

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 107

Sunday, September 5, 2010

75¢ Plus tax

OHS seniors lead bowling team ...Page 19



Van runs into school bus ...Page 8



JV football team beats Clewiston ...Page 9

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Labor Day festival is under way

Okeechobee's annual Labor Day festival began Saturday in Flagler Park and continues today and Monday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The Labor Day parade will be held on Monday, Sept. 6 in downtown Okeechobee. Parade entries will line up near the U-Save Supermarket on Parrott Avenue at 8 a.m. The parade starts at 10 a.m. The parade route starts at the U-

Save and travels north on Parrott Avenue to State Road 70 and then west on State Road 70 to the end of Flagler Park.

The Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association Labor Day Rodeo will be today and Monday, Sept. 6 at the Agri-Civic Center. Rodeo entrance will be off State Road 710.

Mutton Bustin' for the cowk-ids will begin at 2 p.m. The rodeo

starts at 2:30 p.m.

The Okeechobee Cattleman's rodeo will show contestants competing to win cash prizes and points toward a circuit championship. Visitors from many areas of South Florida are expected in attendance to observe traditional rodeo events such as; calf roping, saddle bronc, bareback riding,

See FESTIVAL — Page 5



Special to the News/Jim Davis
The Labor Day Rodeo will be today and Monday.

Budget cuts reduce county services

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

After Sept. 30 county residents will not be getting the same level of service from the county as they do now. At their meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 1 Okeechobee County Commissioners approved a list of cost cutting measures that

will shave \$837,646 from the new budget.

Service from all departments of the county will be curtailed to some degree because, in addition to a 3 percent pay reduction for county employees, all employees will be facing 7 days of furlough some time during the coming year.

It is not yet clear how that will affect service to customers. Commissioners discussed combining a day of furlough with a two-day weekend or a holiday weekend. Another option mentioned was closing early on a particular day. It is possible the scheduling of furlough days might be left up to indi-

vidual department heads to work into their schedules.

The staff of animal control will be limited to 40 hours a week and animal control officers will only respond to emergency calls after hours.

"It's not going to be that bad,"

See BUDGET — Page 5

County candidates respond to questions

In the general election on Nov. 2, Okeechobee County voters will choose between Democrat Joey Hoover and Republican



Terry Burroughs

Replication Terry Burroughs in the County Commission District 4 race. The Okeechobee News invited readers to pose questions for the candidates and asked the candidates to respond in 100 words or less.

Since the decline of property values, the changes in the

Homestead Exemption, and the decline of revenue from the landfill, Okeechobee County has faced many problems with the budget. How would you reduce expenses and/or increase revenue to balance the county budget?

BURROUGHS: I would propose the County Administrator review the current management staffing model to consolidated positions and reduce the number of department head positions to meet the challenges of the current economic conditions each of us are facing in the County. I would promote the idea of developing a

central purchasing program which would assist in managing the overall expenses thus eliminating redundancy and promoting cost-effectiveness.

The County needs to adopt incentives to attract businesses (production, manufacturing, etc) to help expand the revenue base and to assist with our unemployment rate. The incentives should apply to both new business and those existing businesses which are looking to expand.

HOOVER: Okeechobee County is not unique in this budget issue. Municipal governments all over this country are facing these

same issues. We have to live under the same guidelines as businesses and families are living under. The county live within its means. That's why I voted against the adopted budget last year. It called for spending beyond revenues and this year we are forced to make up for some of the reductions that should have been made last year. We currently are not considering any increased revenues. I will continue



Joey Hoover

See COUNTY — Page 5

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INDIAN RIVER



Special to the Okeechobee News/Tara Minton

Economic Council meets

The Economic Council of Okeechobee held their monthly membership meeting on Sept. 1, at the Indian River State College Williamson Conference and Education Center. In the photo are Jason Matson and Nicholas Mora, Planning Engineers with Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc., along with County Planning Director Bill Royce and Economic Council Chairwoman Libby Maxwell. The invited speakers presented a draft version of the County's Long Range Transportation Plan complete with maps of local transportation improvement needs for 2020 and 2035, as well as a cost-feasibility map. Members also received updates from representatives of the County, City, School Board, South Florida Water Management District, and Indian River State College.

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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!

What it takes to win

• I moved here many years ago from the Glades to a wonderful town I call home. I was a football player on two championship football teams. I know what it takes to win. It takes the whole community, fans, coaches, players, and the band and even the water boy. Everyone should support and stand behind your team, win or lose. We were told that, "if you could believe it you could achieve it!" My coach never walked around just talking into his headset and not firing up the team. Give the team your full attention. Keep your eyes on the prize. The team is counting on you, and so is the community. Don't give up, boys! It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog! Sic' em.

• Looks like another long season for OHS Football. They lost 52-0 to Ft. Pierce Central. Hope we win at least one game this year.

• Suit up the powderpuff team! Seriously though, those boys need to win a game to regain some confidence. Okeechobee's first possession made me think we had a chance, but it went downhill like a runaway train. I really hope it gets better. I'll attend and support the team, good or bad.

• Bring in the water boy!
• The only sport that won any games was the girls softball and now they got rid of that coach. Not a good move.

Hero boys

• Congratulations to the three Okeechobee boys who saved a woman from drowning in Fort Pierce. It was a brave thing to do and the community should be proud of them.

Budget cuts

• I think the county, including the sheriff's office, needs some efficiency experts to help them cut costs. Are we still doing things by hand that can be automated and done much faster, and with fewer people, with the right computer program? Is there duplication of services that could be eliminated, cutting some unnecessary positions? We need to be able to do more with fewer people. Can it be done? With the right technology, it might be possible. We can't afford the "it's always been done that way" approach. We are out of money and need to find ways to do more with less.

• I hope the Sheriff appeals to the governor. It will bring a lot of attention on Bonner and the county commissioners.

• I think if you look back at the history of this county, many of the problems with the budgets stem from a history of patronage, favoritism, nepotism and political payback. Hiring has not always been handled in a professional manner with jobs advertised so all interested county residents had a chance to apply and the most qualified candidates for the jobs hired. When times were good, the taxpayers just didn't pay attention. But now money is tight, people are not willing to just keep paying higher taxes to maintain the status quo.



Incarceration rate

• According to the Friday paper, Okeechobee County has one of the highest incarceration rates—that is the number of people in jail as compared to the total population of the county—in the state. And we have to ask why. One obvious reason is how the judges let the attorneys delay and delay and delay trials. We have all seen that happen in court cases we have followed. They set a trial date and then the defense attorney asks for one delay after another, meanwhile the accused sits in jail and is housed, fed and given medical care on the taxpayer's dime. The judges should set trial dates and stick to them and make the attorneys do their jobs.

Reflections from the pulpit

By Rev. Tommaso Pasquarella
Pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church

Brothers and sisters, like Paul I want to call you all to be strong in the Lord. Be strong in the Lord having a love for others within and with out of the church, avoiding sin by not even mentioning it, and with God, following Him with all that you are. You can be strong and do these things only because He is strong. You can be strong only because Christ has saved you. "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11) It sounds like attacks will come, because they will. You will either stand or you will fall, Christ wants you to stand in Him so that He can fight your battle. Flesh and blood is not your enemy though attacks come in human form; you struggle against the one behind the attacks. The devil is like a lion seeking whom he may devour. Why is it that you think you can take on Hell with a water pistol? It is not your job. Your job is to stand in Christ so that He can fight your battle and have your backs, this is why you must put on the whole armor of God.

When you put on the armor of God, you will stand against the wiles of the evil one. You are commanded to put on this armor. "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness" (Ephesians 6:14) You are to stand girding your loins with truth. This girding is supposed to protect the thighs in battle. Truth is what helps you to stand in Christ. You cannot afford to be off your feet when we are to be standing for His glory. "You've got to stand for something, or you'll fall for anything, you've got to be your own man, not a puppet on a string, never compromise what's right," (Aaron Tippin) because truth is what holds you up and keeps you going, so live in His truth.

You are not only armed with truth, but righteousness, which is the ability to live in His truth. You are to put on the breastplate of righteousness. What is a breastplate? It is a piece of armor designed to with stand the blows and arrows of the enemy. Righteousness is acting in accord with divine or

moral law, free from guilt or sin. Put on this breastplate in order to protect your hearts so that your hearts would be free from the confines of sin. When you put on His truth and His righteousness you put on the new man, who is Christ Jesus. You cannot protect anything without Christ. You cannot avoid sin without Christ. In fact without Christ you are lost and heading toward Hell, because you have not trusted in the only One who can take away your sin. In order for you and I to see heaven we must be covered in His righteousness and truth, because all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and the wages of sin is death. By putting on righteousness and truth we become imitators of God. If you are focusing on being like Christ you will seek to do things the way Christ has done and live in the truth.

You must stand in truth, righteousness while you stand in the gospel. "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15) Your feet should be equipped with shoes that are equipped with the preparation of the gospel.

This means you must be always ready with the gospel. The gospel is the only thing that will not only bring the message of peace to people who hear the gospel, but will also keep those who have accepted the gospel the ability to remember and rest in the power of the One who took their place and their punishment. Christ died, was buried and was raised to life again by the grace of God, was seated at the right hand of the throne of God, and when you trust Him He changes you, because you put on Christ so stand in the power of His might, this is the gospel.

Are you resting in His truth, righteousness, and His gospel? If you are not then you need to examine your hearts.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Thursday AM in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 0-3-3; **Play 4:** 8-6-3-7; **Fantasy 5:** 1-11-18-20-24; **Mega Money:** 15-22-40-42 MB 12; **Florida Lotto:** 23-33-35-37-51-52 X 4; **Powerball:** 17-20-21-40-51 PB 19 x3. Numbers drawn Thursday PM, **Cash 3:** 6-1-8; **Play 4:** 0-7-8-6.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D
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To Submit News

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

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

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Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge...

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

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



COUNTY

Continued From Page 1

to cast my vote to balance the budget by decreasing spending while trying to maintain an acceptable level of service to the Citizens of Okeechobee County.

There has been much discussion on the newszap.com forum about what some perceive as a "top heavy" county government with a county administrator, two assistant administrators and assistants to the assistants. Do you think the county staff is top heavy? What changes, if any, would you like to make to the county administration?

BURROUGHS: Every crisis provides rare opportunities to re-evaluate the way an organization functions. From my observation and involvement over the past several years, I see numerous opportunities to restructure county government to work more cost effectively and efficiently, particularly where it interfaces directly with the business community and citizens. Some departments have become intensely cumbersome and frustrating for users while others are models of efficiency and cost-effectiveness. I would recommend to the County Administrator to streamline and consolidate the county management staffing model to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the organization.

HOOVER: If the responsibilities of the positions were more clearly outlined I think it would be much more understandable. I would like to see the Administrator rework the job descriptions and possibly the position titles to more accurately define the duties of his staff. For example, one of his deputies handles budgeting, in house finance; grant administration, and oversight of senior services and veteran services. Many counties have three department heads for the duties of this one person. If the position were more aptly named and defined it would be not be quite so confusing.

Okeechobee County is struggling with a high unemployment rate. What ideas do you propose to stimulate the local economy?

BURROUGHS: Okeechobee County's economic picture has been based on construction, tourism and agriculture, is cyclical and susceptible to severe economic fluctuations. With a few notable exceptions, free market forces have not substantially changed the dynamics of our economy. The economic recession has provided the opportunity to transform our economy into one that is more diversified and resilient for our community.

Creating a friendly atmosphere for people to do business in our community will assist in attracting new businesses as well as assisting local businesses to expand.

Provide tax incentives tied to amount of capital improvement investment or job creation above the current median salary levels.

Initiate a rapid building permit process.

HOOVER: I think the county has and will continue to play a role in the promotion of jobs for our citizens. Several years ago the county partnered with Royal Concrete in the procurement of grants that enabled the construction of a rail spur and transportation

improvements that made the construction of their facility possible. The county worked with the applicant in the process of obtaining the proper land use changes, inclusion in the enterprise zone and tax abatements. All of these are tools available to encourage new business. At the same time, we need to continue to work with existing businesses on ways to increase their opportunities and hopefully the expansion of the workforce. One of the most direct ways we can encourage business expansion is keeping property taxes low and our county finances in good health. No firm is looking to relocate or expand will consider Okeechobee if the tax rates make the investment look too expensive.

Many feel the Okee-Tantie Recreation Area should be developed to help draw more tourism to the area. Do you think it would be cost effective to repair the damaged campsites at Okee-Tantie? Would you suggest any other improvements there? How would you propose paying for improvements to Okee-Tantie?

BURROUGHS: Okee-Tantie is a very valuable asset to the citizens of the County. This area could develop into an attractive revenue generating opportunity, if managed properly. Given our current budget problems, the County does not have the funds required to revitalize Okee-Tantie. I would seek to lease the property to a viable private sector entity to re-develop Okee-Tantie into a destination point to attract visitors to our County which would assist the vitality of our local businesses.

HOOVER: Okee-Tantie is a "diamond in the rough." As we all know, the park received extensive damage from the hurricanes a few years ago. Unfortunately, the monies have not been available to get the facilities back up to 100 percent. I definitely believe in the redevelopment of the park including designing the camp sites to handle larger RVs and campers that visitors are looking for today. We currently are working through the grant process for construction of additional boat slips and dock as well as funds to upgrade the utilities for the discussed campsites.

Are you in favor of impact fees? Why or why not?

BURROUGHS: I would be in favor of suspending impact fees for one year. Many counties in the state have taken the stance of suspending impact fees for one year to spur their respective local economies. Additionally, during the suspension, I would recommend the County staff review the impact fee capital improvement plan and modify it so it can be achieved.

HOOVER: At the time the current impact fee system was passed the county was under, tremendous pressure to keep up with the infrastructure demands required for all of the developments, which were proposed. The impact fee structure would require developers to contribute to the cost of schools, roads, public safety, parks, etc. If not for impact fees, the cost of these infrastructure improvement would have to be absorbed by the existing taxpayers. Now that the building boom has crashed, I believe that we need to re-examine the impact fee structure and determine if the existing system and goals are still relevant and/or feasible.

For more questions and answers see the Wednesday Okeechobee News.

BUDGET

Continued From Page 1

said animal control director Gary Barber. He is on salary and he will be handling after hours calls three nights a week. He said that bite cases and aggressive dogs would be addressed immediately. Some other calls might have to be deferred until the next working day. "There will be no services dropped," Mr. Barber said, adding that animal control will still enforce applicable state laws and county ordinances.

Even though they will lose one case manager position and one congregate meal coordinator position will be reduced to part time, senior services director Sheila Savage said she would still be able to provide the same level of service.

While library director Kresta King is not sure at this time how library cutbacks would affect library customers she felt there would be some reduction of service.

During the summer months swimmers will not have as much time to use the county pools. From June 10 to Aug. 15 swimming pool hours will be reduced from 50 to 20 hours per week. Darryl Enfinger, director of parks and recreation, said that it is yet to be determined what days the pool would be closed.

In what may be the most controversial cost saving measure, the parks and recreation department will start charging an hourly rate for use of the ball fields at night to cover the cost of lights. Mr. Enfinger said his department has been studying light bills to determine an hourly rate. That rate would have to be approved by the county commissioners before going into effect.

FESTIVAL

Continued From Page 1

team roping, ladies' barrel racing and the favorite of all, bull riding. Rodeo tickets may be purchased in advance at Eli's Western Wear, 907 N.W. Park Street or at the gate.

For ticket information, call Eli's Western Wear at 863-763-2984 or visit www.okeechobeeassociation.com.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 94. Calm wind becoming east northeast around 5 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. East wind around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Labor Day: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly cloudy, with a high near 91. Calm wind becoming east between 5 and 10 mph.

Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. East wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 92. East northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

The pay cuts and furloughs may or may not be felt by employees of the constitutional officers. All of the constitutional officers, except the sheriff have said they will cut their budgets by the amounts requested by the apportionment. The sheriff has stated that he plans to appeal his apportionment to the governor. While commissioners can determine the amount of money they will give the constitutional officers, they cannot dictate how that money will be spent. Property Appraiser Bill Sherman and Clerk of the Courts Sharon Robertson have definitely stated they will not cut their employees salaries. When last contacted, Supervisor of Elections Gwen Chandler and tax collector Celeste Watford said they were undecided. They said they were going to try to meet their budget reduction apportionment without reducing salaries.

Correction

The article headlined "Incarceration rate among state's highest" in the Friday edition of this newspaper contained some math errors. The article should have stated that .63 percent or 6 out of every 1,000 people were behind bars. The top five counties were: Liberty at .77 percent; Franklin at .76 percent; Wakulla at .74 percent; Monroe at .67 percent and Okeechobee at .63 percent. For the surrounding counties, the rates should have stated: Glades - .36 percent; Hendry - .56 percent; DeSoto - .56 percent; Highlands .4 percent; Martin .41 percent; Palm Beach .21 percent and St. Lucie - .52 percent. We regret the errors and any confusion this might have caused for the readers.



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Community Events

Blood donation drive this weekend at Ag Center

As you head for the Ag Center to enjoy the Rodeo, stop by the Big Red Bus to donate blood. Every time you donate, you could be helping to save as many as three lives, since blood donations are broken down into blood products. The bus will be at the entrance from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., both Sunday and Monday, **Sept. 5 and 6**. All blood donated on the Big Red Bus directly benefits this community.

Moose #1753 holds luau

The Loyal Order of Moose #1753, at 159 N.W. 36th St. will hold Mercy's Hawaiian Luau Party, on Sunday, **Sept. 5**. The party starts at 2 p.m. with dinner being served at 4 p.m. Bring a covered dish. This is a membership drive, so bring a friend. Music provided by Phil Eddings.

Sunday Karaoke

American Legion Post 64 will host open mic karaoke Sunday, **Sept. 5**, 3-6 p.m. Bring your own discs or choose from thousands of our selections. This Sunday is Birthday Club. Bring a dish and enjoy all of the great food.

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.

Susan Hulme, 57

OKEECHOBEE — Susan Hulme, 57, died Sept. 1, 2010 in Okeechobee.

Mrs. Hulme was born in Long Branch, N.J., and moved to Okeechobee 7 years ago coming from Ft. Pierce.

She was a member of Ft. Drum Community Church and worked for the St. Lucie County School Board as a Bus Driver for over 25 years.

Survivors include her daughters, Jill Arnold of Ft. Pierce, and Katie Hudson of Okeechobee; sister, Theodora Runyon of Vero Beach; brothers, Alan Hulme of Tennessee and Richard Hulme of New York; four grandchildren, Erin Hudson, Blair Arnold, Bailey Stuhr and Hayley Arnold.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Theodore and Jennie Hulme.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Attn: Donor Services, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265-0309.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010, at 9 to 11 a.m. with a service to follow at 11 a.m., at Haisley Funeral Home. Burial will follow at White City Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Haisley Funeral & Cremation Service. A guest book may be signed at www.haisleyfuneral-home.com.



Red Cross Sept. Health and Safety Classes

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will be holding the following Health & Safety classes in September:

- Tuesday, **Sept. 7**-Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 16-First Aid Basics at 6 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 20-Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.m.

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

Moose Lodge hosts meatloaf dinner night on Sept. 9

The Buck Head Moose Lodge will host Thursday Dinner Night on **Sept. 9**. The menu will include meatloaf, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, cucumber salad, homemade Key Lime pie. Donation is \$7 for members and guests. For more information, please call 863-763-2250.

Hospice to hold yard sale

Hospice of Okeechobee at 411 S.E. 4th Street, is holding its yard sale on Thursday, **Sept. 9** and Friday, Sept. 10 from 8 a.m. until noon. Hospice yard sales feature great deals on clothing and furniture. Out Country Store is full of many new items. We have lots of school clothes and back to school items. Funds raised will benefit patient care, including services at the Hamrick Home. We also accept donated items weekdays between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. For information, call 863-467-2321.

VNA holding free memory loss screenings

On Friday, **Sept. 10**, from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. the Okeechobee Visiting Nurse Association, at 208 S.E. Park St., will hold a FREE memory loss screening sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. An appointment is needed for this screening. Screenings are for anyone—any age—concerned about memory loss. Screenings will be conducted by staff from St. Mary's Memory Disorder Center. Results are immediate. For more information and to make your appointment contact Donna True, licensed clinical social worker, at 1-800-861-7826 Ext. 501.

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

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Shared Services meeting set

The Executive Roundtable of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee County will conduct its bi-monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, **Sept. 10**, in the board room of the Okeechobee County School Board Office. The public is invited. For more information, please call Sharon Vinson at 863-462-5000 ext 257.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens to host Free visit day

Free admission! Heathcote Botanical Gardens will offer free admission Friday, **Sept. 10**, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Come visit the Green Heart of the Treasure Coast! Heathcote Botanical Gardens, 210 Savannah Road. 772-464-4672. www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

Living well with diabetes workshop to be held

"Living Well with Diabetes" by Wanda Haas, CDE, on Wednesday, 9:30-10:30 a.m. on the following dates: **Sept. 15**, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8. It will be held at VNA at 208 S.E. Park St., Okeechobee (across from the fire station). Free and open to the public! For more information, please call 772-370-7777.

Women of the Moose hold prime rib dinner

The Buckhead Ridge women of the Moose will hold a prime rib dinner on Saturday, **Sept. 11**. We invite all members and qualified guests to an evening of fun and fellowship. There will be a prime rib dinner, (served by local celebrities) from 5-7 p.m. Following dinner the women will have a cake wheel, an auction of donated items and other activities with the proceeds going to Mooseheart/Moosehaven and local community charities. For information call Malinda, 317-340-6955 (cell).

OKMS announces date change for Mixer event

Okeechobee Main Street's September Mixer will be held on Tuesday, **Sept. 14**, from 5-7 p.m. This month's mixer will be hosted by Nurse On Call located at 413 South Parrott Avenue. Everyone is invited to attend Okeechobee Main Street Mixers, mixers are a great networking opportunity for the businesses and residents of our area. Please join us for networking, refreshments, door prizes and a chance at the Mega 50-50. For more information call 863-357-MAIN (6246).

Class of '81 holds reunion

The Okeechobee High School Class of 1981 will hold a reunion on **Oct. 1 and 2**. For more information, call Beth at 863-467-1691.

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~ Matthew P. Buxton, L.F.D.

Low cost pet vaccination and microchip clinic planned

The Humane Society Pet Rescue, 1203 U.S. Highway 98, (just north of the Okeechobee Livestock Market) will host a clinic for microchips and vaccinations on Sept. 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The "Home Again" microchip will be available for \$35 and will include a one-year enrollment. Rabies vaccinations will be \$10. Call for other vaccination prices. Appointments are available and walk-ins will also be accepted. Call 863-357-

1104 for information. There will only be a limited number of microchips available for walk-ins so appointments are encouraged. Payment must be by cash or check (no credit cards). The Humane Society also accepts donations to help fund the no-kill shelter. Donations may be mailed to: Humane Society Pet Rescue, PO BOX 233 Okeechobee, FL 34972.

Those who bring pets to the clinic must leash all canines and crate all felines.

Please do not bring sick pets to the Humane Society. The clinic is for routine vaccination shots only.

For more information about the Humane Society Pet Rescue online go to <http://www.animalrescueokeechobee.org>.

For more information on the Home Again microchip program online, go to <http://public.homeagain.com/membership-services.html>.



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

Okeechobee Livestock Market
 U.S. 98 North, Okeechobee
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Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

August 30 & 31, 2010			Med #1	Steers	Hfhrs	300-350	145-147	-
Cows			170-190	180-200	-	450-500	112-113	-
Breaking	53.00	57.00	200-250	165-180	120-140			
Cutter	48.00	56.00	250-300	150-165	120-126			
Canner	39.00	48.00	300-350	145-155	115-120			
			350-400	130-150	109-120			
			400-450	121-140	102-110			
Bulls			450-500	110-119	98-108			
1000-1500	58.00	72.50	550-600	108-116	97-109			
1500-2000	65.00	72.00	600-650	100-109	112-114			
Monday	Tuesday		Med #2	Steers	Hfhrs			
Calves	1230	1445	200-250	135-150	120-122			
Cows	176	448	250-300	117-155	104-120			
Str	21	5	300-350	110-142	95-116			
Hfhrs	14	49	350-400	109-132	93-110			
Bulls	43	62	400-450	98-121	88-105			
Yrlngs	18	47						
Mix	22	11	Small #1					
Total	1524	2067	250-300	115-118				

Prices remain good on most calves. Better quality calves were steady to a little higher. Slaughter cows and bulls were \$2-3 lower. Hardie Driggers of Lake Placid topped the calf market with a high of \$2, brought by Curt Wilson. Ed Carter of Ft. Pierce topped the cow market with a high of 60, bought by Brown. Sales: Oct. 8 - Bred heifer; Oct. 15 - Graham Angus; Oct. 22 - Lemmon Angus; Oct. 29 - Little Creek Brangus.

See ya next week, Jeff

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No kids injured in school bus accident

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

A school bus from Everglades Elementary School was involved in a rear end collision at the CSX railroad tracks on S.E. 40th Blvd Wednesday afternoon.

Okeechobee Schools Transportation Director Louise Piper said none of the 27 students were injured in the accident. The bus driver Linda Heater also escaped injury.

The School Administration responded to the scene. A spare bus was used to bring the kids home. School Administrators followed the bus home to explain why the bus was late in delivering their children home. If any parent had questions the Principal was there to answer them.

Ms. Piper said the driver of the other vehicle, Fern Schara, 64, reportedly told deputies that she saw the bus stop and attempted to stop her vehicle but her brakes didn't work.



Courtesy photo/OCDS

A van involved in a collision also involving a school bus. The crash occurred at the railroad tracks on S.E. 40th Blvd. on Wednesday afternoon. No children were injured in the incident.

She was cited by the Sheriff's Department for a traffic violation. The estimate of damage to Ms. Schara's vehicle was \$3,000.

The bus didn't suffer any damage in the accident, Ms. Piper added.

Construction board to act on two cases

By Pete Gawda

Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Construction Licensing Board is scheduled to take action against two individuals that the building officials claim were doing construction work without the proper license.

As the result of an investigation, building official Tim English stated that Kevin Evans had done work including framing walls, flooring, plumbing, installation of a kitchen sink, electrical wiring, deck construction and window installation. Mr. Evans further stated that no permits were issued for this work and that Mr. Evans does not currently hold any licenses as a contractor. Mr. English said that Mr. Evans had magnetic signs on his car advertising himself as a handyman. As a result Mr. English issued a stop work order.

Mr. Evans is charged with engaging in contracting work without the proper license, disregarding building codes, and not having the proper permits.

In the other item on the agenda, Mr. English issued a statement saying that Monica Law, doing business as Jim Law Landstyling, has been advertising for miscellaneous work which requires a contractor license. A complainant stated that Mrs. Law is attempting to continue her deceased husband's former business. Mrs. Law is charged with doing contractor work without a license, not displaying license numbers on permit applications and advertisements, violating building codes and not obtaining the proper permits.

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 Construction Industry Licensing Board Meeting
When: 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 7

Where: Okeechobee Cty. Health Department Auditorium, 1700 N.W. Ninth Ave



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JV football team beats Clewiston

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Stingy and opportunistic defense propelled the Okeechobee junior varsity football team to an 8-2 win over Clewiston in their home opener on Thursday night.

QB Eddie Neal hit Zachary Wingfield with a 40 yard touchdown pass and James Marcum ran in a two-point conversion for the only offensive points of the game for Okeechobee in the third quarter.

Coach Daron Washington said he knew his defense was strong and filled with good players this year, "It was good. We had good coaching and the defensive guys were in the right place. They tackled and played as a team and when you do that things turn out right."

Okeechobee also had two interceptions in the red zone when the Tigers threatened to score. Jose Leon picked off a pass in the second quarter while Alec Emmonds added an interception in the third quarters. James Stafford and Luis Fonseca recovered fumbles.

"The defense was the MVP tonight," Coach Washington said, "No individual stood out but they played a team game and did a good job."

Clewiston's only points came on a botched center snap on an Okeechobee in the second quarter.

The Tigers spent most of the first half in Okeechobee's side of the field. Wingfield made a saving tackle on a running play to stop a Tiger score in the first quarter. Clewis-

ton reached the Brahman six yard line before they were stopped on downs.

The Tigers reached the Brahman four yard line on their next drive but Leon picked off a pass at the goal line to end that drive.

Emmonds picked off a pass on the first Tiger drive in the second half and Fonseca recovered a fumble on the next Tiger drive to keep their offense scoreless.

Okeechobee' scoring drive covered 66 yards in three plays. Eddie Neal ran for 12 yards and a 15 yard personal foul penalty put Okeechobee at the Tiger 40. On the next play Neal threw a post pattern pass to Wingfield who got behind the corner back and made a leaping grab falling into the end zone.

"Coach told me to lay it out there and Zach ran it down. It was tough to move the ball tonight," Neal said, "Clewiston had some big linemen and they were coming af-

ter me. I had to do something to help the team win the game."

James Marcum had 22 carries for 100 yards. Marshall Tommie had a force fumble, and a 15 yard reception for Okeechobee. George Tillman led the defense with four tackles. Several defenders made three tackles.

There was a huge crowd of supporters for the Okeechobee junior varsity.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Eddie Neal runs for yardage during the second half of Thursday's JV game at Brahman stadium.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jose Leon #81 had an interception and several big hits for the Brahman defense.



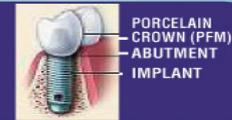
Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Coaches Daron Washington (left) and Bubba Harden call the play for QB Marshall Tommie #4.

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ACT test score averages drop as more students take test

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee student scores on the ACT continued to drop in 2009 but officials said more and more kids are taking the test and that more Okeechobee students are prepared to challenge college course work.

Director of Accountability and Assessment Sharon Suits said 174 students took the ACT last year which compared to only 86 students in 2006. She said the test is not just used for college placement but also can help that student graduate from high school.

State law allows students who fail the FCAT exam three times to take the ACT or SAT to graduate. If they reach a certain score on the ACT, they can graduate with their class. Suits said that has encouraged more and more students to take the exam in recent years. She noted she wonders why kids can pass other national standard tests and not the FCAT. She said a large percentage of the students who take the ACT test to graduate do pass the test.

"They have actually been more successful than I thought," she added, "This reflects the work being done at the high school to get them into upper level classes. It shows them that they can be successful in college."

Okeechobee's scores declined slightly in English, mathematics, reading, and in the composite score last year. The scores declined sharply in science. The state scores also dropped slightly in English, and reading.

"When you have more students take the test, it is natural to assume that the average will come down," Suits added.

Suits said the District strives to encourage kids to challenge themselves with tougher courses. Many of the lower scoring students who take the ACT and do well are often encouraged to attend college.

"We are not unhappy with the results. Our scores tend to be stable with the state scores," she added. In the past, many students doubted they could be successful in college. When they take the ACT and do well that shows them they are competitive with college students and can do college course work. She said this is very beneficial to OHS students.

Suits noted students that take tougher courses do better on the ACT and other tests. For example students who take a minimum of Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and geometry, typically achieve high ACT math scores that students who take less than three years of mathematics.

Students who took biology and chemistry in combination with physics typically achieve higher ACT science scores than students who

take less than three years of science.

In November the school system will receive a report on the number of students from Okeechobee who attend college. Suits said she is confident that the numbers will continue to increase. She noted that during times of economic trouble college enrollments usually increase. Many recent graduates who can't find work go to college to improve skills. Older residents who have been laid off or otherwise lost a job, often go to college for retraining in another field.

One area of work on the ACT will be science. The ACT score dropped from a high of 19.6 in 2006 to 18.1 in 2010. The score dropped from 18.7 in 2009 to last years 18.1. Scores in the state went up in science.

"Were really encouraged overall," Suits noted, "The number of students that took the ACT in 2010 increased by 40 and the composite only fell 2-tenths of a point. I feel that is pretty good and we're encouraged."

In the Military...

Army Pvt. David A. Hare graduated from the Multiple Launch Rocket System Operations/Fire Direction Specialist Advanced Individual Training (AIT) course at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

The course is designed to train the students on how to record and transmit firing data, operate fire direction systems and multiple launch rocket system communication equipment.

They also learn to gather operations and intelligence data, and plot that data using charts, maps and records. They learn to drive specialized vehicles, maintain and use generators, and install and maintain a wide range of communications equipment.

He is the son of Brian D. Hare of S.E. Serenata Court, Port St. Lucie, and Dawn E. Sewell of Okeechobee. The private is a 2006 graduate of Fort Pierce Central High School.

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The Treasure Traders Buying Event is in Okeechobee

Hidden cash in your attic? This week visitors can CASH in on gold, silver, antiques, and collectibles.

The Treasure Traders Buying Show, a Central Florida vintage collectibles company, is in Okeechobee at the Holiday Inn Express on US HWY 441 to make offers for purchase on your gold and sterling silver jewelry and flatware, unmatched and broken jewelry, old watches, pocket watches, sports memorabilia, historical relics, old musical instruments such as guitars and mandolins, old advertising signs, old silver money and tintype pictures.

These are a few of the hundreds of items that they will make you an offer on. The Treasure Traders will find a new home for your old stuff and you'll make money in the process.

The fast-paced and ever-changing collectibles market is

alive and well for the right items. The Treasure Traders has direct connections to collectors nationwide as well as knowledge of what collectors are paying and will make you a cash offer on the spot.

U.S. coins pre-1965 are very sought after by collectors right now due to their 90% silver content and bring top dollar in today's market. Some coins have even more value due to certain characteristics. Our experts can evaluate them and offer the best prices due to our contacts in the marketplace. Because gold is at an all-time high, gold coins of all types are bringing the highest prices ever and people are choosing to cash them in while the market is still at the top.

All it takes to participate in this event is to bring in anything you have which you feel may have value and we'll do the rest. Once you have an estimate of the going rate of that item in today's market, you can opt to sell it for cash or take it home for safekeeping. If you accept our offer, you will leave with cash. And, at the very least, you will leave with the knowledge of



A recent visitor to the show is thrilled to leave with over \$1750.

what your treasure may be worth in today's market.

Don't second-guess what The Treasure Traders may be interested in. They are buying way more than just precious metals and coins. They are constantly in contact with sports collectors who deal in everything from game-worn jerseys to old World Series tickets. They are on a first-name basis with one of the nation's leading vintage guitar experts.

At a recent show, a lady struggling to make ends meet, was thrilled to find out that her old scrap jewelry was worth \$425. The next day she brought in her husband's old Gibson guitar and was delighted with the offer she was made. She traded it for close to a thousand dollars.

The friendly staff have the expertise and the resources to get the best price for your items. If they can't do that, then they'll suggest where you can go to further research your item or suggest that you hold on to it until the market for that piece is better.

Make plans to attend the show. If you have a large collection or estate, the Treasure Traders can arrange a special appointment for a one on one evaluation at the show. If that's the case, please call us at 386-837-6112 to get more information.

The Treasure Traders will be at the Holiday Inn Express Wednesday through Saturday. They will be in town giving appraisals, making offers and paying cash.

**September
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Any and all silver coins made before 1965. All silver and gold coins, half dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. We will look at all Pre-1965 coins in any condition.

• Gold, Silver & Jewelry

Prices are at a 40 year high for gold, silver, platinum, coins, gold bars, jewelry, dental gold, precious stones, estate jewelry, etc.

• Watches & Pocket Watches

Rolex, Omega, Ebel, Patek Phillippe, Vintage Swatch, Elgin, Tiffany, Chopard, Waltham, Bunn Special, Illinois, Hamilton, Railroad and others

• Musical Instruments

Guitars such as Gibson, Fender, Martin, Gretsch and Dobro, Mandolins, Violins, Brass Instruments, Vintage Amplifiers.

• Toys & Comic Books

Vintage comics before 1970, all toys before 1965 including Hot Wheels, Tonka, Buddy L, Wind-up, Robots, Hafner, Lionel, Marklin, American Flyer, Barbies, GI Joe, Shirley Temple, and many others

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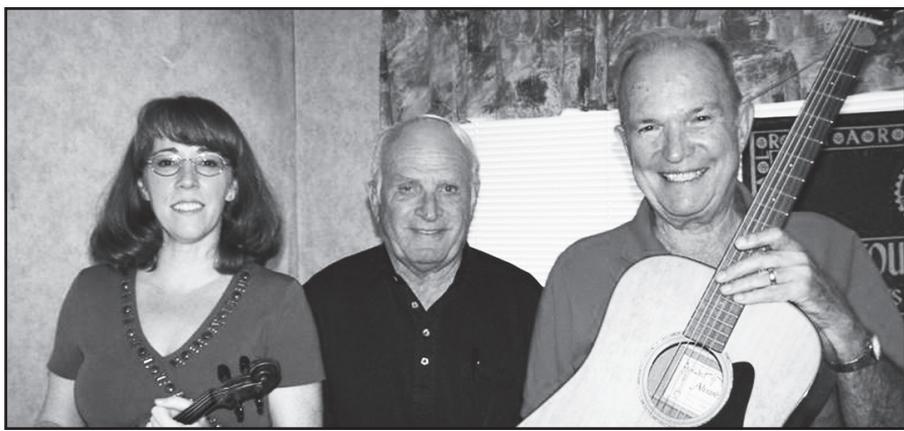
In today's economy, with real estate values in the gutter and the value of a dollar being so hard to come by, people are searching dresser drawers, jewelry boxes, lock boxes, attics and even garages for forgotten, never-used jewelry, silver sets, even dental gold.

People are coming in droves to the Treasure Traders clutching boxes overflowing with school rings, broken jewelry, vintage watches, not to mention silver coins that they've had laying around for years. With gold and silver trading at near 40 year highs, ordinary folks are reaping the benefits of the gold and silver fever that is running rampant.

Whether you have a few pieces of gold, a collection of sterling silver or coins, you should visit the Treasure Traders buying event. It's fun, informative and could put money in your pocket.



CASH PAID ON THE SPOT!



Special to the Okeechobee News/Rotary Club

Rotary guests

John Ed Burdeshaw introduced Frank Cunningham and Suzanne Lansford (engineers with Redd, Inc.) who presented their wonderful style of storytelling music for the Rotary Club. The two have been playing music together for 12 years now and Frank, who is self-taught, has been playing music for 63 years.

IRSC has bachelors degrees

Gain the competitive edge in today's tough job market with a Bachelor's Degree from Indian River State College in one of Florida's fastest growing fields. IRSC recently received unanimous approval from the State Board of Education to launch three new Bachelor's Degree programs. The new programs will prepare area residents to meet the workforce needs of the region's emerging biotechnology and life science cluster, cutting-edge digital media companies, and the human services sector, which provides counseling and social services for children, families and senior citizens.

An information session about the new programs and the College's other Bachelor's Degree offerings will be held on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 6 p.m. at the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies, Room V110, IRSC Main Campus, Virginia Avenue and 35th Street in Fort Pierce.

Students who earn the Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology will be prepared for opportunities in medical and pharmaceutical research, health informatics, lab technology, environmental protection and diagnostic services.

Those interested in combining creativity with sophisticated technical skills can

choose among three areas of concentration in digital media. Students majoring in graphics and web design will develop expertise in interactive media design, 3D computer graphics, and print design for diverse career opportunities. The gaming and video specialization will focus on the in-depth process of game creation from pre-production to programming and implementation, development of artificial worlds, animations and content for multi-media sources. Students concentrating on modeling and simulation will create new and innovative visual imagery for a career in film animation, game design or web simulation.

The Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Services offers generalist, youth/family services and addictions concentrations. Graduates are prepared for employment in mental health and social service agencies, crisis intervention programs, youth development programs, family health agencies and hospitals.

IRSC also offers Bachelor's Degrees in Organizational Management, Health Care Management, Public Safety Administration, Education, and Nursing.

For more information, call 1-866-792-4772 or visit www.irsc.edu.

Arbor Day Foundation offers free trees

Everyone from Florida who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in September will receive 10 free live oak trees as part of the Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

Trees for America is a program of the Arbor Day Foundation that encourages anyone to help the environment by planting trees. The Arbor Day Foundation is the largest nonprofit organization in the United States dedicated to planting trees.

"Live oak trees are fast-growing trees, and those who plant them will enjoy their shade and splendor for years and years to come," said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These trees will also add to the proud heritage of Florida's 145 Tree City USA communities. For 34 years, Tree City USA has supported community forestry

across Florida, and planting these live oaks will enhance this tree-planting tradition."

The trees will be shipped postpaid between Oct. 15 and Dec. 10, at the right time for planting. The 6-12 inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Planting instructions are enclosed with each shipment of trees.

New members of the Arbor Day Foundation also receive The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To receive 10 free live oak trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to Ten Live Oaks, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Sept. 30, 2010, or join online at www.arborday.org/september.

OKMS announces date change for Mixer event

Okeechobee Main Street's September Mixer will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 14, from 5-7 p.m. This month's mixer will be hosted by Nurse On Call located at 413 South Parrott Avenue. Everyone is invited to attend Okeechobee Main Street Mixers, mixers are a great networking opportunity for the businesses and residents of our area. Please join us for networking, refreshments, door prizes and a chance at the Mega 50-50. For more information call 863-357-MAIN (6246).

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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.

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NOTICE OF MEETING
Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board

The Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at 3:30 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 N.W. 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 Licensing Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. Planning and Development tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official record of the Department

Faye Huffman, Secretary to Board
Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board
364833 ON 9/5/10

Public Notice

School Board Contract Negotiations
The Okeechobee County School Board will resume contract negotiations with the Okeechobee County Education Association #1604 for instructional and classified employees at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 13, 2010, and will continue as needed on Friday, September 24, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. Collective bargaining sessions are open to the public and will be held in Room 303 of the School Board Administration Building at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee.

Patricia G. Cooper, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
364541 ON 9/5,8/10

OHS Boys Golf Team bests both John Carroll and Treasure Coast

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Richard Donegan shot an even par 36 to lead Okeechobee to a victory in a tri-match with Treasure Coast and John Carroll on Thursday at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club.

Tyler Finney shot 40, Tim Gray 41, and Danny Busbin 43 to lead Okeechobee to their third win of the year. David Torres led John Carroll with a one over par 37.

Okeechobee will host Fort Pierce Westwood next Tuesday at the OG and CC at 3:30 p.m.

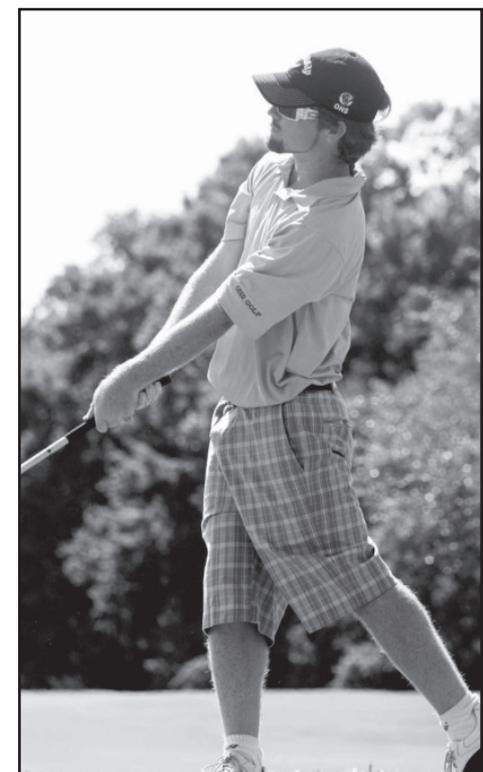
Coach Kenny Buckner said he attempted to play some of the younger players to get them some experience. He said the veteran Donegan had a wonderful round. Other than some bad luck with a divot, Donegan hit three birdies and could have easily shot 3-under par.

Cutter Crawford and Mike Watson also shot 43 in the match.

"I was pleased overall. I'd like some of the older guys to shoot better scores. I think we'll be working on that in the next few weeks," he added.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Richard Donegan had three birdies during his round Thursday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Senior Tim Gray lines up on the fourth tee during Thursday's boys golf match in Okeechobee.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Per se
 - 9 Research, in a way
 - 15 Statue, perhaps
 - 16 When some shifts start
 - 17 Evidence of a spilled dessert?
 - 19 Symbol of love
 - 20 Any of the Beverly Hillbillies
 - 21 PC linkup
 - 22 Nervous ticks?
 - 28 Consider overnight
 - 30 Sicily's capital?
 - 31 Figured out
 - 32 They're usually rolled out
 - 34 Hipbones
 - 35 Linens for jockeys?
 - 41 Miss equivalent?
 - 42 W, once
 - 43 Sports drink suffix
 - 44 Pinch, so to speak
 - 47 Staples Center NBAer
 - 51 Slope where sycophants hang out?

- 8 Rock's Pink ___
- 9 Fried fare often served with applesauce
- 10 Catchall column heading
- 11 Produce amt.
- 12 Tease
- 13 Game with Draw Two cards
- 14 Takedown unit?
- 18 Junction point
- 22 Bandy words
- 23 Group dance done while holding hands
- 24 Offensive to some, briefly
- 25 Wrinkly fruit
- 26 Cross the threshold
- 27 Beast with a rack
- 29 Suffix which may be 24-Down
- 33 Shade of blue
- 34 Flash of sorts
- 35 Arabian sea nation
- 36 Generic pooch
- 37 Hightailed it
- 38 Site of the active volcano Mount Agung
- 39 Airline to Eilat
- 40 Pickle flavoring
- 44 Xterra maker
- 45 "I come to bury Caesar" speaker
- 46 Weed ___: lawn-care product
- 48 More caring
- 49 Exhibit Darwinism
- 50 Look for again
- 52 "Same here!"
- 53 Weed whackers
- 56 Work for Money, maybe
- 57 Part of a winning trio
- 58 Musical genre related to punk
- 59 Dict. division
- 60 An hour's worth of tunes, maybe
- 61 NYC subway inits.
- 62 Mess up

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

A R U B A S T A R W A G
R O P E R E N I D A M O
M U S T A R D P L A S T E R
Y E A R B O O K S T U N E
A S A N S I S
M I R Y M A Y O C L I N I C
C L E A T A B U T O L A
J E L L Y R O L L M O R T O N
O D E P A R I N E R V E
B U T T E R B E A N H E E D
U S E N I N E
S O L E P A G L I A C C I
W H A T S T H E S P R E A D
A N N A U E R A S O N E
T O E D I M S T E S T A

xwordeditor@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15								16					
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21				22	23	24					25	26	27
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51								52			53		54
					55							56	
57	58	59						60	61	62			
63								64					
65								66					

DOWN

- 1 Drives forward
- 2 ___ network
- 3 "Finished!"
- 4 "Dracula" (1931) director Browning et al.
- 5 Hindu honorific
- 6 Cologne article
- 7 Jet problem?

By Dan Naddor
(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Increase in boating fatalities concerns FWC

Many Florida boaters know the importance of wearing a life jacket and abiding by the navigation rules. However, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) emphasizes the importance of making safe, smart decisions when out of the boat as well.

"When people enter the water, they put themselves at risk," said Capt. Carol Keyser of the FWC's Boating and Waterways Section. "Swimming, diving, tubing and other activities in the water can be fun, but need to be done safely."

FWC statistics show the current number of boating accidents this year is 50, up four from this time last year. And, a recent alarming trend is reflected in those statistics.

"In the past three months, there have been three drownings that occurred when people jumped into the water off of moving boats," Keyser said. "Jumping off a moving

vessel and into the water is not like jumping into a pool," she added. "There often are dangers hidden under the surface of the water or the water may be shallower or deeper than expected."

Boaters may overestimate their swimming abilities and may find it difficult to get back onboard a vessel from the water. Another danger comes when they attempt to swim or dive in high-traffic areas.

"Boaters should know their surroundings before getting in the water," Keyser said. "They should exit the boat slowly and make sure there are no dangerous objects or boats nearby."

Alcohol use, which is always a concern for law enforcement, is suspected to have played a role in several of the recent fatalities. For more information on boating safety, go to MyFWC.com/Boating or www.wearit-florida.com.

Priest fighting poverty rides through Glades County

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

A team of 12 cyclists traveled to Glades County last week to promote efforts to help solve poverty in America.

Fr. Matthew Ruhl from Kansas City, Mo., will travel 5,000 miles in 100 days across

America with the Cycling for Change team.

The team visited Moore Haven last Friday and spent the night in Clewiston. The trip was expected to end in Key West.

Fr. Ruhl said the goal is to raise awareness about the depth of poverty in this nation and to point to some of the solutions. He said he thinks the effort has worked.

"I've been remarkably inspired by this nation and its people. There are a lot of people who do a lot of super work. The biggest memory I will have from this trip is the number of tremendous human beings here who work so hard to feed the hungry, visit the sick, clothe the naked, and push for programs," he said.

The trek began in Cape Flattery, Wash. on Memorial Day. Since that time the team has travelled over mountains, river valleys and through a number of small communities. Fr. Ruhl said he is quite gratified at how well things have gone.

"The Catholic Charity poverty campaign hopes to cut poverty in half by the year 2020. That is an audacious goal. I figured I would jump on that and have a team of riders go across the country. I sold them on the idea and here we are," he added.

Fr. Ruhl said biking through Florida has not been as hot and grueling as other parts of the country. He said the hottest conditions he faced were in Smith Center, Kansas and Memphis, Tenn. He said the Florida section hasn't been that bad thanks to afternoon showers.

Fr. Ruhl said he remembers Glades County as a lovely area and that the people were very friendly and helpful. "It was flat and flat is good. The weather was great."

He said he now realizes how beautiful the landscapes of America are. He said the Grand Tetons in Wyoming were spectacular and that the beaches and oceans in Florida have also been breathtaking.



"Geographically the United States is a gorgeous country. God has definitely shined His grace on us. There are people all across this country that don't get the credit or the attention that they deserve. All across this country is an army of little saints," he said.

The team ranges in age from 24 to 63 and come from a variety of professions which include doctors, social workers, lawyers, and photographers. They have averaged 50 miles per day.

Fr. Ruhl said he hopes Cycling for Change will have an impact. "I hope it has a snowball affect. We have hit millions of people through radio and television interviews, newspapers and our website. Success is not our job. We have been faithful to the job and now it is in God's hands. We did the best to throw it out there and hopefully the public will pick it up and run with it."

Information about Cycling for Change can be obtained on the web at www.cyclingforchange.org.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Fr. M. Ruhl

Fr. Matthew Ruhl leads a team of bikers through Florida as part of Catholic Charities fight against poverty.

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Seniors to lead bowling teams

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Adrian Banda and Danielle Racine are expected to be senior leaders for the Okeechobee High School Brahman bowling teams this year.

Banda and Racine have taken different paths to the team. Banda missed last year while Racine has stuck with bowling for the past four years.

Banda has a lot of talent as he carries a 200 average onto the team. He said he works hard to maintain his average.

"I'm very positive about my senior year. I'm pretty sure we will find some talent on this team," he said.

Racine has also devoted herself to bowling this year. She played every Tuesday and Thursday during the off season to improve her average. She began last year with an average around 130. Now her average is 160 and climbing.

"I think my bowling game has improved a lot," she noted, "I'm still improving and I just hope my senior year goes smoothly and I can have the most fun I can and live it up. You are only a senior in high school once in your life."

Both bowlers also take the role of team leader seriously. Banda said although he missed a year and doesn't know his teammates that well, he can be a leader. "I can handle that. I will be positive about everything. I won't let the team get down after a loss."

Racine said she too will push the other girls to get better and take the sport seriously. "If I become team Captain my number one job is to make sure everything is taken care of. I plan on helping the team as much as possible."

Banda said motivation has not been a problem for him. He said he is very competitive with himself and wants to improve his score every time he bowls. He said when he picked up a ball at the age of seven he was not very good. He said he didn't take the



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Danielle Racine and Adrian Banda should be two of the team's top bowlers this year.

sport seriously as a kid, but is now very serious about the sport. "I've very competitive with myself and I encourage kids to come out and try out for the team."

Racine said her first memory about bowling still burns in her mind. She was five or six when she went to a state bowling meet out of town. She said it was a big thing for her and she will always remember it. She said she has been hooked on bowling for awhile.

"It is not as competitive as the other sports. We are all friends with the other teams. It is really nice to go somewhere and bowl against people you enjoy being around," she added. "I think our team will be a lot better this year. This year should be really good."

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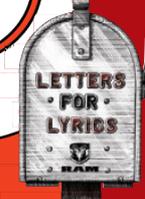
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