Vol. 101 No. 22

Friday, February 19, 2010



Street closing

Motorists are advised that sometime Friday, Feb. 19, CSX officials will close the Northwest Sixth Street railroad crossing in order to allow for repairs. Northwest Sixth Street will be closed to through traffic at Northwest Ninth Avenue and Northwest Sixth Avenue. Railroad officials hope to reopen the crossing Monday evening or Tuesday morning. School buses and emergency vehicles will rerouted accordingly.

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Lake Levels

13.50 feet Last Year: 13.05 feet



1759 S. Parrott Ave. 763-7222

Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level



The Strength Team Mike Hagan, of the Strength Team, uses feats of strength such as breaking concrete blocks to attract attention for his inspirational talks. The Strength Team will appear in Okeechobee next week at school assemblies public performances. For more on the story, see page 7.

City takes up never ending topic—signs

By Pete Gawda Okeechobee News

When will it ever end? Once again on Tuesday evening, Feb. 16 the Okeechobee City Council spent most of their meeting on a topic they have discussed ad nau-seam in the past—the regulation of signs. The hour and a half discussion resulted in no official action.

What is a temporary sign? What is the total number of signs a storefront in a multiple use building should be allowed to display? How many of each type of sign may a store display? When is it considered a mural and when is it considered a building sign? Can you have one banner and one portable sign or two banners and no portable signs? Should the total square footage of signs be proportional to the size of the building? Those were some of the things discussed.

The council was in agreement that advertisements in windows,

either inside or outside of the glass, would be permissible without permit or limitation.

The subject of banners evoked considerable comment.

"We don't want a banner war downtown," said city administrator Brian Whitehall.

There was discussion on limiting the colors for banners.

"If you have psychedelic colors you are going back to the 60s," asserted Councilman Mike

City planner Bill Brisson suggested limiting the colors of banners downtown because the central business district has more leeway in other areas of sign display.

Councilman Lowery Markham was not in favor of limiting the colors of banners.

The topic of signs will have to come up at least two more times for the first and second readings of

See CITY — Page 9

Store owner 'pistol whipped' in robbery

By Eric Kopp Okeechobee News

Police are searching for four to five Hispanic males who held up a local jewelry store on Wednesday, pistol whipped the owner and left her bound and gagged.

Andrea Corona, the owner of Joyeria Corona Jewelry, was airlifted to Lawnwood Regional Medical Center's trauma center in Fort Pierce, said Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD) Detective Bill Saum.

He said Mrs. Corona, 55, received numerous injuries to her head.

"Her injuries appeared to be severe when she was flown out to Lawnwood, but she was upgraded later that day to fair condition," he said.

Mrs. Corona was still in the

hospital Thursday morning.

The detective said information was sketchy but did say that the men "came in as regular customers then jumped her." He said Mrs. Corona was alone in her North Shore Plaza business at the

Detective Saum said the men took men's, women's and children's bracelets, necklaces and charms. He added that the items taken were primarily yellow gold.

OCPD received the 9-1-1 call at 12:31 p.m., said Detective Saum. Investigators are trying to determine just when the robbery took place since Mrs. Corona had to free herself from her bindings before she could call police.

While the investigator said "a large amount" of gold jewelry

See ROBBERY — Page 9



Open 9 a.m. until ???

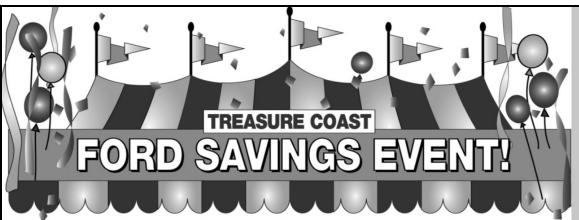
Tuesday Night - Fish Fry 6 pm Saturday Night - Dinner 6 pm

Wednesday Night - Pizza 6 pm Sunday Night - Fried Chicken 6 pm



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NEW 2010 FORD

RANGERS

12 AVAILABLE

NEW 2010 FORD

5 AVAILABLE



5 AVAILABLE

NEW 2010 FORD

19 AVAILABLE



5 AVAILABLE

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11 AVAILABLE



40 AVAILABLE

NEW 2010 FORD ESCAPE

19 AVAILABLE



9 AVAILABLE

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February 19, 2010 Okeechobee News

Man accused of raping teen

By Eric Kopp Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man was arrested at gun-

point after he was accused of forcing a 17-year-old girl to have sex with him.

Ryan Christopher Smith, 29, was arrested Thursday, Feb. 18, on a felony charge of sexual battery. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of driving while license suspended Ryan with knowledge. He was Christopher booked into the Okeechobee County Jail where he



will be held without bond on the felony charge.

Detective Rosemary Farless of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) said the alleged incident occurred early Thursday morning when a man entered the girl's room and forced her into having intercourse. Detective Farless said the girl refused his advancements but gave in after he slapped her in the face.

The detective went on to say that the girl's younger sister was also in the room as the alleged incident was taking place.

The man then left the home.

After talking with the victim, a lookout was issued to neighboring counties.

At 11:54 a.m. a deputy with the Osceola County Sheriff's Office spotted the car Smith was driving and notified the OCSO. Detective Farless, along with OCSO Deputy Rusty Hartsfield, stopped Smith just south of Fort Drum on U.S. 441 N. at 12:15 p.m.

"We took him down at gunpoint because he has a violent criminal history," said Detective Farless, adding that Smith is a convicted

A background check shows that Smith was sentenced to two years in the New River Correctional Institution in Raiford after he was convicted of battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting a law enforcement officer with violence. He was arrested Sept. 15, 2002, in St. Lucie County and sentenced Oct. 7, 2003.

Department of Corrections records show that he was released from prison Nov. 28,

Okeechobee Arrest Report

The following individuals were arrested on felony or driving under the influence (DUI) charges by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the Department of Corrections (DOC).

• Jatravian Lenard Kelly, 20, N.W. Third Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 16 by Sergeant Justin Bernst on a warrant charging him with failure to appear - battery with great bodily harm. He is being held without bond on that charge. He was also arrested on a second warrant that charged him with family desertion/withhold support. His bond on that charge is a cash purge of \$200.

• Tiffany Ilene Sweeting, 24, N.W. Treasure Coast Drive, Jensen Beach, was arrested Feb. 16 by Deputy Marcus Collier on a Martin County warrant charging her with violation of probation - grand theft-firearm and violation of probation - grand theft. She is being held without bond.

• Bryan Richard Saucier, 48, N.W. Second

St., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 17 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with driving while license suspended - habitual offender. He was released on his own recognizance.

- Garardo Tapia, 33, S.E. 22nd Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 17 by Officer Ryan Holroyd on a felony charge of driving while license suspended - habitual offender and a misdemeanor charge of giving a false name while arrested. His bond was set at \$3,000.
- Raymond Colon, 19, S.E. 11th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 17 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with possession of a firearm after being found delinquent. His bond was set at \$25,000.

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



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Lunch Only\$ 20.00

Lunch by George & Mary Beth Cooper Davey Raulerson's Swamp Cabbage

All levels include one raffle ticket per registered shooter. Extra tickets for great prizes will be available at the event.

For additional information call 863-467-2321 or fax inquires to 863-763-7856 It's all about our patients and their families!

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!

Homeless

• I don't understand why people take advantage of other people especially homeless people.

Festivals

- It is a shame there was a mixup about the fair and the rules and the Free Fair had to close early. But, it was cold and rainy and then we had the high winds anyway so they probably would not have had many customers on those days even if they had stayed open. Let's learn from that and just move on, We need to come together as a community and support all of the groups that are trying to improve things here. It is a waste of energy to get angry and make accusations against people who are just volunteers trying to something positive.
- More events in the park at the center of town would be a great idea. When most people head out to a function they have the amount of cash they can afford to spend today in their wallet. If you have to PAY to park, if you have to PAY for tickets at the gate, this takes away from what you can spend with the vendors. At events at Flagler Park, you don't have to pay to park and the walking distance between where you park and the event is closer at the park.
- · Just as the Chamber moving the holiday parade from Thanksgiving weekend to December hurt and eventually ruined the Exchange Club's arts and crafts festival, the Cattlemen moving the rodeo away from the Speckled Perch Festival hurt the chamber's Speckled Perch festival. If the chamber cannot find another draw, the Speckled Perch Festival could also eventually be ruined. When they started the lighted parade decision, the chamber was trying to do something positive for the community. When the Cattlemen moved the rodeo, they were trying to do something positive for the community.

- Keep an open mind, many things are going to be coming by way of the Chamber. We NEED visitors to frequent our stores, parks, restaurants, gas stations, motels, etc. Bring the people in. Let's have dances, festivals for art, booths, bake sales, rodeos, fishing tournaments. Bring it on-12 months out of the year, not just "tourist season."
- The fish dinner was once a big fundraiser for the chamber of commerce. When they could no longer serve specks—due to health department rules—they changed to catfish. But it was definitely a chamber of commerce fundraiser. This year I looked for the fish dinner around 11 a.m. Saturday. I found their tent, but they were still trying to figure out how to set up the cooker and had not even started preparing to cook anything so I did not wait. Did anyone get a fish dinner at the festival?
- I was pleased to hear that the county fair will include horse events that the local kids can compete in this year. I think that is a great addition to the fair and it will give the visitors something to watch. Plus it will attract more people to the fair as the families of the contestants will probably come to watch them and then check out the fair.

Red Cross Gala

• The American Red Cross Benefit was the nicest done event in Okeechobee that

I have attended in a very long time. It was nice seeing people dressed up the food was excellent and it was so nice being served instead of having to take a plate and stand in line. Very nicely done. I wish more



events would make theirs black tie. We don't have many occasions to dress and go out here and believe it or not I think even the guys didn't mind very much. I hope this will be an annual event.

 It's great they had such a good turn out to support the Red Cross. Whenever there is an emergency in our county, the Red Cross is there to help. I know of several families whose homes were lost to fires and the Red Cross was there to help them find a place to stay, get them some clothes, etc.

Letters to the editor

I remember...

It's Feb. 19, and I am remembering back 65 years. We are at war with Japan and are island hopping across the Pacific Ocean. Just 758 miles from Tokyo was a small island, less than 8 square miles. An island with 8 miles of caves, heavily fortified, with 22,000 Japanese defenders. They boasted the island could not be taken in a thousand years. Some call this island Sulfur Island. Some called it, "Hell's Volcano" but its real name was Iwo Jima.

Iwo Jima was shaped like a pork chop with only two beaches safe enough for landing troops. The beaches were directly across from each other at the narrowest part of the island. The volcano Suribachi was on our left, the high ground to our right. Both beaches could be covered by all the guns of the defenders.

The first wave of Marines hit the beach at 9 a.m. Every ten minutes another wave of Marines landed. All was fairly quiet until the beaches were crowded with Marines, then the defenders sent flares into the air and everything got nasty. The Marines kept coming, the Japanese could not miss.

The first four days an average of one Marine was either wounded or killed every two minutes. There was no way to bury the dead, they were stacked on landing craft. After two days, the coxswains were ordered to bury them at sea.

It took us 35 days to take Iwo Jima but the price was staggering. We suffered 26,000 casualties—7,000 of us paid the ultimate price. Everyone who landed on the island the first eight days was awarded and is entitled to wear the Presidential Unit Citation.

The Japanese had 21,000 dead, so a total of 28,000 lives were lost on this small island. That's one costly piece of real estate. Even before the island was secure, the first crippled plane landed on Iwo Jima. A total of 1,449 damaged super bombers with 15,938 crewmen aboard landed safely on Iwo Jima. All these would have been lost if the island had not been taken.

In all of WWII, there are many other serious battles, but this one, I was in. I remember, do you? Let's take the time to remember our military, past and present, and the suffering and hardships they endured.

James C. "Jay" Wigginton Okeechobee



Special to the Okeechobee News/Humane Society Pet Rescue

Pet of the Week

Edie is a very well behaved girl. She is a 3-4 year old Catahoula Leopard Dog and is content to be an outside pet for someone with a nice fenced yard. She is up to date on all vaccinations and is spayed. If you would like to adopt Edie, the fee is \$135. More adoptable, homeless pets can be found on our Web site at: www.animalrescueokeechobee.org. To contact us, please call 863-357-1104 or drop us an email at reunitepets@aol.com.

KEECHOBEE NEWS

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D Okeechobee, FL 34974 Website: www.newszap.com

To Submit News

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

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The Okeechobee News is available three times a

week via home delivery and is on sale at rack and store locations throughout Okeechobee County. Call the office to find out if your home is within our present home-distribution boundaries

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

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

Okeechobee News

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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

- To report the news with honesty, accuracy. purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



conscientious journalism. To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues. February 19, 2010 Okeechobee News



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Students of the Week

Students at OHS were recently selected as Students of the Week for the Feb. 1-5. In the back row from left to right are: Allan Garcia, Timmy Ayers, Jeff McCann, Brooke Stewart, Emile Lege, Nicholas Methner. In the front row from left to right are: Niettira Ridley, Taylor English, Mariana Almazan, Autum Lewis. Not pictured in the photo are: Victoria Jackson, Amy McDavid, Theresa Casas.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OMS

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the students chosen as last week's Students of the Week, Feb. 1-5, at Osceola Middle School. From left to right are: Alejandro Arriaga, Ramon Liberato, Celeste Howell, Rachel Hawthorne. Standing, left to right: Sergio Ruiz, Oscar Pinon, Austin Shatzer, and Morgan Schneider.

Community Calendar

Friday

Tops Take off Pounds Sensibly #669 meets at 9 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. The public is invited. For information, contact Ollie Morgret at 800-932-8677.

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

A.A. meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. It will be an open speaker meeting.

Business Women's Referral Networking Luncheon will be held on the third Friday of every month at the Brahma Bull Restaurant, 2405 U.S. 441 S.E., beginning at 11:30 a.m. for networking and then lunch. Networking opportunities available for women in business and is open to the public. No membership is required. For information, contact Robin Delgado at 800-299-8878; or, by e-mail at info@flainjurylawyer.com.

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

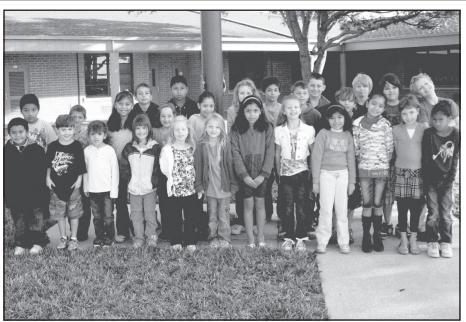
Saturday

A.A. meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Ave. It will be a closed discussion.

Sunday

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

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



Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

Students of the Week

Everglades Elementary School students of the week for the week of Feb. 8-12 include: kindergarten students, Mosies Castro, Zane Hicks, Ahdonna Harper, Riley Carver; first graders, Cordelia Bolling, Sierra Sutton, Yamilet Gandarill, Jolene Sutton; second grade students, Estephany Alvarez, Jenny Hernandez, Rebecka Mims, Kaylee Bell, Jehosafat Tapia, Kolby Yerkes; third graders, Erika Serrano, Angelina Ames, Maira CrespinAlexa Edwards, Brian Anthony Sell; fourth grade students, Lance Murphy, Samuel Clarke, James Cunningham, Alan Younglove; fifth graders, Adrian Gonzalez-Garcia, Ryan Kasik, Bradley Smith, Matthew Barlow. Congratulations! to our many outstanding students.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Patchy frost before 7 a.m., otherwise, partly sunny with a high near 67. Wind chill values as low as 31 early. Winds will be from the north northwest around 5 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a low around 39. Winds will be calm.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Sunny with a high near 75. Winds will be calm becoming east northeast around 5 mph.

Saturday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 44. East wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. East wind around 5 mph.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55 and a 20 percent chance of showers. Winds will be from the southeast around 5 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery: Cash 3: 3-7-6; Play 4: 3-5-8-0; Fantasy 5: 4-7-9-21-23; Mega Money: 2-3-8-23 MB 11; Florida Lotto: 23-34-42-44-47-53 X 4; Powerball: 7-8-19-26-36 PB15 x3. Numbers drawn Thursday, Cash 3: 1-1-5; Play 4: 8 6 1 8



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Okeechobee News February 19, 2010

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.

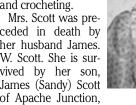
Audrey Elizabeth Scott, 90

OKEECHOBEE — Audrey Elizabeth Scott, age 90, of Okeechobee passed away Feb. 17, 2010, at the Hamrick Home.

Born Nov. 16, 1919, in Brewster, Florida to Elazor and Bessie Surrency she was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Missionary Baptist Church in Okeechobee. enjoyed gardening and crocheting.

ceded in death by her husband James. W. Scott. She is survived by her son, James (Sandy) Scott of Apache Junction,



Ariz,; two daughters, Margaret Mitchell and Phyllis (Jim) Sarros both of Okeechobee; seven grandchildren, Glenda (Tye) Bass, Brenda Joiner, Gloria Jean (Joe) Kirkland, Penny Scott, Erick Scott, Kenny (Kim) Sarros, James (Lindsey) Sarros; five great-grandchildren, Megan Kirkland, Johnny Joiner, Kyle, Kain and Keegan Sarros.

Visitation will be 1 p.m. until service time of 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, at Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Lindell Selvey officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Čemetery.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bassokeechobeefh.com.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 NE 2nd ST, Okeechobee, Fl

Roszella Lewis, 77

OKEECHOBEE — Roszella Lewis, age 77, of Okeechobee, passed away Feb. 17, 2010, at Raulerson Hospital. Born April 2, 1932, to Bill and Loueasie Halbert she was a teacher.

Ms. Lewis is survived by her daughter, Clarissa

(Redgy) Hall of Okeechobee; two granddaughters, Shanna (Kelly) Davis of Cary, N.C., and of North Carolina, Elisabeth Rose Davis of North Carolina,

Christina Hall of Okeechobee; three great-grandchildren, Jonah Banner Davis and Rocco B. Hall of

Okeechobee: Glessie (Johnny) Stumbo of Kentucky; and two brothers, Dennis Bartley of Kentucky, and Hillard (Madge) Halbert of McDowell, Ky.

Visitation will be 4 p.m. until service time at 5 p.m. today, Feb. 19, 2010, at Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home with Pastor Gene Roddenberry officiating. Burial will be in Ivel, Kentucky.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bassokeechobeefh.com.

Arrangements by Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 NE 2nd ST, Okeechobee, Fl 34972.

Bruce Randel Addison, 53

OKEECHOBEE — Bruce Randel Addison, age 53, of Okeechobee, passed away Feb. 16, 2010,

Born June 29, 1956, in Ft. Lauderdale to Gerald and Nancy Addison, he came to Okeecho-

bee 50 years ago from Ft. Lauderdale. Mr. Addison proudly served our country in the U.S. Army. He was a school bus mechanic with Okeechobee County. He enjoyed fishing, football and NASCAR.

Mr. Addison was preceded in death by his wife, Susie

Addison: his and ther, Gerald Addison. He is survived by two daughters, Tina Addison, and Brandy Addison, both of Okeechobee; son, Gerald (Aimee) Addison of Kill Devil Hills, N.C.; 11 grandchildren; mother, Nancy Turner; brother, Kenneth Robert Addison of Okeechobee; and three sisters, Pam Bihl of Indiana, Tracy Kirchner of Vero Beach and Janet Pinheiro of Sebastian.

Visitation will be 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, at Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bassokeechobeefh.com.

Arrangements by Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 NE 2nd ST, Okeechobee, Fl 34972.

Helen H. Hall, 81

OKEECHOBEE — Helen H. Hall, age 81, of Okeechobee, passed away Feb. 16, 2010, at her

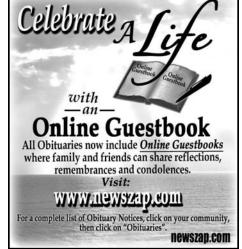
Born Oct. 3, 1928, in Ruckersville, Va., she came to Okeechobee from Atlanta, Ga., in 1971. She was a homemaker of the Baptist faith. She enjoyed restoring airplanes.

Mrs. Hall is survived by her husband of 47 years, Warren L. Hall; son, Steve Shifflett of Ruckersville, Va.; and one grandson.

The family will hold private services.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bassokeechobeefh.com.

Arrangements by Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 NE 2nd ST, Okeechobee, Fl 34972.



Cindy Marie Eckenwiler, 55

OKEECHOBEE — Cindy Marie Eckenwiler, age 55, of Okeechobee, passed away Feb. 15, 2010, at the Hamrick Home.

Born Jan. 5, 1955, in Homestead Freeport,

N.Y., to the late Jim and Joan Anderson Jones she came to Okeechobee from Riverside, Calif., in 1980. She loved the beach, sunshine, flowers and spending time with her family.

Ms. Eckenwiler preceded in was death by her broth-Jimmy and Jones; her rine Delor.

Kathegrandmother,

She is survived by her four children, Tammy Eckenwiler Deese (Larry), Tracy Eckenwiler Haney (Jo), Ronnie Eckenwiler (Mandi) and Shawn Eckenwiler; nine grandchildren, Amanda Dean, Dustin Lundy, Mitchell Dean, Sara Lundy, Macy Cox, Destiney Deese, Lil Ron Eckenwiler, Christopher Eckenwiler, Thomas Eckenwiler; two great-grandchildren, Skvla Markcum and Jaiden Lundy; sister, Jeanie Morgan, Pam Ashmore and Donna Young; eight nieces and nephews; 11 great-nieces and greatnephews; and many friends.

Visitation will be 11 a.m. until services at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, at Church of God with Pastor Mark Smith officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bassokeechobeefh.com.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 NE 2nd ST, Okeechobee, Fl

Sue McCauley, 68

OKEECHOBE — Sue McCauley, 68, died Feb/ 16, 2010, in Okeechobee.

Mrs. McCauley was born in Parkersburg, W.Va., and moved to Okeechobee in 1989 coming from Vienna, W.Va.

She was a unit clerk for a hospital.

Survivors include her husband, Paul D. McCauley of Okeechobee; daughter, Teresa K. Cutlip of Parkersburg, W.Va.; son, Steven D. McCauley of Combine, Texas; and grandchildren, Carman, and Collin Cutlip.

Burial will take place at Sunset Memory Gardens & Mausoleum in Parkersburg, W.Va.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

Arrangements are under the direction of Haisley Funeral & Cremation Service. A guest book may be signed at www.haisleyfuneralhome.com.



Search obituaries nationally at http://www.legacy.com

Community Events

Hospice to host Gigantic Yard Sale Friday, Feb. 19

Hospice of Okeechobee (411 S.E. Fourth Street) will hold a Gigantic Yard Sale on Friday, Feb. 19, from 8 a.m. until noon. Many furniture items and lots of clothing! We have NEW ITEMS galore offered at extremely reasonable prices. Or shop at our "Flea Market" (outside under the Carport) where every item is dirt cheap (prices start at only 10 cents per item). Funds raised will benefit patient care, including services at The Hamrick Home. For information call 863-467-2321.

Bass tournament helps March of Dimes

Seacoast National Bank invites everyone to the 8th Annual Big Lake Bass Fishing Tournament to be held on Saturday, Feb. 20, at Pier II Resort located at 2200 Hwy. 441 SE. Registration is \$80 per boat, two-person team and begins at a.m. This event will benefit the March of Dimes.

Roast pork dinner raises money for youth camp

Saturday. Feb. 20. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N Parrott Ave. Dine in or take out. Seating times are 5,6, & 7 p.m. Take out is available between 5-7:30 p.m. A donation of \$7 will buy a delicious pork dinner with potatoes, veggie, salad, tea/coffee and dessert. Come out and support our youth raise funds for camp this summer!

Okeechobee Orchid Club to discuss keeping plants warm

Gary Baily, local grower and past president of the Vero Beach Orchid Society, will speak to the Okeechobee Orchid Club at their monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension Office, 458 Highway 98 N. His topic will be "How to Keep your Orchids Warm on Cold Nights." The Garden Club will meet at 6 p.m. These meetings are open to the public. For more information call the extension office at 863-763-6469.

Red Cross to hold March Health & Safety classes

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

- Tuesday, March 2 First Aid Basics at
- Monday, March 15 Adult CPR/AED at
- Wednesday, March 24- Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m. Also, to celebrate the end of March Is Red Cross Month, we will be holding a Chapter-wide CPR Class on Saturday, March 27, from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The special price for the class is just \$35 per person. All classes are held at their Service Center, located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

Strength Team teaches inner strength

Okeechobee News

The Strength Team is coming to Okeechobee next week. They come on like Gangbusters at school assemblies breaking Louisville Sluggers and stacks of concrete blocks. Once they have your attention they present their message of character building, right choices and citizenship. In 2005 the Strength Team performed in over 750 school assemblies.

The Strength Team made up of former college and professional athletes whose motto is "A Bridge to Families, the Community and the World." The Strength Team encourages every student to set their goals with work hard, and see their dream come

Mike Hagan, head of the Strength Team has been doing this sort of thing for 24

"Encourage people to be the best they can be," is his message.

In a telephone interview from his headquarters in Missoula, MT, Mr. Hagan describes the program as "high energy and lots

On Wednesday, Feb. 24 the Strength Team will appear at New Endeavor High School and Everglades Elementary School. On Wednesday Feb. 25 the team will be at North Elementary School and Yearling Middle School. On Friday, Feb. 26 the Strength Team will be at Seminole Elementary School, Okeechobee High and the Freshman Campus.

The Strength Team will also appear each evening Wednesday through Sunday at 6:30 at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center, 4200 U.S. 70 W. While the message in the evenings is faith-based, Mr. Hagan said it will not be done in a religious manner nor will he be preaching to the people.

Mr. Hagan bench presses over 500 pounds. He has been clocked in the 40 yard dash at 4.5 seconds. He played for the NFL Seattle Seahawks and the USFL Michigan Panthers and the San Antonio gunslingers. Also on the team is Clarence Lee, a graduate of Florida State University, who played nose guard on the 1993 National Championship Team. Andre Sims was a running back at Northern Iowa University. Rounding out the team is Greg Mead, a competitive bodybuilder and professional power lifter.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Clarence Lee, former football player for Florida State University, breaks a baseball bat. He and other members of the Strength Team use such feats of strength to attract attention to their inspirational talks.



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Sunday School 11am

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Wed. Night Bible Study

7pm

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Okeechobee News February 19, 2010



Special to the Okeechobee News/Bobbi Poole

Miss American Legion

The American Legion Pageant was held Thursday, Feb. 11. Morgan Crawford, center, was chosen Miss American Legion. Tabitha Smith, left, is first runner up and Monica Shaevez, right, is second runner up.



Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

A good book

There's nothing better than a good book and Central Elementary students and staff had a great time finding just the right one at the Scholastic Book Fair. There were so many good books, it was hard to choose which ones to buy! Not only does the Book Fair offer quality reading for the students, but the proceeds help the library. Money from the Book Fair is used to buy AR tests, bookmarks, and other incentive items. Below are Mrs. Watt from the Media Center and Hadeel Abed enjoying themselves.



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February 19, 2010 **Okeechobee News**



Special to the Okeechobee News/South Elementary

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the Students of the Week at South Elementary School for Feb. 12. They are: Sarah Dodd, Austin Bullock, Joy Whipple, Juliana Sheldon, McKenzie Simmons, Iris Celestino, Karina Romero Ortega, Rebecca Rhoden, Sumer Baker, Janixza Lopez, Sarah Heaton, Sarah Nichols, Maggie Congdon, Kaitlyn Land, Vicente de la Cruz, and Taylor Henry. Go Eagles!

CITY

Continued From Page 1

the proposed ordinance.

"At that time will we have the perfect sign ordinance?" asked Councilman Clayton Wil-

"I don't think so," answered Councilman Downing Watford who was acting as mayor that night in the place of absent Mayor James Kirk.

The council also heard a presentation from Nancy Phillips, the city's grant coordinator, who discussed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for the fiscal year 2009 funding cycle. She said the state was behind in funding CDBG grants. She said she was anticipating funding for 2009 grants in June and funding for 2010 CDBG grants in late fall.

Ms. Phillips said there are four categories of CDBG grants—the first is housing rehabilitation. This concerns demolishing and rebuilding low to moderate income housing. Then there is commercial revitalization. The third category is neighborhood revitalization which concerns extending water and sewer to neighborhoods. Then there is the economic development grant which helps create jobs.

Ms. Phillips said the city's grant application for 2008 did not score high enough to qualify. She promised to work with the city to try to help them score higher on 2009 grant applications.

The grant coordinator will come back to the council when she has more definite information on the 2009 CDBG Program.

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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Special to the Okeechobee News/OMS

Students of the Week

Teachers have identified some "Wonderful Warriors" as Students of the Week at Osceola Middle School for Feb. 8-12. Ashley Hart, R.J. Skinner, Nolan Carpenter, Brandon Breland, Cheyenne Dunnaway, Leah Furse, Perry Abrigo. A huge thank you to Domino's Pizza for donating lunch for our Students of the Week!

ROBBERY

Continued From Page 1

LENNOX DEALER SINCE

1975

was taken, he could not say exactly how much was taken.

OCPD Detective John Zeigler will be the lead investigator on the case.

If anyone has any information, or saw anyone going in or out of the jewelry store on Wednesday, Feb. 17, they are asked to contact Detective Zeigler at 863-763-5521.



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City settles lawsuit out of court

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

An out of court settlement was reached recently in a lawsuit filed against the City of Okeechobee over a motor vehicle accident that involved one of the city public works vehicles, a review of court files indicated.

Sabrina Jones was a passenger in a vehicle that was involved in the accident on North West 11th Avenue on Aug. 14, 2008.

The amount of the settlement was not revealed in the court records. The jurisdiction of the court was for over \$15,000.

Each party agreed to pay their own court costs and attorneys fees. The case went to mediation in September, 2009.

Jones said she had medical bills of \$14,018 due to injuries to her neck, lower back, and left hip, according to a deposition she gave in the case.

The plaintiff also claimed the city employee, Palmer Lamb, admitted that his foot slipped off the break before the crash.

The plaintiff sued the city on a claim of negligence and sought damages for claims that included loss of earnings, medical bills, and pain and suffering.

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Seminole Tribe Field Day has festival, rodeo

frond canopies.

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IŇI Florida

The 72nd Annual Brighton Field Day Festival and Rodeo opened Thursday, Feb. 18 and continues through Sunday, Feb. 21.

In addition to a four-day PRCA Rodeo, a culture festival will feature family entertainment at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. On Friday, Feb. 19 area school children will visit the festival for the annual kids' day.

A popular feature of the festival is the extensive Seminole clothing and patchwork contest. Local crafters are famous for their "sweetgrass" basketry, rainbow-colored beadwork, and traditional dolls. The arts and crafts on display, or for sale, range from local folk art to museum quality.

Be prepared to catch the parade on Saturday, Feb. 20 with local dignitaries, floats, music and energetic horses. There are events all day long that feature alligator wrestling, reptile shows, Native American dancing and music. The rodeo has its own music and comedy en-

Trailer fire keeps fire fighters busy

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Fire Rescue reports state nearly \$60,000 in property damage was done late Monday night after a mobile home fire at 4648 U.S. 441 north.

Lt. Robert Mears said three units and eight firemen responded just before midnight and found smoke coming from the

Firemen attacked the blaze from both the west entrance and the east side of the home and had the flames under control in a matter of minutes, Mears added.

About 1,000 gallons of water was used to put out the flames. The State Fire Marshall was called in to investigate the cause of the blaze. The American Red Cross also responded to assist the family and

Okeechobee City firemen provided mutual aid during the blaze. There were no injuries reported.

The home is owned by John Stone. Firemen said no one was at home when the fire broke out.

Firemen were on the scene for approximately four hours.

The trailer suffered extensive damage and was ruled a total loss, Mears said.

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For local information about the Brighton

Field Day Festival call 863-467-6039.



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2001-M: Taylor Creek

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11

Share your news, get noticed, earn rewards

The Okeechobee Sports Network is a community website designed to provide extensive visibility for local sports action in the Okeechobee area. It's fun, interactive, and it is free to participants of all ages.

Okeechobee Sports provides the opportunity for local sports teams, organizations, and school athletic programs to display their team results and individual accomplishments for all to see in the Okeechobee community. Our goal is to deliver a platform for sports of all kinds that offers an entertaining experience that transcends time and brings together the various generations of athletes, recreational players, and the many fans that hold an interest in community sports.

Network offer a media platform for local sports teams, it also supports the Okeechobee area youth and recreational sports community. Through our unique Community Share program, 20 cents of every advertising dollar spent on the Okeechobee Sports Network website will be given back to participating local sports organizations.

We hope that you enjoy this site, how it operates and its style, as it evolves into a community-wide media platform for our Okeechobee community. Have Fun and Play Hard! Remember to report your results on Okeechobee Sports Network for all your family, friends and fans to see. To visit Okeecho-

Not only does the Okeechobee Sports bee Sports Network, go to Newszap.com, click on the Okeechobee homepage, then click on the SPORTS tab in the upper right part of the page.

Interested teams and leagues can contact Renee Hawley by e-mail at rhawley@communitysportsdesk.com to participate and find out how your team can win a free pizza party by being one of the first two teams with 50 registered fans on the website! Okeechobee Sports Network will also be giving away a \$25 gift certificate from the Ultimate Gamer for the best local sports photo posted on the site by March 1st. Call Renee toll free at 888-853-7904 for a demonstration or to get

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Brahman wrestlers compete at regional

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Josh Gruber was just an eyelash away from a trip to the state tournament.

Gruber lost in overtime 3-2 to Brandon Searle of Viera Feb. 13 in the senior's last high school match.

Gruber, who was district runner up in Class 2A District 11 this year, and a district champion last year, had a shot to win the match in overtime. Coach Bruce Jahner said Gruber had his opponent down and could have easily earned a point but the referee chose not to give it to him.

The two wrestlers continued to grapple and Searle ended up winning on a take down moments later.

Chris Bleakley also finished fifth in his weight class and barely missed out on a trip to the state tournament. Bleakley also lost in overtime to Luciano Guidoni of Jensen Beach.

"He wrestled real well. He beat a couple of wrestlers that had beaten him earlier in the season, including one who pinned him on Friday," Jahner added.

Jonathan Kemp also wrestled on Saturday as he earned a bye in the 189 pound division on Friday. Kemp was scheduled to wrestle a defending state champion but the wrestler suffered an injury and was unable to compete.

Ten Brahman wrestlers qualified for the regional tournament this year which was held at Jensen Beach High School. Seven wrestlers competed for Okeechobee.

Coach Jahner said one wrestler Donald Bryan was unable to compete due to a broken hand. He said he was impressed with how his wrestlers competed at the regional.

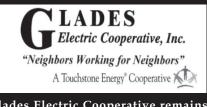
Coquina Water Control District Board meets

The Feb. 10 monthly meeting of the Coquina Water Control District Board of Supervisors was short and dealt with routine matters. The board agreed to send letters to certain property owners where Coquina has easements asking for permission to store fill dirt on the easements. The fill dirt would be removed as needed for road repairs. Since there was no response for their request for bids for herbicide spraying, the board agreed to just hire a contractor do the spraying.

The board had previously decided on a list of road improvements projects. They decided to prioritize these projects and complete one at a time rather than have several projects going at once.

Melvin Byars, chairman of the board, stated that the number of assessments received to date is down a little from the assessments received by this time last year. Property owners have until March 31 to pay their taxes and assessments.





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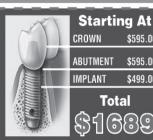
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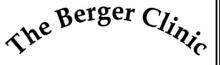
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CKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Announcements

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the dead-line listed. We will not be responsible for more than more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against the Delaware State News. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Delaware State News style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted

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Mini Camcorder -Hard, black, zipper case with camera and camcorder. Senor(573) 441-9177

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Garage Sale: Fri & Sat @ 8 a.m. until 12:00; 1310 SW 5th Ave; Clothes, toys, DVD's, computer desk, avon products & other misc.

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Turn your trash to treasure with an ad in the classifieds.

OKEECHOBEE -US Highway 441 SE, 2/20/10, Beg. 7AM. Zachary Resort's Taylor Resort's Annual Yard/Bake sale. (East of Taylor Bridge) Creek Draw

Employment For more listings,

www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

Position available for self-motivated, energetic person to assemble and test telephones. Must be mechanically inclined and have electronic background. Must be able to lift up to 40 lbs. Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm.

Please send resume to Imccreary@ceeco.net or fax resume to 863-357-0006

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Employment Full Time

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Need a Job? Want a Career?

Okeechobee Health Care Facility

is offering Certified Nursing Assistant training to those who qualify. Once you complete the training and pass the required test, we put you to work starting at \$9.00 per hour.

If you are interested, please complete an application at our business office, located at 406 NW 4th St.

Financial

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Business **Opportunities**

NOTICE

Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-athome programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the Therefore, you call a number out of your area, use caution.

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

Grab a bargain from your neighbor's garage, attic, basement or closet in today's classifieds.

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

Services

For more listings, ao to www.newszap.com

Real Estate Services



Fixer Upper! This 2/2/1 foreclosure is in need of pairs. Is in King's Bay and is under Homeowner Association. Reduced to \$41,900. Call Amy Davis (863)634-3656

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Top Soil

JACK'S TOP SOIL Fill Dirt/Shell Rock & Bob Cat work. Call 863-467-4734

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Buildings & Sheds

DWMH -3/2 beautiful dbl country lot, completely fenced, lrg florida room, 3 sheds, fruit trees, fur nished, minutes from river access \$65,000.00 (863)763-5588 or (863)763-8761

dollhouse home,beautiful starter dbl country lot, totally privacy fenced,lg florida room, newely remodled, furnished, minutes from river access \$40,000.00 (863)763-8761

Pets/Supplies

CLASSIC BRINDLE FE-MALES \$500.00 1 VERY RARE FLASHY AKC BOXER PUPS -RARE FLASHY BLACK MALE \$800.00 8 WEEKS ON 2/12/10/firm. (863)532-8036

Wanted to Buy, Dark brown apple head chihuahua 863-763-1955 puppy

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River Acres, 1/1 Efficiency, very clean \$600 mo., Incl utils & Dish TV (863)467-1950

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Houses - Rent

For Rent: On the Prairie, 4BR/3BA, 1.25 acres, Call 863-634-0042

In City - clean, 2/1, w/carport, c/a/h, \$700 mo., 1st, last & \$500 sec. (863)467-5965

OKEE: 3/1 on ½ ac. Renovated, laundry, Central Air & Heat, screen porch, carport. \$925 mo, 1st mo. & dep. Call 305-458-8659

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.

Office Space Rent

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT (863)763-8565

Your new home could be in today's paper. Have you looked for it?

Real Estate

For more listings, www.newszap.com

Houses - Sale

OKEE. - Huge 1 Bdrm. Apt. Tile throughout. Screen porch. \$435 mo. + utilities. 1st, last & \$200 sec. dep. No dogs. 863-801-1739

Open House

Open House 10-12 921 NW 6th St 2006 CBS 3/2/1 Move-in condition Call realtor 863-687-0288 for more info

Real Estate Wanted

Single Veteran looking for home in Okeechobee. 3bd/2 ba; No pets, no children. Preferably on a canal. With lease option. 635 Water Street; #21; Biloxi, MI 39530 Call Eddie 228-365-2115.

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

Mobile Homes For more listings,

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Mobile Home

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FOR RENT: 3/2 and 2/1 Cottages. Newly remodeled. 12 miles north of Okeechobee on beautiful ranch. Water, trash & lawn maintenance included. NO PETS! (863)467-2982

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RV with added on living room. Utilities incl. \$450/month + deposit. Call 863-763-3762 Buying a car? Look in

the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds. **Treasure Island**

2BR/1BA, lake access canal, water, sewer, furnished, newly remodeled w/dishwasher, \$650 dep., \$160 weekly. 863-634-9990

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w/Fla. Room in Blue Cypress. With lots of extras. Reduced \$55,000 or obo. Call 863-532-9222 or 863-610-0218.

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

LAKEPORT - Furnished 35' mobile home, ,match ing sun porch, loads of cupboards, \$15,000, Lot fee \$170 monthly. Stack Washer/Dryer. Glass doors, at 31 Lakebreeze Park. (705)340-1446

OKEECHOBEE- 1981 dbl wide on water, porch, lg edition, boathouse \$100,000 (863)763-0474 boathouse



For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Boats

1987 Sea Nymph Tournament Boat 50 hp Mercury power trim; ready to fish; live well Call 863-763-2526 after 3:00 p.m. \$1800



For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Parts/Repairs

Transmission - Automatic Chevy 2WD - Re-built \$700.00/or best offer. (863)801-5687



For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEEN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CASE NO. 10000060CA

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC.

vs. JOHN T. BENNETT, et al.

TO: JOHN T. BENNETT Whose address is: 307 SE 8th Drive Okeechobee, FL 34974

TO: UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JOHN T. BENNETT Whose residence is: 307 SE 8th Drive Okeechobee, FL 34974

TO: SHERRY ATTEWELL Whose residence is: 208 NE 3rd Street Okeechobee, FL 34972 & 307 SE 8th St. Okeechobee, FL 34974

If alive, and if dead, all parties claim ing interest by, through, under or against JOHN T. BENNETT; UN-KNOWN SPOUSE OF JOHN T. BEN-NETT; SHERRY ATTEWELL and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the prop-erty described herein.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:

LOT 11, BLOCK 1, REVISED PLAT OF WILCOX SHORES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 5, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

a/k/a 307 SE 8TH DRIVE OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Jessica Fagen, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 2901 Stirling Road, Suite 300, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312 within 30 days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 2nd day of Feb., 2010.

A copy of this Notice of Action, Com-plaint and Lis Pendens were sent to the defendants and address named above.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should, no later than seven (7) days prior, contact the Clerk of the Court's disability coordinator at 7728074370, 250 NW Court of the Court's port St. Lucie, FL 34986. If hearing impaired, contact (TDD) 8009558771 via Florida Relay System.

This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose 346591 ON 2/19,26/10

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Public Notice

THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No.: 2010-DR-042 Division: DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Ruben Hernandez, Petitioner Graciela Ryeda Respondent

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

TO: Graciela Ryeda Last Address: Texas

TO: Graciela Ryeda
Last Address: Texas

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action
has been filed against you and that
you are required to serve a copy of
your written defenses, if any, to it on
Ruben Hernandez whose address is
20. Box 1646, Okeechobee, FI.
34973 on or before 2-28-10, and file
the original with the clerk of this
Court at Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Court Operations
1st Floor, 312 NW 3rd Street,
Okeechobee, Florida 34972 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do
so, a default may be entered
against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
Copies of all court documents
in this case, including orders,
are available at the Clerk of the
Circuit Court's office. You may
review these documents upon
request.
You must keep the Clerk of the
Circuit Court's office notified of
your current address. (You may
file Notice of Current Address,
Florida Supreme Court Approved
Family Law Form 12.915). Future papers in this lawsuit will
be mailed to the address on
record at the clerk's office.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Flori
da Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic
disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can
result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
Dated: January 26, 2010.

SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: /S/ HEATHER THOMAS Deputy Clerk 344914 ON 1/29;2/5,12,19/10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 2009CA582

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, acting through Rural Development, formerly Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA),

vs.
DAVID W. LINDLEY; REGINA E. LIN-DLEY; COMMERCIAL CREDIT CON-SUMER SERVICES, INC.; JOHN DOE, representing the unknown spouse, if any, of REGINA E. LINDLEY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: David W. Lindley, whose last known address is unknown and who is not known to be dead or alive. YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an ac-

is not known to be dead or alive.

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

The East half of lot 41, PIONEER ESTATES, UNIT 2, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 16, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on NEAL E. YOUNG, Plaintiffs attorney, whose address is 300 Third Street, N.W., Winter Haven, Florida 33881, on or before 30 days from date of first publication, and file the original with the Clerk of the Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceed-ing, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administrator, at (772)807-4370, 1-800-955-8771 (hearing impaired), or 1-800-9558770 (voice impaired), or 1-800-9558770 (voice impaired,), within 2 working days of your receipt of this document; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call impaired,

or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771. WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court on Feb. 12, 2010.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of the Circuit Court BY: Kathy Arnold

As Deputy Clerk 346486 ON 2/19,24/10

Public Notice

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold its Regular Session on Thursday, February 25, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Florida Statute 286.26, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Paula Poskon, no later than wo (2) working days prior to the proceeding should contact Paula Poskon, no later than \$4.500.222.3448 (vicie) or 1.588.447.5620 (TfY).

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

Sharon Robertson, Clerk Board of County Commissioners Okeechobee County, Florida 346659 ON 2/19/10

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PROJECT NO. 2010-04 OKEE-TANTIE CAMPGROUND & MARINA BANDSHELL FOUNDATION AND ASSEMBLY

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed BIDS will be received by **Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL. 34972 until 2 p.m. on March 1, 2010. Bids will be received at the first floor reception desk and will be opened in the lobby on the second floor. They will be publicly opened by the County, Clerk or designee and read aloud. Any BIDS received after the time specified will not be accepted.**

The BIDS shall be based on furnishing all materials equipment an labor necessary for the Okee-Tantie Campground & Marina Band shell Foundation and Assembly. The work is for the construction of the Bandshell foundation and assembly of the Bandshell package purchased and provided by Okeechobee County and manufactured by RCP Shelters Incor

All materials furnished and all work performed shall be in accordance with the Drawings, Specifications and Contract Documents pertaining thereto, which may be examined at or obtained from:

Okeechobee County Capital Improvements
1690 NW 9th Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 39972
(863) 763-0805

Each Contractor will be furnished with one (1) set of Plans and Specifica tions. Bidders may pick up Plans and Specifications from the Okeechobe Capital Improvements office.

Each bid must be accompanied by an acceptable Bid Security in the form o Bid Bond, or Certified Check, made payable to "Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners", in the amount of not less than five percent (5% of the total Bid Amount as a guarantee that the Bidder, if awarded the Con ract, will execute and process the contract to commence work

Okeechobee County accepts no responsibility for any expense related to preparation or delivery of proposals. The Owner reserves the right to rejec any or all Bids accept Bids in any order or combination, accept or reject por tions of Bids, make modifications to the work after bidding, and waive any ormality in the Bids if they deem it in their best interest to do so

Bidders will confine their bids to the project in its entirety. Partial bids will Each bidder will submit with this bid evidence that the bidder is li

censed to perform the work and services or qualified by exam-tion to be so licensed. If in the opinion of the bidder, inconsistencies appear to exist in the specifications, it is the bidder's responsibility to seek clarification from Okeechober County Capital Improvements. Additionally, it is incumbent upon all bidders

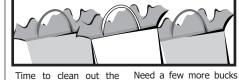
to conduct a personal investigation as to requirements of the County The Board of County Commissioners has the right to accept or reject any o all bids. Bids must be sealed and the outside of the envelope MUST be marked: "BID - OKEE-TANTIE CAMPGROUND & MARINA BAND. SHELL FOUNDATION AND ASSEMBLY, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PRO-JECT NO. 2010-04".

> Clif Betts, Jr., Chairma Board of County Commissioner Okeechobee County, F

Sharon Robertson, Clerk of Cour

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No wonder newspaper readers earn more money!



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

346735 ON 2/19/10

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

Lawsuits over accidents resolved

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee jury recently ruled in favor of the defendant in a negligence lawsuit filed over a traffic accident caused by a bull standing on U.S. 441 north of town, court records show.

Donald and Lillian Roseberry had sued Rollins Ranch for a traffic crash that occurred on Aug. 28, The case had been litigated since June, 2007

and had been filed by Attorney Scott Donaldson of West Palm Beach.

A 2002 Freightliner driven by Albert Montoya of Okeechobee reportedly also struck the bull in

The lawsuit had claimed the truck driver, and the owners of the livestock were negligent. The claims included that the owner failed to maintain the fences that surround the property and failed to properly control their livestock. Roseberry asked for damages for medical bills, loss of earnings, property damage and other claims.

The case went to a trial by jury and the jury found no liability on behalf of Rollins Ranch.

Circuit Judge Shields McManus dismissed the suit with prejudice. The two sides had jointly agreed to waive any appeal. Each side agreed to pay their own court and attorney fees, records show. The legal issue in the case was, did the defendant permit his livestock to run at large or to stray on a public road and if so, was their negligence a legal cause of loss, injury or damage. The case file included jury instructions on a state law that reads every owner of livestock who intentionally, willfully, carelessly or negligently suffers or permits their livestock to run at large or to stray upon a public road shall be liable for damages for all injury and property damage sustained by any person.

In a second litigation of an accident that involved livestock, it was settled out of court, according to court records. Janet Rexroat filed litigation against Louis Larson and Justin Tomlinson for an accident on Oct. 4, 2003 that claimed the life of her husband, Donald Rexroat on U.S. 441 north near Country Hills Estates. The terms of the settlement were not included in the court file. In this case Rexroat's vehicle struck a horse that had wandered onto the roadway. Rexroat was struck in the head and killed instantly. The court file stated both sides reached terms on an amicable settlement. Each party agreed to pay their own court costs and attorney fees. Circuit Judge Mc-Manus signed a dismissal with prejudice notice

Crossword Puzzle

39

host Mandel

3 Wide open

4 Attraction for

5 Snip from the

newspaper

8 Show about

9 Not expressly

10 Lunchbox meat

Capote

stated

opposite

12 Semicircular

entrance

21 Fix, as hair

believer

28 Perfect

30 Tater

Nod

13 Left the land of

25 Single-principle

27 Almost perfect,

gradewise

29 Actress Skye

7 Normandy city

Winnie the Pooh

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis **DOWN**

ACROSS 1 Hitchcock's "The

- 1 Iranian ruler until 1979
- 5 Prickly plants 10 Clarinetist Artie
- 14 Like takeout
- orders 15 Deprive of weapons
- 16 Prefix with
- space 17 McGregor of
- "Moulin Rouge!" 18 Prepare to drive
- 19 Deficiency
- 20 "Shh!" from a
- plumber? 22 Abhor
- 24 "Later, alligator!" 25 "CSI" city
- 26 "Shh!" from a
- hosier?
- 31 Greek fabulist 34 City bonds, for
- short
- -wop 36 Editor's "leave it
- 37 "Shh!" from a mail carrier?
- 38 Red coin?
- 39 Agt.'s cut
- 40 Corn breads 41 Prom rentals
- 42 "Shh!" from a hunter?
- 45 Salon services 46 Shady areas
- 50 Subdued shade 52 "Shh!" from a
- seamstress? 54 Polite "I think," in chat rooms
- 55 Privileged group 57 Goya's "Duchess
- of 58 "We gotta get movin'!"
- 59 "There's __ sight" 60 "Kills bugs dead"
- sprav 61 "Keystone" bunch of film
- 62 Proctor kitchen appliance brand
- 63 TV's Dick Van ___

- 31 Once-sacred slitherers 32 Inscribe
- 33 Go into business 2 "Deal or No Deal"
 - 37 Attachment for closeups 38 Bare fixture of
 - rhyme 40 Ceremonial heap 41 Like Granny
- 6 From square one Smith apples 43 Wyoming range
- 53
- 48 Man with a cube 49 Prospector's tool 50 Prospector's tool 51 Shells and bullets

47 Dental crown

alternative

44 Like adult movies

- 52 Jessica of "7th Heaven" Reader:
- eclectic magazine 56 Law, in Lyon

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



By Don Gagliardo

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Senior hopes to lead boys tennis team

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Zach Fowler is the most experienced boys player on a senior laden Okeechobee High School tennis team this year.

Fowler has played singles for three years and has been a steady and stubborn competitor.

He gets the most out of his ability and is a student of the game. He specializes in the placement of the ball and normally makes his opponent run a marathon to remain competitive in the match.

"My motto is never give up because every ball counts, every point counts, and every serve counts. You must have a strategy and know where to place the ball. Tennis is a very complicated game, it's like chess," he noted.

Fowler moves up to the #1 seed on the boys team this year and will have his hands full against some talented players who play all year round in USTA tournaments. He said he has practiced a lot in the off season and worked to improve his game.

"I feel the challenge this year. I will miss Corey White and Alex Nielson two very good players," he noted, "It will be fun. We have pretty good players out here this year. I'm looking forward to playing with them. I practice a lot and I'll be ready for it."

Fowler also has worked hard in the classroom and intends to pursue a future in art. He plans to attend the Art Institute in Fort Lauderdale next year and work in game marketing and design.

He said he loves art, and is excited about the next step in his education.

Fowler's parents are Wil and Suzie Fowler. He also has a younger fan, his little sister Gabby. Fowler said the team faces their toughest test right off the bat on Feb. 17 when they travel to Martin County. "We will try our best and go out there and have fun."

Fowler adds the boys team's biggest asset this year might be teamwork and getting along with one another. "We get along real well. The team is filled with seniors and all of them play excellent. I think it's going to be a fun year."



Okeechobee News/File photo Zach Fowler, OHS senior, leads the tennis team this year.

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• Each of the first two teams with 50 registered fans by February 28, will receive one \$50 gift certificate from Domino's Pizza.

Must be actively reporting game scores, photos, etc. on the site to participate (1 certificate per team)







- 1. Have your family and friends locate your teams on the Okeechobee *SportsNetwork*.
- 2. Click the "Become a Fan" icon and provide an email address.
- 3. They have now "Become a Fan" of your team and will receive updates as the stories are posted to the site.



""To visit Okeechobee Sports Network online, go to newszap.com, click on the Okeechobee homepage, then click on the Sports tab in the upper right part of the page"

