



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 60

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

50¢ Plus tax

Lake Placid man given three life sentences

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

A Lake Placid man received three life sentences in Okeechobee Circuit Court on Monday for his connection with a 2008 shooting in Fort Drum.

Luis Lopez, 25, Duck Key Road, was found guilty of five felonies including

attempted felony murder for entering the mobile home on Aug. 15 and opening fire. Once the shooting had finished, Lopez and another man then took a small safe containing cash.

Lopez was charged with aggravated assault, burglary of a dwelling with assault/battery while armed, two counts

of attempted felony murder and shooting/throwing a deadly missile.

Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger sentenced Lopez to life in prison on both felony murder convictions as well as the burglary of a dwelling with assault/battery. He was then sentenced to 20 years in prison on the aggravated as-

sault charge and 15 years on count five -- shooting/throwing a deadly missile.

Each count will run concurrently, ordered Judge Belanger.

Assistant State Attorney Don Richardson asked the judge to declare Lopez a prison release re-offender, which

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Luis Lopez

Students compete in Battle of the Books

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

The top readers in Okeechobee's elementary and middle schools got together Friday to challenge themselves to see how much they've learned through reading this year.

The first Battle of the Books was held at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus Auditorium as third, fourth, and fifth graders, along with middle school students competed to

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Special to the Okeechobee News
Students from Okeechobee County elementary and middle schools competed in the first "Battle of the Books" on Friday at Okeechobee Freshman Campus.

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

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Tropicana Speech Contest draws variety of interesting speeches by students

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OHS football team prepares for annual Purple and White game on Friday

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Lake Levels

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LOPEZ

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then made the prison terms on the attempted felony murder convictions automatic life sentences. The prosecutor said Lopez has twice been sent to prison, with his last prison stint coming after his 2005 conviction in Polk County on a charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Mr. Richardson said Lopez was released from prison on Jan. 7, 2008, and that the Lake Placid man has not had his civil rights restored.

A person can be classified as a prison release re-offender if they commit a crime within three years of their release from pris-

on. Lopez was first sent to prison in 2003 when he was convicted on a possession of amphetamine charge.

According to an arrest report by Detective Susan Morrison, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, Lopez and another man burst through the front door of the singlewide mobile home on N.E. 23rd Way and sprayed the inside of the home with rounds from semi-automatic weapons. She said they stood in the doorway and shot into the kitchen area where a woman was sitting.

The woman was not injured.

A total of 10 rounds were recovered from inside the home. Then, as the two men were leaving the home, a 32-year-old man pulled into the driveway. When he saw the armed men he backed out of the driveway. The sus-

pects then chased him and opened fire on his car. The detective said the man's car was hit 11 times.

The car quit running and the man got out and fled from the paved street into some nearby woods. He suffered puncture wounds to his left thigh and rib area. The man went to Raulerson Hospital where he was treated and released.

The apparent motive for the shooting was that someone in the home owed the men around \$1,000, said the detective.

Lopez was arrested Dec. 31, 2008, by Deputy Matthew Pearce of the Polk County Sheriff's Office after he struck a utility box with the car he was driving. Although Lopez fled the accident scene, he was arrested a short time later.

BOOKS

Continued From Page 1

answer questions from the books they've read this year.

Organizer Joseph Stanley of North Elementary School, said he felt the event was a huge success.

"It was very good for the kids who participated," he said. They made our school district very proud today."

He noted this is a national program that helps encourage reading among young people. The Sunshine State Young Readers Award Program is statewide and is designed to motivate students in grades 3-8. It is co-sponsored by the School Library Media Services Office of the Department of Education and the Florida Association for Media in Education. They want kids to read for personal satisfaction, based on interest rather than reading level.

"A lot of work went into this from students. They are all in the top fifth percentile for readers in their schools. They've actually worked since August," Mr. Stanley added.

They had a small competition between Seminole and North Elementary last year and other media specialists in the district became interested in it. They decided to take the program county wide this year.

Me. Stanley said he was very impressed with the smaller kids who did a good job keeping their composure and answering questions in front of a crowd of close to 200 people.

Assistant Superintendent Mary Hurley

who was the hostess and the moderator of the event said she felt the students performed very well and she was impressed with the accuracy of their answers and also their enthusiasm.

"This was an absolutely wonderful experience for the students and their parents. It really reinforced what they can learn from reading," she said.

Ms. Hurley said they hope to continue the event in future years. She noted each student received a pin and a medal for their hard work. "The people involved saw the impacts of this and how much joy it brought," she said. "I believe we will continue this."

The third grade competition was won by Central, North and South Elementary. Central Elementary won the fourth grade competition. Everglades and Seminole tied in the fifth grade competition. Yearling Middle School won the 6th-8th grade competition.

Superintendent Dr. Patricia Cooper said media specialists, teachers, principals, and of course the students should be congratulated for the work they've put in this year. She said reading is a wonderful skill.

"Never stop reading. You will enjoy it for the rest of your life," she told them.

Students from Central Elementary School who competed included Cassandra Brown, Madisyn Gonzalez, Dylan Hodges, Kaitlyn McKay, Simran Merchant, and Carmen Ramirez, Ashley Cheney, Kaitlyn Hoyle, Noah LaGrange, Dustin Long, Emma Van Camp, and Tommi White.

Students from Everglades Elementary School included Lexi Eastman, Danny Hays, Kayleigh Jones, Danielle Tribbitt, Lyndsey Tribbitt, Morgan Tripp, Marijane Bolling, Ma-

son Gurrola, Alyssa Howard, Sierra Knapik, Mackenzie Miers, Anabella Ulysse, Casey Adams, Erin Grace, Sadie Marfil, Zeleste Orozco, and Kayla Lacertosa.

North Elementary students included Kennedee Brewer, Alexis Chittenden, Dylan Howell, Janet Ramos, Sarah Roehm, Brooke Santiago, Deleanam Akahoho, Cindy Fralix, Daniel Groso, Artha Jonassaint, Tyra Smith, Chloe Tomlinson, Taylor Amadon, Kylee Field, Savannah Goggans, Anthony Metcalf, David Perdomo and Brittany Robbins.

Seminole Elementary was represented by Kalysta Fowler, Thomas Garcia, Lita Landaberde, Wesley McClanahan, Nate Pippin, Mariah Spelts, Jessica Dipace, Saul Estrada, Caleb Hofer, Makennzee Martinez, Alyssa Matthey, Brook O'Hagan, Morgan Bolan, Riley Craig, Alberto Diaz, Josie Griffith, Harry O'Hagan and Ricky Perez.

South Elementary students included Kari Dutcher, Sarah Heaton, Sydney Hendrix, Amber Marquette, Maria Medrano, Dylan Smith, Merydian Causier, John Michael Collier, Rachel Helfinstine, Shelby Kirton, Christian Rios, and Hunter Smith.

Osceola Middle School students in the competition included Nolan Carpenter, Luis Leon, Michaela Myers, Riylie Norton, Hunter Sills, Tasneem Tarannum, Ramon Alvarez, Nathan Center, Savannah Dubberly, Amber Hudson, Candace Mcglamory, Melanie Watson, Caitlyn Albers, Adamary Bustos, Crystal Castaneda, John Morgan, Perla Palacios, and Emonie Pryor.

Yearling Middle School was represented by Autumn Blevins, Rafe Fisher, Salvador Gonzalez, Josey Pearce, Avery Plemmons, and Casey Shaffer.

Planning board meets

When the city planning board meets at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, they will discuss two related items. The board will be looking at the city regulations governing temporary commercial structures. They will also consider a resolution dealing with temporary use permits.

In addition, the board will hold a public workshop to discuss the draft of the 2010 evaluation and appraisal report (EAR) of the city's comprehensive plan. The purpose of the EAR is to analyze the success and failures of the comprehensive plan, identify major issues of concern and identify changes to amend and update the plan.

The report identifies five issues of concern. The first is the need to provide for a transition from residential use to commercial use in certain areas of the city. The second is the need to eliminate inconsistencies between the official zoning map and the future land use map. The need to re-examine the Taylor Creek area and related plan policies is the third area of concern. The EAR also recognizes the need to establish compatible and consistent urban design standards for the city's downtown area. The last area of major concern is the need to emphasize pedestrian connectivity and establish streetscape standards.

The board will meet in City Council Chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.

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Gang banger given life in prison

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A Lake Placid gang member was sentenced to spend the rest of his life in jail Monday by Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger.

Joel Jeremiah Ibanez, 21, St. Lucie Drive, was arrested Nov. 30, 2008, for his connection in the armed burglary and assault of an 82-year-old Okeechobee man.

On Monday, May 17, 2010, Judge Belanger found Ibanez guilty of burglary of a dwelling with assault or battery while armed and conspiracy to commit armed burglary of a dwelling. After hearing arguments from attorneys, the judge sentenced Ibanez to life on the burglary charge and 15 years on the conspiracy charge.

Ibanez will get credit for the 534 days he has already served.

Codefendant Schvail Eric Knowles, 21, also of Lake Placid, was found guilty of the same charges and in January of this year was sentenced to a prison term of 10 years on each charge. Those sentences were ordered to run concurrently by Judge Belanger.

Ibanez and Knowles entered the N.W.

47th Terrace home of the victim and robbed him of an undisclosed amount of cash. Knowles was armed with a .22 caliber handgun.

Once in the home Ibanez grabbed the elderly man, put him in a bear hug then threw him to the floor -- causing him to hit his head on the floor.

"This was the man who said to the other man, 'Shoot him. Just shoot him,'" said Assistant State Attorney Stephanie Tew to the judge of Ibanez. "The nature of this case is inherently violent."

The prosecutor also said that Ibanez is a member of the Surenos -- a criminal street gang.

"It is a very violent gang," she said.

Although the victim suffered a small cut to the back of his head and some swelling, he was not seriously injured in the burglary.

Ibanez was represented by Roy Gonzalez, Jr. of Sebring.



Joel Ibanez

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).

• Christopher Gornall, 47, Florida Department of Corrections, was arrested May 13, by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He is being held without bond.

• Joel Diaz Talavera, 22, Okeechobee, was arrested May 13, by Deputy Joseph Gracie on a charge of interference with child custody. His bond was set at \$7,500.

• Robert Eugene Thompson, 52, S.E. 23rd Court, Okeechobee, was arrested May 13, by Deputy Donald Ellis on a charge of

battery on a person over 65 years of age. His bond was set at \$5,000.

• Kurtis Coffey, 25, N.E. Eighth Way, Okeechobee, was arrested May 14 by Deputy Matthew Hurst on a warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence. He is being held without bond.

• Tion Raeshard Gabriel, 22, South Street, Lake Worth, was arrested May 14 by Deputy Corporal Timothy Higgins on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - possession of marijuana over 20 grams and violation of probation - possession of drug paraphernalia. He is being held without bond.

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

Molester draws 2 life sentences

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

body else to do what I had to."

According to keep the victims silent, Detective Van Deman's report states that McLaughlin threatened to kill their mother by shooting her to death.

"You have caused so much pain. You've taken their innocence **Tim McLaughlin** from them," said the victims' grandmother said to McLaughlin just prior to his being sentenced.

She went on to say that the youngest child is afraid to go to sleep because he had threatened to kill them.

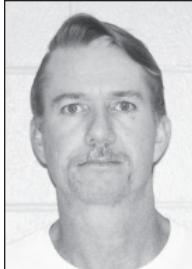
"They'll never be the carefree little girls they once were," the grandmother continued. "I'll never forget the fear on their faces."

When the victim's father addressed the court, he made his feelings toward McLaughlin clear -- "I hope you rot in hell," he said to the man dressed in his orange jail jumpsuit.

In his argument, Public Defender Stanley Glenn said that "beyond the victim's statements, there is no evidence to support these crimes."

However, Judge Belanger didn't agree.

The judge also ordered that McLaughlin must give a DNA sample that will be kept on file.



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Public Forum/Speak Out

Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

Lawn care

- In response to the lawn care business owner who was upset because people are hiring unlicensed folks to cut their lawns, this is what happens when money gets tight. More people start doing their own yard work or hiring a neighborhood teenager to help them, instead of paying a lawn care company. High school and even college students are having trouble finding part-time work. Mowing lawns is one of the few things they can do to make a little cash.

Sports Complex safety

- I am more concerned about the reports of drug deals and violence at the Sports Complex than I am about teens getting romantic there. I think letting a deputy live in a trailer there is a good idea, but I think the reason they stopped doing that had to do with insurance liability to the county. But maybe that could be revisited.

- During the daylight hours is when most people use the Sports Complex. I don't imagine there are sexual activities going on in the racquet ball courts. Probably not too many drug deals taking place pool side or on the walkway of the wooden jungle. I wouldn't want the teenagers to stop coming and hanging out at the Sports Complex with their friends. If it's not closed to the public there is no law they can't be there. I am almost 60 and when I was a teenager we hung out too. I bet you all did as well. I remember the adults just hated the teens hanging out like we did. "What would become of this generation. Kids just wasting their lives!" And getting frisky someplace some might think inappropriate? I bet someone reading this is smiling as they recall a memory or two.

- I guess now this has been in the paper, if a parent is wondering where their kids are late at night, they could start looking by checking out the Sports Complex.

I am amazed at the number of children that are just dropped off there by their parents or let walk there on their own without their parents. For some reason the location has become a "babysitter" for parents that don't want to be parents. I'm all for kids getting together if they want to watch a friend play a sport, if they themselves are playing an organized activity, but just to be there for the sake of nothing, is absolutely ridiculous and comes back to parents not being parents.

Armed Forces Day

- In the United States, Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. It falls near the end of Armed Forces Week, which begins on the second Saturday of May and ends on the third Sunday of May. The day was created in 1949 to honor Americans serving in the five U.S. military branches – the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard – following the consolidation of the military services in the Department of Defense. It was intended to replace the separate Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Days, but observance of these days, especially within each particular service, continues to this day.

Lake levels

- A few years ago the South Florida Water Management dropped the lake level too low in anticipation of a wet season which we didn't get. That's what ruined the lake and the tourist season for a couple years. Now that the lake is coming back, it needs to be at least 13 feet. Big sugar rules, if they need water, they'll get it regardless of the fisheries or the habitat of the lake. It's all about money. The northerners rape the lake of the fish due to poor regulation, but then, that's all about money too. They need to leave the lake alone, it will maintain its own level.

- They can't just leave the lake alone and let it take care of itself because there is a big dike surrounding it, holding the water at an artificially high level. The excess water can't sheet flow to the south as nature intended, carrying with it the floating mats of vegetation.

Letters to the Editor

FWC, along with all the rest of Florida, stands prepared

We often take for granted all the things that make our life easy until something happens to make us sit up and take notice. This happened in late April, when the Deepwater Horizon oil well explosion in the Gulf of Mexico brought us all to attention.

So far, Florida's fish and wildlife remain safe from the impact of oil coming ashore, and we hope for the best. The longer that oil stays out at sea, the better it is for our estuaries and marshes, where the fish and wildlife spawn and nest. We are still the Fishing Capital of the World.

It took thousands of years for folks to realize the thick, tar-like substance bubbling up out of the earth might have some use in our lives. That discovery fueled centuries of new inventions and technology to enable people to live longer and in comfort. Part of the price was a contaminated environment.

We are now a society dependent upon that petroleum, but with that dependence comes the certainty that we must take responsibility for any consequences. It is true that BP leads the effort to contain and clean up the leak from its wellhead, but others have stepped forth to assist as well.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is working closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the lead agency in the state for responding to the oil spill. Both the FWC and DEP are involved in gathering pre-assessment data, along with many other agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

At the FWC, we stand ready to minimize harm to wildlife affected by the oil leak, if oil should come ashore. The FWC is involved in the strategic planning that will attempt to secure the spill to prevent damage to Florida and its outstanding resources. Our scientists are mapping high-priority fish and wildlife habitats to help focus protective measures, and they are conducting biological assessments to establish a baseline for measuring the severity of potential harm to fish and wildlife.

Volunteers immediately began calling the FWC and other agencies to find out how they could help when news broke that the oil could reach Florida. I am encouraged by this outpouring of support, and the FWC thanks

all those who make wildlife a priority.

However, this crisis situation differs from other disasters we've faced in Florida, from hurricanes and flooding to droughts and fires. If an oiled fish washes ashore or wildlife covered in oil appears distressed, some of us will be tempted to rush out and rescue the animal. However, that will not be the best course of action for either the wildlife or the Good Samaritan.

This crisis involves hazardous materials that need to be handled by properly trained personnel for the safety of you and for the survival of the wildlife you think you might be saving.

Attempting to rescue wildlife distressed by the oil could further distress the animal. Your presence could have the opposite of the intended effect. Distressed wildlife can be dangerous as they fight to survive. You also are putting yourself at risk by touching the oil. Nobody wins in this situation, and while our well-intentioned actions may seem helpful, they are not.

It is best to let the trained professionals take over, and there are plenty of them and even more coming on board to receive the necessary training to assist. Trained workers will handle all oil-contaminated wildlife.

As we go through the long process of preparing, protecting and then cleaning up any potential oil residue that reaches our shores, there will be plenty of opportunities to assist.

Volunteer Florida is an active participant in the oil spill response and encourages those who want to assist to get involved locally through affiliated pre-landfall beach cleanups, fundraising and assisting with the needs of all the organizations involved in the response. Remember, all beach cleanups should come through organized efforts. For more information on how to help, visit www.volunteerfloridadisaster.org.

We're all in this together.

The FWC will do everything possible to protect Florida's fish and wildlife, and that's why I've called for an emergency meeting with our agency's staff. This meeting is unprecedented, but so is the oil spill that could possibly affect our natural resources. The meeting will be May 19 at 10 a.m. at Tradewinds Island Resorts in St. Pete Beach. Visit MyFWC.com for more information.

Florida's fish and wildlife have the very best resources working for their protection and survival.

FWC Chairman Rodney Barreto

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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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

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

We Pledge...

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

• To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.

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

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Letters to the Editor

Daughter needs kidney transplant

From April 21, 1997, my daughter Anastasia has been ill. She has end stage renal failure and presently she is in need of a kidney. She has been on the kidney transplant list at Jackson Memorial Hospital for nearly two years and no organ has become available for her as yet. She is presently trying to get on the Tampa General Hospital transplant list. Also, we are praying that there is someone, somewhere who is willing and able to come to her aid.

(If you can help, the newspaper has my contact information.)

Thank you,
Pat Anderson

Myspace posts helped lead cops to criminal

To all victims and families of victims of crime, I want to encourage you to become involved with your case. Had it not been for the tenacity and perseverance of the Gehle family, James Paul Mullin might still be free and still enjoying his life of fishing, going to the beach, and clubbing on the west coast. Instead he now has a new home, new phone number, and sorry James, no cell phones allowed, and will be there for a very long time. 27 years and 9 months to be exact. The heartbreak he has brought to the Gehle family is unbearable to say the least. As in any situation there are always a few people that may tend to abuse the privileges. However, our law enforcement must be able to utilize ALL social networking internet sites at work and not have to go home at lunch to bring up information on their home computers.

Had it not been for MySpace, James Mullin might still be free. We thank God that He gave us the ability to feel different emotions, STUPIDITY being one of them. I thank James

Mullin for using his emotions to brag about his life on the west coast. We tracked you down and brought you to justice. Please do not ever feel like any information is not important. With a simple statement of "packing my bags for a weekend of fishing at the middle grounds" and the use of GOOGLE, we knew where you were, what time you left and when the boat would be back at the dock. GOTCHA!

In closing, I would like to say to all the officers, deputies, investigators, Sgt. Tim Grundman of the Pinellas County Sheriffs Office, Dee Raulerson of the State Attorney's Office, and anyone else that contributed to the outcome of this case and especially to out Assistant State Attorney Mr. Don Richardson, THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS. In loving memory of our son, Anthony Richard Gehle,

The Gehle Family

Mission House donations

This is a personal "Thank You" to all the wonderful people of Okeechobee who help the First Baptist Church of Okeechobee Mission House. Your generous donations of clothes, housewares, knick-knacks, toys and food have been an absolute blessing to the families in need in this community. So many people have come here for help to supplement their households by receiving free clothes and food during these trying times and God has truly blessed us through your donations so that we are able to meet their needs.

I have a special, "Thank You" for all the great volunteers that come in every Monday and Wednesday. They sort through bags and bags of clothes and boxes and boxes of housewares, food and toys. They work extra hard at keeping everything neat and orderly. All clothing that needs to be hung is hanging on appropriate racks, folded items are stacked neatly on shelves. Food items

are stacked according to where they should be for easy access.

We sort through the clothes very carefully and make sure they are clean and in good condition. Unfortunately, we don't always receive them that way. We receive many items that need washing and sewing. Most of the volunteers will take them home and clean and fix them up to give away. There are a lot of times we can't use things because they are in such poor condition, but we know the donor had a good heart in thinking of others and we thank them, too.

Right now we are in desperate need of a washing machine for the Mission House. If anyone has one they longer need and would like to donate it, it would be greatly appreciated! The Mission House has been in operation for many years serving the people of Okeechobee and we would like to be able to remain in service as long as the Lord provides. So please pray with us for a washer and keep the donations coming. The Lord loves a cheerful giver!

Deuteronomy 15:11: "For the poor shall never cease out of the land; therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor and to thy needy, in thy land."

Jesus loves you ... and so do I!

Cheryl Gawda

Community News

Yard sale benefits scouts

Troop 964 is having a yardsale, Saturday, May 22, at the American Legion Post 64, starting at 8 a.m. to There will be a variety of things to choose from such aa clothes, toys, shoes, and misc. Please come support ur local boy scout troop! Contact Alison Hudson at 863-634-8484 for further info.

Fundraiser helps Urban Tails program



Special to the Okeechobee News/Teresa Chandler

Tracy Zack: Urban Tails Program Director, **Josh Stoddard:** Program Director/OIHH, **Amy Sabate:** AFA of Operations/OIHH Joseph Hasselbach, Facility Administrator, OYDC and OIHH.

Okeechobee Forecast

Weather forecast for Okeechobee County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 91. North northwest wind around 5 mph becoming west southwest.

Tonight: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. West southwest wind around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 91. West wind around 5 mph becoming southeast.

Thursday night: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. East wind around 5 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 91. East wind around 5 mph.

Lotteries

Here are the numbers selected Monday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 4-0-3 **Play**

4: 5-5-5 **Fantasy 5:** 3-10-13-27-31 **Mega Money:** 4-15-24-44 **MB 16 Florida Lotto:**

Powerball: 15-21-23-28-36 **PB20 x2:** Numbers drawn Tuesday: **Cash 3:** 5-6-2 **Play 4:** 0-3-1-4



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Community Events

Adoption Support

Group to meet

Children's Home Society of Florida will hold its next Adoption Support Group meeting at 6 p.m. May 19 at their administration office, located at 590 NW Peacock Blvd., Suite 9, Port St. Lucie. This group is for families who have a finalized adoption of a special needs/foster care child. The support group is open to relative, non-relative and foster parents. The purpose of the support group is to provide education and social interaction among individuals who have adopted, while being able to share resources with, and support for, one another. For further information, please contact CHS Adoption Therapist, Lauren Phelps, MS at 772.429.2001.

Congressman Rooney to speak at Lincoln Day Dinner

The Republican Party of Okeechobee will be hosting the annual Lincoln Day Dinner on Friday, **May 21**, at the Williamson Conference and Education Center at Indian River State College. Social time will be from 6-7 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Congressman Tom Rooney. Dinner will be catered by Golden Corral and tickets are \$40 per person. If you or your business would like to sponsor a table for this event please call Melissa Arnold at 863-610-2280. Seating is limited.

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing obits@newszap.com. Customers may also request photos and links to online guest books. A link to the obituaries is available at www.newszap.com.

Esther Mary Wood (Sprout)

OKEECHOBEE — Esther Mary Wood (Sprout), 78, died May 13, 2010 in Longwood Regional Medical Center.

She was born in Lancaster, Pa. She moved to Florida in 1968, residing in Palm Beach Gardens, and moved to Okeechobee after retiring as a bookkeeper.

She was a member of Eastern Star and active in the church and the choir. A loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend to all that knew her.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Robert E.; son, Leslie E. (Deborah), of Hobe Sound, Fla.; daughter, Diane Granitz, of Hobe Sound, Fla.; five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held May 23, 2010, at 3:00 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Okeechobee.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Okeechobee, 312 N. Parrott Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34972.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, FL. On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

Hospice plans yard sale

Hospice of Okeechobee, 411 S.E. Fourth Street, will hold a giant yard sale on Thursday May 20 and Friday May 21, from 8 a.m. until noon. Specialty items for this sale include some nice children's clothing. New items galore are available at reasonable prices. Funds raised benefit patient care including services at the Hamrick Home. For more information, call 863-467-2321.

Benefit BBQ planned

More2Life Ministries will hold a barbecue on Friday, May 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The menu will be barbecued pork, baked beans, coleslaw and a roll for \$8. All of the proceeds go towards a mission trip to Haiti. The barbecue will be held at the open lot directly north of the Gilbert Snapper dealership on 441 north. Delivery available on orders of 5 or more. For information or tickets, call Brent at 863-610-3301.

YMCA Summer Camp Programs planned

YMCA Summer Camp Expedition for ages 5-13 is a fun-filled day camp which includes arts and crafts, field trips, games, reading, sports, swimming and YMCA Character Development. Campers should wear comfortable clothing and closed toed shoes and bring a lunch, a snack, bathing suit, sunscreen and towel.

The camp will be held at Grace Brethren Church, June 14-Aug. 13. Weekly fee

is \$90. A \$30 supply fee is paid one time each summer. Financial assistance is available. Registration will be May 22 and June 5, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Grace Brethren Church, 701 S. Parrott Avenue. Space is limited.

Crisis line on radio talk show

Patrice Schroeder, community relations specialist, 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast will be speaking May 22, on the 211 Help-line to connect callers to information about critical health and human services available in the community, the Suicide Crisis Line and Florida Braive Helpline for servicemen and women impacted by deployment to Afghanistan and/or Iraq and their families. The program will air at 7:30 a.m. with rebroadcasts at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. on WWFR 91.7 FM Treasure Coast and 100.3 FM - West Palm Beach.

Teen Dance Party coming!

Teens get ready for another Teen Dance Party!

The party starts at the Shrine Club on Hwy. 78 on **May 22**, from 7 until 10 p.m. The cost is just \$7 for kids from ages 12-15 and includes pizza, chips and drink. A live D.J. will play the latest hip hop and dance music. For more information, please call Latasha Smith at 863-801-3781 or Teresa Chandler at 863-697-6819.

Grand opening planned

Okeechobee Main Street invites everyone to the Grand Opening Celebration of Surfin' the Net located at 709 North Parrott Avenue, from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 22. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony, free hot dogs, beverages, and snow cones. A new cell phone will be given away every half hour, there will be a drawing for a new computer system, as well as everyone present will receive a Surfin Dollar coupon. For more information call Okeechobee Main Street at 863-357-MAIN (6246).

Yacht Club to hold a benefit for Ryan Holden

Butch's Redneck Yacht Club is holding a benefit for Ryan Holden at Butch's Backyard Bar on **May 22** from 10 a.m. until. Ryan is the son of Tammy and Bill Daniels. Ryan was paralyzed with a spinal cord injury on March 16 and needs continuing rehab at Shepherd's Center in Georgia. Tammy is in serious need to financial assistance. There will be live music and BBQ dinners for a \$6.00 donation. A poker run and auction will also be held. For more information, please call 863-763-8262.

Moose Lodge to hold Date Night Dinner Theater

The Okeechobee Moose Lodge on NW 36th St. will hold Okeechobee's first "Date Night Dinner Theater" with music, comedy and dancing, on Saturday, **May 22**. Doors open at 5 p.m. Entree choice of Roast Beef or Pork. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Lodge membership is not required. For more information, call Penny at 863-447-5520.

GAL holds meeting for volunteers

The public is invited to meet a great GAL. Stop by Mom's in Okeechobee on Thursday, **May 27**, at 2 p.m. to meet folks associated with the 19th Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program. Stop by to find out about volunteer opportunities and receive a free cup of coffee when you speak to a GAL.

Robert Glen Proper

OKEECHOBEE — Robert Glen Proper, 74, of Okeechobee died Monday, May 17, 2010 in Rauerson Hospital.

He was born February 29, 1936, in Linden, Michigan to the late Glenn Daniel and Ella Proper. He never met a stranger and was an avid hunter, fisherman, and loved restoring classic cars.

His is predeceased by his parents; sister, Georgia; and a brother, Jim.

He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Sandra McLees Proper of Okeechobee; son, Robert G. Proper II (Carrie) of Groveland, Fla.; daughter, Sarah M. Giguere (Rev. Brian) of Fremont, New Hampshire; grandchildren, Jade, Zack, Will, Allie, Faith, Kyle, Karleigh, Elijah; great grandson, Kai; sisters, Betty Aten of North Ft. Myers, Peg Denker of Mio, Michigan; and a host of nieces and nephews, especially Tom and Rona Denker. In addition he was survived by too many adopted sons to name. He will be missed by all.

The family will receive friends on Friday, May 21, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and services on Saturday, May 22 at 10:00 a.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Brian P. Giguere officiating.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, FL. Online condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

Jake Allen Ward, 22

MARYVILLE, TENN. - Jake Allen Ward, of Maryville, formerly of Okeechobee, Fla., passed away Saturday, May 15, 2010 after a long illness. He is survived by his parents; Mark and Cynthia Walker Ward; brothers, Joshua, and Zachary Ward; grandparents, Harvey and Sylvia Walker, Mollie Derbin, and Pat Ward; and a host of aunts, uncles, and cousins.



Jake was an inspiration to all of us and will be truly missed but never forgotten.

Memorial Services will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at R.I.O. East, with Pastor Dale Buchanan officiating.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, at the Church.

The Family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to help with expenses.

Memorial Funeral Home in Maryville is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent at website www.MemorialFuneralHomeInc.com

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First Baptist to celebrate 95 years

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Cowboys for Christ of Basinger will meet Thursday, May 20, at the Basinger Community Center. There will be a potluck supper at 6 p.m. and services will start at 7. Ginger Fender will be the speaker.

The youth of **Haven of Rest Church** will have a car wash and bake sale on Saturday, May 22 at 9 a.m. at Family Dollar Store. This is a fundraiser for 2010 Radical Remnant Youth Camp June 14-18, at Camp Denton. For more information on the fundraiser or youth camp call Gabrielle Velie at 863-532-8546 or 863-357-3053.

The members and guests of **First Baptist Church**, 401 S.W. Fourth St., will be celebrating the 95th anniversary of the church with a special service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 23. Brother Joe Bishop, who was ordained by First Baptist, will be



Places of Worship

the speaker.

Peace Lutheran Youth and Family Ministry is planning a canoe trip down Peace River on June 5. Family and friends are invited to participate. Deadline for sign up is May 24. Vacation Bible School Theme for this year is "A High Seas Adventure." The date is June 21-25, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. For more information or to register check out our

webpage - <http://www.groupvbspro.com/ez/PeaceOkee>. Peace Lutheran School will have its second year of Summer Camp with a theme of "Superheroes for God". A full day program beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. is being offered. Sessions will begin June 14 and continue for eight weeks. Please contact Peace Lutheran School for more information at 863-763-7566.

The Okeechobee News welcomes news from area churches for this column. E-mail okeenews@newszap.com or call Pete Gawda at 863 763-3134, extension 4225.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Jan Fehrman

Orchid club to meet

Okeechobee Orchid Club President Harry Hoffner and guest speaker, Victor Elliot who spoke on "Encyclias" at the last Orchid Club meeting. The next meeting will be Show and Tell on Monday, May 24, at 7 p.m. You are invited to bring your favorite orchid or a problem one to discuss. The meeting will be held at the Extension Office, 458 Highway 98 N. For more information call Extension at 863-763-6469

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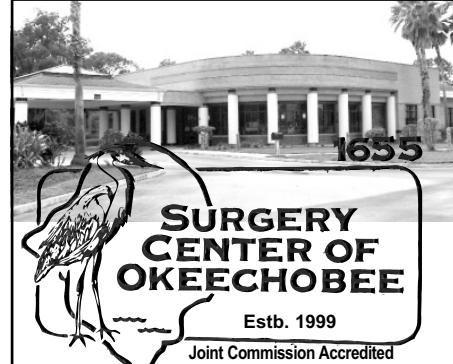
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Great speeches given at Tropicana contest

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Okeechobee's fourth, fifth and sixth graders and their public speaking abilities were on display this month during the annual 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Contest held at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus Auditorium.

Subjects in the speeches this year ranged from the Space Shuttle Program to family pets to history and even family members.

Emma Van Camp of Central Elementary won the fourth grade division with a speech about the Space Shuttle Program. Shelby Kirton of South Elementary won second place with a speech about her show steer named Midnight. Joanna Rhymes of Seminole took third place with a speech about her sister which she titled, "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly." Alyssa Howard of Everglades took fourth place with a speech about tree frogs and their positive impact on the environment and how they can help treat diseases like HIV and cancer.

Zachary Kielbasa of North Elementary took the fifth grade division with a speech titled, "Wish I'd stayed home." Morgan Bolan of Seminole was the runner up with a speech about reading. Taylor Anuez of Seminole finished in third place with a speech about her wish to be a beautician when she grows up. Kylee Johns of Osceola middle school took fourth place with a speech about something

called Skinks.

The sixth grade competition was won by Cody Prescott of Yearling Middle School. He gave a speech entitled "It's Not Easy Being Me." Ryan Daniel of Osceola Middle School took second place with a speech about high expectations. Marjon Librando of Osceola took third place with a speech about his brother Mark. Colton Etchinson of Osceola took fourth place with a speech about control.

Cameron Cashwell of Everglades also gave a nice speech on a former prisoner of war from World War II who was held in a German war camp for 106 days.

Each school has competitions which start in the classroom and then school wide. Each elementary school sends two students from third and fourth grade to compete in the district wide contest. Osceola had four students compete in the fifth grade division. The sixth grade contest included four students from both Osceola and Yearling Middle Schools.

Pat McCoy was once again the mistress of ceremonies for the event. Michael Daniel, last years sixth grade winner was the co-host of the event.

These students were very impressive as they overcame their fear of crowds and battled nerves. There was also a good turnout of parents, grand parents, and school officials at the event.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Sixth grade winners at the Tropicana Speech contest included: First place - Cody Prescott-YMS, second place - Ryan Daniel-OMS, third place - Marjon Librando-OMS, fourth place - Colton Etchinson-OMS.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Fifth grade Tropicana Speech contest winners were: first place - Zachary Kielbasa - North, second place - Morgan Bolan - Seminole, third place - Taylor Anuez - Seminole and fourth place went to Kylee Johns - OMS.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Fourth graders taking top spots in the Tropicana Speech contest were: first place - Emma Van Camp - Central, second place - Shelby Kirton - South, third place - Joanna Rhymes - Seminole and fourth place - Alyssa Howard - Everglades. Congratulations to all of our Tropicana Speech Contest winners!

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Coach Jackson pleased with progress of football team

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Myron Jackson started his second year at the helm of the Okeechobee High School Brahman football team with his first spring practice earlier this month. He predicts the extra time with the kids this year should pay off in improved results in the fall.

"I've enjoyed the attitude we've gotten from the young men. We've been getting better in small increments. That is what practice is for. We are getting a little better every day and that is the direction I want," he said.

Jackson maintains that the kids don't have much to learn this spring. There have been few changes to the play book and formations they put in place last year. He admits he has his hands full trying to keep the focus of young men in the hot weather and after a long day at school.

"They have other things that are pulling at them which include parents, relationships with girls, and school work. Asking a kid to be focused for three hours at practice is a tough thing to ask a teenager," he said.

Jackson said he likes the fact his team has a lot of competition for jobs. The quarterback position remains unresolved. Jack Radebaugh and D.J. Washington will be sophomores in the fall. They both are about neck and neck during practice.

"They are twins almost. One will throw an incompletion low and the other an in-

completion high. Then they'll complete a string of passes. It's a great problem to have. Right now the QB, running back and wide receiver candidates haven't separated themselves. The guys are working and trying to get better," the coach added.

Coach Jackson said T'Ronte Files and Al Morris have both done well at running back while Aukeemian Mills and Lavante Spivey have done well at wide receiver. He also likes



the return of Erick McQueen who will help bolster the Brahman team at RB, WR, and in the defensive backfield. "He can become a positive leader for us. He's gotten back into school and has things going the right way. He's getting a second chance and he is taking advantage of it," he added. Jackson also praised his offensive line. He said all of the starters and the reserves are much stronger and heavier than last year. He claims that will make a difference at the line of scrimmage

next year. "They have made great strides. They were committed to the weight room. I think our linebackers are playing well and our defensive backs are playing well. We are going to be a different team this year," he said. The annual Purple White scrimmage will be held on Friday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation. The freshman team will also have a scrimmage game on Friday, May 28, at 4:30 p.m. at Okeechobee High School.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Coach Jackson (top) tutors a group of his players at a recent football practice. QB candidates D.J Washington (left photo - standing) and Jack Radebaugh are neck and neck headed into the spring game.

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SFWMD promotes reuse of water

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Purple reigns this week in southern Florida. The week of May 16-22, is recognized as Water Reuse Week by South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). To distinguish it from potable water transported in white PVC pipes, reused water is transported in purple PVC pipes.

While there are many users of reclaimed water throughout the 16 counties served by SFWMD, here in Okeechobee County there are only two consumers of reused water -- Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) and Williamson Cattle Company.

Williamson Cattle Company uses reclaimed water from the OUA Cemetery Road wastewater treatment plant to irrigate orange groves.

"It has been beneficial to us and to OUA," said Wes Williamson. The Williamsons have used reused water for 10 years. On an annualized average basis Williamson Cattle Company uses 800,000 gallons a day of reused water.

On a smaller basis OUA uses an average of 400,000 gallons a day for irrigation of hay fields at their Cemetery Road plant.

There are times during cold weather that Williamson Cattle Company uses all the reused water OUA can produce plus well water to spray to keep their citrus trees from freezing.

There are other potential consumers of reused water in Okeechobee. John Hayford, executive director of OUA, said that one possibility would be across the road from the Cemetery Road plant at Evergreen Cemetery.

However, irrigation would have to be done at night because visitors would be coming to the cemetery at all hours of the day. Another potential customer, also across the road from the OUA plant, is R Bar Estates. Mr. Hayford said that subdivision has large yards which could be easily irrigated with reused water. Gary Ritter, director of SFWMD's Okeechobee Service Center said that R Bar Estates was once considered as a grant recipient to utilize reused water. However he said the grant money dried up.

Mr. Hayford said the public perception is to question how safe reused water is. He asserted that reused water is indeed clean and safe to use. Within the SFWMD service area there are more than 100 reuse systems that consume 236 million gallons of reclaimed water per day. Reclaimed water is used for golf courses, parks, highway medians, industrial uses and cooling water.

"Each year, Water Reuse Week serves as a reminder that every drop of water we recycle is a drop of fresh water saved," said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Eric Buermann. "It is no longer acceptable to use water once and dispose of it. We must continue to promote the use of reclaimed water throughout South Florida to protect our region's limited water resources and ensure our communities can meet their water supply needs well into the future."

According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida leads the nation in water reuse, reusing almost 660 million gallons of reclaimed water each day.



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Immokalee Bulletin and The Sun

Low cost pet spay event planned

Okeechobee County will work with the Humane Society of Broward County to bring low-cost spay and neuter services, rabies shots and other pet services to County animal owners. The Spay-a-thon will be a two day event, on Sunday, June 6, and Monday, June 7, at County Animal Control, 1480 NW 25th Drive. Also available are microchipping and other vaccination services for an additional cost.

The Spay-a-thon is intended to help to keep the local animal population under control. Pre-registration for the Spay-a-thon is required. This can be done by contacting Claire Hudson at Animal Control beginning Monday, May 24. Limited spaces are available. Residents are encouraged to register early. Costs for services are based upon the service requested and the size of the animal. For example, spay fees range from \$50 for a small dog to \$85 for a dog weighing 91-100 lbs. Rabies shots are \$2; rabies tags are \$.8.

The Humane Society of Broward County is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization that provides shelter, aid and responsible adoptions to animals entrusted to their care, and educates the community about respect and kindness to all animals. Animal Control has received the gracious support of several local businesses to make this Spay-a-thon a success. Supporting local businesses include Pier II Resort, Hampton Inn of Okeechobee, McDonalds, and Subway. Their generous donations are critical to making this program possible.

Waste Management collects yard waste

As Okeechobee residents prepare for the start of hurricane season, many are trimming trees and shrubs in their yards.

In the City of Okeechobee, the following rules apply for pickup of yard debris. All grass, leaves, and small amounts of tree trimmings less than 4 feet in length and no more than 5 inches in diameter, and weighing no more than 40 pounds must be bagged or contained within waste cans, and placed within 3 feet of the curb by 6 a.m. on your trash collection day.

Large amounts of yard trash that cannot be placed in cans must be cut in 4 foot lengths and neatly stacked within 3 feet of the curb. These items are considered a "Bulk Item" which requires special handling and collections by Waste Management, Inc. The

Animal Control will be partnering with Emergency Management to conduct this Spay-a-thon as a drill for the County. Every year, Okeechobee County is required to perform emergency preparedness, response or recovery exercises in accordance with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program. The Spay-a-thon will count for this year's requirement, and the major tasks of Onsite Incident Management and Animal Health Emergency Support will be tested.

The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) is a capabilities and performance-based exercise program which provides a standardized policy, methodology, and terminology for exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning. County agencies participating in the exercise include Okeechobee Animal Control, Okeechobee Emergency Management, Okeechobee County Fire Rescue, Okeechobee County Health Department, and the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office. Agencies participating from other jurisdictions include the Humane Society of Broward County and the City of Hallandale Beach Department of Fire Rescue.

For more information, contact: Claire Hudson, ACOII Okeechobee Animal Control office; by phone, 863-357-3225; fax, 863-357-1177; or email, chudson@co.okeechobee.fl.us

customer must notify Waste Management, Inc, at 863-357-0111 to schedule collection arrangements of the Bulk Items.

DO NOT mix household garbage, hazardous waste, furniture, appliances, or construction and demolition debris with yard waste.

Any yard waste generated by landscape, lawn maintenance, or tree trimming contractors must be disposed of by the contractor at a sanitary landfill.

For the safety of our children and to prevent deaths due to suffocation, it is required that all doors be removed from all discarded appliances before they are placed out for collection. Waste Management must be called to schedule pick up. Call them at 863-763-4818.

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Boys basketball team honored at banquet

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Duelle Gore won the most valuable player award and Brian Rose took home the Brahman award at the annual Okeechobee High School Boys Basketball banquet held on Saturday.

Coach Bryan Van Camp said good bye to a special group of hoopsters, his first team as head coach. Seniors who graduate this year include Ricky Nieto, Austin Willard, Aaron Suarez, Jonathan Hudoff, Duelle Gore, Brian Rose, Chris Shanks, Ryan Osceola, Matt Skipper and Troy Harper.

All of those seniors who attended the banquet received awards. Ricky Nieto won the quick start award for his excellent play especially at the beginning of games. Hudoff won the tenacity award as he earned a starting job based on heart and hustle. Brian Rose won the Brahman award for his leadership skills and positive attitude. Harper won the most improved player award. Deforest Shanks won the catalyst award. Shanks won the middle man award for his work on the defensive end of the court. Austin Willard won the instant offense award. He scored

11 points in less than 1:30 during a victory over Lincoln Park which turned out to be a key district win.

Van Camp said he was very impressed with the work the boys put in this year as they won 15 games and reached the district tournament semifinal. "A lot of credit goes to the boys. There is nothing more difficult than the first year with a new coach. They were a great group of kids who bought in and supported me. It made my job a lot easier."

Van Camp isn't worried about the future even though he has only one player returning, Deforest Shanks. He said it's possible that three sophomores could start on the varsity next year. "It's exciting to rebuild. I'm excited for Deforest because he deserves an opportunity to shine and be a leader. It will be a challenge, but we'll work hard just like this year and see what happens."

Rose said he felt very good to win the Brahman award. He said he tried to have the right attitude on the bench this year.

"You must give a lot of effort and heart to the team. We were like a family together this year. We were a pretty close group."

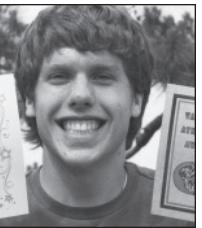
Van Camp thanked the players and their parents for their support this year. Assistant Coaches Kevin Jackson and Jason Egli also praised the performance of their teams this year at the JV and freshman level.



Brian Rose



Chris Shanks



Austin Willard



Troy Harper



Deforest Shanks



Ricky Nieto



Jonathan Hudoff

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Girls basketball team honored at banquet

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Girls Basketball Team had a lot to celebrate this year as they had a second consecutive winning season and played competitively against some of the best teams in the region.

Eight of the varsity players will graduate in a few weeks which made their May 15, banquet emotional for Coach Tony Sherlock, who recently stepped down as head coach.

"I was privileged to work with these ladies. They had some athletic ability. I give credit to prior coaches. They really worked together with me the last two years. It has been the two best girl's basketball teams in Okeechobee in awhile," he said.

The future could be bright despite the graduations as the junior varsity team only lost two games this past year.

"They have a forward and a good point guard and some very big girls coming in next year," Sherlock said, "They might not

be good instantly but in the next couple of years they could be very good."

Sherlock said he was proud his team worked hard on defense and also did a good job rebounding despite not being a very tall team. He gave out awards to all of his graduating seniors.

Miesha Henderson won the broom award for working hard on the floor and leading the cheers for her teammates off the floor. Janezzka Koger earned an award for team spirit. Henderson and Koger both had GPA of over 3.5. Jewel Buck won the defensive player award. Sherlock called her the key to the defense and nicknamed her the wall.

Several of the players were honored for having outstanding grade point averages.

Callandra Youmans earned the academic award. Essence Williams won the Brahman award. She finished eighth in the state in steals per game this year. Monica Koger was named the team's most valuable player. She also earned a four year letter award. Markeisha Youmans took home the team rebounding award.



Jewel Buck



Miesha Henderson



Calandra Youmans



Markeisha Youmans

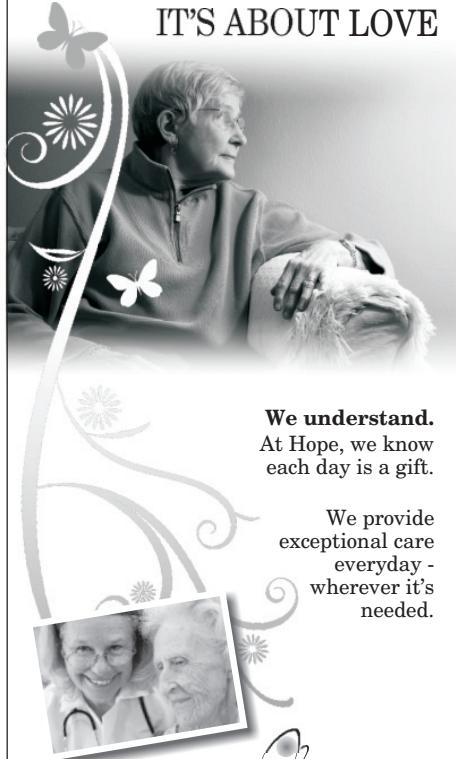


Monica Koger



Essence Williams

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SMALL 2BR/1BA home, in town. \$600 mo., 1st & last. Yard & trash service included. Call (863)467-2563 or (863)447-2172

Office Space Rent

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT (863)763-8565

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

OKEECHOBEE - 1/1 Park model, 12x36, laundry room, 30x10 CBS building, 150x100' lot, oak trees, 6mi N off 441. \$650/mo, 1st & sec. Call (561) 346-4692



For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Boats

15ft Alum. John Boat
welded seams on easy
load trailer exc. cond.
\$1,200.00 Call
772-631-5585

Marine
Miscellaneous

20ft Weerers Pontoon
boat Surrey top 60hp
Johnson, Trail & vest
\$3,000 - 96 Tiog 23ft
M.H. 50,823 mi. ex-
cell.cond. 350 ford kept
under roof \$12,500 call
863-763-0855

FLOATING DOCK
6x16, pressure treated
wood, galvanized steel
hardware. \$1695, Deliv-
ery avail. Also avail.
KIT to do it yourself
(not including wood).
\$1095 (352)343-4108



For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Utility Trailers

UTILITY TRAILER
(bed 8'x 5.5')- Heavy du-
ty, single axle, no lights,
Good condition, \$110.
Mon.-Fri. 8:30-3:30.
(863)-467-9800



For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Public Notice

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 2010-DR-136
Division: DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

Soly Santos,
Petitioner
and
Joyce Ann Santos,
Respondent.

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

To: Joyce Ann Santos

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, or to the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. DATED 5/14/2010

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
By: Linda F. Young
As Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration not later than 7 days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986 (772)807-4370 within two working days of receipt of this Notice. If you are hearing impaired call (800)-955-8771; if you are voice impaired call (800)-955-8770.

DATED 5/14/2010 ON 05/19/26/10

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Cir-

Public Notice

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold its Regular Session on Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of such proceedings is made, which record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Florida Statute 286.26, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Paula Poskon, no later than two (2) working days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-4559 or 863-763-2131, ext. 2111. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-222-3448 (voice) or 1-888-447-5620 (TTY).

Clif Bett Jr., Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida
355005 ON 5/19/10

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application(s) for permit have been received for project(s) in Okeechobee County:

Fort Drum Corporation P.O. Box 1177, Okeechobee, FL 34973, has submitted Application 100430-14 for a Water Use Permit to irrigate 50 acres of agricultural lands. The water will be withdrawn from the Floridian Aquifer and the project is located in Section 17, Township 37 South, Range 35 East.

Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a copy of the staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the South Florida Water Management District, Attn: Environmental Resource Regulation, PO Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680, but such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 21 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Application status and associated documents can also be obtained by accessing the District's website (www.sfwmd.org) and selecting the Application/Permit Search on the ePermitting page. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.

354430 ON 5/19/10

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT-REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
STATE OF FLORIDA,
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
DIVISION OF RECREATION & PARKS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - Parks/District 3 requests proposals for a grazing agreement for Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park

SITE VISIT: 6/8/2010 @ 10:00 am Local Time

LOCATION: Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, 33104 NW 192nd Ave, Okeechobee FL 34972

BID OPENING: 5/17/2010 @ 8:00 am Local Time

BID CLOSING: 6/23/2010 @ 5:00 pm Local Time
Copies of Specifications available by contacting Kathy Webb @ 407-884-2000, Charles Brown @ 863-462-5360 or by visiting Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park Okeechobee, or Recreation and Parks/District 3 in Apopka 354685 ON 5/16,19,21,23,26,28/10

court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court, Approved Family Law Form 12.915). Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: May 7, 2010

SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: /S/ HEATHER THOMAS
Deputy Clerk
354315 ON 5/12,19,26,6/2/10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT,
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No. 2009 CA 578

RIVERSIDE NATIONAL BANK, etc., Plaintiff, LEIGHTON WILSON, et ux, Defendants.

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 5/14/2010

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
By: Linda F. Young
As Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration not later than 7 days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986 (772)807-4370 within two working days of receipt of this Notice. If you are hearing impaired call (800)-955-8771; if you are voice impaired call (800)-955-8770.

DATED 5/14/2010 ON 05/19/26/10

A parcel of land lying in the South one-half (S 1/2) of Section 19 and the North one-half (N 1/2) of Section 30, Township

Earn some extra cash.
Sell your used items
in the classifieds

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO. 2009 CA 684

SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff

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

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO F.S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 18, 2010, the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the in the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 at 11:00 a.m., on 6/6/2010,

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

Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Lot A, being the point of intersection of the North line of said Section 4 and the West right of way line of State Road 15, also known as Parrot Avenue, as shown on State of Florida Department of Transportation Right of Way Map Section 926; thence South 00 degrees 07' 39" West along the East line of said Lot A and said West right of way line a distance of 110.00 feet to a point on the South line of the North 110.00 feet of said Lot A and the Point of Beginning of the following described parcel of land; thence continuing along said East lot line South 00 degrees 07' 39" West 196.87 feet to the point of curvature of a curve concave to the North, having a radius of 90.80 feet and a central angle of 72 degrees 07' 18"; thence departing said lot line, Westerly

along the arc of said curve a distance of 114.30 feet to a point of reverse curvature of a curve concave to the South, having a radius of 137.89 feet and a central angle of 57 degrees 59' 03"; thence Southerly along the arc of said curve a distance of 139.55 feet to a point of compound curvature of a curve concave to the Southeast, having a radius of 319.17 feet and a central angle of 03 degrees 00' 01"; thence Southerly along the arc of said curve a distance of 167.10 feet to a point of compound curvature of a curve concave to the East, having a radius of 147.59 feet and a central angle of 22 degrees 09' 19"; thence Southerly along the arc of said curve a distance of 57.07 feet to a point of compound curvature of a curve concave to the East, having a radius of 355.45 feet and a central angle of 16 degrees 05' 28"; thence Southerly along the arc of said curve a distance of 99.83 feet to a point of reverse curvature of a curve concave to the West, having a radius of 55.91 feet and a central angle of 54 degrees 49' 06"; thence Southerly along the arc of said curve a distance of 53.49 feet to the point of tangency; thence South 45 degrees 40' 32" West a distance of 21.51 feet to a point of curvature of a curve concave to the East having a radius of 48.59 feet and a central angle of 66 degrees 59' 23"; thence Southerly along the arc of said curve a distance of 56.81 feet to the point of tangency; thence South 21 degrees 18' 51" East a distance of 27.64 feet to a point on the North right of way line of State Road 78 as described in Official Record Book 517, Page 1810, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida; thence South 63 degrees 28' 36" West along said right of way line a distance of 109.15 feet to a point on the West line of said Lot B; thence departing said right of way line North 00 degrees 07' 39" East along the West line of said Lot B a distance of 813.78 feet to a point on the South line of the North 110.00 feet of said Lot B; thence departing said West line of said Lot B, South 89 degrees 48' 24" East along said South line a distance of 433.32 feet to the Point of Beginning.

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

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

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

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

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

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

h. **Contract Rights and Accounts.** All of Mortgagor's right, title and interest in and to any and all contracts, written or oral, express or implied, now existing or hereafter entered into or arising, in any matter related to the improvement, use, operation, sale, conversion or other disposition of any interest in the Land, Appurtenances, Improvements, Tangible Property or Rents, including all permits, licenses, insurance policies, rights of action, choses in action, contract rights, corporate or other business records, inventions, designs, patents, patent applications, trademarks, trade names, trade secrets, goodwill, registrations, franchises, claims under guarantees, security interests or other security held or granted to secure payment of contracts by account debtors, all rights to indemnification and all other intangible property of every kind and nature.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

r. **Name.** All right, title and interest of Mortgagor in and to all trades now or hereafter used in connection with the operation of the Land and Improvements.

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

t. **Lock 7 Development, LLC.** Any reference to the "Mortgage" shall mean that certain Commercial Mortgage and Security Agreement dated November 15, 2006 and Mortgage Modification and Extension Agreement dated December 19, 2008 made by the Mortgagor to the Mortgagor, and any reference to the "Mortgagor" shall mean Lock 7 Development, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, and any reference to the "Mortgagor" shall mean Seacoast National Bank.

u. **PERSONAL CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE.** IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE US PEN-
DENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2010.

354261 ON 05/19/26/10

Sharon Robertson, Clerk of Court
Linda F. Young, Clerk of Court

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

When you want some-
thing sold, advertise in
the classifieds.

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

Get a quick response to
any item you may be sell-
ing with a classified ad.

Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE

A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrish Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on Friday the 4th day of June 2010 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 317.78 for unpaid towing and storage. All Model & Vin's as follows:

1997 White Ford Taurus
1FALP52U6VA243079

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" with no guarantees. 355005 ON 5/19/2010

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE
COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2009 CA 813
DIVISION: Civil Division

SOUTHERN HOMESITES, INC.,
A Florida Corporation
Plaintiff
V.

CILINA MERISIER FORTIN,
Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT
TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 13, 2010, and entered in Case No. 2009 CA 813 of the Circuit Court in and for OKEECHOBEE County, Florida wherein SOUTHERN HOMESITES, INC., A Florida Corporation is the Plaintiff, and CILINA MERISIER FORTIN are the Defendants. The Plaintiff, CILINA MERISIER FORTIN, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW Third Street, Okeechobee, Florida, on 11 o'clock A.M. on the 16th day of June, 2010, the following described property as set forth in said Order or Final Judgment, to wit:

Lots 28 and 29, Block 13,
ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES,
as recorded in Plat book 3,
page 9, public records of
Okeechobee County, Florida.

Public Notice**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**

The Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast (DBA, Workforce Solutions) - Region 20 and the Treasure Coast Job Training Consortium announce a public meeting of the Workforce Development Board to which all persons are invited:

Date & Time: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 - 8:00 a.m.
Place: Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast 584 NW University Blvd., Suite 100 Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

PURPOSE: To discuss matters concerning the Workforce Investment Act, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA - Workforce Stimulus projects and budgets), Workforce Employment Opportunities, the Welfare Transition Program, One-Stop Career Centers and the Workforce Development Board (DBA, Workforce Solutions). A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting:

Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast DBA, Workforce Solutions 584 NW University Blvd., Suite 100 Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

Should any person wish to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above referenced meeting, they will need to ensure a verbatim recording of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based, in order to provide a record for judicial review.
355018 ON 5/19/10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO. 47-2009-CA-000436

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff, vs.

TAMMY L. REIDENBACH A/K/A TAMMY REIDENBACH, et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated May 13, 2010 and entered in Case No. 47-2009-CA-000436 of the Circuit Court of the NINETEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for OKEECHOBEE County, Florida wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., is the Plaintiff and TAMMY L. REIDENBACH A/K/A TAMMY REIDENBACH; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TAMMY L. REIDENBACH A/K/A TAMMY REIDENBACH N/K/A JEFF BARBERI; are the Defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 N.W. 3RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972 at 11:00AM, on the 16th day of June, 2010, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

WEST 1/2 OF EAST 1/2 OF SOUTH 1/2 OF SOUTH 1/2 OF TRACT 8, SECTION 11, AND THE EAST 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF TRACT 30, SECTION 11, AS TO THE SOUTHERN COLONIZATION COMPANY PLAT OF TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 3, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; (AKA LOTS E & F) a/k/a 16575 NW 306TH STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972.

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, Phone No. (772)807-4370 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 (V) via Florida Relay Services.

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court this 5th day of May, 2010.

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

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

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

354327 ON 5/12,19/10

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

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

354805 ON 05/19,26/10

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 47-2010-CA-000174

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE OF INDYMAC RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST, SERIES 2005-L3, RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-L3

Plaintiff,

VS. ALEXANDER DUQUE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ALEXANDER DUQUE; MARCOS DUQUE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARCOS DUQUE; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: YORIS E. SANTANA
Last Known Address: 15997 NW 286th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972
Also Attempted At: 1232 SW Minyo Avenue, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34953
Current Residence Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: SEE EXHIBIT "A"

ALEXANDER DUQUE
4581 SOUTHWEST 131ST TERRACE
MIRAMAR, FLORIDA 33027

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF
ALEXANDER DUQUE
4581 SOUTHWEST 131ST TERRACE
MIRAMAR, FLORIDA 33027

MARCOS DUQUE
4581 SOUTHWEST 131ST TERRACE
MIRAMAR, FLORIDA 33027

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF
MARCOS DUQUE
4581 SOUTHWEST 131ST TERRACE
MIRAMAR, FLORIDA 33027

who is evading service of process and the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, licensees, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the defendant(s), who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:

THE WEST 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF TRACT 30, SECTION 11, AND THE EAST 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF TRACT 30, SECTION 11, AS TO THE SOUTHERN COLONIZATION COMPANY PLAT OF TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 3, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; (AKA LOTS E & F) a/k/a 16575 NW 306TH STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972.

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, Phone No. (772)807-4370 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 (V) via Florida Relay Services.

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court this 5th day of May, 2010.

Sharon Robertson
As Clerk of the Court

BY: Arlene Nealis
As Deputy Clerk

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Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 47-2010-CA-000174

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff,
vs. IRIA GABRIELA FERNANDEZ, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: YORIS E. SANTANA
Last Known Address: 15997 NW 286th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972
Also Attempted At: 1232 SW Minyo Avenue, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34953
Current Residence Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: SEE EXHIBIT "A"

ALEXANDER DUQUE
4581 SOUTHWEST 131ST TERRACE
MIRAMAR, FLORIDA 33027

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF
ALEXANDER DUQUE
4581 SOUTHWEST 131ST TERRACE
MIRAMAR, FLORIDA 33027

MARCOS DUQUE
4581 SOUTHWEST 131ST TERRACE
MIRAMAR, FLORIDA 33027

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF
MARCOS DUQUE
4581 SOUTHWEST 131ST TERRACE
MIRAMAR, FLORIDA 33027

West 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the North 1/2 of Tract 8, Section 24 as to the SOUTHERN COLONIZATION COMPANY PLAT of Township 34 South, Range 33 East, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, Pages 3-3E, inclusive, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

SUBJECT to a road and drainage easement across the South thirty feet, (30') and the West sixty feet, (60'), of the aforementioned lot.

AND
East 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the North 1/2 of Tract 8, Section 24 as to the SOUTHERN COLONIZATION COMPANY PLAT of Township 34 South, Range 33 East, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, Pages 3 - 3E, inclusive, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

SUBJECT to a road and drainage easement across the South thirty feet, (30') of the aforementioned lot. Has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Marshall C. Watson, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1800 NW 49th STREET, SUITE 120, FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33309 within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the OKEECHOBEE NEWS and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) disabled person who, because of their disabilities need special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding Court Administrator at 250 NW Country Club Dr, Port St. Lucie, FL 34989. Phone 772-807-4370, 1-800-955-8771 (hearing impaired) or 1-800-955-8770 (voice impaired).

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court this 5th day of May, 2010.

Sharon Robertson
As Clerk of the Court

BY: Arlene Nealis
As Deputy Clerk

354336 ON 5/12,19/10

Fake Amber Alert making the email rounds

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

it should be verified before being acted upon.

A case in point is a fake AMBER alert that has been making the rounds via e-mail concerning a 15 year old boy named Evan Trembley. It contains the name

voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies and the wireless industry, to active an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases.

Some people in the Okeechobee area recently received an AMBER alert via e-mail concerning a 15

year old boy named Evan Trembley.

It contains the name

of Staff Sergeant

Rick Williams of the

Wichita Falls Police

Department. There

is no one at the

Wichita Falls Police

Department by that

name and the tele-

phone number given

for that officer is not

a working number.

According to

snopes.com, a web-

site dedicated to

checking the validity

of questionable in-

ternet information,

that AMBER alert

has been circulating

since mid-August of

2007.

The best way to verify an AMBER alert is to go to www.amberalert.gov, a website operated by the U.S. Department of Justice. A check of that website on Friday, May 14 revealed:

"There are no current AMBER Alerts."

The AMBER alert website recommends that an AMBER alert give as much information as possible to describe the child, the details of the abduction and what is known about the possible abductor. The Evan Trembley AMBER alert is curiously lacking in those details.

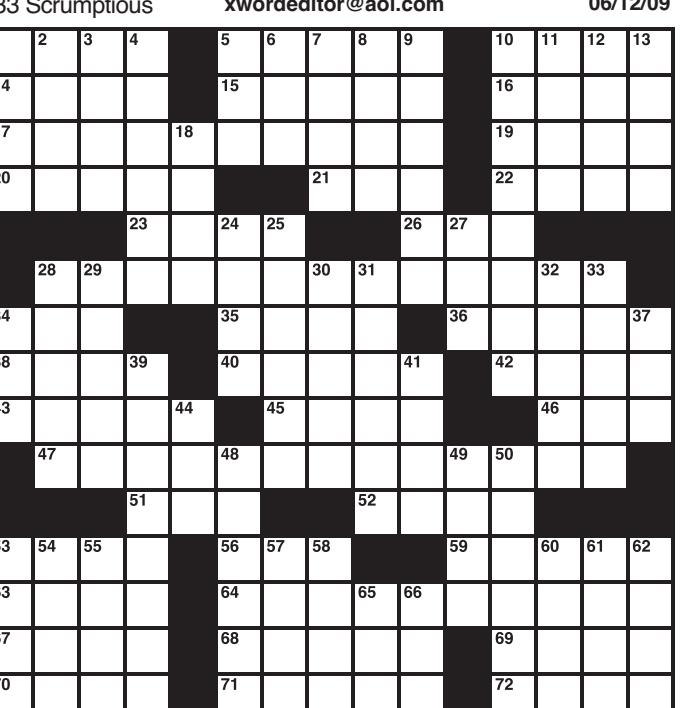
The fake AMBER alert directs persons with information on Evan Trembley to the e-mail address HelpFindEvanTrembley@Yahoo.com. According to snopes.com, that is a nonexistent address.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- 3 Crow
- 4 "Bad Blood" singer
- 5 Kingdom called the Friendly Islands
- 10 Biblical plague insect
- 14 Realty unit
- 15 Faint
- 16 Wear the crown
- 17 Where Jerry Garcia kept food for the band?
- 19 "Anything ___?"
- 20 Fertilizer source
- 21 "Who am ___ argue?"
- 22 Tar Heel State university
- 23 1990s speed skating gold medalist
- 26 One with a habit
- 28 Minimalist wall hanging?
- 34 Feathery stole
- 35 Chichi
- 36 Doozy
- 38 North Carolina county
- 40 Blue shades
- 42 ___ race
- 43 ___ go!"
- 45 "East of Eden" brother
- 46 Expressive rock genre
- 47 Small clergy group?
- 51 ___-de-vie: brandy
- 52 Trade barbs
- 53 Burlesque bit
- 56 Bygone carrier
- 59 Stared stupidly
- 63 Pay (up)
- 64 Wedding cake mock-up?
- 67 Blacken
- 68 Slacker
- 69 Fit
- 70 Ward of "The Fugitive"
- 71 Bear named for a president
- 72 Strategic WWI river



By Robin Stears
(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Find it faster. Sell it sooner in the classifieds

Golf winners

Okeechobee Golf and Country Club Gold T Winners for this week:

1 -- D. Thomas

as

2 -- C. Hendren

3 - Tie between B. Meyer and V. Johnson.

Community News in Brief

Free computer classes at public library

The Heartland Library Cooperative continues its mission to offer free weekly computer classes to citizens of Okeechobee County. Currently, Introduction to PCs is being offered at the Okeechobee County Library on Thursdays. Starting this month, Intermediate PCs will also be offered. Introduction to PCs allows beginner users the chance for hands-on experience in basic computer hardware and basic Microsoft™ software. The Intermediate PCs class will encompass the use of editing tools and the modification of personal settings within Microsoft Windows™. For schedules and information, call the Okeechobee County Library at 863-763-3536.

Yard sale to benefit homeless animals

The Humane Society Pet Rescue will hold a Yard Sale to benefit the rescued animals. All proceeds will be used to for the use of saving lives of animals. Please help by donating unwanted items, drop off 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekly at the shelter located 1203 Hwy 98 N. Donations for the pets can also be dropped off at the same location.

They are in need of Eukanuba adult and puppy food, towels, blankets, contractor size trash bags, printer paper, laundry and dish detergent. Volunteers to help with the caring of dogs, office duties, and fundraising are needed. The yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 22, starting at 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. 1203 Hwy 98 N. Call for donation pickup 863-357-1104.

Hurricane seminar planned

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will hold its annual Hurricane Preparedness Seminar on Thursday, June 3, at 5:30 p.m., at Raulerson Hospital to inform the public the importance of being prepared for this hurricane season.

Guest speakers will include: Eric Burris, Meteorologist, WPBF 25 News; Billy Dean, WOKC AM 1570 & FM 100.9; Mike Faulkner, Emergency Management; Karl Holkamp, Okeechobee County Fire Rescue; Marnie Lauter, Raulerson Hospital; Jenny Pung, Waste Management; Gary Ritter, South Florida Water Management District; Rob Shelt, American Red Cross; Major Noel Stephens, Sheriff's Office; Vicki Williams, Florida Department of Financial Services; Paulette Wise, Bank of America; Karl Holkamp; and others.

The seminar is free, but seated is limited. To reserve your seats, call 863-763-2488.

Seniors get help with electric bills

Okeechobee Senior Services has funds available to assist low income Seniors (60 years and over) with their electric bill. Call Kim at 863-462-5180 for further information. It must be a Florida Power and Light electric bill and recipient must be a resident of Okeechobee County.

Firecracker pageant benefits Fire/Rescue

The Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue Volunteers will host their annual Firecracker pageant fundraiser on June 19, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. Money raised will be used to purchase fire fighting equipment for Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue and fire prevention education materials for the children of Okeechobee County. Applications may be picked up at the Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue Station 1, Chloe's Closet, Lances Tree House, The Outpost and Photos by Bobbi For information, contact pageant coordinator Donny Arnold at 863-623-6464, or Margie at Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue 863-763-5544.

YES Teen Summer program accepting applications

The Parks and Recreation Department is accepting applications for the Youth Engaged in Service (YES) Program for teens ages 15-18. Get involved in your community this summer and earn up to 40 service hours. Applications and information sheets are available at the Rec. Dept. at 640 N.W. 27th Lane (in the Sports Complex) Monday-Friday, between 8:30-5 p.m. The YES Program will run Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for 5 weeks from June 28-July 29 (except July 5). Applications are due by Friday, May 28. The registration fee is \$155, due by June 18. For more information, please call Josephine O'Mallan at 863-763-6950.

Bloodmobile to visit

Help save lives by becoming a blood donor. If you are in good health, at least 17 years old and weigh at least 100 pounds, you can help save lives by donating blood.

Visit the blood mobile these locations:

- May 25, at SFWMD Field Office at 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- May 25, at U Save at 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- May 29, at Wal-Mart at 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- May 30, at Clock Restaurant at 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- May 31, on Memorial Day at 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

If you have any questions, speak to a medical professional at any of the blood drives.

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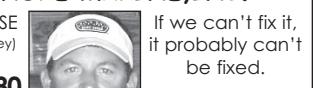
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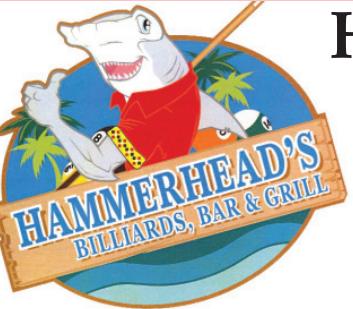
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