OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 86 | Sunday, July 18, 2010 | 75¢ Plus tax

Teen dance party
... Page 9

Coquina Water Control District plans road work
... Page 11

Lake Levels

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Man accused of stabbing former lover

Okeechobee man faces first degree murder charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

"This is what you get for leaving me for another man!"

And with that, said a local detective, Enrique Arellano-Medrano reportedly plunged a knife into the upper chest of his former paramour. Angelica Delacruz died at the scene.

Arellano-Medrano was arrested in a Stuart hotel room about seven hours after the murder. He was booked into the Martin County Jail Friday afternoon where he is being held without bond on a charge of first-degree murder.

Detective Ted Van Deman of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) said jealousy most likely led to the death of the 36-year-old woman. Ms. Delacruz and Arellano-Medrano had lived together for 20 years and have three children together, who are all now adults.

But, about a month ago, the couple broke up.

"She apparently had a new boyfriend," said the detective.

The alleged incident occurred at 2:38 p.m. Thursday, July 15, after Arellano-Medrano had his 19-year-old nephew call Ms. Delacruz and asked her to come to her parents' Northwest Eighth Avenue home.

See **MURDER** — Page 8

Bronson still a champion

Strikes gold in wheelchair games

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Jacob Bronson, a former offensive and defensive lineman for the Brahmans football team, can now add the title of two-time gold medal winner to his resume.

Mr. Bronson, 34, won two gold and one silver medal at the July 7-9 National Veterans Wheelchair Games held in Denver, Colo. He won gold in the club throwing event with a toss of 12.75 meters, and won the slalom event in a time of 3 minutes. He placed second in the shooting event with a score of 501 out of a possible 600.

In the Games, competitors shoot a 1.55 caliber Crossman competition air rifle.

"That's the one I wanted to do good in," he said. "I like shooting."

See **BRONSON** — Page 8

Okeechobee News/**Eric Kopp**

Jacob Bronson, a crime reporting clerk with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, won two gold medals and one silver at the July 7-9 National Veterans Wheelchair Games held in Denver, Colo.

City Council faces long agenda

Council to consider garbage fees, housing grant and millage rate

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee news

Since they are only meeting once a month during the summer, the July Okeechobee City Council meeting agenda is longer than usual. The council will be considering a rate resolution setting the solid waste collection assessment at $221.52 per customer.

The Tuesday,July 20 meeting will start at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.

The council will also consider a resolution establishing a housing assistance plan and apply for a community development block grant. In connection with these actions, the city's grant coordinator, Nancy Phillips, will make the required fair housing presentation for elected officials and the general public.

The council will select a CPA firm to do the city's audit. They will also set

See **CITY** — Page 8

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BHR man charged in theft of truck

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A Buckhead Ridge man has been arrested and charged with allegedly stealing a pickup truck while its owner and his friends were swimming at Platt's Bluff Park.

Justin Glen Carpenter

Justin Glen Carpenter, 28, Ninth St., was arrested Wednesday, July 14, on a felony charge of grand theft motor vehicle. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of $2,500.

While at the jail, Carpenter reportedly became combative and spit bloody saliva into the face of a detention deputy. Because of that he was charged with the felony of aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer. His bond on that charge had not been set as of newspaper deadline.

Carpenter was also charged by yet another Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) deputy with the misdemeanor of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. His bond on that charge had not been set as of newspaper deadline.

According to an arrest report by OCSO Deputy John Fisher, the owner of a 1994 Ford Ranger pickup and three of his friends were swimming near the rope swing in the park when they saw someone get into the truck and drive away.

The deputy said the truck was found in the ditch at the intersection of N.W. 128th St. and N.W. 56th Ave. The truck was not damaged.

During the course of his investigation, the owner of the truck and his friends all identified Carpenter as the man they saw driving away from Platt's Bluff in the white Ranger, stated the deputy's report.

Fisher placed Carpenter under arrest and the man was taken to the county jail by OCSO Deputy Corporal Timothy Higgins.

In his arrest report, Cpl. Higgins said Carpenter continually yelled, cursed and kicked while in the back seat of his patrol unit. At the jail, Carpenter was still being combative and had to be taken to the ground by Cpl. Higgins, the report continued.

Several detention deputies left the jail and helped gain control of the 6-foot-3, 200-pound man, stated Cpl. Higgins.

At one point inside the jail, Carpenter allegedly spit blood into the face of Corporal Kevin Coleman.

An arrest report by Lieutenant Keith Murrish stated that a towel had been placed over Carpenter's face because he had been spitting on the floor and some windows in the medical portion of the jail. When Cpl. Coleman later removed the towel Carpenter reportedly spit in his face.

Lt. Murrish stated in his report that the bloody saliva was immediately wiped off Cpl. Coleman's face.

None of the reports indicate what had happened to cause Carpenter's mouth to bleed.

Convicted felon accused of selling rifle

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man was arrested after he reportedly sold a .22 caliber rifle at a local pawn shop, even though as a convicted felon, he is not supposed to have a gun.

Billy Ray Starnes, 21, N.E. 128th Ave., was arrested July 14 on a felony charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of $5,000.

Jail records indicate that he was released on bond on July 15.

An arrest report by Detective William Suggs of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) stated that Starnes pawned the .22 caliber Ruger bolt action rifle on June 29. The detective said Starnes received $100 for the gun.

However, because Starnes is a convicted felon it is unlawful for him to possess a gun.

Detective Suggs stated in his report that he had Starnes' signature and thumb print on the pawn ticket.

The rifle, added the detective, was checked and was not listed as being stolen.

According to Detective Suggs, Starnes was convicted in December of 2005 of violation of probation—burglary of a dwelling and violation of probation—grand theft.

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"The Lord is my Rock and my fort, He is the one who saves me" 2 Samuel 2:22

Colleen Larson

RSCA welcomes Holly Sizemore and Collen Larson to the teaching team this year

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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!

FCAT scores wrong

• I want to commend Dr. Pat Cooper for questioning the FCAT test results and fighting for the kids of Okeechobee. When a kid flunks the reading portion of the FCAT but scores high on writing and science, something is wrong with the test. How can you write well if you can't read? They need to just do away with the FCAT all together and find a better way of tracking student progress.

• First, I think the Department of Education puts way too much emphasis on the FCAT. The test score fiasco just underscores the problem. How terrible to put this stress on the kids who now think they did badly on the tests and don't understand why. And I wonder how many kids got in trouble when the parents received those test scores in the mail. At least now this is in the news and maybe people will start questioning the FCATs in general.

• My kids are not straight A students, but have typically scored 3s in FCAT reading. Both were scored as 1s this year. My 4th grader insisted he felt as though he had gotten a 4 or 5 this year so when I got the results with a 1, I immediately wondered if there was a way to have them rechecked. He is extremely upset to think he scored a 1 as is my 9th grader. He felt like he had received at the lowest a high 2 and also received a 1. I am not a fan of FCAT to begin with and am pleased to hear the school board is also questioning the results. I had heard from other parents in previous years that you get the score you get and that's it. I look forward to the result of the appeal.

• One student can have a bad test day. But when 75 percent of the high school tenth graders do not pass the reading test, it is time for an investigation. When you find out many of the students who were given a failing grade made high marks the year before, then something is wrong with the test. I hope this news gets out to all of the students as many of them are probably depressed and confused, thinking they failed when the problem is with either the test or the way it was scored.

• FCAT is just wrong!

County budget

• In regard to the county administrator, plus two assistant administrators plus assistants to the assistants, when property values were unrealistic and soaring, the positions were created & salaries inflated. Now, we have come full circle and back to reality. Time to wake up.

• An easy way to gauge if these positions are necessary is to look at what other counties are operating with. Then, look at the size/workload of the county -- just print out a typical meeting agenda and compare.

OUA budget

• Once again, yesterdays newspaper article OUA faces a $400,000 budget shortfall. We just had to endure a rate increase, and now they are talking of another one. But iif they implented an 8 hour furlough plan it would save $600,000 according to the article. If they did not buy a new truck it would save $35,000, well 600K plus 35K seems you would have money left over. All across America the economy is in the tank, everyone knows that, people have tightened their belts every which way possible just to make ends meet. why should OUA, their employees and directors be any better off than the rest of us? Use the furlough, skip the new vehicle, make due and quit passing on hardships to those of us who just cannot afford more expenses. Most people with a job, because there are so many people without jobs, most people would take a furlough, spread out over the week, rather than lose their job. But hey employees of OUA, if you do not want furlough, then get in the unemployment line and someone out there will gladly step up to the plate for your job. No more rate increases OUA .Find some other way to fix it.

• OUA board members are volunteers who are appointed. Some are appointed by the City of Okeechobee City Council, some are appointed by the Okeechobee County Commission. They are always looking for volunteers to fill the spots when they come open. If you are interested, put in an application to volunteer to serve on the board.

• At least OUA is looking at cutting expenses instead of raising rates. Most businesses in Okeechobee have had to cut expenses which has either meant layoffs or else people had to take pay cuts.

Reflections from the Pulpit

By Elder John T. Garner
More 2 Life Ministries

I have been spending a lot of time lately with the younger generation. I have to tell you that I have learned so much from this experience. One of the things that I have learned is that, for those growing up in this post modern world, for something to have validity it must be simple and straightforward. The fact is that the Scriptures teach this very truth. In the eleventh chapter of II Corinthians, Paul warns the people there in Corinth that Satan is seeking to destroy their lives through the same deception that he used to deceive Eve in the Garden. There he weaved a convoluted lie about how she and Adam could become like God if they would rebel against God's simple truth. Satan sought for them to disregard the simple truth God had declared to Adam that to stay in fellowship with Him he simply must refrain from eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Somehow that simple truth was twisted to make it seem as if God was keeping the more "inconvenient truth" from them so that He could keep them from rising to His level. Sadly the simple truth was rejected for the complicated "truth" and tragedy was the result.

In the passage there in II Corinthians, Paul says that he feared that the people were allowing themselves to be led away from a "pure and simple devotion to Christ." That's what this world is really looking for I believe. In these times where everything seems to be so complicated and so confusing, people, especially those 35 and younger, are searching for a truth that makes sense. They are seeking something to believe in that gives them hope while at the same time doesn't require a doctorate in theology to understand.

I am not saying there's anything wrong with an intelligent and thorough investigation of the truths of the Scriptures. I believe that is the only approach that truly honors Christ and I believe the world would welcome it. But so many churches have moved away from a simple and straightforward teaching of the truth of Christ and sought to teach Christian truth through a filter dominated with noise and overrun with gimmicks. The church in America has become a place where the simple truth of Jesus has been overshadowed with praise bands, light shows, power point presentations, slick or hip preachers, and the list goes on and on for the search for the newest and fanciest way to present a cool, relevant Christianity that will have the masses banging on the doors to get in and become a part of . . .

A part of what? That is the question that I have been asking myself lately. Are we really leading people to a "pure and simple devotion to Christ" or are we seeking to make them a part of the church that we want to see grow? Don't get me wrong, it is Christ's desire to see His church grow. But grow how? Through wowing people or through simply teaching and instructing people in the ways of the Savior? Obviously more needs to be done to determine the best way to reach this world for Christ. I don't propose to have the definitive answer. Certainly some of the very things that I have mentioned can be very effective in presenting the truth to people. I am not advocating that we go back to the "good old days" and not use some of the newer innovative ways of communicating. However, I do believe that Christ is calling the church of America back from the cliff of embracing more and more of the modern and to come back to the simple truth of Christ without all the flash and glitter. Like my mom used to say to me when I was growing up: "sometimes the simpler something is the better it is."

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly cloudy, with a high near 92. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: A slight chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. East wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Extended Forecast

Monday: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly cloudy, with a high near 92. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Monday night: A slight chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 75. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Thursday AM in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 5-8-6; **Play 4:** 1-4-7-5; **Fantasy 5:** 7-29-30-31-35; **Mega Money:** 1-5-8-19 MB 16; **Florida Lotto**: 13-21-25-26-37-46 X 3; **Powerball:** 20-21-23-38-42 PB 6 x3 . Numbers drawn Thursday PM, **Cash 3:** 3-2-9; **Play 4:** 2-1-4-6.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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205 OHS seniors awarded Scholarships

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) Andrew Bowers, Jr. and Tony Bullington presented Ricardo Nieto and Daiana Fonseca with the Seminole Tribe of Florida Scholarship on OHS Scholarship Night 2010.

Special to the Okeechobee News

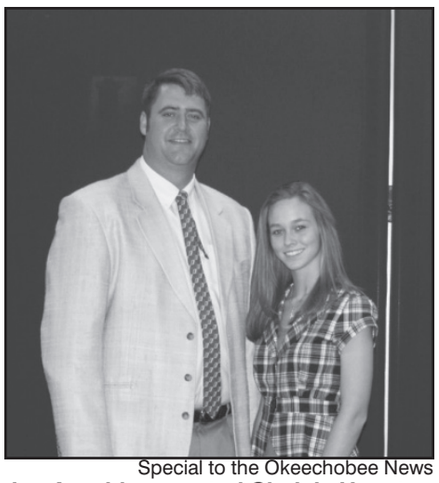
Patricia Johnson presented Paige Arnold with the Edward (Coach) Johnson Memorial Scholarship on OHS Scholarship Night 2010 held May 20 at the OHS Lecture Hall.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Debra Hall presented Maria Hernandez with the Golden Corral Scholarship on OHS Scholarship Night 2010 held May 20 at the OHS Lecture Hall.

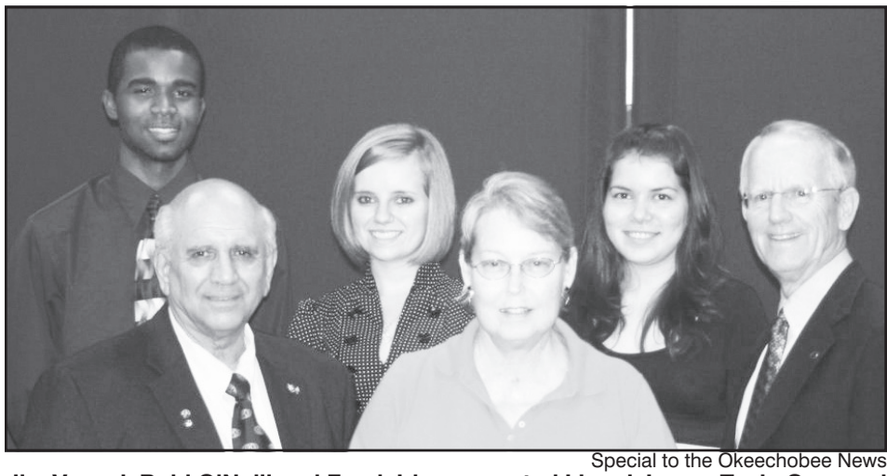
Special to the Okeechobee News

Heather Parker presented Jonathon Crawford and Katarina Suarez with the OCRA Scholarship on OHS Scholarship Night 2010 held May 20 at the OHS Lecture Hall.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Joe Arnold presented Chelsie Houston with the Quinn Tindall Memorial Scholarship on OHS Scholarship Night 2010 held May 20 at the OHS Lecture Hall.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Jim Vensel, Bobi O'Neill and Frank Irby presented Lionel Jones, Tonia Gray and Maria Ruiz with the Kiwanis Club/Gene O'Neill Memorial Scholarship on OHS Scholarship Night 2010 held May 20 at the OHS Lecture Hall.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Janna Mullis was awarded the Jim Young Award Scholarship on OHS Scholarship Night 2010 held May 20 at the OHS Lecture Hall.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Kristie Coleman presented Roxanne Sheffield with the Sims & Younger, CPA Scholarship on OHS Scholarship Night 2010 held May 20 at the OHS Lecture Hall.

Red Cross plans July Health and Safety class

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will hold Health & Safety classes on Thursday, July 22 - Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m. Classes are held at the Service Center, located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

Correction

An error appeared in an article on page 23 of the July 16 issue of the Okeechobee News under the headline "Commission turns down land offer." The dates for budget workshops were incorrectly listed. The correct dates are July 21, 26, 27 and 28 at 6 p.m. and July 29 and 30 at 1 p.m. These meeting will be held in the Commission Chambers at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 N.W. Second St. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this error.

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Community Events

FAA to host President's breakfast for Airboaters

Florida Airboat Association's Airboaters Appreciation open house set for **July 16-18**, in Okeechobee. Sunday morning FAA will host a President's breakfast meeting for Airboater Unity and Fellowship for all involved in the airboating business.

Main Street announces July Mixer event

Okeechobee Main Street's July Mixer will be held on Tuesday, **July 20**, from 5–7 p.m. This month's mixer will be hosted by the Law Firm of Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd and Lloyd located at 212 South Parrott Avenue with plenty of parking in the back. Our mixers are a great networking opportunity for the businesses and residents of our area. Whether you have a new or old business, new to Okeechobee or would like to know more about Okeechobee Main Street please join us for networking, refreshments, door prizes and a chance at the Mega 50-50. For more information call 863-357-MAIN (6246).

Investors Update Luncheon

An Investors Update Luncheon will be held Wednesday, **July 21**, at Indian River State College Williamson Conference & Education Center, 2229 N.W. Ninth Ave with networking at 11:30, lunch at noon. The speakers will be Chris Close, owner of Close Construction and Frank Miele, owner of Magna Bon. The cost is $10 per person, payable at the door. Cash or check only. RSVP by July 19, to Mary Chesley, 863-467-6246 or Mary@OkeechobeeBusiness.com

Benefit planned to help family of accident victim

EveryBody Deserves a Massage Week set for the week of July 18-24, will help to benefit the family of Dawn Johnston. She died as a result of a recent accident and her family is in need of financial support. Come and enjoy a relaxing Chair Message for a donation of $1 per minute with all donations to benefit the three surviving children of Ms. Johnston. Licensed Massage Therapist, Marci Weseman, will be on hand at the Holiday Inn Express on **July 22**, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 863-634-4815 for more details.

OCRA holding football and cheerleading sign-ups

OCRA football and cheerleading sign-ups will be on the following Saturdays: **July 24**, July 31, Aug. 7 and Aug. 14. Sign-ups will be held from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. for ages 4-14. The cost is $60 for flag and $75 for football and cheerleading with a $5 discount for each additional child. Any player who signs up after these dates will be placed on a waiting list. They may be placed on a team due to the loss of a player for medical reasons only. No exceptions will be made! If you are interested in sponsoring or coaching a team, you can fill out the necessary paperwork on these dates also. If you have any questions, you can call OCRA at 863-634-1437.

Main Street announces barbecue contest

Okeechobee Main Street invites all BBQ kings and queens to enter into the Stick BBQ contest to be held during the National Day of the American Cowboy Event on Saturday, **July 24**. The $50 entry fee includes your cook site, electric, water and you can vend your BBQ. Cooks must use wood or wood pellets. Categories are Pork Ribs and Beef Brisket with a cash prize and Chilly Bin Cooler furnished by Eli's Trailer Sales going to the Grand Prize Winner! Get your entry form at 111 Northeast Second Street or email okms@mainstreetokeechobee.com.

VFW celebrating Christmas in July next Sunday

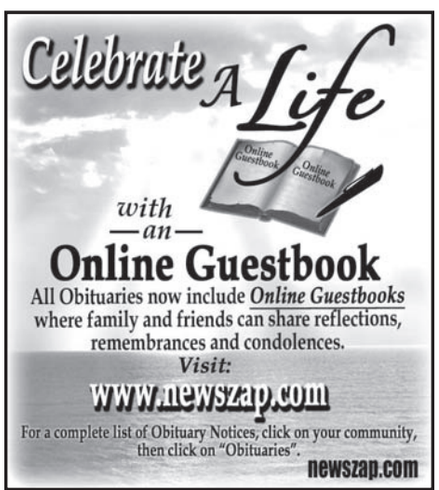
On Sunday, **July 25**, VFW 10539 will celebrate Christmas in July with the traditional turkey dinner and all the fixin's served from 3 to 5 p.m. Entertainment is provided. Cost $6/dinner, ($5 if you bring in a donation for Operation Shoebox). Support our troops. All proceeds are for the care packages.

Freedom Outreach Fishing Tournaments continue

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.

Tantie Quilters to meet at Museum on July 29

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.



Collaborative Council of Okeechobee meeting set

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.

Guardian ad Litem seeking volunteers for children

Guardian ad Litem volunteers are the voice of the children in court; abused, abandoned, neglected per Florida's statutes. Adults are given representation by law. The children only have their Guardian to be their voice. The law does not set forth guidelines for their being appointed legal representation. However, the judge hearing cases has the option to appoint a Guardian ad Litem for the child. If you think you could help one of these children, this month's meeting is set for Thursday, **July 29**, at 2 p.m. at Mom's Kitchen, Hwy. 441 S. Okeechobee.

Cypress Hut Eagles Auxiliary invites members to meetings

Attention all members of Cypress Hut Eagles Auxiliary 4509. They would like to invite all members to attend meetings which are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 7 p.m. There will be door prizes for those members in attendance. They will have the final reading of the by-laws on Wednesday, **July 28**.

Gordie Peer, Wild West entertainer, display at 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**. Call the library at 863-763-3536 for more information.

Basinger playground clean-up invites volunteers

Join us for a playground cleanup at the Alton Chandler Civic Center (aka Basinger) located on Hwy. 98 N., 16 miles north of town. The Basinger Center is a beautiful facility with a pavilion, playground, horseshoe pit and BBQ pit. Help maintain its appeal by coming Saturday, **July 31**, from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. All ages are welcome. Please bring any sponges, rags, rakes and gloves for day use. Call the Recreation Department at 863-763-6950 for further details.

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Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

July 12 and 13, 2010

				Monday	Tuesday
Cows			Calves	624	1399
Breaking	$59.00	$61.00	Cows	133	347
Cutter	$53.00	$61.00	Str	8	39
Canner	$47.00	$53.00	Hfrs	6	35
Bulls			Bulls	24	22
1500-2000	$74.00	$77.00	Yrlngs	19	108
			Mix	0	0
			Total	814	1950

Med #1	**Steers**	**Hfrs**
170-190	165-205	140-175
200-250	155-190	127-145
250-300	145-180	120-132
300-350	132-147	117-123
350-400	124-135	108-120
400-450	123-135	104-115
450-500	109-120	104-111
550-600	105-111	99-105
600-650	100-117	97-99

Med #2	**Steers**	**Hfrs**
150-200	125-130	117-130
200-250	125-155	100-122
250-300	125-145	105-125
300-350	119-135	105-118
350-400	110-128	98-110
400-450	102-121	95-105

Small #1	
350-400	100-104

I thought the sale went well this week. We had a lot of cattle. It was hot and prices were good. When good 700# steer calves are bringing $1, how can you complain? Hardie Driggers of Lake Placid, George Rhoden of Indiantown topped the calf market this week with a high of $2. Clarence Bear of Davie topped the cow market with a high of $65.50. For sale - 100 head of bred Brangus heifers. Call Okeechobee Livestock Market for more information at 863-763-3127. Ask for Jeff.

See ya next week, Todd

Okeechobee News/**Pete Gawda**

National Day of the American Cowboy

At their meeting on Thursday, July 15, Okeechobee County Commissioners proclaimed July 24 to be the National Day of the American Cowboy in the county. Vice Chairman Noel Chandler, right, presented the proclamation to Toni Doyle, center, of Okeechobee Main Street and David Hazellief, left, representing the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association

Sales:
Monday at 12 p.m.
Tuesday at 11 a.m.

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THEATRE II: *"DESPICABLE ME"*
Fri. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 PG

THEATRE III: *"SORCERER'S APPRENTICE"*
Fri. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 PG-13

Tickets: Adults - $6.50 • Children 12 & under - $5.00
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MURDER

Continued From Page 1

The woman was told that Arellano-Medrano was going to give her some money.

When she arrived she asked the nephew, Nacho Delacruz, to stay close because she was afraid of her former lover.

Arellano-Medrano, reportedly angered that the mother of his children had arrived in another man's car, then tried to get the woman to enter the mobile home. But she refused.

Detective Van Deman said Arellano-Medrano then reportedly walked up to the woman, pulled a butcher knife from the waistband of his pants and stabbed Ms. Delacruz in the upper portion of the left side of her chest.

"She died within a couple of minutes after being stabbed," said the detective.

Mr. Delacruz then fought with and disarmed his uncle, the report continues. Arellano-Medrano then fled the scene on foot.

As OCSO deputies and detectives combed the county in search of the suspect, Detective Van Deman learned that Arellano-Medrano's niece, Roberta Arellano, had rented him Room 201 at the Holiday Inn Express at Kanner Highway and I-95 in Stuart.

The OCSO detective said a family member helped him find Arellano-Medrano.

"We received information he was in a hotel room. We had also received information that family members were on their way to get him, and get him out of the state," said Detective Van Deman.

The detective and OCSO Deputy Corporal Randy Thomas then rushed to Stuart.

"We had to drive with great haste to get him before those family members did," the detective added.

Along with eight members of the Martin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), Detective Van Deman and Cpl. Thomas entered the hotel.

"We went in, knocked on the door, snatched him up and got him out of there as quick as we could," explained the detective. "The Martin County Sheriff's Office was very helpful in getting this accomplished."

He went on to say that they entered the hotel room with guns drawn and that Arellano-Medrano was arrested without incident.

Because he was in Stuart, Arellano-Medrano was arrested by MCSO Detective John Perez on probable cause provided by Detective Van Deman. He was then taken to a Stuart hospital due to a pre-existing leg injury.

Arellano-Medrano was returned to the Okeechobee County Jail around 2 p.m. Friday.

Detective Van Deman said the exact cause of death was to be determined. He said an autopsy was conducted Friday morning by the District 19 medical examiner.

The detective did say, however, that Ms. Delacruz was about one month pregnant.

BRONSON

Continued From Page 1

The 1994 Okeechobee High School graduate said he practices at home by shooting conventional .223 and .22 caliber rifles, as well as the air rifle.

As for the other events, he said he went to a couple of clinics in Tampa so he could compete in the club throwing event. As for maneuvering around cones in the slalom event, Mr. Bronson said he practices for that event every day.

"It's everyday life," he said, "having to open doors and stuff."

Athletes compete in three divisions - Masters (over the age of 40), Novice and Open. The Novice class is for first-time competitors, while the Open class is made up of all the other athletes. The athletes also compete in different classes that are based on the athlete's level of physical ability. There are three quadriplegic classes—1A, 1B and 1C—and four paraplegic level or amputee classes—2,3, 4 and 5.

Mr. Bronson, a Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) clerk with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), competed in the Open Division and in the 1A class.

He first competed in the wheelchair games in 2002 where he earned five gold medals (table tennis, bowling, throwing, slalom and air gun) in the Novice Division.

While in the U.S. Army, Mr. Bronson was a combat engineer and stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. On Nov. 15, 1998, he was driving his personal vehicle along a winding and heavily wooded highway near the South-Central Missouri Army base when he rounded a curve and saw an oncoming vehicle in his lane of travel. When he swerved to avoid a head-on collision, his vehicle left the roadway and ended up in a ditch.

The crash injured his spine and left Mr. Bronson with both legs paralyzed and limited use of his hands.

On Feb. 25, 2003, he was hired by then-sheriff O.L. Raulerson and has been with the sheriff's office since.

As a UCR clerk, he enters all OCSO incident reports into the department's computer system. He also compiles a statistics report every six months that goes to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The FDLE then uses those numbers to make up their statewide crime statistics report.

But, on Aug. 1 he will begin a new chapter in his life—one of "retirement."

Mr. Bronson is leaving the sheriff's office and July 30 will be his last day. With a wide grin he said he will then "retire" and move to Tampa, where he hopes to join a Quad Rugby Wheelchair Team and be a volunteer with the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA).

When asked, Mr. Bronson replied that he has never played the game.

"But, it looks like fun," he said. "You just get out there and bang on each other."

Quad Rugby, which was originally called Murder Ball, is for quadriplegics and quad amputees and is played all across the U.S. and in Canada.

And while "banging into each other" brings a smile to his face, that smile goes away and he becomes quite serious when he talks about joining the Gulf Coast PVA in Tampa.

"I want to talk to newly-injured people coming in to let them know there's more stuff out there than just sitting in a wheelchair," he said.

The PVA and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs put on the Games each year. This year was the 30th national wheelchair event. The Games are the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world. It is a multi-event sports and rehabilitation program for military service veterans who use wheelchairs due to spinal cord injuries, amputations or neurological problems.

For more about the Games, visit their web site at www.wheelchairgames.va.gov.

CITY

Continued From Page 1

dates for public budget hearings. The recommended millage rate is 7.9993. That rate is calculated to bring in $240,027,990 in ad valorum taxes. Because of a decrease in property values, the recommended millage rate will bring in the same amount of taxes as the current millage rate of 6.7432. One mil equals one dollar for every one thousand dollars of assessed value.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/**Teresa Chandler**

Let's dance!

The July teen dance party coordinated by Teresa Chandler benefitted the Real Life Children's Ranch. There were 70 students in attendance! They enjoyed limbo, hula hoop, pizza, cookies and dancing! The dance generated $425 in funds for Real Life. The dance is possible because of the donations from local businesses! Thank you to: Okeechobee County School Board, DJ "DP Productions," Dominos, Ding-A-Ling Deli, Best Western, Wal-Mart, Wemmer Family Orthodontics, Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, East Coast Shirts & Signs, Quality Tees and the many volunteers! For more information on teen dances, please call Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996.

Brahman football schedule released

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee once again has a tough schedule this year with only four regular season home games on the 2010 schedule.

The only change in teams from last year is a swap of Berean Christian School for Vero Beach in week one. Okeechobee will also host an exhibition game on Aug. 27 against the Fort Pierce Central Cobras.

Other home games include a date with Avon Park on Sept. 10, Martin County on Oct. 1, Bartow on Oct. 15, and William T. Dwyer on Oct. 22. All of the home games begin at 7:30 p.m.

The road games this year include the Berean Christian game on Sept. 3, South Fork on Sept. 16, Sebastian River on Sept. 24, Hardee on Oct. 29, Palm Beach Lakes on Nov. 5, and Clewiston on Nov. 12.

The combined records of Brahman opponents on this year's schedule last year was 56-44. Okeechobee finished (0-10).

Okeechobee Bloodmobile visits planned for July

To donate blood is to help save lives. This month the Okeechobee community celebrated our country's birth. Please keep up the good fight, in our country's honor: The "Big Red Bus" blood mobile will be in the community on the following dates:

Sunday, July 18 - Knights of Columbus at St. Teresa Catholic Church, BHR, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday, July 21 - U-Save, 12:30-2:30; IRSC, 4–8 p.m.

Saturday, July 24 - Day of the American Cowboy, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 31 - Wal-Mart, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/**Teresa Chandler**

YMCA Summer Camp

The YMCA Summer Camp held an "Island Theme" week. Children participated in a relay where they had to dress their partner in Hawaiian gear, run to the finish line and remove the costume. The camp currently houses 30 children and provides care from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Grace Brethran/Okee Christian Academy. Camp includes themed weekly activities, field trips, swimming and much more! For more information, contact Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996. Campers and counselors pictured in the fun activities (top) are: Piper Hans, Mya Gomes, Laura Campos (Counselor) and Allison Chandler (Counselor) and (bottom) are: Devon Wigfall, Carlyn Shaffer (Camp Director), Allison Chandler, Laura Campos and Michael Martinez, camp counselors.

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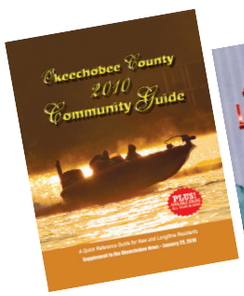

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School Information Guide :http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=68371&pagenum=1

County Veterans' services office relocated to Courthouse

The County Veterans' Services Office has relocated to the Historic Courthouse, 304 N.W. Second St. Suite 106. The County Veterans' Services Office is available to assist veterans and family members in obtaining VA Benefits. The office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Maggie Buccino**

Donations presentation

The Knights of Columbus presented a check to the ARC of Okeechobee. The Annual Tootsie Roll Campaign took place on March 6. The brother Knights with the help of the ARC handicapped people gave away Tootsie Rolls at Wal-Mart, U-Save and Publix for three hours. They collected $559 in donations which was presented to the ARC representatives. From left to right are John Buccino, chairman, Scott Smett, Grand Knight, Brenda Byrd, support coordinator, Jeannie Bramlett, board liaison, Nancy Ziegler, executive director.

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Coquina assessment rate to remain the same

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

In this era of economic problems and rising taxes, there is some good news for Viking residents. At their regular meeting on Wednesday, July 14 the Coquina Water Control District Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to keep the Viking assessment at $62.64 cents per acre. It has remained at that level for at least three years.

The Coquina Water Control District appears to be in better financial shape than some other local government entities. "This year we have exceeded our expectation on revenues," chairman Melvin Byars asserted. He said it appears that because more people paid their assessments than was originally anticipated the district will have "a little bit of surplus" of approximately $44,000 which will be rolled over into the new year's budget.

Turning to other business, Engineer Bryan Clemmons said that grass carp have been placed in the canal to control vegetation. However, he said it would be six months before any results are seen.

"It will be interesting to see if it works," board member Ken Childs said of this attempt to control aquatic vegetation.

"We need to concentrate on finishing Four Mile Grade," Mr. Byars said, adding that the board needed to set priorities for other road jobs. He noted that in three years the board has repaired 20 miles of roads.

Superintendent Danny Faircloth stated that the current mowing cycle is about 80 percent complete. However, due to recent rains it was noted that it might be necessary to start the mowing again as soon is the current cycle is completed.

The board finished the meeting by conducting an inspection tour of recently completed work and work in progress on N.W. 242th Street, Three Mile Grade and Four Mile Grade.

The next meeting will be Aug. 11 at 9 a.m. at the Coquina shop, 17205 N.W. 240th St.

Okeechobee News/**Pete Gawda**
The Coquina Water Control District Board of Supervisors as part of their regular meeting on Wednesday, July 14 inspected work in progress. Here, left to right, superintendent Danny Faircloth, chairman Melvin Byars and engineer Bryan Clemmons inspect grading being done on Three Mile Grade.

Okeechobee News/**Pete Gawda**
As part of the Wednesday, July 14 meeting of the Coquina Water Control Board of Supervisors, the board made an inspection tour of Viking construction projects. Here the board inspects a recently installed culvert on N.W. 242 Street. Pictured are, left to right, board member Dorothy Miles, chairman Melvin Byars, board attorney Tony Young and engineer Bryan Clemmons.

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Courthouse Kids Library helps put kids in court at ease

On June 15, Guardians For New Futures (GFNF), the non-profit organization supporting the 19th Judicial Guardian ad Litem program, and Okeechobee Court Personnel, opened the door to a new Children's Library. From time to time each of the local courthouses in the Treasure Coast has sponsored a "Kids Day." Kids Day is a day when children who are involved in dependency proceedings, (victims of abuse, neglect or abandonment) can walk around the courtroom and become familiar with the area. Being in court can be a very frightening and isolating experience for children. This day helps increase their awareness of the court room. The event was scheduled at the request of Judge Schack and Magistrate Hooker of Okeechobee County. They were both advocates for a dedicated room for the children inside the courthouse. On Kids Day, Judge Schack and Magistrate Hooker wanted to meet with the children over whose dependency proceedings they preside; they mingled, and brought cookies for the kids.

It has been a priority to the GFNF program to be able to outfit the Okeechobee courthouse with a Kids' Library, a room filled with books and toys that present a happy, comfortable place for children to read, play or learn about the court process. Often children in dependency may be placed out of the home in foster care, group homes or with relative or friend care givers. GFNF began a drive to collect donations of books and toys for the room. The outpouring from community players and volunteers was incredible and because of generous donors, GFNF was able to decorate the room with beautiful, stocked bookcases and bean bag chairs. Additionally, the program was able to purchase a television set so that children can watch an instructional video about court.

Unfortunately, there are about 900 children in dependency proceedings on the Treasure Coast; approximately 120 of them of them live in Okeechobee County. The Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program provides an advocate for each of these children to ensure that their voice and their best interests are heard in the courtroom.

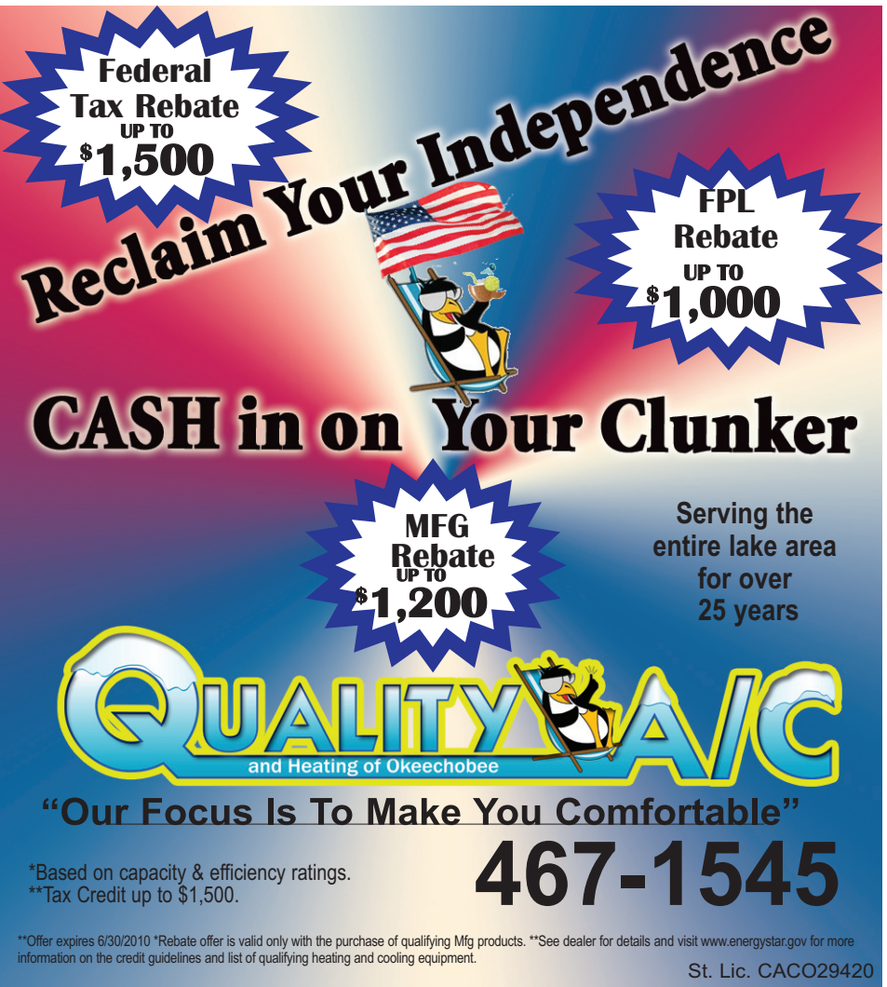
Toys and books on a shelf greet children in the new Children's Library in the Courthouse. The library was brought about by the Guardians for New Futures organization.

"While it is unfortunate that children have to be involved in these proceedings, the difference of a safe, bright, room where they can play and read can really make things less frightening," President of GFNF, Debbie Butler, commented. Ms. Butler also hopes that GFNF will be able to solicit ongoing donations for books and toys to replenish and update the room from time to time. Guardians for New Futures has goals to replicate Kids' Libraries in the other three county courthouses where they have visibility—Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties.

To learn more about the GAL program, please contact 772-785-5804 or visit on the World Wide Web www.gfnf4kids.org.

Special to the Okeechobee News/**GFNF**

Judge Schack and Magistrate Deborah Hooker held 'Kids Day' at the local courthouse welcoming children to come tour the buiding. Children were also introduced to the the new Children's Library in the Courhouse, a place where children involved in dependency proceedings can feel comfortable and become familiiar with pleasant surroundings.



Do the right thing: Vaccinate your pets

By Dr. Jane Bicks, DVM
Okeechobee Humane Society

"My horses, cats and dogs don't need vaccinations, right?"

Dr. Jane Bicks, DVM

Wrong. Vaccinations are very important to your pet's health and yours. It is probably hard for you to appreciate the reason for vaccinating our pets when you don't usually see the diseases that these vaccinations prevent. You probably don't realize that your family could be at risk for diseases that vaccinations could prevent. A dog with distemper would break your heart, with almost no chance of getting better. A horse with encephalitis is a horrible sight, and a cat with leukemia is heart breaking. We don't have to see this type of suffering because vaccines can eliminate these diseases.

The law requires all dogs and cats to be vaccinated against rabies, even inside cats. If a dog or cat comes into contact with a rabid animal such as a raccoon or bat you will not know it until you see the symptoms. The owner will have been exposed to this deadly virus meaning that he too could get—rabies. There is no cure. Two indoor cats had to be euthanized when a bat flew into the porch and the cats played with it. Horses are prey to the raccoon with rabies and can become rabid if they are not vaccinated. A pet owner is at risk whenever their animals have rabies.

Distemper causes GI and nervous system symptoms in dogs and cats. The disease is rapid, nasty and generally not curable. It bothers me to see these innocent pets suffering because their owners refused to do one simple thing—vaccinate!

Encephalitis is carried to horses by mosquitoes. Most owners have to euthanize their horses once they are sick. Since this virus attacks the nervous system the unvaccinated horse has tremors, can't walk and stand. While there is some small success in treating these horses the cost in veterinary expenses, time and emotion is truly unnecessary.

Parvo is known to most dog owners. It hits the GI tract and then proceeds to other parts of the body. It is very contagious and deadly. Some breeds of dogs are more susceptible than others. As in any disease, the young and the old are more vulnerable.

Leptospirosis is a bacteria that is contagious from dog to dog and dog to people. It will destroy the kidneys. Family members are in harm's way.

Rhino tracheitis is a respiratory disease in cats. The virus causes stuffed noses with discharge and sores on the cat's tongue. It can be lethal. It is carried by raccoons as well as cats.

There are enough non-preventable diseases that we have to contend with in our pets. Vaccinating your pet is the easiest thing you can do. The Humane Society of Okeechobee urges you to do the right thing.

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Big Lake Missions**

Food drive success

The Letter Carriers, Okeechobee Branch of the U.S. Post Office held their 2010 Postal Food Drive in May. After all of the food was collected and also everyone volunteering was thanked for their participation, over 15,000 pounds of food was distributed to local needy families and food banks. Postal Carriers, Melissa and Albert are joined by Big Lake Missions Directors, MaryAnne and Bruce Swinford.

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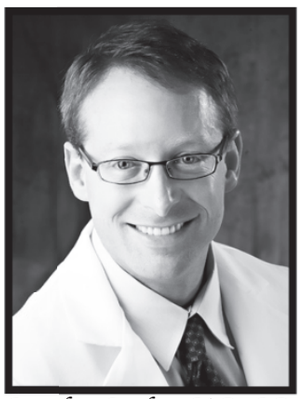

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Special Magistrate to hear code violations

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Lois Nichols is scheduled to hear 10 cases Tuesday afternoon.

There are two cases under the heading of new business. Hurdley Mitchell and Illinorse Hardy have been cited for an accumulation of mechanical parts, household items and unregistered vehicles on their S.E. 38th Terrace property. In the second case, Christopher Amsdem has been asked to remove plywood and aluminum from his windows and remove all unlicensed, inoperable vehicles, trash, debris and overgrowth from his S.E. 24th Street lot.

Melba Franklin, John Keith Cook, Marjorie S. Paige trustee, and James Myers and William Day had previously been ordered by the special magistrate to remove debris from their properties.

Jacob Nisson, Howard and Gail Richards, Penny Chaisson and Gloria Jean Vonderau could all be fined up to $250 a day for every day of noncompliance if their properties have not been brought into compliance.

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

If you go ...

What: Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate hearing
When: 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 20
Where: Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 N.W. Ninth Ave.

Edward Jones branch office supports local school supply drive

Local residents and businesses can help those less fortunate in the community by bringing items to the Edward Jones branch office from July 19-Aug. 13, in support of the back-to-school supply drive. The office is located behind Domino's Pizza across from the movie theatre.

Drive asks for gently worn shoes

American Drilling Services, Inc. will accept donations of new or gently used shoes for school-aged children in the community. The shoes can be dropped off at American Drilling Services located at 405 S.W. 2nd St. or call Sarah at 863-763-3221, if you need someone to pick them up. Shoes will be given away on **Aug. 21**, at the Back to School Bash at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.

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EAA water quality improving

New farming techniques help agricultural areas meet phosphorus reduction goals

For the 15th consecutive year, water flowing from farmlands in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) achieved phosphorus reductions that were better than the 25 percent reduction required by law. With the continued implementation of improved farming techniques known as Best Management Practices (BMPs), results for the 2010 monitoring period show a 41 percent phosphorus reduction in the 470,000-acre EAA farming region south of Lake Okeechobee.

The C-139 Basin also met its goal of reducing phosphorus discharges to below historic levels. Located west of the EAA, the 170,000-acre C-139 farming region consists primarily of pasture land, row crops, citrus and sugarcane. Results show 41.9 metric tons flowed through the basin during the 2010 monitoring period, well below the target load of 53.6 metric tons.

"These encouraging results are a measurable reflection of the commitment made by our region's agricultural community to protecting and improving South Florida's ecosystems," said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Eric Buermann. "While the District applauds this accomplishment, much more work lies ahead to ensure we consistently surpass our water quality requirements for the Everglades."

Results from the 2010 annual monitoring period (May 1, 2009, to April 30, 2010) show phosphorus reductions were largely achieved through BMPs. In the EAA, the most commonly used BMPs are refined fertilizer application, precise stormwater pumping practices and erosion controls to reduce the amount of phosphorus discharge to the Everglades and connected water bodies. In the C-139 Basin, the District has worked with farmers in recent years to implement a stronger BMP program that addresses unique challenges to achieving phosphorus reductions in the basin.

Phosphorus can harm the Everglades ecosystem when stormwater runoff carries excess amounts into the protected wetlands. To meet the requirements of Florida's Everglades Forever Act and a 1992 consent decree between the state and federal governments, the amount of phosphorus leaving the EAA must be 25 percent less than the amount before phosphorus-reduction efforts started. Data show that a 41 percent phosphorus reduction was achieved for the 2010 monitoring period. The average reduction from the implementation of BMPs over the program's 15-year history is 53 percent, more than twice the amount required by law.

When measured in actual mass, 119 metric tons of phosphorus were prevented from entering the regional canal system, which sends water into the Everglades, during the 2010 monitoring period. Over the past 15 years, the BMP program has prevented 2,237 metric tons of phosphorus from leaving the EAA.

In the C-139 Basin, a BMP program has been in place for the past eight years with the goal of reducing phosphorus discharges below historic levels. The District uses a model to determine the target phosphorus load for the agricultural region each year based on rainfall totals. For the 2010 monitoring period, the target load was 53.6 metric tons. Data show the actual mass of phosphorus discharged from the basin during that time was 41.9 metric tons, or nearly 22 percent less than the target.

Together with best farming practices, water leaving the EAA receives additional treatment in one of several Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) before entering the Everglades. These SFWMD-constructed wetlands are filled with native vegetation and use "green" technology to further reduce phosphorus levels.

Ricardo J. Quintero-Herencia, MD

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Program provides housing assistance

The Emergency Financial Assistance for Housing Program (EFAHP) provides a one-time payment of up to $400 to families who are totally without shelter or face the loss of shelter because of non-payment of rent or mortgage. It also helps those families who have had household disasters such as fire, flood, or other accidents.

Eligibility requirements include:

1. The household must have at least one child under the age of 18.

2. The household must live in Florida, or be working or looking for work in Florida.

3. At least one child or caretaker in the home must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident.

4. You must have proof of your housing emergency, for example, a copy of a court ordered eviction or foreclosure notice. In the event of a natural disaster such as fire or flood, the EFAHP office can make a telephone call to the sheriff's office, fire department, Department of Children and Families' office, etc., if you provide us with a phone number.

5. If you do not have enough money in your checking/savings accounts, or the cash to pay your rent or mortgage.

6. The total monthly household income is compared to the State of Florida's need standard to decide whether the household is eligible.

1 person household - not eligible; 2 persons - $2,429 or less; 3 persons - 3,052 or less; 4 persons - 3,675 or less; 5 persons - $4,299 or less; 6 persons - 4,922 or less; 7 persons - $5,620 or less; 8 persons - $6,169 or less

For households with more than 8 persons, for each additional member, add $624.

7. All income received during the month you apply is considered, except for those household members who receive SSI.

8. If you are having financial problems, it must be due to a real emergency, and not from mishandling your money.

9. You must provide proof of your present living address. Examples include a rent receipt, utility bill, or other paperwork that lists the name of the head of household or other caretaker, and the present address.

10. Your application must be signed and dated.

For application information or more details, call toll-free at 1-877-891-6445.

Homeowners warned about destructive lightning

As insurers and homeowners keep a close watch on the Atlantic Basin for hurricane activity this summer, the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) cautions people across the nation not to underestimate the destructive and deadly force of thunderstorms and lightning, which occur far more often and directly affect more of the U.S. than hurricanes.

According to the National Weather Service, every thunderstorm produces lightning. On average, 300 people are injured and 80 people are killed each year in the U.S. by lightning.

Thunderstorms are a dangerous weather event and their destructive capabilities should not be taken lightly. Property losses related to lightning strikes exceed $1 billion annually, according to insurance industry data. These losses can range from damage to expensive electronic equipment fires that destroy an entire house or business.

For lightning protection, a whole-house/building surge protector is the best starting point for reducing the risk of damage. It is important to make sure that it is either a secondary surge arrestor tested to IEEE C62.11 or a transient voltage suppressor that has been tested to UL 1449, 2nd Edition. A number of power companies have programs to provide and install the whole-building surge protection.

However, for best results, the protection should extend beyond the whole-building surge protection.

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Jazzy Select Power Chair - Like new only used for 6 months, have charger and owners manual. Excellent condition. Blue with gray seat. Call and ask for Sue Ann or Dwayne. $2,000.00/or best offer. (863)763-8547 or (863)261-1032

Pets/Supplies

CAT - FTGH Very Sweet, Playful Male 1yr old Neutered Cat, All shots, Microchipped STRICTLY INDOOR CAT HE'S NEVER BEEN OUTSIDE! Moving out of state due to military transfer. We cannot take this precious family member with us and want him to go to a good home. Please save him from having to go to the pound! . (863)447-0302

dogs - poodle/male. 9mos. papers. apricot. sweet & pretty. 275.00 dashhound/female. long hair. black & tan. 200.00. (863)517-2887 or (229)392-5841

Wanted To Buy

3 Bedroom 2 Bath on Water - We are looking to purchase with owner financing a 3/2 on water in Okeechobee. We are looking for spacious open rooms with screened room on water. Would prefer semi-furnished but will consider all. . (813)434-6113 or (863)634-9221

Agriculture

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Seeds/Plants/ Flowers

Fruit Plant Sale - Blueberries, Mammoth Sunflowers $9.90-$55 ea- Apples, Fig, Cashews, Jackfruit, Loquat, Plum, Olives, Grapes, Peaches, Sapotes, Guavas, Barbados Cherries, Persimmon, Blackberries, Mamey, Sugar Apples, Pomegranate, Avocado, Mango-We Deliver Lic# 48006674. (863)673-7280

Rentals

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Apartments

Apartment for Rent 2Bd 1 1/2 Ba Town House In Town, Very clean W/D $650 mo, 1st, last & sec. 863-697-1129

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED 1bd apts for rent in Okeechobee. Must meet eligibility requirements. Please call 863-467-2079. TTY 1-800-233-6694.

EHO

IN TOWN - 2/2 very clean, w/d, lawn maint included, $800 + $300 sec. (863) 634-3572

RENT-TO-OWN: OWNER FINANCE 3BR, Like new. 2005 Mobile Home. C/Air. Appliances. Large kitchen. On private lake. Playground. Trash & Lawn Service Included. $4,000 Down. $760 month. 561-281-9502 Habla Espanol

TAYLOR CREEK Condos 1br/1ba, Furnished. $650 mo. + 1st & sec. dep. 561-352-4243

VIKING/PRAIRIE Efficiency. Very clean! $500/mo. Incl. utils. No pets. Call 561-329-8205

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

Commercial Property

FOR SALE OR LEASE 1574 Sq. Ft. office bldg. @ 210 NE 3rd Ave. Call 863-763-0295

Condos/Townhouses Rent

KINGS BAY Nice Twnhs. 2/1, Tiled floors. Includes Water. Community Pool & Tennis Court. $700 mo. + sec. 863-697-6428

Houses - Rent

FT. DRUM - small 1 BR, 1 BA House on 4 acres. Ideal for single/couple,Pets welcome. $600 mo. + sec. dep. (912)925-2147, (912)224-4658 or (734)637-2697

Kings Bay 2000 CBS Home 2/2/1, W/D Lawn maint.,Pool,Tennis $900 mo. 1st + $900 Sec. Call 863-801-9163

Houses - Rent

NEW BEAUTIFUL single 3 bdrm, 2 ba home for Rent $1300. Utilities, cable, air conditioning, laundry, & dishwasher. jamesmaltt44@yahoo.com

OKEE- 3 bdrm /1 ba on ½ ac, laundry, central air/ heat, screen porch, carport. $925 mo, 1st & last Call (305)458-8659

OKEE 3BR, 1BA, Laminate flooring, new kitchen, c/air, W&D, semi-furnished. By Rim Canal. 441 SE near 15B. $800 mo. + sec. 786-201-0306

ON RIM-CANAL: Modern 3 BR, 2.5 BA. 2 Living rooms. Rooms that are great for in-laws or guest room. 1 car garage. Rent negotiable. (772)359-1640

TREASURE ISLAND
- 3BR, 2BA, C/Air & Heat $900 mo. + sec. dep.
- 4BR 2BA CBS On water, $1100 mo. + sec. dep.

Both are avail. 8/1 and a lease is required. Call (863)634-9119

Land - Rent

R.V. LOTS FOR RENT Free Wifi! Weekly $150 or mo. $375 incl. elec. Call 863-763-0295

Office Space Rent

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT (863)763-8565

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Rooms To Rent

Looking for roommate to share 2 bedroom, 1 bath townhouse close to town. $400 month includes utilities 863-634-8216 Female preferred but not necessary

Real Estate

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Houses - Sale

2004, 3/2 home, 1296 sq ft, security system and hydrogen peroxide water system. Reduced $95,000 Motivated seller, bring offers! Call Amy at Pristine Properties 863-634-3656.

Mobile Homes

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Rent

RENT-3BD/2BA unfurn. D.W.M.H Rent for $750mo. 1st + sec. $400 No pets call 863-610-1344

Mobile Home Sale

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

FOR SALE
3 Bedroom/2 Bath Mobile Home On 1 Acre. New custom Kitchen and Bath. New Carpet and Vinyl wood floors. Large trees and fenced back yard.Totally Remodeled Only Asking: $69,900 863-610-1980

Mobile/Florida Room on water, gracious park, lot rent $250.00 a/c good asking $2,800 for more info 863-763-8761

Recreation

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

RV Space Rent

RV rental-1bd/1ba everything included except electricity $400 mo. located in Buckhead Ridge call between 8am and 7pm 863-261-6381

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

Automotive

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Automobiles

2000 ACURA TL 3.2 4 DOOR SEDAN - 246,000 mi, with ac, good shape, runs great $2,900 /or best offer (863)634-1488

Dodge Neon - 2004 4-door, auto trans, a/m f/m & c/d, cold a/c, new struts, gets over 30 mi per gal. $3,000 call 863-763-2647

Pickup Trucks

1998 FORD RANGER XLT - 27,600 orginal miles, 4-cylinder, std 5-speed, cold air conditioning, alloy wheels, one owner, air bags, tinted windows $5,200 (863)610-1276

Public Notices

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
(Probate Division)
Case No. 2010CP48
Judge: Larry Schack

IN RE: ESTATE OF
EVA F. GALLOWAY,
Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of EVA F. GALLOWAY, deceased, whose date of death was February 2, 2010 and whose social security number is XXX-XX-2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 North West Third Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972. The names and addresses of the co-personal representatives and the co-personal representatives; attorney are set forth below.

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

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

The date of first publication of this notice is July 18th, 2010.

ANNETTE M. NOVELA
Florida Bar Number 44701
CURRAN LAW GROUP
Attorneys for Pratt and Wells
Coastal Tower, Suite 208
2400 East Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308-4022
Telephone: (954) 938-9922

CO-PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES:
Evelyn Diane Pratt
8992 Southern Orchard Road North
Davie, FL 33328
and
Virginia Wells
9016 Perth Road
Lake Worth, FL 33467
360525 ON 7/18,25/10

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

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

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

Public Notice

Highlands County HOME Consortium
Fifth Program Year Action Plan
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Heartland Rural HOME Consortium (which includes DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties, Florida) is applying to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the 2010-2011 allocation under the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME). This Fifth Program Year Action Plan is submitted under the Consolidated Plan for 2006-2011.

The preliminary activities, with the estimated dollar amount for which the Consortium is applying are:

Funding Source	**Budget**
HOME Investment Partnership	$ 667,239
Total	**$ 667,239**

Planned Activities	**Budget**
HOME Homeownership	$ 503,241
Community Housing Development Corporations (15%)	$100,085
Administration	$ 66,723

Each County in the Consortia has adopted a single anti-displacement and relocation plan before submission of the Consolidated Plan. The Consortia will assist displaced persons with grant funds, as indicated in the budget and policy. A required 25% match will be covered by on-going activities in each County under the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program.

Two Public Hearings to provide citizens an opportunity to comment on the Fifth Program Year Action Plan will be held at 198 6th Street, Moore Haven, FL beginning at 10:00 a.m. on July 26, 2009, and at 1728 NW 9th Ave., Okeechobee, FL, on July 29, 2010 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

A draft copy of the Annual Plan will be available for review at that time. A final copy of the application will be made available at the Highlands County Housing Department, 501 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870 on July 30, 2010 Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Fifth Program Year Action Plan will be submitted to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before August 14, 2010. To obtain additional information concerning the application and the Public Hearings contact Mary Foy, Highlands County Community Service Program Director, at (863) 402-6626.

The public hearing is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Any handicapped person requiring an interpreter for the hearing impaired or the visually impaired should contact Mary Foy at least five calendar days prior to the meeting and an interpreter will be provided. Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should also contact Mary Foy at (863) 402-6626 at least five calendar days prior to the meeting and a language interpreter will be provided. To access a Telecommunication Device for Deaf Persons (TDD) please call (800) 955-8771. Any handicapped person requiring special accommodation at this meeting should contact Mary Foy at (863) 402-6626 at least five calendar days prior to the meeting.

Pursuant 91.225, the following certifications will be submitted to HUD with the Fifth Program Year Action Plan. The certifications will be made available by Highlands County Housing Department and HUD for public inspection upon request. These certifications will be available on and after the date of submission of the application and shall continue to be available for a minimum period of five years.

1. Affirmatively furthering fair housings;
2. Anti-displacement and relocation plan;
3. Drug-free workplace;
4. Anti-lobbying;
5. Authority of Jurisdiction;
6. Consistency with Plan;
7. Acquisition and Relocation; and
8. Section 3.

A FAIR HOUSING/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ HANDICAP ACCESS JURISDICTION
360574 ON 7/18/10

Notice of Hearing
Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate

The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Faye Huffman at the Planning and Development Department, 1700 NW 9th Ave., Suite A, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, (863) 824-3010.

All interested parties shall have the opportunity to be heard at this public meeting. Any person deciding to appeal any decision by the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. Code Enforcement tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Department.

Faye Huffman, Secretary to the
Code Enforcement Special Magistrate
360291 ON 7/18/10

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Public Notice

SECTION 00103

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed BIDS will be received by **OKEECHOBEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** (hereinafter referred to as Owner), **AT OKEECHOBEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE**, **304 NW 2nd STREET, ROOM 222, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972** until **1:00 PM** on **AUGUST 5, 2010** at which time they will be publicly opened by the County Clerk or designee and read aloud at the **NEW COURTHOUSE**, **312 N.W. 3rd St. Floor No.3 East Conference Room** at **2:00PM** on **AUGUST 5,2010**. Any BIDS received after the time specified will not be accepted.

The BIDS shall be based on providing all materials, equipment and labor for the construction of the **NW 20TH LANE ROADWAY RESURFACING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.** The Contractor shall be responsible for providing all materials, equipment and labor necessary for the construction of **PAVEMENT WIDENING, RESURFACE ROADWAY, STRIPING, AND MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC** as necessary to complete the project as per plans and specifications and the most recent FDOT Standards. The Contractor **must be** currently FDOT certified. Drawings, specifications and other Contract Documents may be examined and purchased at OKEECHOBEE COUNTY Road & Bridge Department, 804 N.W.2nd STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, (863) 763-3514 and at the offices of Craig A. Smith & Associates, 7777 GLADES ROAD SUITE 410 BOCA RATON, FL 33434, (561) 314-4445 and for the non-refundable amount of **Seventy Five and 00/100 Dollars ($75.00).** Checks shall be made payable to Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners.

BIDDERS shall confine their BIDS to the project in its entirety. Partial BIDS will not be considered. Each BIDDER shall submit with this BID evidence that he is licensed to perform the work and services or qualified by examination to be so licensed.

Each BID shall be accompanied by a certified check or by an acceptable BID BOND in an amount equal to at least five (5) percent of the amount of the BID payable to **Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners**, as a guarantee that if the BID is accepted the BIDDER will execute the CONTRACT and file acceptable PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT SURETY BONDS equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price within ten (10) days after written notice of the AWARD OF CONTRACT. No bidder may withdraw his BID for a period of ninety (90) days after date set for opening of the BIDS.

There will be a **mandatory** pre-bid conference on **Monday, August 2, 2010, 1:00 PM** located on-site at the corner of NW 20th Lane and 441 for any interested contractors. Any questions pertaining to the project specifications, drawings or scope of work, shall be addressed to the Engineer in writing no later than Wednesday, August 4, 2010.

If in the opinion of the bidder, inconsistencies appear to exist in the specifications and/or drawings, it is the bidder's responsibility to seek clarification from the County. Additionally, it is incumbent upon all bidders to conduct a personal investigation as to the requirements of the County.

Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to waive informalities in any BID, delete any portion of the project; extend the project within the limits of the work involved. The Owner has the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

BIDS must be sealed and the outside of the envelope MUST be marked: **"BID - NW 20th Lane Roadway Resurfacing Improvement Project, Okeechobee County Bid No. 2010-14".**

Clif Betts, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida

Sharon Robertson, Clerk of Court
Okeechobee County, Florida
360582 ON 7/18,25;8/1/10

NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO DISCUSS CURRENT LITIGATION

The Board of Directors of the Okeechobee Utility Authority shall hold an Executive Session between the Board and the Utility Authority Attorney, which will discuss current litigation.

The proposed Executive Session shall be held in Wednesday, July 28, 2010 at 8:30 A.M. at the OUA office as 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974.

The discussion will be confined to current litigation pending between OUA and Land Ventures of America.

Notice is hereby given that following individuals will be in attendance of the Executive Session: Voting Members Melanie Anderson, Frank Irby, Carl Leonard, Thomas Hoover and Steven Nelson; Alternate Members Rick Jordan, Devin Maxwell and Harry Moldenhauer; Executive Director John F. Hayford; Tom Conely, III and Harold Melville, OUA Attorneys.

A Court Reporter will be present to record the session and the transcript shall be made part of the public record upon conclusion of the litigation.

NOTICE OF OUA WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility will meet in a workshop session on Wednesday, July 28, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. to discuss the Preliminary FY11 Budget.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Wednesday, July 28, 2010 following the scheduled workshop at 10:00A.M., to conduct general business to include but not necessarily limited to, Steven Myers agreement and selection of a Annual Audit Firm; at the Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

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

BY THE ORDER OF THE
OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford
Executive Director
360565 ON 7/18/10

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Special to the Okeechobee News/**Okeechobee Red Cross**

Prize winner

Darleen Bradford was the winner of the American Red Cross Hurricane Kit which was presented at the Hurricane Preparedness Seminar held on June 3, at Raulerson Hospital.

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Okeechobee Red Cross**

Volunteer of the Year

Okeechobee Red Cross volunteer, Chuck Parker was awarded the honor of being this year's 'Volunteer of the Year.' This award is presented to the volunteer whose exceptional commitment, determination, ability and unwavering support has enabled the Okeechobee Branch to carry out the mission of the American Red Cross to help the people of Okeechobee County prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. Chuck became the first ever Disaster Instructor for Okeechobee and Glades counties. Chuck is the Okeechobee DAT leader as well as a valued member of the Advisory Board. He is always available at a moment's notice to help in whatever capacity needed. Chuck is a local business owner in Okeechobee who still finds time to support us with our areas of fundraising, trainings, special events and disasters. He is a role model and is always maintaining the integrity and humanitarian mission of the Red Cross in our community.

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07 KIA SPECTRA 100021B $7,990*	08 PONTIAC G6 101299A $10,490*	02 FORD F-250 XLT 4X4 101271A $12,990*	07 DODGE CHARGER 100876A $13,990*
07 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 100970B $7,990*	07 DODGE DAKOTA CLUB CAB 101238A $10,990*	06 PONTIAC SOLSTICE 101002A $12,990*	08 DODGE DAKOTA 101457A $13,990*
06 TOYOTA COROLLA 101514A $8,990*	09 HYUNDAI ACCENT GL9615 $10,990*	06 FORD MUSTANG 101210A $12,990*	10 TOYOTA COROLLA S1493 $14,890*
07 FORD FIVE HUNDRED 100790A $8,990*	06 FORD MUSTANG 101354A $10,990*	06 FORD RANGER SUPERCAB 101107B $12,990*	08 CHRYSLER 300 105698A $14,990*
04 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 100998A $9,290*	08 DODGE AVENGER 101030A $10,990*	08 SCION TC 101316A $12,990*	08 MAZDA3 101108A $14,990*
03 DODGE RAM 1500 105845A $9,990*	07 DODGE RAM 1500 101118B $10,990*	08 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 100406A $12,990*	09 JEEP PATRIOT GL9616 $14,990*
06 CHEVY UPLANDER 101489A $9,990*	09 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER GL9612 $10,990*	09 FORD FOCUS SES P9605A $13,990*	06 JEEP LIBERTY PL9452A $14,990*
07 CHEVY SILVERADO EXTRA CAB 100964B $9,990*	08 JEEP PATRIOT SPORT 101729A $11,490*	08 DODGE MAGNUM 105341A $13,990*	06 DODGE RAM 1500 101173A $15,990*
07 TOYOTA COROLLA 101407A $9,990*	09 DODGE AVENGER GL9579 $11,690*	01 FORD F350 DUALLY 7.3 100221C $13,990*	07 DODGE CHARGER 100878A $15,990*
07 TOYOTA COROLLA 101152A $9,990*	04 DODGE RAM 1500 101501B $11,990*	07 FORD FUSION 101592A $13,990*	06 JEEP WRANGLER 100891A $15,990*
07 HYUNDAI TUCSON 101197A $9,990*	08 JEEP PATRIOT 105591A $11,990*	07 DODGE NITRO SXT 01315A $13,990*	08 VW JETTA 101121A $15,990*
07 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 100637A $9,990*	08 FORD F-150 S1510 $11,990*	08 CHRYSLER SEBRING TOURING 101607A $13,990*	07 DODGE NITRO 101357A $15,990*
09 CHEVY COBALT GL9443 $9,990*	06 NISSAN ALTIMA 100858A $11,990*	06 FORD ESCAPE PL9529A $13,990*	10 JEEP PATRIOT 100274A $15,990*
06 NISSAN ALTIMA 101083A $9,990*	09 NISSAN VERSA GL9613 $12,490*	08 CHEVY UPLANDER 100820B $13,990*	07 CHRYSLER 300 100872A $15,990*

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