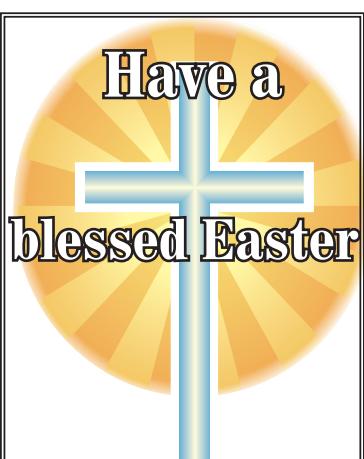




Vol. 101 No. 41

Sunday, April 4, 2010

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Hazellie brothers  
reunite

... Page 16

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Okeechobee News/Diana Whitehall

## Every bunny invited

The Easter Bunny, alias "Mary Chesley," Kiwanis member, was at the Thursday, April 1, Kiwanis meeting to invite everyone to the Sunday, April 4, 38th Annual Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast from 7 to 10:30 a.m. held at Cowboy's Restaurant, 102 S.W. 14th St., Okeechobee. The Kiwanis members also had fun filling several colorful Easter Eggs with candy that will be given away. Happy Easter!

**Scooter operator killed..... Page 2**

**Taylor Creek lock to close..... Page 8**

**City Council meets Tuesday ..... Page 11**

# Senate OKs change to FRS

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

It's no joke -- a budget bill passed April 1 by the Florida Senate will now require members of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) to pay into their own retirement account.

With the passage of Senate Bill 2022 (SB-2022), members of the FRS will have to pay 0.25 percent of their gross income into their accounts beginning Jan. 1, 2011. Because of this, the FRS will now become a contributory plan.

SB-2022 will apply to all active members of the FRS, including members of law enforcement and firefighters.

See FRS — Page 2

Since it began in 1970, the FRS has been a non-contributory pension plan that provided retirement income benefits to 572,000 active and 319,000 retired members and beneficiaries.

SB-2022, sponsored by Senator J.D. Alexander (R-District 17), passed by a 26-7 vote. District 17 includes Okeechobee County.

The change was brought about by a loss of \$18.7 billion due to "unfavorable investment experience," states an analysis of the bill. That analysis went on to state that, as of July 2008, the FRS Trust Fund had a surplus of \$8.2 billion which actually made the FRS

# DOT plans remedy traffic congestion

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Plans are under way to eliminate a serious traffic bottleneck in the heart of Okeechobee.

On Thursday, April 1, the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) held a public information workshop at the Okeechobee County Civic Center on proposed improvements to the intersection of U.S. 441 and S.R. 70.

The purpose of the workshop was to inform the public of proposed improvements and solicit public comments which might be incorporated into the proposal.

Ordinary rush hour traffic can

tie up this intersection, not to mention hurricane evacuation. In 2008, according to DOT figures, an average of 29,500 vehicles a day travelled through this intersection. By 2018, DOT predicts that number will increase to 32,600.

The DOT proposal calls for two left turn lanes in each direction. Currently, there is only one left turn lane in each direction.

The current right of way for S.R. 70 is 70 feet. The highway would be widened by adding 26.5 feet to the south side of the road to accommodate another lane and a sidewalk.

See DOT — Page 10

# Motorscooter operator killed in morning crash

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

A 63-year-old Okeechobee man was killed Friday morning, April 2, when he ran into a tractor-trailer that was backing into the Harvest House Grocery, 5295 U.S. 441 S.E.

John Walzer, U.S. 441 S.E., was killed

upon impact, stated Deputy Corporal Brian Hagan of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO). Cpl. Hagan, who investigated the accident, found Mr. Walzer at fault.

The accident occurred as John Willis Kane of Mobile, Ala., was backing his 2007 Freightliner into the grocery center at 8:18 a.m.

Cpl. Hagan said two Harvest House employees were on the two-lane highway warning traffic to slow down as Mr. Kane, 51, backed his Bay Lines, Inc., semi into the grocery. However, said Cpl. Hagan, Mr. Walzer drove his 2003 Suzuki motor scooter past the employees and into the back of the semi's cab.

Mr. Walzer was pronounced dead at the scene by emergency medical personnel.

According to Cpl. Hagan, it was estimated that Mr. Walzer was going as fast as 45 mph when he struck the tractor.

Mr. Walzer had no family in the area. His closest next of kin was a sister in Pennsylvania.

## FRS

Continued From Page 1

an overfunded plan.

"The FRS is currently under funded, but it can meet the obligations for this year and next," said State Representative Mike Horner (R-District 79), whose district includes Okeechobee County. "The state invested some money into stocks hoping to make it back, plus some. But, in the economic downturn, they haven't made it back. It could probably go 10 years without a change in contributions, but it would be in bad shape by then."

"Compared to the boom that has occurred the past few years, we have to put in more," he added.

Florida law requires the state to fund the FRS, said Rep. Horner.

While SB-2022 has no companion bill in the House, HB-1307 is a related bill that has

yet to be passed.

HB-1307 is sponsored by Representative Robert Schenck (R-District 44) and, among other things, revises contribution rates for employers taking part in the FRS and establishes a forfeiture account in the Public Employee Retirement Program Trust Fund.

While SB-2022 passed easily, one House bill (HB-1319) has died and HB-1543 has been withdrawn. And even though SB-1902 has been 'temporarily postponed' it will likely be brought up this coming week with amendments.

SB-1902, sponsored by Senator Michael Bennett (R-District 21), is aimed at "bringing some of the future pension costs under control."

"Some of the pensions paid to government (employees) are out of control with the rest of society," said Sen. Bennett. "A fireman in Jacksonville, at age 46, can retire for life (if an FRS member since age 21) at a pension higher than their salary."

Counting overtime pay and bonuses would inflate a member's salary, as well as their retirement pension.

SB-1902 is aimed at changing how an FRS member's retirement is figured. Instead of being based on the 'high five,' or a member's highest salary in a five-year period, pensions would be based on the member's averaged base pay.

"It won't change a lot of people and it won't effect school teachers," explained Sen. Bennett. "It may effect those in 'high five' with excessive overtime or bonuses. Overtime, bonuses and such will not be figured in."

Sen. Bennett went on to say his bill "is not here to hurt any police officer, but to protect city and county governments going forward."

"Some cities are literally facing bankruptcy," added the Bradenton lawmaker.

If passed, SB-1902 would go into effect July 1, 2010.

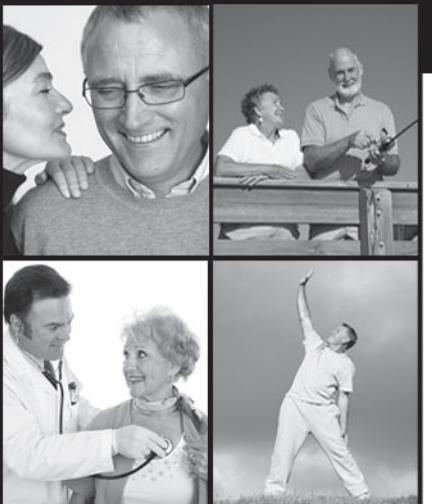
While Sen. Bennett didn't go into specifics about his amendments to SB-1902, he did say that he wants to make sure it does not affect anyone who is currently employed and an FRS member. The bill would apply to those hired after July 1.

Also, pointed out Rep. Horner, new hires can likely expect smaller pensions from the state.

"Younger, new hires, may have less retirement benefits just because it (FRS) has been overly generous the past few years because of a great market, and the state budget wasn't struggling," added the Kissimmee legislator, who added that he is a "big backer" of firefighters and members of law enforcement.

The state budget currently has a shortfall of \$3.5 billion.

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# Woman arrested, charged in dog theft

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee woman was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail after she was arrested and charged with taking a man's Jack Russell terrier.

Shelly Ann Goist, 39, S.R. 70 W., was arrested Tuesday, March 30, on a charge of grand theft. Her bond was set at \$2,500.

According to an arrest report by Deputy Sergeant Shannon Peterson of the Okeechobee



**Shelly Ann Goist**

bee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the dog apparently got away from its owner and was picked up by Goist.

Sgt. Peterson's report said he viewed surveillance video at a U.S. 98 N. convenience store that showed Goist at a gas pump and the dog standing in the parking lot. The video, continued

the report, then shows Goist picking up the dog and putting it into her vehicle.

The dog's owner told Sgt. Peterson that his pet was valued at \$1,000.

The terrier was recovered and returned unharmed to its owner.

## 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).

• Ryan Shea Keels, 18, N.E. 207th St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 30 by Deputy Brian Cross on a juvenile take and hold warrant charging him with burglary, criminal mischief and larceny. Keels was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

• David Edward King, 41, N.W. Eighth Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 30 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on a Department of Corrections second amended warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving while license suspended - habitual offender and violation of probation - possession of drug paraphernalia. He is being held without bond.

• Dale Michael Gorney Jr., 25, Okeechobee, was arrested March 30 by Deputy Matthew Crawford on a felony charge of driving while license suspended - habitual offender. He was also arrested on a misde-

meanor charge of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. His bond had not been set as of newspaper deadline.

• James David Gruber, 20, S.E. 49th Court, Okeechobee, was arrested March 31 by Deputy S. Pollock on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with grand theft. His bond was set at \$5,000.

• Michael Edward Marshall, 35, S.E. Eighth Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 31 by Officer Justin Bernst on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

• Caleb Michael Bowersox, 26, Baldwin Circle, Brighton, was arrested March 31 by Deputy Sarah Green on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription (alprazolam). He was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence and possession of marijuana under 20 grams. His bond had not been set as of newspaper deadline.

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.



Special to the Okeechobee News

## Paintings stolen from the art show

This photo shows persons of interest who may have knowledge of the crime. This is in regards to the theft of several paintings from the art show held in the park. If persons would like to remain anonymous and possibly collect a reward, they can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-273-TIPS.

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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](http://www.newszap.com), click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!*

## Teen accused of shooting at vehicle

The violence among young people is alarming. Look at that girl on the coast who was beaten nearly to death by a 15 year old who got mad about a text message she sent. We need to do something to stop the violence. At that same school bullies set a kid on fire. Even in our middle schools, boys are challenging others to fight and calling them names if they refuse to fight, bullying them and trying to get them to respond so they will fight.

There are more than 50 Christian churches in this town. Don't any of them preach "turn the other cheek" Christianity?

## Library

I think the county should at least try to find grants to keep the library open as many days as possible. I realize funding has been cut and the county is also looking at a shortfall in local funds. But there may be grants available if they look for them. And I also support an annual fee for library cards if that is what it takes to keep the library open.

## Dogs loose

Lately it seems the problem of dogs running loose has gotten out of hand again. Last week I had dogs dig under my fence to get into my yard to go after my cats. If you have a dog, keep it at home because if these dogs come back and go after my pets again, I am going to shoot them, which is within my rights as a property owner.

## Senate Bill 6

I cannot understand these Republicans who are pushing Senate Bill 6. Teachers, school boards, superintendents and parents oppose it. Everyone in education seems to think it is a terrible idea. But the Florida Senators think they know better.

The Florida Chamber of Commerce president said teachers should be paid based on student scores, as that would be just like any small business. Following that logic, if a restaurant serves healthy food, and the patrons eat good food there, but then go home and eat junk food and get fat, then the restaurant chef should not be paid. Teachers are just one part of the equation. Parents play a huge role in a child's success, such as making sure the child studies at home and does homework. A teacher may have a child one hour a day. They can't force a child to study at night.

## County budget

I know the county and the state have financial problems. I think they need to stop allowing the "double dipping" in which employees retire, and then come back to work and get both a paycheck and a retirement check. Because of their many years of experience, they are paid at a higher rate than a new person just starting the job would be. Stop the double dipping and if you need help, hire new people who will start at the bottom of the pay scale.

## Easter

I just want to say Happy Easter to everyone in Okeechobee. We are blessed to live in this community. Count your blessings.

## County fair

I went to the county fair and there did not seem to be much attendance. I think the entry fees are just too high. They need to cut the entrance fee to \$2 or \$1. If you charge \$5 and no one comes, you aren't making any money. I was pleased that parking was free. They could rethink some of things they are spending money on. No one seemed interested in the concerts during the day on Saturday. Instead of paying a band, why not just invite local groups to perform for the experience and the exposure?

I want to commend the local schools on their displays at the county fair. The artwork was really impressive and other projects on display were quite creative.

## Retirement

Has anyone been keeping up with the discussions in the Florida Legislature about changes to the state retirement system. If you are a county or school employee, this could affect your future.

# Letters to the editor



Special courtesy submitted photo

## Battle Of Okeechobee Re-enactment

The Okeechobee Battlefield Friends, Inc., would like to take this opportunity to say it was a privilege to have coordinated the recent Battle of Okeechobee Re-enactment and School day, which was held on February, 5, 6, & 7.

The Battle of Okeechobee Re-enactment continues to grow and add new venues with every event. With a grant from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, an educational school day for all fourth graders was provided. The students from the Okeechobee County School System, Okeechobee Christian Academy, Brighton Charter School, and home schools were able to see a living history of the 1837 Second Seminole War. Students from Everglades Elementary filmed a mini-documentary with funds provided by the Okeechobee Battlefield Friends mini-grant. A second mini-grant will assist teachers at North Elementary School with history books and materials.

Coordinating the recent event and achieving the level of success and growth, was possible due to the support and sponsorship of many, and a great collaborative effort. Sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation are extended to: Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners, Okeechobee County Tourist Development Council, Okeechobee City Council, Florida National Guard, Seminole Battalion, 2-124 Infantry Regiment, Seminole Tribe Brighton Community, AH-TAH-THI-KI Museum, Williamson Cattle Company, Sheriff's Department, deputies, trustees, Florida Park Service, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Osceola Gift Shop, South Florida Water Management, Pier II Hotel, Raulerson Hospital, Waste Management, Okeechobee Motor Company, Trueblood

Lawgroup, Seacoast National Bank, Florida Power and Light, Cobtown Graphics, Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Park Manager Mark Nelson and staff, Sheriff and Mrs. Paul May, Bruce Homer Insurance, Okeechobee High School history teacher Eddie Matchett and students, Okeechobee High School Jr. ROTC, Eagle Bay Airboat Rides, Matt Taylor, Greg Thogersen, Willie Johns, John Missall, William Cypress, Joe Crankshaw, Ross Lamoreaux, LaVerne Thomas and staff, re-enactors, demonstrators, sutlers and the many volunteers.

Again, it has been our privilege to coordinate the Battle of Okeechobee Re-enactment and School Day. We look forward to many successful annual events and to ongoing partnerships as we continue to reach for new goals and visions. It takes each and every person's contributions and support to coordinate such a successful event. This could not have happened without all of you!

### Dowling Watford

## Thank you, thank you!

To the wonderful, hard-working, staff of The Okeechobee News. A sincere Thank You in advance...Editor Katrina Elsken, Publisher Tom Byrd, Ms. Janet, Judy, Dee, Mr. Murphy, all the supporting cast, who attribute to publication of, The Okeechobee News. I moved here from Tallahassee, loving it more each sunny, rural, fun, Golden-Corral-eating day. Smile!

Also, I enjoy my articles - A Salute To Black History. Just Look At Us Now, Women's History, published/printed by your prestigious agency. I am working, pursuing my writing career full-time, Yes!..I have an article for April...Smile!

### Happy Easter Celebration! Brenda Scott

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## Okeechobee News

**USPS 406-160**

Published 3 times a week: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday by Independent Newspapers, Inc.

107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D • Okeechobee, FL 34974

Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Okeechobee News  
Circulation Administration  
PO Box 7011 • Dover, DE 19903

## Staff

**Advertising Director:** Judy Kasten

**Editor:** Katrina Elsken

**Circulation Manager:** Janet Madray

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## Our Purpose...

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- 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.

# Fishbusters

## Bass are on the beds and on our minds

By Bob Wattendorf

FWC

Spring is here, and the bass are on their beds. The males have been fanning out beds on firm lake bottoms with plenty of nearby vegetation. If they are successful in their amorous intents to entice a female to join them, they'll soon be spending time guarding the nest and fanning tens of thousands of eggs to keep them oxygenated.

This annual ritual is dependent not only on the sexual appeal of the individual bass, but also on the quality of the environment, the vagaries of weather, and impacts of man.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) fisheries biologists are charged with sustaining fish populations while providing recreational opportunities for more than 1.4 million anglers, who enjoy more than 24 million bass fishing trips a year in Florida and bolster the economy by \$1.4 billion.

The FWC faces a huge challenge that requires different approaches in many of Florida's 7,700 lakes, which comprise 3 million acres of water, plus 12,000 miles of rivers, streams and canals. FWC biologists work with many partners to ensure water quality and healthy populations of bass. The FWC also conducts major habitat-enhancement projects and controls the spread of nonnative plants. The FWC's two freshwater fish hatcheries provide quality, disease-free,

genetically appropriate bass for stocking when needed.

These biologists modify fishing regulations when necessary to ensure quality bass fishing now and in the future. Wildlife officers enforce the rules. Outreach efforts help reconnect Floridians of all ages with nature to lead happier, healthier and smarter lifestyles, following the advice of the Get Outdoors Florida! Coalition and the Children and Nature Network.

Biologists from the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and the University of Florida are conducting a statewide largemouth bass research study. Scientists hope to learn how frequently bass are caught and harvested and more about the size range of fish caught. Results of this study will help them manage the fishery for quality and trophy-sized largemouth bass.

Bass in 30 lakes throughout the state have been tagged with small, yellow tags along the back of the fish, just below the dorsal fin. These tags carry a printed telephone number, e-mail address, tag number (e.g., LMB 0001) and reward value.

Anglers should carefully examine all bass caught in Florida lakes for reward tags, as biologists have tagged fish from lakes throughout the state. To claim their reward, anglers are encouraged to report these tags to the FWC Angler Tag Return Hotline (800-367-4461). The FWC is also working with BountyFishing.com to gain additional information about big bass being caught throughout Florida and is monitoring results from all permitted bass tournaments.

With all of this going on, the FWC has decided it is time to have a long-term management plan for black bass (largemouth bass, shoal bass, spotted bass and Suwannee bass). To learn more about the plan,

visit MyFWC.com/Fishing. You can help by completing the online survey.

Don't forget, your fishing license fees and excise taxes paid on fishing tackle and motorboat fuels fund all of these efforts. The funds are returned to the FWC from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based on the number of paid license-holders in Florida.

To thank anglers for their contributions and to work with industry partners, the FWC is offering a special 5-year freshwater fishing license bonus program. Until 3,000 boxes filled with free tackle, publications and fishing accessories are distributed, anyone buying a 5-year freshwater fishing license will receive the bonus automatically in the mail. A 5-year license costs just \$79, plus a convenience fee, but in return you know the fees won't increase while you have your license, and you don't need to

worry about renewing for five years.

Five-year licenses are available online at MyFWC.com/License and via the toll-free phone number, 888-347-4356. In addition, they may be purchased at any license agent, such as retail stores that sell fishing supplies and bait-and-tackle shops or at county tax collectors' offices.

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

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## Girls softball defeats Gulf Coast

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Okeechobee scratched across two runs in the fifth inning to back the solid pitching of Courtney Wilson as they defeated Gulf Coast, 2-1, in the first round of the Kissimmee Classic girls softball tournament Monday night in Osceola County.

Wilson allowed only three hits and one earned run in a complete game performance. She walked three batters and struck out three.

At the plate Sarah Davis had two hits and two runs batted in. Naomi Stevens and Cindy Wine also had hits for Okeechobee.

Wilson and Wine scored the Lady Brahman runs.

The Brahman rally began when Wilson walked, and scored on a double by Wine. Wine scored on a triple by Davis. Sarah tried to score on the play but was tagged out at the plate.

Samantha Katz hit a home run to lead off the fifth inning to account for the Sharks' run. Kirsten Langdon pitched seven innings and allowed four hits and two earned runs.

Okeechobee advanced to play Pembroke Pines Charter School in the second round on Friday.

# Brahman track vs Jensen Beach at Falcon Classic

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

The Brahman boys team finished ninth and the girls track team finished 10th at the Falcon Classic Track and Field event held on March 27, at Jensen Beach High School.

There were a number of strong individual performances by the team last Saturday as well. The boys 4x800 meter relay team finished a strong fifth. Diego Fonseca finished 14th in the 110 meter hurdles. Essence Williams finished fourth and Janezzka Koger finished 12th in the girls 100 meter dash. Au-keemian Mills finished fourth, Jessie Thomas sixth, and Alonso Coleman 24th in the boys 100 meter dash.

In the boys 1600 meter run Shawn Horvath finished in 15th place, Gabriel Esquire 20th, and Phillip Suarez 26th.

The girls 4x100 meter relay finished in second place to Treasure Coast. The boys 4x100 meter relay team finished in fourth place behind Ferguson, Treasure Coast and

Varela.

Keighly Stewart finished 11th in the girls 400 meters while Deforest Shanks finished 14th, Joey Santibanez 20th, and Marcos Fonseca 22nd in the boys 400 meter dash.

Diego Fonseca finished 11th in the boys 300 meter hurdles. Lionel Jones finished third and Luis Alvarado 21st in the boys 800 meter run. Essence Williams finished 4th, Markeisha Youmans fifth, and Calandra Youmans seventh in the girls 200 meter dash. Mike Thomas finished fifth, Jessie Thomas eighth, and Alonso Coleman 16th in the boys 200 meter dash.

Coleman finished 15th and Diego Fonseca 16th in the boys long jump.

Ferguson High School won both the boys and girls meet. Jensen Beach finished second in the girls track meet and Varela finished second in the boys meet.

The Okeechobee track team competes at their district meet on Wednesday, April 21, at Sebastian River High School.

## Okeechobee Forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. Calm wind becoming east between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. East wind around 5 mph.

### Extended Forecast

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Monday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. East wind around 5 mph.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tuesday night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 60. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

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

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 63. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

## Lotteries

**Florida Lottery** — Here are the numbers selected Thursday in the Florida Lottery:

**Cash 3:** 8-2-4; **Play 4:** 0-3-4-5; **Fantasy 5:** 5-18-21-27-34; **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 Friday, **Cash 3:** 3-4-6; **Play 4:** 2-8-7-1.



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# Time to apply for wild hog quota hunt permits

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is accepting applications through April 12, during its Phase I random drawing for quota permits to hunt wild hogs on selected wildlife management areas.

These quota permits are for hog-only hunts (both still and dog), where hunters can use modern firearms. Many of the new summer hunts are night-only hunts. In addition, permits for the dog hunts allow hunting with up to three dogs at a time, two hunters and one gun.

On several WMAs, quota permits are required during many hunts. A quota is the maximum number of hunters allowed on a particular WMA. The quota helps prevent overcrowding and provides a better quality and safer hunting experience. Quotas also help control game harvests, and they are set based on an area's size, habitat, game populations and regulations.

Worksheets for wild hog quota permit applications are available at MyFWC.com/Hunting under "Limited Entry Hunts."

Applying for these quota hunt permits is automated through the FWC's Total Licensing System, but you must have an up-to-date \$26 management area permit (unless exempt) before doing so. To apply, take a worksheet to any license agent or tax collector's office or submit an application at: [www.fl.wildlifelicense.com](http://www.fl.wildlifelicense.com)

by midnight (EDT) April 12, during the first phase of the wild hog quota application period.

The FWC will post results for Phase I of the random drawing no later than April 22, at: [MyFWC.com/Hunting](http://MyFWC.com/Hunting) under "Limited Entry Hunts."

The application period for Phase II of the wild hog quota hunt permits is April 27 through May 6 and also will be conducted by random drawing. Only those who were not drawn in Phase I will be eligible to apply during Phase II.

The FWC will issue any remaining quota permits on a first-come, first-served basis during the Phase III application period, beginning at 10 a.m. (EDT) May 25. Anyone can apply during Phase III, regardless of whether a person was successful in drawing a permit during Phase I or II.

Go to [MyFWC.com/Hunting](http://MyFWC.com/Hunting) for more information or to learn about other limited entry hunts, application periods or deadlines.

## Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

**March 29 and 30**

**Cows**

Breaking	\$52.00	\$58.50	200-250	145-175	122-145
Cutter	\$49.00	\$54.00	250-300	140-160	115-132
Canner			300-350	138-158	112-123
			350-400	125-145	109-118
			400-450	115-137	101-111

**Bulls**

1000-1500	\$60.00	\$66.00	450-500	113-126	95-105
1500-2000	\$63.00	\$67.00	550-600	110-122	86-89
			600-650	103-113	

**Monday Tuesday**

**Calves**

Calves	147	1078	200-250	120-140	105-120
--------	-----	------	---------	---------	---------

**Cows**

Cows	68	291	250-300	115-137	103-113
------	----	-----	---------	---------	---------

**Str**

Str	2	15	300-350	110-135	101-110
-----	---	----	---------	---------	---------

**Hfrs**

Hfrs	2	7	350-400	108-129	90-106
------	---	---	---------	---------	--------

**Bulls**

Bulls	4	28	400-450	100-111	90-99
-------	---	----	---------	---------	-------

**Yrlngs**

Yrlngs	12	31			
--------	----	----	--	--	--

**Mix**

Mix	14	19			
-----	----	----	--	--	--

**Total**

Total	249	1469			
-------	-----	------	--	--	--

**Med #1**

**Steers**

Med #1	Steers	Hfrs
--------	--------	------

**Med #2**

**Steers**

Med #2	Steers	Hfrs
--------	--------	------

**Hfrs**

		Hfrs
--	--	------

**Just when you thought**

prices couldn't get any higher, they just did. Cows and bulls \$1-\$2 higher. Calves \$2-\$4 higher. Coker Cattle topped the calf market with a high of \$2.10, bought by Curt Wilson, Milking R topped the cow market with a high of \$62.50, bought by Dairymens. OLM Day Workers Invitational Ranch Rodeo April 10, at 1 p.m. Five Head Camp Cooley Brangus Bulls for sale - 2 year olds. Call office or 305-797-7334. Preg checking available on Mondays.

See ya next week, Todd



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Immokalee Bulletin and The Sun



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# Taylor Creek Lock to close April 8-9

The S-193 navigation lock at Taylor Creek in Okeechobee will be closed April 8 and 9, while the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) conducts an inspection of the concrete near the gates of the lock facility.

The inspection is part of a planning process for the refurbishment of the S-193 navigation lock. Due to the location of the inspection, just outside of lock gates on both the Taylor Creek and Lake Okeechobee sides of the structure, it will not be possible to allow boat traffic to pass on these days.

Normal operation of the S-193 navigation lock at Taylor Creek will resume on Saturday, April 10, from 5:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. and will operate during these hours until April 30. Beginning on May 1, navigation lock hours

will be from 5:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. daily.

Navigation locks on Lake Okeechobee allow boats to pass through the Herbert Hoover Dike into the lake while maintaining flood protection for homeowners living upstream of the lock. The navigation lock refurbishment work is part of an ongoing effort to maintain and upgrade the infrastructure of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project, which was initiated by U.S. Congressional action in 1948.

The District appreciates the public's patience during these activities. For more information about this project or for general information about the South Florida Water Management District, please call the Okeechobee Service Center at 863-462-5260.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Bandstand nearing completion

Workmen are seen constructing a bandstand at Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina on Friday, April 2. The bandstand was purchased as a kit with a \$200,000 Florida Recreation Development Assistance Grant. The actual kit cost \$54,927. Any money left over from the grant after the assembly costs will be used for other park amenities such as benches and tables.



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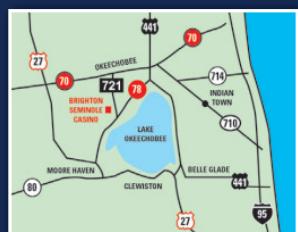
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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## News in Brief

### Blood drives

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

- 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 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.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Easter message

The message of Easter is depicted by this yard display seen in the southwestern part of Okeechobee.

## Weekday Breakfast Specials

- |                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>1. Touchdown Breakfast</b>        | \$4 <sup>89</sup> |
| 2 Eggs, 2 bacon, 2 links, 2 pancakes |                   |
| <b>2. French Toast Combo</b>         | \$4 <sup>89</sup> |
| 2 eggs, 2 links, 2 bacon             |                   |
| <b>3. Bagel with cream cheese</b>    | \$4 <sup>89</sup> |
| 4. 1/2 Sausage & Gravy               | \$4 <sup>89</sup> |
| with Coffee                          |                   |
| <b>5. Eggs, Toast with Coffee</b>    | \$4 <sup>29</sup> |
| 6. Hot Oatmeal with coffee           | \$4 <sup>29</sup> |

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>1. Bistro Ham 'N Cheese</b> | 4. Grilled Chicken Sandwich               |
| <b>2. Patty Melt</b>           | \$5 <sup>89</sup>                         |
| <b>3. Jr. Super Salad</b>      | 5. Turkey 'n Swiss Melt \$5 <sup>99</sup> |
|                                | 6. Soup & 1/2 Sandwich                    |

Buy your beverage for 99 cents

## All You Can Eat Fish or Shrimp

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Shrimp Fest</b>   | \$9 <sup>99</sup> |
| Land 'N Sea          | \$9 <sup>99</sup> |
| Shrimp Scampi        | \$7 <sup>99</sup> |
| Shrimp Ceasar Salad  | \$7 <sup>99</sup> |
| Sweet 'N Sour Shrimp | \$7 <sup>99</sup> |
| Sweet Alfredo        | \$7 <sup>99</sup> |

## 2 Dinners - Your Choice For the Price of one!

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. N.Y. Strip Steak    | \$18 <sup>59</sup> |
| 2. Chicken and Shrimp  |                    |
| 3. Grilled Tilapia     |                    |
| 4. Shrimp Caesar Salad |                    |
| 5. Country Fried Steak |                    |
| 6. Grilled Pork Chops  |                    |

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**DOT**

Continued From Page 1

The proposal calls for utilizing the existing 100 foot right of way on U.S. 441.

A second left turn lane would be created on U.S. 441 by narrowing the median be-

tween north and south bound traffic.

During fiscal year 2011/12 the project will be in the design phase. The next fiscal year, 2012/13, will be devoted to right-of-way acquisition while construction is scheduled for fiscal year 2014/15.

*Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com).*



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

On Thursday evening, April 1, the public was invited to a workshop at the Okeechobee County Civic Center sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation to look at conceptual plans and displays detailing the proposed improvements to the U.S. 441 -S.R. 70 intersection.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Tabitha Trent

**Rotary meeting**

Last week's Rotary Club meeting included Dr. Patricia Cooper, Okeechobee County School Superintendent, presenting guest speaker Joe Arnold of Indian River State College (IRSC). Mr. Arnold spoke on the IRSC Williamson Conference & Education Center and the Lifelong Learning Institute.

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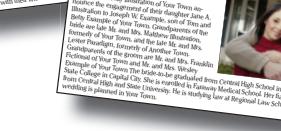
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# City council to decide on local sign ordinance

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Will it end Tuesday night? Will Okeechobee finally have a sign ordinance? Will it be easy to understand and easy to enforce?

The Okeechobee City Council is scheduled to hold the final vote on the long discussed sign ordinance when it meets Tuesday evening at 6 p.m.

The council is also scheduled to take action on three ordinances that will affect the operation of recently opened Hammerhead Billiards.

David and Anita Nunez, owners of the business, have requested a small scale change to the future land use map to change a 0.8-acre parcel adjacent to the restaurant from single family to commercial for the purpose of installing a parking lot.

In a related matter, the council will hold the first reading and set a date for a final reading of an ordinance to rezone the same tract from residential single family one to heavy commercial. In addition, the council will hold the first reading and set a date for the final reading of an ordinance to set hours of operation for pool halls, amusement parlors and game rooms.

Turning to other business, a Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) representative will present DOT plans for improvements to the S.R. 70 and U.S. 441 intersection.

In connection with that item the council is scheduled to take action on a resolution relinquishing its title and interest in Flagler Park to the Hamrick Trust as DOT seeks to acquire the park property from the Hamrick Trust.

The mayor is scheduled to proclaim the week of May 16 - 22 to be National Public Works Week.

## If you go:

**What:** Okeechobee City Council

**When:** 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 6

**Where:** Council Chambers,  
Okeechobee City Hall,  
55 S.E. Third Ave.

In other action, the council is expected to:

- receive the audit on the fiscal 2009 budget;
- consider temporary closing of Third through Sixth Avenues in Flagler Park May 7-9 for the Fourth Annual Gang-Free Bike Fest; and,
- consider appointments to citizen boards.

*Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com).*

## News in Brief

### Shrine Club presents Margaritaville Night

Celebrate "Margaritaville Night" every Thursday at the Okeechobee Shrine Club where we will offer Tacos Two "Fer" \$3. Music provided by Jim Elder and Friends. 4-8 p.m. - Smoke Free environment. Proceeds will benefit Shrine activities.

For information, contact the Shrine Club at 763-3378.

For information regarding this announcement, please contact Kip Gardner at 863-357-0427.



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## OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The Tobacco-Free Initiative of Okeechobee



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

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

Hampton Inn Conference Room  
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4:00pm - 5:00pm

To confirm attendance, please call 863-462-5781

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# Water conservation month arrives in South Florida

April is once again Water Conservation Month in Florida, and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is marking the occasion with a variety of activities to highlight the importance of saving water.

"While Water Conservation Month only comes once a year, conserving water is now a full-time priority in South Florida," said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Eric Buermann.

For 12 consecutive years, Florida has recognized Water Conservation Month in April, which represents the height of the South Florida dry season when historically limited rainfall and peak water demand often stress regional water supplies. Water conservation is now essential year-round for addressing regional weather extremes and growing demands on a limited water supply that South Florida's 7.5 million residents, economy and unique environment all depend on.

Throughout April, the District is sponsoring and participating in a broad range of local and regional events to raise awareness and promote wise water use:

The District and the Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association will hold the third annual Landscape Challenge in West Palm Beach. The hands-on competition promotes water conservation and encourages best management practices in Florida's nursery and landscape industry.

Big Cypress Basin is partnering with Water Symposium of Florida to implement an educational outreach and demonstration project that involves installing Florida-Friendly

Landscaping in front of Marco Island City Hall and in several roadway medians in Collier County.

As part of the latest phase in the redevelopment of its Web site, the District will unveil new Web pages that present educational information on water conservation through interactive graphics, multimedia and fact sheets.

The SFWMD's Broward Service Center is working with the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Discovery & Science to develop a new exhibit and multimedia experience called "Water Works: Soak up the Science." Scheduled to debut May 28, the exhibit will offer a fun, interactive way to learn about the water cycle and water conservation.

District staff will be promoting water conservation at various Earth Day events, community fairs and schools throughout the region.

## Progress Toward Year-Round Water Conservation

The District recently took a significant step toward curbing water use in South Florida by enacting Year-Round Water Conservation Measures that target outdoor irrigation, which accounts for up to half of the estimated 179 gallons of water used per person per day. The District estimates implementation of these measures may reduce overall potable water demand by 5 to 10 percent, based on a recent SFWMD study of regional demand reductions experienced during the 2007-2009 water shortage.

The Year-Round Landscape Irrigation

Rule is just one initiative implemented over the last year under the District's Comprehensive Water Conservation Program. Among the other initiatives were:

In August 2009, the District began piloting the Water Conservation Hotel and Motel Program (Water CHAMP) in the Florida Keys. The District has so far enrolled 17 lodging facilities with nearly 700 rooms in the public education program, which helps hotels and motels save water, improve energy efficiency and reduce operating costs.

For the second consecutive year, the District and the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association hosted a free workshop on how to develop effective water

conservation projects in the industrial, commercial and institutional water use sectors. Held last month, the event drew more than 150 people and featured a vendor exhibition that included 15 providers of innovative water conservation products and services.

For Fiscal Year 2010, the SFWMD Governing Board approved nearly \$460,000 in matching grants for 13 water conservation projects through the Water Savings Incentive Program (WaterSIP). The projects will save an estimated 238 million gallons of water per year.

For details on the Comprehensive Water Conservation Program and water-saving tips, please visit [www.savewaterfl.com](http://www.savewaterfl.com).

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# Hoop talent abounds at Showcase event

**By Charles M. Murphy**

Okeechobee News

Duelle Gore got to measure himself against the best basketball players in the area when he competed Wednesday night in the Treasure Coast Showcase Boys Basketball All Star Game at Indian River State College.

Gore's blue team fell 69-46 to a white team comprised of players from South Fork, Port St. Lucie, Centennial, Martin County, Treasure Coast and Fort Pierce Central.

Brahman Coach Bryan Van Camp also got to coach the visiting team in the game. Players from Westwood, Vero Beach, Sebastian River, Lincoln Park Academy, John Carroll and Okeechobee were on his squad. He said it was a fun game to watch because of all the talent that was on the floor.

"It was a good experience. There was a lot of talent out there. I'm glad Duelle got to be recognized for the things he did for our team this year and the things he did for himself. I'm sure he had a good time."

Gore scored four points, grabbed seven rebounds and had one assist in about 15 minutes of playing time in the game. He said the game was a fun experience.

"I had a great season and this game was fun. All of the players were real good. You saw the best from everybody," he added.

Gore said he thinks he'll be able to earn a college scholarship to play basketball and is willing to go out of state to continue his career.

Chris Carter of Treasure Coast High School was the game MVP. He was a last minute addition to the white team roster. He led the white squad with 15 points.

"It was a lot of fun. There was a good crowd today. I like playing basketball," he said. Carter said he is considering offers from Lynn University, Florida Institute of Technology and a couple of other schools. He said the team wanted to play good defense in the game.

"We kind of locked up on the white team. There was good defense out there," he said.

Keith Matthews of Sebastian River had 10 points to lead the Blue team. He got the loudest ovation in the game when he caught an alley-oop pass and converted a slam dunk in the fourth quarter.

The game featured some intense defense in the first quarter. The Blue team led only 9-5 after the first eight minutes.

Van Camp said he was a bit surprised that the teams struggled early on the offensive end of the floor. He said most all star games finish with scores in the 80's, and 90's.

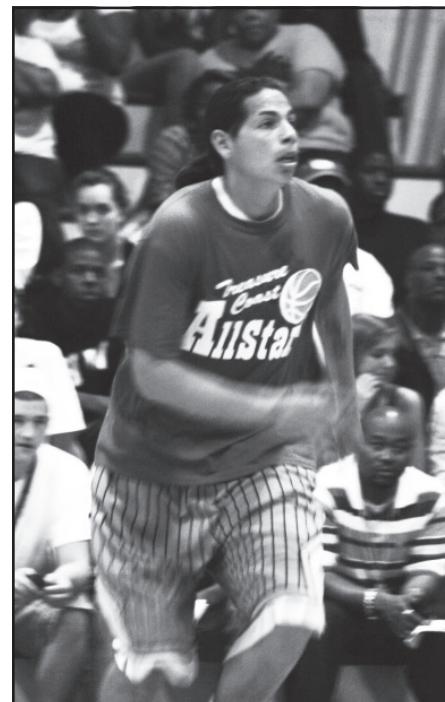
Things heated up in the second quarter as the white team went on a 19-5 run to take a 29-22 lead at the half.

Another run in the third quarter propelled the blue team to a 49-31 lead after three quarters.

The white team's lead was over 20 points for most of the fourth quarter.

Van Camp said his opponents could really shoot the basketball. "We lost their shoot-

ers and they had a lot of them. We had a big crowd here and there were some nerves. We also weren't familiar with the guys they were playing with."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

**Duelle Gore enjoyed playing against the best basketball players in the area Wednesday.**



Special to the Okeechobee News/Fran Mechlin

## New officers

On April 1, members of the Okeechobee Ladies Golf Association met for their monthly meeting, scramble and installation of new officers for the 2010-2011 season.

New officers elected for the 2010-11 season include: Seated is Dale Bryant, treasurer; (Standing left to right) President, Nancy McAlinden, Vice President, Janice Rhyne and Secretary, Paula Fisher. The winning team for the scramble included Cher Fountain, Nancy Haldeman, Paula Fisher and Wanetta Johnson. The second place team was Fran Dierig, Karen Larson, Janice Rhyne and Shirley Esterline.

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### Business Opportunities

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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.

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For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

### Public Notice

**Change in April School Board Meeting Date**  
The regular meeting of the Okeechobee County School Board for April will take place on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., in Room 303 of the School Board Administrative Office located at 700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee. The meeting is open to the public. There will be no meeting regularly scheduled on April 13, 2010.

Patricia G. Cooper, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
348813 On 4/11/10



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<b>1999 Mercury Grand Marquis LS</b>	only \$5495*
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## Public Notice

## Public Notice

## NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2010 AT 9:00 A.M. AT 17429 NW 242ND STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972 (FIELD OFFICE). A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE UNDERSIGNED. IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING, THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PRECEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, IS MADE. ANY PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING MUST HAVE THEIR NAME AND TOPIC PLACED ON THE AGENDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING. ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRECEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S OFFICES BY CALLING (863)763-4601 AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING.

NOTICE: COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT HAS AN ONGOING AQUATIC SPRAYING PROGRAM, DISTRICT WIDE.

WILLARD M. BYARS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
17429 NW 242ND STREET  
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972  
(863)763-4601 OR (863)634-3166  
350038 ON 4/4/10

## NOTICE OF QUA MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Tuesday April 13, 2010 at 8:30 A.M., at the Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will hold a Public Hearing as soon after 8:30 A.M. as possible to review the current water/sewer rates and any possible modifications of Resolution 10-01 dealing with operating rules and regulations of the Okeechobee Utility Authority. A copy of the proposed Resolution and Rate changes is available for viewing at the office of the Executive Director, Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Authority with respect to such meetings, he or she will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made; which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Such person may provide a court reporter, stenographer, or tape recorder for such verbatim record.

BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE  
UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford, P.E.  
Executive Director  
349572 ON 4/4/10

# Larson wins 'Young Dairy Leader' honors

Travis Larson of Larson Dairy #8 of Larson Dairy, Inc., in Okeechobee has been named Southeast Milk, Inc.'s, 2010 Outstanding Young Dairy Leader.

Southeast Milk, Inc., is a Florida-based co-operative that represents the business interests of more than 300 dairy farmers in six states. Milk from SMI farmers is marketed to dairy processing plants where it then is distributed to retail outlets for consumers.

SMI annually recognizes producers 40 and younger who demonstrate excellence in farming skills, strategies and who display a business plan and desire to remain an active part of the industry's future.

Larson, 31, is a third-generation dairy farmer who said he would choose this career even if he didn't grow up in the industry. His grandfather, Red Larson, founded Larson Dairy, Inc. (LDI), in 1947 and maintains a daily role with the operation. Travis' father, Woody, also is a stakeholder in LDI as well as owning other dairies in Florida.

"I don't do it because they asked me to do it," Travis said. "I like doing it and I want to be good at it."

"In today's time it's different than when Grandpa started in '47. The challenges we face today are much different. The volatilities of the market are much different as far as the ups and downs and pricing. I'm happy that I enjoy doing what I do. I would do it anyway."

There are more than 1,800 cows at Larson

Dairy #8 and like most businesses Larson gets an assist from his wife, Colleen, who oversees the herd's records. Colleen also has a master's degree in dairy nutrition.

"She's an excellent voice for the dairy industry," Travis said. "She's a sharp thinker and knows our herd records really well."

This honor allows the Larsons to take part in industry meetings that will enhance their leadership skills. They will represent SMI at the National Milk Producers Federation/Dairy Management, Inc., annual meeting and will make lobbying visits to Washington, D.C. to

address issues relevant to the dairy industry. Larson also will be invited to attend board of directors meetings for Dairy Farmers, Inc., Florida's milk promotion group.

"Southeast Milk is pleased to have Travis and Colleen represent the cooperative's interests at industry meetings and events," said Maggie Murphy, SMI Director of Member Services. "They know the business well and understand the challenges southeast dairymen face. They are both articulate and are eager to be involved in decision-making that affects our entire industry."

## Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

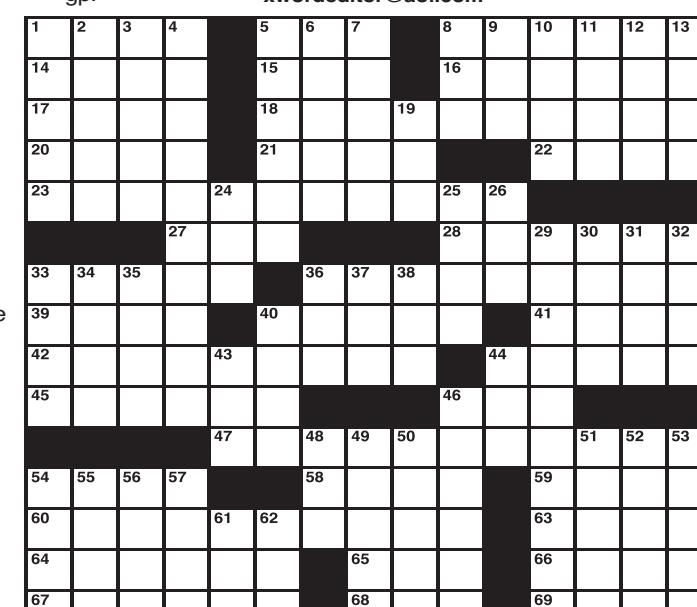
### ACROSS

- |   |   |                          |                                  |
|---|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Sandwich side dish                      | 4 Moby Dick, notably                          | 38 "Oedipus __"          | 51 Overplay                      |
| 5 Quick __ flash                          | 5 On the plane                                | 40 Old Spice alternative | 52 Wascally Wabbit hunter        |
| 8 Open, as a gate                         | 6 Composer of marches                         | 43 Blockhead             | 53 __, aim, fire!"               |
| 14 Itchy condition                        | 7 Early Mexican                               | 44 Noteworthy period     | 54 Bay Area enforcers, initially |
| 15 Dickens pen name                       | 8 TV dial letters                             | 46 Explosion remains     | 55 Icy coating                   |
| 16 Connect, as a stereo                   | 9 Right away                                  | 48 "Big Blue"            | 56 Car                           |
| 17 Kind of party torch                    | 10 Quantum physicist Niels                    | 49 Fast                  | 57 Vibrant look                  |
| 18 Not in working order, informally       | 11 "Works for me"                             | 50 Obtain using force    | 61 __ the season ...             |
| 20 Frequently                             | 12 Time co-founder Henry                      |                          | 62 Suffix with Siam              |
| 21 On the ocean                           | 13 Toll rds.                                  |                          |                                  |
| 22 Deli breads                            | 19 Acorn source                               |                          |                                  |
| 23 Crook who doesn't need the combination | 24 Maine coon, for one                        |                          |                                  |
| 27 Roll of bills                          | 25 Give forth                                 |                          |                                  |
| 28 Las Vegas's desert                     | 26 Soldier of Seoul                           |                          |                                  |
| 32 Peepers                                | 29 Fashionable fliers                         |                          |                                  |
| 33 Shooter's aiming aid                   | 30 Per unit                                   |                          |                                  |
| 36 Union benefit during a walkout         | 31 Fluctuate                                  |                          |                                  |
| 39 Vicinity                               | 32 Peepers                                    |                          |                                  |
| 40 Valuable thing                         | 33 Child star of "The Thief of Bagdad" (1940) |                          |                                  |
| 41 Shredded                               | 34 Persia, nowadays                           |                          |                                  |
| 42 Everything, informally                 | 35 Hair goops                                 |                          |                                  |
| 44 Annual athletic awards                 | 36 Opposite of NNE                            |                          |                                  |
| 45 Vote out                               | 37 Hijack-prevention gp.                      |                          |                                  |
| 46 Hip-hop Dr.                            |   |                          |                                  |
| 47 Promising picnic forecast              |   |                          |                                  |
| 54 Thick carpet                           |   |                          |                                  |
| 58 Point on a wire fence                  |   |                          |                                  |
| 59 Tall story                             |   |                          |                                  |
| 60 Tendency to anger easily               |   |                          |                                  |
| 63 Mrs. Peel of "The Avengers"            |   |                          |                                  |
| 64 Regional dialect                       |   |                          |                                  |
| 65 Grammar best-seller "Woe __"           |   |                          |                                  |
| 66 Regretted                              |   |                          |                                  |
| 67 Start to nod off                       |   |                          |                                  |
| 68 Souse's woe                            |   |                          |                                  |
| 69 Full of pep                            |   |                          |                                  |

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



xwordeditor@aol.com



# Local man attributes long life to clean living

**By Pete Gawda**  
Okeechobee News

In spite of his 101 years, Wilson Hazellief is up to date on current events and provides a living history lesson.

He was born July 22, 1908, in Basinger. Only two other brothers, Quillie, 91, of Okeechobee and Owen, 103, of Liburn, Ga., survive of the nine boys and one girl born to Henry and Elizabeth Hazellief.

Mr. Hazellief said he grew up "in the boondocks out in the middle of nowhere," in the Bluefield community which is between the City of Okeechobee and Fort Pierce just over the St. Lucie County line. At first he lived in a small log house built by his father. As Mr. Hazellief grew older and the family expanded, his father built a larger frame house.

There was no electricity in Bluefield. However, Mr. Hazellief remembers his father putting in a carbide lighting system. Later they got lights from a battery system that was recharged by a generator. He never had running water when he was growing up. Mr. Hazellief said the only way they had running water was to get a bucket and run from the pump to the house. His father built a concrete cistern which had a hand pump.

He remembers the first radio he ever heard. It was battery operated. A wire was strung between two poles to serve as an antenna and he listened to the "Grand Old Opry."

Mr. Hazellief's father had groves and grew corn, peas and sweet potatoes and then later got into growing sugar cane for syrup. He said that during the two weeks around Christmas when all the brothers were home from school they would cut the cane and make syrup. He said a steam boiler ran the cane mill and steam was used to cook the cane juice.

Mr. Hazellief attended school through the eighth grade in a one-room school in the community. Some school years his father

boarded the teacher and his family made up most, if not all, of the enrollment. He said young teachers just starting out were sent to his school and they usually stayed only four months.

"I got a real good eighth grade education Mr. Hazellief said.

Then he went by bus to the ninth grade in Fort Pierce where algebra was his downfall.

"I won't use that in my life time," he predicted at the time. "So far, I haven't had to," he added in a recent interview. So he dropped out of school in the ninth grade.

Mr. Hazellief has lived most of his life in



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

**At 101 Okeechobee resident Wilson Hazellief lives by himself and keeps up to date on current events.**

this area except for a short while spent in North Florida and he worked at a variety of jobs including long distance truck driving, truck farming, running a feed lot, school custodian in Fort Pierce, working for Phillips 66 Petroleum and working at a nuclear power plant.

Although a life long Democrat, Mr. Hazellief does not support the policies of President Obama. He feels the recently passed health care law is "way too costly." On the local scene, he feels Okeechobee has the best sheriff's office the county has had in a long time.

Mr. Hazellief outlived two wives and seven of his nine children and has lived by himself since his second wife passed away

in 2004. He is generally in good health although he has had two knee replacements and walks with a cane.

"I started as a young man to live for the Lord," was his reply when asked the secret to his long life. This was when he was about 22 years of age and soon after he married his first wife. He said he has tried to live a good clean life.

"I tried to live as a person ought to live."

Currently he attends North Okeechobee Church of God. In the past he has served as superintendent of Sunday school, Sunday school teacher and church clerk.

*Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com).*



Courtesy photo/Hazellief Family

**Enjoying the Hazellief Family Reunion held on March 27, are Hazellief brothers, Wilson, 101, Owen, 103 and Quillie, the youngest at 91. Owen resides in Liburn, Ga. Wilson and Quillie are residents of Okeechobee.**

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