

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Sunday, March 21, 2010

75¢ Plus tax

Detective: Shooting was gang related

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A fight between local teenagers that resulted in the arrest of a 17-year-old boy was gang related, said an Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) detective. Daniel Patrick Murphy was arrested Feb.

28 on felony charges of shooting a deadly missile into an occupied vehicle and aggravated assault with a firearm without intent to kill. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

The state attorney's office issued a felony arrest warrant and on March 18 had Murphy arrested on adult charges and booked into the county jail under a bond of \$50,000.

Murphy is now charged with one count of throwing/shooting a deadly missile and four counts of aggravated assault with a

deadly weapon. Jail records indicate that as of Friday, March 19, Murphy was free on bond.

Murphy was arrested after he allegedly a 12 gauge shotgun into a 2005 Chevrolet pickup truck after four teens gathered

See SHOOTING — Page 14

Kissimmee Waterway is a boater's paradise

From SFWMDw
Special to the Okeechobee News

The Kissimmee Waterway is one of the most beautiful and exciting recreation areas in the state of

See RIVER — Page 2



Courtesy photo/SFWMD

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

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce

Dairy cow show at the fair

The Overall Dairy Grand Champion was named and the William H. Boyd Memorial Award presented during the Dairy Cow competition at the Okeechobee County Fair. Left to right are (judge) Chris Holcomb, Hamilton Bishop, (winner) Fallon Curren and Mary Rutledge. Complete show results will be in a future edition of the Okeechobee News.

For more, see Page 10

IRSC offers head start on college

Concerned about the cost of college? Dual Enrollment provides an opportunity for high school students to begin working on their college degree at no charge while still in high school. This saves students and their parents thousands of dollars in college tuition. Because of the many questions received by Indian River State College about Dual Enrollment, IRSC is holding a series of information sessions regarding this highly respected program. All

See IRSC — Page 2

Lake Level

14.09 feet

Last Year: 12.38 feet

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



Taylor Creek Bass Club members in tourney
 Page 20



OHS Brahmans Boys Baseball plays Ft. Pierce
 ... Page 17

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RIVER

Continued From Page 1

Florida. Beginning in the headwaters of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and stretching to Lake Okeechobee, visitors to the river have an opportunity to witness some of Florida's most spectacular natural areas.

Originally 103 miles of meandering waterway, the Kissimmee River was channelized in the 1960s in response to periodic flooding in the area. Carving a straight canal from the Chain of Lakes to Lake Okeechobee shortened the river to 56 miles and created the 300-foot wide, 30-foot deep, C-38 canal.

Today, portions of the river have been restored to their old meandering ways, leaving nature to choose the path water will take along its journey to Lake Okeechobee. Because of the natural disposition of restored portions of the river, water levels here rise and fall with the seasons. The sandy bottom of the river channel shifts at the will of the flowing water, creating a sandbar today where none existed yesterday.

Veteran navigators have a few tips to make your trip on the Kissimmee Waterway more enjoyable:

- Go slow and take time to see what is around you. The restored part of the Kissimmee River is home to many different types of birds, some rarely seen. Take a birding guide and see how many different types you can identify.

- The wide river floodplain is best experienced by boat. The floodplain gives rise to beautiful marshes featuring a variety of emergent plants and is the best place to find wading birds and fish. Take insect repellent because there are also a lot of insects here. Deer flies especially like the river floodplain during certain times of the year, and they do bite people.

- Use caution when boating here because you don't know what's around the next turn. Each twist and turn in the restored portion of the Kissimmee River opens up a

new vista, but it could be blocked by fallen trees, sandbars or other navigation hazards. Sandbars generally form on the inside of curves, and deeper water is usually found to the outside, but that's not always true.

Alligators love the sandy banks created by the movement of water in the river channels. The banks are better places to spot one than in the floodplain.

- Check water levels before going. During the dry season in the winter months, portions of the river may not be passable due to low water levels.

- The Kissimmee River/C-38 canal remains the primary flood control conduit for the large area to the north. If river passage is closed due to high flows, heed warnings. During extremely high water, the river can crest above tree tops, leaving unseen hazards just below the surface of the water. Extremely high water levels also make it impossible to find river channels and can lead to boaters becoming lost or in need of rescue. Even experienced boat captains have found the river to be treacherous during high flow events. If officials say no, then please don't go.

- Pay attention to any instructions the lock tender may provide when moving through navigation locks. If you want to return after normal lock hours, be certain to make arrangements with the lock tender in advance. He or she is allowed to charge a fee for an after-hours lockage.

- Gas up before you go. There are no places to get fuel along the restored portion of the river.

For additional tips on traveling the Kissimmee River, please contact the Okeechobee Service Center of the South Florida Water Management District at 800-250-4200 or 863-462-5260. You can also stop by to visit us at 205 N. Parrott Ave. on the second floor of the Bank of America building in downtown Okeechobee. Our guide to the Kissimmee Waterway provides a map of the river as well as navigation tips and information on the river restoration project.

credits while completing requirements toward high school graduation. The courses are free. This is possible because the program is supported by the State of Florida to help high school students accelerate their progress toward a college degree. Many local Dual Enrollment students choose to continue their education on the Treasure Coast and earn their Bachelor's Degree at IRSC.

Credits earned through Dual Enrollment readily transfer to all Florida universities and most universities nationally. Dual Enrollment courses are weighted the same as Honors, Advanced Placement, Advanced International Certificate of Education and International Baccalaureate courses when high school grade point averages are calculated.

Contact the IRSC Information Call Center at 1-866-792-4772 with any questions.

IRSC

Continued From Page 1

sessions will be held at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held according to the following schedule: March 23, IRSC Main Campus, Kight Center, 35th Street, Fort Pierce; March 24, Sebastian River High School, Sebastian; March 25, St. Lucie West Campus, 500 N.W. California Blvd., Port St. Lucie and Chastain Campus, Wolf High-Technology Building, 2400 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart, April 14, Mueller Campus, 6155 College Lane, Vero Beach and April 15, Dixon Hendry Campus, 2229 N.W. Ninth Avenue, Okeechobee.

Dual Enrollment students earn college

Habitat for Humanity needs resale items

Habitat for Humanity of Okeechobee County has opened a "Restore" and is in need of resellable items. No clothing! Anything else for the home, to include household items, furniture, building materials, electrical, plumbing and cabinets. For more information call 863-467-6484 or leave a message at the Habitat office 863-467-6484.

Medicare Recipients Must Hurry! Time is Running Out ...

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Felony drug arrest also clears February burglary

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

A routine traffic stop not only led to the driver's arrest on a felony drug charge, but helped clear a February burglary in which over \$33,000 worth of items were reportedly stolen.

Patrick Michael Abel, 20, N.E. 325th Trail, Okeechobee, was arrested Tuesday, March

16, on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone). He was also charged with the misdemeanors of possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$1,750 on these charges.



Patrick M. Abel

Able was later arrested on charges of burglary and grand theft for his alleged connection in a Feb. 11 burglary. His bond on those charges was set at \$5,000.

According to an arrest report by Deputy Anthony Kibler, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), he was contacted about

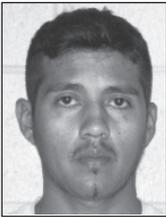
a suspicious white Ford Ranger at a home on N.W. 292nd Street. The small pickup with a trailer hitched to the back raised the complainant's suspicion because the owners were not home at the time.

Deputy Kibler contacted the homeowners, who told him they were missing many items from the home. The report stated that among the items listed as missing were: five guns, a Craftsman lawn mower; a washing machine; an air conditioner; boxes of CDs and DVDs; jewelry; and, many other miscellaneous items. All together, stated Deputy Kibler's report, the missing items totaled \$33,690.

The deputy's report stated that Abel took the lawn mower to a local recycling center. As for the rest of the items reported missing, the report does not indicate if any of them have been recovered.

Man accused of having sex with underage girl

A 26-year-old Okeechobee man is being held in the county jail on \$100,000 bond following his arrest for allegedly having sexual intercourse with an underage girl. Juan Jose Cardenas, S.W. Second St., Okeechobee, was arrested Tuesday, March 16, on a felony charge of lewd and lascivious battery and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail. According to an arrest report by Detective William Suggs of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), Cardenas and the 14-year-old girl had been friends for a couple of months prior to the alleged incident. The report states that on the day of the incident the girl and a female friend were walking by Cardenas' home when he invited the victim into his home, and she accepted. Cardenas and the victim later went to his bedroom where they reportedly had consensual sex. Because of the girl's age, said Detective Suggs, her consent is not a defense to the alleged crime.



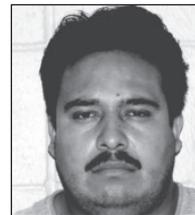
Juan Jose Cardenas

Okeechobee's Most Wanted

The following people are among Okeechobee's Most Wanted persons. There are active warrants for each of them. The criteria for making Okeechobee's Most Wanted top five is based on the severity of the crime in conjunction with the age of the warrant. If you have any information on the whereabouts of any of Okeechobee's Most Wanted you can call the Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 1-800-273-TIPS (8477). If



Marcel Bates



Jamie Samperio

you call Treasure Coast Crimes Stoppers, you have the option of remaining anonymous. You can also receive a reward if the information results in an arrest.

Marcel Bates, DOB 10/13/1976, Failure of Sexual Offender To Report To DHSMV, Bond

\$10,000.

Jamie Samperio, DOB 7/14/1982, 5'7", 190 lbs. FTA - Fraudulent use of personal ID - No Bond.

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We are excited to announce that Okeechobee will have its first new locally owned and staffed Assisted Living Facility.

Scheduled for completion in late Summer 2010, it is being built using a majority of local contractors and labor.

We are pleased that it will be staffed by Okeechobians for the care of fellow citizens of our community.

We need your help in this historic event.



The Assisted Living Facility needs a suitable name which reflects our heritage.

Please submit your choice of names in our suggestion box located at the Chamber of Commerce building at 55 South Parrott Ave, between the hours of 9:00 am - 3:00 pm starting March 19, 2010 - March 31, 2010

Ms. Mabel Williamson, one of our oldest, most beloved and admired residents will announce the winning name of the new facility. The winners name will be accounted on April 7, 2010 and will receive **\$300.00** for their winning entry.

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!

Laws governing pets

• According to the last county records I saw, the animal shelter euthanizes about 300 dogs and cats every month. There are just so many unwanted dogs and cats, they have to put them to sleep. There is no place to put them. The shelters are full and there are not enough people who want to adopt the animals. If you have a dog or cat, get it fixed so that it won't produce even more unwanted pets. There are plenty of pets waiting for homes.

Computer virus

• There is a malicious virus going around through email. It will come from someone you know and will be a YouTube video. DO NOT OPEN IT no matter how much you trust the person. This virus sends itself out from your email address book. McAfee won't catch it Norton won't catch it and Equate security will not catch it. The only thing I have heard of so far is Microsoft Security that will catch it or find it after you have gotten it. It is very hard to get rid of.

• Here's a KHQA Alert regarding Facebook and YouTube. A viewer sent KHQA an e-mail about a virus circulating around Facebook that asks you to click on YouTube to watch a video clip. We checked it out on <http://www.snopes.com> and found out this virus threat is very real. Here's what happens, you get a link or an e-mail for a video from one of your Facebook friends. The subject line of the link or e-mail says "you look so amazing funny on our new video" or "you look just awesome in this new movie." When you click on it, it takes you to a fake YouTube web site. Once you get there, something pops up saying you need to download an update to Adobe Flash Player. If you click yes on it, a trojan virus is unleashed. Always be careful when opening links and if you're in doubt, don't do it!

Fisherman stranded on lake

• In the paper Wednesday, three fishermen from West Virginia were stranded on Lake Okeechobee for two nights after their boat was swamped and no one had a cell phone or radio. Each of the men thought one of the others had a phone and all three left their cell phones in the truck. They didn't tell anyone where they would be, so no one knew they were missing. Since it was windy over the weekend, not many other boaters ventured out so they weren't spotted until after they had spent two long nights on the water clinging to the part of the boat that was not submerged. Lake Okeechobee can be as dangerous as the ocean. Always take safety precautions. Let someone know you are going out on the lake, where you plan to fish and when you should be back.

• People need to really stop relying on cell phones while out on the open water. What they didn't have was a VHF and a float plan.

• I totally don't get them not having a VHF. I don't know anything about bass fishing or even being out on the lake (totally a saltwater person!), but is a VHF something that is usually on them? Like for the tournaments and stuff? People REALLY need to stop relying on cell phones, that is so dangerous. That phone will most likely NOT be there for you in your time of emergency. I remember reading not too long ago about the Coast Guard putting in a new system for cell phones and emergency calls, can't recall all the details though. I am so glad they were found, and had no injuries. This could have been a real tragedy.

• VHF's a great thing, but if your boat is swamped or turned turtle ... There's more than one incident where a cell phone has made all the difference, but you have to have it ON YOU. (Notice in this incident all three left theirs behind). Just one 911 call would have made all the difference. The simple things that are so easy (float plans) can make things happen, but flares, radios, phones, popping smoke, none of this costs that much. Hopefully, these three learned a lesson. However, there will be more moving up that won't get the message.

• I feel for those men stranded out on the water for two days. The good thing out of this story is that no one was hurt, and I know they will share this story with their friends and get the word out on their mistake. Sometimes this helps more than anything when a friend shares it with you. In any event, they will remember this and it will be a story they will share forever with a chuckle now. Would love to hear the minister's discussion in church on Sunday!

Reflections from the pulpit

By Elder John T. Garner

More 2 Life Ministries

My dad is probably one of my greatest heroes. He served the Lord faithfully as a pastor for over forty years. He is now retired but he still teaches a Sunday School class at the church he attends. I can truthfully say that I am a pastor now because my dad was the real deal. He didn't just preach sermons on Sundays and Wednesday nights, he lived out those sermons everyday and set an example for my brother, James, and myself that eventually led us to follow him into the ministry ourselves.

Because of my dad's devotion to the Lord and the example of integrity that he set, I place a high value on any advice that I receive from him. One of those valuable gems of wisdom that he shared with me when I was a teenager was about how we should hold on to the things that we possess. It was one of those times when the church was collecting items to help a needy family and my parents were going through the house looking for any items that they could donate to the cause. Eventually the search led to my room and they began to encourage me to consider giving up some of the "valuable" things that I "owned." To say that I was less than excited about the prospect of turning loose of my stuff would be an understatement. I couldn't get my head around the idea of letting go so someone I didn't know and frankly cared nothing about could have it. Not a flattering picture of myself, but the truth nonetheless.

My dad saw that I was resistant to the idea and he said something that I have used as a guide for over thirty-five years. He told me this simple but profound truth: "Son, if you can't give it away, it owns you- you don't own it." I have to confess that at the time I was not overly impressed with what my dad was trying to convey to me but, as time went on, I realized that he was right. It's amazing how much we allow our stuff to shape who we are - how

we see ourselves. It's easy to let the accumulation of things become the goal of our lives and along with that making sure that we hang on to those things for dear life. If we are honest with ourselves, we end up making those things our life.

In the years that I have had the privilege of being a pastor, I am amazed how this passion to possess so easily seizes those who have been called by the Lord Jesus Christ to take up their cross, deny self and follow Him. We find ourselves playing the role of the rich young ruler you who was so enamored with the things that he possessed that he was unwilling to let them go that he might follow Christ. The end of that story is that he went away sad because he had so much. That sounds like an odd statement when you consider that we have been led to believe that to possess much is synonymous with happiness and fulfillment. However, this is far from the truth. Christ said in Luke 12:15 that we should be aware of the truth that what we have or don't have has no real bearing on what life is all about, no matter what the world may try to tell us.

In the same chapter in Luke, Christ reveals the truth that life is about seeking the Kingdom of God. Then he says something really amazing in verse 33 when He says: "Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves purses which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near, nor moth destroys." How do we get to the point where we can let go of these possessions that have come to possess us? We have to make a decision about what it is that will "own" us. Will it be the things that we possess or will it be the One who alone can truly bring life in all its fullness? Seems like an easy decision when you think about it. So, enjoy all the Lord has allowed you to possess, but hold it loosely in your hand. Be willing to let it go when it is required of you in your pursuit of the life that only Christ offers.

OHS to host Career Fair

Okeechobee High School Career Center is sponsoring an occupational awareness (Career Fair) program for 11th and 12th graders on Wednesday, April 14. This event will be held from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Okeechobee High School Gymnasium. This will be an opportunity for students to meet prospective employers in Okeechobee County. It will also be a chance for businesses to meet potential part-time as well as full-time employees upon graduation. Bring applications for students to fill out. The program will consist of informal conversation with students. (Students will be browsing from one area to another.) A table with chairs will be available for you to use as your booth. If you have handouts, fact sheets, or door prizes to give to the students, please bring those. A poster/project board to put on the table advertising your business would be beneficial.

If you or your business is interested in participating in the Career Fair please call Bill R. Black at 863-462-5025 ext. *3113 or email at blackb@okee.k12.fl.us.

KEECHOBEE NEWS

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To Submit News

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

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We Pledge...

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

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

MEMBER

OF:



Letters to the editor

Education bill alarming

I was wondering why Okeechobee hasn't covered the Education bill 6 in their paper. People believe that is a state or government problem, but it will become a problem locally. For those of you who are unaware of this bill that is trying to sneak past us, I will inform you. This bill is solely based on the funding in which our school districts receive to educate our youth. The bill would like to tie teacher's salary to student FCAT scores. Some of you may be all for this bill, but the reality of it is that some students are poor test takers due to the anxiety they have. Why should teachers have to worry about making their income based on whether or not a student is able to perform on the test?

As a parent, I know that the majority of the teachers bust their tails trying to get those students prepared for FCAT. In addition, the bill also wants to tie in our PROPERTY TAXES to the school grades. If the schools do poorly and don't make adequate gains, but the school pays teachers, then the district will be fined. How are these fines going to be paid? Well residents, they are going to raise our taxes by 15 percent. Is that fair when we are barely making ends meet now? Now, on top of this there is more! Yes, more! The students are already stressed enough about FCAT but the state of Florida says LET'S TEST THEM MORE! If this bill passes, the students will be assessed even more than they are now. This bill is completely ridiculous.

We as residents of Okeechobee need to stand up and say ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! The students come to school to learn and yes to be assessed! However, the invalid FCAT is doing it's job so why should we keep testing the students. FCAT is invalid so why should it be tied to ALL teachers/staff/administration, etc pay? So, I hope you will all call your local senators and tell them to VOTE NO ON SENATE BILL 6. If they don't vote no, then they won't be receiving your vote again. Not only should you be contacting the senators, but also the Governor and President because they support this nonsense. It is all about lining their pockets full of money instead of giving it to the school districts to enhance student learning. Okeechobee was an A district so these teachers must be doing something right! So why punish them and the residents! Call your government today! You can contact J.D. Alexander at 850-487-5088, Joe Negron at 850-487-5088, and Gov. Crist at 850-488-1746. Please call them and try to put an end to this ludicrous bill!

Sincerely,
Kimberly Rathbun

School Board to conduct Public Hearing

The Okeechobee County School Board will conduct a public hearing on participation in the Indian Education Formula Grant on Friday, **March 26**, at 9 a.m. in Rm. 301 of the Okeechobee County School Board Office, 700 S.W. Second Avenue, to explain the goals of the 2010-11 Indian Formula Grant and activities associated with the Title VII program. For information, contact Leslie Lundy at 863-462-5000, ext 259.

Fundraiser to benefit scholarship fund

Tea Time Garden Party Luncheon and Fashion Show will be held on March 27, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tickets are \$50. The program is being presented by: Fabulous Couture at The Shoppes on the Boardwalk (In front of Hammerheads Billiards - Bar & Grill) Proceeds will benefit The Carson Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Pam Williams 863-634-7060

Name changes helps reduce confusion over ECO, OEDC

This statement is issued jointly by the Economic Council of Okeechobee County, Inc. (ECO) and the Business Development Board of Okeechobee (BOB), formerly known as the Okeechobee Economic Development Council, for the purpose of affirming the common interests and goals of the two organizations.

The ECO was formed 20 years ago by a group of community business leaders who cared deeply about the community of Okeechobee, and who recognized a need for an organization that could serve as a liaison between the community's business leaders and its government. Their goal for the organization was to be a catalyst between the private and public sectors, to help the community grow and develop in a positive way that balanced the needs and demands of the community with its quality of life. Today, the ECO remains a vital part of our community and serves an important role in ensuring Okeechobee has a favorable business climate and a good quality of life. The members of the Economic Council realize that it is only by active participation of the business community in governmental affairs that we will be able to have a robust economic climate. The ECO employs a full-time Executive Director to keep members informed of community proceedings and to serve as a liaison between the governmental entities.

In 2006, the ECO worked with William H. Fruth, President of Policom Corporation, to help create an Economic Development Plan for Okeechobee. One of the key components of the plan was that Okeechobee County needed an organization to help create jobs by assisting existing businesses and attracting new businesses to our community by actively marketing Okeechobee County to compatible businesses.

To help implement Mr. Fruth's plan, Okeechobee Main Street, Inc., through its Economic Restructuring Committee with the support of the ECO and local governmental entities, formed the Okeechobee Economic Development Council. We realize there has been some confusion about the two organizations and part of that confusion has been due to the similar names of the organizations. To make it easier to distinguish between the two organizations, the OEDC is changing its name to the Business Development Board of Okeechobee (BDB). The BDB has hired a full-time Executive Director to facilitate jobs creation, retention of jobs

and businesses, and economic growth. The mission statement of the BDB is to promote economic development in Okeechobee County specifically devised to increase employment, payroll, business volume and corresponding factors in the Okeechobee area.

The purpose of this joint statement is to publicly affirm our commitment to the success of both organizations. We realize that both entities are necessary and serve distinct and important functions in our community. In the end, both organizations want Okeechobee to be a place where good paying, quality jobs are available to our citizens and where the business climate is such that existing businesses can grow and new businesses want to move here. We are committed to working together and mutually supporting each organization's mission.

**Elizabeth A. Maxwell, Chairwoman
Economic Council of Okeechobee
County, Inc.**

**Mark A. Smith, Chairman
Business Development Board of
Okeechobee**

Thank you Bell Ringers

The Okeechobee Service Unit of the Salvation Army recently held their appreciation dinner to honor the volunteer Bell Ringers who participated in the Red Kettle Drive during the Christmas holidays. This annual dinner and awards ceremony is hosted and sponsored by the Okeechobee representatives of the Salvation Army, Angie Carbino, district supervisor of the Salvation Army and Kip Gardner, chairman of the Bell Ringers.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers after 2 p.m. and a high near 83. Winds will be from the southeast between 5 and 15 mph with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61 and a 60 percent chance of showers likely after 8 p.m. Winds will be from the south southeast between 5 and 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Mostly cloudy with a high near 72 and a 40 percent chance of showers before noon. Winds will be from the west between 5 and 15 mph.

Monday night: Partly cloudy with a low around 49. Winds will be from the west around 5 mph becoming calm.

Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 77. Winds will be calm becoming northwest between 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday night: Mostly clear with a low around 49. Winds will be from the southwest around 5 mph becoming north west.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Thursday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 7-1-5; **Play 4:** 0-7-4-3; **Fantasy 5:** 15-17-18-35-36; **Mega Money:** 3-5-22-39 MB 17; **Florida Lotto:** 8-10-18-21-31-40 X 4; **Powerball:** 24-26-45-48-55 PB 8 x2. Numbers drawn Friday, **Cash 3:** 3-2-3; **Play 4:** 6-5-3-5.

All Bell Ringers were invited to this event and each received a certificate for the work they did over the 5-week drive. Some of the local dignitaries who participated in the bell ringing included Sheriff Paul May and his wife, Delores, Under Sheriff Noel Stephen, County Commissioner Noel Chandler, President of the Okeechobee Kiwanis Club, Jim Vensel and Dowling Watford representing the Rotary Club.

The kettle income stays in our community as it is used to aid and assist the residents of Okeechobee who are in need of assistance for such things as paying their rent, electric or water bill or purchasing prescription medication. Applications are made to and approved by representatives of the Salvation Army.

On behalf of the Salvation Army, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the many volunteers who gave so freely of their time during the busy holiday season for this project and to the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge for the wonderful dinner and continued support.

Our Belle Ringers look forward to the holidays and the opportunity to once again help their community by participating in the Red Kettle Drive and ringing the bells. We encourage everyone to watch for the reminders in October to call us and volunteer some time to this very rewarding program.

**Kip Gardner, chairman
Okeechobee Bell Ringers
Salvation Army, Okeechobee Service Unit**



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Community Events

SAL to hold steak dinner

The Sons of the American Legion will sponsor their monthly ribeye steak dinner on Sunday, **March 21**, from 3-6 p.m. at the American Legion Post 64 at 501 S.E. 2nd Street. Dinner includes steak cooked to order by Dan Hood, baked 'tater, salad, roll and butter, dessert, iced tea and coffee. Live entertainment by Jim Elder. The public is welcome. Donation—\$12.

Eagles' Ladies Auxiliary to host breakfast

On **March 21**, the Ladies Auxiliary for the Fraternal Order of Eagles, #4137 will host Sunday morning breakfast, from 9-11 a.m. and a \$5 donation. Address: 9985 Hwy. 441 North.

OHS Rodeo team set for Celebrity Server fundraiser

OHS Rodeo Team will be hosting a 'Celebrity Server Night' at Golden Coral on Tuesday, March 23, from 5 until 8 p.m. Come out and support your team!

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.

Claudia Borja, 85

OKEECHOBEE — Claudia Borja, formerly of San Lucas, Michoacan, Mexico, passed away Thursday, March 18, 2010, in Raulerson Hospital. She was 85.

Born July 8, 1924 in Mexico, she came to Okeechobee in August 1997. She was a homemaker of the Catholic faith. She enjoyed watching television, cooking and needlepoint crafts. She was loved dearly by her daughter and caretaker, Maria de Jesus Leon.

Mrs. Borja is survived by her four sons, Ramiro Leon, Leonardo Leon, Esteban Leon and Manuel Leon; six daughters, Maria Leon, Isabel Leon, Victoria Leon, Lucila Leon, Margarita Leon and Maria de Jesus Leon; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; sister, Cruz Borja; and several nieces, nephews and extended family members. She will be missed by her family, may she rest in peace.

Visitation will be at Mrs. Borja's home Saturday, March 20, 2010, until Sunday, March 21, 2010. Burial will take place in Mexico.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 N.E. 2nd St., Okeechobee.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bas-sokeechobee.com.



Orchid Club to meet

The Okeechobee Orchid Club will meet, Monday, March 22, at 7 p.m. at the Extension Office, 458 Highway 98 N. The Garden Club convenes at 6 p.m. also at Extension. The Orchid Club members and the public are invited to bring a favorite orchid to show or a problem orchid to discuss. Repotting will also be featured. For more information call Extension at 863-763-6469.

OKMS Mixer date set

Okeechobee Main Street March Mixer will be held on Tuesday, **March 23**, from 5-7 p.m. This month's mixer will be co-hosted by the American Red Cross and the Pier II Resort and will be held at the Pier II Resort on Hwy 441 S.E. Our mixers are a great networking opportunity for the businesses and residents of our area. Whether you have a new or old business, new to Okeechobee or would like to know more about Okeechobee Main Street please join us for networking, refreshments, door prizes and a chance at the Mega 50-50. For more information call 863-357-MAIN (6246).

Robert Lee Carroll, 79

OKEECHOBEE — Robert Lee Carroll, passed away Wednesday, March 17, 2010, in his home. He was 79.

Born July 22, 1930 in Marietta, Ga., he came to Okeechobee from Tampa in 1970. He worked for Enrico Dairy.

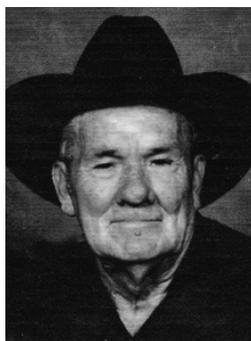
Mr. Carroll was preceded in death by his wife, Mabel Helen Carroll; and his two sons, Richard and Jack Bittner.

Mr. Carroll is survived by his three sons, Russell Bittner of Raford, Harold Seger (Glenda) and Harry Seger (Connie), both of Okeechobee; six daughters, Kathy Moody (Ruben) of Okeechobee, Joanne Mason of Ft. Myers, Janice Holley (Ruben) of Jacksonville, Teresa Bittner of Bradenton, Robin Carroll of Pennsylvania and Shannon Stilson of Pennsylvania; brother, Wayne Carroll; two sisters, Faye Calhoon and Inez Calhoon, all of Largo; 15 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 22, 2010, at Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 N.E. 2nd St., Okeechobee.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bas-sokeechobee.com.



CCC meeting planned

The next meeting of the Community Collaborative Council, a part of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, will be Tuesday, **March 23**, at 10 a.m. in the board room of the School Board Office. We will hold an Expo debriefing meeting prior to the CCC at 9 a.m. Agenda: survey results, what worked, what didn't work and plans for next year.

Library Book sale

Friends of the Okeechobee Library are holding their semi-annual book sale and fund-raiser on Thursday, **March 25**, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, March 26, from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and Saturday, March 27, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Books, videos, and DVDs will be sold for a dollar a pound except on Saturday when a bag of books is \$2 and a box is \$5. For more information please call the library at 863-763-3536.

Volunteer GALs to meet

The public is invited to meet a great GAL. Mom's Restaurant in Okeechobee will host Guardian ad Litem volunteers and anyone interested in becoming a GAL volunteer in the program. The group will meet on Thursday, **March 25**, at 2 p.m. at Mom's on Parrott Ave and have coffee with us and help a child! For more information, please call 1-866-341-1425.

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Local citrus grower helped by new foreign market

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A new South Korean market for Florida pink grapefruit will help local citrus grower, Williamson Cattle Company.

South Korea's largest retailer, Shinsegae, is teaming up with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs to promote Florida pink grapefruit at 20 of its E-Mart mega-stores in Seoul during March.

"We are pleased to partner with Shinsegae so that Korean shoppers can enjoy

Florida's world-famous pink grapefruit at the height of the season," Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles H. Bronson said. "This retail marketing campaign puts the spotlight on a delicious, nutritious product and will increase sales for Florida growers."

Wes Williamson said the Asian market has been good for Florida citrus and that any time there was a specific market such as this it helps all Florida citrus growers overall.

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



Sales:
Monday at 12 p.m.
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Special to the Okeechobee News/Seacoast Bank

Rodeo ticket winners

Seacoast National Bank gave away eight rodeo tickets to two lucky winners! North Parrott winner was Julie Fetters, at right, and South Parrott winner was Pete Sauve, at left.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Water Conservation Month

At the Tuesday, March 16 City of Okeechobee Council meeting Mayor James E. Kirk, right, proclaimed April to be Water Conservation Month in the city. Gary Ritter, left, director of South Florida Water Management District's Okeechobee Service Center received the proclamation.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

March 15 and 16, 2010			Med #1	Steers	Hfhrs	Small #1		
Cows			170-190	160-205	145-195	250-300	123-137	112-115
Breaking	\$53.50	\$57.00	200-250	135-160	120-145	300-350	125-145	101-116
Cutter	\$48.00	\$53.00	250-300	140-159	120-130	350-400	104-127	
Canner	\$40.00	\$47.50	300-350	140-156	108-122			
Bulls			350-400	126-149	107-117			
1000-1500	\$53.00	\$64.00	400-450	120-133	105-115			
1500-2000	\$52.00	\$59.00	450-500	116-128	100-110			
			550-600	113-117	90-98			
			600-650	100-110	86-90			
Monday			Med #2			Steers Hfhrs		
Calves	218	789	150-200	120-165	120-140			
Cows	134	270	200-250	110-145	107-125			
Str	27	51	250-300	107-148	105-120			
Hfhrs	19	48	300-350	118-142	95-110			
Bulls	7	24	350-400	115-138	75-102			
Yrlngs	18	52	400-450	100-129	85-104			
Mix	0	7						
Total	423	1241						

Prices remain good and strong on all cattle. Calves were a little higher again, cows strongly steady. Byron Storey, Moore Haven and Southport Cattle topped the calf market with a high of \$2.10 bought by Curt Wilson, Co., Ringling, Okla. County Line Farms, Okeechobee, topped the cow market with a high of \$63 bought by Central Packing, Center Hill, Fla. Don't forget we pregnancy check on Mondays. Our internet sales (at Producers Cattle Auction.com) have been exceptionally high! Jeff

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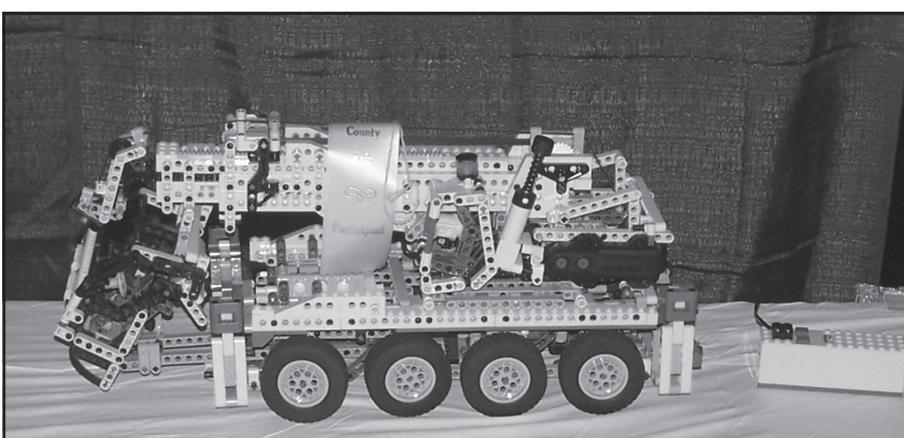
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Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

Students of the week

Congratulations to the South Elementary School Students of the Week for March 19. They are: Braeli Pelt, Hayley Wagner, Jazlynn Tarvin, Blye Lutz, Jacey White, Derek Rucks, Brienne Yates, Marissa Beaty, Ashley Bowers, Jasmine Calzada, Jerome Roundtree, Karla Romero Ortega, Kalyn Hickman, Zachary Wharin, Samiah Villalpando, Brenda Aguilar, De'Nitrik Whittaker, Leslie Calzada, Sarah McNitt, Taylor Henry, Brianna Thomas, and Dakota Garelick. South Elementary School - Where Eagles Soar!



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Fair Innovations

(top photo) This truck, built of Lego blocks, was entered into the Lego competition at the Okeechobee County Fair.

(bottom photo) Justin Hoover shows how to milk a Holstein cow at the Okeechobee County Fair. Today, March 21, is the last day of the fair. The fairgrounds, with entrance on State Road 710, opens at noon.

Brahman Theatre **MOVIE LISTINGS**

March 19th - March 25th
For Info, Call 763-7202

THEATRE I: "DIARY OF A WIMPY KID"
 Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG**

THEATRE II: "ALICE IN WONDERLAND"
 Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG**

THEATRE III: "CRAZY HEART"
 Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **R**

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Senior Citizens - \$5.00 all movies • Matinees - \$4.50

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Courtesy photo

Former OHS grad completes military basic

Army Pvt. Brent L. Bowers has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics.

He is the son of James Bowers of Okeechobee.

Bowers is a 2004 graduate of Okeechobee High School.

Basic training grad

Air Force Airman Brett C. Kearns graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Kearns is the son of Kathleen Kearns-Salina of Jupiter, and brother of Nicole Owens of Okeechobee.



Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Trio of champs

Central Elementary has three candidates for the upcoming County Spelling Bee, which will be held on April 23, at Osceola Middle School starting at 9:30 a.m. First place: Emma Rose Van Camp; Second place: Gage Ingram; Third place: Xandrea Cea. Congratulations from all at Central Elementary.

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- 1 Half.....\$4.50
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1893 \$50.00	1899	\$44.00
1893-O \$37.00	1903	\$15.00
1893-S \$1,050.00	1903-S	\$24.00
1894 \$450.00	1903-O	\$90.00
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1894-O \$15.00	1921	\$30.00
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To confirm attendance, please call 863-462-5781

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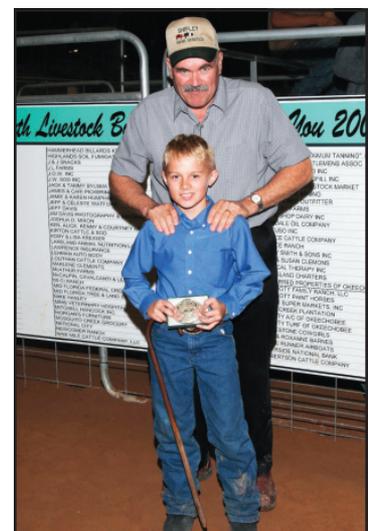
Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce

Divisional Winners and Grand and Reserve Winners in the Swine Competition in the 4-H and FFA Livestock Show were named this week. Left to right are Aladdin Sherwood, Nicole Stratton, Grand Champion- Cody Phillips, Judge Randy Shipley, Reserve Grand Champion - Dalton Thomas, Forrest Pearce and Okeechobee County Fair Queen Kathleen Turner.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce

This week at the Okeechobee County Fair, FFA and 4-H members competed in the Swine Showmanship competitions. The Senior Hog Showmanship award went to Allison Matthews (above/) The Intermediate Showmanship award went to Ashley McDuffie (photo at right) The Junior Showmanship award went to Matt Lanning (top, right). Judge Randy Shipley presented the awards.



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Little Miss Okeechobee County

The Little Miss Okeechobee County Fair pageant was held on March 13 at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. 2009 Miss Okeechobee County Fair crowned the winner Shelby Kirton (center). First runner up (left) was Taylor Pearce. Second runner up (right) was Kaylee Whidden. This was the first year the fair pageant included the Little Miss category.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHCF

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Victoria Jones, 100, was the "Senior-Most" female resident at the Okeechobee Health Care Facility St. Patrick's Day party on Wednesday, March 17. Mrs. Jones was an educator for several decades.

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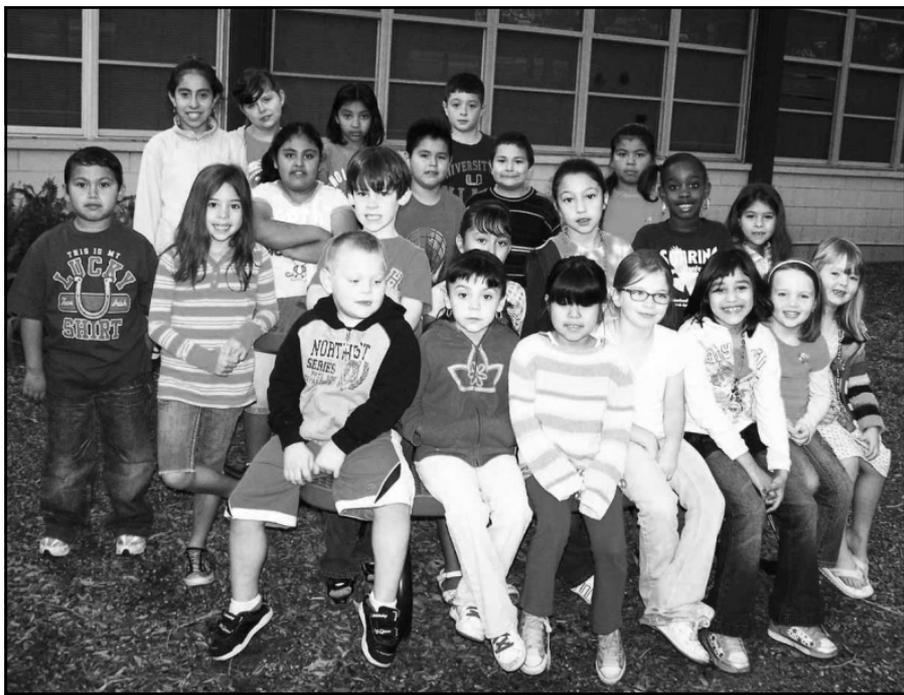
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Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Students of the Week

Central Elementary School Students of the Week for the week of March 15 include: Kindergarten students, Tiffany Gutierrez, Sarah Harrison, Erick Tate, Morgan Tucker, Maddie Williams, Jose Pineda; First grade students, Angelo Hannon, Kaydra Bradley, Terrell Fludd, Natalia Ochoa, Shamira Hernandez, Isaiah Bishop, Amanda Lara; second graders, Norberto Juarez, Kassidy Sparkman, Jayme Scurry, Jennifer Salas-Garcia, Julian Tinajero, Cera Elliott; Third graders, Kaitlyn McKay, Hannah Holley, Santanna Silvas, Julian Cruz and fourth grade students, Beatriz Perez, Robert Padgett, Everyone in 204, Charles (CJ) Lomax.

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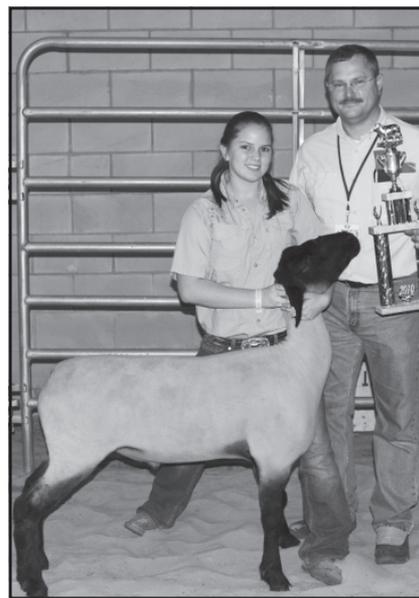
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Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce

Grand Champion Lamb

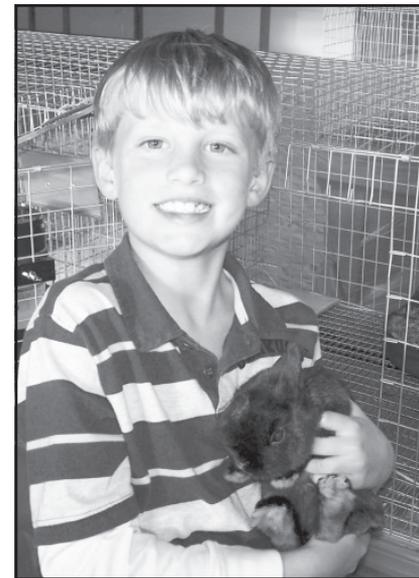
Katlynn Lawrence won the award for raising the Grand Champion Lamb in the show at the Okeechobee County Fair last week.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce

Award for lamb

Taylor Poiter won the award for raising the Reserve Grand Champion Lamb in the show at the Okeechobee County Fair last week.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Prize winning rabbit

Chance Deen, 8, holds his blue ribbon winning rabbit, Shadow, at the Okeechobee County Fair.

Woman at the Well helps women in transition

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SHOOTING

Continued From Page 1

around him and "... antagonized him by calling him names for pulling the firearm on them," stated an arrest report by OCSO Detective Bryan Lowe.

As those teens began to leave, Murphy fired two shots into the truck. No one was injured.

Detective Lowe's report states that the unidentified teens in the truck went to a home on N.W. Center Street in Fort Drum to fight another teen on Saturday, Feb. 27. When they arrived, they learned that boy wasn't there so they began to fight with some other boys at the home.

Information released Friday, March 19, now states that the incident was gang related and that the boys in the pickup were members of a gang known as G4L -- Goons 4 Life. Apparently, these Okeechobee High School students went to the Fort Drum home looking for a member of another gang that's known as the CMC gang, or Chobee Murkin' Crew.

Murkin', said OCSO Detective Lieutenant Brad Stark, is slang for murder. Lt. Stark said the incident is still under investigation and that none of the gang members will be named. He did say, however, that the gangs are predominantly white and made up of

boys from middle class families in Okeechobee County.

The two gangs are made up boys "no one would ever expect as being gang involved," said the veteran investigator.

Lt. Stark heads up the OCSO gang and street crimes units. One of his primary duties is documenting local gangs and their members. As of Friday, said the lieutenant, he has documented 129 gangs in Okeechobee County. Of those, he is currently and actively working incidents involving 21 gangs.

He went on to say that the documented gangs not only include criminal street gangs but car clubs and white supremacy groups.

The G4L gang formed a couple of years ago as a sort of joke, said the detective. However, they went from being a joke to fighting and intimidating other teens.

"It's one of those things that escalated over the years," said Lt. Stark. "Since the shooting there were several incidents of graffiti by both gangs at the high school."

After hearing of the escalation, Sheriff Paul May contacted the Okeechobee County School District and organized a meeting. That meeting was attended by school officials, as well as G4L and CMC members and their parents.

"Both were starting to escalate and other people were pushing it up," said Lt. Stark. "They (the two gangs) were becoming popular in the school system and had to be stopped."

Lt. Stark said about 80 people attended the meeting at OHS.

"We had a positive response," he said. "It was relayed to us that this was going to stop and the gangs would disband. As far as I'm concerned, everything is done and the gang activity should stop. Hopefully, it's done with."

"This was an emerging gang -- who knows what it would have led to," he added.

The detective said both the sheriff's office and the local school system were proactive "... in getting a handle on this."

Although the G4L and CMC gangs did not wear colors, they still qualify as criminal street gangs under Florida law because they have a common name, they flash hand signs, there are three or more members and they are engaged in criminal activity (fighting).

"They meet the elements of a criminal street gang," the detective added.

He said the G4L group had about 18 members, while the CMC gang had around 11 members.

Since the meeting, Lt. Stark said he is not aware of any additional incidents.

Because of escalated gang activity across the state, Florida has passed legislation that automatically increases penalties for those who are convicted of committing a crime and belong to a gang. Lt. Stark said his unit is investigating local criminal street gangs

"at a higher level" because of these tougher penalties.

Detective Lowe's report indicated that Murphy turned himself in at the sheriff's office the day after the shooting, and that everyone involved had been drinking beer that night.

Editor's note: According the Sheriff's Office officials, Murphy is not currently considered to be a gang member.

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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).

• Leon Jessie, 31, Okeechobee, was arrested March 18 by Deputy Cari Arnold on a warrant charging him with violation of pa-

role. He is being held without bond.

• Willie Coleman, 17, Texas Court, Fort Pierce, was arrested March 18 on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with battery on detention or commitment facility staff. He is being held without bond.

• Roger Evan Lloyd, 61, Linda Road, Buckhead Ridge, was arrested March 18 by Deputy Cari Arnold on a charge of refusal to submit to breath, blood or urine test. He was released on his own recognizance.

• Teddy David Prescott, 52, S.R. 70 W., Okeechobee, was arrested March 18 by Deputy John Ashby on a charge of driving while license suspended - habitual offender. He was released on his own recognizance.

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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OHS Tennis loses to Sebring

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Austin Willard and Max Norman put up good fights but lost singles matches Thursday as Okeechobee High School tangled with the Sebring Blue Streaks.

Willard had streaks of good play as he led 3-0 in the first set, but still lost the match, 6-3, and 6-3 to Makeila Avelera.

Avelera struggled early on with some unforced errors but was able to put it together to beat Willard, a two-year starter on the tennis team.

"At the beginning I was pretty focused. He came back and beat me six games in a row. In the second set I tried to have fun," Willard said.

A nice volley at the net in the 4th name by Avelera seemed to get him going. He was able to break Willard in the fifth, seventh and ninth game to win the first set.

Avelera also broke out to a 3-0 advantage in the second set. Willard didn't give up and cut it to 302. His momentum was cut a bit when he lost a multiple deuce game that lasted nearly 15 minutes when he was down 3-4.

"I try to have fun out there. The last couple of matches I've been getting real mad at myself.

He had some really good strokes and he kept me off balance. I also made a few errors," Willard noted.

Willard has done well in doubles play with Jonathan Hudoff. They had only lost one match as they entered Thursday's schedule.

"I guess we know what each other will do and we work well together," he said.

Willard was also a standout on the basketball team this year. He has played four years of basketball, tennis for two years, and one year of track and football.

Norman won an hour long first set against Bri-

an Miller of Sebring, 7-6, and 8-6 in the tiebreak. The marathon match lasted more than two hours with Miller finally on top, 6-7, 6-0, 6-0.

Neither play had much luck holding their serve in the first set but Norman won a marathon 12th game to even the set and fore the tie break.

Miller, who qualified for the state swim meet this year, played better in the second and third sets.

Sebring remained unbeaten as a team with the boy's victory as they swept all five singles matches.

The tennis teams host South Fork on Tuesday and Hardee on Thursday. The Hardee match will be their last home match of the year.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Austin Willard, OHS, played the Sebring Blue Streaks on Thursday and had streaks of good play, but still lost the match.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Max Norman played a marathon match with Sebring on Thursday.

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According to the last several national surveys by the U.S. Census Bureau dealing with fishing and wildlife-associated recreation, more people fish in Florida than in any other state, and more tourists come here to fish and spend their money than anywhere else in the country. Like the FWC, the angling industry wants to keep Florida as the Fishing Capital of the World and knows the quality of fishing depends on great resources and responsible management.

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Five-year licenses are available online at MyFWC.com/License and or by calling, 888-347-4356. In addition, they may be purchased at any license agent, such as retail stores that sell fishing supplies and bait-and-tackle shops or at local county tax collectors' offices. Even if your current license hasn't expired, you can order a 5-year license now and have the effective date for the license set for up to 60 days after the purchase.

Fishing license fees are used only for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and are a major source of funding for conservation programs, from habitat restoration to fish stocking and fishing-access enhancement. In addition, each 5-year license allows us to recover the excise taxes that you already pay the federal government on fishing tackle and motor boat fuel taxes to use here in Florida for Sport Fish Restoration Programs, boating-access enhancement and boating safety.

For information about local fishing opportunities, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing, where you can also verify that you will be one of the first 3,000 and see all of the bonus package contents.

One final note, the FWC has designated the weekend of April 3 and 4 (Easter weekend) as Free Fishing Weekend. Both residents and nonresidents can fish in public fresh waters across the state without a license. All other fishing rules apply (see MyFWC.com/Fishing). Join the thousands of anglers who have taken the Anglers' Legacy Pledge (www.AnglersLegacy.org and enter partner code FFWC). Anglers' Legacy is about giving back what you've been given, and making a promise to introduce somebody new to fishing. There's no membership fee and no obligation; it's just a way to help spread the fun of one of America's most popular traditions and share our fishing heritage with others.

Girls tennis team falls at Jensen Beach

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jensen Beach swept five singles matches as they defeated Okeechobee High School 5-2 in a match Tuesday in Jensen Beach.

Jordan Rucks defeated Samantha Rivero of Okeechobee 6-2 and 6-3 while Sarah Montgomery defeated Katherine Ragamat after a tight first set, 6-4, and 6-1. Kylie Corson defeated Jenna Rath of Okeechobee 6-0, and 6-2. Allison Anspach of Jensen defeated Liz Turner 6-2, and 6-4. Allie Green-

span defeated Vanessa Watt 6-0, and 6-1

Okeechobee was able to rebound and sweep the doubles matches. Rivero and Rath teamed up to defeated Greenspan and Julia Hines 8-4. Ragamat and Jessica Luna teamed up to defeat Kimmi Crandle and Hannah Brochet, 8-4.

Okeechobee is now (1-4) on the year. The girl's hosted Sebring on Thursday. They also host South Fork on Tuesday, March 23, and Hardee, on Thursday, March 25, at the Okeechobee Sports Complex. Both matches are scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Elder Affairs SHINE program seeks volunteers

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs, along with the Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, invites you to join the award-winning SHINE team of volunteers. This program helps elders make informed decisions about Medicare, health insurance and prescription drug plans. SHINE volunteers provide individual counseling and assistance to elders and their caregivers about Medicare, Medicaid, Medi-

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Okeechobee shuts out Fort Pierce Central

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Cameron Tewksbury pitched a 4-hit shut-out and Okeechobee scrapped and clawed to score four runs in the bottom of the fourth inning as they defeated Fort Pierce Central 4-0 Tuesday night.

Tewksbury mixed in a solid fastball with a couple of nasty changeups and a consistent curve to keep the Cobras off the scoreboard.

"We did a good job as everyone was on top of their game tonight," Tewksbury said, "Fort Pierce is a tough team this year. I think everybody did a good job with their intensity."

Tewksbury got some help from his defense. Mark Weir made several nice plays on balls hit to third base. Jonathan Crawford threw out Kyle Kemp at the plate in the fourth inning to keep the game scoreless.

Brahman Coach Dylan Tedders said that was a big play in the game, "So many people underestimate Crawford's. That's the advantage of having an athlete like that. I think there coach realized when the runner rounded third that Crawford was throwing, and basically the runner was in no mans land."

Okeechobee was held at bay by Ft. Pierce starter Brandon Houle through the first three innings. They got things rolling in the fourth as Weir hustled out an infield hit. He went to second on a wild pitch and then raced to third on a sacrifice by Adam Tewksbury. Houle tried to get Weir at third but the tag was late. Fort Pierce didn't cover the bag at second and Tewksbury was alert and raced into scoring position.

After Crawford walked, Derrius Bauer ripped an RBI single to left to score Weir to break the scoreless tie. Okeechobee added runs on an infield single by Dustin Hamilton and a squeeze bunt by Aaron Suarez.

Tewksbury took it from there. He didn't allow a hit after the fourth inning. He said he experimented with a couple of new grips on



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Cameron Tewksbury was lights out in his complete game performance Tuesday night.

his curveball and was able to keep Ft. Pierce off balance, "I kind of came out slow tonight but I gained velocity later in the game. I think our big inning helped me relax a bit."

Tedders said he feels his team must be scrappy and find a way to get runs and get outs. He said in the team's rally they bunted the ball well and put pressure on the Cobra defense.

"Cameron was on tonight. It was a quick game and we came out of here victorious which is what I like," he added.

At the plate Drew Selvey was 1-3. Weir went 1-2. Okeechobee had only four hits in the game.

Houle pitched six innings and was charged with four runs, all of them earned. He struck out eight Brahman hitters.

Tewksbury struck out eight and walked just one batter in the complete game performance.

Ft. Pierce had beaten Okeechobee 5-2 in the Brahman preseason classic in February.

Boys tennis team loses at Jensen Beach

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jensen Beach swept five singles matches and went on to defeat Okeechobee High School 6-1 in boys tennis action in Jensen Beach Tuesday.

Okeechobee played a veteran team that was deep as all five of their players have a lot of talent and experience, Coach Bryan Van Camp said afterward.

"They were strong this year. Nobody really stood out for them, but they are stronger as a team this year," he added.

Okeechobee ace Zach Fowler had the best match of the day in the #1 match. Fowler led 5-2 in the first set and 3-0 in the second set against Michael Kuhns but was unable to hold the lead. Kuhns prevailed 7-5, and 6-3.

"Zach competed and was able to get ahead in the sets. He couldn't quite finish his sets," Van Camp said.

Jonathan Hudoff lost to Alec Ellis 6-0, and 6-1. Austin Willard lost to Brandon Armstrong 6-1 and 6-2. Mark Langer defeated Max Norman of Okeechobee 6-1 and 6-0. Matt Romano defeated Chris Wegmann, 6-1, and 6-1.

Van Camp said Wegmann played a good match as many of his games included long

rallies, and deuce points. He said it was actually the longest singles match of the day.

"The match was more competitive than the score looked," he said.

Okeechobee lone victory on the afternoon came once again from their #2 doubles team of Hudoff and Willard. They swept past Forrest Robertson and Jon Macari 8-0.

Coach Van Camp said he thinks his doubles pair could cause problems at the district tournament.

"Martin County is obviously the toughest team and we haven't seen South Fork yet. I think our guys have a chance. They are doing pretty well."

Hudoff and Willard have lost just one match this year.

Van Camp said he thinks the team will do better in their district tournament than they have fared in their non district matches.

"The boys are not discouraged. They are working hard. We are just playing a lot of good teams with a lot of talent who have more experience than we do," Van Camp concluded.

Next week Okeechobee will host South Fork on Tuesday and Hardee County on Thursday. Both matches will begin at 3:30 p.m.

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Girls softball team rolls past Fort Pierce Central

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School's Lady Brahmans Softball Team scored five runs in the second and 12 more in the fourth inning Thursday as they rolled over Fort Pierce Central 20-1, in a District 14-4A battle at OHS.

The win propelled the team into a big tournament this weekend at Gulliver Prep High School where Okeechobee was scheduled to meet one of the top programs in the state, Palmetto.

Brahman Coach Kim Hargraves said the girls did pretty well overall but that she isn't a big fan of blowouts like this, "I really don't care for games like this. It is hard to keep momentum going for the girls. I was expecting it to be 20-0 in the first inning and when we didn't produce that I was a little ticked off."

Hargraves praised Fort Pierce for their improvement and for a few innings they played with the Brahmans Thursday.

They managed four hits, which included doubles by Amanda Bareland and Lizzie Lopez.

Okeechobee though was able to get to Bareland while at the plate.

Okeechobee scored twice in the first thanks to a throwing error by the Cobras shortstop on a ground ball by LeAnna Cotton.

The five run second included some aggressive base running and a double by Ashtyn Brown, who had four hits. Still the Cobras only trailed 3-0 when Cotton lifted a

fly ball to center. Lopez lined up the ball but it kicked off her glove and fell for a big error. Okeechobee was able to score two runs on the play and led 7-0 after two innings.

Brown added an RBI single in the fourth to make it 8-0.

The fourth inning seemed like it would never end for the Cobras. Okeechobee sent 16 batters to the plate, pounded out 11 hits, and scored 12 times. Key hits included an RBI single by Jaryaca Baker, an RBI triple by Baker, an RBI triple by LeAnna Cotton, an RBI single by Taylor Kinman and an RBI triple by Kinman.

Okeechobee (12-2) actually played with a number of their starters on the bench. Hargraves said the girls had made some poor decisions in class and were disciplined. "We had a big crowd tonight and a lot of younger girls were here. These girls are an inspiration to a lot of them. I want us to set a good example. I do hold our girls up to higher standards and my expectations are

higher for them. To me you try to excel or you go home."

The Brahmans got a treat earlier this week when they visited the University of Florida to watch the Gators host the Auburn Tigers and Okeechobee Alumnus Kelley Smiley. Smiley both games of a double header at 2B for the Tigers. She had three hits on the afternoon.

Coach Hargraves said her girls were stoked to watch the game and really enjoyed the experience. "Kelly is one of the extraordinary athletes that are coming out of Okeechobee County. She is a great ball player but she was open minded to coaching and used on the field what you told her. We have some good athletes here now and I preach to them it's about more than just softball it's about making good decisions. If you make poor choices in life you'll be backed into a corner that you don't want to be in."

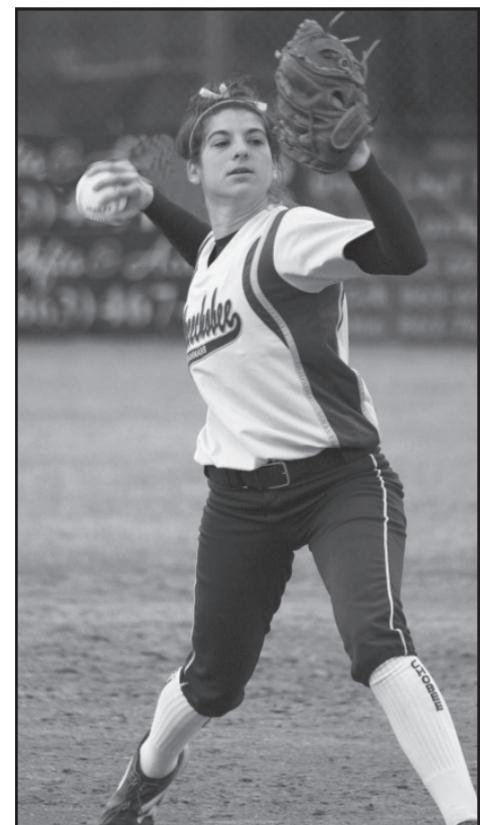
Okeechobee's next home game will be Tuesday, March 23, against Glades Day

School. The Junior varsity game begins at 5 p.m. and the varsity at 7 p.m.

The JV Brahmans defeated Fort Pierce 14-0 on Thursday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Key hits included an RBI single by Jaryaca Baker (above) and an RBI triple also by Baker, during Thursday's game.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
The five run second included some aggressive base running and a double by Ashtyn Brown (above), who had four hits in Thursday's game against Fort Pierce Central.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | 2 Risk | 35 Use a strap on | 52 Watchdog's warning |
| 1 Work detail, briefly | 3 Great Seal bird | 36 Condé Publications | 53 3-Down abode |
| 5 Italian-American singer Jerry | 4 Three, so they say | 37 Fix, vet-style | 54 Used the Selectric |
| 9 Man with many fables | 5 In an unspecified way | 41 Construction support piece | 55 Bone below the knee |
| 14 Drop on a cheek | 6 Wild way to run | 43 Earthen wall adjacent to a ditch | 56 Long-eared leaper |
| 15 Basic Latin word | 7 After the deadline | 44 Sniffer's need | 57 SeaWorld attraction |
| 16 Whale feature | 8 Former anesthetic | 46 "That's a shame" | 58 Commotion |
| 17 Golden Fleece ship | 9 Quick on the uptake | 49 Museum artifact | 59 Guatemala greeting |
| 18 Subculturist in black clothes and makeup | 10 DeMille movie, e.g. | 51 Convenient carryalls | 60 IV units |
| 19 Pageant crown | 11 Loll in a tub | ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE: | |
| 20 NBA team that drafted Lew Alcindor | 12 Sharing pronoun | T A C K | G O F A R |
| 21 Sales rep | 13 School support gp. | W O R E | I R E N E |
| 22 "The Art of Fugue" composer | 26 Wound memento | I R O N | R E A D S |
| 23 Classroom recitation | 27 Canvas holder | S T A N | Z A |
| 24 Oft-smelled rodent? | 28 Shakespearean king | R Y E | B R E A D |
| 25 Otherwise | 29 Not on tape | T A K E | O F F |
| 26 Wound memento | 30 Not on tape | N A H | |
| 27 Canvas holder | 31 Geometry calculation | R E F | R I E D |
| 28 Shakespearean king | 32 Rip apart | C H E | Y E A R N |
| 29 Not on tape | 33 Moonshine vessels | H A L F | S M A L L |
| 30 Not on tape | 34 Cousin of a Tony Award | E L L I S | E N I A C |
| 31 Geometry calculation | | R O A S T | B R I S K E T |
| 32 Rip apart | | H U R | T E N Y E A R |
| 33 Moonshine vessels | | R O O T | B E E R |
| 34 Cousin of a Tony Award | | O K R A | N A O M I |
| | | A L A I | D R O I D |
| | | M A L L | A N K L E |
| | | | T R I B |

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Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA JUVENILE DIVISION CASE NO.: 2007-DP-063

IN THE INTEREST OF: D.R. DOB: 2/14/07 Mother of the minor child: Shanera Rodgers (surrendered parental rights)

TO: Father of D.R., Jermaine Orr Residence and Address Unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A PETITION UNDER OATH HAS BEEN FILED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE ABOVE-STYLED COURT FOR THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS RELATIVE TO D.R., A MALE CHILD, BORN ON THE 14th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2007. THE CHILD WAS BORN IN THE COUNTY OF ST. LUCIE, IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. YOU ARE COMMANDED TO BE AND APPEAR BEFORE A JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, JUVENILE DIVISION IN THE ABOVE-STYLED COURT LOCATED AT:

OKEECHOBEE JUDICIAL CENTER 312 N.W. 3rd STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

AT 1:30 P.M. ON THE 3rd DAY OF MAY, 2010, IN COURTROOM "C", FOR HEARING AND TO SHOW CAUSE WHY SAID PETITION SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED. FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THIS CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE.

BE ADVISED THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU IN THIS MATTER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, ONE MAY BE APPOINTED FOR YOU. WITNESS MY HAND AS CLERK OF SAID COURT AND THE SEAL THEREOF, THIS 27th DAY OF JAN. 2010.

SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF COURT By: /S/ KIMBERLEY J. SARROS DEPUTY CLERK 345473 ON 3/14,21,28,4/1/10

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Special to the Okeechobee News/SEM

Pilot visits Seminole Elementary

Officer Larry Peterson, a CW4 Army Helicopter Pilot who is stationed in Afghanistan, came to Seminole Elementary School this week to talk to Ms. Shook's Kindergarten class. The students have been pen pals with Officer Peterson this school year, and they had the rare opportunity to meet him. He brought pictures of his helicopter, the army base, soldiers in uniform, and pictures of Afghan soldiers who help the Americans. Officer Peterson talked about his experiences, and the students were mesmerized by his accounts of his life in Afghanistan as he serves and protects our country.

Big fish catch nets award at Bass Tourney

Taylor Creek Bass Club member, Jack Harrison took top honors on Lake Kissimmee and Weohyakapka, at the Taylor Creek Bass Club of Okeechobee March Tournament which was held on March 13-14.

Harrison brought in total of 33.46 lbs. to the scales for a great win on a tough fishing day. Harrison takes the lunger award and big fish with his 11.39 catch.

Runner up in second place was Robert Stiglitz with total weight of 25.61 lbs. Rowena Harrison finished in third place with 20.17 lbs. Byron Chastain finished in fourth place with 17.43lbs The Taylor Creek Bass Club meets at the Buck Head Ridge VFW Post 9528 on the second Thursday of each month. Tournaments are held the following weekend. New boaters and (especially) non-boaters are welcome. For information

call Dave Stout at 863-467-2255.

The club also sponsors and presents the annual Lee McAllister Memorial Kid's Fishing Festival.



Rowena Harrison finished in third place with 20.17 lbs.



(left) Jack Harrison took top honors at the TCBC March Kissimmee and Weohyakapka Lake's tournament with a total of 33.46 lbs. (right) Robert Stiglitz finished in second place with a total of 25.61 lbs.



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