

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 38

Sunday, March 28, 2010

75¢ Plus tax

## FSB victims can proceed with claims bill

**Abuses alleged at Florida School for Boys in Okeechobee in 1960s**

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

Although a number of claims bills were heard this week in Tal-

lahassee, victims of abuse at state-run reform schools are still wondering when theirs will go before lawmakers.

When Circuit Judge James Shelfer dismissed a class action lawsuit against the state of Florida on Feb. 23, it left little recourse for men who say they were beaten and sexually abused while at the

Florida School for Boys in Mariana and Okeechobee.

The alleged abuses took place in the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

According to one of the attorneys representing the men, an appeal on Judge Shelfer's opinion will not be filed.

St. Petersburg attorney Gregory Hoag said the state senate has con-

tacted his legal team and told them they have exhausted all their legal avenues so they can now proceed with the claims bill.

"That was a minor victory for us," he said. "Right now, we're formulating our plan by consulting with our lobbyists."

Part of that plan is to contact the Senate and ask that the claims

bill—Senate Bill 48 (SB-48)—be taken out of abeyance.

SB-48 was filed by Senator Arthenia Joyner, a Tampa Democrat, on July 31. The bill asks for relief for those men who were abused at the two schools. The bill asks that money be appropriated

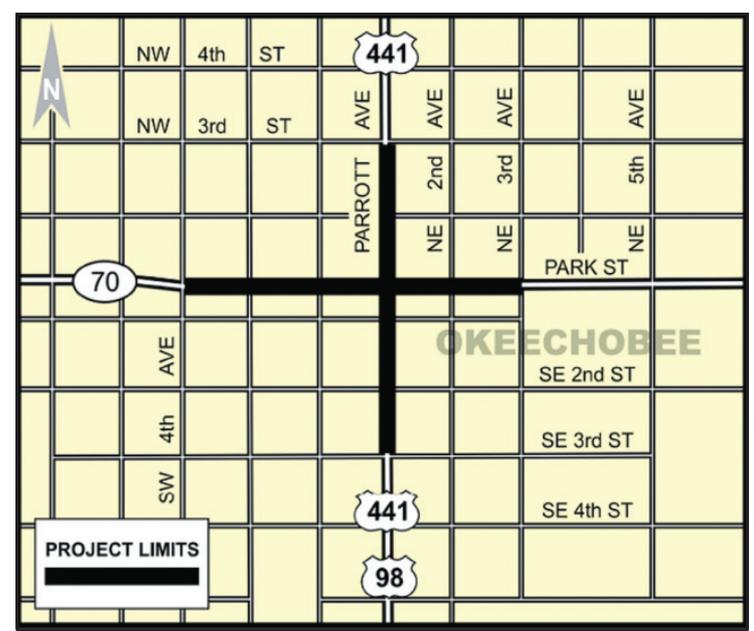
See FSB — Page 5

## DOT plans changes to SR70-US441 intersection

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will host a public workshop on April 1, to review plans for changes to the intersection of State Road 70 at U.S. 441 (Parrott Avenue) in Okeechobee.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, April 1, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County

See DOT — Page 2



Special to the Okeechobee News/FDOT  
Plans call for adding another left turn lane in all directions.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

### Ag Literacy Day: Beef or dairy?

Lexi Manson, from Okeechobee Freshman Campus, demonstrates to kindergarten students at Seminole Elementary School products derived from beef and dairy cattle. It was part of Agriculture Literacy Day observed in schools throughout the state on March 23. For more ... see page 5

### Lake Levels

14.28 feet

Last Year: 12.3 feet

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



Railroad crossing work downtown at Parrott Avenue causes traffic delays

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OHS Girls Tennis Team defeats Hardee High School

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# DOT

Continued From Page 1

Civic Center, 1750 Highway 98 North.

The proposed improvements include the addition of a second left turn lane to each of the four approaches at the intersection of S.R. 70 and U.S. 441.

The project study area includes S.R. 70 from Northwest 4th Avenue to Northeast 3rd Avenue and U.S. 441 from Southeast 3rd Street to Northeast 3rd Street.

The workshop will be held in an informal, open house format with no formal presentation.

Individuals may attend at any time from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to review project plans and displays. Project staff will also be available to answer questions.

Aerial maps with the proposed improvements will be available for public review beginning March 22 through April 9, 2010, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, at Okeechobee City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Avenue; and during regular business hours, Tuesday through Saturday, at the Okeecho-

bee County Public Library, 206 SW 16th Street in Okeechobee. Comments may be made at the workshop or written statements and/or exhibits may be submitted no later than Monday, April 12, 2010 to Elizabeth Serdyski, project manager, Florida Department of Transportation, District One, P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, FL 33831.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend this public workshop, which is being held in accordance with Title VI and Related Statutes of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status may file a complaint with the FDOT District One Title VI Coordinator, Robin Parrish, at (863) 519-2675, or by mail to P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, FL 33831. Persons requiring special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Elizabeth Serdyski by telephone at (863) 519-2805 or by e-mail at elizabeth.serdyski@dot.state.fl.us at least seven days prior to the workshop.

## Okeechobee Forecast

**Today:** A 30 percent chance of showers after 11 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. South wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

## Extended Forecast

**Monday:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Monday night:** A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. West northwest wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 78. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

**Tuesday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. East northeast wind around 5 mph.

## Lotteries

**Florida Lottery** — Here are the numbers selected Thursday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 0-5-8; **Play 4:** 9-2-4-8; **Fantasy 5:** 9-18-26-31-34; Numbers drawn Friday, **Cash 3:** 4-5-1; **Play 4:** 4-4-5-7.

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

Last chance to get your Medicare Stimulus \$\$\$ before it's too late!



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## Census volunteers needed

Okeechobee County and the U.S. Census Bureau is looking for volunteers to canvas hard-to-count areas to ensure an accurate census.

If you are a student needing community service hours, this is an excellent way to earn some extra hours.

Volunteers are needed for the week of April 5-10.

If you have a few hours to help, please call Melissa Serrano at 863-245-6307.

## Honey Baked Ham sale benefits OKMS

It's Honey Baked Ham Time! Okeechobee Main Street is selling original Honey Baked Hams for Easter. Hams, Turkey Breast, Pies, Cakes and a wide assortment of delicious side dishes.

Call 863-357-6246 or 863-763-2225 to have a price sheet emailed to you or to place your order.

## Husband Appreciation Day is April 18

Mark the day with a Special Occasion announcement in print and online! You know how great he is. Let your friends and neighbors know, too!



Submit your good news today at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

# Celebrations

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- Online photo gallery for up to 10 photos

# 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).

- Florencio Serrano, 19, N.W. Seventh Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 25 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on a Department of Corrections warrant charging him with violation of probation - burglary, violation of probation - petit theft and violation of probation - resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. He is being held without bond.

- Jer'Marcus Demetre Bradley, 17, N.E. 15th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 25 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on charges of sale of cocaine and possession of cocaine with intent to sell. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the juvenile detention center in Fort Pierce.

- Marquise Ladell Daniels, 21, N.E. 18th

St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 25 by Deputy Bart Potter on a felony charge of fleeing and attempting to elude a law enforcement officer. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of driving while license suspended with knowledge. His bond was set at \$3,000.

- Dionicio Rodriguez, 31, N.W. 46th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested March 26 by Deputy Bart Potter on a charge of strong arm robbery. 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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### Parrott Avenue closed

Part of U.S. 441/Parrott Avenue closed to traffic on Friday, March 26.

CSX Railroad is making improvements to the railroad crossing on U.S. 441, just north of the N.W. 8th Street intersection. This work will require the roadway immediately before and after the railroad crossing be closed. Weather permitting, work is anticipated to be complete by Thursday, April 1.

### S.W. 32nd Street closed

#### Wednesday and Thursday

Southwest 32nd Street (Durrance Road) will be closed to all traffic at the intersection of Southwest 16th Avenue (Ferrell Road), beginning at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 31 until noon Thursday, April 1. It is necessary to close the road so that drainage pipes under Southwest 32nd Street can be replaced. Motorists are advised to plan accordingly.

## Okeechobee's Most Wanted

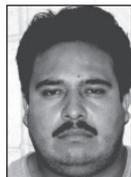
The following people are among Okeechobee's Most Wanted persons. There are active warrants for each of them. The criteria for making Okeechobee's Most Wanted top five is based on the severity of the crime in conjunction with the age of the warrant. If you have any information on the whereabouts of any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



Francisco Arellano



Marcel Bates



Jamie Samperio



Richard Ellis

tion 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.

**Richard Duncan Ellis**, W/M, DOB 1/1/1967. Agg Battery, LSOA, w/Property Damage, No Bond.

**Francisco Arellano**, DOB 1/3/1991, Burglary of Dwelling while armed, Bond - \$25, 000.

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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 announced 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](http://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!*

### Socialism

• Well we are headed down the path to socialism like a snowball headed for hell. That socialist in office finally did it. This country will be destroyed the—USA will no longer exist after this guy gets done.

• It's very easy to predict that the passage of the "Health Care Bill" will have its day in court. I will go so far as to say that this bill will be overturned in court on Constitutional reasons. Idaho has taken the lead in a growing, nationwide fight against health care overhaul when its governor became the first to sign a measure requiring the state attorney general to sue the federal government if residents are forced to buy health insurance. Similar legislation is pending in 37 other states. And there is the matter of States using Nullification to counter this bill. The Arizona State Senate has voted 18-11 to concur with the House and approve the Health Care Freedom Act (HCR2014). This will put a proposal on the 2010 ballot which would constitutionally override any law, rule or regulation that requires individuals or employers to participate in any particular health care system. For anyone who believes that this is the end of it, I would say "stand by for heavy rolls as the ship comes about".

• The Congress doesn't care about what we want. We will respond at the polls.

### Dixie softball

• We should have never left Dixie. It was a very successful program. It brought in revenue to the county, over 100 more girls participated in the tournaments that were held here in Okeechobee. It didn't cost the girls anything, and when they travel, it didn't cost them anything. When we tried to get a USSSA tourney here; no teams would come. So why are we sending money to Palm Beach, when we can have money spent here in our own county? USSSA benefits only a handful of girls. Dixie will benefit, hundreds of girls, and the economy.

• I feel there need to be "subcommittees" for each sport. Have a small group of people for girls softball, boys baseball and football. Come up with your own ideas and let the president of OCRA or main body give the stamp of approval. If Dixie softball is what the majority of the softball people want then let it be so. Its simple. Keep everyone happy.

### Teen accused of shooting at truck

• Why did this kid have a gun to begin with? Are the parents being charged for not having the gun in a locked gun case? The gun should have been locked up and only available with a parent or authorized person for hunting, target shooting, etc. Just a reminder. Guns do not kill people. People kill people. I love my right to own guns. In everyday life we all have choices. This kid made a horrible choice. I think he might get up to three years for each offense along with a felony on his record. Good paying companies ask if you have a felony and will not hire you based on that.

• This could have escalated into something much worse. The only way to make sure it doesn't happen again is to punish all involved. I'm sorry but letting some off because of who they are or not having prior records is sending a false message to our youth. This behavior has got to stop. The youtube videos of these fights has got to stop. This type of behavior is trickling down to the even younger groups of kids. The younger ones look up to these trouble makers and have started to think it is cool to fight and put it on youtube. If we don't take care of this now, next time we may be mourning the death of some innocent young child that got in the way of this "wannabe" gang stuff. Who cares who said what to whom? Fact is Some kids went looking for trouble and found it. Somebody took things to an extreme. It's time to man up.

### Bring in revenue

• How is Okeechobee to survive without raising our taxes to the point no one can afford it? How will businesses stay here without new money coming in? When 70 goes to four lanes, we will be the coast's suburbs and there will be no stopping it. Traffic, you don't know traffic, and without the tourists there is no Okeechobee.

## Reflections from the pulpit

### Will you give your donkeys to Him?

By Rev. P. G. Livatt

Senior Pastor, St. Stephens A.M.E. Church

The Scripture never tells us the name or the physical description of the owner of the donkey which Christ rode on the triumphal entry into Jerusalem. All we know is that when the disciple went to retrieve the animal, the owner let it go without questions. And because human nature being what it is, one might want to ask: How did the owner know? How did the owner know that Jesus wanted a donkey? Did the owner have a vision? Did he receive a text message? Did an angel appear in the middle of his meal? Was it difficult to give something for Christ to use? Humans ask these questions because oftentimes it's hard for us. Sometimes we want to keep things for ourselves. Sometimes when the Lord wants something from us, we act as if we don't know He needs it.

Still others might ask: How did it feel to look out and see Christ on the back of the donkey that lived in your barn? Were you proud? Were you annoyed? Were you surprised?

## Letter to the editor

### Women's History Month

Ok! Listen up! What month is it? March. In other words, this means Spring Break, Spring showers, school is almost out, colleges too, flowers are in bloom, good cheer, smiles everywhere in America, right? Yeah!

Women's History Month Spotlight. A salute to every girl, gal, niece, baby girl, mother, aunt, sister, wife, grandma, nanna, great grandma, girlfriend, sweetheart and boo. It is our month to represent.

So, to all my black, white, hispanic and multi-racial sisters, life is good! A shout out from Biblical Eve, Mary, the mother of Jesus, suffrage, civil rights, women's rights, we were there, women's history is important too! Sojourner Trutch states, "Ain't I a Woman!" Harriet Tubman, led the Underground Railroad (First woman on the Most Wanted list) for freedom; Eleanor Roosevelt voice for change, Aretha Franklin give me some RESPECT, Amen! Kristina, sang, I am beautiful in every single way. Women in arts, Ms.

And still others might ask: Did you have any idea that your kindness would be used for such a gracious purpose? Did it ever occur to you that God himself was going to ride your donkey?

Sometimes we don't give something to God because we're not sure. Other times we know that He wants something from us, but we're too selfish to let Him have it. And other times, maybe too few times, we hear Him and obey. In these instances we wonder if our small deeds will make a difference in the long run.

Nevertheless, all of us have a donkey - something in our lives, which if given back to the Lord, could, like the donkey, move Christ and His redemption story further down the road. It may be a song, a hug, a computer or even a check. Whichever, your donkey belongs to Him. It really does belong to Him. Your gifts are His and the donkey was His.

Prayer: Lord, please forgive the moments when I will not lose my donkeys for your use. They all belong to you. Use any and all of my donkeys so that Your name and the ministry of Your Son, my Savior, might be proclaimed throughout the world. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Oprah Winfrey, Zora Neale Hurston, Country's sweetheart, Taylor Swift; in politics, Mrs. Hilary Clinton, Michelle Obama, First African American First Lady of these United States. Wow! Stylish!

Finally, yes on Oscar night, the first female director, Kathryn Bigalow. How about Sandra Bullock, won for the movie, The Blind Side. She played a Southern white lady who gave a home, future, family and life to a colored, negro, African-American, troubled black male. Recognize and celebrate that yes, dreams do still come true in America! Ok! Listen all races, creed, color, cultures of women, past, present, future, remember all those who travel with God reach their destinations alright!

Oh! The great joy and power of being a woman...Yes!

**Brenda Scott**  
Poet, playwright, author  
Okeechobee

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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The Okeechobee News is published by Independent Newspapers of Florida. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.

### We Pledge...

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

- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
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- 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**



# FSB

Continued From Page 1

from the state's general revenue fund to the Department of Juvenile Justice for those victims.

"This is a tragic chapter in the state's history and something the Legislature needs to consider very, very carefully," said Representative Mike Horner (R), in an earlier interview.

Rep. Horner's district includes Okeechobee County. An e-mail was recently sent to Rep. Horner, as well as other state representatives and senators whose districts include Okeechobee and Jackson counties—the two counties in which the reform schools were located. Besides Rep. Horner, only representatives Marti Coley (R) and Brad Drake (R) responded.

Senators J.D. Alexander and Joe Negron, whose districts include Okeechobee County, did not respond. Senator Alfred Lawson Jr. (D-District 6), whose district includes Jackson County and Marianna, also did not respond.

The same e-mail was sent to Governor Charlie Crist's office, but there was also no response from that office.

While Rep. Horner said he is sympathetic toward the men who were brutalized at the two schools, he chose not to comment on the bill specifically. Since the bill is a Senate bill, he has not seen or read the bill.

"It's hard to comment on a bill I haven't read," he said.

Rep. Coley and Rep. Drake had similar thoughts. "There is no bill in the House. A bill must be filed in both chambers for legislation to move forward," said Rep. Coley. "I generally follow the principle that to support a claims bill the issue must have moved successfully through our court system. Many

people have been working through the court system for years. If an appeal is filed and moves through the appropriate court system, then I would review the findings and determine whether or not I would support a claims bill."

Rep. Drake said, to date, SB-48 has only been filed in the Senate and no companion bill has been filed in the House.

"It is rare for any bill to pass both chambers without a companion bill filed," he said. To act on the claims bill, Rep. Drake said a Special Master hearing will be held and his recommendation will be sent to the Legislature. At that point, the Legislature can take up and hear the bills filed.

When asked if he would support such a claims bill, Rep. Drake said he would "... reserve a position until I could hear testimony in the formal committee hearings process."

It's unlikely at this point that SB-48 will even be addressed this year, since the Legislative session closes April 30.

And because of that, Mr. Hoag said time is of the essence.

"We have a few representatives who said they would sponsor a bill in the House, so we're very anxious to talk to our lobbyists," he said.

The lawsuit was filed against several state agencies and Troy Tidwell, who is accused of administering beatings at the Marianna school. Mr. Tidwell, now in his 80s, still lives in Marianna.

Judge Shelfer dismissed the suit against Mr. Tidwell based on the statute of limitations. As for that portion of the suit filed against the state, the judge ruled that while there were violations of constitutional rights, monetary damages cannot be recovered for those violations. Mr. Hoag said the plaintiffs in the case were all advised that they could hire new attorneys and appeal Judge Shelfer's ruling, but they all decided against the appeal.

# Ag Literacy Day teaches kids about agriculture

Local agriculture industry volunteers, teachers and FFA students participated in Florida Agriculture Literacy Day efforts by reading books about agriculture at various schools. Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. (FAITC), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Florida Agriculture Commissioner, Charles Bronson initiated Ag Literacy Day seven years ago to educate Florida school children about the importance of agriculture to them and their communities.

One of the books read is titled, "Green Florida Farms" by Gary Seamans. The book explains what Florida was like and how the effects of our growing population are affecting Florida's farm and ranchlands. The story goes on to show how farmers and ranchers help take better care of Florida's "Green Spaces," while performing the task of providing food and fiber on smaller acreage. Some topics covered are biomass for renewable energy, byproducts in cattle feed, hydroponics, contour farming and no-till drills (soil conservation). Methods of irrigation such as trickle and drip promote water conservation on farms and students were encouraged to research Florida's water restrictions for lawns and landscape; and help their parents abide by these rules.

Students were given a pre/post test on the reading and results will be sent to FAITC. The agriculture specialty license tags, better known as the "Ag Tag" helps fund FAITC teacher workshops, materials

and programs, like Ag Literacy Day. Teachers are encouraged to attend the annual State Teacher Workshop June 17-19, in St. Petersburg Beach. All FAITC curricula meet Sunshine State and Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) standards. Please visit the FAITC website if you are interested in volunteering to read during next year's Ag Literacy Day. For soil and water conservation tips, please visit your local Extension Service, Water Management District or the Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OSWCD Okeechobee County Cattlewomen's Association volunteers participated in Ag Literacy Day at Everglades Elementary.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Railroad crossing repair tests drivers' patience

Officials of CSX Transportation have announced that the railroad crossing on U.S. 441 N will be closed until the middle of next week for repairs. At midafternoon on Friday cars were bumper to bumper waiting to cross the railroad track on N.W. Ninth Avenue. Motorists on U. S. 441 should be patient and follow the direction of policemen directing traffic. Southbound motorists will be directed west (right) unto N.W. Ninth Street. Northbound motorists will be directed to turn west (left) onto N.W. Sixth Avenue. All large trucks will be directed to U. S. 98. There can they cross the railroad track and be directed back to U. S. 441. However, this is where drivers of smaller vehicles will have to follow police directions. Police directing traffic on Sixth and Ninth Streets will be monitoring the flow of traffic and talking to each other. Cars and pickups may or may not be able to use the railroad crossing on N.W. Ninth Avenue, depending on the volume of traffic. If traffic is backlogged, they may be directed to go to U. S. 98 before being allowed to cross the railroad track.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OSWCD Volunteers from Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resource Conservation Service read "Florida Green Farms" by Gary Seamans to North Elementary School students.



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# Community Events

## Easter Week Services

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week at Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, with a service of the palms 10:30 a.m. today, **March 28**; also Thursday will offer a Ten-ebrae Service at 7 p.m., a service of light and shadows remembering the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. Easter Sunday worship will be at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!

## Freedom Outreach Fishing Tournament

The Freedom Outreach Fishing Tournament, series III, will be held on the following dates: **March 28**, April 25, May 30, June 27, July 25 and Aug. 29. The \$80 cash entry fee for each tournament in the series includes the Big Fish Pot and the Classic Fund, with a 70 percent payback. The final event, the Classic, will be held Sept. 26. To qualify for the classic, you must have fished at least four prior events from February to August. All tournaments are held at Scott Driver park from safe light until 2 p.m. with Taylor Creek as the alternate in case of low water. Please register early. To get an entry application or for questions, call 863-634-3790 or 863-634-9889.

## Masonic Lodge to hold Sunday Breakfast

The Okeechobee Masonic Lodge will hold a Sunday breakfast on Sunday, **March 28** from 8 until 11 a.m. The donation is just \$6 and includes, eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee. The public is welcome and carry outs are available. The lodge is located at 107 N.W. 5th Street, Okeechobee.

## Dine with the Doctor

Raulerson Hospital continues the popular "Dine with the Doctor" on Tuesday **March 30**, in the North Dining Room of Raulerson Hospital. Dine with the Doctor is a medical lecture series held on the last Tuesday of the month. Dinner service begins at 5 p.m. followed by the presentation. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Muhammad A. Chaudhary, who is board certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Chaudhary will be discussing the causes and prevention of Hypertension (High Blood Pressure). Dinner tickets are \$5, the lecture is FREE. To R.S.V.P. or for more information please call Marnie Lauter Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator for Raulerson Hospital at 863-824-2702.

## Fundraiser to benefit KOA Kids Care Camp

A spaghetti dinner will be held at Good Spirits Lounge 245 Hwy. 441 S.E. on Wednesday, **March 31**, from 6-9 p.m. Dinners are \$5. Eat in or take out. All proceeds go to KOA Kids Care Camp.

## Red Cross plans classes for April

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

- Thursday, April 1 - Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 14 - Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m.
- Monday, April 19 - First Aid Basics at 6 p.m.

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

## Parks and Rec announce Easter Eggs-travaganza

Okeechobee Parks and Recreation will host an Easter Eggs-travaganza on Saturday, **April 3**, from noon until 3 p.m. The event will be held at the Rec Park on N.W. 6th Ave. between Los Cocos and the Skate Park. This is a FREE event for everyone sponsored by Parks and Rec, Visiting Nurses Association and the Kiwanis Club. Activities include and Egg hunt at noon, bunny sack race, egg on a spoon race, water balloon toss and more. Egg hunt will be for three separate age groups. Games for both children and adults. Arts and crafts table. Bring your Easter Basket!

## Bake sale to benefit BHR Fireman Auxiliary

The Buckhead Ridge Fireman's Auxiliary will have a bake sale on Saturday, **April 3**, at the fire station on Hwy. 78 in Buckhead Ridge from 8 a.m. until noon. We will have cakes, pies and other fresh baked items for sale just in time for Easter dinner! For more information, please call Eleanor at 863-357-1934.

## Easter Sunrise Services planned

Okeechobee Ministerial Association invites everyone to Easter Sunrise Services planned for Sunday, **April 4**, from 6:30-7:30 a.m. at Lake Okeechobee Lock 7 Pier (where U.S. Hwy. 441 and S.R. 78 separate). Bring your chair and blanket. Congregational singing by the Okeechobee Community Choir with Soloist, Rev. Loy Mershimer of Okeechobee Presbyterian. Love offering will be taken for a local charity. Come and worship with your friends, family and neighbors!

## 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.*

### Lois Evelyn Gray, 77

OKEECHOBEE — Lois Evelyn Gray, passed away Thursday, March 25, 2010, in the Hamrick Home. She was 77.

She was born December 10, 1932 in Nampa, Idaho to William Earl and Helen (Root) Pechanec. She owned Professional Business Services, an income tax and bookkeeping business. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Okeechobee and enjoyed working on genealogy.

Mrs. Gray is survived by her husband of 57 years, Walter Nixon Gray Jr. of Okeechobee; two daughters, Sandra Paradise (Gary) of Tavares and Valynda Kingsley (Dennis) of Queens-town, Md.; two sons, Scott Gray (Sandy) of Chattanooga, Tenn. and Gareth Mark of Washington; two sisters; one brother; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 26, 2010, at First Baptist Church of Okeechobee, with Pastor Randy Huckabee officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Baptist Church Convention Haiti Relief Fund.

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](http://www.bas-sokeechobee.com).

## Kiwanis to host Annual Pancake Breakfast

The Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee will be holding its 38th Annual Easter Pancake Breakfast at Cowboy's Restaurant here in Okeechobee. Breakfast will be served on **April 4**, from 7 to 10:30 a.m. The cost is only \$5 and includes all you can eat pancakes, whole hog sausage, Hazellief Farms hand-squeezed orange juice, and coffee. You should also be on the lookout for the Easter Bunny, so bring your camera! Call J.D. Mixon at 863-634-1778 to be a sponsor or buy tickets.

### George C. Morris, 84

OKEECHOBEE — George C. Morris, peacefully passed away Monday, March 22, 2010. He was 84.

He was preceded in death by three sisters, Lucille, Irene and Jean; and brother, Jack, all of Ohio.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Dorothy E. Morris; son, George C. Morris III of Okeechobee; daughter, Delene C. Arrowood of North Palm Beach; daughter, Cheryl L. Barnett of Jupiter; sons-in-law, Jay Roberts and Ron Barnett; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Bertha, Dorothy and Ruth of Ohio.

His quiet strength will be missed, as he was loved by one and all.

Honoring his request, there will be no services or visitation.

May he rest in peace.

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](http://www.bas-sokeechobee.com).

### Norma Coleen Maines, 76

LORIDA — Norma Coleen Maines, passed away Wednesday, March 24, 2010. She was 76.

Born May 2, 1933 in Lynn, Ind. to Eugene and Edith Retz, she was a Post Office Clerk. She was of the Baptist faith. She enjoyed crocheting and playing cards on the computer. She was a member of the Eastern Star.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William L. Maines.

Mrs. Maines is survived by her daughter, Sue Ann Leach (Dwayne); son, Stephen L. Maines (Robbin); granddaughter, Stephanie Maines Neiland; two grandsons, Stephen and Gage Leach, all of Florida; and brother, Bud Retz (Ginny) of Texas.

Memorial services will be 6 p.m. Monday, March 29, 2010, at Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, with Chaplain Jim of Good Shepherd Hospice officiating.

Memorials may be made to Good Shepherd Hospice.

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](http://www.bas-sokeechobee.com).



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# Census count under way

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

"If you are living and breathing in the United States, the Census wants to count you."

Those were the words of Census Spokesperson Melissa Serrano who spoke to the Okeechobee Community Collaborative Tuesday about getting people to fill out their census forms.

Ms. Serrano spoke on the importance of the census as the population numbers determine how much money the federal government sends to this community to support libraries, schools, and even health care clinics. She noted \$400 billion is spent annually across the nation and each community should get their fair share. "We want it to be as accurate as possible. We encourage people to fill out their forms," she added.

More information on the census is available online at 2010census.gov.

The forms have already been mailed out to homes in Okeechobee. There are 10 easy questions to answer and the forms are already self addressed and stamped for their return.

Okeechobee hasn't had the best return rate. For the 2000 census, only 54 percent of households mailed back their forms to the government.

On April 10, the Census will hold a Neighborhood Blitz Day. They hope to rally residents to fill out their forms. They will also pay close attention to minority neighborhoods where the percentages of response have not been high in the past. They will visit trailer parks and migrant labor camps and will go door to door when and where possible.

Serrano said they hope to have a lot of volunteers in Okeechobee. They will also work with various agencies to try and get the word out.

In other actions the CCC learned that the Okeechobee County School Board was awarded a grant for an outreach worker for the Florida Kid Care Insurance Program. The part time worker will work with parents to explain to them the benefit of enrolling their children with the low-cost health insurance plan.



**Melissa Serrano**

Sharon Vinson with the Shared Services Network reported that the deadline for agencies to place a free advertisement in the summer activity guide is March 31. She explained that 9,000 brochures will be sent out, one with each Okeechobee school student, at the end of the year.

State budget cuts proposed for the Healthy Start Coalition, libraries and other agencies were also discussed at the meeting. Kay Begin of the Healthy Start Coalition said there is one proposal to eliminate all healthy start Coalitions in the state. At the very least, the Coalition will face major budget cuts this year. She urged residents to phone their state legislators and support Healthy Start.

Communities in Schools announced plans for their Career Expo on April 23 at Indian River State college in Okeechobee. All students in eighth and ninth grade in Okeechobee will attend the event.

CIS also has a number of summer camps planned in June and July. Those camps include an All Star Camp, a Sheriffs Teen Camp, a Sheriffs youth camp and a Skate Camp. For more information please call the CIS program at 863-462-5863. Grants from the Okeechobee Children's Services Council help to fund these summer camps.

The Okeechobee Health Department and the tobacco Free Partnership of Okeechobee will host a special presentation by Dr. Victor Denoble on April 20. Denoble testified before Congress and was a key witness in the federal governments investigation into the tobacco industry's research practices. The event will be held at the Freshman Campus Auditorium at 6 p.m. He will also make two presentations at Okeechobee High School.

Wendy Watts with the Economic Opportunities Council and Head Start Program in Indian River County spoke on the benefits of Head Start programs. She is a foster parent and was a foster parent for several years for two young babies from Belle Glade that were addicted to cocaine. He said the Head Start program was very beneficial to these two boys. They have been adopted and now live in another state. They recently tested very high in reading and math.

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**The Tobacco-Free Initiative  
of Okeechobee**



**Will hold its monthly meeting to discuss and work on issues relating to tobacco prevention and education in the community**

**Wednesday, March 31, April 28, May 26,  
June 23, 2010**

**Hampton Inn Conference Room  
1200 NE Park Street (next to the Post Office)  
4:00pm - 5:00pm**

**To confirm attendance, please call 863-462-5781**

*Building the foundation for a healthy future for the residents of Okeechobee County*



Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

## Students of the Week

Everglades students achieving excellence in the classroom for the week of March 22-26 include: kindergarten students, Colton Courson, Hailey Salazar, Jacob Brooks, Nancy Garcia; first graders, Haley Hawes, Cameron Rucks-Sinick, Julian Ramirez, Sierra Sutton, Lane McPeak, Faith Brazil; second grade students, Gage Lowery, Searina Boatright, Donald Padgett, Kevin Dryden, Jason Sutherland; third graders, Jessica Sulzer, Maria Moran, Ivo DeLosReyes, Christian Woolverton, Cheyenne Crum; fourth graders, Sonia Delgado, Jazonnas Joiner, Sierra Knapkik, Acey Abner, Kobe Crews; Daniel Ruiz, Mariela Cancino, Nelson Liberato, Tyler Lynch. Congratulations! to our many outstanding students.



Special to the Okeechobee News

## Learning about pizza

Okeechobee Cornerstone Christian Home Educators took a field trip to Domino's Pizza last week to learn how pizza is made. Shift manager Melissa Hamill-Bond (bottom left) and co-manager Mark Bayless (top right) enjoyed talking to the students and their parents. Adults and students participating included Stephan and Dwane Barnes, with Dustin and Cody; Tammy Verno, with Cole; Laura Thomson, with Caleb, Leah and Beth; Kisha Law, with Blaire, Carissa, Ean and Cullen; Cathy Stewart, with Caleb Nathan, Hannah, Seth and Grace; and Elijah Burkhart.

## Local daycare offers free summer Pre-k program

A Child's World has contracted with the Okeechobee County School District to provide the FREE 2010 Summer VPK program for children that have not participated in a school year VPK program and will be 5 on or before Sept. 1. A Child's World is located at 703 S.W. 6th Street and has openings for your child in their FREE Volunteer Pre-Kindergarten Program. No registration fees plus your child will get a FREE breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack. The program is taught by certified teachers in an educational environment. For more information please contact A Child's World at 863-763-5453 or the Early Learning Coalition at 863-357-1154.



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# CES celebrates Field Day events with Olympic Spirit



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Lighting the torch

A torch runner "lights" the Olympic flame Wednesday afternoon, March 24 at Central Elementary School. The opening ceremony for the school's field day was patterned after the opening ceremony for the 2010 Winter Olympics. The students in the background represented the various countries in the Olympics by wearing the colors and carrying the flags of those countries.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Greek crossing

This Central Elementary School classroom represented the country of Greece as they marched into the March 24 opening ceremony for the school's field day which was patterned after the opening ceremony for the 2010 Winter Olympics.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Gathering of nations

The Wednesday afternoon, March 24 opening ceremony for the Central Elementary School field day was patterned after the opening ceremony of the 2010 Winter Olympics. Each classroom represented a certain country and wore that country's colors and carried it's flag.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Romanian Delegates

These Central Elementary School students represented Romania in the Wednesday afternoon, March 24 opening ceremony for the school's field day which was patterned after the opening ceremony for the 2010 Winter Olympics.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Representing the Cayman Islands

On Wednesday afternoon, March 24 Central Elementary School had the opening ceremony for its field day. This year the ceremony was patterned after the opening ceremony of the 2010 Winter Olympics. Each classroom represented a country participating in the Olympics. These students represented the Cayman Islands.

**The Okeechobee Community Choir**  
 in its 12<sup>th</sup> year Under the Direction of Sandy Perry, Will Present the  
*Easter Cantata*  
*Praise the Lord of Resurrection*  
 Along With an Easter Drama, Men's Ensemble, Ave Maria/I Believe,  
 Other Seasonal Favorites, & Handel's Hallelujah Chorus,  
 Where Audience Participation is Encouraged

<b>Fri., March 26</b> 7PM	<b>Sat., March 27</b> 7PM	<b>Sun., March 28</b> 3PM
------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------

Presented at  
**The First United Methodist Church • 200 NW 2nd Ave.**

The 50 Voices Comprising This Season's Choir Represent Singers from Sixteen local Churches who began rehearsing in February. Selections will be accompanied on a 1945 Reuter Pipe Organ or Grand Piano.

**NO ADMISSION TICKETS Will Be Distributed or Required.**  
*First Come, First Seated Until Room Capacity is Reached.*

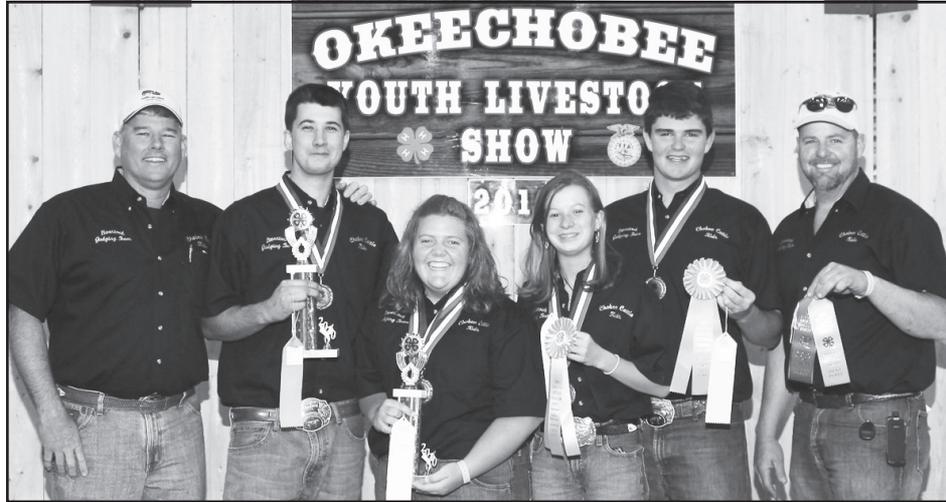
Michael Hayes, Accompanist   Nicolle Wood, Narrator   Sheila Brown, Sound  
 Love Offering Will Be Taken to Defer Expenses   Questions? Call 634-7714

# 4-H Livestock judging team wins at state

The Okeechobee County 4-H Livestock Judging Team placed first in the 2010 State 4-H Livestock Evaluation Contest held on March 20, in Gainesville. The first place win comes with the right and privilege to represent Florida 4-H at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest held in conjunction with the North American Invitational Livestock Exposition held in Louisville, Ky. in November. Team members are Jessica Humphrey, Marshall Johnson, Josh Lea and Allyson Trimble. All team members belong to the Chobee Cattle Kids 4-H Club and were coached by club leaders Jamie Humphrey and Robbie Johnson. The team would like to thank Mr. Brian Trimble, Osceola Middle School Ag teacher for his help coaching reasons and Mr. Roger McWaters, Okeechobee High School Ag teacher for his work with the team on carcass and yield grades.

The team excelled in all areas of the competition. As a team, they placed first in Cattle, first in Swine, first in Evaluation and Selection, second in Reasons, and first Overall, outscoring their closest competitor 2079 points to 1970 points. Individually, Jessica Humphrey placed first in Cattle, first in Swine, first in Evaluation and Selection, tied for third in Reasons and placed first Overall.

Josh Lea placed fifth in Cattle, seventh in Swine, 14th in Evaluation and Selection, tied for third in Reasons and placed fifth Overall. Allyson Trimble was eighth in Cattle, ninth in Swine, third in Evaluation and Selection, and sixth Overall. Marshall Johnson was fifth in Evaluation and Selection. The win was a result of many hours of practice and hard work by all team members.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Debbie Clements  
**A triumphant Okeechobee County 4-H Livestock Judging Team pictured upon their return home after the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest held in Gainesville on Saturday, March 20. (L to R) Robbie Johnson (coach/Okeechobee 4-H leader), Marshall Johnson, Jessica Humphrey, Allyson Trimble, Josh Lea, Jamie Humphrey (coach/Okeechobee 4-H leader).**

## Bronson urges horse owners to vaccinate animals

With the arrival of spring and warmer weather, Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson is reminding horse owners to get their animals vaccinated for mosquito borne diseases. The two principal equine diseases associated with mosquitoes are Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV), and the majority of cases of each can be prevented with proper vaccinations, according to animal health officials.

"The key is to make sure that a horse has been vaccinated against these mosquito-borne diseases and to check with your veterinarian to determine whether an animal's booster shots are up to date," Bronson said.

So far this year, Florida has no equine cases of EEE or WNV, but that can change quickly as mosquito populations increase significantly with the warmer weather and can explode in areas with heavy rains and standing water. Humans, too, need to minimize their contact with mosquitoes as mosquitoes. Toward that end, Bronson is recommending that Floridians remove standing water from their property by emptying out stagnant water from kiddie pools, old tires, birdbaths and anything that holds water.

## Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

March 22 and 23, 2010		Med #1	Steers	Hfirs	Prices continue to climb.
		170-190	150-225	137-185	Cows and bulls were steady to \$1 higher. Most all calves were steady to higher by \$5. A lot of small calves under 300# are showing up. Look for prices to stay strong in the near future.
<b>Cows</b>		200-250	135-162	110-140	Barry Lewis topped the calf market with a high of \$2.25 bought by Reynolds. Ed Walpole topped the cow market with a high of \$62, bought by Central. Sales on Monday and Tuesday. Preg checking available on Mondays. OLM Day workers invitational Ranch Rodeo April 10, at 1 p.m. Five Head Camp Cooley Brangus Bulls for sale, 2 year olds. Call office 305-797-7334.
Breaking	\$52.00 \$58.00	250-300	135-152	110-120	
Cutter	\$49.00 \$58.00	300-350	137-147	105-119	
Canner	\$33.00 \$47.00	350-400	130-146	105-115	
<b>Bulls</b>		400-450	127-130	99-109	
1000-1500	\$70.50 \$73.00	450-500	115-123	97-103	
1500-2000	\$65.00 \$71.00	550-600	106-115	88-91	
		600-650	100-109		
<b>Monday Tuesday</b>		<b>Med #2</b>	<b>Steers</b>	<b>Hfirs</b>	
Calves	278 1224	150-200	125-175	110-155	
Cows	126 239	200-250	117-140	102-115	
Str	6 77	250-300	110-137	100-116	
Hfirs	12 88	300-350	107-129	93-108	
Bulls	14 41	350-400	112-129	98-107	
Yrlngs	16 90	400-450	95-125	89-99	
Mix	0 0	<b>Small #1</b>			
Total	452 1759	220-235	135-142	100-147	
		250-300		100-116	



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

**Okeechobee Livestock Market**  
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## Main Street Mixer

In honor of American Red Cross Month, the March Okeechobee Main Street Mixer was hosted by the American Red Cross and the Pier II Resort. Guest including, (back row) Julie Shook and Terry Burroughs; (front row) Mary Chesley, Cheryl Daniels, Toni Doyle, Don Patel, Debbie Riddle, Bridgett Waldau and Maureen Burroughs enjoyed refreshments, networking and door prizes from The Pier II Resort, The American Red Cross, Okeechobee Main Street, Tires Plus Total Car Care, Preya Persaud Porter, LMT, Mims Veterinary Hospital and the office of Sims & Younger CPAs. The next Main Street Mixer will be hosted by The Hampton Inn located at 1200 N.E. Park Street, from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, April 29. Our mixers are a great networking opportunity for anyone in business or anyone who wants to be an active part of our community. You're invited to be a part of the most accomplished and visible organization in our community, come check us out at the next Okeechobee Main Street Mixer.

## Okeechobee High School 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. If interested, you may want to 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.

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# Gore to play in all star game

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Duelle Gore will play and Bryan Van Camp will help coach one more high school basketball game this season.

Gore was chosen to play in the annual Treasure Coast Showcase game at Indian River State College which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m.

The game is played on the main campus in Fort Pierce.

Gore averaged 13.9 points per game and 10.4 rebounds per game for the Brahmans this year as they enjoyed one of the best seasons in recent years.

Coach Van Camp said he was pleased that Gore was able to get some recognition,

"I'm very pleased that Duelle is being recognized for his efforts this season. He led our team in scoring and rebounding. He is a hard worker and he maintained a high level of play all season long."

Van Camp said Gore helped carry the team to many victories this year and always answered the challenge against tougher opponents.

Gore had 17 points, 12 rebounds and 8 blocks in the Brahmans District tournament victory over Suncoast. He also played well against Lakeland during the Christmas Tournament at Sebring this year. "Duelle consistently filled all of the important categories on the stat sheet this year."

# Tewksbury's arm leads Brahmans' win

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Cameron Tewksbury went all the way with a four hitter as he struck out six and walked one as Okeechobee defeated Sebastian River, 5-2 March 23, night in Indian River County.

Tewksbury (5-0) pushed Okeechobee to 9-3 on the year. Still Brahman Coach Dylan Tedders said he sees room for improvement.

"The sad part is we could be (12-0) right now. We just can't afford to have mental lapses. Tuesday we did what we had to do to win. We have to do better if we want to win later," he said.

Okeechobee was held to six hits. Sebastian (2-8) is not one of the better squads on Okeechobee's schedule this year.

Tedders said he was happy that six different Brahmans had hits in the game. Okeechobee scored one run on an RBI hit by Jonathan Crawford but scored the other four thanks to Sebastian River walks, passed

balls by their catcher, a wild pitch, and a throwing error.

Drew Selvey scored two runs and hit a double for Okeechobee. Mark Weir also had a double in two official at bats.

Tedders went back to his veteran lineup on Tuesday but said all of his players have a short leash. He said he has not been impressed with the focus or the at bats of some of his older players.

"I don't want them up there guessing. A good hitter can hit any pitch because they react to it. I plan to use the bench more because I know those guys are ready to play," he added.

He said it is good to have depth because that will push some of the older players to get better, "We've blown two games this year and we can't let that happen. If we lose to teams that are worse than us, what is going to happen when we play teams that are equal to or better than us?"

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# Flag football team drops two games

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School girls flag football team opened their season this month with losses at Pahokee 13-12 and at Royal Palm Beach, 42-6.

Coach Bruce Jahner said the girls are playing hard and playing well together but must work on their consistency from play to play.

He said the team would have a good play and then make a mistake on the next play, so he has been working hard in practice to get the team to execute better.

Jahner said he was very pleased with the effort in the first game at Pahokee. Pahokee jumped out to an early lead but Okeechobee battled back and made it a contest.

"We played real well against Pahokee. We had some jitters early on but after the start we held them pretty well, and scored some touchdowns," he said.

In the second game Okeechobee came up against an experienced team that has a club flag football program and a lot of talent.

Royal Palm Beach scored three times in the first two minutes of the game and went on to the easy victory.

Jahner said he was pleased that the team didn't give up after the early adversity. He said the team made some adjustments at half time and did a lot better in the second half. They drove for a touchdown and were in the process of driving again for a score when they ran out of time.

"It's a learning experience right now. The girls are playing well and hard. We just ran up against a really tough team in Royal Palm Beach," he added.

Patrice Collie had a big night for Royal Palm (3-1). She threw four touchdown passes and grabbed three interceptions on defense.

Jahner said none of the Brahman girls have stood out as stars but all of them are playing hard and working together.

The Brahman JV didn't play at Pahokee and lost 24-2 to Royal Palm Beach.

The girls first home game will be Thursday, April 8, against Wellington at 7 p.m.

## Real Life Children's Ranch plans benefit tourney

Real Life Children's Ranch will hold their annual fund raising golf tournament on **April 17**, at the Okeechobee County Golf and Country Club. The entry fee is \$50 per person or \$200 per team and includes coffee, donuts, 18 holes of golf with cart,

lunch and door prizes. There will also be an opportunity to win a new car in the Hole-In-One contest. For more information, contact Darlene Mayers at 863-634-4200 (darlene.mayers@rlcr.org) or Bill Casian at 863-697-0211 (pepper@strato.net).

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**Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board**

The Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 3:30 P.M. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at the 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Virginia Derry at the Planning and Development Department, 499 N.W. 5th Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; (863) 824-3010.

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**2001 VW Jetta** only \$4995\*  
5 spd, 4 cyl, moon roof, gas saver #U0188

**2003 Nissan Maxima** #U1798 only \$6995\*  
Auto, A/C, Moon roof, PW, PL, Cruise/Tilt, very nice car.

**2003 Ford F150.** only \$5995\*  
V-6, auto, a/c, stepside, pw, pl, cruise, tilt, bedliner #U1991

**2004 Ford E350 12 pass van** only \$5495\*  
dual a/c, V8, loaded, auto, very clean #U7053

**2002 Nissan Sentra GXE -Auto** only \$5495\*  
4 cyl, A/C, 4dr, PW, PL, Cruise Tilt Loaded, gas saver; 83,000 miles; #U5822

**1999 BMW 528i Black Beauty** only \$5995\*  
auto, a/c, 6 cyl, leather, moon roof, loaded #U1390

**1999 Mercury Grand Marquis LS** only \$5495\*  
Gold Coast Edition, Leather, loaded, 50,712 original miles #U9155

**2002 Toyota Tundra** only \$7995\*  
4dr, V8, a/c, auto, low miles, extra clean #U8311

**1999 Nissan Pathfinder** only \$5895\*  
auto, A/C, 6 cyl, low miles #U1215

**2000 Ford Expedition XLT** only \$6395\*  
V8, auto, a.c., leather, 3rd row seating, loaded, #U3225

**2002 Mazda Tribute- ES** only \$6595\*  
V6, Auto, A/C, leather int., moon roof, loaded. #U2992  
\*plus tax, title, tag & dealer fees se habla español

**Public Notice**

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;4/10

**NOTICE OF MEETING**  
**Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board**

The Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 3:30 P.M. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at the 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Virginia Derry at the Planning and Development Department, 499 N.W. 5th Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; (863) 824-3010.

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

Virginia Derry, Secretary to Board  
Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board  
349778 ON 3/28/10

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**CITY HALL RESTROOM RENOVATION**  
**BID NO. PW 02-00-03-10**

Sealed Bids will be received by the General Services Department of the City of Okeechobee, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Rm. 101, Okeechobee, FL 34974, up to **1:00 p.m., April 12, 2010**, for all materials and labor necessary for the project below:

**CITY HALL RESTROOM RENOVATIONS**

Plans and specifications may be obtained by website, [www.cityofokeechobee.com](http://www.cityofokeechobee.com), or at City Hall, 863-763-3372 x218, during normal hours, Mon. to Fri., 8 am to 4:30 pm, except holidays.

Each bid shall be accompanied by the following: List of sub-bidders with whom the contractor will sub-contract work in connection with this project.

All bids shall be placed in an envelope, sealed, and clearly marked "Bid No. PW 02-00-03-10 City Hall Restroom Renovation." May be hand delivered or mailed to the address listed above. Facsimile or emailed bids will not be accepted.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities. All bids shall remain in force for 90 days after the date of opening.

Oscar Bermudez, PE, City Engineer  
349941 ON 3/28;4/10

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ZONING RECLASSIFICATION**

A **PUBLIC HEARING** will be held before the City of Okeechobee Planning Board on **Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Council Chambers, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The agenda is available on the City website [www.cityofokeechobee.com](http://www.cityofokeechobee.com), or contact the General Services Department, [bclement@cityofokeechobee.com](mailto:bclement@cityofokeechobee.com), 863-763-3372 x 218.

Under consideration is Rezoning Petition No. 10-002-R, submitted by property owner, Shirley Baker, for the purpose of changing the Zoning District, on approximately 0.162 acres, from Residential Multiple Family (RMF) to Commercial Professional Office (CPO) for property located at 200 SE 3rd Street. **Legal:** Lot 6 of Block 208, First Addition to Okeechobee, as recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 6, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

All members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate in said Hearing. The entire petition may be inspected during regular business hours, Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm, except for holidays.

The Planning Board's role will be to make a recommendation for approval or denial to the City Council. Final adoption is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED** that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the Planning Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, or hearing will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. General Services media are used for the sole purpose of back-up for the department. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the General Services Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance.

BY: Brian Whitehall, Zoning Administrator  
Petition No. 10-002-R  
348958 ON 3/28;4/7/10

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

**When doing those chores** is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.

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

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

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

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

# Gun rights protected in the Fla. House of Representatives

House Bill 315 sponsored by State Representative Mike Horner (R-Kissimmee) unanimously passed the Florida House of Representatives on Monday.

The bill prohibits adoption agencies from making adoption suitability determinations based on the lawful possession, storage, or use of a firearm or ammunition.

Upon passage of the bill, Representative Horner responded with the following: "Lawful gun ownership should not be used to determine whether someone is suitable to adopt, period."

"As a couple going through the process of adopting, my wife and I have seen first-

hand the hard work and dedication by our adoption workers. They are truly doing the Lord's work. This bill simply stops an unfortunate situation from ever occurring again in Florida."

HB 315 is the result of an affidavit that was being used by a Florida adoption agency that required prospective parents to list any firearms or ammunition in their home. Soon after HB 315 was filed, the adoption agency discontinued use of the affidavit. HB 315 ensures that no such practice will occur again.

## Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Old boys
  - 4 "If I Had a Hammer" singer
  - 9 Lopez
  - 9 To one side
  - 14 Computer program suffix
  - 15 His 2,297 RBI is a major league record
  - 16 Second longest African river
  - 17 Wonderful sheep-fleecing job?
  - 20 Heels
  - 21 Annoy
  - 22 15-Across was one in 21 of his 23 seasons
  - 26 Way cool
  - 27 Org. with some lightweights
  - 30 Sheltered side
  - 31 Wrapped up
  - 33 Part of a celestial shower
  - 35 Offers a view
  - 37 Rodgers's partner before Hammerstein
  - 38 Gets Dolly the sheep to defect?
  - 42 Old VHS alternative
  - 43 Pack animals
  - 44 Enter anew
  - 47 Quick cut
  - 48 Sitter's challenge
  - 51 Letters before a pseudonym
  - 52 Syncopated musical work
  - 54 Cause to reel
  - 56 Pursues
  - 59 German bread
  - 60 Use a young sheep as a beast of burden?
  - 65 Noodle products?
  - 66 Carpentry pin
  - 67 Glasgow negative
  - 68 Man with a mission
  - 69 Ivory's partner, in song
  - 70 Start of an afterthought

- 39 Went after
- 40 Send out
- 41 Seville snack
- 42 Top of a two-piece
- 45 Commend
- 46 It's right on the map
- 48 Critter in a Tennessee Williams title
- 49 "Gypsy" star, 1959
- 50 Delved into
- 53 Crystal-lined rock
- 55 Toothpaste type
- 57 Listen to
- 58 Start to appeal?
- 60 Waiter's reward
- 61 Nabokov novel
- 62 Tango complement
- 63 Egg source
- 64 English cathedral town

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

[xwordeditor@aol.com](mailto:xwordeditor@aol.com)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15					16				
17			18					19				
20						21						
22			23	24	25	26			27	28	29	
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By Sefton Boyars

# Brahman boys tennis defeats Hardee Wildcats

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee seniors stepped up in a ma-

major way Thursday as the Brahman boys tennis team won their final home match of the season, 6-1, over the Hardee Wildcats.

Zach Fowler, Jonathan Hudoff, Chris

Wegmann and Austin Willard all won their singles matches while Max Norman teamed with Willard to win one of the doubles matches.

"This was essentially our senior night and our seniors stepped it up," Coach Bryan Van Camp said, "I was pleased that Norman and Willard did well because this is the first time I've paired them together."

Fowler defeated Juan Mier 6-0 and 6-3. Kyle Bodeck of Hardee defeated Norman in the number 2 singles match 6-2 and 6-1. Hudoff bested Justin Fones 6-2 and 6-4 and Willard defeated Dominique Allen 6-3 and 6-1. Wegmann defeated Matt Godwin 6-4 and 6-0.

In doubles Fowler teamed with Hudoff to defeat Mier and Allen 8-4. Norman and Willard defeated Bodeck and Fones 8-4.

Wegmann was very pleased with his singles victory in the number 5 singles. He has won three matches in his first year on the tennis team. He said he's enjoyed being on the team because everyone has good attitude and the team has a lot of fun together. He also praised Coach Van Camp for teaching him a lot about the game. "Our record is not so good but the Coach has helped me get better. It's a lot of fun to be out here," he said.

Wegmann said he has been working on his ground strokes, back hand and serve on a daily basis. He said he plans to work every day on Spring Break this week to get ready for districts.

"I think the team will be ready. We have

two more matches after the break. I'm pretty excited. I'll go as far as I can in districts," he added.

Okeechobee will play at Sebastian River on Thursday, April 8.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Zach Fowler won his final home match as a senior in straight sets Thursday.

# OHS girls tennis team blasts Hardee

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Samantha Rivero continued a strong freshman season with a shutout victory over her opponent to lead Okeechobee High School (2-7) to a home victory over Hardee in girls tennis action played Thursday at the Okeechobee Sports Complex. Rivero defeated Summer Palmer 6-0 and 6-0 in singles and teamed with Jenna Rath to defeat Palmer and Kate Krause 8-1 in her doubles match.

Rivero improved to (5-2) on the season. "I felt like I played pretty good today. There are still things I can work on though." Rivero mixed in a number of different serves to keep her opponent off balance. After a long first game where Sam broke Palmer's serve, she had few problems. Rivero did not face a single break point on her serve for the entire match. "I didn't change my game to play my opponents game which I think is a big improvement for me. I felt confident and good today," she said.

In other matches, Katie Walker celebrated what could be her final home match with a marathon three set win over Kate Krause. Walker won 3-6, 6-2, and 6-2 after a shaky first set. Krause did a great job in the first set hitting her first serve. She was able to break Walker in the fourth game and win the set by not making many mistakes.

Things changed in the second and third set as Walker gained confidence and cut down on her mistakes. The level of Krause's play also fell a bit after the first set. Walker fell behind (1-0) in the second set but was able to take over from there with steady ground strokes and fewer mistakes. Walker broke Krause early in the third set and went on from there.

Liz Turner played well in the number 3 singles bracket but fell to Kayla Woods 7-5 and 6-2.

Katherine Ragamat defeated Lindsay Martin in a tight match 7-6 (7-1) and 6-2. Jenna Rather defeated Emily William 6-1 and 6-0 in the final singles match.

Hardee won the second doubles match as Woods and Martin defeated Turner and Vanessa Watt 8-6.

Okeechobee has two regular season matches left before districts. They have a make up match at Fort Pierce Central and a match at Sebastian River on April 8.

Rivero is the top contender for Okeechobee for a singles title this year. She will have tough opponents in Martin County and Lincoln Park Academy. She said she is confident that her game has improved enough to play with the top players around. "If I play my own game I have a good chance to at least challenge those girls. I won't go out there and beat myself. I want them to have to beat me and work for it."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
(left) Samantha Rivero had an easy time as she shut out her opponent on Thursday. (right) Katie Walker played a three set marathon that lasted nearly two hours in her victory over Hardee.

## The Hunt Is On!

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<http://www.myspace.com/extremepformance07>

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Okeechobee  
863-467-2224

# Clock

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Includes Soup or Salad Ice Cream or Pudding  
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**All You Can Eat \$9.99**  
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5. Golden Fish Fillet Sandwich	

All served with fries or onion rings

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