

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 51

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

50¢ Plus tax

**OHS baseball team splits double header**  
...Page 16



**Track team members head to state event**  
... Page 15

**Buxton Funeral home reopens under new management**  
... Page 19

## Lake Levels

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## Documentary to focus on Kissimmee Basin



Special to the Okeechobee News/Live Oak Production Group  
**Art photographer Clyde Butcher (left) and documentary film maker Elam Stoltzfus (right) hope to use photographs and documentaries to help save and preserve the Florida wilderness.**

**By Katrina Elsen**  
Okeechobee News

Elam Stoltzfus and Clyde Butcher want people to fall in love with the old Florida—a place where the songs of tree frogs fill the night, where ghost orchids dance a ballet to the rhythm of raindrops and where Cypress trees—with their Cypress knees—look like something drawn by Dr. Suess.

While those who grow up in the rural areas of South Florida might be familiar with the beauty of the Florida wilderness, too many coastal dwellers don't even know it's here, they say.

Mr. Stoltzfus's nature documentaries and Mr. Butcher's art photography capture parts of the "old Florida" on film both to record it and to help save it.

"Their goal is to use the work to educate people about Florida,"

said Clyde's wife, Niki Butcher. "One of our life's missions is to help people understand, through Clyde's stills and Elam's filmmaking, the deep mystery and beauty of Florida.

"Clyde and Elam both feel that if you can help people fall in love with a place, they will want to save it."

The filmmaker and the photographer were honored at a reception at Indian River State College on Saturday, hosted by Sonny and Betty Williamson. They are promoting Mr. Stoltzfus' newest documentary project "Kissimmee Basin the Northern Everglades."

"This is something very dear to my heart," said Mr. Williamson. "Old Florida—there isn't a lot of it left. What can we do to help it stay

See FILM—Page 13

## OHS softball team claims 14-4A title

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Taylor Kinman's ninth inning single broke a scoreless tie and gave Okeechobee High School their third district softball title in four years, 1-0, in the District 14-4A title game Friday night in Okeechobee.

Kinman's hit backed the strong pitching of Samantha Harrell who shut out the Falcons for nine innings. Okeechobee (20-6) advanced to host a regional playoff game Tuesday night against Titusville, (19-5).

Brahman Coach Kim Hargraves said her third district title meant a lot because it came against a veteran team in Jensen that is among the best in the state.

"We could potentially face

See SOFTBALL — Page 2



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Megan Clements ended up scoring the winning run in the OHS district championship victory.**



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

**Naomi Stevens is called out on a pickoff play as Brianna Matuszek applies the tag during the first inning of Friday's contest.**

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Special to the Okeechobee News/YMS  
**All Dressed up for Judging Day. From left to right, front row: Monica Hernandez, McKayla Snow; second row: Carma Rowlett, Margaret Ruede-McKane, Brittney Ball; third row: Daniel Jansen, Kirsten Doney, Cassidy Watford, Tristan Mavroides; fourth row: Sarah Davis, Brandon McKee, Kayla Harrison; back row: Ben Kielbasa and Joseph Chandler.**

## Okeechobee students travel to Florida Science Fair finals

On April 7-9, fourteen students from Okeechobee joined ten other students from the Heartland Region and traveled to Orlando to participate in the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair. This fair is the largest academic competition held in our state, with over 900 students from grades six through twelve presenting their scientific research. Okeechobee students attending were Daniel Jansen, Brittney Ball, Kayla Harrison, Carma Rowlett, Joseph Chandler, Ben Kielbasa and Margaret Ruede-McKane (all from OHS); Sarah Davis and Monica Hernandez (from OFC); and Brandon McKee, Kirsten Doney, Cassidy Watford, McKayla Snow, and Tristan

Mavroides (from YMS).

The following students received awards at this event: In Behavioral and Social Sciences, Brandon McKee received a \$50 savings bond from the Hernando Region; in Chemistry, Kirsten Doney received a third place plaque, McKayla Snow received a fourth place plaque, and Sarah Davis received a Special Recognition ribbon and a \$50 savings bond from the Hernando Region; and in Environmental Sciences, Tristan Mavroides received a Special Recognition ribbon. Okeechobee County Schools would like to congratulate these students for their achievements.

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## SOFTBALL

Continued From Page 1

them again in the second round. They have a bunch of seniors and were a bunch of young kids. Okeechobee has an unbelievable group of kids. I can't say enough about how hard they've worked," she added.

Hargraves said her girls played laid back and didn't let anything bother them. She said it looked like the girls felt no pressure even in the late innings.

"We started to rattle Jensen in the seventh inning and I told the girls to keep rattling them, they'll let up for a second and we'll take advantage of it," she said.

Jensen had some chances to score but couldn't get a big hit. They had the first two batters of the game on base via an infield single and an error in the top of the first but couldn't score. They got a runner as far as third base in the sixth but she was stranded when shortstop Naomi Stevens stopped a grounder up the middle and threw out Brianna Parker at first.

Parker was tough on the mound for Jensen (19-5). She allowed two hits in the bottom of the first but worked out of the jam. Okeechobee's only other chance to score came in the bottom of the eighth when Kinman singled and Stevens walked.

The winning rally in the ninth started as Courtney Wilson and Megan Clements walked, and moved into scoring position on a sacrifice by LeAnna Cotton. After Emily McCullough grounded into a fielder's choice and Wilson was tagged out between second and third, Kinman laced a pitch into right

center for the game winner.

"If it was anything close I was hitting it," the junior outfielder said, "My swing felt good and was nice and fluid. It feels amazing, almost indescribable," Kinman said.

Hargraves said her pitcher, Samantha Harrell, is another cool customer who doesn't get rattled. She had great control in the game and didn't beat herself.

"A lot of players let things get into their head but not her. Nothing gets under her skin. She just does what she needs to do," Hargraves said. She thinks Okeechobee has the potential to reach another Final 4 this year. She said her team has the ability and the districts we match up with aren't as talented as usual. "Okeechobee needs to get ready because I feel we have another long trip into the post season this year," she added.

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*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!*

### Customer service

- I am surprised (but guess I shouldn't be) by the lack of service in general at businesses. I'm talking about Okeechobee and other places as well. For example, I ate at a restaurant here in town two times in the last few weeks and both times I saw wait staff eating either while serving or behind the bar while on duty. I have seen this at fast food restaurants as well. This is disgusting--and I am not a picky eater at all. I won't go back. Also at the check outs in the last few days (at different stores) the cashiers were too busy talking to other workers about their personal lives or opinions to ring up the order efficiently or correctly. I like to chat and be friendly, but this is ridiculous. With the employment situation the way it is, I think the employers should fire some of these so-called workers and hire new ones. My boss would never let me get away with this, even if I wanted to!

- Last weekend we went out for breakfast and the waitresses were so busy talking with each other that they did not even get up to see about us until we had been there 10 minutes holding a baby at the table. The table behind us where someone had eaten prior to our arrival did not even get cleaned off the entire time we were there eating. Truthfully \$20 bucks for two breakfast meals is way too much for the quality of food and service.

- I know that service isn't always the best, and that can pretty much happen anywhere, but there are a lot of great restaurants in this town with great service. My wife and I prefer to eat here in town rather than go elsewhere.

- When a couple walks into an eatery with an infant they should get immediate attention. First thing that needs to be asked, "do you need a high chair?"

- The waitress can help the food quality but if you don't get good service, don't tip.

### Lock closings

- The lock at Buckhead closed the first week of March 2009 and didn't reopen until the last week of January 2010. The work is, probably, being done by contractors. That means it will take longer and cost more than estimated. Opening day of duck season, deer season and turkey season are, at least, a three-day holiday weekend. Plus, a NASCAR race in Florida is four-day holiday weekend.

### Cars keyed

- Myself and many others are distraught this morning as we wake up and find that not only are our cars keyed but many of our peers have been victimized as well. While at "Grad Bash 2010," over 20 cars were keyed from little slits to long slits to even horrible names. These criminals need to be caught and should face serious consequences. This is not a laughing matter or some stupid, immature joke. It's a crime.

- The high school is often the site of vandalism this time of year. It is unfortunate that these types of crimes are seldom solved. The type of person who commits such a crime has no character and will not confess. There is no easy way to get enough evidence to prosecute. A night watchman might be helpful, but is expensive. Plus, the campus is a large one for one person to watch.

### Legion Free Fair

- The County Fair says they can't change their dates because they are set by the state as part of the Livestock Show and county fair system for the whole state. I can understand that. But why can't the Legion start their fair a little earlier? Some years they start it the last week in January. Why can't they do that every year and that would solve the problem?

- I think both the Legion and the county fair association need to find something other than carnival rides to raise money. The midway always includes those carnival games. I don't know anyone who likes the carnival games. They are usually a ripoff. If we want rides, we go to Disney or Universal Studios. This is Florida where theme parks are plentiful.

- It looks like the problem with the fairs comes down to a dispute between the Legion's ride contractor and the fair's ride contractor.

## Letters to the Editor

### Global warming

I am convinced that the reasons humans aren't immediately motivated to respond to the global warming threats are the following:

We have disconnected ourselves from the natural world. Our old story of the human earth relationship told us that we are stagnated from nature and superior to it and all things not human that serve our purposes. The old story is fixed on the hereafter and redemption, salvation of the world, and the center of life: air, water, soil, plants and animals.

This fails to recognize that the universe and our connection to the earth are sacred revelations of the creator to be cherished, nourished and celebrated. Our practices that make earth into wasteland are sacrilegious.

Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme's book, "The Universe Story," tells the new story which is how things came to be and how we can fit into the world. We are a result of the earlier creations: water, soil, plants and animals. We differ from any of the earth's creations in that we have consciousness and we know that we know. The elements of our body are the same elements as the soil outside and our blood is salty from the ocean.

We are holy and belong to the sacred community of living beings. Thus we have an obligation to contribute human talents and work not to the failure as we are now doing, but to the success thru the earth and universe. We are cousins to everything in creation, whose elopement contributed to our existence.

In 2007, the world's leading scientists predicted that global warming is very likely man made with disturbing signs visible in rising seas, heat waves, worsening droughts and stronger hurricanes. Recent earthquakes in Chile and Haiti validate the predictions and warn caring citizens to respond to the Inter-governmental Report on Climate Change by hundreds of climate scientists. They predict an increase in temperature of 2.5 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100.

Global warming is caused by: air pollutants that result in acid rain; depletion of the ozone shield that traps solar heat; large amounts of ultraviolet radiation allowed in the ozone shield and plants, animals and

humans are being damaged with skin cancer; a two degree rise in temperature is the most the earth can tolerate without dangerous climate change scientists tell us. The International Panel on Climate Change says as temperature rises these effects will kick in decreasing illness and death from heat waves, floods and drought, hundreds of millions of people lack drinking water, increasing wildfires, grain production decreasing, and 30% of species suffer extinction risk, increasing water borne disease.

In 2007 the folks at Pew Research Center clocking public attitudes shows that global warming remains 20th on the annual list of 23 policy priorities. Below terrorism, tax cuts, crime and illegal immigration.

What can you do?

1. Get a copy of the film, "The Day After Tomorrow" and show it to your church members, city officials, office personnel and neighbors.

2. Don't buy palm oil.

3. Don't cut down trees.

4. Buy a hybrid car, drive less or carpool.

5. Start your own organic vegetable garden.

6. Replace light bulbs with Fluorescent bulbs.

Your children and grandchildren will thank you.

**Bob Kochitzky**

### What happens after we die?

What really happens after we die is an unknown to peoples of all religions, nationalities, and races on earth. Throughout my life I've always been a very avid reader, but never before was I so deeply motivated like this, to strongly recommend reading "Evidence of the Afterlife" by Doctor Jeffery Long, M.D., an oncologist.

It deals directly with near death experiences and also with a large number of people who actually clinically were dead, and came back to life. The book is buttressed by the writings of numerous other medical professionals around the world.

Reading this marvellous publication will reassure you that God does really exist, I promise.

**Bill F. Stegkemper**

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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### Our Purpose...

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

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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.
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- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
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- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



# School board recognizes students and staff

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

The selection of a contractor to handle the Okeechobee Achievement Academy construction project and recognition for students and staff were the main items on the agenda when the Okeechobee County School Board met on Tuesday night.

The board voted to expel four students, two freshmen at New Endeavor High School and two sophomores at Okeechobee High School for disciplinary problems that include possession of illegal substances at school and defiance of authority.

The board also approved a proclamation that set the week of May 3-7, as Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week.

Board members also selected Marcobay Construction to serve as the construction manager for the Okeechobee Achievement Academy project. They recently built a new data building for the school system.

Facilities Director Dale Barrett said negotiations on a price have already begun. Originally 11 firms made proposals to the district. School officials cut that list to five and later cut them to three finalists based on the responses of the contractors.

"We certainly feel we have three of the best that we could possibly have," Superintendent Dr. Patricia Cooper said.

The new building replaces New Endeavor High School. The facility would be avail-

able for credit retrieval and more emphasis on vocational training. "It will be state of the art technology. We want the image to be a very positive one. We want it to be a place of individualized education for any student," Dr. Cooper added.

The future of New Endeavor has yet to be determined.

The board also approved a Consultant Agreement with Funding Connection to develop, write and submit an Investing in Innovation grant application with the United States Department of Education. The district could earn \$3 million per year for five years. The money would be used for hardware and software for individualized student instruction, instructional personnel, and additional career and technical programs. The consultant will earn \$20,000 should the grant be awarded to the School system.

Dr. Cooper said it was a win-win situation for the district. She said they speak weekly and provide data to the firm. "We don't know but we are hopeful based on the input we've had from the Department of Education."

She noted the firm has been successful in writing grants for other districts across the nation.

"That's a pretty good investment when you look at the return," School Board Chair Kelly Owens said.

The board scheduled a special workshop

meeting for Tuesday, May 11, at 5 p.m. in their normal meeting room to discuss legislative bills and the school budget. They plan to hold a ground breaking ceremony at the site of the proposed Okeechobee Achievement Academy. It will be located near the bus complex and Yearling Middle School.

The board also scheduled a public auction to sell off surplus equipment and vehicles on May 8, at 10 a.m.

The board also approved their annual staff allocations. With class size requirements in mind, the district is looking at additional teaching positions.

The board honored a number of students at Tuesday's meeting. Ethan Kersey, a senior

this year at OHS, was honored for earning an Eagle Scout Award. Three girls basketball players -- Jewel Buck, Keighly Stewart and Markeisha Youmans -- were honored for being named to the Treasure Coast All Star Basketball game. April Floyd of Osceola Middle School, Tyler Winner of Osceola Middle School, and Matthew McClanahan of Yearling Middle School were state qualifiers in the Duke University Talent ID Program. Students in the program must earn in the 95th percentile on the FCAT test, score over 20 on the ACT and over 500 on all sections of the SAT test.

Staff members honored included Jacinda Walsh, a first grade teacher at Everglades Elementary School who recently earned National Board Certification. There are 25 teachers in the district who hold this distinction. Dan Biebel a science teacher at Okeechobee High School was honored as a published author. The book is titled "Finding Martians in the Dark." The book discusses things he learned about teaching during his 30 years in the classroom. Angie Hodges, an Administrative Assistant was a recipient of a scholarship from the All Florida Academic Team and Coca-Cola Foundation.

Two employees were honored as they retired from the district, Norma Cason, a custodian at Yearling Middle School and Matilda Juarez a custodian at Seminole Elementary School. Cason worked 12 years for the district while Juarez worked 24 years for the school system.



(L-R) School Superintendent Dr. Patricia Cooper congratulates Jewel Buck and Markeisha Youmans for earning a spot on the Treasure Coast All Star Basketball team.



April Floyd (right) of Osceola Middle School won recognition by being named to the Duke University Talent ID Program.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Tyler Winner of Osceola Middle School earned recognition in the Duke University Talent ID Program.



Matthew McClanahan of Yearling Middle School earned recognition in the Duke University Talent ID program.



Ashlee Gopher of Yearling Middle School earned a Superintendent's Point of Light Award.



Conner Shumway of Yearling Middle School earned a Superintendent's Point of Light Award.



(r-l) Shelly Sickels, McKayla Snow and Dr. Patricia Cooper celebrate Snow earning a Superintendent's Point of Light Awards.



Tyrell Taylor earned a Point of Light award from School Superintendent Dr. Patricia Cooper at Tuesday's school board meeting.

## Okeechobee Forecast

**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 82. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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

### Extended Forecast

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 86. North wind around 5 mph becoming east.

**Thursday night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 67. East southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Friday:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 88. South southeast wind around 10 mph.

**Friday night:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

## Lotteries

**Florida Lottery** — Here are the numbers selected Monday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 7-3-8; **Play 4:** 8-7-2-3; **Fantasy 5:** 1-2-6-29-36; **Mega Money:** 16-23-31-34 MB 11; **Florida Lotto:** 12-21-25-34-47-53 X 2; **Powerball:** 1-12-53-56-57 PB5 x2. Numbers drawn Tuesday, **Cash 3:** 9-3-8; **Play 4:** 2-8-0-0.

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# Community Events

## OKMS Mixer event set

Okeechobee Main Street's April Mixer will be held on Thursday, **April 29**, from 5-7 p.m. This month's mixer will be co-hosted by the Hampton Inn located at 1200 NE Park Street. Our mixers are a great networking opportunity for the businesses and residents of our area. Whether you have a new or old business, new to Okeechobee or would like to know more about Okeechobee Main Street please join us for networking, refreshments, door prizes and a chance at the Mega 50-50. For more information call 863-357-MAIN (6246).

## Dinner event planned to benefit school

Get set for an evening of fine dining and entertainment on Saturday, **April 29**, at the Bream Room of the Speckled Perch, Hwy. 98 North and Hwy. 78 West. The evening will start off with appetizers at 6 p.m. for social hour until 7 p.m. when entrees will be served. A silent and live auction will be held throughout the evening. Tickets for the event are \$50 per person and all proceeds will benefit Peace Lutheran School. Seating is limited for this very special evening event so RSVP early by calling 863-763-7566.

## Obituaries

*Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing [obits@newszap.com](mailto:obits@newszap.com). Customers may also request photos and links to online guest books. A link to the obituaries is available at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com).*

### Harry T. Williams, 85

OKEECHOBEE — Harry T. Williams, age 85, of Okeechobee, died Monday, April 25, 2010, at the Hospice House in Fort Pierce.

Moving from Miami, he has been a resident of Okeechobee since 1972. Mr. Williams retired after 38 years of dedicated service with Eastern Airlines as a general foreman. He also proudly served in the United States Navy and is a member of the VFW and the Moose Lodge BHR.

Mr. Williams is survived by his wife of 27 years, Betty Williams of Okeechobee; his daughter, Janet Fox (Ben) of Sweetwater, Tenn.; and his four brothers and two sisters including Francis Edwards of Pineview, Ga. He is also survive by his wife's children, Christina Colter (Keith) of Valdosta, Ga., Robin Aggers (Ken) of Knoxville, Tenn., Robert Kehr of Mayo, Fla., Andrew Kehr (Patricia) of Deltona, Fla., as well as his eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at the Abundant Blessings Church, 4550 Hwy 441 North, Okeechobee, on Thursday, April 29, 2010, from 4 p.m. till 6 p.m., with services to follow at 6 p.m. Interment will be Friday, April 30, 2010, at the South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth at 2:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for memorial contributions be made to Big Lake Hospice 3543 Hwy 441 South, Okeechobee, FL 34974.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Cox-Gifford-Seawinds Funeral Home 1950 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960.

## GAL meeting planned

The monthly meeting of the local Guardians ad Litem (GAL) will be held on Thursday, **April 29**, from 2 until 3 p.m. The meeting will be held at Mom's Kitchen in Okeechobee, 909 S. Parrot Ave. New volunteers are always invited to come and find out more about how to help a child. Speak with one of our GALs and get a free cup of coffee!

## OCSO to take part in Torch Run

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team is conducting a "Torch Run" on Saturday, **May 1**, to bring awareness to the Special Olympics of Florida. This is one of many events being held throughout the State by other Law Enforcement Agencies. The run will commence at the Sheriff's Office at 9 a.m. and end at Publix Supermarket at 10 a.m. There will be a brief ceremony at Publix with refreshments provided by Publix. For more information, contact Michelle Bell, Gary Bell or Noel Stephen at 863-763-3117. Come out and support our Special Olympics Athletes.

## OHS class of '81 to hold reunion

The Okeechobee High School Class of 1981 will get together **May 11** at 6 p.m. at the Speckled Perch Lounge to discuss the reunion. For more information, call 863-697-1341.

### Berta Becerril-Romero, 53

OKEECHOBEE — Berta Becerril-Romero, age 53, of Okeechobee, passed away April 25, 2010, at Raulerson Hospital.

Born April 1, 1957, in Atotonilco, Guerrero, to Pedro and Concepcion Romero, she came to Okeechobee from Mexico in 1989. She was a homemaker of the Catholic faith. She was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She was a member of the Grupo Getsemani and Juan XXIII.

Mrs. Becerril is survived by her husband of 25 years, Roberto Becerril; two daughters, Elizabeth and Ana Bertha Becerril; two sons, Marco Antonio and Emanuel Becerril, all of Okeechobee; her parents, Pedro and Concepcion Romero; two grandsons, Damian Antonio Becerril and Jesus Esquivel; granddaughter, Aileen Esquivel; brother, Pablo Romero of Okeechobee; and sister, Victoria Lagunas of Ft. Pierce.

Visitation will be 5 to 9 p.m., today, April 28, 2010, at Buxton Funeral Home. Funeral Mass will be 9 a.m., Saturday, May 1, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Father Hugh Duffy officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

Friends may sign the guestbook at [www.bas-okeechobee.com](http://www.bas-okeechobee.com).

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



## Scouts begin new district event

The public is invited to enjoy an event hosted by the new Big Lake Boy Scout District on **May 1**, at the Lakeport Community Center. The new district is open to kids from all Lake Okeechobee communities. There will be a Pine Wood Derby Race, horsemanship, contests and games. Come see what scouting means to young people. There are many small things an adult can do to help the new district. The hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. More information about this event will be in the newspaper next week. Call Ray Worley, Big Lake Boy Scout District chairman, 863-447-1114.

## Church Bass Tournament

The Church Challenge Bass Tournament will be held at Roland Martin's Marina on Lake Okeechobee **May 7 and 8** to benefit Florida Baptist Children's Homes. For more information contact Stan Drew at [werdnats@comcast.net](mailto:werdnats@comcast.net) or visit [www.jump-startchildrenservcies.com](http://www.jump-startchildrenservcies.com).

## AmVets meeting

The newly formed AmVets Post #200 are now meeting at the American Legion. AmVets is also starting an **AmVet Riders** and Sons of the AmVets. For information, call Helen James at 863-585-2565 or 863-261-1594.

### Winston Lee Clark Jr., 82

WILDWOOD — Winston Lee Clark, Jr., 82, of Wildwood, passed away Saturday, April 24, 2010.

Mr. Clark was born in Nashville, Tenn., and moved to Wildwood in 2000 from Red Level, Al. He was a retired Cowboy, a member of the Wildwood Church of Christ, the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association and the American Legion, Post 18, Wildwood. He loved his family, being a Cowboy and being a true outdoorsman.

Survivors include his wife of 10 years, Betty; son, Neil (Robin) Clark of Purvis, Ms.; daughters, Elaine (Bill) Berthiaume of New Smyrna Beach, Fla. and Donna (Michael) Kilday of Charleston, S.C.; brother, John (Pat) Clark of Inverness, Fla.; 18 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Sue, in 2000.

The family celebrated Winston Clark's life at 2 p.m., Monday, April 26, 2010, in the Banks/Page-Theus Chapel.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the Wildwood Church of Christ, 114 Cleveland Ave, Wildwood, FL 34785. On line condolences may be left by visiting [www.bankspagetheus.com](http://www.bankspagetheus.com). Arrangements are entrusted to Banks/Page-Theus Funerals and Cremations, Wildwood.

Sign guestbooks at  
<http://www.legacy.com>

## 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.

## Gang Free Bike Fest Okeechobee

Help support our fight against criminal street gangs. Bike Fest in the Park will be presented on Saturday, **May 8**, beginning at 9 a.m. in downtown Okeechobee. The event will include live music, food, prizes, Poker Run, Burn-Out Pit, Car and Bike Show and more! For more information, please contact 863-763-6464.

## Golf tourney planned for Chaka's Stars

Tee it up with the stars at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club on Saturday, **May 8**, for the Second Golf Tourney to benefit Chaka's Stars. The event begins at 7:15 a.m. and is hosted by Channing Crowder and Phillip Merling of the Miami Dolphins. Registration begins with a Continental Breakfast and begins promptly at 7:15 a.m. Scramble with shotgun starts at 8 a.m. \$75 per person, \$300 per foursome. Includes lunch and prize drawings. For more information, please call Chaka Smith at 863-634-7424 or Terry at 863-763-6228.

## American Legion to hold elections

The elections of new officers for American Legion Memorial Post #64 will be held on May 11, from noon until 7 p.m. Voters must present a 2010 membership card to receive a ballot. Absentee ballots can be obtained by contacting Dallas Creech, Post Adjutant, at 863-763-2950. Absentee ballots must be received at the Post no later than 7 p.m. on May 11 to count towards election. Absentee ballots will be at voters expense for return postage or can be done via Fax 863-763-9602 call first for instructions. Results will be published the day following elections.

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# Urban Tails fundraiser to benefit Youth Services

Urban Tails, a not-for-profit organization, offers a ground breaking method for helping troubled youth. The program allows at-risk and incarcerated youth to rehabilitate homeless shelter dogs and then place the animals in their permanent homes.

In doing so, program participants learn empathy, personal awareness, responsibility, career opportunities and positive community involvement through the care, training and rehabilitation of their rescued dogs.

Urban Tails has partnered with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and G4S Youth Services to implement this evi-

dence-based curriculum with the youth in Okeechobee.

A fundraiser will be held Friday, May 7, at Hammerheads Bar and Grill to help with cost to build the kennels which will house the dogs. Event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails and a silent auction, presentation at 7 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. Auction items include, Florida Panthers, Jacksonville Jaguars, Miami Dolphins, Miami Heat, Florida State Seminoles memorabilia and more! The organization is also accepting donations. Cost is a \$30 donation per person. For tickets or information, please contact Okeechobee Mainstreet at 863-357-6246.

# Church plans health fair, luncheon, rummage sale

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

**Peace Lutheran Church**, 750 N.W. 23rd Lane, will have a huge rummage sale on Saturday, **May 1**, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. If you have items that you wish to donate, you may drop them off at the Fellowship Hall through Friday.

Proceeds from the sale will be used by the church youth in community services.

The Youth ministry for Peace Lutheran is as follows: Group Building Activities begin each Monday at 4:30 p.m. Bible study, then dinner. Activities are for community youth grades 5 - 12. Numerous adult Bible study groups are offered including, "Firm Foundations," "3:16 The Number of Hope," and "The Book of John." Please call the church office at 863-763-5042 for more information.

**First United Methodist Church**, 200 N.W. Second St., will sponsor a Mother Daughter Friend Luncheon on **May 1**.

Speakers will be Donna Robards and Karen Schaffer from Women's Refuge of Vero Beach. Tickets are \$5. A love offering will also be taken for your choice of the Women's Refuge or the Pregnancy Center. For more information, call 863 697-0469 or 863 763-8865.

**St. Stephen A.M.E. Church** will host a **Health Fair** on Saturday, **May 1**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Douglas Brown Center. Other sponsors besides the church are Okeechobee County Health Department, Big Lake Hospice of the Treasure Coast and Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee.

There will be free health screenings, and information on high blood pressure, hospice care, breast cancer, HIV/STD, prostate cancer, teen pregnancy, diabetes, heart disease and testicular cancer. If you would like to participate or have any questions contact Shelia Bradley at 863-801-4901.

**Grace Brethren Church**, 701 S. Parrott Ave., will have a free family movie night on Friday, **May 7**. The movie "Address Un-



## Places of Worship

Share your news and photos for this column by email to [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com)

known" featuring Kyle Howard, Johna Stewart, Corbin Allred and Patrick Renna brings together teenagers with a tragic common bond that leads to friendship and adventure.

A **National Day of Prayer observance** will be held on the lawn of the Okeechobee County Courthouse at noon on **May 6**. Members of the Okeechobee Ministerial Association will offer prayers for our local, state and national leaders. The Kiwanis Club will furnish a free lunch to all who attend.

*The Okeechobee News welcomes news from area churches for this column. E-mail [okeeneus@newszap.com](mailto:okeeneus@newszap.com) or call Pete Gawda at 863-763-3134, extension 4225.*

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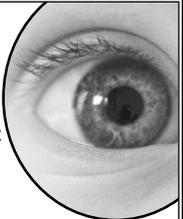


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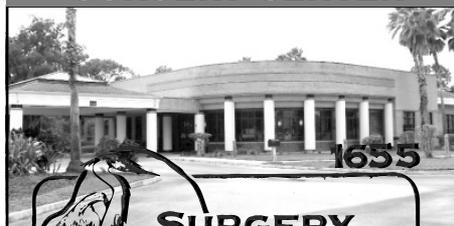
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Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

### Students of the Week

Many students are achieving excellence in the classroom at Everglades Elementary School. For the week of April 26, in kindergarten, Students of the Week are: Kylie Colavecchio, Zach Anderson, Marica Kelnhofer, Dayton Wilkinson, Adam Mowery, Justin Conti; first grade, Reynaldo Bucio, Mackenzie Crum, Madisen Cosme, Jace Selph, Cassandra Russell, Maria Castaneda; second grade, Chelsea Burgos, Moises Elias, Natalie Banuelos, Kevin Dryden, Joann Hamilton; third graders, Jennifer Aguilar, Tyler Underhill, Sebastian Hull, Marc Gomez, Alexis Eastman, Danny Hays, Carolina Trejo; fourth grade, Destinee Brower, Johnson Tran, Michelle Larowe, Sky Druckenbrod, Isabel Santibanez and fifth grade students, Alicia Rosales, Kaytlin Layfield, Maria Bucio, Randall Joiner. Congratulations!

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# Local student makes exciting find at Ft. Drum Crystal Mine

By D. Hamilton  
Okeechobee News

It was the North Elementary fourth graders turn to descend upon the Fort Drum Crystal Mine on Friday, April 23. Three buses of students from Mr. Stanley's class, Mrs. Moreno and Mrs. Wilcox, brought with them a keen eye for hunting and a bag for carrying out their treasure.

These students filed by the table of fossil and crystal samples and began their search.

Many of the students from the three classes were very aware of what they might find in the tall hills including fossils, sharks teeth, whale bones and shiny crystals. Some had been to the mine before.

It seemed like a challenge for one class or another to find something spectacular first. Mrs. Wilcox's student, Alex Huckriede was the first to find some crystals near the water. Alex was also the one to bring out the largest find, a cluster of crystals embedded in clam shells nestled in a large piece of shellrock. Alex was so excited, he couldn't wait to have all of his classmates gather round to share his excitement.

Alex's classmates may not have found a cluster of crystals but did well in locating crystals embedded in clamshells and in smaller pieces of shellrock.

The Fort Drum Crystal Mine is a great place for kids and families to go for a day outing to look for fossils, crystals and other treasures or just to relax and fish at the spring-fed 100 acre lake. If you are interested in visiting the mine, call 863-634-4579. The mine is open all year round.



Okeechobee News/D. Hamilton  
**Junior geologist Alex Huckriede, a fourth grader at North Elementary School, could not contain his excitement after this find of a cluster of calcite crystals inside clamshells and shellrock.**



(left) Alex Cross's enthusiasm was nearly as bright as his red hair and smile when he found some crystals after a little coaching. (center) Ariana Robshaw was happy to find some crystals during her trip to the Fort Drum Crystal Mine on Friday. (right) Renee Maxwell, a fourth grade student, had a clamshell with crystals that had formed inside it.



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## 'Priceless pavers' program begins fundraising efforts for the new Dr. Fred Brown Center

In honor of Dr. Brown's care and commitment to all of Okeechobee for more than three decades, the community is invited to be part of the "Priceless Pavers" specially engraved, decorative pavers, fundraising program. The pavers will be placed in the walkway leading to the front doors of the new Fred Brown Center and throughout the site. This is a very special opportunity for the community to memorialize loved ones, recognize birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions.

The Dr. Fred Brown Children's Health Center (scheduled to open in August, 2010) will provide medical and dental services for future generation of Okeechobee families.

The cost for the pavers are 4" x 8" and 8" x 8" and are laser engraved to insure strength and durability for years of weathering. Each brick can have up to three lines of wording and as many as 20 characters for each line. The price for the pavers also includes the engraving and the installation and are priced from as low as \$75 with text only, up to \$250 including a business or team logo.

For more information on the dedication paver program, please call Molly Ferguson at 561-844-9443 ext. 310 or by email - mferguson@fchcinc.org. You can also search "Fred D. Brown Children's Health Center," send a friend request and then you will be kept up to date on construction progress.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OKMS

### Main Street installs officers

Okeechobee Main Street installed new officers on Saturday. From left to right: Design Director-Elbert Batton; Elbert Batton Real Estate Inspections, Promotions Director-Cheryl Daniels; Daniels Plumbing, President-Maureen Burroughs; Sybles Flowers & Gifts, Judge Jerry Bryant, Treasurer-Terry Burroughs; Sybles Flowers & Gifts, Secretary-Phyllis Shumate; The Alarm Company, Arts & Culture Director-Bridgette Waldau; Studio of Graphic Design, Vice President-Kathleen Shatto; Seacoast National Bank and Volunteer Director-Shelly Doyle; Okeechobee County Board of Realtors. Not pictured: Economic Restructuring Director-Mark Smith; Seacoast National Bank.

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# FILM

Continued From Page 1

around? Some of you remember how it was in the '30s and '40s. It's an amazing thing how much it has changed. Old Florida was something special—it would be a shame to lose these jewels of old Florida that are still around."

Mr. Stoltzfus explained that he and Clyde met in 1989. They go together into the swamps and wilderness of Florida to film and photograph the beauties of nature.

"Sometimes I hold the ladder for him and sometimes he holds the ladder for me," said Mr. Stoltzfus. They always need ladders, Mr. Butcher added, because so much of Florida is flat.

Mr. Butcher's extreme wide angle photos take the viewer right into the scene. The large format black and white film—negatives may be as large as 20 inches by 12 inches—captures the images in high resolution. Mr. Butcher explained that he uses black and white film because it eliminates the distraction of color. "No one thing in the photo is more important than anything else," he said. "The sky, the water, the plants ... they are all part of the ecosystem and all important."

Mr. Stoltzfus often puts Mr. Butcher and his photos in his documentaries.

"Clyde is like a modern day Moses," said Mr. Stoltzfus. "He has a message but also he



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen  
Plans for a nature documentary on Kissimmee Basin were promoted during a reception at Indian River State College in Okeechobee on Saturday. Left to right are Clyde Butcher, Kim Love, Sonny Williamson, Betty Williamson and Elam Stoltzfus.

is the message."

Both men have come up with their own techniques and equipment to film over water and swamp.

In addition to showing the plants and wildlife in the area, Mr. Stoltzfus said the

Kissimmee Basin documentary will also include interviews with longtime residents of the area.

"We understand the humans are part of it," said Mr. Butcher. For example, the documentary about Big Cypress included hunters and Native Americans.

"We are trying to get everyone to the table to find some answers," said Mr. Stoltzfus.

The video story of the Kissimmee Basin will feature:

- The heartland of the Kissimmee Basin;
- Florida's environmental, economic and cultural heritage;
- Best practice models, protecting water resources and preservation of the natural landscapes;
- Bridging the gap between ecosystem services and the new political initiatives of the 21st Century.

Mr. Stoltzfus' documentaries have included "Big Cypress Swamp, the Western Everglades"; "Apalachicola River, An American Treasure"; and, "Living Waters: Aquatic Preserves of Florida." For more information online, go to [www.liveoakproductiongroup.com](http://www.liveoakproductiongroup.com).

Too see some of Mr. Butcher's photos and learn more about his work, go to [www.clydebutcher.com](http://www.clydebutcher.com).



Special to the Okeechobee News/Live Oak Production Group

While making a documentary about the Big Cypress Swamp, those being interviewed and those filming often found themselves wading through the swamp.

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# Boys track team sends several to regional meet

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Ricky Nieto defended his district championship in the high jump to pace the Okeechobee High School boys track team to a fifth place finish as last Wednesday's District 13-3A tournament at Sebastian River High School. Nieto's best mark was 6-2 as he narrowly defeated Stephan Clark of Sebastian River.



Mike Thomas

Other qualifiers included Adrian Tagle, who finished fourth in the 1600 meters, Mike Thomas, who took fourth place in the 100 meters, and Lionel Jones who finished second in the 800 meters. The boys 4x800 team of Roger Duque, Lionel Jones, Adrian Tagle and Shawn Horvath took third place.

Coach Julie Bohannon said she expects the regional tournament to be a good test for many of these boys, "We're going to face a lot more competition. It'll be another hot day. If

we can just hold it together we definitely have some strong potential," said Bohannon.

Bohannon said Nieto is one of the favorites to qualify for the state tournament for the second year in a row. She said Lionel Jones also has a very good chance in the 800 meters.

"Track is definitely a challenge. It's a tough sport. These kids come out here and tough it out in the hot weather. It takes a lot of dedication but they work hard and they really enjoy it," she added.

Thomas, only a freshman, might have been the biggest surprise of the day. He finished with a time of 11.31 to take fourth place. Thomas, who has lived in Clewiston for the past five years, said he chases rabbits in cane fields to improve his speed. "Everybody else in the race were seniors so I was at a bit of a disadvantage. I took off well and kept running. I've trained real hard. I want to go to state," he said.

His training regiment includes running 15 stadiums, and seven 100 meter dashes each practice. He said that training should have him ready for some of the top runners in South Florida. "All I can do is come out here and work and train real hard," Thomas added.

## O.G. & C.C. Golf Results

### Gold Tee winners

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# Girls track team sends several to regional

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Several Okeechobee High School athletes qualified for regional with strong efforts in last weeks District 13-3A track meet held at Sebastian River High School.

The Lady Brahmans finished fourth overall and had several outstanding efforts. Isabella Pinedo took first in the 800 meters. Jewel Buck finished second in the discus and Monica Koger finished fourth in the long jump. Markiesha Youmans finished second in the 200 meters.

A number of the girls relay teams also qualified for the regional meet which will be held on Wednesday at Dwyer High School. The 4x800 team of Keighly Stewart, Graciella Varela, Isabella Pinedo, and Marilu Rodriguez finished fourth. The girls 4x100 team of Monica Koger, Essence Williams, Calandra Youmans and Markiesha Youmans took second place. The girls 4x400 meter relay team of Stewart, Koger, and the Youmans sisters took third place.

Coach Julie Bohannon said the team really has worked hard to improve their skills this year. "We had a good day. It was hot and it was long but everybody came out with their A game. The girls trained really hard and they are really dedicated." Bohannon said the girls 4x100 team, and Pinedo have a good chance to move on to the state track meet this year. "We are pretty excited about it," she added.

Members of the relay team said they have worked hard to improve their times. Koger said they have cut a second off their times from earlier in the year. Okeechobee recorded a time of

50.31 and was behind only Viera at the district meet. "I think our chances for state are very good," Koger said, "The competition is very tough. At districts we fell behind but we made a comeback. I feel we can compete with these teams."

Koger plans to attend the University of South Florida in the fall and intends to try out for their volleyball and track teams.

Markiesha Youmans is also a senior this year. She said the team has worked on the handoff of the baton, and that has really helped their times. "I feel that we can make state. We just have to

get faster. I've been at regional for four years so the Miami teams don't intimidate me."

Her sister Calandra Youmans is the first runner out of the blocks for Okeechobee. She agrees with her older sister that the team has a chance to qualify for state this year, "We want to do well this year because the two seniors are leaving. I'm excited to see how we do."

The other member of the team is sophomore Essence Williams. She said she enjoys track because it keeps her in shape. "I want to pursue track in college and I've dedicated myself to track."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
(L-R) Calandra Youmans, Essence Williams, Monica Koger and Markiesha Youmans comprise the girls 4x100 relay team.

## Your right to reply.



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# Okeechobee splits pair with Centennial

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Brandon Farless threw six strong innings as Okeechobee High School salvaged a split of a boys baseball double header at Okeechobee High School on Thursday.

Farless scattered four hits and struck out seven Eagles as the Brahms (15-10) wrapped up their regular season with an 11-1 victory in six innings. Tyler Finney had a two-run double and Adam Tewksbury had a pair of run scoring singles for Okeechobee.

Centennial won the opener which was a suspended game from Feb. 27. The Eagles scored five unearned runs in the game as Okeechobee made six errors. Josh Paradoa had two hits and three runs batted in for Centennial, (14-8). His double in the sixth inning proved to be the winning run on Thursday.

Austin Hamilton had two hits and a run batted in. Richard Donegan added two hits and two runs scored. Okeechobee trailed 4-3 after the suspended game in Centennial. In that part of the game Jonathan Crawford had a two-run double and Brice Buckner had a solo homerun.

Brahman Coach Dylan Tedders said he was glad his team hit the ball hard in the second game, "This was a good win for us rolling into districts. The team had to wait until the last game to put up a lot of runs. They definitely drive me crazy but that is why I love coaching them."

Tedders had a broad smile when he talked of Farless and the way he threw. He could end up being a key pitcher at the end of games in the next season. "That guy can pitch like that every single time. He hasn't been able to get on a roll this year but he needed that confidence builder in the playoffs."

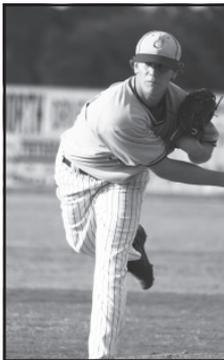
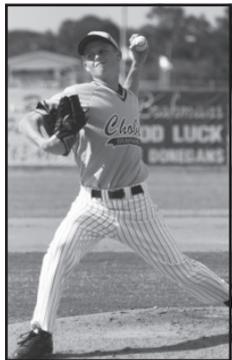
Tedders said Farless was able to throw his curve ball for strikes and keep the hitters off balance.

Farless said he made a few adjustments in the bullpen to improve his focus on the strike zone. He said he just tried to throw strikes and get his team back into the dugout.

"I've been a little shaky this year but this game will definitely help my confidence. The defense was strong behind me as Aaron Suarez and Mark Weir made some nice plays. I was focused more and I've fought through some tough times," he added.

Farless had knee surgery after an injury in spring football last year.

Okeechobee got off to a good start in the second game as Drew Selvey walked and scored on a squeeze play in the first. Finney's double scored two in the third to give Okeechobee the lead for good. Weir added an RBI single in the fourth and Adam Tewksbury added an RBI single in the fifth. Okeechobee broke it open with a six-run sixth. Austin Hamilton, Jake Davenport, Tewksbury, and Selvey had key hits during the rally.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
(left) Austin Hamilton throws a pitch during the first game Thursday. (right) Brandon Farless had his best game of the year Thursday.

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**WEDDING**  
**JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. ILLUSTRATION**  
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Illustration were married on Jan. 1, 2010, in Local Church. The bride, Jane, was escorted by the groom, Joseph. The officiant was Rev. John Doe. The ceremony was held at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of family and friends. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Doe. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Doe. The couple will reside in Okeechobee, Florida. The bride is a graduate of Okeechobee High School. The groom is a graduate of Okeechobee High School. The couple is excited to begin their journey together.

**BIRTH**  
**SUSAN A. EXAMPLE**  
Susan A. Example was born at 10:00 p.m. on May 1, 2010, in Okeechobee, Florida. She weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Doe. Her maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Doe. Her paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Doe. The family is delighted with the arrival of their new baby.

**ANNIVERSARY**  
**JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. EXAMPLE**  
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Example are celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary on May 1, 2010. They were married on May 1, 2000, in Okeechobee, Florida. The couple is grateful for the love and support of their family and friends. They are looking forward to many more years of marriage.

**OBITUARY**  
**JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. EXAMPLE**  
Joseph W. Example, 65, of Okeechobee, Florida, died on May 1, 2010, at Okeechobee Memorial Hospital. He was born on May 1, 1945, in Okeechobee, Florida. He was a graduate of Okeechobee High School. He was employed by Okeechobee County. He is survived by his wife, Jane A. Example, and their children, John Doe and Jane Doe. He is also survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Doe. He is buried in Okeechobee Cemetery.

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**LOVELY 2BR, 2BA** Taylor Creek Isles, lake access, Fl. room, dock, carport, 2 storage sheds. \$850 mo. Call 863-484-0411

**OKEECHOBEE** - 1/1 Park model, 12x36, laundry room, 30x10 CBS building, 150x100' lot, oak trees, 6mi N off 441. \$6+50/mo, 1st & sec. (561)346-4692

**ON WATER 2/1,** Large yard. Quiet street. No mowing. \$550 mo. (863)226-3436

**Mobile Home Sale**

**BANK REPO'S MOVE TO YOUR LAND** Mobile Home Angels 561-721-2230

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

**OKEECHOBEE- 1981** dbl wide on water, porch, lg edition, boathouse, \$1,000,000 (863)763-0474

**Recreation**

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

**Marine Accessories**

**60 hp** evinrude - 60 hp evinrude with controls 2.5 years left on 5 year warranty complete rebuild lots of power \$ 2 , 4 0 0 . 0 0 . (561)626-0541 or (561)310-1443

**60 hp** evinrude - 60 hp evinrude with controls 2.5 years left on 5 year warranty complete rebuild lots of power \$ 2 , 4 0 0 . 0 0 . (561)626-0541 or (561)310-1443

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

**Automotive**

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

**Automobiles**

**2004 BMW 530i - 04** BMW 530i blue w tan leather int. orig owner, 68K miles, new tires, bluetooth, runs great, all records. \$15,900 /or best offer (863)467-6300

**Pickup Trucks**

**1983 FORD F=250 -** 2wd,x-cab,auto good work truck \$1,500 /or best offer (863)801-1151 or (863)763-4475

**Public Notices**

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

**Public Notice**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO DESIGNATE A POSITION IN THE FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM SENIOR MANAGEMENT SERVICE CLASS**

The Governing Board of South Florida Water Management District intends to designate the position of Deputy Executive Director as senior management for the purpose of participation in the Florida Retirement System's Senior Management Service Class Retirement Plan. This designation will take effect as allowed by Section 121.055, F.S. and with the approval by the District's Governing Board at the meeting of May 13, 2010. 352268 ON 4/28;5/5/10

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION** Case No. 2009-209-CP

IN RE: ESTATE OF GERHARD GABRIELSEN Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of Gerhard Gabrielsen, deceased, whose date of death was April 18, 2009, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 317 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972. 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 April 28, 2010.

Personal Representative: Grace Gabrielsen 202 Coconut Drive Indialantic, Florida 32903

Attorney for Personal Representative: ANTHONY YOUNG, P.A. Attorney for Personal Representative Florida Bar No. 0109685 3128 Highway 441 South Okeechobee, FL 34974 Telephone: (863) 824-6776 Fax: (863) 824-6778 352499 ON 4/28;5/5/10

**SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK,** Plaintiff,

vs. **BENNIE C. SIMS;** THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BENNIE C. SIMS; JOHN DOE, UNKNOWN TENANT; AND JANE DOE, UNKNOWN TENANT, the names being fictitious to account for parties in possession, Defendants.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 8, 2010 in Case No. 2010-CA-111 in the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida wherein Seacoast National Bank is Plaintiff and Bennie C. Sims is the Defendant, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 at 11:00 am on the 12th day of May, 2010, the following described property Okeechobee County, Florida:

**A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTIONS 14 AND 23, TOWNSHIP 38 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS**

**Public Notice**

**NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME STATUTE**

To Whom It May Concern:

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, TD Bank, National Association, pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute", Chapter 865.09, Florida Statutes, will register with the Division of Corporations, Department of State, State of Florida upon receipt of proof of the publication of this notice, the fictitious name to-wit:

Riverside Bank

under which it expects to engage in business at the following location in Okeechobee County, Florida:

1506 S. Parrott Ave., Okeechobee, FL

That the party interested in said business enterprise is as follows:

TD Bank, National Association  
Wilmington, Delaware  
Phone # (207) 535-3805

Dated at Portland, Cumberland County, Maine, April 26, 2010  
352724 ON 4/28/10

**LEGAL NOTICE**

A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on Friday the 14th day of May 2010 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows:

**1996 White Ford F150 1FTF14NXTNA29187**

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" with no guarantees. 352762 ON 4/28/2010

**Public Notice**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 472010CA0000111

SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff,

vs. **BENNIE C. SIMS;** THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BENNIE C. SIMS; JOHN DOE, UNKNOWN TENANT; AND JANE DOE, UNKNOWN TENANT, the names being fictitious to account for parties in possession, Defendants.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 8, 2010 in Case No. 2010-CA-111 in the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida wherein Personal Representative 6869 N. Lucie, Florida 34893 Port St. N.W. Dragon Street

By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482  
Attorney for Personal Representative 352511 ON 4/28;5/5/10

**Public Notice**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 2010-CP-54

In Re: Estate of **LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS** Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS, deceased, date of death February 25, 2010, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

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

The first publication of this notice is April 28, 2010.

Sharon O. Waldron Personal Representative 6869 N. Lucie, Florida 34893 Port St. N.W. Dragon Street

By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482  
Attorney for Personal Representative 352511 ON 4/28;5/5/10

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Public Auction will be held at Johns Towing Service storage lot located at 704 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 on MAY 14, 2010, at 9:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage charges. Year, make, model and VIN are as follows.

**1983 MCI MC-9 Intercity VIN# 1M89CM6AXDP038078**  
**2000 Ford F-150 VIN# 1FTRX18WY2NB12525**  
**1990 Mercedes 190 VIN# WDBDA29D6L695410**

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right of final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL! NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE! Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" condition with no guarantee's. 352715 ON 04/28/10

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA** CASE NO. 472010CA0000111

SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff,

vs. **BENNIE C. SIMS;** THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BENNIE C. SIMS; JOHN DOE, UNKNOWN TENANT; AND JANE DOE, UNKNOWN TENANT, the names being fictitious to account for parties in possession, Defendants.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 8, 2010 in Case No. 2010-CA-111 in the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida wherein Personal Representative 6869 N. Lucie, Florida 34893 Port St. N.W. Dragon Street

By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482  
Attorney for Personal Representative 352511 ON 4/28;5/5/10

**Public Notice**

**FOLLOWS:**

**COMMENCE AT THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 14; BEAR N 00°00'30" W ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 14 TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT'S LEVEE 63 SOUTH AS SHOWN ON S.F.W.M.D. DRAWING L-635-3, SHEET 4 OF 7, A DISTANCE OF 4427.88 FEET; THENCE BEAR S 53°39'07" E ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF S.F.W.M.D. LEVEE 63 SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 1564.73 FEET; THENCE BEAR S 66°36'16" W, A DISTANCE OF 2157.75 FEET; THENCE BEAR S 27°49'42" W, A DISTANCE OF 485.89 FEET; THENCE BEAR S 43°36'17" W, A DISTANCE OF 1105.04 FEET; THENCE BEAR S 43°35'59" W A DISTANCE OF 2394.81 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF S.R. NO. 15; THENCE BEAR S 48°46'14" E ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF S.R. NO. 15, A DISTANCE OF 798.13 FEET FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE S 48°46'14" E, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF S.R. NO. 15, A DISTANCE OF 300 FEET; THENCE BEAR N 43°38'49" E, A DISTANCE OF 990.13 FEET; THENCE BEAR N 48°46'14" W, A DISTANCE OF 300 FEET; THENCE BEAR S 43°38'49" W, A DISTANCE OF 990.13 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING;**

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Dated this 12th day of April, 2010.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: Linda F. Young Deputy Clerk

351650 ON 4/21,28/10

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA** CASE NO. 472010CA000097

FIRST BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF INDIANTOWN, Plaintiff,

vs. **INDIANTOWN ENTERPRISES, INC.;** HOWARD F. FENNEL; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF HOWARD F. FENNEL; JOHN DOE (1), UNKNOWN TENANT; JANE DOE (2), UNKNOWN TENANT; JANE DOE (3), UNKNOWN TENANT; JOHN DOE (3), UNKNOWN TENANT; AND JANE DOE (3), UNKNOWN TENANT; Defendants.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 8, 2010, in Case No. 2010-CA-097 in the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida wherein First Bank and Trust Company of Indiantown is Plaintiff and Indiantown Enterprises, Inc., Howard F. Fennell, The Unknown Spouse of Howard F. Fennell, John Doe (1), Jane Doe (1), John Doe (2), are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 at 11:00 am on the 12th day of May,

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Linda F. Young Deputy Clerk

351705 ON 4/21,28;5/5/10

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION** CASE NO. 2010-CP-54

In Re: Estate of **LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS** Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS, deceased, date of death February 25, 2010, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

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

The first publication of this notice is April 28, 2010.

Sharon O. Waldron Personal Representative 6869 N. Lucie, Florida 34893 Port St. N.W. Dragon Street

By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482  
Attorney for Personal Representative 352511 ON 4/28;5/5/10

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA** CASE NO. 2010-CP-54

In Re: Estate of **LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS** Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS, deceased, date of death February 25, 2010, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

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By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482  
Attorney for Personal Representative 352511 ON 4/28;5/5/10

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA** CASE NO. 2010-CP-54

In Re: Estate of **LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS** Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS, deceased, date of death February 25, 2010, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

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By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482  
Attorney for Personal Representative 352511 ON 4/28;5/5/10

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA** CASE NO. 2010-CP-54

In Re: Estate of **LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS** Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS, deceased, date of death February 25, 2010, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

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Sharon O. Waldron Personal Representative 6869 N. Lucie, Florida 34893 Port St. N.W. Dragon Street

By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482  
Attorney for Personal Representative 352511 ON 4/28;5/5/10

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA** CASE NO. 2010-CP-54

In Re: Estate of **LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS** Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS, deceased, date of death February 25, 2010, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

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The first publication of this notice is April 28, 2010.

Sharon O. Waldron Personal Representative 6869 N. Lucie, Florida 34893 Port St. N.W. Dragon Street

By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482  
Attorney for Personal Representative 352511 ON 4/28;5/5/10

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA** CASE NO. 2010-CP-54

In Re: Estate of **LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS** Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS, deceased, date of death February 25, 2010, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

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By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482  
Attorney for Personal Representative 352511 ON 4/28;5/5/10

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

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA** CASE NO. 472010CA000097

FIRST BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF INDIANTOWN, Plaintiff,

vs. **INDIANTOWN ENTERPRISES, INC.;** HOWARD F. FENNEL; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF HOWARD F. FENNEL; JOHN DOE (1), UNKNOWN TENANT; JANE DOE (2), UNKNOWN TENANT; JANE DOE (3), UNKNOWN TENANT; JOHN DOE (3), UNKNOWN TENANT; AND JANE DOE (3), UNKNOWN TENANT; Defendants.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 8, 2010, in Case No. 2010-CA-097 in the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida wherein First Bank and Trust Company of Indiantown is Plaintiff and Indiantown Enterprises, Inc., Howard F. Fennell, The Unknown Spouse of Howard F. Fennell, John Doe (1), Jane Doe (1), John Doe (2), are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 at 11:00 am on the 12th day of May,

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Linda F. Young Deputy Clerk

351705 ON 4/21,28;5/5/10

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA** CASE NO. 2010-CP-54

In Re: Estate of **LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS** Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS, deceased, date of death February 25, 2010, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

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The first publication of this notice is April 28, 2010.

Sharon O. Waldron Personal Representative 6869 N. Lucie, Florida 34893 Port St. N.W. Dragon Street

By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482  
Attorney for Personal Representative 352511 ON 4/28;5/5/10

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA** CASE NO. 2010-CP-54

In Re: Estate of **LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS** Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of LOWIE JACKSON OAKS, a/k/a LOWIE J. OAKS, deceased, date of death February 25, 2010, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

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

The first publication of this notice is April 28, 2010.

Sharon O. Waldron Personal Representative 6869 N. Lucie, Florida 34893 Port St. N.W. Dragon Street

By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482  
Attorney for Personal Representative 352511 ON 4/28;5/5/10

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA** CASE NO. 2010-CP-54

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Sharon O. Waldron Personal Representative 6869 N. Lucie, Florida 34893 Port St. N.W. Dragon Street

By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #0

# Funeral home reopens; now under new management

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

A familiar name in Okeechobee, Buxton Funeral Home and Crematorium is once again open for business.

The family run funeral home had been closed since January due to bankruptcy.

On March 11, Tom Conway and Paul Mitchell, owners of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home along with Mr. Conway's two sons, bought the business and its assets in an auction conducted by the trustee appointed by the U.S. Federal Bankruptcy Court in West Palm Beach. To acquire the business they had to outbid a Vero Beach funeral home. The new owners recently reopened the funeral home under its old name with the former employees, who are reported to be thrilled to be back at work for Buxton.

None of the Buxton family is connected with the new operation.

"Our main goal is to continue to provide affordable service to families," said Mr. Conway, a fourth generation funeral director. "During the past six years both Paul (Mitchell) and I have worked hard to provide a good service to the people of Okeechobee. Now I look forward to my sons being involved in our family business. It's good to know they will carry on what my family has done for five generations, helping people."

"It has always been our goal to serve every family in a professional and caring way whereby earning their trust," said Mr. Mitchell. "Acquiring the Buxton Funeral Home will now enable us to expand our service by offering a spacious comfortable facility with new and innovated ways to assist families in coping with their loss and memorializing their loved one in a special way."

Mr. Conway sent letters to all who had prepaid funerals with Buxton saying the new management would honor those commitments and cover any shortfalls in funding.

Mr. Mitchell said they wanted to keep the same name because of the Buxton tradition. He said many families use the same funeral home through several generations.

For the time being the two men will continue to operate Bass Okeechobee and Buxton as two separate businesses. However, Mr. Conway did say that financially it would make the most sense to operate from one location.

Mr. Conway and Mr. Mitchell also own Yates Funeral Homes in Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie.

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).

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