

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 40

Friday, April 2, 2010

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Sports Network: Club Soccer ... Page 16

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Cops: beware of text message scam

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A new text message scam has hit the area in the last couple of days and is aimed at getting credit card numbers and personal information.

Apparently quite a few Okeechobee residents have re-

ceived text messages that their H&R Block Emerald Card has been frozen and they are then given a phone number to call. When the number is called, the scammer asks the caller for their 16-digit Emerald Card number.

"If they (the victim) don't have an Emerald Card, they are asking for a Master Card number," said

Barbara Bolling, manager of a local H&R Block office.

Either way, once the number is given the scammer then has that person's personal information.

The Emerald Card, explained Ms. Bolling, is a prepaid Master Card issued by H&R Block.

Ms. Bolling went on to say that her office has received about 30

calls from concerned customers in a little more than 24 hours.

"We have quite a few that's been contacted," she said Wednesday, March 31, of their customers.

It should be noted, however, the scam isn't aimed solely at H&R Block customers.

See SCAM — Page 2



Courtesy photo/OCPD

Officer Russell Cale (lying on driver's side of overturned vehicle), of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), checks on the condition of Lovella Straley, 77, who was trapped inside her 2008 Chevrolet sports utility vehicle Wednesday, March 31. Ms. Straley, of Okeechobee, was involved in an automobile crash with Craig Rush, 24, also of Okeechobee. The crash took place in the 400 block of S. Parrott Ave. at 12:11 p.m. According to an OCPD accident report, Ms. Straley was attempting a left-hand turn onto S. Parrott Ave. from S.E. Fourth St. when she drove into the path of Mr. Rush, who was northbound on S. Parrott Ave. The front of the 2001 Ford automobile driven by Mr. Rush collided with the driver's side door of the SUV. The force of the impact caused the SUV to roll over onto its passenger side. Ms. Straley and Mr. Rush were both taken to Raulerson Hospital for treatment. The report indicates that they were both released later that same day. According to the report, Ms. Straley was cited for failure to yield the right of way. Damage to the SUV was estimated at \$10,000, while damages to the Ford were estimated to be \$4,000. OCPD Detective Bill Saum said Officer Cale did not remove Ms. Straley from her vehicle, but stayed with her until emergency medical personnel arrived on scene.

SB-1454 draws clerk's interest

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

There has been some interest expressed lately in interest -- that is, concern about interest-bearing deposits by Florida counties.

A bill under consideration in the Florida Senate could result in the loss of that interest to Florida counties.

Under current law, interest from

See SB-1454 — Page 2



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Okeechobee Co. Airport approved for federal grant

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Improvements may soon be coming to the Okeechobee County Airport—provided some additional funds are found to supplement a grant.

SCAM

Continued From Page 1

As of Wednesday, three detectives with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) and one detective with the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD) had received similar text messages.

"The text said 'customer issue H&R Block Emerald Card frozen,'" said OCSO Detective Susan Morrison, who just happens to be an H&R Block customer. "But, we don't have an Emerald Card."

So far, potential victims have been given three different phone numbers to call. Two of the numbers -- 518-891-2609 in Saranac Lake, N.Y., and 585-419-6639 in Rochester, N.Y. -- are no longer working. A third number -- 254-379-0002 -- is to a cell phone in Waco, Texas.

One local man received this text message and called the Waco, Texas, number. When the person on the other end asked for the man's 16-digit Emerald Card number, the man hung up the phone.

The number in Saranac Lake, said Detective Morrison, has been shut down by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

U.S. Congressman Tom Rooney recently announced that the Okeechobee County Airport would be receiving a grant of \$1,635,344. That money would be used to improve two taxiways.

However, according to Donnie Oden,

When the Okeechobee News called the number in Rochester, N.Y., a recorded message indicated that the number is no longer in service. Also, several attempts were made to contact someone at the Waco, Texas, number but those attempts were unsuccessful because only a busy signal was received.

OCPD Detective Bill Saum warned citizens to ignore these text messages.

"Call your tax preparer if you get this or any other text about your taxes, any part of their preparation or payments. Please, be careful," he said.

The OCPD detective went on to say that he has no knowledge of anyone suffering a loss due to this scam.

When the phone number in Saranac Lake was called Wednesday, a recorded message from the FTC came on stating that the number had been disconnected due to its possible connection to a phishing scam. The message went on to say that the sole purpose of those conducting the scam was to get someone's personal information.

The message then said to get more information on phishing or other scams, go to onguardonline.gov -- an internet site managed by the FTC.

capital projects manager for Okeechobee County, the grant money is \$360,000 short of the lowest bid for the job. At this point he does not know what the county is going to do.

In the same press release, Congressman Rooney announced a \$10 million grant for Witham Field in Stuart.

"Unlike the failed stimulus bill, which

"...these competitive grants will provide timely, targeted funding that will help create jobs and grow the local economy,"
Tom Rooney, U.S. Congressman.

was filled with wasteful spending and political earmarks, these competitive grants will provide timely, targeted funding

that will help create jobs and grow the local economy," Mr. Rooney said. "I encourage all counties and local governments in the 16th district seeking to compete for federal grants to contact my office for guidance and support."

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SB-1454

Continued From Page 1

county funds deposited by the clerk of the court is returned to the county.

Senator J. D. Alexander (R-District 17), who represents part of Okeechobee County, has sponsored a bill that reverses this law. Under his bill, all interest accruing from county funds shall be deemed income of the office of the clerk of the court.

Most counties do not have a problem with interest monies. In the past, in Okeechobee and other counties, the interest money has gone back to the county.

Okeechobee County Clerk of the Circuit Court Sharon Robertson said when she first took office in 1995 she could have retained the interest that accrued on county funds. It was optional at that time. The clerk could either keep the interest or return it to the county.

Mrs. Robertson consulted with other clerks who said they returned the interest to their respective counties. Mrs. Robertson said she was afraid that if she retained the interest, the county would cut her budget by that amount.

In fiscal year 2009 that interest amounted to about \$97,000. Okeechobee County budgeted \$1.4 million in operating funds for the clerk's office that year.

However, Mrs. Robertson said that some larger counties have used that interest as part of their operating budget.

In 2009 the law was clarified to specifi-

cally state that "all interest accruing from money deposited shall be deemed income of the county."

Now, Sen. Alexander wants to reverse the law. His bill states that "all interest accruing from monies deposited shall be deemed income of the office of the clerk of the circuit court..."

In Collier County, there have been several legal battles between the clerk of the court and county commissioners over who should receive the interest money.

At first, Dwight Brock, clerk of the circuit court for Collier County, returned all interest money to the county. He claims that as a result of a dispute with commissioners on another matter, commissioners drastically reduced his operating funds.

Mr. Brock then used interest money to operate his office, returning any surplus funds to the county. At that time he said interest rates were much higher than they are now.

Under last year's law, Mr. Brock had to return the interest to the county. According to the Naples News, Collier County has budgeted about \$14 million of interest income across all of the county funds in fiscal 2010. In fiscal year 2009, still quoting the Naples News, the county received more than \$12 million in interest income from the clerk's office.

There has been no companion bill filed in the Florida House.

Calls to Sen. Alexander seeking comments were not returned.

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

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Woman killed in mobile home blaze

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

A Buckhead Ridge woman was killed when her double wide mobile home caught fire early Sunday, March 28, said Captain Darryl Lewis of the Glades County Sheriff's Office (GCSO).

Pamela Ann Payette, 53, was killed when her home at 1276 Chobee Street caught fire around 7:30 a.m. The fire appeared to have started in the kitchen area, said officials.

Ms. Payette worked as a bartender at the Buckhead Ridge VFW.

GCSO deputies said a neighbor apparently tried to rescue the victim but was unable to get through the smoke and the heat inside the home.

EMS Director Bob Jones said the home was full of smoke with flames coming from the middle roof edge when firemen arrived.

The Buckhead Ridge Volunteer Fire Company, Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue and Brighton firefighters responded to the scene.

The woman was taken out of the home by firefighters and CPR was performed.

State Fire Marshal spokesperson Jennifer Hirst said the fire is still under investigation, and that the cause of death has not been determined. Once the cause is determined it will be released to the sheriff's office.

The American Red Cross office in Okeechobee assisted firefighters, as well as the victim's family.

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Man charged in theft of bicycles

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

An 18-year-old Okeechobee man has been arrested in connection with the alleged theft of three bicycles from a Playland Park home.

Samuel Curbelo, N.W. 44th Ave., was arrested Monday, March 29, on a felony charge of grand theft. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of criminal mischief.



Samuel Curbelo

Curbelo was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$3,000. Jail records indicate that he was released on bond later that day.

According to an arrest report by Deputy Cody Hurst, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), he was contacted by a man who saw Curbelo and two other men reportedly riding the three stolen bikes.

Deputy Hurst's report went on to state that Curbelo and another man apparently took the bikes apart for their parts, then threw two of the frames into a pond behind a third man's home. Two frames were recovered from the pond, while a third frame was found in some woods that surround the pond, the report added.

Collectively, the bicycles had an estimated worth of \$360, indicated the report.

No other arrests have been made in this case.

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Couple charged with selling cocaine

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

A man and woman are accused of leaving their three young children at home alone while they drove to a convenience store on U.S. 441 N. to allegedly sell crack cocaine.

Javan Maurice Mosley, 21, N.E. 13th Ave., Okeechobee, and Jessica M. Jenkins, 27, of the same address, were both arrested Wednesday, March 31, by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force.



Javan M. Mosley

p.m. Wednesday in the parking lot of a convenience store.

The report stated that Mosley was a passenger in the car being driven by Jenkins. They were at the store to sell the informant two pieces of crack cocaine for the agreed-upon price of \$60, added the report.

Once the alleged deal was consummated, Mosley and Jenkins drove away. They were stopped a short time later by task force detectives and placed under arrest.

The alleged crack was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine, stated the detective's report. According to the report, the suspected crack cocaine weighed 0.2 grams.

Mosley and Jenkins reportedly left their home to make the alleged drug deal and left their three children -- ages 4, 6 and 7 -- alone in the home.

According to the task force report, Jenkins lists her occupation as being a child care worker.



Jessica M. Jenkins

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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

- Once State Road 70 is quad and 55, the economy will decline even further. We must entertain more business now. Or our children and the coming generations will suffer extensively. Businesses are closing at an alarming rate. But, we are pouring money into big chain stores. Soon we will be a "box town" just like the "box stores" that consume our hard earned dollars. Leaving nothing more to our children than a mere faded dream of capitalism. Gone is small business. Gone are the days of hard work and simple living. Welcome to higher taxes, poor schools, higher crime, and yes, eventually a civil war. I don't know about you folks, but I have pledged allegiance my entire life. And now? What exactly does it mean? Allegiance ... indivisible ... with liberty and justice ... for all? Remember folks. When your leaders in Washington tell an entire country that they (we) are "Bailing Out" big businesses that have failed, we are telling our children that it is O.K. to gamble it all away and come back for more.

Socialism

- We have to have insurance when we drive our car. Why are we so reluctant to insure ourselves? They are trying to make it affordable for everyone. I've paid my insurance premiums for 30 years ... luckily have only had to use it for normal office visits. Thank God. What about the young couple that finds out their child has some horrible illness. Oh yeah, we can hold a benefit in the park, there's an answer to health care. Give me a break. They are not forcing small businesses. People will be allowed (not forced) to insure their kids to age 26. It's funny half the people I know in this town are on disability and you are worried about Socialism. There are too many people that want the government to take care of them. It's going to cost big companies and rich people a little more money.

- A small number of Democrats were calling for Universal health care, which would be government run health care for all, but in the spirit of bipartisanship, President Obama and most Democrats were willing to accept a smaller role for the government in fixing our broken health care system, the public option. Republicans, though, called that a government takeover of our medical system too. So in the spirit of bipartisanship, President Obama and most Democrats said OK, you don't like the public option, we'll get rid of that too. But now, even though none of that exists in the bill that was passed, Republicans claim that this bill is somehow still a government takeover of our medical system. The fight over this bill has shown Republicans for what they really are. -- obstructionists more interested in scoring political points than in helping the people.

What are your top 3 pet peeves?

- 1. Lazy people 2. Adults who do not use manners 3. People who blow their nose at the table in a restaurant (which should fall under the heading of manners)

Library—keep it open

- Why do you even need a library at all? The internet is at your disposal for anything you need to look up. Plenty of places to get books to read also. Anytime that I went to the library here, it was always, "We can get it for you." If that's the case, I can also "get it myself."

- I guess I am old fashioned enough that I like to hold a book in my hands and read it. Maybe go outside and sit under a tree and read. Reading on a computer screen hurts my eyes after a while. But I can spend hours on a rainy weekend curled up with a book with no eye strain. I see many young mothers at the library introducing their children to the world of books. The kids can browse through the stacks and find something that interests them. Holding a book in their hands is just better than "surfing the net." For many people in Okeechobee County, the library is not just a source of reading materials. The computers there may be their only way to go online because they cannot afford their own computer or internet access. The library is also a community meeting place with rooms available for special educational programs and events such as local history presentations.

Guest Commentary

Prison debate should focus on safety—not savings

State government in Florida, much like the citizens it serves, is facing yet another difficult budget year. The legislature is leaving no stone unturned as it tries to find ways to reduce government spending in order to balance the budget. In fact, over the last three years state spending has been reduced by over \$7 billion.

Considering the budget cuts that have already been implemented the legislature does not have an easy task this year.

The budget debate has now turned to the costs of running our state prisons. The Senate recently approved an amendment to the budget to close three correctional facilities and transfer the inmates in those facilities to a privately operated institution. It is believed that using the private facility could save the state \$20 million in operating expenses. There is another \$100 million in estimated savings by eliminating 1,300 currently vacant prison jobs.

As with any budget savings proposal there is a debate about the actual savings, as well as the policy implications, of the proposed cuts. It appears that moving inmates to a private facility will result in the closing of three prisons which are currently in operation. This in turn will cause as many as 1,400 prison guards to lose their jobs thus adding to Florida's unemployment numbers. There is no doubt that there will be a social cost to closing state run prisons. Our unemployment numbers will go up, as will the demand for social services by the families of those that will lose their jobs. For that reason alone it is difficult, at best, to justify the closure of three state run prisons.

Equally troubling is the possible "trickle down" effect of this change which could lead to the closure of six state-run facilities and the relocation of 6,000 inmates. The Secretary of the Department of Corrections believes this may lead to the early release of as many as 2,500 prisoners.

Thus, beyond the debate about potential savings and potential social costs there is another important issue to consider—the safety of the citizens of Florida. Government's first and foremost responsibility is to ensure your safety. Consequently, the debate about prison closings cannot be about savings alone—the issue of citizen safety must be at the forefront of the discussion. The potential early release of 2,500 prisoners would certainly reduce the safety of our citizens. Such an outcome is not acceptable.

There is another reason to question this proposed change. When someone is convicted of a crime and sentenced to prison—it is a punishment being carried out on behalf of the citizens of Florida by state officials.

It is society's way of saying "you broke the public compact and now you will be punished." There is something lost in the process when the responsibility for carrying out that punishment gets shifted from state officials to corporate employees. The whole process shifts from a focus on "crime and punishment" to a focus on "profits and losses"—that is wrong.

We must continue to look for ways to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money. However, the proposal to close state-run prisons focuses too much on possible savings and not enough on the safety of the citizens of Florida.

**By Jeff Kottkamp
Republican for Attorney General**

Thank you

Thanks for the support

The family of Alfred Middleton would like to express their gratitude to all family and friends who have extended such love and care during our time of loss. We especially want to thank our extended family at Berger Insurance and First United Methodist Church. Special thanks to the wonderful people at Bass Funeral Home.

**We love you all,
Nancy Vaughan
First United Methodist Church**

Community event

Run/Walk event scheduled

CASTLE's Sixth Annual Stomp Out Child Abuse 5KRun/Walk is coming up. Please join us ...run with us, walk with us, and please help us spread the word about this wonderful event scheduled for Saturday, May 1. Registration for runners starts at 6:30 a.m. and for walkers at 7:30 a.m. For sign up information, contact crobertson@exchangecastle.org, tel. 465-6011, ext. 236, or go to: www.exchangecastle.org, or contact any CASTLE office.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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To Submit News

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We Pledge...

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

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

MEMBER



Pizza Hut damaged in early morning accident

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Wednesday started out with a bang for the Okeechobee Pizza Hut Restaurant at 2795 U.S. 441 S.

A worker at the restaurant apparently lost control of a 2008 Chevrolet SUV and plowed through the front door of the facility, Lieutenant Robert Banfield of Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue (OCF/R) said.

Mary Prescott, 40, was not injured in the freak accident reported at about 8:15 a.m. "The vehicle actually entered the door way. There was about a 2-to 3-foot intrusion into the building," Lt. Banfield said.

The Fire/Rescue special response team -- known as the Urban Search and Rescue Team -- went to work immediately. The team was created by the state to help fire departments in the event of strong storms and hurricane damage.

Six members of the team worked on the front door to make it safe for other contractors to enter and repair the building.

OCF/R Lieutenant Karl Holtkamp said the team recently got training from an exercise

at an old home north of the railroad tracks on U.S. 441, which came in handy for this event.

"The team provides good service. We have 18 members that are trained with six on each shift," he said.

Lt. Holtkamp said the restaurant was allowed to have deliveries on Wednesday and he predicted the restaurant would be re-open very quickly.

"Once the repairs are done they can re-open," he added.

Fire/Rescue estimated the amount of damage at between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Contractor Mark Brandel and engineer Steve Dobbs were also on the scene, along with County Building Inspector Carl Peterson.

Members of the urban search and rescue team on scene included Matt Vinson, T.J. Parrish and Keith Bourgault.

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office investigated the accident. Detective Ted Van Deman said it was unlikely that the motorist would be cited for this incident.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Firefighter T.J. Parrish was among six members of the Urban Search and Rescue team that worked to fix the entrance to the Pizza Hut restaurant Wednesday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Lieutenant Robert Banfield oversees work by the Okeechobee County Urban Search and Rescue Team at the main entrance to the Okeechobee Pizza Hut restaurant Wednesday.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming east between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 54. East wind around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 83. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 7-7-9; **Play 4:** 5-5-3-5; **Fantasy 5:** 11-14-20-22-34; **Mega Money:** 18-23-24-33 MB 17; **Florida Lotto:** 23-29-32-34-41-44 X 4; **Powerball:** 5-13-17-45-54 PB12 x5. Numbers drawn Thursday, **Cash 3:** 4-9-8; **Play 4:** 3-9-5-0.

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OSWCD to hold Speech contest

Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Speech Contest, "How Do conservation habits equal healthy habitats?" will be held, April 13, 2010. Open to any Okeechobee County

students, grades 6 through 12. First Place \$250. For a complete list of rules and entry form contact 763-3619 ext. 501 or email: audrey.driggers@fl.nacdnet.net

sfwmd.gov

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Community Events

Parks and Rec announce Easter Eggs-travaganza

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

Bake sale to benefit BHR Fireman Auxiliary

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

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.

Easter Sunrise Services planned

Okeechobee Ministerial Association invites everyone to Easter Sunrise Services planned for Sunday, **April 4**, from 6:30-7:30 a.m. at Lake Okeechobee Lock 7 Pier (where U.S. Hwy. 441 and S.R. 78 separate). Bring your chair and blanket. Congregational singing by the Okeechobee Commu-

nity Choir with Soloist, Rev. Loy Mershimer of Okeechobee Presbyterian. Love offering will be taken for a local charity. Come and worship with your friends, family and neighbors!

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.

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.

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.

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).

Guest speaker joins 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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News in Brief:

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 fol-

lowing 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. Parrot 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 Spirits 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.

Available 24/7



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Church's lunch program now includes music

"Let's Do Lunch," the Friday Lenten Concert Series at Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church concluded this past Friday and was entitled, "Young Musicians Cafe" and featured local students performing, some for the first time. During the concert, Director of Music, Kevin Kinnaird honored Mrs. Ann Rooks for her 46 years of teaching the art of playing piano to so many in and around Okeechobee. Mrs. Rooks began her career by teaching public school music. After a couple of years, she made the decision to become a 'stay at home Mom' and to continue her musical career by opening a private studio in her home. While being honored, Mrs. Rooks commented to the audience, "It has been such a joy to teach and to see students learn to make music. It doesn't make much money, but you receive such a great reward for seeing these young people progress each week." Always the teacher, she then encouraged all the students present to continue their pursuit of music. Mrs. Rooks received this recognition after two of her former students, from two generations, performed in the concert. Becky Posey-Smith studied with Mrs. Rooks starting in second grade and took lessons for 11 years. Just last year she went back to Mrs. Rooks to finish a Chopin Nocturne that she was working on when she quit taking lessons. Becky performed the piece (without Mrs. Rooks knowing that she

was on the program), followed by Ly Pham playing a Bach and Beethoven piece. Ly is a young teenager that studied with Mrs. Rooks until she retired last year. Kevin Kinnaird, presenting her with a bouquet of flowers commented, "Mrs Rooks will always be remembered as one of the best private piano teachers in the region. "The Concert series "Let's Do Lunch" was a brand new concept to the city and was well received. These short concerts occurred during the last three Fridays of Lent during the lunch hour and was followed by a brown bag lunch provided by the Church. Anyone who attended all three concerts were able to hear many local students and artists performing a wide variety of music- from classical composers like Bach, Beethoven and Chopin to more current day genres like country, modern and classic Broadway and light Alternative.

The next event that will take place at Church of Our Saviour will be an "Island Night" and will feature the award winning Chobee Steelers on April 10 from 4-8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and will include a meal of jerk pork, plantains and Caribbean Rice and more. The Church also sponsors the "Beginnings" Concert in November and will benefit "Healthy Start" this year. Please call the Church office 863-763-4843 for more details on these events.



Kevin Kinnaird presents flowers to Mrs. Ann Rooks, while her former students look on.

Special to the Okeechobee News/Kevin Kinnaird (upper left) Back Row: Daniel Fulledda, Kiersten Bostwick, Rebecca Snyder, Celeste Howell and Daron Jones Front Row: Ray Noel, Caycee Rolling, Mrs. Ann Rooks, Erica Pope, Ly Pham and Kevin Kinnaird. (center) Kaycee Rolling and Erica Pope performed country music selections, accompanied by Kevin Kinnaird on piano. (lower left) Ray Noel, owner of Okeechobee Music and guitar teacher, listens carefully to the guitar ensemble perform. Performing (l to r) are Celeste Howell, Daniel Fulledda, Rebecca Snyder, Kiersten Bostwick and Daron Jones.

Ministry reaches out to local hearing impaired



Special to the Okeechobee News/Betty Bockoras The "Deaf Team" helping to bring their ministry to local Okeechobee residents are, left to right, Chris Boyett, Linda Stewart, Stevie Williams, and Laurie Garner.

The More 2 Life Deaf Ministry would like to introduce itself to the hearing impaired of Okeechobee. This faith based ministry is non-denominational. The meetings are relaxed, with a cafe and tables for fellowship, followed by music and an inspirational message interpreted in American Sign Language (ASL).

Laurie Garner is the Coordinator/Teacher of More 2 Life Deaf Ministry. She has worked in the Okeechobee School System as an interpreter for hearing impaired and deaf students. She has over 20 years experience in leading Bible studies in various churches in the southeast. You may call her at 863-634-8523 voice or text (or) email her at: love2organize@gmail.com

Linda Stewart is a certified interpreter with 25 years experience in interpreting for the deaf. Recently retired from the Okeechobee School System, she's now putting her efforts into the More 2 Life Deaf Ministry. Her goal is to "teach the deaf to reach the deaf." She is presently teaching Stevie Williams who wants to sign for praise and worship.

Chris Boyett is putting his leadership and teaching abilities to work in the More 2 Life Ministry. Totally deaf himself, he has had experience in the Okeechobee Schools, sharing his spirit and warmth with children through interpretive storytelling. He has also served as Sunday School teacher for the deaf in a local church. Chris's goal for the More 2 life Ministry is that "every hearing impaired person will know the saving grace of our Lord." Chris would one day like to become a pastor for the deaf. You may call him at: 866-784-8065 (VRS).

The More 2 Life Deaf Ministry meets at Osceola Middle School gym, located at 825 S.W. 28th Street. Activities are as follows:

- Bible study, interpreted in ASL, Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.
- Praise and worship music and a sermon interpreted in ASL, Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Praise and worship music and a sermon interpreted in ASL, Sundays at 10 a.m.

In addition to the above, a prayer meeting is held at the Presbyterian church, located across the street from Bank of America, on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

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Good day, great fishing at Freedom Outreach tourney

Freedom Outreach Fishing Tourney held Sunday, March 28, was even better than expected.

The fish didn't disappoint, the rain held out and there was great food waiting on the participants at the weigh in. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

The teams placed are as follows:
First place - Fred George and Bob Owens

with 17.04 lbs.

Second place Big Fish - Fred George and Bob Owens - 5.02 lbs.

Second place - Jack Harrison and Sal Nofi - 16.08 lbs.

First place Big Fish - Jack Harrison and Sal Nofi - 5.08 lbs.

Third place - John Supley and Mark Hester - 13.08 lbs.



Big fish winner, with a 5.08-lb. largemouth, was the team of Jack Harrison and Sal Nofi. Finishing in third place was the team of John Supley and Mark Hester with a total weight of 13.08 pounds.

Special to the Okeechobee News/Wendy Walker



Taking the first place title overall with a total weight of 17.04 lbs, was the team of Fred George and Bob Owens. The Freedom Outreach Bass Tournament was held Sunday, March 28, on Lake Okeechobee.

Special to the Okeechobee News/Wendy Walker

Free freshwater fishing this weekend

Both residents and nonresidents in Florida can fish in public fresh waters across the state without a license during the weekend of April 3 and 4. All other fishing rules apply.

The Florida Legislature and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) designated the first full weekend in April each year to be Florida's Free Freshwater Fishing Weekend. This year, that falls on Easter weekend.

This is a great opportunity for experienced anglers to share their love of the sport with family and friends. It's also a great opportunity to join the thousands of anglers who have taken the Anglers' Legacy Pledge by visiting www.AnglersLegacy.org

and entering partner code FFWC. Anglers' Legacy is about giving back what you've been given, and making a promise to introduce somebody new to fishing. There's no membership fee and no obligation - it's just another great way to help spread the fun of one of America's most popular traditions and share our fishing heritage with others.

The Get Outdoors Florida! coalition (www.GetOutdoorsFlorida.org) encourages everyone, and especially children, to connect with nature by getting outdoors and enjoying active, nature-based recreation. Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing to learn about fishing regulations in Florida.

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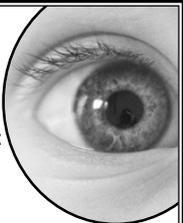


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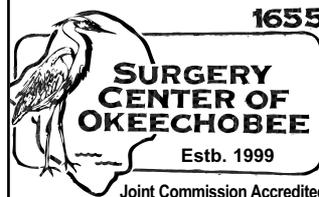


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414 S PARROTT AVE OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

Chicks, rabbits aren't good gifts for Easter

The Humane Society of the United States is asking people to refrain from acquiring live chicks and rabbits as Easter gifts this holiday season. Young, adorable animals mature quickly into adults and need daily care for the rest of their lives. Instead of live animals as gifts, consider giving children a plush toy or a chocolate rabbit.

"People often don't realize the level of commitment that these animals require," said Adam Goldfarb, director of the Pets at Risk program for The HSUS. "The animals that people associate with Easter, like chicks and baby rabbits, have very specific social and nutritional needs. They can't be caged continuously or relegated to the basement or garage."

In some areas, selling chicks and keeping chickens as pets is actually illegal. Every year, animal shelters receive a surge of unwanted Easter pets who are given up after the owners have lost interest or are unable to care for them. Unfortunately, many are euthanized due to lack of available homes.

Some animals given as gifts are released into the wild when people tire of them. However, these animals are domestic species. They're unable to fend for themselves and usually die of starvation or exposure to the elements, or are preyed upon by other animals.

Bringing any type of pet into your home should be done only after carefully assessing your family's ability to meet the animal's needs and after seeking information from experts. Talk to a veterinarian, your local animal shelter, or other pet owners about the nuts and bolts of caring for these animals. Adding chickens or any animals to your family should only be done if you have carefully considered your family's lifestyle and your commitment to an animal who can live for many years.

Visit humanesociety.org/rabbitcare to learn more about taking care of rabbits. If you do decide that a rabbit would be a good pet for your family, consider adopting from your local animal shelter or rabbit rescue group.

Community Event

Red Cross plans classes for April

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

- 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.



ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Abundant Blessings



"Families Loving God"

Sunday School - 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship - 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening - 6:00 pm
 Wed. Bible Study - 7:00 pm
 Thursday Youth - 7:00 pm

Children's Church & Nursery Provided

4550 Hwy 441 N. - 763-3736

Mark & Kathy Witt, Pastor
www.abundantblessingschurch.com

Live Webcast Sunday 10:30 am

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

THE GATHERING A Church of Restoration



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 Come As You Are

SUNDAY 10:30AM

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www.thegatheringchurch.us

METHODIST

COME AS YOU ARE! First United Methodist Church

Traditional Sunday
 Worship:
 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
 Regeneration
 Contemporary
 Service: 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

200 N.W. 2nd St.

(863) 763-4021

(Next to Bank of America)

www.fumcokee.com

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Okeechobee Christian Church

Non-Denominational

3055 SE 18th Terrace
 (Corner of Charles Harvey Highway and SE 18th Terr.)

You're Invited

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 4th, 7:30am - 8:30am

followed by a

Continental Breakfast 8:30am - 9:30am

Bible Study 9:30 - 10:30am

Worship Service 10:30am

(863) 467-7858

Minister Jim McCutchen

PENECOSTAL

Bible Church of God

"Your Place of Destiny" - Jeremiah 29:11

3666 E. Hwy 70 • Okeechobee
 (Old Elks Lodge)

Sunday School - 9am

Sunday Worship - 10am

Tues. & Thurs. - 7:30pm

Prayer Service, Tues. & Thurs. 6:30pm - 7:30pm

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

Okeechobee Church of Christ

1401 South Parrott Ave.

Okeechobee, FL 34974

Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 A.M.

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 P.M.

Monday - Wednesday Nights: 7:00 P.M.

We have no head but Jesus.

We have no creed but the New Testament.

We speak where the Bible speaks
and silent where the Bible is silent

EVERYONE WELCOME!

PENECOSTAL

Living Word of Faith Church

1902 S. Parrott Avenue
Okeechobee

Pastor Lee Minton • (863) 697-8517

Sunday Worship Service
11am

Sunday School 11am

Sunday Night Service 7pm

Wed. Night Bible Study 7pm

*Happy
Easter*

Girls basketball Treasure Coast All Star showcase

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Keighly Stewart, Jewel Buck and Markeisha Youmans got one more chance to play basketball together at the high school level when they competed Wednesday night in the Treasure Coast showcase game at Indian River State College in Ft. Pierce.

All three of the Okeechobee girls got considerable playing time as their blue team fell to the white team, 58-55 in an exciting contest.

Stewart finished the game with one rebound, one assist, one steal, and one point.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Keighly Stewart looks for an open teammate during Wednesday night's all star showcase game. Her team lost by three points.



Jewel Buck grabbed several rebounds in a losing effort during Wednesday's Treasure Coast all star showcase for seniors at IRSC in Fort Pierce.

She said she really enjoyed the opportunity to play, "It was a lot of fun. I had a blast out there. I'm glad that I got the chance to play with Jewel and Markeisha one last time. That was sad but the game was a fun experience."

Buck had eight rebounds, two assists, one steal, and one point in the game. She said it was a great opportunity to meet other girls and learn more about the game of basketball, "It was a chance to compete against the best. It made me a better person and a better player as well."

Youmans was injured late in the game when she turned her ankle, but she said she was okay afterward. Markeisha had four points and four rebounds in the game. She said it was a pretty good experience, "I felt like it was a pretty good game. You didn't see everybody's best because we haven't

played in awhile and I feel everybody was a little tired."

The white squad jumped out to a 17-4 lead in the first quarter behind Jasmine Jackson, Terrice Robinson of Fort Pierce Central of Vero Beach and Ceneria Brown of Vero Beach.

The blue squad cut the lead to six in the second quarter but still trailed 36-22 at the half.

The game got much closer in the second half as Teena Pierre of Lincoln Park Academy, Brittany Benzio of Martin County and Rosela Devalon of Central led the comeback. The white team led 48-41 after the third quarter and led for the entire fourth quarter. Pierre scored 20 points to lead all scorers. Most of her buckets came in the second half.

Buck said her team never got their heads down after the slow start, "We kept our con-

fidence up and kind of stuck with it. We fixed the errors we made in the first quarter."

Stewart had a chance to tie the game with a three pointer in the final seconds but her shot was off the mark. She said her team never gave up, "I think we played a great game. I wish we could have pulled it off. That is what games are for, we just learn."

Terrice Robinson of Fort Pierce Central was named the MVP of the game. She had 12 points in the first half and 16 points in the game.

Brahman Coach Tony Sherlock was also there to watch his seniors play their last game. He announced his resignation as coach after the season.

Community Briefs

LMS working group meeting

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at the first meeting of the Glades County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group on Tuesday, **April 20**, at 10:30 a.m. – noon in the Glades County Commission Chambers. Hazard mitigation is any action taken to permanently reduce or eliminate long-term risk of hazard to people and their property. A LMS will lessen the human, environmental, and economic costs of disasters. For more information contact Glades County Emergency Management Office 863-946-6020 or Dan Trescott at 239-338-2550 ext. 220.

Register your 'Relay Team' today

Okeechobee's Relay For Life is just around the corner... Don't miss out! April 30–May 1 at Okeechobee High School. Activities throughout the night for ALL ages: Karaoke, Cook Outs, Themed laps, Games and more. Will you have the BEST campsite...

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life represents hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated. Contact Okeechobee's American Cancer Society at 863-467-2376 to register your team today!

David Hazellief • 863-610-1553 Betty Hazellief • 863-610-0144
Sharon Prevatt • 863-634-7069 Dee Reeder • 863-610-2485

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CALL FOR A LIST OF FORECLOSURES

 NEW LISTING	<p>3005-M: Waterfront Mobile home in Treasure Island with concrete seawall, some appliances, walk in closets, shed, screen room, only five years old. Call for further info. MLS #203728</p>	 FORECLOSURE	<p>4000-M: Waterfront Doublewide Mobile home in Buckhead Ridge. Needs some work. \$29,500 MLS #203775</p>
 NEW LISTING	<p>5001-H: Horse lover's dream 2-story CBS home on 5 acres. Lg 9000 SF metal barn with tack room, 15 stalls, large office w/bath, lighted arena, screened pool, too many features to list. \$699,000 MLS #203717</p>	 NEW LISTING	<p>5014-M: 3 bedroom, 2 bath Doublewide Mobile Home on 1+/- acre in Edwards Subdivision. Short Sale. \$65,000 MLS #203812</p>
 FORECLOSURE	<p>5011-M: 3 Bedroom 2 bath Mobile Home with carport, screened in porch. Needs some TLC. Located in Pine Oaks Village (SE 96th Cir). \$44,900 MLS #203831</p>	 FORECLOSURE	<p>5007-H: 4 bedroom 2 bath home in Whispering Pines. (NW 36th St) Short Sale. Call for further info. \$55,000 MLS #203774</p>

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patgoolsby@embarqmail.com

FOR THESE LISTINGS, CALL VICKI ANDERSON 863-634-4106.

 DRASTICALLY REDUCED	<p>5 + ACRES - Bring your horses Frame 2/2 house, 2nd kitchen w/separate entrance. Updated elec service, pole. New pump. Nice open area. Shed in backyard. Fully furnished. MLS #93200, \$118,000.</p>
 REDUCED	<p>WATERFRONT - LAKE OKEE ACCESS Parking underneath. Rental or mother-in-laws area. 3 storage sheds. Patio area with picnic table, sprinkler system. Buckhead Ridge. MLS #202610, \$179,000.</p>
 REDUCED	<p>WATERFRONT - CANAL OFF RIM CANAL - Well kept and maintained 3/2 Frame with Stucco home with many new amenities. Furnished just bring your toothbrush. It has a boat house. MLS #202762, \$104,900.</p>
 REDUCED	<p>2/2 HOUSE ON 20 ACRES with many fruit trees & pines. Annual income from cell tower. There are two nice ponds 20' deep stocked with fish. Fenced with Pole Barn. Possible neighbors five acres. MLS #202744, \$599,000.</p>
 REDUCED	<p>GREAT STARTER HOME: 2/2. Laminate floors in kitchen, living room, hallway. Two lg closets in hallway. Seven lg grandfather oaks. Attic in garage. Good location, PERFECT PRICE. MLS #202856, \$99,500.</p>
 REDUCED	<p>3/2 DWMH ON A CORNER LOT. Electric fireplace. Spacious and open. Huge living rm. Nice size utility room. Small boat slip. DECK on the water. Fenced in yard. TURN KEY - FURNISHED!!! MLS #203273, \$69,900.</p>

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Announcements

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against the Delaware State News. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Delaware State News style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

For more listings,
go to
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Reward \$500

MINIATURE PINSCHER

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**Lost from: 2303 SE 30th St.,
Taylor Creek Isles.**

Has Bell & Tags

Family very distraught.

**Call Charlie (954)260-1933 or
Judy (954)871-9100**

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

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.

Lost

Lost - Ft. Drum Ranchettes: Brown and White female Spaniel; green collar and gold license "Duchess" needs medicine; REWARD (863) 467-5766 or (863) 447-1100

Shop here first!
The classified ads

Garage/ Yard Sales

Barn & Yard Sale: Farm Shop, all tools & supplies, irrigation, tractor and semi parts. Fri-Sat, April 2-3, 674 NW 113th Drive.

MOVIN ON SALE - Entire House and Garage contents. ALL MUST GO!! Sat. April 3, 9am-1pm, 13110 NE 4th Terrace. Okee Golf & Country Club. Call 863-634-8980

Multi Family - Sat, April 3rd; 8 a.m. to ? 1320 SE 21st Street - Blue Heron Bags of clothes \$5, queen size comforter, lamps; too much to list.

Lost

Employment

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

Employment Full Time

QUALITY CONTROL
Earn up to \$100 per day. Evaluate retail stores, training provided, No experience required. Call 888-615-5249

Employment Full Time

CONTROLLER

Mid-sized company located in Okeechobee, FL. CPA preferred. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with 5-10 years experience required. Primary responsibilities include managing and maintaining financials, payroll and related activities. Strong systems knowledge of database structure and querying skills.

E-mail resume to
hrokeechobee@yahoo.com
EOE/DFWP

Employment Medical

Seeking experienced **MEDICAL ASSISTANT** or **LPN** with advance training in allergy testing and immunotherapy. Please fax resume to 863-357-9614 or 772-323-2175 or email to: danielle@otodocs.com

Employment Part Time

DISABLED, Older Man: Needs a ride from Ft. Drum to Town at least once a month. Please call (863)357-1529

Concrete

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Driveways, Patio,
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Services

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Houses - Rent

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

ON RIM CANAL - 3BR,
2BA, large lot, \$850
mo. + \$500 sec. & elec-
tric. (863)697-0214

Roommate

ROOM TO RENT - In a
3br, 2ba house, Private
BR & BA, on lake, Taylor
Creek. \$300/mo.
561-644-4242

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the world around you.
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readers are more suc-
cessful people!

Rooms To Rent

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

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the perfect gift. Look
for it in the classifieds.

Real Estate

For more listings,
go to
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Condos/Townhouses Sale

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

NICE 2/2 Twnhs, SW
Sec, \$55,000 neg. Must
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(912)537-2444

Houses - Sale

CBS, 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 Car
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Access to Lake Okeechobee.
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Amenities. Reduced for
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Mobile Homes

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Mobile Home Rent

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

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

Public Notices

For more listings,
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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE
COUNTY, FLORIDA**
Case No.: 2009-CP-33
Division: Probate

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
JULIE ANN MING
Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of **JULIE ANN MING**, deceased, whose date of death was January 28, 2009, and whose social security number is 553-43-5590, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 North West 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34974. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney 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 other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate 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 PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE 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 date of first publication of this notice is March 26, 2010.

Personal Representative:
Anjel Barkowski
681 North West 26th Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34972

Attorney for Personal Representative:
JEFFREY A. FADLEY, P.A.
Fla. Bar No.: 035667
Attorney for Petitioner
807 South West 2nd Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Telephone: (863)763-5733
Facsimile: (863)763-6199
349682 ON 03/26;4/2/10

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items 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**
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 47-2010-CA-000087

SAXON MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC.
Plaintiff,
vs.
MICHAEL A. RICHARDS, et al,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: **CATHERINE E. RICHARDS**
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 3503 SW
17th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974
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, GRANTEE, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN
CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

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

LOT 12, BLOCK 1, OAK PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 3, OF THE 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.L.C., 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.L.C.
P.O. Box 25018
Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
F10006449
349715 ON 03/26;04/02/10

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

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

Shop here first!
The classified ads

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2010TD001
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that DONALD MOONEY the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2010TD002
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that JOE ARNOLD the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2010TD003
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that GAIL SMITH the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

OFFICIAL
NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION
I, Kurt S. Browning, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that a GENERAL ELECTION will be held in OKEECHOBEE County, State of Florida, on the SECOND day of NOVEMBER, 2010, A.D., to fill or retain the following offices:

OFFICIAL
NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION
I, Kurt S. Browning, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that a GENERAL ELECTION will be held in OKEECHOBEE County, State of Florida, on the SECOND day of NOVEMBER, 2010, A.D., to fill or retain the following offices:

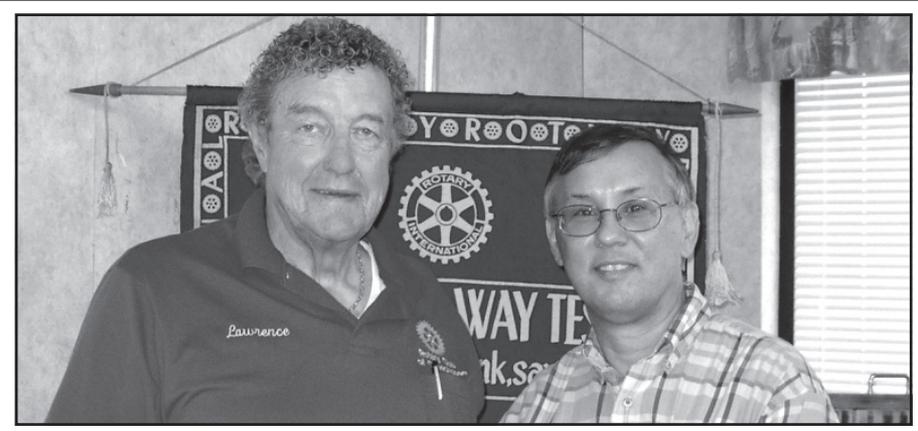
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2010TD004
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CRYSTAL I LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold its Regular Session on Thursday, April 08, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

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

How do you find a job in today's competitive market? In the employment section of the classifieds Shop here first! The classified ads

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.



Okeechobee News/Linda Bridges

Guest speaker

Rotary President-Mike Costopoulos welcomed Rotarian Lawrence Beckett who spoke of his nine trips to Africa. He brought medicines and more relief to suffering people who had nothing. He worked with Canadian & African groups to overcome the extra expenses and roadblocks. At great personal cost, he got the supplies through to the people who needed them. Lawrence Beckett is a wonderful example of Rotary International and is a true Rotarian.

Crossword Puzzles

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS
1 Has a gift for
9 Not impromptu
15 Sci-fi portal
16 Brightly colored bird
17 Gladiator weapons
18 Loved 'un
19 Jutland native
20 Woman in an insect name
22 Hardly pleased with
23 Pelvic bone
25 Originate, as a river
26 Mother of Isaac
30 "I beg your indulgence"
32 Capitol group
34 Only pres. born in Missouri
37 For the full time
38 Lizard with a dewlap
40 Family nickname
41 Candlemaker's supply
45 More or less
47 New Wave band ___ Boingo
48 Actor whose '70s-'80s sitcom character was a cross-dresser
50 Offer?
52 Sch. in Athens
54 Does, perhaps
55 Plagiarize
59 Hose part
61 Bit of steamy prose
63 Egg buys
64 "Wanna bet?"
65 Lacking a key
66 Message sent home from a shy freshman?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

Grid of crossword puzzle answers: ARUM, BOSSA, AMFM, TAPE, ADOLF, SMEE, ODED, TOTAL, TEES, MINGLER, SVASE, SINAI, SCARABS, REBUS, AIMEE, MSG, NESTLER, SEGG, ICEE, BEALL, KNEE, SANDLER, SBAR, STR, ELIHU, ISLES, RECALLS, DUPES, RUSTLER, SBELT, SPAR, ARENA, BRIE, REFI, TONIC, ERTE, ACTS, SPADE, DYED

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14x14 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-66 indicating starting positions for clues.

By Barry C. Silk
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Okeechobee Sports Network

Fan-friendly and fun, Okeechobee Sports Network

Whether you oversee a local sports organization, coach a team, participate as an athlete, or cheer on a team or individual, Local Leagues is the ideal, fan-friendly place for you to post, share or follow.

In conjunction with Community Sports Desk, the Okeechobee Sports Network (OSN) was established as a site where the local youth and recreation sports leagues could share information with fans, family and the community about their activities, including game results, feature stories, photos and upcoming events.

To see what is being shared with family and friends in the Okeechobee area right now, please visit newszap.com and click on the "Sports" tab.

While some local sports organizations have embraced this new strategy to connect with the community like never before and create visibility for their teams and players, others have yet to take advantage of this free, fun and highly effective Internet tool.

If you represent a local sports organization that offers youth or recreational sports or activities, feel free to contact Renee Hawley at: rhawley@communitysportsdesk.com or call 1-888-853-7904, ext. 323, to register your program. You will receive step-by-step instruction on how to post information pertaining to your "league."

Fans Participate as Well

OSN is not just for sports organizations, teams and participants. Fans are also a big part of the equation. In addition to keeping up to speed on all of your favorite teams' activities, you have the opportunity to offer them the type of encouragement that can go a long way toward helping them perform their best.

Here's how to do it. Once you've visited newszap.com, chosen the "Sports" tab and clicked on "Okeechobee Sports Network," select the sport your favorite team plays at the left. Then click on the "Become a Fan" icon (the star against a red background), provide an email address and click on "Submit." You will now receive email updates as the team's stories are posted to the site.

Near the bottom of the team page, you can click on the Facebook or Twitter icons to share information about the team on those networking Web sites as well. You can also select the "Envelope" icon to share the page with a friend, or click on the "High Five" icon to congratulate the team and leave a reaction.

Featuring: Okeechobee Club Soccer

Looking for a place to call "Home"

They say you can't fight city hall, but that's not stopping Celia Fox and others from trying. Fox and other Okeechobee Club Soccer board members said they've been attempting for years to obtain fields for kids to use for club soccer in Okeechobee.

"We've been struggling for support from the community for a long time," said Fox, whose daughter, Dawn, was the first girl soccer player from Okeechobee to gain a college scholarship in the sport. "We've tried many different ways to create revenue, but we've had to fight for fields.

"If we had a lighted field for these kids to play on, we could get traveling club soccer teams to come here to play and it would generate money for our hotels, restaurants and shops. Everybody would benefit."

In the meantime, boys and girls ages 8-18 who wish to play for Okeechobee Club Soccer are welcome to meet at the Yearling Middle School gymnasium from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

"We do a lot of training at these sessions," Fox said. "It's a great way to develop skills that they will use once we get outdoors again. Our coaches are top notch, with plenty of soccer experience."

Okeechobee Club Soccer head coach Ken Davy played professional soccer for the Washington Diplomats and Philadelphia Fever, as well as the Jamaican national team called the Reggae Boys. Club President L.W. Smith coached soccer in Chicago, while board members Brian King and Lonnie Sears played club soccer.

"We put on a referee clinic here recently, and every year I bring in two professional trainers - Hugo Ciacedo and Bernie Quintero - to help the kids," Fox said. "Those things cost money, as do our FYSA (Florida Youth Soccer Association) fees, but we've raised some money at concession stands at softball fields around the area."

Fox said that it's all about providing kids with the opportunity to have fun and maybe find a way to get to college eventually. One young man who did just that recently is former Okeechobee Club Soccer player Ivan Torres, who's currently playing soccer for a college in Georgia.

"I want to see these kids have the opportunity to get their education paid for," Fox said. "Not everyone will earn a scholarship, of course, but everyone can do something that's healthy for them and that teaches them commitment, self-control and how to relate to others. There's a long list of things that soccer will help them with, both physically and mentally.

"But we're in need of so much. We really need sponsors. We need new uniforms, equipment, soccer balls and involvement from parents and the community. We need people who are willing to give their time to the kids. And we're always looking for new kids who want to play soccer."

Fox said she's hopeful that the club will acquire a field soon enough so that it can prepare for the Spring Challenge, a tournament being held in May in Palm Bay.

Those interested in obtaining more information about Okeechobee Club Soccer may call Fox at 863-697-9614. You can also follow Okeechobee Club Soccer on the Okeechobee Sports Network. If you'd like to sponsor a child, please contact us right away.



Courtesy photos
Girls and boys up to the age of 19, can join in and learn soccer skills at clinics like this one held at the Parks and Rec Fields.



Courtesy photos
Supreme effort is needed in keeping the ball away from the goal and goalkeeper skills take practice and teamwork. Strategies for soccer skills are not only learned on the field but off the field as well. Teams with a "special place" to go for that "extra practice" bond together and play together as a cohesive team. Home field advantage gives the team the added bonus of "knowing the field" versus going to a field they are not familiar with.