

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 89

Sunday, July 25, 2010

75¢ Plus tax

Nielson declared incompetent

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A 13-year-old boy accused of molesting five young boys will not be standing trial any time soon due to psychological evaluations by three doctors.

Psychologists testified Friday, July 23, that Ryan Nielson suffers from mental illness and mental retardation. After hearing testimony from the three court-appointed doctors and a fourth doctor that was privately hired, County Judge



Ryan Nielson

See NIELSON — Page 15

Lake Levels

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Teresa Chandler

Check presentation

Teresa Chandler, organizer of the Okeechobee Teen Dances, presents a check to Real Life Children's Ranch, Darlene and Mark Mayers, director of Real Life Children's Ranch with funds raised from the teen admission to the dance totalling over \$400.

School budget workshop

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Local woman charged with Medicaid fraud

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Girls softball coach to be replaced

..... Page 13

Horses, puppies now belong to county

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Although they aren't totally out of the woods yet, an officer with Okeechobee County Animal Control said the horses and puppies taken from a local woman this week are all still alive.

Animal Control Officer Claire Hudson also said Friday afternoon that Melissa Violet Fralix will not be getting any of the



Melissa Violet Fralix

animals back. Due to a 2008 order signed by County Judge Jerald Bryant, the horses and puppies now belong to Animal Control.

"They're our animals," said Ms. Hudson. "We will get them healthy then they will be auctioned."

She went on to say that two of the horses are being cared for by a veterinarian with the Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital and that her office is caring for the other four. The puppies, who were all suffering from pneumonia, are showing signs of improvement

See HORSES — Page 19

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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Cowgirls honor the American cowboy

Employees of the Bank of America celebrated the National Day of the American Cowboy on Friday, July 23. The lobby was decorated appropriately and the bank employees were dressed as cowgirls. From left to right - front row are, Stephanie Robertson and Liesenia Martinez, back row, Janie Crenshaw, Paulette Wise, Janet Bishop, Barbara Stewart, Cristina Lopez, Kathy Hutto, Nancy Raddatz and Jessica Holecek.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Raye Duesinger

Get on the Bus

A Treasure Coast Coupon Entertainment Book for the first 60 donors and \$80 in gift certificates given by drawing, will highlight U-Save's Reach out to Okeechobee blood drive on Friday, July 30, from noon to 7 p.m. "U-Save is an enthusiastic supporter of the blood drive program in Okeechobee," said Mgr. Johnnie Gant, seen here with Asst. Mgr. Brian Fraser and Russ Colwell of Florida's Blood Centers.

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Turn to the Experts.™

Local woman charged with Medicaid fraud

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee woman has been arrested by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Unit on charges that she billed Medicaid for over \$33,000 in services that she did not provide.

Gail Lynn Bohannan, 53, N.E. 22nd Ave., was arrested Thursday, July 22, on felony charges of grand theft and making a false Medicaid statement. She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$40,000.



Gail Lynn Bohannan

Jail records indicate that she has since been released on bond.

An arrest report by Investigator Sean Fitzpatrick from the Office of the Attorney General stated that from Jan. 1, 2005, through Dec. 31, 2009, Bohannan was paid \$33,764.59 from Medicaid for services that were never rendered by her.

The report states that Bohannan was a caregiver for a local woman and that she was also supplying respite care. Respite care is supportive care and supervision to a recipient when the primary caregiver is unable to perform these duties for a brief period of time, the report explained.

The report states that, in actuality, the respite care was to be provided by another

woman who was approved to be that provider.

Investigator Fitzpatrick's report went on to state that Bohannan has been the woman's caregiver for more than 10 years, but was only approved for a set limit of hours of respite care. Bohannan's bill to Medicaid reportedly exceeded the approved limit.

According to the report Bohannan indicated that she would frequently work 20 hours a day, as well as providing 12 hours a day of respite care.

It is also alleged in the report that Bohannan forged the care recipient's signature on some claim documents.

The report also points out that when the actual respite care provider was interviewed the investigator was told that Bohannan rarely stayed overnight with the recipient, except for a week in 2009 when the respite care provider and their spouse went on vacation.

Over the past five years, said the approved provider in the report, Bohannan had provided the recipient with respite care less than 10 days per year.

Bohannan reportedly was paid a total of \$40,870.99 by Medicaid for providing respite care when she actually should have only received a total of \$7,106.40.

Teen arrested on felony drug charges

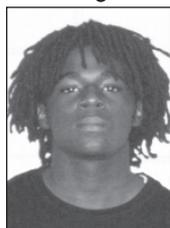
By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee teen was arrested after he was reportedly found to be in possession of several prescription pills and over \$300 in cash.

Gregory Antwon Johnson, 16, N.W. Third St., was arrested Thursday, July 22, on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (xanax) and possession of cocaine. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana under 20 grams. Johnson was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

While on patrol Thursday night, Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Deputy John Hazy stated in an arrest report that he made contact with Johnson after finding him parked behind the Douglas Brown School, 726 N.E. 16th Ave., at 10:15 p.m. As he spoke with the teen, Deputy Hazy noticed that Johnson appeared to be very nervous.

Detectives from the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force were called to the scene and an OCSO K-9 was later used to check the white Ford pick-up that Johnson was sitting in, as



Gregory A. Johnson

well as Johnson's person. Deputy Hazy stated that the K-9 alerted to the vehicle and Johnson's pants.

A task force detective then found a small baggie in the seat, a suspicious substance in the ashtray and a small pill bottle with a white residue, stated the deputy's report. During a search of Johnson's person a small container with six blue pills was found in the right front pocket of his pants and over \$300 in cash was found in the left front pants pocket, the report added.

A field test on the residue indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine, stated Deputy Hazy. A field test was also done on the substance found in the ashtray and it indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana.

The blue pills were later identified as xanax.

Deputy Hazy said three more xanax pills were found in Johnson's pants pocket as he was being booked into the county jail.

Detective: woman pawned stolen jewelry

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee woman has been arrested and charged with taking a large amount of jewelry from a home then selling some of those items at a local pawn shop.

Angelica Cornejo, 22, N.E. 64th Ave., was arrested Tuesday, July 20, on felony charges of grand theft and defrauding a pawnbroker. She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$5,500.

An arrest affidavit by Detective Augustin Saucedo of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) stated that several pieces of gold jewelry valued at approximately \$10,000 was stolen from a local home. The report states that the alleged theft occurred sometime between June 26 and July 10.

A check with local pawn shops found that several pieces of jewelry had been sold to a local pawn shop on July 8 at 11:31 a.m. The detective's report goes on to indicate



Angelica Cornejo

that Cornejo pawned the items and was paid \$600 in cash for the jewelry.

Detective Saucedo went on to state in his report that several more pieces of jewelry were found at Cornejo's home. Some pieces, added the report, are still missing.

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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!

Starved horses

- I have a very hard time knowing that there are people in this county that have had Animal Control visit them more often than most people have their own family visit and they still own animals. I hope that this time this person will be sentenced to jail time and no longer be allowed to own any horse ever again. If you can't afford to feed your children you have NO business owning a horse, let alone six! If you can't afford to feed ONE horse you have NO business owning six! And if I'm not mistaken if you own a mustang and abuse and neglect it, then there should be federal repercussions. If you have previously starved horses to the point of necessary euthanasia, why are you even allowed to own another animal in your lifetime? You deserve to be put in a dirt lot with little to no water and not fed for at least three months just like you did to these animals. And for those who don't know, I'm not a tree hugger, I own animals, horses, dogs, cats, fish. My horses are tools that I use for my extra-curricular activities but they are also part of my TEAM. I understand a cowhorse and cowdog being lean and trim, they get fed but they work daily. These animals were starved.

- I know of more than one case of people either owning or acquiring too many horses than they can afford to keep. Sometimes they are hoping to get help from donors. The trouble is, nowadays people are trying to feed themselves and their families, let alone somebody else's horses. Guess what. If these horses are gathered up by animal control we may be paying for their care with our tax money.

Sheriff's budget

- According to the paper, the county commission told Sheriff May he has to cut his budget by an additional \$2 million. I just don't see how they do that without affecting the safety of the citizens. One idea has been to privatize the jail. The sheriff is not legally required to supervise the jail. The county commission could put it out for bids. But would that really save money? And would it be safe?

- I think most cases of outsourcing jobs and services have been shown to cost more than doing them in-house. There aren't many things that can be done cheaper by someone who isn't in the day to day operation of a business, unless the jobs are sent out of the country.

- I was at the meeting and the commissioners insisted that Sheriff May make more cuts on top of what they originally wanted. The sheriff was very upset and rightfully so. The S.O. will have to cut positions. I can't believe the commission is doing this. The county has had three shootings in the last week, and Thursday there was a murder. I guess the commissioners will be investigating these cases- because the sheriff's office are going to be working on a skeleton crew and eventually good deputies and detectives will be heading for better pay and stability elsewhere. Our county can't afford to cut money this way. We have to look at other options. The commission just doesn't know what it is about to do. It is going to be tragic!

- If the sheriff's office has to make cuts, they need to look at support staff first and do everything they can to keep the deputies on the road. But so much is mandated. I understand the jail expenses are more than half of the sheriff's office budget. The state mandates what they have to provide for the inmates, but not what they have to provide for the law abiding citizens.

To Mr. Bonner - County Administrator

- I say this to Mr. Bonner and all the county commissioners: Hold a town meeting and explain to the tax payers why we need four assistants for Mr. Bonner. Tell us what they do for that type of salary and what are their qualifications. We are paying your salaries and we deserve answers. Most of us cant make the county commissioner meetings during the day because of work. Hold the town meeting at night on a weekend. If you were any type of true leaders you would do this. If you had nothing to hide you would do this. If you were still working for the people of okeechobee you would do this. I know you will not because most of you know these positions are a waste of tax payers money and you cant justify these positions. Prove me wrong! Mr. Bonner why did you take the job of county administrator? To all the county commissioners why did you want to be in office? Was it for social status, power, ego, money? Are you still working for the people or just for certain people in the county? If your heart is not in the job anymore or never was do us all a favor and step down.

Reflections from the pulpit

Questioning God

By Rev. Lois Moranville
Pastor, Okeechobee Church of the Nazarene

Many books and conversations have centered on the topic of "Why do basically good people or Christian people have to go through bad things?" Books like- "Where is God When it Hurts?" "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" and "Overcoming Life's Disappointments." I think that when we accept Christ as our personal Savior and begin to live a Christian life we think we are exempt from bad things happening to us. That is so contrary to God's Word.

Look at the life of the Apostle Paul. He was beaten, shipwrecked, imprisoned, lived with a "thorn in his flesh," faced opposition, went hungry, was basically destitute many times- yet he was called by God to proclaim God's message of salvation and to start churches throughout Europe and Southwest Asia. So why did Paul have to endure all of that when he was chosen by God and was faithful to do all things God instructed him to do?

Paul answers that question in Romans 5:1-5: "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

James in essence says the same thing "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

You say, "Am I supposed to consider my trials a joy?" YES!

"Am I supposed to rejoice in my suffering?" YES!

You see when we are a Christian we have the HOPE that is available to us in Christ to sustain us through the persecution, trials, struggles, and suffering. So the question to ask God is "How can I submit to You in this trial, struggle, suffering, persecution?"

Prayer: God when we go through the struggles, trials, suffering, persecution, help us to see it as You at work in our lives building our character into what You want it to be. Let us persevere through the difficulties, trials, suffering and persecution. Let us rest in your steadfast hope that You are maturing us for a work You have, or are going to call us to do. Let us rejoice knowing that our hope in You will not disappoint us, because you have poured out Your great love to us. You have placed Your Holy Spirit within us to comfort, sustain, and guide us through whatever comes our way. We rest knowing it is not our way but Your ways that are higher. We desire the higher ways because they are Yours. So we thank you for the trials, suffering, persecution, and struggles because it is maturing us and giving us a Hope we would not otherwise know.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 11 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 90. East southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. East southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 90. East southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Monday night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. Southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Tuesday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 90. East southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Thursday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 4-4-1; **Play 4:** 1-1-6-1; **Fantasy 5:** 2-12-17-21-36; **Mega Money:** 1-21-25-29 MB 1; **Florida Lotto:** 4-5-23-32-37-47 X 2; **Powerball:** 16-22-30-51-58 PB 25 x3. Numbers drawn Friday, **Cash 3:** 4-2-7; **Play 4:** 0-0-9-4.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
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- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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OF:



School budget proposed for upcoming school year

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee schools proposed a \$79.3 million operating budget for the 2010-2011 school year on Thursday which represents a reduction of \$1.2 million in spending.

The spending cuts are mainly due to fewer dollars coming from the local tax base.

Superintendent Dr. Patricia Cooper said this is the largest decrease in the property base of Okeechobee County in one year, \$342,857,098.

The tax roll was estimated at \$1.667 billion this year. The proposed millage of 8.121 represents a slight increase of .05 mills from last year. The school board will collect just under \$13 million in local property taxes, a reduction of nearly \$2.4 million from last year. Included in that is a super majority millage of .25 mills which will be voted on by voters in November. Also included in the millage are 1.5 mills set aside for capital improvements. The local property taxes collected are down 18.5 percent this year.

The budget includes \$26.9 million in state

aid an increase of nearly \$2.4 million.

School Board member India Riedel said the reason for the decrease in tax receipts is the decrease in property values. She said very few residents would see a property tax increase due to the higher millage rate, "In a lot of cases the property tax bill will be going down by 16 to 18 percent."

Riedel said the school board might have to make major adjustments if they don't receive the property taxes that they are supposed to collect. The estimates of property taxes collected are 96 percent. School officials said with the downturn in the economy there is a real concern that 96 percent of property taxes won't be collected.

The school board voted unanimously to approve all of the tentative millage and the proposed budget.

The base student allocation for each student continues to decline. This year the decrease is \$6.86 per student. The budget also includes no salary increases for employees.

The budget includes funds for 670 positions and 7,260 students. The Freshman

campus budget is \$1.87 million. Central Elementary has a \$2.74 million budget, Okeechobee High School \$5.75 million, South Elementary \$2.35 million, New Endeavor High School \$1.28 million, North Elementary \$3.38 million, Yearling \$3.89 million, Everglades Elementary \$3.3 million, Seminole \$3.48 million and Osceola \$4.54 million. The transportation department budget totals \$3.1 million while the district office has a \$3.5 million budget.

The capital projects budget totals \$7.18 million. It is down 25 percent. The projects includes \$4.09 million for a new Okeechobee Achievement Academy, \$120,000 to pave the OHS drivers education parking lot, \$43,000 for a county wide emergency communication system, \$100,000 to upgrade the electric at Central Elementary, \$200,000 for lighting improvements at Seminole Elementary, and \$610,000 for school buses.

Other projects include \$100,000 for district wide painting, \$120,000 for floor replacements, \$100,000 for heating ventilation and air conditioning repairs, and \$50,000 to

improve the kitchens at Seminole and Everglades Elementary.

School recognition dollars that are determined by school grades will be delayed this year due to appeals filed on the FCAT scores. Last year the schools received \$378,576 in the school recognition program.

The cost of class size reduction will be \$7.14 million, an increase of \$138,671. The district will keep \$500,000 in reserve in case there is a state revenue shortfall. The fund balance would total \$2.34 million, or just over 5 percent of the budget.

Dr. Cooper said every school had to cut 10 percent of their discretionary spending. "We've cut and cut and cut until were starting to bleed."

"We need to be careful with our spending this year, more than ever before. We just need to watch."

The first public hearing on the budget is scheduled for Thursday, July 29, at 6 p.m. at the Okeechobee School Board offices.

Dr. Cooper said the district has 20 instructional vacancies.

Okeechobee unemployment levels increase

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

An additional 150 people were forced to file for unemployment benefits as jobless rates rose a full point in Okeechobee during June according to the latest report from the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Markets Statistics Center.

The report stated 2,330 Okeechobee residents collected unemployment last month a rate of 12.8 percent. That compared to 2,178 who collected in May, a rate of 11.8 percent. One year ago the jobless rate stood at 12 percent.

Okeechobee was tied for 11th among Florida's 67 counties for the highest jobless rate.

In Glades County there were 536 people out of work in June a rate of 12.2 percent. That compared to 504 residents in May, a jobless rate of 11.2 percent. One year ago

Glades County had an 11.2 percent unemployment rate.

Historically summer time employment levels do dip in the Big Lake region, but Okeechobee's rate has not been this high for many years.

One report said 35,000 Floridians a week are exhausting their unemployment benefits. The federal government is expected to vote on Monday to extend unemployment benefits.

Rich Templin, Executive Director of the AFL-CIO in Florida, said current state law has June 5 as the expiration date for unemployment benefits. He contends the state law must be changed in order to have benefits extended. He said these benefits are a vital lifeline for residents.

"It's not just a lifeline for individual workers and their families, it is also a lifeline for communities because every worker who exhausts their unemployment benefit is a lost

customer to local business," he added.

Mr. Templin said the unemployment program was built during the Great Depression to give unemployed workers buying power, which helped keep businesses afloat. He maintains that the unemployment program generates \$1.6 billion in economic activity in the nation.

"Florida is looking to lose \$470 million of economic activity in the state by not extending this program, assuming the federal government acts, which again we have every indication that they will," he added.

Mr. Templin said state legislatures should act on the extension during a special session next week in Tallahassee.

Around the area Hendry County had 16.1 percent unemployment, Highlands 11.8 percent, St. Lucie 14.3 percent, Martin 11.7 percent, and Osceola 12.1 percent. The state unemployment rate was 11.6 percent and the nation's was 9.6 percent.

Special magistrate imposes fine in three cases

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

In code enforcement hearings held Tuesday afternoon, July 29, Special Magistrate Lois Nichols imposed fines in three code violation cases.

Code Enforcement Officer Beth Albert stated that James H. Myers and William K. Day had not brought their S.E. 36th Avenue property into compliance by mowing. They were fined \$25 a day for every day of non-compliance beginning July 21.

Penny M. Chaisson was fined \$10 a day for every day of noncompliance beginning July 21, for an addition to a mobile home that was constructed without a building permit on N.W. 18th Street.

Because Gloria Jean Vonderau had neither demolished nor gotten a repair permit for a structure on N. W. 103rd Avenue, she was fined \$10 a day beginning July 21.

Howard and Gail Richards had been cited for construction of a shed on their S.E. 61st Drive property without a building permit or final inspection. Mrs. Albert said that a permit had been applied for and was ready for pick up. They were given until next month to get a final inspection.

In the case of Jacob Nisson, who had built a pole barn with a building permit, Code Enforcement Officer Albert stated that a building permit had been obtained and his architect stated that the building was in compliance with Florida Building Codes. The case was tabled until next month in or-

der for the code enforcement department to receive documentation that the building had passed inspection.

There was a question about proper notification in the case of Mitchell Hurdley and Illinorse Hardy. Upon the recommendation of county attorney Laura McCall, that case was tabled until next month.

The properties of Christopher Amsden, Melba Franklin, John K. Cook, and Marjorie S. Paige, trustee, were found to be in compliance and those cases were not heard.

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

Soccer registration opens

Upward Soccer registration is open at Oakview Baptist Church, 677 S.W. 32nd St., for boys and girls, ages K-4 through 6th grade. You may pick up a registration form at the church office Monday thru Thursday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Deadline to register is Aug. 10.



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Obituaries

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

Edwina A. Kline, 91

OKEECHOBEE — Edwina A. Kline, 91, died Thursday, July 22, 2010, at her residence. She had been a resident of Okeechobee since 1966 and was of the Baptist faith.

Her hobbies included sewing, crafting, gardening, and her grandbabies.

Miss Edwina's community service included the Marah Ladies of the Shrine and auxiliaries of the American Legion, VFW, Moose and Elks. She

was also a Pink Lady at Raulerson Hospital.

She was preceded in death by husband, Richard and five siblings.

Survivors include sons, Richard (Martha) Kline of Canadys, S.C., George R. Kline II of Okeechobee; daughters, Susan Kline of Okeechobee, Emily P. Kline of River Ranch, and Mary R. Zink of Ayer, Mass. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and two great, great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held tomorrow, July 26, at 1 p.m. at Abundant Blessings Church with Pastors David and Deborah San Martin of Resurrection Life Church of Okeechobee officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

All arrangements and care are under the direction of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory, Okeechobee, 863-357-7283.

Brighton Jay Serrano

OKEECHOBEE — Brighton Jay Serrano, infant, of Okeechobee died Wednesday, July 21, 2010, at Raulerson Hospital. He was born April 10, 2010, in Sebring, Fla.

He is survived by his mother and father, Jose and Dixie Serrano of Okeechobee; brothers, Dathen Garcia, Jose Serrano Jr.; sisters, Maricella Garcia, Jaeleigh Serrano; grandparents, Mark and Stella Ford, Gaudencia Serrano and Eliazin Brito; aunts, Nikki Urbina, Anabel Brito, Maria Brito; uncles, CW Ortiz, Logan Ortiz, Marco Brito, and Osiel Brito.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, July 24, 2010, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee. Graveside services will be held on Sunday, July 25, 2010 at 11 a.m. in the Ortona Cemetery.

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



Peter 'Pete' Repak, 85

OKEECHOBEE — Peter "Pete" Repak, age 85, was called "Home" July 21, 2010.

He was born May 29, 1925, in W. Wyoming, Pa., to a family of 16 children. Formerly of Bethesda, Md., he moved to Okeechobee 15 years ago.

A graduate of George Washington University, he was the only one of his siblings to complete college. He was a life-time member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity. He retired from the Department of Environmental Service in August 1980, after 20 years of service.

Peter, a veteran of WWII, bridged the Rhine River with Patton's army. He was a member of American Legion Post #64 and a charter member of VFW Post #9528 in Buckhead Ridge.

Peter was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, Washington, D.C. chapter, for 35 years and resumed membership in the K of C at St. Teresa's Catholic Church, where he was a member, in 1995. Pete loved the Lord Jesus with all his heart.

He spent his time in later years in his flower garden and feeding his wild birds that came to visit him everyday.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Beverly Repak; sons, Nick and Paul Repak, both of Plano, Texas; daughters, Becky Dail of Moscow, Idaho, Terry Repak of Atlanta, Ga., Mary Heidenreich of Mt. Perry, Ohio, Patsy Ferreira of Indianapolis, Ind., and Ping Boucher of Los Angeles, Calif. He is also survived by brother, Andrew Repak; sisters, Eva Kinzey, Ann Lauro, Rose Marie Selensky, and Eleanor Andress; and many devoted nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held tonight, July 23, at Abundant Blessings Church from 7 until 10 p.m. A Mass of the Resurrection will be held Saturday, July 24, at St. Teresa's Catholic Church, Buckhead Ridge, at 11 a.m.

All care and arrangements are under the direction of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory, 4550 Highway 441 North, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, 357-7283.

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

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Visit:
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For a complete list of Obituary Notices, click on your community, then click on "Obituaries".

newszap.com

Community Events

VFW celebrating Christmas in July

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

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.

Moose celebrating anniversary

On Sunday, **July 25**, Okeechobee Moose #1753 at 159 N.W. 36th St. will celebrate its 44th anniversary. Dinner will be served at 2 p.m. with music karaoke from 4-7 p.m. Call Bob Williams at 863-610-2997.

Collaborative Council 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. Guest speakers: Lynn Vidulich, Foster Grandparent Program and Candace Pope, Okeechobee County Health Dept. - S.W.A.T. Call Sharon Vinson at 863-462-5000, Ex. 257 with any questions.

Hospice to host benefit Yard Sale

Hospice of Okeechobee (411 SE 4th Street) will hold a Gigantic Yard Sale on Thursday, **July 29** and **Friday, July 30**, from 8 a.m. until noon. Hospice Yard Sales are the best kept secret in Okeechobee—you will not believe how many items we have at extremely reasonable prices! The Country Store is full of many new items. We have lots of school clothes in the Blue Volunteer Building. 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.

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

Bathing your pet - It's the healthy thing to do

Dr. Jane Bicks, DVM

Human Society of Okeechobee Pet Rescue

You just washed your horse and your dog. You're wet and aggravated and wonder if the bath was really worth it. Bathing is necessary to keep them healthy. Skin and hair serves as a barrier between the outside world and your pet, just like our skin does. It traps bacteria, pollen, dust and everything that they come in contact with. It also serves as a way to keep them cool in the summer and warm in the winter. The coat and skin reflects the health of a pet. A shiny coat with healthy skin means that the pet is healthy while a dull dry coat with excessive shedding could mean he's not.

Bathing cleans your pet and eliminates everything that is clinging to the coat and skin. There is a procedure for bathing your pet. Dilute the shampoo in a container with a small amount of tepid water. Wet your pet very well before you pour on the shampoo. Pour the shampoo from the neck down the back, under the tail, under the tummy, and on the chest. Don't forget the feet on your dog and cat and the legs of your horse.

You can bathe your cat. Set a collapsible screen into the sink. Set the water to a tepid temperature, and bring your cat to the sink. He will reach out for the screen and attach himself to it. All you have to do is add shampoo, massage and rinse. Try it for the first time without shampoo. After bathing wrap him up in a towel so he can dry.

When bathing you need to get rid of dirt and the dead skin cells. Skin is made up of cells

that you can't see with the naked eye. These cells die every day while new fresh ones are made. When you see dandruff it means that these cells are dying too fast.



Dr. Jane Bicks, DVM

Bathing will send the dead cells and everything that is on them down the drain. The best way to invigorate these cells is to use a curry brush. Make circular movements with it. The curry brush will exfoliate and stimulate the skin. Since oil glands lay in the skin the curry brush will help spread the oil. Rinsing well is essential. You should continue rinsing after you don't see suds.

The type of shampoo you use depends upon your pet's need. I like to use an antifungal on the horses, leaving it on for about 5 minutes. Medicated shampoos are helpful if your pet's skin is oily and or odorous. Flea shampoos are very helpful but you must be sure that they are compatible with the flea and tick protection you are using. Human shampoo including baby shampoo should not be used. Pet's shampoo requirements are different.

Once done, use a scraper to wipe away water from your horse. If you don't want them to roll in the dirt put them in a stall until they dry. Your dog and cat can be dried using a towel. If you are going to use a dryer be careful not to burn your pet. When all is done stand back and admire your work. You deserve it.



Sales:

**Monday at 12 p.m.
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For Info, Call 763-7202

THEATRE I: "INCEPTION"
Fri. 7:00 & 9:15, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:15, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG-13**

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
Senior Citizens - \$5.00 all movies • Matinees - \$4.50

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

July 19 and 20, 2010		Med #1	Steers	Hftrs	Slaughter cows and bulls
Cows		200-250	165-190	127-155	were \$1-\$2 lower. Calves
Breaking	\$53.50 \$60.50	250-300	165-190	122-140	were steady. We had a big
Cutter	\$52.00 \$60.00	300-350	137-152	119-127	run of cattle and demand
Canner	\$43.00 \$52.00	350-400	127-140	112-115	was good. Triple T Sod,
Bulls		400-450	116-124	107-113	Okeechobee topped the
1000-1500	\$58.00 \$63.00	450-500	110-117	103-112	calf market this week with
1500-2000	\$65.50 \$73.00	550-600	105-110	97-102	a high of \$2.10 bought by
		600-650	103-106	95-98	Curt Wilson, Co. Seminole
Monday	Tuesday	Med #2	Steers	Hftrs	Tribe, Brighton and Rafter T
Calves	698 1681	150-200			Ranch, Sebring topped the
Cows	144 477	200-250	127-150	107-130	cow market with a high of
Str	11 57	250-300	113-140	100-123	\$62.
Hftrs	10 66	300-350	117-142	105-119	See ya next week,
Bulls	18 24	350-400	108-129	100-114	Pete
Yrlngs	23 167	400-450	104-120	96-109	
Mix	0 0				
Total	904 2472				

Available 24/7



Fact Book: <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=65039&pagenum=1>
Medical Directory: <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=59786&pagenum=1>
Meet Your Local Merchants: <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=56360&pagenum=1>
School Information Guide: <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=68371&pagenum=1>

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

Colleen Larson

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Upcoming Philippine Fiesta planned for Okeechobee

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

An estimated crowd of over 3,000 people could attend Fiesta Philippines in December as organizers try to gain momentum for the 20-acre Philippine Gardens project in Okeechobee.

President of the Philippine-American Cultural Foundation of Florida, Edwin Dominado said the fiesta will be a kickoff to phase one of the project. That phase will include a pond and garden.

"It is very exciting. It's a tough job but we are going to make it," he said.

The garden will be the largest Philip-

pine garden in the world outside of the Philippines. It will measure 20 acres when completed. He said the combination of this garden with Lake Okeechobee and the natural beauty of this area should bring a lot of tourists to the area and be a benefit to the economy.

The fiesta will include cultural presentations, fashion shows, contemporary and traditional costumes, marching bands, dances, and plenty of music, food, and fun.

The group plans to bring in large tents to accommodate the guests that attend. They expect to fill up motel rooms in Okeechobee for that weekend. He expected tourists from

Miami to Jacksonville to attend the fiesta.

Mr. Dominado said the site work on the project continues. They have installed exterior fences and a gate and expect to start construction this winter.

"So far so good. We are not in a real hurry as the project depends on funding," he explained. He said the economy has affected everyone but that he didn't think it would stop this project.

"This project is for everybody. I don't see any problem or hindrance. I see indications that the corporate and private community will help us with investment," he added.

The group has finalized the site plan for

this property and they intend to submit it to Okeechobee County in the near future. The goal is to have the entire facility completed within five years. The estimated cost is near \$15 million. Mr. Dominado said they have received approval for a special exception to build the pond and small garden from the county. They are also busy with environmental permits.

"I want the public to be there on December 4. We are going to showcase the old and the new, and the younger generation. It is for everybody, not just Filipinos," he explained.

An entrance fee will also be collected.

PROPOSED MILLAGE LEVY:		BUDGET SUMMARY				
OPERATING FUND:		SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY				
REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT	5.623	THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA ARE 1.7 PERCENT MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES				
DISCRETIONARY OPERATING	0.748					
DISCRETIONARY CRITICAL NEEDS	0.250					
DEBT SERVICE FUND:	0.000					
LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT:	1.500					
TOTAL	8.121	Fiscal Year 2010-2011				
	GENERAL FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUND	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	
ESTIMATED REVENUES:						
FEDERAL SOURCES	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,332.23	55,332.23	
FEDERAL THROUGH STATE	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	12,548,143.93	12,748,143.93	
STATE SOURCES	34,838,223.00	212,555.55	525,856.00	60,000.00	35,636,634.55	
LOCAL SOURCES	11,314,298.00	0.00	2,404,070.00	1,091,260.54	14,809,628.54	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	16,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,000.00	
TOTAL SOURCES	46,403,521.00	212,555.55	2,929,926.00	13,719,736.70	63,265,739.25	
TRANSFERS IN	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00	
FUND BALANCE JULY 1, 2010	9,429,392.26	48,096.70	5,851,626.62	512,120.46	15,841,236.04	
TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS & BALANCES	56,032,913.26	260,652.25	8,781,552.62	14,231,857.16	79,306,975.29	
EXPENDITURES:						
	INSTRUCTION	32,833,548.92		4,384,690.66	37,218,239.58	
PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES	1,964,819.95			1,141,982.37	3,106,802.32	
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA SERVICES	667,658.50			1,156,925.42	1,824,583.92	
INSTRUCTIONAL/CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT SERV	595,559.22			1,297,690.07	1,893,249.29	
INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAINING SERVICES	161,030.00			299,645.39	460,675.39	
INSTRUCTION RELATED TECHNOLOGY	555,966.00			0.00	555,966.00	
SCHOOL BOARD	667,433.00			0.00	667,433.00	
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	1,653,677.49			269,484.16	1,923,161.65	
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	3,570,425.20			1,000.00	3,571,425.20	
FACILITIES ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION	270,857.71		8,483,713.21	500,000.00	9,254,570.92	
FISCAL SERVICES	461,265.16			0.00	461,265.16	
FOOD SERVICES	0.00			4,136,006.82	4,136,006.82	
CENTRAL SERVICES	362,568.50			0.00	362,568.50	
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	3,127,990.10			646,342.81	3,774,332.91	
OPERATION OF PLANT	4,245,985.31			12,514.00	4,258,499.31	
MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	1,304,578.15			0.00	1,304,578.15	
ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES	435,188.40			204,500.00	639,688.40	
COMMUNITY SERVICES	317,500.00			0.00	317,500.00	
DEBT SERVICE	0.00	220,812.50		0.00	220,812.50	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	53,196,051.61	220,812.50	8,483,713.21	14,050,781.70	75,951,359.02	
TRANSFERS OUT	0.00	0.00	200,000.00	0.00	200,000.00	
FUND BALANCE JUNE 30, 2011	2,836,861.65	39,839.75	97,839.41	181,075.46	3,155,616.27	
TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES, TRANSFERS AND BALANCES	56,032,913.26	260,652.25	8,781,552.62	14,231,857.16	79,306,975.29	

THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED , AND/OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD

NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY

The School District of Okeechobee County will soon consider a measure to impose a 1.500 mill property tax for capital outlay projects listed herein.

This tax is in addition to the school board's proposed tax of 6.621 mills for operating expenses and is proposed solely at the discretion of the school board.

The capital outlay tax will generate approximately \$2,401,070 to be used for the following projects:

CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING

School Classroom Construction

MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION, AND REPAIR

District-Wide HVAC Projects
District-Wide ITV Projects
Communications Cabling Projects
District-Wide Flooring
Lighting Replacements and Upgrades
District-Wide Electrical Projects
Window Tinting Projects
District-Wide Roof Repair
District-Wide Security Enhancements
District-Wide Painting Projects
District-Wide Playground Improvements
Telephone Systems

MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES

Purchase of (6) School Buses

NEW AND REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT

District-Wide Furniture and Equipment
District-Wide Computer Hardware and Software
Playground Equipment
Band Instruments

PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE NECESSARY TO INSURE THE EDUCATIONAL AND ANCILLARY PLANTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing to be held on July 29, 2010 at 6:00 P.M., at the School District of Okeechobee County office building, Room 303, 700 SW Second Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974.

A DECISION on the proposed CAPITAL OUTLAY TAXES will be made at this hearing.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The School District of Okeechobee County will soon consider a budget for fiscal year 2010-2011. A public hearing to make a DECISION on the budget AND TAXES will be held on:

July 29, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

At

School District of Okeechobee County,
Room 303, 700 SW Second Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

Old newspaper provides a trip back in time

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Some things have changed over time, others haven't.

Browsing through the May 30, 1918 issue of "The Okeechobee Call," the name this newspaper originally carried, gives an interesting look at life in the new county which was not quite a year old at that time.

One thing that has not changed is our love of barbecue. The first political rally and barbecue in the new county was held on May 18, of that year "in Raulerson's grove near the school building." That would have been near the building on S.W. Second Avenue that currently houses the school board offices. However, local historian Judge William Hendry does not know where Raulerson's grove was located.

"The day was very much enjoyed and will be long remembered by all who attended and that means practically everybody in the county," the newspaper reported.

When the county was formed the year before, the first officials were appointed. Speakers at this rally were campaigning to be the first elected officials. Smith Drawdy had been appointed sheriff. He spoke on behalf of his candidacy against opponents Okeechobee City Marshall "Pogy Bill" Collins, and William Knight. Later that year Mr. Collins had the distinction of being the first elected sheriff. He was a very interesting and colorful character who had earned his nickname as a commercial fisherman. He was also known as a member of a marching band, baseball player, boys' baseball coach and Boy Scout leader.

Those early Okeechobee citizens' love of politics stopped long enough to indulge their love of barbecue. "At 12 o'clock the speaking was suspended and everybody partook

of the sumptuous and appetizing dinner prepared by the ladies of the Red Cross under the direction of the barbecue committee," is how the "Okeechobee Call" described the situation.

Then, as now, Okeechobee citizens loved baseball. At three o'clock the speaking stopped again for "a real ball game" between Okeechobee and Fort Pierce, which Okeechobee won by a slight margin. While the newspaper did not give the lineups of the baseball teams, it is quite likely Mr. Collins played for the Okeechobee team.

As a sign of the more relaxed times there was a column called "Okeechobee Calls" which consisted of such neighborly things as naming local citizens who had recently taken trips to Fort Pierce and Kissimmee, and announcing people who had out of town guests and those who had illness in the family. The column also contained this interesting entry: "The Hillsboro Hotel was closed for a few days by County Food Administrator, L.E. Davis for serving too much wheat flour." Possibly this was because wheat flour was rationed during World War I.

The number of businesses has increased since 1918. An advertisement by the Okeechobee Company, the company that laid out the plat of the city and sold many of the lots, encouraged people to relocate to Okeechobee by listing the businesses. Among other businesses, there were two blacksmith shops, two hardware stores, an ice plant, a movie house, two restaurants, two garages and four hotels. Among the assets described in the ad were two miles of concrete sidewalks, electric lights, a \$40,000 school building, and ground artesian water.

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



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Safety award

Sharon Allison, left, the City of Okeechobee representative to PRM, the city's insurance carrier, presents the city with an award for "Best Overall Safety Performance for Entities Less Than 100 Employees 2010." Accepting the award for the city is Mayor Pro Tempore Dowling Watford. The presentation took place at the July 20 city council meeting.

G4S softball field dedicated to founder John Morgenthau

On Wednesday, July 14, Okeechobee Youth Development Center held a memorial and dedication ceremony to recognize the legacy of John Morgenthau. John had more than 35 years of experience in juvenile justice and corrections management and devoted his career to doing the right thing to help and protect children. As a founder and Chief Operating Officer of G4S Youth Services he took great pride in the company, its employees, and what the company does for kids with serious needs and challenges.

John's motto was, "Do the right thing and always take the high road."
 John was a pioneer in the Florida Juvenile Justice system. He worked for the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services for 20 years where he served as the Delinquency Residential Services Program Administrator, Detention Services Program Supervisor, System Accreditation Manager, Acting Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Standards and Training Council, Staff Development and Training Administra-

tor, Chief, Bureau of Staff Development and Training, and Superintendent of two residential community-based treatment centers.
 The event culminated with a newly erected softball field on grounds at Okeechobee Youth Development dedicated in his honor and the inaugural John Morgenthau Classic played between staff members from Okeechobee Youth Development Center/Okeechobee Intensive Halfway House and Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Corrections Center. G4S Youth Services would like to greatly thank the Department of Juvenile Justice for joining in the celebration of John's legacy as well as granting permission for G4S to dedicate the field on the Department's property in John's honor.



G4S Youth Services OYDC/OIHH Facility Administrator Joseph Hasselbach, G4S Youth Services CEO Kerry L. Knott, John's Wife/Cathy Morgenthau, G4S Youth Services Co- Founder Dr. Gail Browne, G4S Youth Services Senior Vice President Peter Plant.



THIS FIELD IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF John Morgenthau
 Co-Founder, Director, and Executive Vice President of G4S Youth Services.
 With over 35 years of experience in juvenile justice and corrections management, John devoted his career to doing the right thing to help and protect children. As Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of G4S Youth Services, he took great pride in the company, its employees, and what G4S provides for kids with serious needs and challenges.

Special to the Okeechobee News/Teresa Chandler
 G4S Youth Services Senior Vice President Peter Plant, G4S Youth Services OYDC/OIHH Facility Administrator Joseph Hasselbach, G4S Youth Services Co-Founder Dr. Gail Browne, John's Wife/Cathy Morgenthau, Okeechobee County Commissioner Joey Hoover, G4S Youth Services CEO Kerry L. Knott.

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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Consignment Shop business

Dress 2 Impress Consignment and Bridal/Formal Wear allows you to clean out your closet and turn unwanted items into cash. You can also find bargains on ladies, men's and juniors' clothing as well as home decor. New owners Gail Adams and Becky Gray also have bridal wear and tuxedo rental. The consignment shop is located at 810 E. Park St. in the Courtyard Shops. The hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Sunday they are open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Women's fitness center opens

By Pete Gawda

Okeechobee News

"I love having people come in and helping them relax," said Darla Rose, licensed massage therapist, certified personal trainer and owner of Living Well, Women's Health and Wellness Center at 103 S.W. Third Ave. Her goal is to help women feel better in body, soul and spirit.

"I want this be a positive place for women to be encouraged," she said. "I believe God led me down the path to health so I can help other people."

The wellness center offers exercise equipment, nutritional products, massage therapy, raindrop therapy which uses nine oils layered on the spine to promote energy and help chronic back pain, and ionized water which combats the acidity of the body and weight loss products.

The wellness center is open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 to 12 on Saturday. The telephone number is 863-357-3333. While appointments are taken, walk ins are welcome.

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



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Darla Rose, owner of Living Well Women's Health and Wellness Center demonstrates one of the exercise machines available at the center. Massage therapy and a variety of other health and wellness practices and products can be found there.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Sharon Johnson

Dance finals

Leslie's Dance studio competed in the Dance Makers, Inc., National finals on July 1, in Myrtle Beach, S.C. and Leyton Watford, age 6, of Okeechobee, won the National Championship for her rendition of Cruella Deville in contemporary dance.

Community Events

Orchid Club to meet

The Okeechobee Orchid Club will meet on Monday, July 26, at 7 p.m. at the Extension Center. Bring problem orchids for analysis and discussion. The Garden Club meets at 6 p.m. For more information please call 863-763-6464.

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 Li-

brary, 206 S.W. 16th Street. The display runs from now through July 31. Call the library at 863-763-3536 for more information.

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. Please help with clean up on 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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Schools look for new softball coach

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

For the second summer in a row, Kim Hargraves has been told by Okeechobee Schools that she will not return as softball coach.



Kim Hargraves

Hargraves said Okeechobee High School Principal Toni Wiersma informed her last week that she will not be brought back for another year as coach. A similar situation occurred last August where Hargraves was let go, but then brought back 24 hours later.

Hargraves will leave OHS with nearly 200 career wins and four district championships in 10 years. About 20 of her players were able to receive college scholarships during her career.

Hargraves said she was surprised by the decision. "The decision doesn't make sense. All they told me was they wanted to head in a new direction. I feel it is a sad situation that impacts a lot of kids," she told the Okeechobee News.

Hargraves also intends to step away from the Firestix youth softball program that she built to help build up the high school program.

"I know I've been controversial. People really don't like to see other people succeed. I feel I represented Okeechobee well in everything I did. The district wants to achieve excellence and they are doing that by getting rid of the most successful sports program on campus," she added.

Hargraves said she won't fight the decision. She did admit that several of her players were upset by the decision and that they plan to appear before the Okeechobee County School Board in the near future. She said many parents will also be upset because many of them counted on their daughters getting college scholarships.

"A college education is hard to pay for. These are very dedicated kids who worked hard to get good grades and excel in athletics," she added.

Hargraves said the decision comes at a bad time because Okeechobee has seven seniors next year and arguably were the best team, on paper, in this region.

"I've had some phone conversations with some of the individuals. The girls have been over to speak with me and all of them are distraught. They want answers and the community as a whole should want some answers," she added.

Assistant Principal Ken Kenworthy said the position will be advertised and that a committee will be formed to select a new coach. He agreed that many of the girls in the softball program have worked hard to get a college scholarship. He said the goal is to hire a coach that can continue this winning tradition.

"Coach Hargraves has fulfilled her obligation to us and she did a very good job. We hope to have someone in place soon so the program can continue to move forward," he added.

Kenworthy said they will seek candidates who have knowledge of the sport and Florida High School Athletic Association rules, have high expectations for their players both on and off the field, are good communicators, and who can teach their players a sense of pride and sportsmanship.

"Mrs. Wiersma is in charge of personnel decisions and we entrust those decisions to her. She just wanted to take the softball program in a different direction. We thank Coach Hargraves for her service," he added.

Kenworthy said there was not a dispute or incident that led to this decision. He said the administration fully supports Mrs. Wiersma's decision.

"We support her in that decision. We wish Kim the best of luck and we know she did an outstanding job for us. We do hope there are no hard feelings," he said.

Kenworthy said the district expected to field a large amount of applicants for the position due to the slumping job market.

"We commend the team for their performance over the years. They did a great job. Their winning record was certainly commendable. We hope to get a lot of applicants willing to put in the long hours that are needed to do a good job for the students we serve," he added.

Hargraves said she knows she has made some mistakes in her coaching style but has gotten older and wiser and made some adjustments. She said she has always been committed to helping the kids and is proud of the job she has done. "We are a family. The kids in college still come back to get advice from me. It is hard for me because I don't know if someone else will do these sorts of things for the kids."

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Register now for Fall 2010 semester at IRSC

Registration is now open for the Indian River State College Fall Semester. Classes begin on Monday, Aug. 23.

"We encourage students to come in now for academic and career counseling and for assistance planning their program of study. Students who register early miss the last-minute rush and find the best selection of classes," said Steven Payne, assistant dean of educational services.

IRSC offers more than 170 programs with courses offered in day and evening times and online. Baccalaureate level programs include Digital Media, Biology, Human Services, Organizational Management, Public Safety Administration, Nursing, and Education programs in high school and middle school math and science and exceptional student education

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help them succeed in their classes, and free GED preparation and English as a second language instruction are also available.

Registration may be completed at the nearest IRSC campus or online at www.irsc.edu. For student convenience, a special Saturday registration day will be held on Aug. 14, at all campuses. IRSC campuses are located in Fort Pierce, Vero Beach, Stuart, St. Lucie West and Okeechobee. For more information, call the IRSC Call Center at 1-866-792-4772.

Garden Club: Time to solarize!

By Dan Culbert, horticultural agent

UF/IFAS Okeechobee Extension Office

The number of local residents that are now growing home vegetable gardens has increased over the past couple of years. Gardeners often have questions on how to deal with all kinds of pests. At this coming Monday night, the Okeechobee Garden club will learn about a way to reduce their problems with weeds, insects, diseases, all without using pesticides!

Sound too good to be true? County Horticulture Agent Dan Culbert will be giving a short presentation on soil solarization at this month's Garden Club meeting. Now is the time to solarize, and gardeners can learn all about it starting at 6 p.m. at the County Extension office - 458 Hwy. 98

North. The meeting is free and open to all.

Persons with other gardening questions may also bring them along. Members of the Garden Club are also known to bring along plants or seed to share with others, so plan on coming out on Monday, July 26.

At 7 p.m., the Okeechobee Orchid Club will meet at the Extension Office. Bring any plants with problems and we'll discuss and hopefully find a solution.

For information about the Garden Club, call Dan Culbert at 863-763-6469. And for more information about the Orchid Club, call Jan Day Fehrman at 863-357-9980.

For other gardening information, consult the UF/IFAS Okeechobee County Extension web page, <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu>, or stop by the office at 458 Hwy 98 North in Okeechobee.

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Nielson

Continued From Page 1

Jerald Bryant found Nielson incompetent. The judge ruled that Nielson will receive out-patient treatment and the competency issue will be revisited in six months, said Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright. During Friday's hearing, Mr. Albright said for Nielson to be declared incompetent state statutes require that he be mentally ill, mentally retarded or mentally age deficient. Nielson was arrested Dec. 16, 2009, and charged with seven counts of sexual battery and six counts of lewd and lascivious molestation. The alleged victims were between the ages of 8 and 11. The psychologists—Dr. Deborah Leporowski, Dr. Michael Reardon and Dr. Gregory Landrum—were appointed by the court

to evaluate Nielson. Dr. Leporowski testified Friday morning that Nielson "clearly has an intellectual deficit." She went on to say that he has reading and math disorders, cannot express himself through writing and has been sexually abused. She also testified during questioning by defense attorney Jonathan Jay Kirschner that Nielson doesn't understand the charges against him. "He can't explain what lewd means," she said, as one example. While he understands that the judge is in charge, Dr. Leporowski said the teen thought that he was represented by Mr. Albright. "He knows the word defendant, but he didn't know that he is the defendant," she said from the witness stand. "When I told him he was the defendant, he said 'I am!'" She said while Nielson is polite and cour-

teous, he could be unintentionally disruptive in court because he has trouble controlling his emotions. Dr. Leporowski said the teen has significant learning disabilities—"at best." The doctor also testified that after going over Nielson's school records she learned that he did not meet the requirements to pass kindergarten and that he was "administratively promoted" from grade three to grade four. "Not passing kindergarten is not rare, but it is certainly a red flag," she told Mr. Kirschner. "His mental age would be something less than his chronological age." As to restoring him to competency, Dr. Leporowski said she isn't sure he can be restored. "He is functioning in the range of mildly

mentally retarded. Restoration could be affected by the way his brain works," she said. Dr. Reardon testified that, academically, Nielson is functioning at the level of a 7 or 8 year old. When asked by Mr. Kirschner, Dr. Reardon said his prognosis was "guarded" on the likelihood Nielson's competency could be restored. He also suggested that the teen receive outpatient treatment for at least six months. "If he's not competent by then, he probably cannot be restored," said Dr. Reardon. Both Dr. Leporowski and Dr. Reardon testified they saw no signs of malingering or lying by Nielson during their evaluation sessions.

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).

- Travis Franklin Bast, 26, S.E. 23rd St., Okeechobee, was arrested July 22 by Officer Lawrence Parzygnat on a charge of driving while license suspended - habitual offender. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Casey Johnson, 19, Allen St., Punta Gorda, was arrested July 22 by DOC's Michael White on charges of violation of probation - possession of marijuana with intent to sell and violation of probation - possession of marijuana in excess of 20 grams. He is being held without bond.

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



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Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.

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

Services

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Apartments

2B/1.5B CONDO OAK LAKE VILLAS. WATER & YARD MAINTENANCE INC. \$750 MON. 1ST & \$500 DEPOSIT. (863)532-1452 or (863)532-1523

Excavation

CLEARING & HAULING
Dump Truck, Back Hoe & Bobcat Services... by Jason Summerford (863)634-7771

Top Soil

JACK'S TOP SOIL
Fill Dirt/Shell Rock & Bob Cat work.
Call 863-467-4734

Merchandise

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

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ANTIQUE SIDE TABLE - LATE 1800 ORIGINAL ANTIQUE SIDE TABLE. \$149.00/or best offer. (863)467-6079

COFFEE TABLE - WOOD COFFEE TABLE FROM PIER ONE. GOES WITH THE ARMOIR IN THE FURNITURE CATEGORY. \$99.00/or best offer. (863)467-6079

NEW KING BED AND MATTRESS - Beautiful Solid Wood king bed frame and mattress from upscale exclusive furniture store. Cost \$2,300. Will separate. \$799.00/or best offer. (863)467-6079

Medical Items

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

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

FURNISHED APT ON WATER - Including all utilities, some restrictions, apply by appt. only. (863)357-2044 leave name and number if no answer.

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

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

Condos/Townhouses Rent

OAK LAKE VILLAS- 2BR, 2BA, Large screened, fenced patio. Very clean! No pets. \$850 mo. + 1st, last & \$600 sec. (863)634-3313 or (863)634-3312

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

NEW BEAUTIFUL single 3 bdrm, 2 ba home for Rent \$1300. Utilities, cable, air conditioning, laundry, & dishwasher. jamesmalt44@yahoo.com

OKEE- 3 bdrm /1 ba on 1/2 ac, laundry, central air/ heat, screen porch, carpet. \$925 mo, 1st & last Call (305)458-8659

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Turn your trash to treasure with an ad in the classifieds.

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

OKEE CITY - 2/2, lg. kit. fenced yard. \$750/mo. 1st, last & sec. Call 561-261-0077

TREASURE ISLAND
• 3BR, 2BA, C/Air & Heat \$900 mo. + sec. dep.
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R.V. LOTS FOR RENT Free Wifi! Weekly \$150 or mo. \$375 incl. elec. Call 863-763-0295

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OKEECHOBEE - Looking for roommate to share 4 br house. All appliances including Washer & Dryer. Located at Four Seasons. \$300/mo Call (863)634-4771

Real Estate
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Houses - Sale

CBS - 4/2 + mother-in-law, like new cond., in ground pool, 20x30 steel shed, fenced, .48 acres, city water & sewer, REDUCED \$126,000 (561)801-3002

Land - Sale

Viking Estates
Okeechobee foreclosure 1.25 acres of land with guaranteed financing \$500 down \$147 per month. Only \$9,900. Call 877-983-6600 or www.FloridaLotsUSA.com

Mobile Homes
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Rent

BHR - 3/2, Washer, dryer, fenced in yard. \$700/mo utills not incld. (863)357-1783

FOR RENT: 3/2 and 2/1 Cottages. Newly remodeled. 12 min. from town center on beautiful ranch. NO PETS! Mon-Fri. (863) 467-2982

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

MODERN D/W 3/2, on ranch, Lofted Rd., lg. Oaks. \$750/mo. 1st/last/sec. 561-261-0077

SINGLEWIDE - 3/2, C/air & heat, part. furn. \$700/mo. + sec. Lease req. 863-634-9119

Mobile Home Sale

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

Mobile Home for sale w/lot 2/2 ,new carpet very nice and clean, on canal asking 38,000 call 772-597-2098 or 772-233-9863

Automotive
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Parts/Repairs

Transmission - GM-Rebuilt by ASE Master Certified Tech. Others available \$600.00. (863)801-5687

Public Notices
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Public Notice

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 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 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 33309-4022 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

Public Notice

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

All stars compete in Winter Haven tournament

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee's stay at the Dixie Boys Pre Majors State Tournament was short but certainly not sweet this year.

Okeechobee lost both games in shut-out fashion to two powerful teams, 17-0 to Hernando on Saturday, and 19-0 to Springstead on Sunday.

The Pre Majors is for boys and girls ages 15 and 16. Hernando was led by J.T. Simpson who went 2 for 4 and Tyler Bammert who had three hits. Trae Ratliff struck out five in two shutout innings to get the win.

Springstead rapped out 15 hits and scored 13 runs in the first inning against Okeechobee on Sunday. Brandon Brosh-er, Brandon Lawson, Ryan Nicoll and Joe Berile all had three hits for Springstead.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tout's topic
 - 5 Broad tie
 - 10 Left the launch pad
 - 14 Slightest concern
 - 15 Juniper fruit
 - 16 Black, to Byron
 - 17 Cath. prelate
 - 18 Come apart
 - 19 Keycard receiver
 - 20 February greeting card request
 - 23 Baker or Bryant
 - 25 "Mamma Mia!" quartet?
 - 26 Bernese Alps peak
 - 27 "You ___": 2008 campaign catchphrase
 - 29 Four-time Wimbledon champ Rod
 - 30 Utah's nickname
 - 34 Super Bowl highlights?
 - 35 "Hedda Gabler" dramatist
 - 36 Bauxite, to aluminum
 - 39 "Petticoat Junction" star
 - 43 Unrefined
 - 45 Submit, as a manuscript
 - 46 Kitchen bigwigs
 - 47 Braz. neighbor
 - 50 Sports venue
 - 51 Sue Grafton's second Kinsey Millhone novel
 - 54 First name in daredevilry
 - 55 "Yippee!"
 - 56 Leaves
 - 59 Actress Russo
 - 60 Strikeout king Ryan
 - 61 Continental currency
 - 62 Grounded fleet, briefly
 - 63 "Looks ___ everything"
 - 64 Hang around
- DOWN**
- 1 Resistance unit
 - 2 MS_
 - 3 Animal control officers' concerns
 - 4 Yawn accompanier, often
 - 5 "Dear" columnist
 - 6 Dish up
 - 7 Dairy aisle buy
 - 8 Think-on-your-feet tests
 - 9 Wee one
 - 10 Nervous
 - 11 Accommodate
 - 12 At an earlier time
 - 13 Key in
 - 21 When doubled, a fish
 - 22 In apple-pie order
 - 23 Palindromic pop group
 - 24 Requirement
 - 28 Alternatives to Reeboks
 - 29 Actress Turner et al.
 - 31 Tidal action
 - 32 Seattle-to-Reno dir.
 - 33 Common news hour
 - 36 Have pizza delivered, say
 - 37 Bridle strap
 - 38 Frequent Italian erupter
 - 39 Perplexes
 - 40 Standard Oil name
 - 41 Start a new hand
 - 42 Angers
 - 43 Leek cousins
 - 44 React indignantly to
 - 46 Turnpike "breakers"
 - 47 Despise
 - 48 Kirov cash
 - 49 Corny joke reaction
 - 52 Novelist Jaffe
 - 53 35-Across's "Peer ___"
 - 57 Historical period
 - 58 Salty bean sauce

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

B	A	T	H		P	E	N	T		R	E	M	A	N	D	
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xwordeditor@aol.com

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By Timothy L. Meaker
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LAWSUIT

Continued From Page 1

that Mr. Mitchell was subjected to racially derogatory comments and harassment by OHS officials. The lawsuit claimed Mr. Mitchell was decertified by the U.S. Army due to false and misleading information provided by Ms. Wiersma and Mr. Saucier.

In the lawsuit, Mr. Mitchell claimed Mr. Saucier, who is now retired, boasted that the KKK made great contributions to our society in front of two black students. When Mr. Mitchell complained to school administrators, he contends he was fired.

He sued for lost wages and benefits and legal expenses. The settlement was recorded on June 1, after a mediation session before Steven Mayans. The settlement decided all of the issues in the litigation.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy said the district's insurance carrier will assume all of the costs so the settle-

ment did not cost the district any money.

"All parties involved in this are certainly glad it is over," he said.

Mr. Kenworthy said if the case went to trial the district stood a chance of having to spend a lot more money in the case.

"When you can come to the table with mediation and work things out and both parties are reasonably happy with the outcome, I think it is a good thing," he added.

Mr. Kenworthy said the district wished Mr. Mitchell well in his future endeavors. Part of the settlement was his agreement to not seek employment with the district again.

"We do dispute the allegations he made. We took a long hard look at the allegations and we admit no wrongdoing in the case. When you can reach a compromise and put things like this behind you, its better for all parties involved," he added.

Mr. Mitchell was represented by attorney Isidro Garcia of West Palm Beach. He was unavailable for comment.

Deer hunters will need new permit this season

Beginning with the upcoming 2010-2011 hunting season, anyone hunting deer in Florida will need a deer permit. The new permit costs \$5 and is available now for purchase.

Those with a Sportsman's License, Gold Sportsman's License, 64 or Older Sportsman's License, Military Gold Sportsman's License, Lifetime Hunting License or Lifetime Sportsman's License will not need to purchase the new deer permit, because it already is included in each of these licenses, even if they were purchased before July 1.

However, the deer permit is not included with a hunting license, combination hunting/freshwater fishing license, combination hunting/freshwater/saltwater license or a five-year hunting license. Anyone hunting deer with either of these licenses must also buy the \$5 deer permit to hunt deer legally.

Funds generated by the new permit will

be earmarked to support deer management and deer research. Funds also will support ongoing efforts to monitor Florida's deer herd for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission approved a "Strategic Plan for Deer Management in Florida: 2008-2018" in February 2008. Critical to the success of this plan is establishing deer management units and a harvest-reporting system; both have been identified as top priorities by the agency and its stakeholders to better manage deer.

People can purchase all permits and related licenses from their county tax collector, retail outlets that sell fishing and hunting supplies, online at: www.fl.wildlifelicenses.com or by calling toll-free 888-HUNT-FLORIDA (486-8356).

Buckhead Ridge navigation lock repair nearly complete

Navigation lock set to reopen on July 29

The S-127 navigation lock at Buckhead Ridge is expected to be back in service on Thursday, July 29, after alignment modifications to the gate hoist mechanism are complete.

The navigation lock has been out of service for this repair since July 6. The lock was

expected to be back in service on Friday, July 23, but there was a delay in receiving a required part.

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

O.G. & C.C. Golf Results—Gold Tee

First place - J. Masters, Second place - H. White, and in Third place - R. Carbia.



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Dr. Woody graduated from the University of Florida and trained at University Hospital in Seattle and at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

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1780 SE Hillmoor Dr, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

HORSES

Continued From Page 1

and are nursing their mother at the Animal Control office.

Fralix, 38, S.E. 66th Ave., was arrested Wednesday, July 21, on seven counts of cruelty to animals. Her bond was set at \$17,500, but she has since been released from the Okeechobee County Jail on bond.

An arrest report by Deputy Cari Arnold of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) stated that three of the horses—a mare named Shiloh, an unnamed colt and a stud named Blackjack—were malnourished

to the point that they were near death and could barely stand.

"They were all loaded with parasites," said Ms. Hudson. "Blackjack was so wobbly that he had a hard time getting into the trailer because his back end wouldn't support him."

The colt, she added, was very underweight. She added that two of the horses were near death, two were emaciated and one was in moderate condition.

Deputy Arnold stated in her report that the horses were so thin she could see their bones and their heart beating.

"Shiloh, the colt and Blackjack were so unhealthy that their eyes were barely open. I

could identify every bone in their body," the deputy wrote in her report.

The deputy went on to state that the horses were being kept in "a grassless pasture" and that there was no food and little to no hay for them to eat. While there were four water buckets, the buckets were dirty and contained only a few inches of water, Deputy Arnold stated.

While there was some hay on the ground, the deputy said there were dogs lying on it and there was dog feces on the hay as well.

Dr. Paul Bryant, DVM, from the Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital, took possession of Shiloh and the colt.

Deputy Arnold went on to state in her report that Fralix works for Dr. Jane Bicks, DVM. When contacted, Dr. Bicks reportedly told the doctor that she "... would be glad to help the State in assuring that Melissa is

never allowed to own an animal again."

Ms. Hudson said Dr. Bicks had taken the horses and put about 200 pounds on them and then returned them to Fralix.

This is not the first time Ms. Arnold has had to take animals from Fralix.

In 2008 she took Fralix to court and Judge Bryant issued an order requiring the woman to take care of her animals. The Nov. 20, 2008, order also stated that if any animals are taken from her again due to her neglect she cannot get them back.

Two horses taken from Fralix in 2008 had to be euthanized by Dr. Bryant because they were so emaciated they could not be saved.

"If it was up to me, I would like for her to never own another animal," said Ms. Hudson.



Submitted photo/Okeechobee Animal Control

This emaciated mare and her colt were just two of the horses seized by Okeechobee Animal Control on July 22. The owner of the animals, Melissa Violet Fralix, was arrested and charged with seven counts of animal cruelty.

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