSC continues to work with telephone companies, the Office of Public Counsel, and many other groups to promote Link-Up and Lifeline, and we hope in 2010 people will continue to help us spread the word about these beneficial programs."

Eligibility for Link-Up and Lifeline in-

As I sift through the reports from across the sea, I ponder what it all means in terms of Florida and wildlife in particular. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) climate change working groups are weighing the strategies that fall into two categories: adaptation or mitigation, or maybe both.

"For a long time we've been discussing everything in terms of adaptation," said Doug Parsons, FWC's climate change coordinator. "But we also are involved in mitigation activities whenever we take degraded or destroyed habitat and bring it back to a state that will sustain wildlife."

Any habitat that brings back life in and of itself is contributing to the lessening of carbon emissions. In Florida, we're doing this as a natural part of wildlife management.

"Doing what we know is healthy for wildlife and habitat means we are doing what is healthy for humans as well," Parsons said. "Even though the scientists agree that climate change is a reality, when we manage for resilience and adaptation, we are making wise choices for our future as residents of Florida."

Adaptation goes along with the belief that climate change is beyond changing – all we

can do is make the best of the situation. The strategies that help wildlife adapt to a changing climate include such things as creating connectivity between habitats and providing corridors for wildlife to travel. Anticipating the fluctuation of the human population moving inland also is crucial to helping both humans and wildlife adapt. I received an e-mail the other day from someone who wrote, "Why are we worrying about the wildlife when humans are going to be having an equally hard time adapting?"

It's something I hear frequently. And the answer lies in our connection with wildlife. If native wildlife disappears, if habitats become unhealthy, if seas cover what is now livable land, there is not much hope for healthy humans either, unless we work now to adapt. We will be impacted physically, environmentally, socially and economically. The depletion of native wildlife will have reverberations across the whole spectrum of human existence.

As the world's nations came together to look at the big picture, others are already at work making good management decisions. A partnership between four states in the southeastern United States will assist with adaptability, while mitigating the ef-

fects of carbon emissions. The FWC, along with agencies from Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, received grant money from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to increase the quality, quantity and connectivity of priority sandhill sites in the four states. More than 38,500 acres of sandhill habitat will be restored through prescribed fire, removal of vegetation not conducive to the habitat and the replanting of longleaf pine. This habitat improvement will be welcoming to species such as gopher tortoises and native bird spe-

cies.

In addition, Florida and Alabama are working together, along with The Nature Conservancy, to create a natural corridor, which will assist wildlife as they adapt to climate change by moving to climates that are more hospitable.

This project represents one of the best examples of adaptation and mitigation by providing healthy habitat that will sequester carbon emissions rather than disperse them into the atmosphere.

"By using appropriate management to restore habitat quality and connectivity, we're adding to the resiliency of Florida's wildlife," said Anna Farmer, FWC biologist and co-author of the grant. "This will ensure that during climate change, Florida's wildlife will be able to weather the storm."

It may not be on the world stage, but it is conservation at its best, right where it counts.

Contact Patricia Behnke at pat.benhke@myfwc.com.



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Courtesy photo

Kiwanis Radio Auction

Some of the Kiwanis Club members who volunteered for the organization's annual radio auction fundraiser on Dec. 12, gathered before the bidding began: (left to right, back row) Greg Thogerson, Jared Thogerson, Don Kelly, J.D. Mixon, Noel Stephen, Marcos Montes De Oca, , Dowling Watford (front row) Darrell Enfinger, Brad Stark, Jenny Pung, Corey DeHays, Sherri Enfinger, Jim Vensel, Carlie Enfinger, Lionel Jones (OHS KEY Club).

Community Events

Senior Awareness seminar set

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office is sponsoring a Senior Awareness Seminar from 2 to 3 p.m. on Monday, **Jan. 4**, at the Golden Corral, 700 S. Parrott Ave. Seniors are invited to come and learn about illegal activities that are targeted against them.

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.

Herbert M. Karnes

OKEECHOBEE — Herbert M. Karnes, of Okeechobee, Fla. and Hartford, N.Y., passed away Dec. 30, 2009, in his home surrounded by his four children.

Herbert served in the Army, 106th division involved in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II. He was wounded several times, captured and placed in the concentration camp Stalag 11B in Germany. He was liberated by the English army and was awarded several metals.

Herbert worked for Niagara Mohawk Power Co. and retired after 38 years. He was also a part of the Niagara Mohawk Turtle Club. He was pre-deceased by his wife, Marguerite Gallagher, who was his one and only love, who was also a World War II Veteran.

Survivors are his brother Homer Karnes and his wife Marty of Okeechobee; and Herbert's four children, Herbert J. Karnes of Scotia, N.Y., Susan M. Foster and her husband Steve of Crossville, Tenn., David R. Karnes and his wife Marsha of Cossayuna, N.Y. and Karen E. Karnes of South Glens Falls, N.Y. He had 17 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and two beloved dogs.

His hobbies were building wooden model ships, collecting and restoring antique cars. He was an antique dealer & collector and loved his garage sales. He was a member of the Tri-County Rifle Assoc. where he shot for the Pack Forest team for many years. He was not only a master shooter, but instructed and collected firearms as well. Herbert was a lifetime member of the Queensbury VFW, the Okeechobee VFW, the American Legion, and the Okeechobee Chapter POW's. He was a Past Commander of the Buckhead Ridge VFW of Okeechobee.

Memorial services will be held at the Buckhead Ridge VFW on Sunday January 3 at 1pm.

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

Cypress Hut holds Snowball Queen fundraiser

On **Jan. 5**, from 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m., bring your unwanted gold, silver and platinum jewelry metals, sterling flatware and get paid top dollar for a donation of 10 percent for the charity fund raiser for Pam and Tommy our 2010 Snowball King and Queen. Finger foods for sharing are welcomed. For questions or concerns, please call Billy or Diane at 863-467-1154.

Alan 'A.P' David Penton, 67

OKEECHOBEE — Alan "A.P." David Penton, age 67, of Okeechobee, died Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009, at his residence. Born June 17, 1942, in Hallendale, he had been a resident of Okeechobee since 1974. He enjoyed shooting pool and golf.

He is survived by his wife, Debra Penton of Okeechobee; son, Christopher Penton of New York; daughter, Tya Penton of South Carolina; sister, Dorothy Baker; niece, Wendy Coker (Frank); nephew, Joe Baker (Peggy), all of Okeechobee. In addition he is survived by a host of other relatives and his precious dog, Dawg.

A service will be 6 p.m., at Good Spirits Lounge on Saturday, Jan. 2.

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, Fl. On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

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

Red Cross announces Health and Safety classes

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

- * Wednesday, **Jan. 6** - Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.m.
- * Monday, Jan. 18 - Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m.
- * Thursday, Jan. 21 - First Aid Basics at 6 p.m.

All classes are held at their Service Center, located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

Shared services network meets

The Executive Roundtable of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee County will conduct its bi-monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, **Jan. 8**, in the board room of the Okeechobee County School Board Office. This forum provides a mechanism for dialogue and problem solving in our community through the collaborative efforts of our local decision makers. the public is invited to attend. For more information, please call Sharon Vinson 863-462-5000, Ext. 257.

Benefit for Lisa Burkhardt

Lisa Burkhardt is battling cancer for the second time. She is a breast cancer survivor who is now battling brain and lung cancer. A benefit for her will be held at the VFW Post 10539, 3912 Highway 441 S.E., on **Jan. 10**, starting at 1 p.m. There will be food, music, raffles and more. For information, call 863-697-2930.

Early Learning Coalition meeting planned

Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee Counties, Inc. — Okeechobee County Provider Meeting on Wednesday, **Jan. 13**, at noon at the American Red Cross, 323 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee.

Main Street plans mixer

Okeechobee Main Street's first mixer for 2010 will be held on Thursday, **Jan. 21**, from 5-7 p.m. The January Mixer will be hosted by Real Life Children's Ranch located at 7777 Hwy. 441 SE. Main Street Mixers are a great networking opportunity for the businesses and residents of our area. Whether you have a new or old business or you are new to Okeechobee, come enjoy networking, refreshments, door prizes and a brand new Mega 50-50. If you would like to donate a door prize for this month's mixer please call me at 863-357-6246, I will be happy to pick it up.

Top of the Lake BBQ

Okeechobee Main Street's Top of the Lake BBQ Affair will be held on **Jan. 22** and 23 at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. Cooks from all over will compete for prize monies and trophies in categories such as the "Homeboy" to Grand and Reserve Champions. Go to www.mainstreetokeechobee.com for registration forms, and information.

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SFWMD to reserve water for St. Lucie River

WEST PALM BEACH — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board recently approved moving forward with the public rule-making process to reserve water for the protection of fish and wildlife within the North Fork of the St. Lucie River and in support of Indian River Lagoon restoration.

"Our community was built around the unique lifestyle offered by the St. Lucie River, and we rely on its health for everything from renowned recreational opportunities to economic well-being," said SFWMD Governing Board member Kevin Powers, who represents the Treasure Coast. "Protecting this vital resource depends on the right amount of water, and we are working toward guaranteeing the ecosystem will have the clean water it requires."

A water reservation is a legal mechanism to set aside water for the protection of fish and wildlife or public health and safety as set forth in Section 373.223(4) of the Florida Statutes. When a water reservation is in place, volumes and timing of water at specific locations are protected for the natural system ahead of consumptive uses, such as new development.

"As part of this ongoing reservation effort, the District has hosted six public workshops since April 2009 to share information and gather input from interested stakeholders to guide rule development," said Kenneth Ammon, P.E., SFWMD Deputy Executive Director of Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects. "This is an important component in ensuring the success of restoration of the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon."

Along with providing immense benefits to the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, the water reservation is also necessary for the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with construction activities on the Indian River Lagoon - South project, a key component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). One of the components of the Indian River Lagoon - South project involves redirecting water from the C-23 and C-24 canals, located in Martin and St. Lucie counties, to be stored in two new reservoirs and cleaned in treatment wetlands to improve water quality and water supply for the North Fork. These canals provide flood protection but by doing so also impact the greater ecosystem by draining into the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon.

The St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon are home to more than 4,000 species, including 35 species listed as endangered or threatened, making it the most diverse estuarine environment in North America. The lagoon supports a multitude of industries and activities, from fishing and recreation to tourism and agriculture. A study concluded that the economic benefits of the Indian River Lagoon totaled more than \$3.7 billion in 2007 alone.

The North Fork water reservation is the second of its kind in Florida. The first water reservation for America's Everglades was adopted for the protection of the Picayune Strand, Fakahatchee Estuary and related ecosystems and wildlife on Florida's southwest coast for decades to come. Approved by the Governing Board in February 2009, the first water reservation allowed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue construction on the Picayune Strand restoration project, which is designed to restore surface water flow to vital wetlands to ensure that plants and animals thrive, including the endangered Florida panther, and to improve

the Ten Thousand Islands estuaries.

"We have made tremendous strides this year with our federal partners to obtain funding for and begin construction on CERP projects," said SFWMD Executive Director Carol Ann Wehle. "The water reservation

for the North Fork will help us protect a vital waterway and achieve substantial benefits for residents and the environment."

A final public hearing is scheduled for the Governing Board meeting in February.

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Online Sports Network features Okeechobee teams

The Okeechobee News invites you to check out the innovative new Okeechobee Sports Network on the internet at <http://fl.newszap.com/OkeechobeeSportsNetwork>. Youth, adult recreation leagues, and school sports teams now have an exciting online sports page and resource they can call their own. This free site is a partnership between the Okeechobee News and Community Sports Desk, a national sports software company. Team representatives can post their schedules, game stories, statistics, standings

and photos on dedicated web pages on the site. There is absolutely no charge for teams and leagues to participate in Okeechobee Sports Network. The site will be supported by sponsored web advertising featuring an innovative revenue sharing model, with 20 percent of web advertising sales on the site going back to the participating teams and leagues.

Local businesses interested in finding out how to become a sponsor can contact their local Okeechobee News advertising representative or call Judy Kasten at 863-763-3134.

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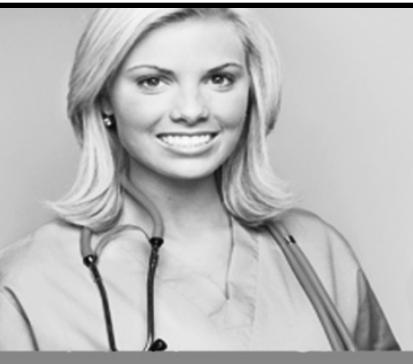
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Anticipation High as Ohio Valley Gold and Silver Refinery Opens for Business Tuesday in Okeechobee!

By CHRISTINA BUTLER
STAFF WRITER

Been following the gold and silver market lately? Well if you have a jewelry box or lock box full of gold or a coffee can full of old coins you should be according to Ohio Valley Refinery spokesperson John Miller. "The gold and silver markets have not been this strong for over 30 years" said Miller. Typically when the U.S. dollar is weak and the economy is flat gold and silver markets soar. "That's good news if you are setting on a few gold necklaces or an old class ring" says Miller.

Starting Tuesday at 9am and every day this week through Saturday the Ohio Valley Refinery is setting up a satellite refinery right here in Okeechobee at the **Holiday Inn Express**. During their 5 day stay anyone can bring gold, silver or platinum items and turn them in for immediate payment, explains John Miller. "Just about everybody has some amount of gold or silver just lying around collecting dust and this week anybody can sell theirs direct to our refinery. Typically selling direct to a refinery is reserved for larger wholesale customers like jewelry stores, pawn shops, and laboratories" says Miller. "We are changing how business is done" he explains "we want to do business with everybody so we took our business to the streets". "Our teams visits various cities around the country hosting 5 day events allowing the general public to take advantage of our services. The turnout has been overwhelming" says Miller. "Usually each day is busier than the previous day. It seems once people come to us and sell something they are so amazed what an old ring or gold coin is worth they go home and start digging around for more and telling relatives, friends and neighbors. It's like a feeding frenzy by the third day. People line up with everything from gold jewelry to sterling silver flatware sets to old coins. I think during this bad economy everybody can use extra money but most people say they are taking advantage of selling direct to our refinery because of the higher prices we pay".

During this special event



Above: Refinery representatives will be on hand starting Tuesday through Saturday to purchase all gold, silver and platinum items, as well as coins. Public welcome!

anyone is welcome to bring all types of gold, silver and platinum to the refinery and turn it in for instant payment. The types of items they will accept include all gold jewelry, gold coins, gold ounces, dental gold, old coins made before 1965 including Silver Dollars, halves, quarters and dimes, anything marked "sterling" including flat ware sets, tea pots, silver bars, silver ounces and all industrial precious metals.

What should you expect if you go to the event to sell your gold and/or silver? Just gather up all gold silver and platinum in any form. If you are not sure if its gold or silver bring it in and they will test it for free. When you arrive at the event you will be asked to fill out a simple registration card and will be issued a number. Seating will be available. When your number is called you will be escorted to a table where your items will be examined, tested and sorted. This only takes a few minutes using their expertise and specialized equipment. Items will be counted and/or weighed. The value of the items will be determined based on up to the minute market prices. Live feeds will be available at the event displaying current market prices of all precious metals. If you choose to sell your items they will be bagged and tagged and you will be escorted to the cashier to collect your payment. Waiting time to sell

your items may range from just a few minutes to 1 hour so bring something to read.

If you are the owner of a jewelry store, pawn shop, dentist office or a dealer you are encouraged to call ahead to make an appointment with the smelt master to discuss their special dealer programs. They can be reached at **(863) 357-3529**.

Ohio Valley Refinery will open for business Tuesday from 9am-6pm. The event continues everyday through Saturday. No appointment is needed.

If you go:

WHO: Ohio Valley Refinery Reclamation Drive

WHAT: Open to public to sell gold and silver.

WHEN: January 5th-9th

WHERE: Holiday Inn Express
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War Memorabilia: Swords, Bayonets, Helmets, German, Confederate, Union, USA, and others.

Local records reveal to our research department that recent vintage guitar sold for \$2400.00 and another for \$12,000.00 to a collector that will be tied into the event this week via live database feed.

Emergency management has contests for kids

TALLAHASSEE--State emergency management officials remind all Floridians that Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week is scheduled for Jan. 24-30, 2010. This year, the annual public awareness campaign includes a poster and video public service announcement (PSA) contest which was announced in late November. The deadlines to submit entries for these contests have been extended into the second week of January 2010.

"The goal of the week is to educate our residents and visitors about the natural hazards they may face and provide important information to help keep them safe," said Interim Deputy Director David Halstead of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. "It is a team effort and we are proud to have many great sponsors who are committed to this week of outreach and awareness."

The Division is once again teaming up with the American Red Cross to sponsor the annual poster contest. This continuing partnership reaffirms the commitment of both organizations to ensure that our residents are prepared for any disaster that may occur.

"We are excited to once again partner with the Division of Emergency Management on the annual poster contest," said Florida Disaster Officer for the American Red Cross Karen Hagan. "These types of outreach efforts to get our youth involved in disaster preparedness activities are an important step in building a culture of preparedness in Florida."

Other contest sponsors include the Florida Association of Broadcasters, Midland Radio, the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH), I.D.E.A.S. (Integrity Arts and Technology, Inc.) and the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA).

Poster Contest

Fourth and fifth graders in all 67 school districts are invited to participate in the statewide poster contest. All entries must be postmarked on or before Monday, Jan. 11, 2010 and must arrive at the Florida Division of Emergency Management in Tallahassee no later than Jan. 13, 2010. Winners will be notified by phone. The top winners' artwork is scheduled to be displayed in the State Emergency Operations Center during the first full week of February 2010. Prizes will include tickets for the winner and their family to Walt Disney World, cash, weather radios and many other exciting things to be announced soon. For complete contest rules go to www.FloridaDisaster.org/SWAW2010.

Video PSA Contest

Middle and high school students in grades 6-8 and 9-12 are invited to produce a 30-second public service announcement (PSA) incorporating a safety or preparedness message about one of the following topics: Tornadoes, Rip Currents or Using NOAA Weather Radios.

Final digital videos must be mastered as a DVD for submission to the Division. All entries must be postmarked on or before Mon. Jan. 11, and must arrive at the Florida Division of Emergency Management in Tallahassee no later than Jan. 13. For complete con-

test rules and topic information, go to www.FloridaDisaster.org/SWAW2010.

There will be one individual or group (limit 4 people per group) winner chosen for both middle school and high school-level videos. The winning video(s) will be professionally reproduced for broadcast use by the Division of Emergency Management in their statewide public awareness campaign. A production team will come to the winner(s)' hometown and will spend a full day shooting the winning PSA. The winner(s) will spend the day acting as the Director and will be honored at a rally in their hometown. Additional prizes will include tickets for the winner and their family to Walt Disney World, cash, weather radios and many other exciting things to be announced soon. The Divi-

sion anticipates announcing another major sponsor and more prize information soon.

Winners will be announced on Jan. 23, 2010, at a kick-off event for Severe Weather Awareness Week in Orlando. Winners unable to attend this event will be mailed their additional prizes.

These contests are part of an annual public awareness campaign that also includes the statewide Tornado Drill to be conducted by the National Weather Service Offices in Florida at 10:10 a.m. Eastern Time (9:10 a.m. Central Time), on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010.

For more information on Florida's 2010 Severe Weather Awareness Week go to www.FloridaDisaster.org/SWAW2010.



Submitted photo/Wendy Crum

New style

The winner for the drawing at Southern Style Fashions was Whitney Holmes. Ms. Holmes won a free outfit from Southern Style Fashions, a new hair style by Laurie Stephen at Main Street Salon, a \$25 gift card from Pogey's Restaurant, and a dinner for two provided by Skip Jacks. This drawing will be done every three months, so stop by Southern Style for your chance to win.



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Local women charged with grand theft

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

VERO BEACH—Two Okeechobee women were arrested at a Vero Beach store after they reportedly tried to steal items valued at over \$300.

Kelly Ann Barnes, 47, N.E. 342nd Trail, and Sharon Marie Fralix, 37, U.S. 441, were both arrested Saturday, Dec. 26, on one count of grand theft. Both women were booked into the Indian River County Jail, then released Sunday, Dec. 27, after posting bond of \$2,500 each.

According to Indian River County Sher-

iff's Office (IRCSO) arrest affidavits the women were arrested at the Bealls Department Store, 5900 20th St.

An arrest affidavit states that store surveillance video showed Barnes removing a sales ticket from a jacket she was wearing. She could also be seen taking other merchandise on the video, the affidavit continued.

The affidavit goes on to state that a Bealls security officer watched Fralix take some clothing, two bracelets and a toe ring.

The total price of all the items was \$322.61, the report added.

Vision Quest teen charged with hitting staffer

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

A teenage inmate at the Vision Quest Girls School, 42660 U.S. 441 N., has been arrested and charged with attacking a female staff member and punching her in the face.

Jessica Geoth Dorne, 16, West 27th St., Rivera Beach, was arrested Monday, Dec. 28, on a felony charge of battery on detention or commitment staff. She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the



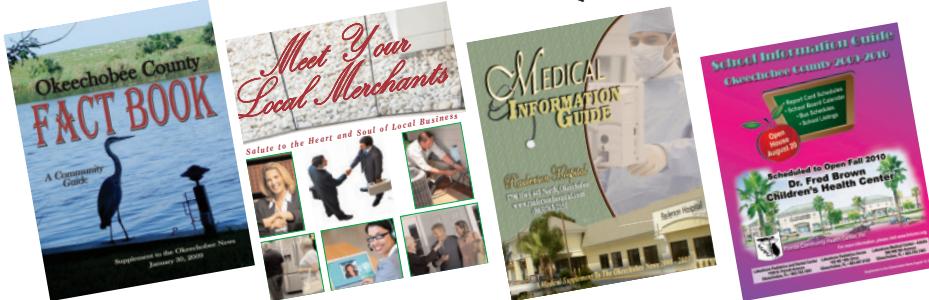
Jessica Geoth Dorne

Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Facility in Fort Pierce.

An arrest affidavit by Deputy Rusty Hartfield, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), states that Dorne slapped the female staff member in the face. The girl then continued her attack and punched Nicole Blosza twice in the face before she could be restrained, the report added.

The report does not give a reason for the attack, or state if Ms. Blosza received medical attention.

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Safety tips reduce fire danger

Winter brings with it the opportunity to decorate in creative ways using candles, electric lights and the chance to finally start cozy fires in unused fireplaces. The unfortunate consequence is that winter is also a prime time for fire-related injuries, property damage and even deaths. Trusted Choice® spokespeople can help families prepare for fire risks and hazards that may come during the winter months.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, in 2008 alone, more than 3,000 people died in 2008 from fires and more than 16,000 were injured.

Fire safety tips:

- Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down, out of the reach of children.

- Never leave a home or room with candles burning.

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test the batteries every month and change them at least once a year.

- Have your chimney, chimney vent and flue cleaned and inspected annually.

- Never burn trash, painted or pressure-treated wood inside the home.

- Never use gasoline or other alternative fuels in a kerosene heater.

- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Never leave food cooking unattended and keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen at all times.

- Is your Christmas tree still up? A dry tree in the house is kindling for a fire. A tree should never be placed close to a heat source, including a fireplace or a heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Keep fresh trees watered. When a Christmas tree becomes dry, promptly discard it.

- Inspect decorative lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Inspect them again when you take them down. Do not leave lit decorative lights unattended and only use UL approved lighting.

- Do not overload outlets. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.

- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove.

- Check on older adults and help them inspect their homes. Older people are at higher risk of injury from fires and are also more likely to die in fires than those in other age groups of fire-related injuries.

Keeping warm

- Never leave fireplaces, woodstoves or space heaters unattended. Always use extreme caution with auxiliary heat sources.

- Have the heating system serviced. Furnaces, boilers and chimneys should be serviced at least once a year to prevent fire and smoke damage.

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This past week, we lost a family member who had been ill for a long time. We found out that "only in Okeechobee" are there places like the Okeechobee Health Care Facility where the staff do all they can to make the residents feel at home and make them as comfortable as possible, even if it is just calling them by name in the hall, or joking with them to get a smile from them, or just staying with them when their time is near.

"Only in Okeechobee" do you find people like Paul Buxton and family who make you feel like a friend and help you through the decisions you must make.

"Only in Okeechobee," where your friends will keep you in their thoughts and prayers, and offer to help with anything you might need.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us through this difficult time, the staff at Okeechobee Health Care Facility, the Buxton family, the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge, and all our friends. All of your support is helping us get through this difficult time.

The next time you hear "only in Okeechobee," just be thankful that we do things different here, that we still care about each other.

The family of Robert "Bob" Nutter

OHS loses in Holiday Tournament

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School's magic ended at the boys basketball Taveniere holiday tournament at Sebring high school Tuesday with a 65-54 loss to Parkway Academy of Miramar.

Christian Johnson hit a game opening three pointer and didn't stop shooting and scoring, as he had a 22 points to lead Parkway to the victory.

Okeechobee traded baskets with Parkway for much of the game. A 15-2 run at the end of the third quarter proved to be the difference for Parkway.

"You set the tempo, you're going to win the game," Johnson said, "During the third quarter Okeechobee let us take over the tempo and they gave the game away. This is like the best game we've played since the beginning of the year."

Johnson praised Okeechobee for their discipline but said Parkway's athleticism took over the game.

Okeechobee held their own in the first half as they used the energy they gained from an upset win over Lakeland on Monday. A nice running layup by Austin Willard gave Okeechobee a 7-3 early lead. Johnson answered with a three pointer and Parkway went on a 14-5 run to end the first quarter. Parkway led 17-12 at the end of the first.

Parkway used their superior speed and athleticism to limit Okeechobee's easy scoring opportunities. Brahman Coach Bryan Van Camp said that was a big factor in the game. "They were much quicker and much more physical.

We didn't get the easy transition points that we got yesterday. They did a nice job."

A three point basket by Willard and an inside bucket by Duelle Gore kept Okeechobee close in the second quarter. A nice scoop by Troy Harper gave Okeechobee a 26-25 lead late in the half. Parkway led at the half 28-27.

The third quarter proved to be the difference as Parkway outscored Okeechobee 21-8. Coach Van Camp said there was about three minutes late in the quarter where Parkway really had the advantage.

"There is no one play in the game that made an impact on the overall result. We let it get away for three whole minutes. If we play better we're right in it," he added.

Three dunks by Parkway added to their momentum. A blown foul call by the referees also hurt as Duelle Gore was fouled three times by a defender and was called for a foul himself when he retaliated.



Aaron Suarez and the Okeechobee guards were constantly harassed by Parkway defenders in Tuesday's loss.

Ricky Nieto, who scored 19 points, many of them on nice drives to the hoop, said Okeechobee learned a lot from playing in this tournament.

"We all played really hard. It was just a lack of execution on the offensive end. They were a quick, athletic team and they were ready for us. They played good defense," he added.

Nieto said he was proud of the Brahmans effort and the fact they kept fighting despite a deficit in the fourth quarter. Okeechobee did cut the lead to six points, 55-49 on a three point play by Nieto in the fourth quarter. Nieto scored five points in a short stretch to keep Okeechobee in the contest in the fourth quarter. "We played until the end. We're not going to give up just because we were down."

Okeechobee played in the consolation game of the 8-team tournament on Wednesday. Parkway advanced to the championship game.



Ricky Nieto (right) and the Brahmans played hard but fell short in Tuesday's second round game in Sebring.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Matt Skipper looks for the open man during Tuesday's tournament game against Parkway Academy.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Ryan Osceola (left) finds an open man inside during Tuesday's game with Parkway Academy.

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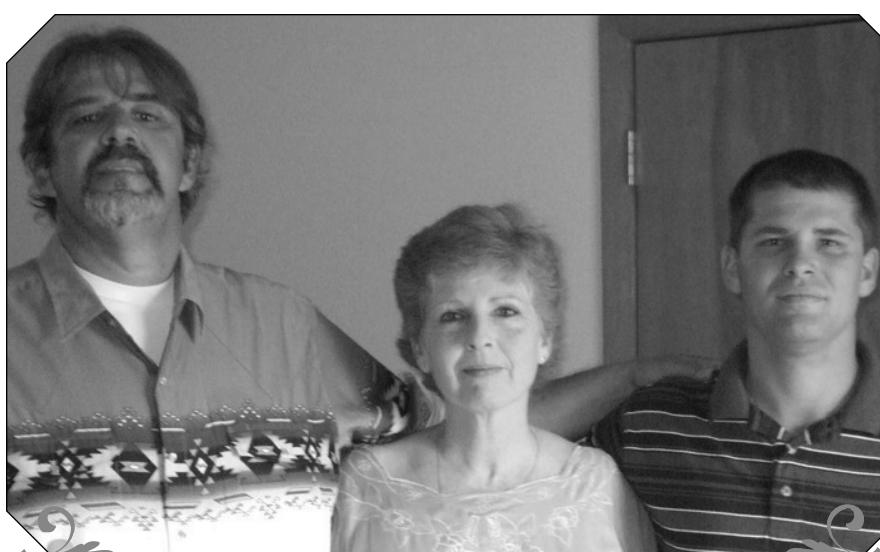
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2009: Another great year for Okeechobee sports

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

2009 was a busy year for Brahman sports as Okeechobee had their share of success in several sports.

The top sports story of the year was likely Lonnie Pryor signing to play college football at Florida State University.

Pryor had a wonderful freshman year as he rushed for 154 yards and four touchdowns, and caught eight receptions, one for a touchdown.

Pryor actually was among the team leaders in scoring with 30 points despite the fact he had only a small fraction of the opportunities given to other players.

Pryor also earned praise for his attitude and blocking ability as he switched to a new position, full back.

The Seminoles play New Years Day in the Gator Bowl against West Virginia. Pryor also had the honor of playing for Coach Bobby Bowden during the last year of his legendary career.

Without Pryor, Okeechobee high school football suffered. Chris Branham resigned after one of the best runs of any Brahman head coach in history. He was replaced by Jeremy Beckham in January.

Beckham made it to spring football practice and led the team for six days before he was let go. Mike Radebaugh coached the team in the spring as Okeechobee lost to Palm Bay.

Okeechobee moved quickly and signed another of their football legends, Myron Jackson, a former Florida State tight end and college assistant coach.

The Brahmans didn't respond well to the changes as the team lost all 10 regular season games and their preseason game to Fort Pierce.

Okeechobee senior Walt Fortner was named to the All Area team as he had a solid year returning kicks, playing defense, and running the football.

vJosh McCall was named to play in the Sebring South Central Football Classic in December, and played well at left guard.

TJ Allen is tentatively scheduled to play in next months Outback All Star game in West Palm Beach.

One Brahman did receive success on the gridiron. Tony Kibler transferred schools after two years as a starter at offensive tackle. His new



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce
Okeechobee High School 2009 graduate Lonnie Pryor is doing well in his Freshman year at Florida State University.

school, Glades Day, won the Class 1B state title this month.

Another top story of the year was the Brahman boy's basketball program. The team missed out on the state playoffs again and Jon Enrico was let go after eight years on the job and two post season appearances. Bryan Van Camp was named to replace Enrico in June. He is another Brahman alumnus.

David Jeune ended a record setting four year basketball career at Okeechobee by signing a scholarship to play for the University of North Florida. Jeune is already getting significant playing time for the Jacksonville school. He averages 13 minutes per game and roughly two points and two rebounds per contest. UNF has won four games so far this year, and have played such teams as Alabama, Northwestern and Marquette.

Boys wrestling had another solid campaign as three of their wrestlers, Donny Bush, Tyler Hayes, and Josh Gruber reached the state tournament. Bush ended a stellar career with another district and conference title. Hayes signed to wrestle at Newberry College in North Carolina. Coach Bruce Jahner retired in the spring but was coaxed back in the fall. Tom Kingery of Okeechobee was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for his work in Okeechobee during a banquet in July.

Girls basketball had another winning season in Tony Sherlock's year at the helm. They continued their winning ways during the first half of the 2009 season.

Girls volleyball lost their coach Jacque Robinson but Todd Jones returned and the girls had another winning season and a trip to the state regional. The girls lost in the first round to Merritt Island.

Other top accomplishments this year included Malcolm Rush and Ricky Nieto making the state finals in track. Nieto made it in the high jump and Rush in the 200 meters.

Boy's baseball won the district title in May in an exciting tournament in Fort Pierce. Jonathan Crawford won all three games for Okeechobee. He signed to play college baseball at the University of Florida in the fall. Okeechobee returns a strong cast of players and should have a good chance to defend their championship. Dustin Stokes signed to play college baseball at Indian River State College. Brahman Alumnus Mitch Markham was named IRSC head Coach in the fall.

Girls softball fell in the semifinal game of their district tournament ending a long streak of post season appearances. The girls didn't have a single senior on last year's squad. Jensen Beach and surprising Suncoast made the post season.

Former Brahmans Mary Huff, Lauren Throop, Kelci Breaux and Rachel Lowe were among a long list of players who continued to play college softball. Huff transferred from St. Pete College to IRSC. Kelley Smiley signed to play softball at Auburn after a great career at IRSC.

The Brahman golf team continued to improve as they once again reached the state regional in Melbourne. Richard Donegan, Michael Watson, Tim Gray, and Kodi Stephen were among a long list of players who excelled this year.

Kailey Hoover became the first Brahman lady golfer in awhile to make the state regional.

The boys cross country team continued to excel as they finished fifth in the state. Coach Mike Schilp left to serve the nations military but Julie Bohannon picked up where he left off and led the team to another appearance in the state meet.

Eddie Guerrero and Adrian Leon led a long list of runners on the all area cross country squad.

Boys soccer made the post season and played well against eventual state champion, Merritt Island, in their playoff appearance. Ivan Torres signed a college scholarship with Brewton Parker College in Georgia. Lonnie Sears was named coach of the year for the Treasure Lake Conference.

Jorge Botello won coach of the year for girl's soccer in 2009. He resigned his coaching position, but still coached at Osceola Middle School.

Yearling boys soccer and volleyball enjoyed unbeaten seasons in the fall.

Misael Alvarado and Laura Serrano both signed college scholarships to run cross country at Brewton Parker College.

The Pop Warner football program junior pee wee team, boys 12 and under, won the North Division of the Treasure Coast Conference this year after an unbeaten regular season, 10-0.

Several OCRA all star baseball teams played in the Dixie Youth Florida State tournaments this past summer in Marianna and other locations.

Osceola middle school ended a six-year winless drought in boy's basketball with a victory in December over Storm Grove Middle School.

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Bronson announces top ten complaints for 2009

TALLAHASSEE—Unwanted telephone sales calls continue to be the top gripe for Florida residents, with more than 6,500 complaints filed with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 2009. Commissioner Charles H. Bronson has released the top 10 list of complaints and the state's "Do Not Call" law continues to generate the most activity. In fact, there were 1,500 more written complaints filed by people on the "Do Not Call" list than in 2008.

Consumers can pay an initial fee of \$10, with a \$5 annual renewal fee, to have their home and cell telephone numbers placed on the list and avoid unwanted sales calls. The fee is used only to administer the program. The types of calls that are exempt from the list can be found at <http://www.800helpfla.com/nosales.html>.

The department's Division of Consumer Services is the clearinghouse for consumer complaints in Florida. The division regulates 11 industries but also attempts to mediate problems consumers have with unregulated businesses. Complaints about industries that fall under the regulatory authority of another agency are referred to that agency. There

were about 38,000 written complaints filed in 2009, slightly more than the 37,227 filed in 2008. Bronson releases the top 10 list every year to alert consumers about what the biggest problem areas are so they can be more vigilant about protecting themselves.

Telemarketing complaints not involving the "Do Not Call" law ranked second this year with 3,609 complaints. Travel/vacation plans dropped to third place with 2,781 complaints, a decrease of more than 800 from 2008. Fourth on the list was credit/banking with 2,774 complaints and rounding out the top five was communications with 2,302 complaints.

Problems with motor vehicle sales and accessories (such as truck tool boxes, bedliners and other items sold in auto parts stores) generated 1,644 complaints putting motor vehicle sales sixth on the list. There were slightly fewer complaints, 1,625, against motor vehicle repair shops which took the number seven spot. The eighth category on the list was medical issues, prompting 1,543 complaints. Landlord/tenant disputes continue to be in the top 10, this year at number nine with 1,523 complaints. The final cat-

egory in the top ten was complaints against real estate brokers/salespersons with 1,197 complaints.

Mr. Bronson encourages consumers to file a complaint if they feel they have been wronged by a business by calling the department's helpline at 1-800 HELPFLA (1-800-435-7352) or 1-800-FLAYUDA (1-800-352-9832) for Spanish-speaking operators. The department was able to obtain nearly \$5.9 million in goods, services or cash refunds for consumers in 2009. People can use those same helpline numbers to find out the complaint history of a business. Consumers can also file complaints online by visiting the Division of Consumer Services website at <http://www.800helpfla.com>.



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the spring season will be \$75 for baseball and softball and \$60 for T-ball. All youth ages 5-14 are encouraged to play. For questions, please call 863-634-1437.

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• Cooks: Shift Lead - Line Prep - Pantry

• Bartenders

Kitchen Utility

Dining Utility (Busser)

Host - Hostess

EOE

• Must have experience!

Attend Fair on January 6, 2010

@ 5:30pm or January 9th @ 2:00pm

Location: 202 NE 7th Ave., (located next to the Azteca 3)

If unable to attend, please submit your resumé to earrieta@sdbteam.com or Pick up an application at our office located at 701 NE 3rd St.

Available 24/7



Fact Book: <http://specialselections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&scid=60039&pagenum=1>
Medical Directory: <http://specialselections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&scid=59780&pagenum=1>
Meet Your Local Merchants: <http://specialselections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&scid=59780&pagenum=1>
School Information Guide: <http://specialselections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&scid=693371&pagenum=1>

Employment Full Time

ACCOUNTANT
Seeking highly motivated mid level Accountant for busy agricultural dealership in Belle Glade, Florida. Accounting degree required. Resumes will be evaluated on a qualitative basis and interviews will be scheduled with our organization. Please fax resume to 561-996-8367, Attn: Comptroller

Immediate Opening at Okeechobee Juvenile. **Institutional cooking**/hands-on exp. preferred. Competitive wages and benefits. Must pass background check and drug screen. Contact Brad at 1-863-357-9922 ext. 2280 or email resume to: dept1@ablmanagement.com EOE

Employment Part Time

X-RAY TECHNOLOGIST
PT, Registered, hours flexible, with 1 year experience preferred. Please call (863)467-7084 or fax resume to 863-467-6833.



For more listings,

go to www.newszap.com

Excavation

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

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

Miscellaneous

Solar Electricity, Inc.
For Your Home or Business. For more information call Jacob Nisson. 863-697-2171



Agriculture

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Horses

HORSE PASTURE for rent. 14 acres with horse stalls. Call 863-763-3762

Shop from a gift catalog that's updated regularly: the classifieds.



Rentals

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Apartments

Basswood - 2/1, \$650/mo, \$650 sec. Small pets allowed. Call (863)697-1623

IN TOWN - 2/2 very clean, w/d, lawn maint included, \$800 + \$300 sec. (863) 634-3572

Condos/Townhouses Rent

OKEE TRI-PLEX- Clean 2/2, W/D hookup, patio, privacy fence, **no pets**. \$690 mo. + \$690 sec. dep. Free trash & lawn service. (417)848-3424 or (417)848-6360

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

Taylor Creek Condo

1 BR, 1 BA, Furnished. Pool, W/D Facilities. \$700 mo. Call Jerry or Brenda (863)467-0067 or (863)610-1281

Rooms To Rent

OKEE, Furn. Rm. Single occ, priv. entrance, w/d. \$140/wk & dep., utils incl. (863)763-7331 msg

Houses - Rent

BHR - 3BR, 1.5BA, fully furn., electric & cable incl. Seasonal rate by month. (561)262-5206

How do you find a job in today's competitive market? In the employment section of the classifieds

BHR COTTAGE - 1BR, 1BA, furnished, electric, cable & water included. Call (561) 262-5206

EAGLE BAY DR. - 3/2, new paint & fenced yrd. \$1100/mo. 1st, last & sec. 863-447-0092

FURNISHED 2 bedroom 1 bath Duplex in Kings Bay. One car garage, screen porch, washer & dryer, dishwasher, central heat and air, tile floors through out. Long or Short term. (863) 467-7528

King's Bay 2/2/1 CBS Home W/D \$950 p/mo. Plus security. 863-801-9163

OKEECHOBEE - 4br, 2ba, great neighborhood, tile throughout, \$975 & up/mo, 1st & sec move in (561)248-3888 or (863)599-0156

Office Space Rent

SUN PLAZA: Approx. 1100 sq. ft. rental spaces, avail. now @ 909 S. Parrot Ave. Great for Office or Retail. For more info. Call Jerry or Brenda (863)467-0067 or (863)610-1281

BUCKHEAD RIDGE - Dbl. Wide 2 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$600 mo. 3 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$700 mo. No pets. \$300 sec. dep. (863)763-4031

DOUBLEWIDE - 2br, 2ba, on double lot, will consider seasonal renting. (863)467-0149

FOR RENT: 2/1 apt. Newly remodeled. 12 miles north of Okeechobee on beautiful ranch. Water, trash & lawn maintenance included. NO PETS! M-F \$499/mo. Also avail. newly remodeled 2/3. Call (863)467-2982



Real Estate

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Houses - Sale

BASSWOOD HOUSE FOR SALE: New ICF Construction, 3BR, 2 BA, Oversized garage, fenced, metal roof, impact windows, tank less water heater, owner financing. Call for apt. (863)357-1124 or cell (863)447-1556

EXCELLENT move-in cond., furn., 2BR, 2BA, garage, screen porch, in stable neighborhood. \$110,000 by owner. Call 352-895-8376

Mobile Homes

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Rent

BHR - RVs for Rent, starting \$300-\$500 & 55+ park, seasonal or yearly. 1st month's rent free! 863-763-3134

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parish
Deputy Clerk

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 County Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. If you are HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; If you are VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that TARPON IV LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 2501 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: CITY OF OKEECHOBEE LOT 7 BLOCK 24

3-15-37-35-001-00240-0070

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed: GERALDINE BERTRAM

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at 10:00 A.M., on the 14th day of January, 2010.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Okeechobee County, Florida

/s/ Robin R. Parish

Deputy Clerk

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 County Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370

within two working days of your receipt of this notice. If you are HEARING

IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; If you are VOICE IMPAIRED CALL

1.800.955.8770

341142 On 12/11, 18, 25/09; 01/01/10

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD408

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 2133 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: TAYLOR CREEK ISLES SECTION 6 LOT 589
1-35-37-35-0110-00000-5890

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
GERALDINE BERTRAM

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **14th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
341140 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD405

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that DENTON II LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 1966 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: PETIT PARK LOTS 11 & 12 BLOCK 4
1-20-37-35-00500-00040-0110

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
GERALDINE BERTRAM

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **14th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
341139 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD397

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that GAIL SMITH the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 1263 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: NEW OKEECHOBEE HEIGHTS SECTION C
LOTS 1 2 3 BLOCK 34
1-06-36-34-0020-00340-0010

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
IRENE E RIEGER

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at 10:00 A.M., on the 14th day of January, 2010.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
341135 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Florida Department of Transportation Project

Bids will be received by the District One Office until 2:00 P.M. on Friday, January 29, 2010, for the following Proposals:
E1H98- A Certification of Qualification is not required for Retro-Reflective Pavement Markers Removal & Replacement in Manatee & Sarasota Counties. Budget Estimate: \$296,000.00
Complete letting advertisement information for this project is available on our website at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/contractsadministration/district1#PLANHOLDERS%20LIST>; or by calling (863) 519-2559.
342717 ON 8/15/10

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD232

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that VERONA V LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 1648 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: BASSWOOD UNIT 3 LOT 5 BLOCK 36
1-05-37-35-0030-00360-0050

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
AARON LYONS

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **28th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
340831 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD403

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that VERONA V LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 1801 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: GRANADA TERRACE E 1/2 OF LOT 10 LOT, 11
BLOCK 6
1-14-37-35-0010-00060-0100

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
GERALDINE BERTRAM

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **14th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
341137 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD399

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that TARPON IV LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 2587 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: 1ST ADDITION TO CITY OF OKEECHOBEE
LOTS 26 & 27 BLOCK 247
3-21-37-35-0020-02470-0260

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
GERALDINE BERTRAM

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **14th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
341153 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD405

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD203

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that WINDER VI LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 415 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: LOTS A AND B OF TRACT 12 E1/2 OF E1/2 OF N1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 12 AND W1/2 OF E1/2 OF N1/2 OF N1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 12 17 34S 33E
1-17-34-33-0A00-00012-A000

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
DR SIRAJ AHMAD
SHAMA P AHMAD

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **14th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
341132 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD397

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD395

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ELLA III LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 2168 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: BEGIN AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 15 SOUTHERN HOMESTEADS UNIT 1; THENCE RUN NORTH ALONG THE NORTHERLY PROJECTION OF THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID LOT 15 FOR A DISTANCE OF 159.46 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF N.E. 304TH STREET (STATE ROAD 15-C); THENCE RUN WESTERLY ALONG THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF N.E. 304TH STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 246.85 FEET TO THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF N.E. 55TH AVENUE; THENCE RUN SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR A DISTANCE OF 158.96 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 15, SOUTHERN HOMESTEADS UNIT 1; THENCE RUN EASTERLY ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 15 FOR A DISTANCE OF 242 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
1-19-34-36-0A00-00007-0000

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
E & S DAIRY

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **28th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
340834 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD406

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 2583 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: 1ST ADDITION TO CITY OF OKEECHOBEE
LOTS 2 & 3 BLOCK 247
3-21-37-35-0020-02470-0020

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
GERALDINE BERTRAM

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **14th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
341143 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD400

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that TARPON IV LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 2639 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: WRIGHTS 1ST ADDITION LOTS 7, 10, 11
BLOCK 6
3-22-37-35-0230-00060-0070

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
GERALDINE A BERTRAM

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **14th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
341156 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD037

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that VERONA V LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 272 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: LOT F OF TRACT 31 E1/2 OF W1/2 OF S1/2
OF N1/2 OF 1/2 OF TRACT 31 13 34S 33E
1-13-34-33-0A00-00031-F000

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
TRECIE MCCALLA

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **14th day of January, 2010**.

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD229

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that VERONA V LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 972 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: LOT P OF TRACT 5 E1/2 OF E1/2 OF S1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 05 29 345 33E
1-29-34-33-0A00-00005-P000

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
MAJESTIC HOMES & REALTY SW LLC

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **28th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
340825 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD218

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that VERONA V LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 641 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: LOT E OF TRACT 11 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF S1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 11 23 345 33E
1-23-34-33-0A00-00011-E000

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
ADAISH JANGBAHADOUR
MAJESTIC HOMES & REALTY SW LLC

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **28th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
340812 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD217

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that VERONA V LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 701 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: LOT L OF TRACT 13 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 13 24 345 33E
1-24-34-33-0A00-00013-L000

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
CFS PROPERTIES INC A FLORIDA CORPORATION
CFS PROPERTIES INC A FLORIDA CORPORATION
CHI HOLDINGS INC.

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **28th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
340814 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that DENTON II LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 855 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: LOTS E AND K OF TRACT 3 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF S1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 03 27 345 33E
1-27-34-33-0A00-00003-E000

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
ROBERT L REPASS

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **14th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
341134 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD215

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that VERONA V LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 538 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: LOT I OF TRACT 21 E1/2 OF E1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 21 21 345 33E
1-21-34-33-0A00-00021-I000

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
ADAISH JANGBAHADOUR
MAJESTIC HOMES & REALTY SW LLC

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **28th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
340809 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2009TD409

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the name(s) in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: 2580 Year of Issuance: June-01-2007

Description of Property: 1ST ADDITION TO CITY OF OKEECHOBEE
LOTS 10 11 12 BLOCK 243
3-21-37-35-0020-02430-0100

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name(s) in which assessed:
GERALDINE BERTRAM

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida at **10:00 A.M.**, on the **14th day of January, 2010**.

SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770
341150 ON 12/11,18,25/09;01/01/10

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Shopping center
- 5 Letter-routing letters
- 9 Confronts
- 14 A long way off
- 15 Firenze farewell
- 16 Signs of decay
- 17 "The Flintstones" pet
- 18 Ruler division
- 19 Find a new tenant for
- 20 Nearby, on a country road
- 23 When prime time ends in Middle Amer.
- 24 Counterfeit coin
- 25 Sonoma Valley container
- 28 Irish homeland
- 31 Mug shot view
- 33 Electrical unit, briefly
- 36 Malty brew
- 38 Countesses' spouses
- 39 Is completely uninformed
- 44 Impressive grouping
- 45 "What an idiot I am!"
- 46 Inclined to avoid the spotlight
- 47 "Heavens!"
- 50 Snatched
- 53 Sneaky
- 54 Super-duper
- 56 Deputized group
- 60 Row house porch
- 64 Frighten, as horses
- 66 Field of expertise
- 67 Memo phrase
- 68 Arizona State's city
- 69 Docking site
- 70 Chess ending
- 71 Nonpoetic writing
- 72 Office fill-in
- 73 Prominent periods

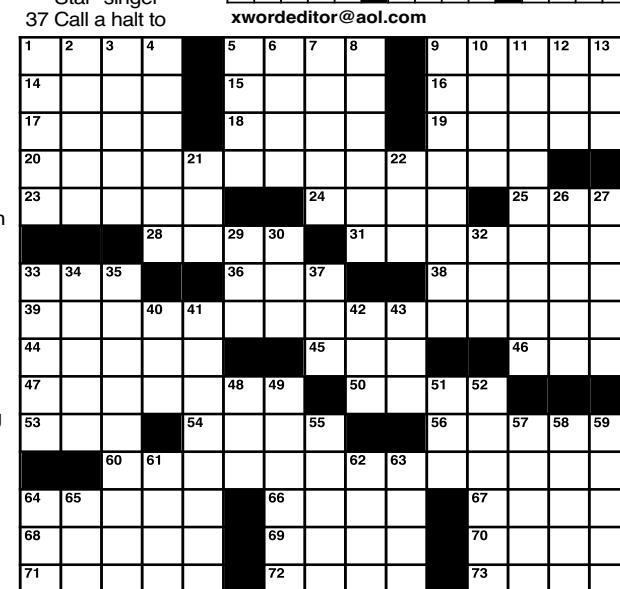
37 Call a halt to

- 4 Theatrical travelers
- 5 Corrosive compound
- 6 Windshield glare reducer
- 7 Dash devices
- 8 Useless
- 9 Precedes
- 10 Mideast port on its own gulf
- 11 Cause of coughs and sniffles
- 12 Before, of yore
- 13 Old fast plane: Abbr.
- 21 Abbr. for people with only two names
- 22 Prickly case
- 26 Islam's God
- 27 In a foul mood
- 29 Snitch
- 30 Moose relative
- 32 Web site help sect.
- 33 Second or sixth president
- 34 Gourmet mushroom
- 35 "Catch a Falling Star" singer
- 40 Cul-de-sac
- 41 One of the Bx. Bombers
- 42 Not at home
- 43 One of a reporter's five W's
- 48 Comfy footwear
- 49 Spellbound
- 51 Record collector's platters
- 52 Serve a sentence
- 55 Chill-inducing equipment
- 57 Salvage ship
- 58 A bit, informally
- 59 Fencing swords
- 61 Butterfingers' cry
- 62 Abound (with)
- 63 Memorable Old West lawman
- 64 NASCAR advertiser
- 65 As ___ instructions

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



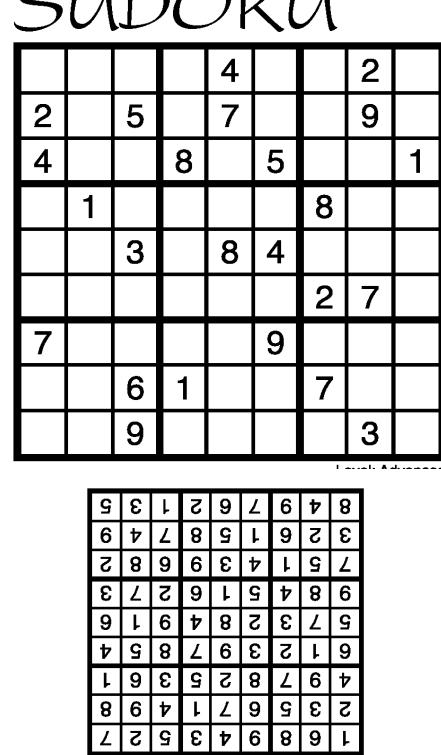
xwordeditor@aol.com



By Gail Grabowski

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SUDOKU

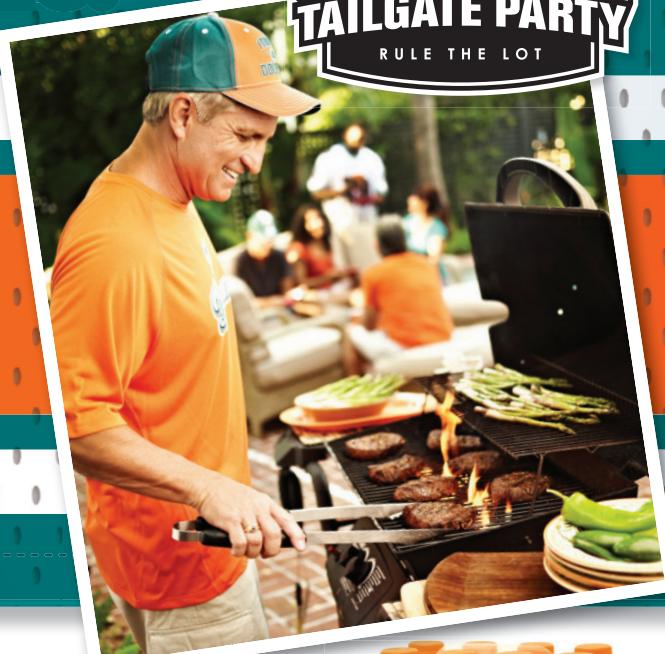


ANSWER:

The Ultimate Game Day Meal starts here.



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Assorted Publix Meal Wheels..... 9⁹⁹
 Ham, Roast Beef, Turkey, or Chicken, Stacked on Braided Egg Bread, Garnished With Your Choice of Toppings, Serves 4 to 6, each
SURPRISINGLY LOW PRICE
 (Boar's Head®, each ... 11.99)

Pick up a different tailgating feast each week during the season, at one location inside the store.



Cape Cod Potato Chips..... 5⁰⁰
 Assorted Varieties, 8 to 9-oz bag
SAVE UP TO 1.98 ON 2



Hostess Mini Sweet Sixteen Donuts..... 4⁰⁰
 Powdered or Frosted, 12 or 13-oz pkg.
SAVE UP TO 1.98 ON 2



Gatorade Thirst Quencher..... 10⁰⁰
 2 FOR
 Or G2 Beverage, Assorted Varieties, 8-pk. 20-oz bot.
SAVE UP TO 3.98 ON 2



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 12-oz can or bot.
SAVE UP TO 2.00

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