

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 80

Sunday, July 4, 2010

75¢ Plus tax



Students learn to recycle ... Page 5



Abuse has long-term effects on children and their families ... Page 3

## Lake Level

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Depth given in feet above sea level

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

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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Keeping cool ...

Jarren Hall found a way to cool off in the early July heat. He and his classmates at Stepping Stone Academy spent Friday afternoon, July 2 playing on a water slide. For more photos, see Page 18.

## Longtime residents remember holiday traditions

Fireworks were not always part of July 4

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

When the Fourth of July is mentioned, many people think of fireworks. However, swimming in Lake Okeechobee and eating watermelon seems to be more of a Fourth of July tradition than fireworks in Okeechobee.

Dozier Clements, 82, does not recall any fireworks in his younger days. While he does not remember any tradition his family had for observing the Fourth, he said that some families may have had picnics and swam in the lake at Taylor Creek. He said there was a sandbar at the mouth of the creek before the lock and dike were built where people used to swim. He said alligators did not seem to be as much of a problem as they are now. He also said there was a rodeo in Arcadia on the Fourth of July that some people attended.

Betty Chandler Williamson, president of the Okeechobee Historical Society remembers the Fourth of July because of a "watermelon ceremony." Her family of eight would gather around the kitchen table that was covered with newspapers. Her father would cut

See FOURTH — Page 18

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Raye Deusinger

## Kiwanis guest

Willie Johns, center, was guest speaker at the July 1, Kiwanis meeting. He recounted Seminole history and covered language, culture and traditions in a very interesting way. Welcoming him were Steve Porter, left, and Kiwanis President Jim Vensel, right.

## Shoe drive asks for gently worn shoes

American Drilling Services, Inc. will be accepting donations of new or gently used shoes for school aged children in the community. The shoes can be dropped off at American Drilling Services, Inc. located at 405 S.W. Second Street or call Sarah at 863-763-3221 if you need someone to pick them up. All of the shoes will be given away on a first come, first served basis on August 21 at the Back to School Bash at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.

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## Public Forum/Speak Out

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

### Flag ceremony

• Each and every American needs to support past, present and future members of the armed forces. The flag burning ceremony is our American Flag and represents, among other things, freedom. This freedom came at a cost. It is out of respect and pride for my nation and all that protect it that I attended this amazing service. I was very saddened that other Americans did not attend. This event was in the Okeechobee News and was held at 6:30 p.m. I thought that the attendance would have been overwhelming. What a disappointment! The Boy Scouts and the few members of the American Legion were outstanding. The other few spectators, I applaud you. When 9/11 occurred, Americans came together as a nation, where is the patriotism now?

### Town Hall meeting

• Has the county ever tried using a contractor to handle new grants? The contractor is paid a percentage of the grants he or she researches, finds, obtains and manages. If he or she does not successfully land any grants, he or she receives nothing. Grant writing is difficult and it is probably not very efficient to have a salaried person doing that because you have to pay them even if they don't land any grants.

### Alligator attack

• This time of year they are on the move looking for a mate and will travel long distances. We do not live near any water that we know of and several years ago we had a 7 foot gator in our front yard. Had to call the sheriff's department as Fish and Game would not come out and do anything. Because Fish and Game would not come out a trapper was called and the gator was killed for it's hide and meat.

• According to the FWC web site, FWC officers do not attempt to catch or move alligators. They just call the trappers. The trappers do not get any pay from the state. Their pay is the gator's hide and meat. So taking care of the alligator problem is not funded by tax dollars. FWC says they can't just relocate a gator because gators are very territorial, and if you drop a new gator into a wildlife area, the resident gators will attack it and usually either the new gator is killed or it kills one of the resident gators. There are more than 1 million alligators in Florida and all of the wildlife areas are pretty much at capacity for the number of alligators they can support. Of course the same thing happens when alligators move around looking for mates. If they enter other alligators' territory, there could be a fight.

• Look how dangerous these animals can be. Remember when that kid got his arm bit off by the gator in Nubbin Slough? We should be free to kill them whenever we want.

• In all fairness, the kid who had his alligator bitten off at Nubbin Slough knew the alligators were in the water and jumped in anyway. That was asking for trouble. That is their territory and he was invading it, knowing there were big gators there. They are dangerous, but they are native to Florida so you learn how to live with them. One thing you need to know is do not walk a dog near water or let your dog swim in the water. The alligators are native and belong there. The dog does not.

### Alligator out on a walk

• About a week ago I came across an alligator walking along the sidewalk across from the high school. It turned into the pond there. I reported this to an officer over at the school and he promised to relay the message to the proper authorities. This was no small gator. Today, I pulled my vehicle into the road area by the entrance of the parkway because I saw a man in his trunk with his dog wet with water and a ball in its mouth, so proud of it. I told him about the gator in the pond. No problem to him, his dog was able to take care of himself. Well, I am an animal person and love my dogs. I hope the gator is not there anymore. He was bigger than the culverts there. I worry that nothing was done about this. If not, I'm so very sorry.

### Budget deficit

• All the departments need to be streamlined from the top, to the bottom. Here they go now with the MSTU, which they will implement, bet your bottom tax dollar on that.

• Waste Management has a contract with the county from some years ago in which they agreed to give the county 100 acres. They are now offering to make good with 100 acres which they will buy or the county can instead take \$1.5 million, which is what they would have to spend on this particular 100 acres. I can't believe the county commission is even considering choosing the land. Not only does the county not need the 100 acres for anything in particular, but it would take it off the tax rolls. We need to get a big group in the audience like at a game show and shout "TAKE THE MONEY!" Not all of the commissioners are in favor of taking the land. As far as I know Commissioners Domer and Hoover were not in favor of the land but wanted to take the money.

• In regard to the budget, first they need to bite the bullet and approve the full fire assessment. Last year, they put that off and took the money out of the reserves to cover the bills. They can't dip into the shrinking reserves again this year. So just go ahead with the assessment and accept that some people will complain. Then, streamline the county government, get rid of any positions that are not essential and check into outsourcing things like payroll processing and using contractors for items such as grant writing. At least check to see what the difference in price would be. Or perhaps technology can help. With the right computer program, one person can do the job that used to take two or three. If there is a more cost efficient way to get things done, do it.

• I don't want to race to my phone to call 911 when someone is breaking into my home or a family member needs rescue and be put on hold because they made cut backs in dispatch. I don't want to be standing in front of my home to show the police where to go, and have to stand there for 30 minutes because some officers were laid off when other more obvious cuts could be made. I want to know if God forbid my child is in an accident, that every attempt was made to help her. I have and will always vote for higher taxes for police/fire rescue as long as I know that it is needed. You can't put a dollar amount on this type of service, just ask the two widows of the Tampa police officers that were killed yesterday.

• Until we get the constitutional officers to realize they work for the taxpayers it is the same old, same old. The sheriff scares everyone with his claims that he needs all the money he asks for or crime will be rampant, the EMS and fire department say they won't be able to do their jobs. All the surrounding counties have bit the bullet and let people go. Okeechobee County seems to think we cannot spend ourselves into bankruptcy. Think again.

### MSTU

• I keep reading about the cuts at the Sheriff's Office and some really good replies in support of the Sheriff. I would just like to say that I don't hear much about the Officer's working in the Jail. If you would just take a moment and think about this, when those people



report to work they spend 12 hours dealing with more inmates charged or convicted of felonies in one shift than the Road Patrol Deputies see in a lifetime of doing their job.

• The corrections officers do deserve credit for their difficult jobs to be sure. But the number of corrections officers is probably mandated by state law as to how many officers you need per so many numbers of inmates, so I don't think the county can just cut back on their numbers. And while their job is by no means easy, at least in the jail you already know what you are dealing with and aside from what they can make out of a toothbrush or something like that, they aren't armed. The deputies' job is more dangerous because they never know who will be dangerous or what kind of weapon they might have. The most dangerous cases that deputies handle are often things like domestic disputes and traffic stops because you never know when someone is going to just pull out a gun and start shooting. A deputy gets between a man and a wife who have been fighting and before you know it, both the man and the wife are attacking the deputy. Or a deputy goes up to a driver at a traffic stop because the guy ran a red light, and the driver thinks the deputy knows of other crimes he committed and pulls a gun.

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

## To Reach Us

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## To Submit News

The Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

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The Okeechobee News is available three times a week via home delivery and is on sale at rack and store locations throughout Okeechobee County. Call the office to find out if your home is within our present home-distribution boundaries.

Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.

Additional copies of the newspaper are available for 50 cents Wednesday and Friday and 75 cents for Sunday at the office. Home delivery subscriptions are available at \$18.00 for three months.

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## Our Purpose...

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

## 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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OF:



## Letters to the editor

### Central Elementary goes Green

Mrs. Fullea's fourth grade students at Central Elementary School started a project at the beginning of the school year to bring awareness for the need to recycle in our school and community. The project started on Nov. 15, 2009 National Recycle Day, students brought in a project made out of recycled material and wrote an essay on why we should recycle to help our planet.

On Jan. 25, 2010 Mrs. Lopez' third grade students and Mrs. Fullea's fourth grade students were awarded the Okeechobee Landfill Mini-Grant. The grant provided the students an opportunity to go on a field trip to the Okeechobee Landfill. The purpose of the field trip was to build learning through "real world experiences." The students were allowed to see the actual process of trash collection, and see the large amount of recyclable waste that is filling our landfill.

Students created a school wide awareness campaign. They created posters, filmed a video, and wrote articles in the classroom paper in English and Spanish. They also made landfill models, and invited all of Central's faculty, staff and students to sign a pledge to help "Central Go Green."

With the grant, awarded students were also given a recycle bin to take home. The purpose is for them to recycle paper and bring it to the school recycle dumpster. This will not only help their school, but also teach the students that they can make a difference in their community.

I want to thank Okeechobee Waste Man-



Special to the Okeechobee News/CES  
Students participating in the program were each given their own recycle bin reminding them to "Go Green" at home. In the back row are: Victor Gaona, Megan Hargraves, Hailey Spearow, Danielle Speck, Mckayla Skinner, Hunter Strickland and Shaun Hood. In the middle row are: Zayon Alderman, Sally Tijerina, Taylor Jordan, Abbey Jones, Daniel Fullea, and Jose Ramirez and in the front row are: Sierra Brydebell, Beatriz Perez, and Luis Terrazas.

agement for welcoming us to their facilities, and for an educational and fun field trip.

I also want to thank Mrs. Lopez' students for joining Mrs. Fullea's class on this journey.

A special thank you to all of my students for their hard work in making this project possible: Zayon Alderman, Sierra Brydebell, Daniel Fullea, Victor Gaona, Megan Hargraves, Shaun Hood, Abbey Jones, Taylor Jordan, Beatriz Perez, Jose Ramirez, Mckayla Skinner, Hailey Spearow, Danielle Speck,

Hunter Strickland, Luis Terrazas, Sally Tijerina, and Emma Van Camp.

The students learned that they can make a positive impact on their environment. We hope that you will join us not only to help "Central Go Green," but also our city of "Okeechobee."

"Yes We Can" – "Si Se Puede"

**Mrs. Fullea, 4th Grade Teacher**

B.A.S.E. program (Bilingual Academy of Spanish and English)

### To friends of the Okeechobee KOA

The generosity of businesses and our local community of great people continue to amaze me. The 7th Annual "Good Habits—Old Spirits" Putt-Putt Golf Tournament broke yet another record for KOA Care Camps. This year you raised \$23,975.58 in a variety of ways, which included the annual miniature golf tournament held on Memorial Day at Okeechobee KOA. The committee's goal was to top last year's total; last year's record was shattered by nearly \$4,000! Your phenomenal donations, auction prizes, support and fund raising efforts are a testament to your dedication to this very special cause and very special children.

Children's cancer camps are designed to meet the special needs of children enduring the physical and emotional challenges of this horrible disease. Your donation allows a memorable summer camp experience for these special children. Each year about 5,000 children with cancer are helped by KOA Care Camps. Since it began in 1984,



Special to the Okeechobee News/KOA  
Jay Johnson was the winner of the Seventh Annual Putt Putt fundraiser.

KOA Care Camps has grown from an initial distribution of \$8,000 to six camps to the \$242,000 that was distributed to 43 camps in 2009.

The great people of Okeechobee are considerable contributors to this cause. Some of our children from Okeechobee have enjoyed the camping experience at Florida's R.O.C.K. camp. Our local American Cancer Society administers childhood cancer programs like R.O.C.K. camp which stands for Reaching Out to Cancer Kids.

Just think of the smiles you help put on children's faces!

Thank you for your spirit of giving. Take pride in this amazing accomplishment and the significant impact it has on young people fighting cancer. You are truly great people.

**Wendy Woodman, General Manager  
Okeechobee KOA**

## Reflections from the pulpit

By Robyn Spradlin

The Vineyard

Have you ever looked at photographs that were out of focus? Even being slightly out of focus can distort the entire image. Working in a photo lab, I see pictures with quite the focal range on a daily basis. Some have only minor focus issues, while others are skewed beyond recognition of the focal point. For photos to be quality prints and of lasting value, focus is a must. The focal point of a photograph equals a writer's main character in a novel or play. It's what you see or focus on at the center.

Focus in our spiritual life is just as essential as it is for the writer or the photographer. Our lives reflect our focus. If our focus point is the evening news, the Dow Jones, unemployment rates, the latest new hit movie or television program, or even the supermarket tabloids, those things will be crisp, clear and concise, and just like it is with film or paper processing, the image will imprint on your spirit. However, if the Word of God is our focal point, then its image will be imprinted upon our spirits just as crisp, clear and concise as the other images.

We can see Jesus dealt with this same problem in His ministry, take a look at Philip and Andrew in John 6:1-14. They were focusing on what they did not possess, concern about what wasn't available. They forgot that Jesus was with them and He was asking for their cooperation. Jesus knew what He was

going to do before He asked anyone anything, before the little boy's lunch was presented (vs. 6). Before anyone's involvement, His focus was on the supply and its' manifestation. We can see Jesus ends up with too much, an over abundance of leftovers after 500 men had eaten, not counting women and children.

According to Genesis 1:28 mankind as a whole was created in God's image. In Jesus' life and ministry He said He did only what the Father said and what He had seen the Father do. His entire focal point was the Words of His Father and Jesus was also created in the image of His Father. My question is this, if Jesus operated in this manner, focusing on the supply, abundance and manifestation in the face of abject lack, how should we respond in our daily lives? What should our focus be? Is He not our example?

I can hear some saying, "but that was Jesus..." True, it was Jesus, but does not this same Jesus dwell within us? If you cannot answer a hearty "Yes," then you can change your status by asking Jesus into your heart today, receiving Him as Savior and Lord. Now, we are all ready to focus on the words of our Heavenly Father and bringing them into crisp, clarity and we will watch our lives take on the image of the Father's words, just like Jesus did! I'll leave you with food for thought. Ask yourself, what am I focusing on? Is my life a crisp, clear photograph or skewed by being out of focus?

## Okeechobee Forecast

**Independence Day:** Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 90. Calm wind becoming east southeast between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Tonight:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 73. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

### Extended Forecast

**Monday:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 91. South southeast wind around 5 mph.

**Monday Night:** A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

**Tuesday:** A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 89. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

## Lotteries

**Florida Lottery** — Here are the numbers selected Thursday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 5-1-4; **Play 4:** 4-9-2-4; **Fantasy 5:** 7-11-24-25-33; **Mega Money:** 7-11-22-40 MB 4; **Florida Lotto:** 5-9-12-17-31-46 X 4; **Powerball:** 6-38-43-47-48 PB 27 x5. Numbers drawn PM, **Cash 3:** 2-9-4; **Play 4:** 2-8-6-0.



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## Community Events

### Redneck Yacht Club plans benefit on Tuesday, July 6

The Redneck Yacht Club will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **July 6** at 6 p.m., at Butch's backyard bar. They will discuss a benefit they plan to host in July to help Rick Krnotch, a local musician. Rick had heart surgery and needs our help to pay hospital expenses. Anyone who knows Rick and would like to help with this benefit is encouraged to attend. Hope to see you all there. For questions, call Dot at 863-763-8262.

### Habitat for Humanity meeting changed for July 6

Location of Habitat for Humanity of Okeechobee's Monthly Meeting has been changed to Hampton Inn meeting room. The next meeting will be held on **July 6**, at Hampton Inn 1200 S.R. 70 East at 6:00pm, refreshments will be served.

### Red Cross plans July Health and Safety classes in July

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will hold the following Health & Safety classes in July:

- Wednesday, **July 7** - First Aid Basics at 6 p.m.
- Monday, July 12 - Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.m.
- Thursday, July 22 - Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m.

All classes are held at their Service Center, located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

### Summer 'Teen Dance Party' set for July 10

Another great night is planned for local teens at the next Teen Dance Party set for Saturday, **July 10**, from 7 until 10 p.m. at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus. Live music will be presented by DP Productions. The cost for the dance is just \$7 per person and admission includes pizza, soda and chips! All proceeds will benefit the Real Life Children's Ranch.

### Gordie Peer display at local library

Gordie Peer, former western film stuntman, Wild West entertainer, and local rancher, will display his extensive collection of cowboy and western film memorabilia the month of July at the Okeechobee County Library, 206 S.W. 16th Street. The display runs from now through **July 31**. The Library will reopen after the long weekend on Tuesday, July 6 at 9:30 a.m. Call the library at 863-763-3536 for more information.

### Nutritional class to be held

A CRA nutritional analysis class will be held Monday, **July 12** at 5:30 p.m. at Douglas Chiropractic and Fitness Center. The class will be taught by Dr. Edward Douglas. This is free to the community. For more information, call 863-763-4320.

### Hospice to host Special Yard Sale July 15 and 16

Hospice of Okeechobee (411 SE Fourth Street) will hold a Gigantic Yard Sale on Thursday, **July 15** and Friday, **July 16**, from 8 a.m. until noon. Specialty Items This Sale: children's play clothes. We have new items galore offered at extremely reasonable prices. Funds raised will benefit patient care, including services at The Hamrick Home. If you wish to donate items to the Yard Sale, drop off times are weekdays between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. For information call 863-467-2321.

### Benefit for School Crossing Guard Alice Sippert

Join us on **July 17** at 11 a.m. at the American Legion for a pork dinner, live music and auction to help Alice Sippert out. Alice has suffered an illness that left her unable to work. Hospital stays, doctors and no medical insurance finds her with bills that keep piling up. The pork dinner is \$8. Auctioneer, Jeff Osborne at 1 p.m. Now accepting cash or donations for auction. Call Jeff at 863-634-7389; Danny at 863-697-0127; or Bruce at 863-634-4652.

### Freedom Outreach Fishing Tournaments July 25

The Freedom Outreach Fishing Tournaments will be held on **July 25** and Aug. 29. The \$80 cash entry fee for each tournament in the series includes the Big Fish Pot and the Classic Fund, with a 70 percent payback. The final event, the Classic, will be held Sept. 26. To qualify for the classic, you must have fished at least four events since spring. The classic will be a one-day event with a \$120 cash entry fee. All tournaments are held at Scott Driver park from safe light until 2 p.m. with Taylor Creek as the alternate in case of low water. Please register early. To get an entry application or for questions, call 863-634-3790 or 863-634-9889.

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with an  Online Guestbook

**Online Guestbook**

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### Collaborative Council meeting set for July 27

The next meeting of the Community Collaborative Council, a part of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, will be Tuesday, **July 27**, at 10 a.m. in the board room of the School Board Office. It is open to the public. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the community to identify issues regarding services for children and their families. Guest speakers: Lynn Vidulich, Foster Grandparent Program and Candace Pope, Okeechobee County Health Dept. - S.W.A.T. Please remember to support our back-to-school supply drive with your donations (financial and/or supplies) through the month of July. Call Sharon Vinson at 863-462-5000, Ex. 257 with any questions.

### Tantie Quilters to meet at Historical Museum

The "Tantie Quilters" will have the Historical Museum open on several dates during July and August. It will be open on Thursday, **July 29**. August meeting dates are Thursday, Aug. 5 and Aug. 26. The hours are 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Call Betty Williamson at 863-763-6226 with questions.

## Obituaries

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

### Dawn Lynn Johnston

OKEECHOBEE — Dawn Lynn Johnston, age 38, died June 30, 2010, in Okeechobee, Florida.

Dawn was employed as a counselor with G4S Youth Development Facility in Okeechobee.

Her main interests in life included rearing her three children, dancing and swimming.

She is survived by her husband, Mark Johnston; two sons, Mark Johnston, Jr. and Charles Johnston; and daughter Michaela Johnston, all of Port St. Lucie, Florida.

In addition, she is survived by her mother and step-father Colleen (Fred) Heitmann, of Okeechobee; father Melvin (Mary) Solarczyk of Nashville, Tennessee; and one brother, Joseph John (Amy) Solarczyk of Bradford, Pennsylvania.

A celebration of life will be held, Monday, July 5, 2010, at Abundant Blessings Church Sanctuary, at 11:00 AM with Pastor John Hirst, of Peace Lutheran Church officiating.

The family requests casual attire. A reception will take place following the ceremony in the Fellowship Hall.

All arrangements are under the care and direction of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory, 4550 Highway 441 N., Okeechobee, Florida.

*Buxton*  
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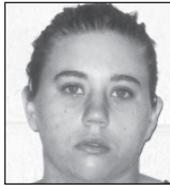
Paul M. Buxton L.F.D. ~ Marilyn A. Buxton  
~ Matthew P. Buxton, L.F.D.

# Mother faces charges of failing to protect child

An Okeechobee woman was arrested June 1, on felony charges on child abuse/neglect (failure to protect.) Ashley Nichole Lawson, 20, of Northwest Ninth, was arrested by Detective Rosemary Farless.

According to the detective's report, Lawson is accused of neglecting her three year old daughter. She is accused of allowing marijuana to be smoked in the little girl's presence. She is also accused of refusing to take the child to the doctor to check on allegations that the girl had been molested, and with continuing to leave the child alone with her alleged molester after the allegations were reported to her.

According to the report, a woman who rented a room to Lawson told deputies that Lawson had smoked marijuana in the room



**Ashley Lawson**

with her daughter and that she left the girl with babysitters for days at a time. When her regular babysitter was not available, the little girl was reportedly left with anyone the mother could find.

The deputies interviewed the regular babysitter who also made allegations that Lawson allowed the little girl to be around people smoking marijuana. She also stated the little girl told her she had been sexually abused, and that she had reported this to the mother and asked the mother to take the girl to the doctor. She stated the mother did not take the child to the doctor and continued to leave the girl

alone with the man the girl named as her abuser.

When deputies arrived at Lawson's residence, she was not at home. A neighbor in the apartment next door came out and explained the little girl was with her. When the deputies asked the neighbor for a contact number she said she did not have a contact number for Lawson and had only known her two days. The neighbor agreed to bring the child to the sheriff's office. Once at the office, the neighbor said Lawson had called her and would meet them at the sheriff's office. Detective Farless noted the little girl had dark circles under her eyes and smelled of being dirty.

The report states that when Lawson arrived at the sheriff's office, she was in-

terviewed by the detective and deputies. Lawson told deputies she did not know the last name of the person she had left her daughter with, saying that the woman was her friend's cousin, "and if the friend trusts her then so does she."

According to the report, Lawson admitted knowing about the sexual abuse allegations for six weeks. "When I asked Lawson why she had not taken her daughter to the doctor to be checked or called law enforcement, she said she did not know," the report continues. The child was released to her paternal grandmother and was to be taken for a medical exam.

# Man faces charges of capital sexual battery

An Okeechobee man was arrested July 1 on capital sexual battery on a four-year-old child.

Robert Powell, 27, was accused of sexual battery on a four-year-old. According to the report, Powell, who is unemployed and homeless, was staying with the child's parents at the time. The alleged incidents reportedly occurred at night while the little girl's parents were asleep.

The alleged abuse was reported to law enforcement after the little girl spent the

night at the home of a family friend. The friend noticed the girl touching herself in a sexual manner and questioned her about it. When the child told her how the man had reportedly touched her and what he had done to her, the friend reported it to the parents. The parents and the friend brought the child to the sheriff's office.

According to the report, the child told investigators that Powell had molested her, and described what happened with details that a young child would not normally know.

The parents reported that they did not

suspect anything until the friend told them what the girl told her. After learning of the alleged abuse, however, they recalled Powell had been voluntarily doing the laundry even before there was a full load, and that he had been laundering the sheets from the child's bed frequently.



**Robert Powell**



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# Main Street Mixer attendees enjoy sounds of the '80s

Seacoast National Bank celebrated the 1980s while hosting the June Okeechobee Main Street Mixer. Melody Hodges and her staff decorated the lobby of the North Parrott Branch with vinyl albums, lava lamps, photos of celebrities, games and music of the 80s. Over 60 people attended this fun event, enjoyed food catered by Dee-Stefano's of Indiantown, door prizes and networking.

Okeechobee Main Street's July Mixer will be held at the Law Firm of Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd and Lloyd located at 212 South Parrott Avenue on Tuesday, July 20, from 5-7 p.m. As always everyone is invited to come and check out the most accomplished and visible organization in Okeechobee, Okeechobee Main Street.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OKMS "Seacoast National Rocks" was the word from the staff of Seacoast National Bank and Okeechobee Main Street during the June 17, mixer.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OKMS The staff of Seacoast National Banks North Branch helped to celebrate the 1980s in true clothing style!

# Okeechobee Arrest Report

The following individuals were arrested on felony or driving under the influence (DUI) charges by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the Department of Corrections (DOC).

- James Edward Long, 24, of Southwest 20th Avenue, was arrested June 30, and charged with throwing a deadly missile into an occupied vehicle. He was also charged with a misdemeanor charge of battery. He is accused of throwing a half-full can of beer into a vehicle. OCSO Max Waldron was the arresting officer. Bond was set at \$10,500.

- George William Reichart, 28, of Southeast 40th Drive, was arrested July 1 on an Okeechobee County warrant and charged with unemployment fraud. Bond was set at \$2,500.

- Jeffrey Roy Bedwell, 49, of Northeast 34th Lane, was arrested July 1 on a Hillsborough County warrant and charged with violation of probation - possession of a controlled substance. No bond was set.

- Charles Ives Garrett, 52, of Southwest Ruck Dairy Road, was arrested July 1 on a Highlands County warrant and charged with grand theft, two counts of dealing in stolen property. Bond was set at \$11,000.

- Richard Leroy Boss, 64, of Cedartown, Ga., was arrested July 2 by the Okeechobee County Streetcrimes Unit on a Georgia warrant. He is charged with sexual battery. No bond was set.

*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.*

## Correction

A story in the Friday, July 2, 2010 edition of this newspaper, with the headline, "Local traffic fatality rate went up in 2009," was in error.

The statistics given for traffic accidents in Okeechobee County and the City of Okeechobee from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles gave the total number of traffic crashes in the City of Okeechobee in 2009 as 80 and the total number countywide for 2009 as 337.

According to the Okeechobee City Police Department, OCP officers worked 448 traffic accidents in the city limits in 2009.

Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office records indicate OCSO deputies worked 345 traffic accidents outside the city limits in 2009.

These figures do not include the accidents worked by Florida Highway Patrol officers in Okeechobee County in 2009.

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# Local resident full of life at 98

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

At 98 years of age Merle Hathaway is more active than many men much younger than him. He has lived a long, full life and is still involved in volunteer activities at the Okeechobee County Senior Services Center. Mr. Hathaway recently received the Mangrove Grove Bay Service Award to Seniors given by the Area Agency on Aging, competing against nominees from senior service organizations in Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie and Palm Beach counties.

Mr. Hathaway said he was surprised to get the award. He did not expect it. He helps out daily in the kitchen at the senior services center doing "anything there is to do."

"I just did it because nobody else will do it," he said of his volunteer activities.

In the winter about 90 people a day come to the senior services center. In the summer that number drops to 40 or 50.

Mr. Hathaway has been coming to the Okeechobee Senior Services Center for about four years. Before that he used to go the senior services center in Brighton.

He said the secret of his long life is "hugging the women." On a more serious note Mr. Hathaway offered the following advice: "Be happy and don't worry about stuff, let the Lord take care of it." He is a faithful member of Oakview Baptist Church.

Mr. Hathaway has had a wide variety of jobs. He remembers working for a wholesale grocer for 28 cents an hour during the Great Depression. He said he was able to keep his job when many people lost theirs because people had to eat. In Ohio he was justice of the peace and county judge. In his official capacity, he performed many marriage ceremonies.

Mr. Hathaway came to West Palm Beach in 1956 where he worked for a bottled gas company. In 1970 he moved to Okeechobee which he describes as "an old cow town." However he says, Okeechobee is not much

of a cow town anymore. When he first came here everything was closed on Wednesday afternoons and Sundays. He said there wasn't even anyplace open to eat on Sundays and U. S. 441 carried much less traffic.

His wife passed away 13 years ago. If she had lived another two months, they would have been married 65 years. They had two children and adopted a third. Mr. Hathaway now lives with his daughter and son-in-law.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda  
**Merle Hathaway, 98, received the Mangrove Grove Bay Service to Seniors Award for his volunteer work at the Okeechobee County Senior Citizens Center.**

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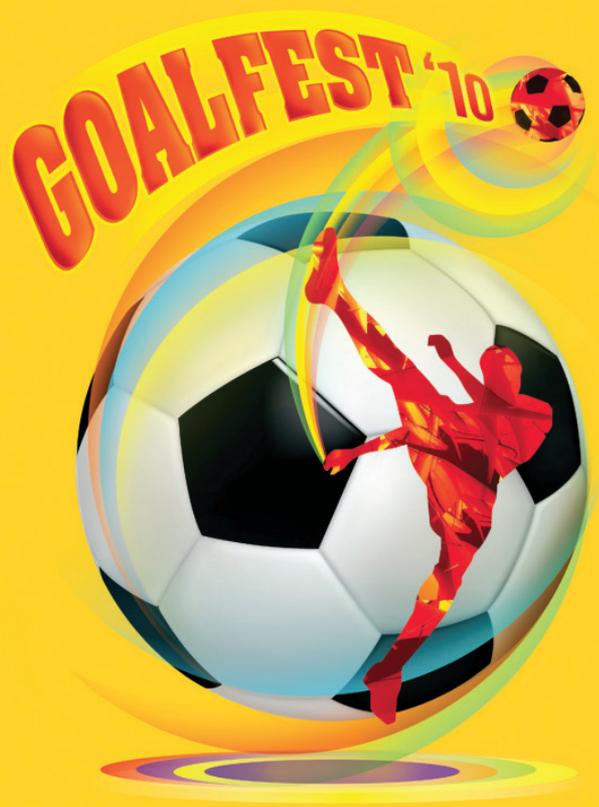
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# EMS assessment likely to increase

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

When it comes to the emergency medical services (EMS) assessment Okeechobee County residents pay, it could be a case of "pay me now or pay me later."

Last year the newly imposed EMS assessment caused quite a lot of controversy among taxpayers. The way the assessment was calculated, the amount of money needed to fund EMS was to be distributed among all users of the service. Each user of the service would pay their proportional share of the cost. In a sense, it was to be a fee for EMS services. The way the county's consultant calculated it, each residential unit would pay \$74. However, commissioners voted to cut that in half to \$37. The other \$37 for each residence had to come out of reserves.

This year county administrator Lyndon Bonner has said the county does not have the reserves to draw upon. Therefore, unless some other source of income is found or EMS expenses are reduced, the EMS assessment will have to be raised.

Commissioners will have to set the EMS assessment rate for the coming budget year. The maximum they can raise it is to \$99. However, it is more likely that the rate would be increased to the originally recommended \$74.

It has been suggested that a sales tax be put on the November ballot to help offset EMS expenses. However, no official action has been taken to date to make that happen. The budget and EMS assessment rate will have to be approved by Sept. 30. The result of a referendum on a sales tax would not be known until November and the tax would not go into effect until January.

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



## "Community Sports Mid-Year Report"



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Special to the Okeechobee News/First Baptist Church

### Up in the air

These Impact Cheerleaders are showing off what they learned at the Impact Cheerleading Camp at First Baptist Church June 14 - 18. Impact Cheerleading is a competitive program for girls kindergarten through twelfth grade.

# Summertime heat can be dangerous for pets

**By Dr. Jane Bicks, DVM**  
Pet Rescue Humane Society

If it's hot for you then it's hot for our dogs, cats and horses. Did you know that high heat and sun can kill an animal? Did you know that sunburn can be a concern on light animals? Light animals can be kept in shady areas. Sun blocks are available and work well on the noses of dogs and horses. Since sun burn can cause cancer, I like to see sun blocks used on light colored dogs and horses.



Heat stroke is more dangerous than sunburn. It frequently occurs during exercise. If it is hot for you then it is hot for your dog or horse. Riding and exercising should be done only in the morning or late afternoon or evening (unless they are conditioned to it). Older dogs should have a veterinarian check up to make sure that they don't have any underlying problems. Heat stresses the entire body. All outdoor dogs and horses must have shade. Equally important is fresh water that can't be spilled. Animals will drink less than they need if the water is dirty. Hosing your pet and or giving it a kiddie pool to stay in is a real cool down treat. Fans work great outside next to your dog and in barns. There are different types of cooling products available for dogs which include beds and cooling bandanas.

Pets don't do well in cars or trucks during the summer. If you are going to run chores your dog should stay home. Keeping a dog in a running air conditioned car sounds reasonable but if the engine should stop your dog can die from heat stroke. A policeman accidentally killed his dog that way. Leaving the windows open is not a good option since the car gets hot and there simply is not enough air flow. Leaving your dog in a cage in the back of the truck is also wrong. When the truck is parked chances are that the dog will be in the sun. If you must do this, water must be plentiful.

Pets don't deal with the heat the way we do. Dogs really don't sweat except for their feet. They cool down by panting, bringing

in the cooler air and letting out the warmer. The skin also helps. The blood vessels enlarge so that as the blood flows through the body it gets cooled. Horses do sweat, unless they are non-sweaters. These horses can't cool themselves down so they should be kept in shade or in the barn with fans. Electrolytes are a must.

Just as we need to make changes in our lifestyles so we don't over heat, we have to make changes for our pets as well.

## Brian King Youth Minister

PAID CONTENT

Brian King has made Okeechobee his home for the last sixteen years. He attended Warner University, a Christian college in Lake Wales, Florida, and graduated with a degree in elementary education in 2000. For the past seven years he has taught sixth grade science at Yearling Middle School. Coaching soccer has also been a big part of Brian's involvement in the community. He has coached both boys' and girls' teams at the high school and is currently a coach and board member for Okeechobee Club Soccer. It was in college where he met his wife, Melissa. She has taught at South Elementary and is currently a stay-at-home mom. They have three children, Andrew, Caleb, and Jacey.

Brian has just accepted a position as Youth Minister at Okeechobee Christian Church located at the corner of Charles Harvey Hwy. and SE 18th Terr. (863) 467-7858.

# Your right to reply.



We are pledged to operate our newspaper as a public trust. Fairness is extremely important to us.

We admit our errors promptly and we don't "bury" the corrections. (If error appears on the front page, that's where we print the correction.)

Sometimes people don't like what has been written about them. In those cases, we offer a "right to reply" and allow them to tell their own side of the story.

How are we doing?

Let us know by emailing [feedback@newszap.com](mailto:feedback@newszap.com) or call your editor.

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Special to the Okeechobee News  
**On May 20, 205 seniors received scholarships at the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. Local scholarships received totalled \$748,013. (above) Chet Pluskott presented Kaley Dees with the Everglades Farm Equipment Scholarship on OHS Scholarship Night 2010.**



Special to the Okeechobee News  
**Jeff Sumner presented Paige Arnold with the Farm City Scholarship on OHS Scholarship Night 2010 held May 20 at the OHS Lecture Hall.**



**Phoebe Raulerson presented Kaley Dees with the Jay Raulerson Memorial Scholarship on OHS Scholarship Night 2010 held May 20 at the OHS Lecture Hall.**

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# Corps adjusts releases from lake

In accordance with the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (2008 LORS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District adjusted water releases from Lake Okeechobee at 7 a.m. Thursday, July 1. The new target flow to the St. Lucie Estuary, measured at St. Lucie Lock and Dam (S-80), is 200 cubic feet per second (cfs). Target flow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary at the W. P. Franklin Lock and Dam (S-79) is 450 cfs. Previous average daily target flows were 1,170 cfs and 3,000 cfs, respectively.

Thursday's lake level was at 14.03 feet NGVD, which is more than 1.75 feet above what is predicted by the 2008 LORS.

The Corps strives to maintain the lake between 12.5 and 15.5 feet NGVD. The Corp's decision to reduce releases to 200 and 400 cfs was based on a number of factors including the current lake level, Thursday's date relative to the days remaining in the wet season, and the weather forecast. Given these conditions, the 2008 LORS Part D (Allowable Lake Okeechobee Releases to Tide), requires a reduction in releases to a maximum flow of 200 cfs to the St. Lucie and 400 cfs to the Caloosahatchee.

The Corps has worked to achieve a downward trend in the level of Lake Okeechobee since before the rainy season began. A wetter than normal dry season caused unusually high lake levels at the end of the dry season. Beginning on March 2, the lake was at 13.55 feet and releases to the Caloosahatchee River were initiated. After the lake continued to rise, and with the lake at 14.38 feet on March 27, the Corps began higher volume releases.

"Since last March, we've tried to mini-

mize the effects of fresh water releases from Lake Okeechobee on the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries," said LTC Michael Kinard, Deputy District Commander for South Florida.

"We've monitored conditions closely and worked with other agencies and an array of stakeholders to take into consideration the responses of the estuaries to our releases. We're hopeful that we'll continue to see beneficial evaporation/transpiration over the next 30-45 days to maintain the downward trend in lake level."

The purpose of releases from Lake Okeechobee is to create capacity for precipitation and basin runoff expected during the wet season. The ability of Lake Okeechobee to hold water is limited by two key factors: the stability of the Herbert Hoover Dike and the viability of the lake's sensitive littoral and interior ecosystems. Protecting life and property is the Corps' top priority. Lake Okeechobee's water level can rise up to six times faster than water can be discharged. One foot of rainfall in the watershed north of the lake can produce a four-foot rise in the lake's water level.

Close monitoring of conditions throughout the system will continue. Conditions remain wet throughout much of south Florida, and there is no significant storage capacity available in other parts of the regional system or more information on water level data and flows for Lake Okeechobee and the Central and Southern Florida Project, visit the Corps' water management page at: <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Divisions/Engineering/Branches/WaterResources/WaterMgt/index.htm>.

## July blood drives planned

To donate blood is to help save lives. As we celebrate our country's birth, we can remember those whose lives you've saved. Please keep up the good fight, in our country's honor:

**Thursday, July 8** - Okeechobee County Health Dept., 9-3

**Sunday, July 11** - Golden Corral, 11-4.



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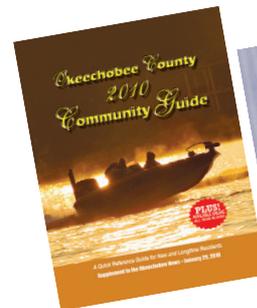
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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Summer fun

Bryanna Cutler found a way to beat the heat. She and her classmates at Stepping Stone Academy spent Friday afternoon, July 2 playing on a water slide.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Fun in the summer time

Students at Stepping Stone Academy enjoyed an afternoon playing on a water slide Friday afternoon, July 2.

## FOURTH

Continued From Page 1

the melon from end to end with a butcher knife. Then he would pull it apart with his hands. She still remembers the cracking sound that was made. Her father would then take a thin slice from the heart of the melon saying he wanted to make sure it was good enough for his family. Then each of the family members would get a slice to go outside and eat.

"With juice from this exotic fruit running

down our arms, we managed to have a watermelon spitting contest," Mrs. Williamson said. "I was 10 years old before I realized watermelon was served inside restaurants with a fork and knife."

Jimmy Minnehan, 92, doesn't recall any special celebration of the Fourth during the Great Depression, "Nobody had any money for firecrackers," he said. However, he does remember swimming in the lake as does long time resident Mary McGill.

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

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Special to the Okeechobee News/First Baptist Church

## Impact Cheerleading Camp

The Impact Cheerleading program sponsored by First Baptist Church is a competitive program for girls kindergarten through twelfth grade. At the 2010 National Championship held in Orlando the First Baptist Impact Cheerleaders took two awards, Second Place in the Novice Division, Fourth Grade and Under and Fourth Place, High School and Under. The church recently held an Impact Cheerleading Camp June 14 - 18. Taking part in the camp were, front row, left to right, Deborah Nichols, Megan Underwood, Cera Elliott, Riley Owens, Katie Forrester, Natalie Mitchell, Gracie Gamiotea, Janelle Markham, Alexandria Boon, middle row, Daylin Walker, Makayla Underwood, Ashlyn Lafferty, Taylor Jordan, Alexi Morgan, Hannah Hedrick, Bianca Fulk, Lauren Raulerson, back row, Maliah Wright, Kristn Shorter, Jennie Busbin, Kallie Yates, Chayse Harrel, Jessica Bylsma, Tegan Mullins. Not pictured: Karlyn and Kylie Daniel.

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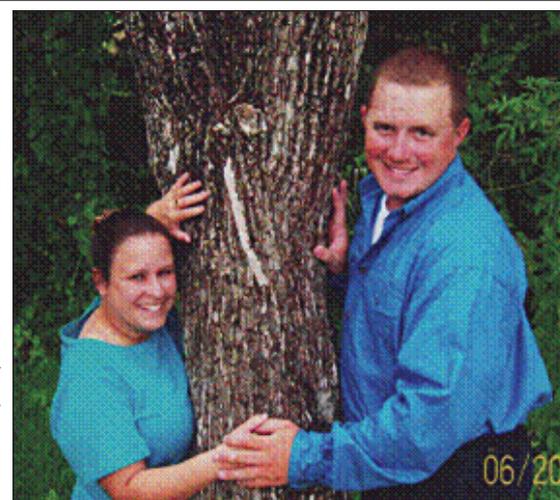
Toll Free:  
(888) 874.2945

104 N.W. 7th Ave. Okeechobee

### ENGAGEMENT

**SONJA ROSE COURSON & RANDY LEE GRIEN**

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Courson are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Sonja Rose Courson to Randy Lee Griem the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Erickson. An early December wedding is being planned.



## Summer Specials

**7 DAYS A WEEK** **Clock** (863) 467-2224  
*Family Restaurants*

### Weekday Breakfast Specials

Starting At **\$3.49**  
Served 6 -11 a.m.

### Weekday Lunch Specials

only **\$5.99**  
Served 11a.m. -3 p.m.

Add A Soda, Tea Or Coffee Only \$.99

All you can eat fish and shrimp **\$9.99**

Served Friday and Saturday from 4 to 11 pm

### Shrimp Fest

Starting At **\$7.99**

### Seniors

7 Days A Week  
**2 for \$11.59**

From Senior Dinner Menu.

Includes: soup or salad, ice cream or pudding

### 2 Dinners -Your Choice For One Price....

1. N.Y. Strip Steak
2. Shrimp Scampi
3. Country Fried Steak
4. Grilled Pork Chops
5. Chicken Tenders
6. Grilled Mahi Mahi
7. Roast Turkey Breast...

All Specials Served With 2 Sides, Soup Or Salad, And Complimentary Pudding Or Ice Cream...

Federal Tax Rebate UP TO **\$1,500**

Reclaim Your Independence

FPL Rebate UP TO **\$1,000**

CASH in on Your Clunker

MFG Rebate UP TO **\$1,200**

Serving the entire lake area for over 25 years

**QUALITY A/C** and Heating of Okeechobee

"Our Focus Is To Make You Comfortable"

**467-1545**

\*Based on capacity & efficiency ratings.  
\*\*Tax Credit up to \$1,500.

\*\*Offer expires 6/30/2010 \*Rebate offer is valid only with the purchase of qualifying Mfg products. \*\*See dealer for details and visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for more information on the credit guidelines and list of qualifying heating and cooling equipment.

**THRU  
JULY  
5TH!**

**Largest Selection In The South East!**

# BIG 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY SALE

**We Will BEAT ANY ADVERTISED PRICE  
Or We'll Give You The Vehicle At NO CHARGE!**

**0% APR FINANCING!**

**SAVINGS UP TO \$11,482**

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!**  
WRITE A LETTER TO A SOLDIER, BRING THE LETTER TO ARRIGO & RECEIVE A FREE ZAC BROWN BAND CD!

**ARRIGODCJ.COM**

**Brand New 2010 Dodge RAM 1500 QUAD CAB**

**AS LOW AS: \$15,999\***

**Brand New 2010 Dodge JOURNEY SE**

DEALER LIST PRICE: .... \$22,161  
REBATES & DISCOUNTS: ... \$6,162†  
**AS LOW AS: \$15,999\***

**Brand New 2010 Dodge GRAND CARAVAN**

**MINIVAN PLEDGE**  
ENJOY IT FOR 60 DAYS. IF YOU DON'T ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT, WE PLEDGE TO TAKE IT BACK!†

**AS LOW AS: \$17,999\***

**Brand New 2010 Dodge RAM 2500 CREW CAB**

DEALER LIST PRICE: .... \$32,791  
REBATES & DISCOUNTS: ... \$7,792†  
**AS LOW AS: \$24,999\***

**Brand New 2010 Chrysler PT CRUISER**

DEALER LIST PRICE: .... \$19,991  
REBATES & DISCOUNTS: ... \$5,992†  
**AS LOW AS: \$13,999\***

**Brand New 2010 Chrysler TOWN & COUNTRY TOURING**

DEALER LIST PRICE: .... \$34,176  
REBATES & DISCOUNTS: ... \$6,177†  
**AS LOW AS: \$27,999\***

**Brand New 2010 Jeep WRANGLER SPORT 4X4**

**RECEIVE \$500 IN MOPAR ACCESSORIES WITH PURCHASE!**

DEALER LIST PRICE: .... \$23,806  
REBATES & DISCOUNTS: ... \$5,207†  
**AS LOW AS: \$18,599\***

**160 WRANGLERS TO CHOOSE!**

**Brand New 2010 Jeep GRAND CHEROKEE**

DEALER LIST PRICE: .... \$32,486  
REBATES & DISCOUNTS: ... \$10,487†  
**AS LOW AS: \$21,999\***

## ARRIGO DODGE CHRYSLER JEEP Palm Beach



**DODGE**



**Jeep**

**Sales:**  
**1-888-701-2266**  
STORE HOURS: • MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8:30AM - 9:00PM  
SATURDAY: 8:30AM - 9:00PM • SUNDAY: 11:00AM - 6:00PM

**6500 OKEECHOBEE BLVD.  
WEST PALM BEACH  
WEST OKEECHOBEE BOULEVARD & THE TURNPIKE**



**Service:**  
**1-877-666-6709**  
SERVICE & PARTS: • MONDAY - FRIDAY: 7:30AM - 6:00PM  
BODY SHOP HOURS: • SATURDAY: 8:00AM - 5:00PM

\*PRICES PLUS TAX TAG TITLE DEALER INSTALLED OPTIONS AND FEES. ALL REBATES APPLIED INCLUDING OWNER LOYALTY AND LEASE LOYALTY REBATES. CUSTOMER MUST QUALIFY FOR ALL REBATES AND INCENTIVES. DEALER RETAINS ALL REBATES AND INCENTIVES INCLUDING OWNER AND LEASE LOYALTY. ALL VEHICLES SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE. MUST PRESENT AD AT TIME OF PURCHASE TO RECEIVE ADVERTISED OFFERS. OFFERS EXPIRE DATE OF PUBLICATION. DEALER NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS OR OMISSIONS. VEHICLE ART FOR ILLUSTRATION ONLY. OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT MAY BE SHOWN. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER OFFERS. OTHER RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. PREVIOUS SALES EXCLUDED. \*\* WE WILL BEAT ANY LOCAL, VALID, PRINTED ADVERTISEMENT FROM ANOTHER AUTHORIZED DODGE CHRYSLER OR JEEP DEALER WITHIN THE SE BUSINESS CENTER ZONE ON ANY NEW, IDENTICALLY EQUIPPED IN STOCK VEHICLE. IF WE FAIL TO BEAT THE PRICE, WE WILL GIVE YOU OUR VEHICLE AT NO CHARGE. CUSTOMER MUST PRESENT COMPETITORS AD AT TIME OF PURCHASE AND SUPPLY ACCURATE VIN NUMBER. COMPETITORS AD MUST BE DATED SAME DAY AS THE CUSTOMERS PURCHASE. EXCLUDES TAX, TAG, TITLE, DEALER INSTALLED OPTIONS. IF WE BEAT THE COMPETITORS PRICE, YOU MUST BUY THE VEHICLE FROM ARRIGO. DEALER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE VEHICLE FROM OTHER DEALER. OTHER RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. RANKINGS BASED ON REGISTERED SALES FOR CHRYSLER CORP. \*ON SELECT MODELS, TERMS VARY, WITH APPROVED CREDIT TO QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS, RESTRICTIONS APPLY. †REBATES VARY ON SELECT MODELS. \*\* BASED ON JEEP COMMANDER STK#105259. ††MINIVAN PLEDGE IN LIEU OF CERTAIN INCENTIVES, RESTRICTIONS APPLY, SEE DEALER FOR FULL DETAILS. CD WHILE SUPPLIES LAST, LIMIT ONE CD PER LETTER.