

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 39

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

50¢ Plus tax

Indoor soccer league ... Page 10



Area Easter Events
...Page 5

Lake Levels

14.52 feet
Last Year: 12.20 feet

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Pogey's Family Restaurant
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Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level.

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

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Youth Summit held ... See Page 17

Center may get new well

Livestock prefer well water

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The lack of a pump may be the only hold up to a well at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center that could possibly save taxpayers money.

See CENTER — Page 2

Opinions are mixed on health care law

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

An admittedly limited poll conducted by the Okeechobee News shows mixed opinions on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act recently signed into law by President Barack Obama.

"I think it will bankrupt the U.S.," was the opinion of retired attorney Bill Dover.

He did not know how the new law would affect his Medicare. However, he feared it would reduce the number of doctors available, citing a survey that said one-third of family doctors interviewed would leave the profession.

"There is nothing good in this bill," Mr. Dover said.

He added that it mandated coverage for people who don't need and don't want medical coverage.

"I still have a lot of unanswered questions," said Steve Nelson, owner of Okeechobee Discount Drugs.

He thinks the law needs to be restructured from the bottom up. While he feels for those who do not have insurance, Mr. Nelson is afraid of all the last minute changes made to the law.

Dr. Maged Mehanni is in favor of the new law, both as a patient and as a physician.

"As a patient, I welcome this bill because I and my wife will no

See LAW — Page 2



Special to the Okeechobee News/CAP

CAP model airplane program for cadets
Civil Air Patrol Cadets are testing controls of RC Aircraft they built March 20 and 21. Left to right are Cadet Womble, Cadet Allen, Cadet Miller, Cadet Berry, Cadet Heil. For more, see story on Page 16.

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LAW

Continued From Page 1

longer be excluded from having health care insurance on the basis of a pre-existing condition," said Dr. Mehanni. "As a physician, I welcome this bill because my uninsured patients will be able to get affordable health care. Just this month I spent a week trying unsuccessfully to find a neurosurgeon or facility for a 33-year-old patient with a brain tumor. Why was no one interested in seeing or treating him? He had no insurance."

"Do we need health care reform in this country?" asked Dr. Mehanni. "Absolutely! Is this plan the solution to what ails us? Time will tell, and if not, it is at least a good start!"

The opposite opinion was expressed by another physician.

"I personally think it's too expensive," asserted Dr. Kenneth Haas.

He fears it will dilute health care, and would require 40,000 new doctors. He predicted that a lot of doctor's offices would fold because of a 21 percent cutback in Medicare reimbursements.

Dr. Haas also fears that he would see a larger number of patients and, with a cut-

back in his income, he would not be able to hire more employees to handle the increase. He has a small volume practice and fears he would be hurt tremendously.

"I'm not against revamping health care," Dr. Haas added.

However, he feels, reform should come in two areas. The first area is regulation of insurance the same way doctors are regulated. He would also like to see more reform in the legal system.

While Dr. Haas admitted that some doctors do make mistakes and should be held accountable, he feels the malpractice situation has gone too far.

A spokesperson for Raulerson Hospital said that while individual HCA (the parent company of Raulerson) hospitals are not commenting, the policy of HCA is to support the position of the American Federation of Hospitals. That organization favors the new law because they feel it provides more comprehensive and efficient health coverage.

John Burton of the Okeechobee County Health Department did not know yet what affect the new law would have on the operation of his department.

Negative opinions have also been expressed on the state and national level.

"The Democratic leadership ignored the

American people and instead chose to give the president a political win," Congressman Tom Rooney said in a statement issued after he voted against the bill. "I am committed to ensuring that the most catastrophic portions of the bill -- such as the individual mandate, the crippling cuts of Medicare and huge tax increases are repealed. This infringement of individual liberty will not be tolerated, and the states are already threatening to fight back.

"This government takeover of the health care industry is not the 'reform' the people wanted and will not lower costs or increase access to care, my neighbors in Florida and all Americans deserve better," he added.

Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum joined with attorneys general of 12 other states -- South Carolina, Nebraska, Texas,

Utah, Louisiana, Alabama, Colorado, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Washington, Idaho and South Dakota -- in a lawsuit contesting the constitutionality of the law.

"This bipartisan effort by attorneys general around the country should put the federal government on notice that we will not tolerate the constitutional rights of our citizens and the sovereignty of our states to be trampled on," said Mr. McCollum.

The suit charges that the new law infringes upon the constitutional rights of all citizens by mandating health care coverage. It further claims the law infringes on the sovereignty of the states by imposing onerous new operating rules and unfunded mandates.

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

CENTER

Continued From Page 1

It seems that livestock are picky about the water they drink, and prefer well water over Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) water. This poses a problem for horses and other livestock at the ag center, according to interim ag center director Larry Davis.

In many cases he said livestock exhibitors -- such as those taking part in the recent youth livestock show -- bring water to the facility every day and either give it directly to the animals or mix it with OUA water. Mr. Davis said livestock will not drink very much water if all they have is OUA water. In some cases they have been used to drinking well water and are not at the ag center long enough to get used to OUA water.

Okeechobee County Commissioner Ray Domer, who is also in the well drilling business, has agreed to donate his services to drill a well at the ag center. All that would be needed would be a pump. Mr. Domer is hoping someone else would be willing to donate a pump.

Mr. Davis said the facility already has a

consumptive use permit from the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

In addition to watering livestock, a well could be used to wash livestock and dampen the arena to cut down on dust. This would lessen the amount of OUA water used.

Another consideration for a well could be to provide potable water for a hurricane shelter at the ag center in order for the shelter to be self sufficient.

If a well were to provide potable water, the facility would not have to rely on OUA for water. That would result in a savings of the OUA base rate that the facility is charged during the time the ag center is not in use.

If a well and pump were donated, the only cost to the county for water would be the electricity to run the pump.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Monday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 4-3-0; **Play 4:** 9-5-8-5; **Fantasy 5:** 4-6-25-31-32; **Mega Money:** 2-13-30-35 MB 12; **Florida Lotto:** 1-4-9-16-46-52 X 2; **Powerball:** 7-21-32-44-52 PB10 x4. Numbers drawn Tuesday, **Cash 3:** 9-1-3; **Play 4:** 2-9-2-8.

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The Dots Move

Starting Thursday, April 1st

30%

Pink

30%

Blue

50%

Orange

50%

Green

70%

Gray

95%

Lavender

Save up to **95% off**

find a dot **SAVE A LOT**

Okeechobee woman charged with kicking deputy

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee woman has been arrested and charged with hitting a disabled stroke victim as well as kicking a deputy.

Loretta Joy Marr, 52, S.E. 27th St., was arrested Saturday, March 27, on felony



Loretta Joy Marr

charges of battery on a person 65 years of age or older, battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting a law enforcement officer with violence. She was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of battery.

Marr was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$22,500.

An arrest report by Deputy Arlene Durbin, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that Marr was arrested after

she struck the 69-year-old stroke victim. The report indicated the man suffered a cut on his arm, ear and chin and that there were scratches on his chest.

Deputy Durbin's report goes on to state that Marr also attacked the man's daughter by grabbing her by the back of her neck. The daughter, who is also handicapped, had scratches on the back of her neck and on her arm, the report added.

When Deputy Durbin, along with fellow OCSO Deputy Donald Ellis, tried to arrest Marr she allegedly resisted. According to the arrest report, when they tried to put the now-handcuffed woman into Deputy Durbin's car she kicked Deputy Ellis in the chest and stomach and then tried to bite him.

The deputies were forced to place a strap around the woman's legs to restrain her, added the report.

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).

- Benjamin Acosta, 34, N. 23rd St., Tampa, was arrested March 26 by Deputy John Ashby on a felony charge of possession of cocaine and a misdemeanor charge of driving while license suspended with knowledge. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Samantha Jean Rubino, 23, N.E. First St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 26 by Officer Phillip Eddings on a charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. Her bond was set at \$5,000.

- Eric Lee Gaucin, 31, N.W. First St.,

Okeechobee, was arrested March 26 by FHP Lieutenant C. Cribbs on a charge of possession of controlled substance without a prescription and driving while license suspended/revoked - habitual offender. His bond was set at \$6,500.

- Melinda Josephine Fredricks, 28, Fifth Court, Vero Beach, was arrested March 26 by Deputy S. Pollock on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with violation of probation - possession of drug paraphernalia. She is being held without bond.

- Marc Jonathon Macias, 22, N.W. Fifth St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 27 by Sergeant Victoria Williams on charges of driving under the influence and reckless driving. His bond was set at \$1,000.

- Mauro Seca Jr., 25, N.E. 12th Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested March 28 by Deputy John Hazy on an Okeechobee County

warrant charging him with failure to appear - driving while license suspended - habitual offender. He is being held without bond.

- Thomas Allen Martin, 22, N.E. 138th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 28 by FHP Trooper T. D. Burk on felony charges of leaving the scene of a crash without rendering aid and reckless driving with serious bodily injury. He was also charged with the misdemeanors of driving while license suspended with knowledge and financial responsibility for bodily injury. His bond was set at \$1,750.

- Davey Lee Snow, 28, Canal Way Road, Buckhead Ridge, was arrested March 29 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on a Department of Corrections warrant charging him with violation of probation - (felony) driving while license suspended (three counts). He is being held without bond.

- John Stover, 35, 76th St., Live Oak, was arrested March 29 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - grand theft. He is being held without bond.

- James Ward, 39, Minnesota Ave., St. Cloud, was arrested March 29 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence and violation of probation - failure to appear. He is being held without bond.

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

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, 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!

Bring in revenue

- Off Road Vehicle parks do not have to destroy land or nature if they are run correctly. Look at Ocala National Park and the Everglades. Both can co-exist. What is your idea to keep Okeechobee from going bust on the budget, with no money for the library, cutbacks in senior aid, loss of jobs, loss of businesses and so on?

- Okeechobee needs revenue. Businesses are closing because there are not enough paying customers. The people who are left cannot afford to just keep paying higher taxes. Many people are out of work already or working at minimum wage jobs because that is all they could find. Our winter resident population is much less than it was 10 or even 5 years ago. Property values have declined. We need to find ways to bring more jobs here. I think all suggestions should be considered.

- Look around at other areas and see what brings in people. What can we do here to bring in revenue? We need new ideas.

Socialism

- NOTHING in HR 3962 kicks in immediately save for taxes and constraints on Health Insurance. You will not receive any relief until 2014. Also, doctors face a 21 percent cut in their reimbursements from Medicare based on a federal budget law that sets physician payments based on other economic factors. In past years, Congress has routinely waived such cuts. The House passed a bill to again postpone the cuts but a similar attempt in the Senate stalled. Many physicians and health professionals worry that the reimbursement reductions could cause doctors to see fewer Medicare patients, so that route may be soon closed to you

- Republicans call the health care bill as Socialism. Is Social Security not Socialism? Is free public education not Socialism? Is Medicare not Socialism? Is bailout of Wall Street crooks not Socialism?

- It's a shame this thing is going directly along party lines. Just a few years ago Sen. John McCain, and others (Republicans), opposing the then President Clinton health care bill, said everyone should be required to purchase health insurance. Today, those same people (Republicans) are saying it's absurd to require everyone to purchase health insurance. I guess that is because the Democrats proposed it this time, instead of the Republicans.

- Today's Republican Party is the party of the far-right.

- I feel better about being a member of the far right as opposed to "the far WRONG."

Gangs

- The G4L think they are a gang because they can intimidate some others. Some of these punks might need the same to figure out this isn't a game. Nip it in the bud and this problem wouldn't be discussed right now. But some of these parents have a clue and don't care ... or so it seems.

- Maybe the sheriff should do what Pogy Bill did back in the pioneer days. If two boys have a dispute, put them in boxing gloves and make them settle it in the boxing ring. If these guys had to face each other one on one, I think they would find ways to settle things without fighting. And since we now have equal rights for women -- do the same thing with the teenage girls who want to fight each other.

Senate Bill 6

- Come on, Okeechobee County ... support your children and teachers within the public school system. Write to Charlie Crist and let him know how disappointing it is that a bill like this would even get this far. Ask him to VETO the bill, should it pass the Legislature. Express your concerns to: Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com.

Library - keep it open

- As a library patron, I wouldn't mind paying a small annual fee for my library card if that is what it takes to keep the library open. Considering how much books cost, being able to borrow books from the library is a tremendous savings over a year's time.

Letters to the editor

Thank You from O.C.A.

Okeechobee Christian Academy would like to thank everyone who played a part in making the Easter basket give away a success! We were able to make 77 Easter baskets for children in our community who may not have otherwise received an Easter Basket. Each basket was loaded with goodies such as books, toys, pencils, candy, snack cakes and stuffed animals. We want to say a special thank you to Seacoast National Bank, SunTrust and Riverside National Bank for their support and to everyone else who anonymously gave so generously to fill up all of these baskets. We would also like to acknowledge Big Lake Missions for accepting the baskets and distributing them to the appropriate families. The students had a great time assembling the baskets and feel so blessed to have the opportunity to give back to the community in a way that honors and glorifies God! If you would like to know more about Okeechobee Christian Academy please visit our website at: www.okeechobeechristianacademy.net

Have a blessed Easter!
Okeechobee Christian Academy



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sarah Reno Sarah and Karson Reno from Okeechobee Christian Academy present Mary-Ann Swinford from Big Lake Missions with Easter baskets.

Change

Have you noticed a change in your trust of government?
Do you find you trust your elected officials

less to tell the truth? Is our republic headed into crisis or is there? Is the constitution being transformed into a socialist doctrine and not based on the ideas of freedom of the individual? Is the national debt sustainable?

Who will pay this national debt off if expenditures continue at the existing rate? If we can pay it off in the next two or three generations how much more change could we stand? Just a few of the questions that I hear being asked these days. That the concept for those who had few hopes for their future would, through change, realize it. Now the word, hope, seems to be more synonymous with: I hope I do not lose my job, home, car and that I can feed my family.

The words of "change and hope" were used without exploitation of the details. Those who listened were just considered for the most part, dopes for not asking the question, "What does that mean?" Just listen to the lies promise anything, because the end result wanted will be justified by any means used.

Consideration of the founding principals was no longer a concern only the creation of a bright future.

So what example was needed to reach the bright new future surely not each to his own based on their ability and contribution.

Look to the past at the success of other great leaders including Mao, Marx, Castro and Stalin for they may be the answer to the change. This is the direction that so many in government would like to take. Those who listened to the promise of change and hope now are opening their eyes and ears. Those who once were considered dopes are opening their mouths and expressing an opinion in place of silence.

Those who underestimated are no longer dopes, but those who underestimated them. Now is the time for rekindling the spirit of freedom. Regardless of which, if any political party you may belong, now is the time to come together and be heard as, "We the People." The thought that this is an issue for, "We will remember in November" may be too late then. Now is the time to be vocal and express dissatisfaction with the direction of our republic, if you so feel. At the existing rate of expenditures the republic will be financially destroyed for decades, if it is not already.

It is now time to say, "No more" to all elected officials.

Tom Murphy
Okeechobee

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D
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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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Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.

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Staff

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Editor: Katrina Elskan
Circulation Manager: Janet Madray
Publisher: Tom Byrd

Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge...

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

- 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



Easter Happenings

Maundy Thursday worship

Peace Lutheran Church, 750 N.W. 23rd Lane, will serve soup and sandwiches on Maundy Thursday, **April 1**, at 6 p.m. with Worship and Holy Communion to follow at 7 p.m. **Good Friday Worship, April 2**, will be at 6 p.m. **Easter Sunrise Service** will be at 6:30 a.m. with breakfast to follow. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children in grades Pre-K through 5. **Easter Celebration and Worship** will be at 10:30 a.m. The annual Prayer Vigil will begin on Maundy Thursday, beginning after the 7 p.m. service and will continue until noon on Good Friday. Everyone is invited to any and all of the events.

Church to offer Tenebrae Service

Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Ave., will offer a Tenebrae Service on Thursday, **April 1**, at 7 p.m. This is a service of light and shadows remembering the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Easter Sunday** worship will be at 10:30 a.m. **St. Stephen A.M.E. Church**, 831 N.E. 16th Ave., will have a **Good Friday Service, April 2**, beginning at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service

The Okeechobee Ministerial Association will sponsor an **Easter Sunrise Service** at Jaycees Park beginning at 6:30. Members of the community choir and area ministers will be participating. Rev. Cary McKee of More 2 Life will be the speaker. Bring your own chair and come as you are.

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!

Eagles Club to host Easter party

The Okeechobee Fraternal Order of Eagles #4137 will host a children's Easter party on Saturday, **April 3** from 1 until 3 p.m. The party is for children ages 12 and under. Those who wish to attend must sign up no later than Thursday, April 1. Refreshments, baskets provided. Come and hunt for eggs!

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.

Eagles Ladies Auxiliary to host Easter Breakfast

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Ladies Auxiliary will host an Easter Breakfast event on Sunday, **April 4**, from 9 until 11 a.m. Donation will be just \$5. The breakfast will take place at 9985 Hwy 441 North.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 78. Calm wind becoming north northwest around 5 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 48. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 81. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph.

Thursday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57. East wind around 6 mph becoming calm.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 84. Calm wind becoming east around 6 mph.

Friday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 61. East wind between 4 and 7 mph becoming calm.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 85. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 86. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

Area churches plan spring events

By Pete Gawda

Okeechobee News

Faith Baptist Institute is holding enrollment for the second semester. Early enrollment discount is good until March 31. Classes start Aug. 16. Final enrollment is Aug. 1. If you are interested in acquiring more knowledge about the Holy Bible, contact Pastor Gilbert, New Testament Baptist Church, 863-763-6682.

The Story of Jesus is once again being put on at the **Hardee County Cattleman's Arena**, 507 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula. The dates are: **Friday April 2; Saturday, April 3; Friday, April 9; Saturday, April 10; Friday, April 16; Saturday, April 17; Friday April 23; and Saturday, April 24.** All performances start at 7:30 p.m. and are about three hours long, including intermission. The volunteer cast of 225 people comes from nearly 40 different churches. The 250 foot set uses 150 animals. Tickets can be ordered by going to www.storyofjesus.com. Tickets are \$18.50 for adults, \$16.50 for children, \$14.50 for end sections and \$18.50 for handicapped.

Grace Brethren Church, 701 S. Parrott Ave., will have a free family movie night, Friday, **April 9**, at 7 p.m. The movie "The Lost and Found Family" is a great reminder to look beyond ourselves to the needs of others. Ellen Bryn of TV's "St. Elsewhere" and Lucas Till of "Hannah Montana: The Move," star in this drama of transformed lives.



Places of Worship

Share your news and photos for this column by email to pgawda@newszap.com

Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church, 200 N.W. Third St., is holding a fund raiser on **April 10**, from 4 to 8 p.m. to benefit the ministries of the church. The event is called Island Party and will feature the local steel drum band, the Chobee Steelers. This band has recently participated in a major competition in Jacksonville where they won first place. The menu consists of jerked pork, peas and rice or Caribbean rice and plantains. Tickets are \$10 per person which includes entertainment. Takeouts are available but no delivery. Tickets are on sale now at the church office.

Fort Drum Community Church, 32415 U.S. 441 N. is sponsoring the 18th Annual Fort Drum Day Saturday, **April 10**, starting at 11 a.m. Bring a favorite dish and/or dessert. There will be live music, free barbecue, cake bake off, a kids pie eating contest, horse shoe contest and prizes. For more information call 863-467-1733.

First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St., will be sponsoring a Mother Daughter Friend Luncheon on **May 1**. Speakers will be Donna Robards and Karen Schaffer from Women's Refuge of Vero Beach. Tickets are \$5. A love offering will also be taken for your choice of the Women's Refuge or the Pregnancy Center. For more information, call 863-697-0469 or 863-763-8865.

The Okeechobee News welcomes news

from area churches for this column. E-mail pgawda@newszap.com or call Pete Gawda at 863-763-3134, extension 4225. The deadline to receive information to appear in Wednesday's column is 5 p.m. the Monday before.

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. 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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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.

Leatha 'Pat' Powell, 54

OKEECHOBEE — Leatha "Pat" Powell, age 54, of Okeechobee, passed away March 26, 2010, at Raulerson Hospital.

Born Sept. 10, 1955, to the late Emory and Kathryn Smith she came to Okeechobee from Ft. Pierce in 1984.

Mrs. Powell is survived by her companion, Jerry Sterling; her children, Allen Powell (Melyssa) of Okeechobee, Mike Powell (Lisa) of Okeechobee, Shawn Powell (Jodi) of Madison and Katie Hamner (Quinton) of Okeechobee; sisters, Nancy Pettey of Fort Pierce, Ellen Lewis (Robert) of Texas and Betty Arnold (Chet) of Gainesville; brothers, John David Smith of Vero Beach; Lloyd Smith and Billy Bohannon Smith; special friends she claimed as her own, Chris Kelley and J.D. Davis; grandchildren, Chris, Pixie, Dustin, Charity, Matthew, Austin, Dylan, Sarah, Chace, Sierra, Aaron, Preston, Gauge and (Granny's name-sake baby) Leann Patricia, Blaton, and Quinton Jr.; sister-in-law, Judy Smith.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Preston Powell and her brother, Robert Smith.

Visitation will be 4 p.m. until services at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 30, at Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home with Pastor David Burney officiating.

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

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 NE 2nd ST, Okeechobee, FL 34972.



Edgar L. Thomas, 58

OKEECHOBEE — Edgar L. Thomas, age 58, of Okeechobee, passed away March 26, 2010, at Raulerson Hospital.

Born August 25, 1951, in Sebring to Eddie and Marjorie Thomas he was raised in Okeechobee.

He was an owner/operator in the truck driving industry. Mr. Thomas was a member of the Church of God of Prophecy. He loved frog hunting, fishing and boating. He enjoyed the outdoors.

Mr. Thomas is survived by his wife, Rita Thomas; daughter, Lisa Thomas Alderman (Richard); son, Tristen T. Thomas; two grandchildren, Kayla and Karla Alderman; mother, Marjorie McClure; four brothers, Roy Thomas (Colleen), Leon Thomas (Sandy), William Thomas and William McClure (Cheryl); three sisters, Susie Sellers (Wilburn), Esta Huls (Jamie) and Debbie Arnold all of Okeechobee; several special nieces and nephews and many friends.

Visitation was 9 a.m. until services at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at Church of God of Prophecy with Pastor Mike Bevis officiating. Interment followed at Basinger Cemetery.

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

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 NE 2nd ST, Okeechobee, FL 34972.



Community Events

Eagles Club to host Steak Night

The Fraternal Order of Eagles, #4137 will host Steak Night beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, **April 2** beginning at 5:30 p.m. Diners include steak, salad, baked potato or sweet potato, garlic bread and desert. Donation is \$12. Live entertainment included from 7 until 11 p.m.

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.

Benefit to help local family

On Saturday, **April 3**, a benefit will be held for the family of Justin Sadler who at the age of 15, recently passed away in his sleep. The family is in need of assistance for funeral expenses for their son. The event will be held at the VFW 10539, 3912 Hwy 441 S.E. at 2 p.m. and will include food, music, an auction and prize drawings.

Shrine Club presents Dinner dance

The Okeechobee Shrine Club will present The Ages of Music Dinner and Dance on Saturday, April 10, beginning at 6 p.m. with dinner including chicken and ribs. The show begins at 7 p.m. Dancing will include music from the Big Band era, swing, rock and roll, doo-wop, country soul and pop. A special visit from "The King - Elvis" will also be included. Tickets for the event are \$15 and proceeds will benefit Shriners activities. For ticket information, please call 863-763-3378

Real Life Children's Ranch plan 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).

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

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Eli Renfranz

6/22/1990 - 4/1/2008

Another year has come and gone. Your family and friends will always miss you. You could be so funny, so impetuous and yet so caring and loving...and serious. Your friends are growing up, and the whole family takes joy in their steps. Remember that we often think of all the people that Eli touched in his life here -- there are so many that we must not know. Our thanks and love go to all of you. You make our lives such a joy!

Safely Home by Jon Mohr
Children, precious children, I know you're shaken.

A loved one taken.

Oh, but hear me. Come, draw near me.

Their pain is passed now.

They rest at last now, safely home.

They are strong and free.

They are safe with Me.

This life is nearly shadow.

Today there's sorrow, but joy tomorrow.

Safely home, safely home.

One day you'll join them, all together;

This time forever,

Safely home, safely home.

Okeechobee city councilman issues census challenge

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee City Councilman Dowling Watford has a personal reason to wish for a high return rate on Okeechobee census forms.

In addition to all the usual reasons for completing the census form including its bearing on federal funding and representation in Congress, Mr. Watford hopes to win a wager. He recently issued a challenge to fellow members of the Treasure Coast Re-

gional League of Cities to see which city would have the highest rate of returned census forms. If any of the other 12 cities in the league wins, Mr. Dowling will take that city's league representative to dinner either at Lightsey's or Cowboys. In turn if the City of Okeechobee has the highest percentage of returned census forms, the league would take Mr. Watford to dinner at Hammerhead's Billiards.

The councilman said his proposition sparked a lot of response in the league. He

said the representative from Orchid, a small gated community near Vero Beach with about 300 people, said she would personally contact each person in Orchid to mail in their census form.

Mr. Watford said many people do not realize the importance of completing and mailing in the census form. He added that some people have a fear of any form that comes from the government.

"It's extremely important," Mr. Watford said of filling out the ten question census

form. "It's simpler than it has ever been."

Citizens are urged to complete the form and mail it in by April 1.

The Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities is made of representatives from Fellsmere, Sebastian, Orchid, Indian River Shores, Vero Beach, Fort Pierce, St. Lucie Village, Port St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Stuart, Sewall's Point, Ocean Breeze Park and Jupiter Island.

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



Special to the Okeechobee News/Humane Society Pet Rescue

Pet of the Week

Duke, a young Australian Cattle Dog, would be a great edition to any home. The neutered pet adoption fee is \$135. Contact the Okeechobee Pet Rescue at 863-357-1104 for more information.

Community News

Blood drives

Florida Blood Centers upcoming Blood Drives in Okeechobee will include the following dates and locations:

April 2, Good Friday, at Publix 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 15, Thursday, KOA, 10 a.m. - 4 a.m.

April 18, Sunday, Golden Corral, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

April 22, Thursday, Okeechobee High School, 8 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

April 28, Saturday, Wal Mart - 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Red Cross plans classes for April

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will be holding the follow-

ing 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.

Fundraiser to benefit KOA Kids Care Camp

A spaghetti dinner will be held at Good Spir- its Lounge 245 Hwy 441 SE. 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.

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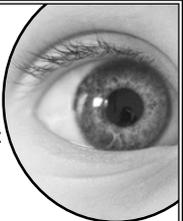


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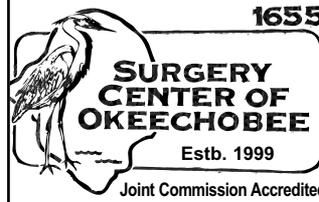


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Satellite hands Brahmans diamond loss Saturday

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Brahman bats continued to struggle Saturday as they lost to Satellite, 3-2, in Brevard County.

All of the runs scored in the game were actually unearned as Okeechobee and Satellite each committed three fielding errors.

Each team also used a suicide squeeze to score a run in the game.

"I don't think either team wanted to win," Brahman Coach Dylan Tedders said. "It was a decent game with decent pitching. For some reason we just can't score runs when Jonathan Crawford is on the mound."

As many as 10 college and pro scouts have watched Crawford pitch in a game this year. He allowed just three hits and struck out six.

Despite an earned run average of 0.81, Crawford has won just two of his six decisions.

At the plate Drew Selvey went 1-3 with a run scored. Aaron Suarez went 1 for 3. Dalton Murray had a pinch single to deliver a run to give Okeechobee (9-4), a 2-1 lead in the fifth.

Satellite (6-8) scored twice in the bottom of the fifth inning. After a lead off walk, a throwing error put two runners aboard in scoring position. A base hit scored the tying run and the winning run scored on a suicide squeeze.

Tedders said he's been disappointed that many of his older hitters have not enjoyed good years. Several have struggled to make contact, and have not done a good job with situational hitting, particularly when they fall behind in the count.

"The kid's timing is off and many of them are not producing. I played some of them for three years and I had hoped by now they'd be good to go. Some of the younger guys have done a better job of making contact," he said.

Tedders said he planned to give more opportunities to players like Murray, Austin Hamilton and Tyler Finney because they do a better job of putting the ball in play. He has also encouraged his older players to try and battle more at the plate and work on their hitting mechanics.

"Were just lucky enough to have guys on the bench this year that can actually get something done," he added.

Okeechobee will play 11 games in 18 days after Spring Break so there will be a lot of opportunities for some of the younger players. He said he and the coaching staff must come up with the best group that can get the team through their district tournament to the regional.

"I've told the kids that right now we won't get out of our district unless we start to battle a little more at the plate," he said.

Okeechobee's game Friday at Westwood was postponed by rain. The Brahmans next home game is Saturday, April 10 against Island Coast.

Three girls make all star game

By Charles M. Murphy

Three Brahman seniors will play in a Treasure Coast All Star basketball Game Wednesday at Indian River State College.

Coach Tony Sherlock said Keighly Stewart, Jewel Buck and Markeisha Youmans had all been named to the all star squad.

"I'm excited and happy for them. It gives the girls another chance to play," he said.

Sherlock recently announced he would not return as Coach. A search for his successor is underway.

Youmans and Stewart have been looked

at by college recruiters and Wednesday's game should give them some exposure.

The girls game begins at 6 p.m. at the Fort Pierce campus. Teams from the Treasure Coast will be split up into North and South squads.

Sherlock agreed this was one of the best senior classes in recent Okeechobee history.

They have had two winning seasons in a row under Sherlock.

A boys basketball all star game will begin at 7:30 p.m. immediately after the girls all star game.

Enjoy the warm weather by boating safely

With winter's chill finally in retreat, cabin fever overtakes many Floridians and visitors from Key West to Pensacola. Many are eager to get outside, and boaters are making plans to take their vessels out for a weekend adventure.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) urges boaters not to let cabin fever make them too hasty or risk ruining their day on the water.

"Enjoy the day by remembering a few safety precautions, such as remaining alert while operating a boat and wearing your life jacket," said Capt. Carol Keyser of the FWC's Boating and Waterways Section. "Check your boating safety equipment before you leave the dock, so you are ready for any problems

which may arise on the water."

According to the FWC, inattentiveness of the operator usually cause boating accidents, and statistics show that more than half the boating-related deaths reported last year were attributed to drowning and may have been avoided had the victims been wearing life jackets.

"The combination of paying better attention, abiding by the navigation rules and wearing life jackets all the time while on the water could result in fewer injuries and deaths each year," Keyser said.

The FWC encourages Floridians to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather on the water, but cautions, "Do so safely."



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Youth basketball league enters second year



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Lakeside Kings players are back this season for a second go around. In the back row are: Myron Refoure, Raheem Matchett, TJ Smith and Tyrell Taylor. In the front row are: Eddie Neal, Felton Johnson, Tyler Smith and Datron Smith.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Lakeside Kings youth basketball league had a successful debut last year and now they want to build on that success.

Practice began recently for three teams who will compete in tournaments around Florida this spring and summer.

Bruce Snell will coach a team of boys 12 and under. Sylvester Whittaker will coach a team of 16 and under. Myron Refoure will coach a team of boys 14 and under.

"All of the teams are loaded with talent," Refoure noted, "The talent is once in a lifetime. Right now we need to take advantage of it."

The teams always need support and donations from the community. Refoure said if you are interested in helping the youth basketball

program you can donate to the Chaka Stars Program. They are a non profit organization devoted to assisting the youth in Okeechobee.

Refoure said the donations will go to help the team pay for travel expenses.

Refoure said one of the teams made a run in the state tournament last year and finished fifth overall. They also competed in tournaments in Palm Beach County, the Treasure Coast, Desoto County and the State tournament in Orlando.

One of the teams finished (7-3) last year. That team lost to the Orlando Gators in the State Semifinals. Orlando went on to capture the state title in that age group.

He said he expects the teams will all do well in 2010. "The kids are working hard. I think we'll be successful. Right now the focus

is team basketball and working together."

Refoure said all of the adults involved in the program find the experience very rewarding. He noted as a top high school football player at Hardee High School a few years ago he received advice and mentoring from good men, and he has wanted to help kids here get the same assistance.

"It just gives back what I received. I want to give back to every kid in this community and try to keep them off the streets," he added.

The goal of the program was to keep kids in productive environments and off the streets and away from crime and even gang activity. Refoure said he thinks the program is working. "I think it's a good thing. We've gotten the community involved. It's a good thing and it's taken off."

Talented softball star battles illness

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Taylor Douglas expected her junior year to be just another step in her mission to become one of the best softball players in Florida.

The talented catcher had already made a name for herself in her first two years of varsity competition. Her homerun in the championship game and great all around play throughout the year helped Okeechobee win a district championship when she was a freshman. Last year she continued to improve at the plate and in the field and had become a team leader.

Then she was hit with one of the most under diagnosed illnesses in the United States called Adrenal Fatigue Syndrome. AFS comes from a failure of the adrenal glands to efficiently produce hormones. The medical website jigsaw health reports that adrenal glands secrete cortisol, a hormone fundamental to have optimal health. Cortisol is essential to help our bodies cope with stress and to fight infections.

"This past year has been one of the hardest years of my life," Douglas said, "I've learned a lot about myself and I've learned a lot about my teammates. I've had to be supportive of them in other ways because I can't play. I try to be as close to them as I can."

Douglas tries to attend as many games as possible and is often in the dugout trying to brighten the mood and encourage her friends.

Earlier in the year she had trouble finding the energy to travel to away games. She said she has done what she could to help the team so she can compensate for not playing this year.

"I want to play this year but it's just not going to happen. I now look at things from a new point of view. It has been a learning experience," she added.

Symptoms of the illness include fatigue, light headedness, lowered blood pressure, and even difficulty in concentrating and remembering. Douglas does not attend school and is taught at home by her Coach Heather Gillis. She is on the medical home bound program. She said she has kept up with her school work despite her illness.

She thanks her family for their support, as well as her coaches and teammates. "My Family has given me great support. They are doing as well as could be expected. It's a struggle for everyone. My family has risen to the occasion and been there for me. I couldn't ask for a more supportive family, be it my softball family or my real family."

Douglas plans to return to softball next fall if things go well. She has come a long way after a long off season of illness and sickness. She spent eight days in the hospital. Doctors have told her she can't run and can't exercise. She said she is recuperating and making progress and even has little bursts of energy she likes to take advantage of.

"I was sick for a really long time with various things. My body just couldn't keep up with my sicknesses. Things are getting better and hopefully I'll be back sooner than later," she added.

Douglas admits she doesn't take as many things for granted as she used to. She said little things matter to her. "I was harder on myself in the past. I appreciate things more now because I realize they can be gone as soon as they are given to me."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Taylor Douglas (Center) is flanked by softball teammates Naomi Stevens (left) and Courtney Wilson (right) along with Megan Hargraves (front).

BIRTHS

DOMINICK WHITTEN

Kayla Patterson and Levi Whitten are proud to announce the arrival of Dominick Conner Whitten, who was born February 21, 2010 at 11:16 a.m. in Jupiter Medical Center. Dominick weighed 7 lbs 14 oz and was 20.5 inches long at birth. His maternal grandparents are Larry and Lareta Comer, and his paternal grandmother is Lori Edwards.



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Restoration creates access for recreation to river

Boaters and outdoor enthusiasts have a new public recreation spot for access to the restored Kissimmee River as a result of today's opening of the new Istokpoga Canal Boat Ramp Area. Developed in partnership by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the area northwest of Lake Okeechobee features boat and airboat ramps, picnic shelters and tables, bathrooms, grills, lights and ample parking.

"We are thrilled to see this new public recreation area come to life," said SFWMD Governing Board member Joe Collins. "The new boat ramps provide wonderful access to the restored portion of the historic Kissimmee River and its amazing resurgence of wildlife."

The new public recreation area is a component of the state-federal restoration partnership to return flow to 43 miles of the historic river, which was cut and dredged in the 1960s into a 30-foot deep straightaway known as the C-38 Canal. Since 2001, 24 miles of the river have been returned to their natural, meandering flow from Lake Kissimmee to Lake Okeechobee.

For boaters, it is a short 1.5-mile trip from the Istokpoga Canal Boat Ramp Area to the restored section of the Kissimmee River, where scientists recently reported a greater than five-fold increase in the number of wading birds foraging within the river's floodplain since restoration began. This past fall, record numbers of the federally endangered wood stork were observed feeding within the restored area, with some flocks containing more than 200 birds.

"Along with our work to restore the historic river, it gives us great pleasure to build features like the Istokpoga Boat Ramp and Park," said Stu Appelbaum, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, deputy for restoration program management. "This will provide opportunities for people to enjoy nature and the abundant wildlife that's already returning to the Kissimmee River."

Fishing enthusiasts, horseback riders,

hikers, picnic goers, bird-watchers and photographers can find something appealing about the 18-acre area, which also offers trail access to the Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area.

Located near the border between Highlands and Okeechobee counties, the new public area is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and features:

- Two large picnic shelters and 16 picnic tables with accompanying grills;
- A dual-lane boat ramp with a floating dock;
- One ramp designed for airboats;
- 58 parking spaces, including 30 spaces for vehicles with trailers;
- Access for those with special needs;
- Horseback riding and hiking trailhead for the Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area; and,
- Low maintenance to reduce operating costs.

The Istokpoga Canal Boat Ramp Area opening builds on the District's recent efforts to increase recreation on public land. In January, the Governing Board approved a contract to build another new area that improves public access to Lake Kissimmee and its many recreation opportunities. Scheduled to be complete in November 2010, the Lake Kissimmee area will provide boat ramp access for powerboats and airboats and includes a canoe and kayak launch.

To reach the new ramps from Okeechobee, take U.S. Highway 98 N. approximately 25 miles to the Istokpoga Canal Bridge. At the Istokpoga Canal Boat Ramp Area sign, turn right into the facility.

For up-to-date information on navigating the Kissimmee River, contact the Okeechobee Service Center at 863-462-5260 or 800-250-4200, or the Orlando Service Center at 407-858-6100 and 800-250-4250.

For more information on recreational opportunities throughout the District's 16-county region, visit www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SFWMD

The newly opened Istokpoga Boat Ramps are off U.S. Highway 98, about 25 miles north of the intersection of U.S. 98 and S.R. 70 Okeechobee.



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Okeechobee News/Diana Whitehall

Kiwanis meeting

Pictured here from the March 25 Kiwanis meeting Club President, Greg Thogersen, President Elect, Marshall Phillips, the speaker and Red Larson, Kiwanis member. Mr. Phillips, interim pastor and missionary in East Africa for 13 years, talked about the culture in Kenya including their wild animals, elephants and lions and the fact that the movie, "Out of Africa" was made there. Mr. Phillips also entertained the Kiwanis members by singing a song and playing his guitar. He is also quite a comedian relating to the group his famous quote, "The greatest gift of all is laughter."



Special to the Okeechobee News/NES

Spelling champs

North Elementary held its school-wide Spelling Bee on Wednesday, March 24. The winners are: First place: Agustin Antunez, a second grader; Second place: Esmeralda Arias, a fourth grader; Third place: Christine Groso, a third grader; Fourth place: (not pictured) Bianca Torres, a fourth grader. Congratulations to all of our spelling champs.



Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Students of the Week

Central Elementary students selected as this week's students of the week include: kindergarten students, November Chrisley, Robbie Talley, Mariah Simmons, Collin Jones, Christian Cruz, Aven Selph; first graders, Giselle Betancourt, John Gaona, Terrell Fludd, Eric Sandoval, Leon Edward, Nate Watson, Zachary Lomax; second grade students, Chantavia Baul, Jorge Romero, Max Abreu, Xandrea Cea, Anashia Rochelle; third graders, Blanca Gaona, Autumn Allen, Ivy Campbell, Daniela Caballero; fourth grade students, Daniel Fuledda, Alejandro Platero, Jemuel Garin, Adam Godwin. Congratulations to all!



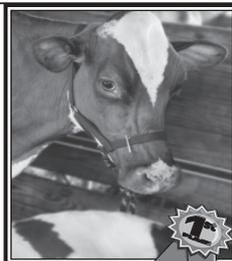
Special to the Okeechobee News/CASTLE

CASTLE helps fight child abuse

For the second consecutive year, PNC-Harbor Foundation recently contributed \$25,000 as the Leadership Donor for the CASTLE's Annual Giving Society Breakfast. The donation presentation served as the kick off to the Annual Giving Campaign for CASTLE's child abuse prevention programs throughout the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee. On March 3, in front of 125 guests, including: PNC participants, (L to R) Allen Osteen, Cynthia Piloni, Joe Shimko, Josh Folds, CASTLE Executive Director Theresa Garbarino-May, Robert Poore, Sara Wingfield, Mike Brown, Sr. Standing at the podium are CASTLE Foundation Board President Joseph DeRoss, Jr., and Governing Board President, Bob Baldassari. The team from PNC Financial Services Group stood proudly as they proclaimed their support for the great work of the CASTLE.

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

New restaurant and billiards parlor opens

David and Anita Nunez proudly announce the opening of their new restaurant-Hammerhead's Billiards, Bar and Grill.

Hammerheads is an upscale sports bar featuring a menu of appetizers, sandwiches, steaks and the freshest fish in town.

The restaurant seats approximately 200 and consists of indoor dining with billiard tables, a dart area and an oval shaped, full service cocktail bar.

Hammerhead's includes a large, outdoor, covered deck overlooking Taylor Creek. The deck is shaded from the outdoor sun and has fans and misters to beat the summer heat.

Dining begins at 11 a.m. seven days per week and closes at midnight Sunday through Thursday and 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Hammerheads is located at 202 NE 7th Ave, 34972 on Taylor Creek in Okeechobee. The telephone number is 863 763-4745.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

On Thursday morning, March 18, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Hammerhead's Billiards, Bar and Grille. Taking part in the ceremony were, left to right: owners David and Anita Nunez, their daughters, Airi, Ali, Ami and Apple; behind the Nunez's; City Clerk Lane Gamiotea, Councilman Noel Chandler, Councilman Mike O'Connor, Commissioner Margaret Garrard Helton, Sheriff Paul May, Councilman Clayton Williams, Mayor James Kirk, who helped Mr. Nunez cut the ribbon, city administrator Brian Whitehall, Commission Chairman Clif Betts, Jr., Councilman Dowling Watford, Councilman Lowery Markham and Larry Henry, manger of Hammerheads.

Coyote Cafe offers Southern food

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

"We always make sure they have plenty to eat," says Jo Burton, owner of Coyote Cafe and Catering at 202 N.E. Second St. She spent 23 years as a police officer until an accident in 2005 ended that career. Instead of taking disability, she went to culinary school.

The Coyote Cafe specializes in what Ms. Burton call "good old Southern cooking." They make their own soups and salads. In fact 90 percent of the items on the menu are made from scratch. The burgers are never frozen. Coyote Cafe is the place to go for quail, frog legs, gator, buttermilk battered fried chicken, meatloaf and shepherd pie. Collards are among the vegetables cooked fresh every day. The cafe has a special every day. The breakfasts include blueberry pancakes and biscuits and gravy. They offer



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

At Coyote Cafe they are ready to serve Southern home cooking three times a day.

delivery service within the city limits.

Coyote Cafe does corporate catering, weddings, birthday parties. It is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

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

Jobless rates drop a bit in February

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

About 100 fewer local residents were unemployed in February as the jobless rate dropped 3/10ths of a point to 13.7 percent.

The Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Center, Local Area Unemployment Program, reported that 2,512 people were out of work last month in Okeechobee. That put Okeechobee tied for 12th highest among the 67 counties in the state.

There were 2,603 residents out of work in January. In February, 2009 there were 1,906 residents who collected unemployment checks. The number of people unemployed has increased by 31 percent in the past year in Okeechobee.

Glades County saw their jobless rate remain the same at 12 percent last month.

There were 538 people out of work in February. In January there were 542 people out of work. In February, 2009, 385 people collected unemployment checks. In the past year the number of unemployed residents has increased by close to 40 percent in Glades County.

The state unemployment rate was 12.2 percent and the national rate was 10.4 percent in February.

The highest unemployment was found in Flagler County. The lowest rate was 7.5 percent in Liberty County.



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CAP Squad pioneers model aircraft program

The Okeechobee Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol officially kicked off a pioneer Model Airplane Program the weekend of March 20 and 21. The program was developed by Squadron Commander Captain Joe Papasso for Group 4. Lt. Gray explains that Captain Papasso was tasked in January by Major Martin Group 4 Commander to develop a Model Aircraft Program for Group 4 CAP which could be implemented nationally for all of CAP similar to the successful CAP Model Rocketry Program. Then original concept of the program was to introduce the Cadets to Model Aircraft using a single flight with an instructor on Radio Controlled Model Aircraft.

Captain Papasso, being a full-sized pilot and in Model Aviation most of his life, quickly realized that one single flight on a RC Aircraft would not be sufficient to really introduce anyone to Model Aviation. So he designed the program in three Phases to teach basic modeling skills and introduce the Cadet to all facets of Model Aviation using hands on modeling techniques starting with a simple Stick and Tissue Rubber Band Powered Model Aircraft and ending with the Cadet becoming a fully-trained Radio Controlled Aircraft Pilot. The goal of the

program is to complement the existing CAP Aerospace Education Program while introducing the Cadet to a form of aviation many are not familiar with today. Model Aviation is enjoyed by millions of people worldwide and is very similar in skills and technology to the UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) being used by both military and civilian authorities today.

Captain Papasso attributes the skills he learned in his youth building and flying Model Aircraft for the successes he has achieved in his adult life. Some of these skills include project management, being able to visualize a three dimensional object from one dimensional plans, teamwork, organization, understanding written directions and most importantly quality of workmanship in whatever you do. If you build sloppy models not only will it not fly properly, but you just don't quite have the pride or showpiece you envisioned when you started it.

The Okeechobee Composite Squadron is scheduled to host the first Group 4 regional class on April 17, at their headquarters at the Okeechobee County Airport. Deputy Commander Captain Joe Ragon also explains that after this past weekend, watching the Cadets build their first model aircraft he has

no question of the success of the program. The quality of the models built this past weekend was incredible as were the questions that were being asked by the Cadets during the classes. When you hear today's gossip talking about our youth and then to see them all quietly sitting in a class that challenges their knowledge and skills level and then for the first time in their lives create a flying model from a stack of balsa sticks and tissue paper, it is quite amazing. What was even more incredible was when they flew the models they had just finished and there was not a bad flight in the flock.

Captain Papasso would also like to acknowledge the support of the Okeechobee

Model Airplane Club for the use of their field and instructors for this program. He would also like to thank them for their past support of the CAP Okeechobee Cadet Program and also for being a sounding board and input while developing the concept ideas for this program.

If you are interested in the Civil Air Patrol or any of the many fascinating opportunities it offers to cadets or adults please contact Capt. Joe Papasso at 561-252-0916, Lt. Joe Ragon at 954-695-8000 or Lt. Greg Gernat at 863-697-9915. Meetings are every Tuesday at 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Okeechobee Airport, T-Hanger #1. Please call for directions and gate access.



Captain Papasso Teaching Class

(L to R back row) Cadet Barry, Cadet Miller, Cadet Berry. (Center Row L to R) Lt. Heil, Cadet Allen, Cadet Heil, Cadet Womble. (Front) Capt. Papasso, Lt. Gray.



Special to the Okeechobee News/CAP

Cadets building Model Airplane

L to r Cadet Womble, Cadet Heil.

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Ninth Annual Treasure Coast Youth Summit held

Twenty-seven migrant students from Yearling Middle School attended the Ninth Annual Treasure Coast Youth Summit, "Empowering Youth with Skills of Life," at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce. Students from St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee County filled the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies building at IRSC for dynamic concerts featuring Tony Wilson (James Brown), The Green Family (Jackson's Five), and the Richman Group.

The Treasure Coast Youth Summit is an annual event sponsored by Workforce Solutions' Youth Council that encourages middle and high school students to make positive life choices and set education and career goals. This year the day was filled with activities, including the Education & Career Workshop, Life Skills & Health Issues Youth Forum, and Careers of the Future Expo. When asking students which session they enjoyed the most, all said, "The Education & Career workshop." This was through a fast-paced, interactive, Jeopardy-based game where teens demonstrated their knowledge about education and career options. Two students from Okeechobee won door prizes!

The Career Workshop provides an introduction to community resources that can assist students in achieving goals. The group had many questions regarding the possibility of attending IRSC or any college when they graduate from high school. Participation in the Summit was the first opportunity many students have had to visit the main campus of IRSC.

Ms. Pat Grant, Migrant Advocate at Year-



Special to the Okeechobee News/Mary Gammil
Students from St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee County filled the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies building at IRSC for dynamic concerts at IRSC for the Ninth Annual Youth Summit. The event is sponsored by Workforce Solutions and encourages youth towards good education and career choices.

ling Middle School, chaperones a group of students each year. Ms. Grant sees the benefits first-hand of student participation and encourages her migrant students to attend. Ms. Grant would like to thank Diana Rew

and staff of Workforce Solutions for another great year at the Youth Summit and a special thanks to Maria Gonzales, a former migrant student, for chaperoning the field-trip with the group.

News in Brief

Guest speaker joins local tobacco-free campaign

Victor J. DeNoble, Ph.D. was recruited to develop a safer cigarette for Philip Morris in the 1980s. In his secret research laboratory, he studied nicotine's effects on the central nervous system and was successful in developing a nicotine substitute that did not elevate the heart rate; however, attempts to publish his work were suppressed by Philip Morris. Dr. DeNoble was eventually fired and his laboratory was seized. After a decade of being silenced by a secrecy agreement, he became the first whistle blower to testify before Congress and was a key witness in the federal government's investigation into the tobacco industry's research practices. Dr. DeNoble will speak on Tuesday, **April 20**, at 6 p.m., at the Freshman Campus Auditorium, 610 S.W. Second Avenue.

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Financial

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

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

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

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

Services

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Concrete

CJ CONCRETE REMOVAL
Driveways, Patio, large or small (863)467-4734

Top Soil

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

FOR RENT Rentals

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Apartments

FURNISHED APT ON WATER - Including all utilities, some restrictions apply, by appt. only. (863)357-2044 leave name and number if no answer.

GREAT APARTMENTS
2BR/2BA, in town, W&D, \$800 mo. + \$500 sec. Call (863) 634-5780

OKEECHOBEE: Utilities Included 1BR in town, \$700/mo, no pets, smoke-free env. 1st & sec. (863)610-0861

VIKING/PRAIRIE Efficiency. Very clean! \$500/mo. Incl. utils. No pets. Call 561-329-8205

Houses - Rent

OKEECHOBEE 4br, 2ba, tile throughout, \$975 mo, 1st & sec. moves you in. (561)248-3888 or (863)599-0156

Shop here first! The classified ads

Office Space Rent

Great Location! OFFICE SPACE
Upstairs & Downstairs Avail. 863-763-4740

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
(863)763-8565

Rooms To Rent

OKEECHOBEE - Looking for 3 roommates to share 4 br hse. \$275 (863)634-4771

Real Estate

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Condos/Townhouses Sale

KINGS BAY 2BR/2BA Twnhs @ end of street. \$62,750 Call Jeri of Pristine Prop. 863-634-6056

Houses - Sale

CBS, 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 Car Garage home on canal. Access to Lake Okeechobee. C/Air & Heat. Dock & Sea Wall. Many Amenities. Reduced for quick sale. \$159,000 Call for appt. (863)763-2723

Mobile Homes

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Rent

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

OKEE 2BR, A/C, W&D, Dock, Fenced yard. \$700 mo. 717-989-7539 or 717-490-4342

Mobile Home Sale

Jacobsen Homes custom built. Any floor plan from any dealer & any brand can be built by Jacobsen at an excellent price 863-675-8888

Mobile Home Sale

DOUBLE WIDE - On SE 18th Terrace, 3BR, 2BA, Carport, Covered Deck & Porch. Storage Shed, Dock. A/C. On lake in Taylor Creek w/perfect view. (863)467-4088

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

DW MH - 4BR, 2.5BA, renovated, on 1/2 acre fenced in lot, screened patio, shed, off 710 & 15A. \$85k. Owner finance w/10% down. Call (863)610-1600

New 32x80, 4br/2bath Homes of Merit with fireplace, glamour bath and awesome kitchen. \$69,900 set and a/c included on your lot. 863-675-8888

New 4br/2bath double-wide \$49,900 setup on your lot with a/c and setup included. 863-675-8888 Financing available with your good credit

Recreation

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Campers/RVs

BLUE CYPRESS RESORT - furn trailer, Florida room, W/D, Lot #14, \$37,000 or best offer (618)375-2365 or (618)599-2135

It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.

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

Public Notices

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Public Notice

CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on **Tuesday, April 6, 2010, 6:00 p.m.**, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website www.city-ofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance.
by: James E. Kirk, Mayor
Lane Gamiolea, CMC, City Clerk
350169 ON 3/31/10

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an order issued by the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida, on the 24th day of November, 2009, in the cause wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. being Plaintiff and FRANKLIN BRAUER AND MELODY A BRAUER being Defendants, being Case No. 2009-CA-34 in the said Court, I Paul C. May, as Sheriff of Okeechobee County, Florida shall offer the following property for sale in Okeechobee County Florida to wit:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY
BLUE 2007 CHEVROLET C1500- CREW PICKUP,
VIN # 2GCEC13C171601182, TAG # J31VDJ

I shall offer the above described property for sale subject to all prior liens and encumbrances if any, on the 5TH day of May, 2010 at 11:00AM or as soon as possible thereafter at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, 504 N.W. 4th STREET, Okeechobee, Florida and will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, all right, title and interest, of FRANKLIN BRAUER in said property.
Vehicle may be seen one hour prior to sale @ BMJ Towing, 414 S. Parrott Ave., Okeechobee, Florida, 34974.

Paul C. May, Sheriff
Okeechobee County
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in the proceeding should contact Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-3117, ext. 2225.
350127 ON 3/31;4/7,14,21/10

Engaged? Just married?
Golden anniversary?
New baby? Share your news in print and online.

Celebrations

fl.newszap.com/celebrations

Public Notice

AMENDED NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an order issued by the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida, on the 4th day of August, 2009, in the cause wherein HOLMES E. BOYD & DEBRA L. BOYD being Plaintiffs and LEFTY SUMMERFORD being Defendant, being Case No. 2009-CA-251 in the said Court, I Paul C. May, as Sheriff of Okeechobee County, Florida shall offer the following property for sale in Okeechobee County Florida to wit:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY
PARCEL ID: 1-15-36-35-0010-00110-0150

Legal Description:
LOT 15, BLOCK 11, OKEECHOBEE LITTLE FARMS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 100, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1144 NW 98th STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA.

I shall offer the above described property for sale subject to all prior liens and encumbrances if any, on the 20TH day of April, 2010 at 11:00AM or as soon as possible thereafter at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, 504 N.W. 4th STREET, Okeechobee, Florida and will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, all right, title and interest, in said property. Dated at Okeechobee, Florida this 8th day of March, 2010.
Published: March 10,17,24,31, 2010

Paul C. May, Sheriff
Okeechobee County
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in the proceeding should contact Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-3117, ext. 2225.
348363 ON 3/10,17,24,31/10

PROJECT NO. 20918 OKEECHOBEE HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM PRESS BOX

INVITATION FOR SEALED BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Operations Office of THE SCHOOL BOARD OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, 938 NW 34th Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 up to 1:00 p.m. April 29, 2010 for all materials and labor necessary for below:
CAUTION: BID PACKAGES SENT BY OVERNIGHT CARRIER QUITE OFTEN DO NOT ARRIVE ON TIME!

- Okeechobee High School Stadium Press Box
2800 Highway 441 N
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Plans and specifications are on file in the office of:
Dale Barrett, Director of Operations
938 NW 34th Street
Okeechobee, FL 34972
863-462-5083, e-203
and
BMK Architects, Inc.
323 Central Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-365-6056

Certified General Contractors ONLY may obtain copies of said plans and specifications from the office of said Architect or the office of Dale Barrett, upon the deposit of \$50.00; said deposit will be returned to the contractor upon return to the contractor upon return of said plans and specifications in good condition, and upon receipt of a bona fide bid.

- 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.
• Bid Bond in the amount of 5% of the maximum bid, payable to the School Board of Okeechobee County, as evidence of good faith and guaranteeing that the successful bidder will execute and furnish to the School Board of Okeechobee County a good and sufficient performance bond as required by Florida Statute Section 1013.47 in the penal sum of 100% of the escalated amount of the contact guaranteeing the performance of said contract.

Failure to provide any of the documents outlines above will be grounds for rejection of the bid.
All bids shall be placed in an envelope, sealed, and addressed to the School Board of Okeechobee County, and the name of the project should be placed on the outside of the envelope and words indicating that the envelope contains a bid for said project.

MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE: Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 1:00 p.m., prevailing time at the office of Dale Barrett, Director of Operations, 938 NW 34th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972.
The following documents shall accompany the Owner/Contractor Agreement:

- Payment Bond as required by Section 1013.45 and 255.05, Florida Statutes, guaranteeing the payment of all debts pertaining thereto. Each bond shall be issued by a surety company licensed and authorized to do business in the State of Florida having a general bond holder's rating of A+ - excellent - and a financial rating of BBB+ or better in Florida satisfactory to the Owner, within ten (10) days after being awarded the contract, the premiums of said bonds to be paid by the Contractor. Said bonds to be recorded in accordance with School Board instructions.
• Public Entity Crimes sworn statement under Section 287.133(3)(a), Florida Statutes.
• Drug Free Workplace Certification.
• Trench Safety Affidavit, if applicable.
• Signature Acknowledgement of the Jessica Lunsford Act, Section 1012.465, Florida Statutes.

The Contractor will be required to have the project substantially completed within 5 months of the Notice to Proceed and have the punch list items and site cleanup, totally completed within 30 days thereafter. Failure to do so will result in liquidated damages in the amount of \$500.00 per day for each day the date of actual substantial completion exceeds the scheduled date of substantial completion; and a further sum of \$100.00 per calendar day in liquidated damages for each day the date of actual final completion exceeds the scheduled date of final completion.
The successful bidder, if any, will be notified within 15 days after the bid is accepted.

The School Board of Okeechobee County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities. All proposals shall remain in force for 30 days after the date of opening.
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Patricia G. Cooper, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
349642 ON 3/24,31/10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 2009 CA-399
DIVISION: Civil Division

SOUTHERN HOMESTES, INC., A Florida Corporation
Plaintiff
vs.
DUDLEY R. KIRTON AND OKEECHOBEE FEED, INC., Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 18, 2010, and entered in Case No. 2009 CA-

399 of the Circuit Court in and for Okeechobee County, Florida wherein SOUTHERN HOMESTES, INC., A Florida Corporation is the Plaintiff, and DUDLEY R. KIRTON AND OKEECHOBEE FEED, INC. are the Defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW Third Street, Okeechobee, Florida at 11 o'clock A.M. on the 21st day of April, 2010 the following described property as set forth in said Order or Final Judgment, to wit:

The South 1/3 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 16, Township 36 South, Range 36 East, the above land lying and being in Okeechobee County, Florida.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO. 47-2008-CA-000546

CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, Plaintiff,
vs.
ILEANA RIVERO, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated February 18, 2010 and entered in Case No. 47-2008-CA-000546 of the Circuit Court of the NINETEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for OKEECHOBEE County, Florida wherein CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, is the Plaintiff and ILEANA RIVERO; EFREN GARCIA; SANTIAGO PEREZ; LIGITA SMALKAIS; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; CHASE BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; HOUSEHOLD FINANCE CORPORATION, III; are the Defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 N.W. 3RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972 at 11:00AM, on the 7th day of April, 2010, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

A PART OF LOT 2, BLOCK 5, FARM LANDS OF THE CONSOLIDATED LAND COMPANY LAND BORDERING LAKE OKEECHOBEE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 5, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND A PART OF LOTS 5 AND 6, BLOCK 5, GREAT LAKE SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 41, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ALL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN AT THE SOUTHEASTERLY MOST CORNER OF SAID LOT 2, BLOCK 5, FARM LANDS OF CONSOLIDATED LAND COMPANY BORDERING LAKE OKEECHOBEE, ALSO BEING SOUTHEASTERLY MOST CORNER OF LOT 6, BLOCK 5, GREAT LAKES SUBDIVISION, ALSO BEING A POINT ON NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF U.S. 441, BEAR NORTH 68 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 44 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 196.18 FEET; THENCE BEAR NORTH 34 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 22 SECONDS EAST PARALLEL WITH THE CENTERLINE OF CANAL #4 ACCORDING TO SAID PLAT OF FARM LANDS OF CONSOLIDATED LAND COMPANY LAND BORDERING LAKE OKEECHOBEE A DISTANCE OF 466.00 FEET; THENCE BEAR SOUTH 68 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 44 SECONDS EAST PARALLEL WITH THE SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF U.S. 441 A DISTANCE OF 195.75 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE CENTERLINE OF SAID CANAL 14; THENCE BEAR SOUTH 34 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 17 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE EASTERN MOST LINE OF SAID LOT 2, BLOCK 5 FARM LANDS OF CONSOLIDATED LAND COMPANY LAND BORDERING LAKE OKEECHOBEE A DISTANCE OF 465.90 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY U.S. 441 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING
A/K/A 7525 SE HIGHWAY 441, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale.
WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court on February 22, 2010.

Sharon Robertson
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
P.O. Box 25018
Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
708084778

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990:
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, (772)807-4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice: IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED, CALL 1-800-955-8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1-800-955-8770.
347111 ON 03/17,24,31/10

Property #
R 1-16-36-0A00-00006-8000
COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2010-CA-159

KENNETH CHILDS, Plaintiff
vs.
DORA J. BUDD; TARPON IV, LLC, A Florida Corporation; and EDWARD BUNTMAN and HELENE BUNTMAN, Trustees of the Edward Buntman Revocable Trust U/A dated 7/30/99, and as to each of the foregoing persons, if alive or deceased, their unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, under or against these Defendants.
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: DORA J. BUDD and EDWARD BUNTMAN and HELENE BUNTMAN, Trustees of the Edward Buntman Revocable Trust U/A dated 7/30/99

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action for quiet title of the following described property:
Parcel Identification Number:
1-21-33-35-0010-00020-0180
Tr 18, Block 2, SUN & COUNTRY RANCHES, as recorded in Plat Book 4, Pages 98, 99, 100, 101 & 102 of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, to it on Kenneth R. Childs, c/o 3128 NW 44th South, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 and file the original with the Clerk of the above styled Court within thirty (30) days from the date of the first publication, otherwise a judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court on this 23rd day of March, 2010.
SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE COURT
By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk
KENNETH M. JONES
Moody, Jones, Ingino
& Morehead, P.A.
1333 S. University Drive, #201
Plantation, FL 33324
(954) 473-6605
349590 ON 3/31;4/7/10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE

SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of Circuit Court
By: Heather Thomas

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 2009 CA-399
DIVISION: Civil Division

SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff,
vs.
LOCK 7 DEVELOPMENT, LLC, a Florida limited liability company; STEPHEN E. FISHER; SANDRA H. FISHER; DEAN E. LAVALLÉE; ANN MARIE LAVALLÉE; and LAFISH, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO F.S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 18, 2010, in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 at 11:00 a.m., on April 21, 2010, the following described real and personal property located in Okeechobee County, Florida:

a. Land; (herein, the "Land");
A parcel of land lying in Section 4, Township 38 South, Range 35 East, Okeechobee County, Florida, being a portion of Lots A and B, according to the Plat entitled Survey of a Part of Section 4, Township 38 South, Range 35 East, as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 76, Public Record of Okeechobee County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Lot A, being the point of intersection of the North line of said Section 4 and the West right of way line of State Road 15, also known as Parrot Avenue, as shown on a State of Florida Department of Transportation Right of Way Map Section 926; thence South 00 degrees 07'39" West along the East line of said Lot A and said West right of way line a distance of 110.00 feet to a point on the South line of the North 110.00 feet of said Lot A and the Point of Beginning of the following described parcel of land; thence continuing along said East lot line South 00 degrees 07'39" West a distance of 196.87 feet to the point of curvature of a curve concave to the North, having a radius of 90.80 feet and a central angle of 72 degrees 07'18"; thence departing said lot line, Westward along the arc of said curve a distance of 114.30 feet to a point of reverse curvature of a curve concave to the South, having a radius of 137.89 feet and a central angle of 57 degrees 59'03"; thence Southwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 139.55 feet to a point of compound curvature of a curve concave to the Southeast, having a radius of 3191.17 feet and a central angle of 03 degrees 00'01"; thence Southwesterly along the arc of said curve a distance of 167.10 feet to a point of compound curvature of a curve concave to the East, having a radius of 147.59 feet and a central angle of 02 degrees 09'51"; thence southerly along the arc of said curve a distance of 57.07 feet to a point of compound curvature of a curve concave to the East, having a radius of 355.45 feet and a central angle of 16 degrees 05'28"; thence Southerly along the arc of said curve a distance of 99.83 feet to a point of reverse curvature of a curve concave to the West, having a radius of 55.91 feet and a central angle of 54 degrees 49'06"; thence Southerly along the arc of said curve a distance of 53.49 feet to the point of tangency; thence South 45 degrees 40'32" West a distance of 21.51 feet to a point of curvature of a curve concave to the East having a radius of 48.59 feet and a central angle of 66 degrees 59'23"; thence Southerly along the arc of said curve a distance of 56.81 feet to the point of tangency; thence South 21 degrees 18'51" East a distance of 27.64 feet to a point on the North right of way line of State Road 78 as described in Official Record Book 517, Page 1810, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida; thence South 63 degrees 28'36" West along said right of way line a distance of 109.15 feet to a point on the West line of said Lot B; thence departing said right of way line North 00 degrees 07'39" East along the West line of said Lot B a distance of 813.78 feet to a point on the South line of the North 110.00 feet of said Lot B; thence departing said West line of said Lot B, South 89 degrees 48'24" East along said South line a distance of 433.32 feet to the Point of Beginning.

2. Appurtenances. The benefit of all easements and other rights of any nature whatsoever, if any, appurtenant to the Land or the Improvements, or both, the benefit of all rights-of-way, strips and gores of land, streets, alleys, passages, drainage rights, sewer rights, rights of ingress and egress to the Land and all adjoining property, and any improvements now or hereafter located thereon, water rights and powers, oil, gas, mineral and riparian rights, whether now existing or hereafter arising, together with the reversion or reversions, remainder or remainders, rents, issues, incomes and profits of any of the foregoing (the "Appurtenances").

3. Improvements. All buildings, structures, betterments and other improvements of any nature now or hereafter situated in whole or in part upon the Land or the Appurtenances, regardless of whether physically affixed thereto or severed or capable of severance therefrom (the "Improvements").

4. Tangible Property. All of Mortgagor's right, title and interest, if any, in and to all inventory, goods, furniture, fixtures, equipment and tangible personal property of any nature whatsoever that is now or hereafter (i) attached or affixed to the Land or the Improvements, or both, or (ii) situated upon or about the Land or the Improvements, or both, regardless of whether physically affixed thereto or severed or capable of severance therefrom, or (iii) regardless of where situated, if used, usable or intended to be used in connection with any present or future use or operation of or upon the Land, the foregoing includes: all heating, air conditioning, lighting, incinerating and power equipment; all engines, compressors, pipes, pumps, tanks, motors, conduits, wiring, and switchboards; all plumbing, lifting, cleaning, fire prevention, fire extinguishing, refrigerating, ventilating, and communications apparatus; all boilers, furnaces, oil burners, vacuum cleaning systems, elevators and escalators; all stoves, ovens, ranges, disposal units, dishwashers, water heaters, exhaust systems, refrigerators, cabinets, and partitions; all rugs, draperies and carpets; all laundry equipment; all building materials; all furniture, furnishings, office equipment and office supplies; and all additions, accessories, renewals, replacements and substitutions of any or all of the foregoing. The items of property encumbered by this paragraph are jointly and severally called the "Tangible Property" in this Mortgage.

5. Incomes. All rents, issues, incomes, accounts and profits in any manner arising from the Land, Improvements or Tangible Property, or any combination, including Mortgagor's interest in and to all leases, licenses, franchises and concessions of or relating to all or any portion of the Land, Improvements or Tangible Property, whether now existing or hereafter made, including all amendments, modifications, replacements, substitutions, extensions, renewals or consolidations; but reserving to Mortgagor in the manner provided by this Mortgage and the Assignment of Rents and Leases the right to collect and retain all such rents, issues, incomes and profits until Mortgagor's default under this Mortgage. The items of property encumbered by this subparagraph are jointly and severally called the "Rents" in this Mortgage.

6. Secondary Financing. All of Mortgagor's right, power or privilege to further encumber any of the property described in this paragraph 2 for debt, it being intended by this provision to divest Mortgagor of the power to encumber or to grant a security interest in any of the property encumbered by this Mortgage as security for the performance of an obligation.

7. Proceeds. All proceeds of the conversion, voluntary or involuntary, or any of the property encumbered by this Mortgage into cash or other liquidated claims, or that are otherwise payable for injury to or the taking or requisitioning of any such property, including all insurance and condemnation proceeds as provided in this Mortgage.

8. Contract Rights and Accounts. All of Mortgagor's right, title and interest in and to any and all contracts, written or oral, express or implied, now existing or hereafter entered into or arising, in any matter related to the improvement, use, operation, sale, conversion or other disposition of any interest in the Land, Appurtenances, Improvements, Tangible Property or the Rents, or any combination, including any and all deposits, prepaid items, and payments due and to become due thereunder; and including maintenance contracts, construction contracts, service contracts, advertising contracts, purchase orders and equipment leases; but reserving to Mortgagor the use and benefit of all such contracts, deposits, prepaid items, payments and proceeds unless and until Mortgagor defaults under this Mortgage. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Mortgagee will not be bound by any of Mortgagor's obligations under any of the foregoing contracts unless and until Mortgagor elects to assume them in writing.

9. Name. All right, title and interest of Mortgagor in and to all trade names now or hereafter used in connection with the operation of the Land and Improvements.

10. Other Intangibles. All contract rights, goods, inventory, commissions, money, documents, instruments, chattel paper, accounts, commercial tort claims, deposit accounts, cash proceeds, investment property, letter of credit rights, letters of credit and general intangibles, as such terms from time to time are defined in the Florida Uniform Commercial Code, in any manner related to the use, operation, sale, conversion or other disposition (voluntary or involuntary) of the Land, Appurtenances, Improvements, Tangible Property or Rents, including all permits, licenses, insurance policies, rights of action, choses in action, contract rights, corporate or other business records, inventions, designs, patents, patent applications, trademarks, trade names, trade secrets, goodwill, copyrights, registrations, franchises, claims under guaranties, security interests or other security held or granted to secure payment of contracts by account debtors, all rights to indemnification and all other intangible property of every kind and nature.

11. Appurtenances. The benefit of all easements and other rights of any nature whatsoever, if any, appurtenant to the Land or the Improvements, or both, the benefit of all rights-of-way, strips and gores of land, streets, alleys, passages, drainage rights, sewer rights, rights of ingress and egress to the Land and all adjoining property, and any improvements now or hereafter located thereon, water rights and powers, oil, gas, mineral and riparian rights, whether now existing or hereafter arising, together with the reversion or reversions, remainder or remainders, rents, issues, incomes and profits of any of the foregoing (the "Appurtenances").

12. Improvements. All buildings, structures, betterments and other improvements of any nature now or hereafter situated in whole or in part upon the Land or the Appurtenances, regardless of whether physically affixed thereto or severed or capable of severance therefrom (the "Improvements").

13. Tangible Property. All of Mortgagor's right, title and interest, if any, in and to all inventory, goods, furniture, fixtures, equipment and tangible personal property of any nature whatsoever that is now or hereafter (i) attached or affixed to the Land or the Improvements, or both, or (ii) situated upon or about the Land or the Improvements, or both, regardless of whether physically affixed thereto or severed or capable of severance therefrom, or (iii) regardless of where situated, if used, usable or intended to be used in connection with any present or future use or operation of or upon the Land, the foregoing includes: all heating, air conditioning, lighting, incinerating and power equipment; all engines, compressors, pipes, pumps, tanks, motors, conduits, wiring, and switchboards; all plumbing, lifting, cleaning, fire prevention, fire extinguishing, refrigerating, ventilating, and communications apparatus; all boilers, furnaces, oil burners, vacuum cleaning systems, elevators and escalators; all stoves, ovens, ranges, disposal units, dishwashers, water heaters, exhaust systems, refrigerators, cabinets, and partitions; all rugs, draperies and carpets; all laundry equipment; all building materials; all furniture, furnishings, office equipment and office supplies; and all additions, accessories, renewals, replacements and substitutions of any or all of the foregoing. The items of property encumbered by this paragraph are jointly and severally called the "Tangible Property" in this Mortgage.

14. Incomes. All rents, issues, incomes, accounts and profits in any manner arising from the Land, Improvements or Tangible Property, or any combination, including Mortgagor's interest in and to all leases, licenses, franchises and concessions of or relating to all or any portion of the Land, Improvements or Tangible Property, whether now existing or hereafter made, including all amendments, modifications, replacements, substitutions, extensions, renewals or consolidations; but reserving to Mortgagor in the manner provided by this Mortgage and the Assignment of Rents and Leases the right to collect and retain all such rents, issues, incomes and profits until Mortgagor's default under this Mortgage. The items of property encumbered by this subparagraph are jointly and severally called the "Rents" in this Mortgage.

15. Secondary Financing. All of Mortgagor's right, power or privilege to further encumber any of the property described in this paragraph 2 for debt, it being intended by this provision to divest Mortgagor of the power to encumber or to grant a security interest in any of the property encumbered by this Mortgage as security for the performance of an obligation.

16. Proceeds. All proceeds of the conversion, voluntary or involuntary, or any of the property encumbered by this Mortgage into cash or other liquidated claims, or that are otherwise payable for injury to or the taking or requisitioning of any such property, including all insurance and condemnation proceeds as provided in this Mortgage.

17. Contract Rights and Accounts. All of Mortgagor's right, title and interest in and to any and all contracts, written or oral, express or implied, now existing or hereafter entered into or arising, in any matter related to the improvement, use, operation, sale, conversion or other disposition of any interest in the Land, Appurtenances, Improvements, Tangible Property or the Rents, or any combination, including any and all deposits, prepaid items, and payments due and to become due thereunder; and including maintenance contracts, construction contracts, service contracts, advertising contracts, purchase orders and equipment leases; but reserving to Mortgagor the use and benefit of all such contracts, deposits, prepaid items, payments and proceeds unless and until Mortgagor defaults under this Mortgage. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Mortgagee will not be bound by any of Mortgagor's obligations under any of the foregoing contracts unless and until Mortgagor elects to assume them in writing.

18. Name. All right, title and interest of Mortgagor in and to all trade names now or hereafter used in connection with the operation of the Land and Improvements.

19. Other Intangibles. All contract rights, goods, inventory, commissions, money, documents, instruments, chattel paper, accounts, commercial tort claims, deposit accounts, cash proceeds, investment property, letter of credit rights, letters of credit and general intangibles, as such terms from time to time are defined in the Florida Uniform Commercial Code, in any manner related to the use, operation, sale, conversion or other disposition (voluntary or involuntary) of the Land, Appurtenances, Improvements, Tangible Property or Rents, including all permits, licenses, insurance policies, rights of action, choses in action, contract rights, corporate or other business records, inventions, designs, patents, patent applications, trademarks, trade names, trade secrets, goodwill, copyrights, registrations, franchises, claims under guaranties, security interests or other security held or granted to secure payment of contracts by account debtors, all rights to indemnification and all other intangible property of every kind and nature.

Any reference to the "Mortgage" shall mean that certain Commercial Mortgage and Security Agreement dated November 15, 2006 and Mortgage Modification and Extension Agreement dated December 19, 2008 made by the Mortgagor to the Mortgagee, and any reference to the "Mortgagor" shall mean Lock 7 Development, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, and any reference to the "Mortgagee" shall mean Seacoast National Bank.
ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
Dated this 22nd day of March, 2010.
Sharon Robertson, Clerk of Court
By: Linda F. Young, Clerk of Court
349589 ON 3/31;4/7/10

DEPUTY CLERK
350177 ON 3/31;4/7/10

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Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 2009-CA-650

FIDELITY BANK OF FLORIDA, N.A., Plaintiff,

v. ENERGY CAPITAL PROPERTIES, INC., a Florida corporation; ZAYA GIVARGIDZE; LAKE OKEE REALTY GROUP, LLC, a Florida limited liability company; ENTRY BROTHERS, INC., a dissolved Florida corporation f/d/b/a DANNY'S CHEVRON; TENANT #1, TENANT #2, TENANT #3, and TENANT #4, THE NAMES BEING FICTITIOUS TO ACCOUNT FOR THE PARTIES IN POSSESSION, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with the Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 18, 2010, in the above-styled cause, I, as said Clerk of the Court, will offer for sale and sell at public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, located at 312 N.W. 3rd St., Okeechobee, FL 34972, on the 21st day of April, 2010, at 11:00 am, the following:

- 1. Real Property attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

EXHIBIT "A"

LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 AND 6, BLOCK 7, RENFROE PARK, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 55, public records of Okeechobee County, Florida

AND ALL THOSE PORTIONS of certain vacated road right-of-ways and the vacated alleyway located in RENFROE PARK, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 55, public records of Okeechobee County, Florida, and being more particularly described as follows:

The East 1/2 of the South 1/2 of S.W. 26th Street (f/k/a Seventeenth Street) lying between U.S. Highway 441 (a/k/a S.R. 15 and Parrott Avenue), and S.W. 2nd Avenue (f/k/a Kissimmee Street); and the East 1/2 of the North 1/2 of S.W. 27th Street (f/k/a Eighteenth Street) lying between U.S. Highway 441 (a/k/a S.R. 15 and Parrott Avenue) and S.W. 2nd Avenue (f/k/a Kissimmee Street); and the East 1/2 of the alley located in Block 7 of said RENFROE PARK, lying between S.W. 26th Street (f/k/a Seventeenth Street) and S.W. 27th Street (f/k/a Eighteenth Street)

- 2. Personal Property attached hereto as Exhibit "B"

STATE OF FLORIDA UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE FINANCING STATEMENT FORM

FLORIDA SECURED TRANSACTION REGISTRY FILED 2005 Mar 04 AM 12:00 200509105562

1. DEBTOR'S EXACT FULL LEGAL NAME... 2. ADDITIONAL DEBTOR'S EXACT FULL LEGAL NAME... 3. SECURED PARTY'S NAME... 4. THIS FINANCING STATEMENT covers the following collateral... 5. ALTERNATE DESIGNATION... 6. FLORIDA DOCUMENTARY STAMP TAX... 7. OPTIONAL FILER REFERENCE DATA

EXHIBIT B

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

Dated this 22th day of March, 2010.

SHARON ROBERTSON, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Okeechobee County, Florida

By: Linda T. Young, Deputy Clerk

349694 ON 3/31 & 4/7/10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 47-2010-CA-000024

CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, Plaintiff,

vs. CHUNG HAO CHEN, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: CHUNG HAO CHEN 617 SE 26th Drive Okeechobee, FL 34974 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS

CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST, AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, Florida, LOT 19, BLOCK 23, BASSWOOD, UNIT 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 28, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Florida Default Law Group, P.L., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 9119 Corporate Lake Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, Florida 33634, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

This notice shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in the Okeechobee News (Independent Newspapers).

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court on this 18th day of March, 2010.

Sharon Robertson Clerk of the Court By: Linda F. Young As Deputy Clerk

Florida Default Law Group, P.L. P.O. Box 25018 Tampa, Florida 33622-5018 F10000600 349412 ON 03/24,31/10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2009CA123

OAK LAKE VILLAS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, Plaintiff,

vs. RICHARD A. PAYNE, "JANE DOE", his wife, if married, real name unknown, and "UNKNOWN TENANT #1" and "UNKNOWN TENANT #2" as occupants, real names unknown, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in Case No. 2009CA36 on 3/18/2010, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida in favor of Plaintiff, OAK LAKE VILLAS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, and against Defendant, RICHARD A. PAYNE (OWNER). I will sell the property situated in Okeechobee County, Florida, described as:

Unit A, PARCEL 20, OAK LAKE VILLAS, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF PARTY FACILITIES, AND PROTECTIVE COVENANTS FOR OAK LAKE VILLAS, RECORDED IN O.R. BOOK 189, PAGE 247, AS AMENDED IN O.R. BOOK 189 PAGE 869; A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

at a public sale, to the highest and best bidder for cash, in Jury Assembly Rm, 2nd Floor, Judicial Center, 312 Northwest 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, at 11 o'clock a.m., on the 21st day of April, 2010.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

DATED in Okeechobee County, Florida, this 22nd day of March, 2010.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of Circuit Court

By: Linda F. Young Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff Brennan Grogan, Esquire, Jay Steven Levine, P.A., 3300 PGA Boulevard, Suite 570, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410. 349594 ON 3/31;4/7/10

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO. 47-2009-CA-000772

Century Bank, FSF, Plaintiff

vs. Christine Duer, Unknown Spouse of Christine Duer, Jose Fanjul, Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated March 4, 2010 entered in the above case number, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Jury Assembly Room, on the Second Floor of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 North West 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, 11:00 a.m. on April 7, 2010, the following described property:

Lot 4, Block 3, Cypress Creek, Phase I, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 7, of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

Original notice to be returned to the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

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

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1-772-807-4370 within two working days of your receipt of the Notice: IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED, CALL 1-800-955-8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED, CALL 1-800-955-8770. DATED on March 16, 2010.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Linda F. Young Deputy Clerk

349449 ON 3/24,31/10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2009CA36

OAK LAKE VILLAS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, Plaintiff,

vs. BECKY LYNN WILLIAMS, "JOHN DOE", her husband, if married, real name unknown, and "UNKNOWN TENANT #1" and "UNKNOWN TENANT #2" as occupants, real names unknown, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in Case No. 2009CA36 on 3/18/2010, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida in favor of Plaintiff, OAK LAKE VILLAS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, and against Defendant, BECKY LYNN WILLIAMS (OWNER). I will sell the property situated in Okeechobee County, Florida, described as:

Unit D, BEING AN UNDIVIDED 19% INTEREST IN AND TO PARCEL 6, OAK LAKE VILLAS, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

at a public sale, to the highest and best bidder for cash, in Jury Assembly Rm, 2nd Floor, Judicial Center, 312 Northwest 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 at 11 o'clock a.m., on the 21st day of April, 2010.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

DATED in Okeechobee County, Florida, this 22nd day of March, 2010.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of Circuit Court

By: Linda F. Young Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff Brennan Grogan, Esquire, Jay Steven Levine, P.A., 3300 PGA Boulevard, Suite 570, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 349612 ON 3/31;4/7/10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 47-2009-CA-000772

WACHOVIA BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, successor in interest to Wachovia Mortgage Corporation, Plaintiff,

vs. DELANO K. BAKER; et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 18, 2010, and entered in Case No. 47-2009-CA-000772 of the Circuit Court for Charlotte County, Florida, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 at 11:00 a.m. on the 21st day of April, 2010, the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment:

Lot 7, Block 3, OKEECHOBEE HILLS SECTION ONE, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 41, of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

TOGETHER WITH all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property, and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter attached to the property.

Property Address: 13415 NE 7th Terrace, Okeechobee, FL 34972

**ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE SALE. **

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, Telephone (772) 807-4370, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this NOTICE. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED, PLEASE CALL (800) 955-8771. IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED, PLEASE CALL (800) 955-8770.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of the Circuit and County Court

By: Linda F. Young Deputy Clerk

350010 ON 3/31;4/7/10

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Auction will be held at Johns Towing Service storage lot located at 704 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 on APRIL 16, 2010, at 9:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage charges. Year, make, model and VIN are as follows.

1992 Dodge Grand Caravan VIN #1B4GH443KNX220826

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right of final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL! NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE! Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" condition with no guarantee's.

350012 ON 03/31;4/7/10

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 47-2009-CA-000262

HSBC MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC., Plaintiff,

vs. TIMOTHY S. VINSON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TIMOTHY S. VINSON; AMANDA J. VINSON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF AMANDA J. VINSON; IF LIVING; INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SAID DEFENDANT(S); IF REMARIED; AND IF DECEASED, THE RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT(S); UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above-styled cause, in the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida, I will sell the property situate in Okeechobee County, Florida, described as:

Lot 34, Block 3, DIXIE RANCH ESTATES, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 33, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, in the Jury Assembly Room of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, Suite 257, Okeechobee, FL 34972 at 11:00 o'clock, A.M., on April 21, 2010.

DATED this 22nd day of March, 2010.

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

Witness, my hand and seal of this court on the 22nd day of March, 2010.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK Clerk of CIRCUIT COURT

By: Linda F. Young Deputy Clerk

THIS INSTRUMENT PREPARED BY: Law Offices of Daniel C. Consegua 9204 King Palm Drive Tampa, FL 33619-1328 Phone: 813-915-8660 Attorneys for Plaintiff

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, (772) 807-4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice: IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1 800 955-8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1 800 955-8770.

349611 ON 3/31;4/7/10

LEGAL NOTICE

A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on Friday the 16th day of April 2010 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows:

1985 White Bayliner Boat BVL71CUD585

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

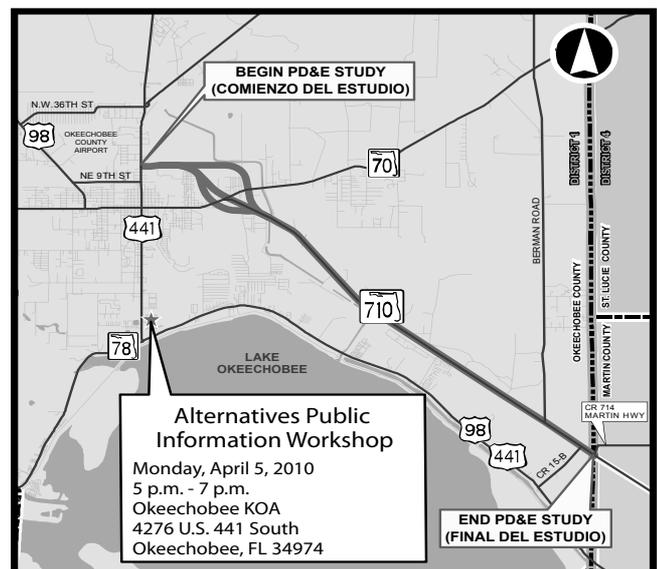
350195 ON 3/31/2010

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Public Notice

Florida Department of Transportation Alternatives Public Information Workshop



State Road 710 From United States Highway (U.S.) 441 to County Road (C.R.) 714 (S.W. Martin Highway)

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, has scheduled an alternatives public information workshop for the State Road (S.R.) 710 Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study. The workshop will be held on Monday, April 5, 2010 in the Okeechobee KOA Convention Center located at 4276 United States Highway (U.S.) 441 South, Okeechobee, Florida.

The limits of the S.R. 710 PD&E Study are from U.S. 441 in Okeechobee County to County Road (C.R.) 714 (S.W. Martin Highway) in Martin County, a distance of approximately 13 miles. This workshop is being held to present the results of the PD&E Study to date and to obtain comments on the alternatives being considered. The workshop will be conducted in an open house forum and participants are welcome to attend any time between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. A video presentation will run continuously during the open house. No formal presentation will be made. Department staff will be available to discuss the project, receive public input, and answer your questions.

It is anticipated that the existing two-lane S.R. 710 roadway, from S.R. 70 to C.R. 714 (S.W. Martin Highway), will need to be widened to four lanes. The extension of S.R. 710, from U.S. 441 to S.R. 70, is anticipated to be a four-lane divided roadway. The proposed extension will improve regional connectivity of S.R. 710 to other Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) roadways (U.S. 441 and S.R. 70). In addition, the extension will enhance hurricane evacuation capabilities, help meet the needs of future population and traffic growth in the area, and meets the goals and objectives of Okeechobee County's Comprehensive Plan.

One of the most important aspects of a PD&E Study is public involvement. Opportunities for the public to review project alternatives and documentation, and offer input will be provided at this workshop. This project is being developed in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons with disabilities who may require special accommodations at the workshop under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or persons who require translation service (free of charge) should contact Ms. Nicole Broome, FDOT Project Manager, at 863-519-2373 or by e-mail at nicole.broome@dot.state.fl.us at least seven (7) days before the workshop. If you would like more information concerning the S.R. 710 PD&E Study, please contact Ms. Broome. You may also visit the project Web site at www.SR710-Okeechobee.com for further information.



Alternatives Public Information Workshop

DATE: Monday, April 5, 2010
TIME: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
PLACE: Okeechobee KOA
 4276 U.S. 441 South
 Okeechobee, Florida 34972

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 47-2010-CA-000059

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff,

VS. SANDRA D. POOLE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SANDRA D. POOLE; GARY LAWRENCE POOLE, JR.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF GARY LAWRENCE POOLE, JR.; IF LIVING, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SAID DEFENDANT(S); IF REMARRIED, AND IF DECEASED, THE RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT(S);

Whose residence are/is unknown.

YOU ARE HEREBY required to file your answer or written defenses, if any, in the above proceeding with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney, Law Offices of Daniel C. Conuegra, 9204 King Palm Drive, Tampa, FL 33619-1328, telephone (813) 915-8660, facsimile (813) 915-0559, within thirty days of the first publication of this Notice, the nature of this proceeding being a suit for foreclosure of mortgage against the following described property, to wit:

LOT 3 IN BLOCK 28, BASSWOOD UNIT 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED

IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 28, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: SANDRA D. POOLE; IF LIVING, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SAID DEFENDANT(S); IF REMARRIED, AND IF DECEASED, THE RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT(S);

Whose residence are/is unknown.

YOU ARE HEREBY required to file your answer or written defenses, if any, in the above proceeding with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney, Law Offices of Daniel C. Conuegra, 9204 King Palm Drive, Tampa, FL 33619-1328, telephone (813) 915-8660, facsimile (813) 915-0559, within thirty days of the first publication of this Notice, the nature of this proceeding being a suit for foreclosure of mortgage against the following described property, to wit:

LOT 3 IN BLOCK 28, BASSWOOD UNIT 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED

IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 28, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Defendant(s).

CHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

If you fail to file your answer or written defenses in the above proceeding, on plaintiff's attorney, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition.

DATED AT OKEECHOBEE County this 18th day of March, 2010.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, (772) 807-4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice: IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1 800 955-8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1 800 955-8770.

349573 ON 3/24,31/10

Sudoku

SUDOKU

				6		9		
7						4	3	
	6	4				5		
			9	3		6		
	7	1	2					
2								
				3	8			
1							5	
		5			1	7	4	

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	4	7	1	2	8	5	3	9
3	5	2	6	9	4	7	8	1
1	6	8	3	5	2	7	4	9
5	7	3	8	1	4	9	6	2
4	8	9	6	5	2	7	1	3
1	2	9	6	3	8	5	4	7
7	1	5	2	8	3	1	4	6
3	6	4	8	2	5	7	9	1
8	3	6	1	9	4	7	2	5

ANSWER:

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

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

Shop from a gift catalog that's updated regularly: 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!

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

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

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

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

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 2010-CP-15

In Re: Estate of KENNETH HORN BASS, a/k/a KENNETH H. BASS, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of KENNETH HORN BASS, a/k/a KENNETH H. BASS, deceased, date of death January 18, 2010, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH IN THE FLORIDA STATUTES WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The first publication of this notice is March 31, 2010.

Edward H. Bobbitt
Co-Principal Representative
208 S.W. 2nd Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

Timothy Edward Kelly
7805 S.W. 21st Parkway
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

CONNELY & CONELY, P.A.
Post Office Drawer 1367
Okeechobee, Florida 34973-1367
(863) 763-3825
By: Tom Conely III
Florida Bar #096482
Attorney for Personal Representative
349799 ON 3/31;4/7/10

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 2010-CP-14

In Re: Estate of AGNES S. FOSTER, a/k/a AGNES FOSTER, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of AGNES S. FOSTER, a/k/a AGNES FOSTER, deceased, date of death November 23, 2009, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH IN THE FLORIDA STATUTES WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The first publication of this notice is March 31, 2010.

Jean E. James
Personal Representative
518 Kavanaugh Road
Fairless Hills, PA 19030

CONNELY & CONELY, P.A.
Post Office Drawer 1367
Okeechobee, Florida 34973-1367
(863) 763-3825
By: Tom Conely III
Florida Bar #096482
Attorney for Personal Representative
349790 ON 3/31;4/7/10

Find it faster. Sell it sooner in the classifieds

Ducks—more than they're quacked up to be

Tony Young
FWC

Well, I hope all you turkey hunters in the South Hunting Zone took a nice bird or two this year, as your season is coming to a close. For those of us in the rest of the state, we still have until April 25 to bag us a good long-beard. But after spring gobbler season, there's really not much hunting to talk about, so I'd like to tell you about another bird—one that needs our help.

As Easter approaches, many parents buy mallard ducklings for their children. We've done that for generations, but consequences have caught up with us.

These ducks can live 10 years. They might make nice pets while they are still small enough to fit in your hand, but when they become full-grown and the novelty wears off, people often grow tired of caring for them and decide to turn them loose. Most don't realize that is against the law, and these mallards pose a serious threat to Florida's native wildlife.

Besides making it illegal to release mallards, Florida law also requires anyone possessing, buying or selling mallards to have a permit from the FWC, and the birds must be kept in a cage as long as they live.

One reason for this rule is that domesticated ducks can transmit diseases and compete with native wildlife for food and habitat. It's actually illegal to release any animal into the wild if it poses a disease hazard. But the most important reason is releasing domesticated mallards into the wild threatens the existence of the Florida mottled duck.

The Florida mottled duck, also called the Florida duck, is a unique subspecies found only in peninsular Florida. It keeps to a small home range in inland and coastal wetland ecosystems.

To hunters, the mottled duck is a highly prized game bird found in many ponds, lakes, rivers, marshes and canals in Central and South Florida. They are large ducks, brownish in color, with both sexes being darker than a mallard but slightly lighter than a black duck.

This species is one of only a few nonmigratory ducks in North America. The mottled duck spends its entire life within Florida.

In the spring, wild mallards fly north to breed and are not present when the mottled duck mating season begins. On the other hand, store-bought mallards don't migrate and instead become established, year-round residents of Florida. These domesticated mallards crossbred with mottled ducks and produce hybrid offspring. The offspring are fertile, which compounds the situation. Each year, there are fewer purebred mottled ducks left, and the trend is driving the Florida mottled duck toward extinction. Communities around the globe have seen similar problems. In New Zealand, domesticated mallards, released to provide hunting stock, have devastated the local grey duck populations. Now, 95 percent of the grey ducks in New Zealand are hybrids.

The Hawaiian duck is another example. This endangered bird has been all but completely hybridized and may be genetically intact only on the island of Kauai.

Meller's duck in Madagascar is yet another example.

The fate of the Florida mottled duck could be similar, as its population is relatively small, estimated at only 30,000-50,000 breeding birds. FWC biologists say between 7 and 12 percent of the state's mottled ducks are showing genetic evidence of hybridization.

Floridians purchase more than 12,000 mallards a year, and many of them make their way into nearby waters. Given these alarming figures, plus the fact the population of mottled ducks is small, it wouldn't take long for the Florida mottled duck to disappear.

The solution starts with not buying your child a mallard duck for Easter.

To go a step further, don't feed or shelter domesticated mallards; help spread the word; and consider requesting permits to remove any that may live on your property.

For more information on protecting Florida's mottled duck or to obtain permits for removing domesticated mallards, contact one of the FWC's waterfowl offices at 850-488-5878 or 321-726-2862, or visit MyFWC.com/Duck.

Tony Young is the Division of Hunting and Game Management's Media Relations Coordinator and may be reached with questions about hunting at Tony.Young@MyFWC.com.

Crossword

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Jack-in-the-pulpit family</p> <p>5 nova</p> <p>10 Like most radios</p> <p>14 End of a dash</p> <p>15 Adidas founder</p> <p>17 Took too much</p> <p>18 Damage badly</p> <p>19 Gadgets used in drivers' education?</p> <p>20 Social butterfly's flower pot?</p> <p>23 Exodus landmark</p> <p>24 Sacred Egyptian symbols</p> <p>28 Puzzle page feature</p> <p>32 "A Man and a Woman" actress</p> <p>33 Accent in the pantry?</p> <p>36 Breakfast for a cuddly person?</p> <p>39 Slurpee alternative</p> <p>41 What matters</p> <p>42 End of a lap</p> <p>43 Adam's tavern?</p> <p>46 Bering, e.g.: Abbr.</p> <p>47 Nobelist Root</p> <p>48 Keys</p> <p>50 Manufacturers' headaches</p> <p>53 Copies, briefly</p> <p>57 Old West outlaw's accessory?</p> <p>61 Practice for the main event</p> <p>64 Main event venue</p> <p>65 Aged wheel?</p> <p>66 Mortgage holder's offer, for short</p> <p>67 Pick-me-up</p> <p>68 Artist's pseudonym formed from the French pronunciation of his initials</p> <p>69 It follows the last Gospel</p> <p>70 One in a black suit</p> <p>71 Not natural</p>	<p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Energy sources</p> <p>2 Spokes, say</p> <p>3 Southernmost Ivy League sch.</p> <p>4 Civil rights activist Evers</p> <p>5 Decrease</p> <p>6 It might be a clue</p> <p>7 Frequent reelers</p> <p>8 Serbs and Croats</p> <p>9 Company with fowl-mouthed ads?</p> <p>10 Little star</p> <p>11 Parisian Mrs.</p> <p>12 Professional charge</p> <p>13 Julio, por ejemplo</p> <p>21 Bank holding</p> <p>22 German coal region</p> <p>25 Answers from a flock</p> <p>26 Sire</p> <p>27 Rocker Bob with the Silver Bullet Band</p> <p>29 Neuwirth of "Cheers"</p> <p>30 Consumer</p> <p>31 East German secret police</p> <p>33 Philanthropist's antithesis</p>	<p>34 Do to do</p> <p>35 Photo finish?</p> <p>37 Some attys.' degrees</p> <p>38 Matmid Frequent Flyer Club airline</p> <p>40 "Apollo 13" costar</p> <p>44 Corker</p> <p>45 Sommellier's array</p> <p>49 Filled in</p> <p>51 Hurdles for seekers of 37-Down</p> <p>52 Sharpen</p> <p>54 Designer Ellis</p> <p>55 Cream of the crop</p> <p>56 Mount</p> <p>58 Yakutsk's river</p> <p>59 City west of Tulsa</p> <p>60 Beat fast</p> <p>61 Arg. title</p> <p>62 Chest muscle</p> <p>63 Near the tail</p>
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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xwordeditor@aol.com

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By Mike Peluso
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OHS Lady Brahmans compete in Classic

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Lady Brahman softball team will test their mettle against some of the best softball teams in Florida this week in Kissimmee.

The 18th annual tournament is held through Saturday at the Osceola County Sports Complex.

Teams in the field are broken up into three divisions. Okeechobee will play in the White bracket with Port Orange, Sarasota Riverview, Sebastian River, St. Cloud, Naples Gulf Coast, Tampa Jefferson, Pembroke Pines Charter, Orlando Colonial, Keystone Heights, Tampa Gaither, Tate Cantonment, Pine Castle Christian and Satellite Beach.

Okeechobee opens up Thursday night at 6:15 p.m. against Naples Gulf Coast. The team is guaranteed to play at least three games in the tournament.

Brahman Coach Kim Hargraves said she expects the field of teams to be tough again this year, "There is an awesome field of teams. If anyone gets a chance please attend. It is great to see that caliber of ball. Every team there earns an invitation so there are no slackers."

Infielder and pitcher Courtney Wilson said the team's confidence has grown with each tournament they play. She said that she expects the Classic to be a measuring stick for the team, "There is a lot of talent there. I'm just excited to go up there and get the exposure."



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Special to the Okeechobee News/Mike Woodham

Young angler

Ten year old Austin Wyatt Edwards fished his first tournament with Mike Woodham as a club member of the Big "O" Bassmasters Club. This was the first tournament of the year where ten to sixteen year olds could fish the Club as a Co-Angler member. Mike said, "Even though Austin slept and ate over half of the tournament, he still managed to come in Fourth place on the Co-Angler side. (First place with the Juniors in the Club)." This has been a big change for our club and the experience of fishing with a child is very rewarding, while they are learning from you, they are also reminding you to not forget the basics of fishing. The excitement and determination in a young persons eyes make it a great experience for you also and a pleasure."

Fisheating Creek campground improvements under way

Springtime's arrival is ushering in exciting happenings at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area in Glades County. The swallow-tailed kites are back from South America, and the campground is getting a facelift.

Campground renovations include construction of a new camp store and visitor check-in building, repairs to the bathhouses and a general spruce up. During demolition and construction of the camp store, traffic will be rerouted through an interim visitor check-in. Visitors just need to follow all signs and instructions when entering and exiting the campground. Workers expect to complete the improvement project in June.

A new concessionaire, Fisheating Creek Outpost, Inc., is operating at the campground. The Outpost will continue to offer high quality recreational experiences at the campground and on the creek. Look for a variety of new interpretive tours and programs in the near future.

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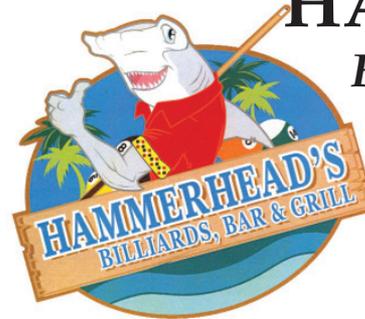
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- 2. French Toast Combo** \$4⁸⁹
2 eggs, 2 links, 2 bacon
- 3. Bagel with cream cheese** \$4⁸⁹
- 4. 1/2 Sausage & Gravy** \$4⁸⁹
with Coffee
- 5. Eggs, Toast with Coffee** \$4²⁹
- 6. Hot Oatmeal with coffee** \$4²⁹

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& SUNDAY**

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with Potato, Toast
or Pancake
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with 2 eggs, Potato & Toast

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- 2. Patty Melt** \$5⁸⁹
- 3. Jr. Super Salad** \$5⁸⁹
- 4. Grilled Chicken Sandwich** \$5⁹⁹
- 5. Turkey 'n Swiss Melt** \$5⁹⁹
- 6. Soup & 1/2 Sandwich** \$5⁹⁹

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\$9⁹⁹

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- Sweet 'N Sour Shrimp \$7⁹⁹
- Sweet Alfredo \$7⁹⁹

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- 2. Chicken and Shrimp**
- 3. Grilled Tilapia**
- 4. Shrimp Ceasar Salad**
- 5. Country Fried Steak**
- 6. Grilled Pork Chops**

All Special served with 2 sides. Soup or Salad,
and complimentary pudding or ice cream

7 DAYS • 6 AM - 11 PM



Sun - Thurs.
11am to 9pm
Fri & Sat
11am to 10pm
(Bar closes at
2 am every day)



**VIP
Room
Available**
Call for Details

Okeechobee's Finest Restaurant & Watering Hole

Appetizers

Santa Fe Eggrolls
Fired up Chicken Wings

Hammerhead's Signature Soup

Chicken Monterey
Tortilla Soup

Soups ~ Salads ~ Sandwiches ~ Seafood

Steaks and Hammerhead Specialties

Fillet of Flounder Oskar
Mahi mahi
Atlantic and Gulf Grouper

863-357-4745

Located on Taylor Creek

202 NE 7th Ave. & Hwy 70 E

