

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 108

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

50¢ Plus tax

OHS football team beats Berean Christian ...Page 12



County may double EMS assessment rates ...Page 16

Cars burglarized in the Oak Park area ...Page 7

Area rainfall below average for wet season ...Page 20

Lake Levels

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INI/Katrina Elsken

Brighton royalty in Labor Day Parade

Cheyenne Nunez, Brighton Junior Miss Princess and Brianna Nunez, Brighton Seminole Princess, were joined by Joleyne Nunez, Okeechobee's Toddler Miss Firecracker, at the Okeechobee Labor Day Parade in downtown Okeechobee on Monday. For more photos from the Labor Day Parade and Festival, see page 3.

County candidates respond to questions

In the general election on Nov. 2, Okeechobee County voters will choose between Republican Joey Hoover and Democrat 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. If you have a question for the candidates, email it to okeenews@newszap.com.

In your opinion, is the Agri-Civic Center a drain or an asset to the county? What changes, if any, would you propose to the management of the facility? What changes, if any, would you propose for the facility itself?

See QUESTIONS — Page 5



Terry Burroughs



Joey Hoover

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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Parade of flags

Okeechobee's annual Labor Day Parade was held Monday in downtown Okeechobee. A mounted unit proudly displayed the American flag, the Florida flag, and the flags of the organizations and businesses that sponsor the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Rodeo.



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsken

Riding through the drive-thru

Some Labor Day parade participants stopped for a cool drink at the Country Cooler Drive-Thru on State Road 70 after the parade. If you've ever ridden a horse through the drive-thru you might be from Okeechobee.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Sweets to eat

Austin Raulerson sells his home made jams and jellies at the Labor Day festivities in Flagler Park.

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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!

County budget

• If you have any expectation of change and reforms in the county government, then you should know this. Betts, Domer, Posey, Wherrell and Chandler were all presented with a comprehensive re-organization plan in 2008 that would have significantly consolidated the county government from 14 to 5 departments, and probably would have improved its efficiency and effectiveness. However, nothing came of it, except politics as usual. Not one of the county commissioners even brought it up for discussion and consideration.

• The county feels they need to charge for lighting at the ball fields, this is wrong. Now with the high number of unemployed, those that are getting new jobs are starting out with little pay just to have a job. Businesses in this town are still having to cut back on spending to survive. These teams look for donations, do fund-raisers, and look for sponsors to help pay to play now. Where do you expect them to get the money to pay for the lights?

• I realize the county commission salaries are set by the state, but they can donate part back to the county if they choose to do so. They have other jobs or other sources of income. They should be voluntarily cutting their own pay.

• Last year Commissioner Hoover made a motion to give back part of commissioner salaries but it died for lack of a second.

• I am very concerned about the cut in the summer swimming pool hours and I am worried this will mean they won't have the swimming lessons they had in the past. My kids are big now, but that is where they learned to swim. I worry for the parents of young children who won't be able to find swimming lessons they can afford. This community had a child drown this year already because he did not know how to swim and he fell into a canal.

• The paper says county employees will see their pay reduced and also have to take some unpaid furlough days. Will the top administration in the county also do this? They should set the example and cut their own pay double the percentage that they cut the pay of those who earn less than \$30,000 year.

Parade

• I thought the combined OHS and the OMS bands did a great job in the Labor Day parade. They did not have much time to practice and the younger kids only had a few days to even learn the song. I really felt sorry for them



though because a unit of 20 or 30 horses was in the parade ahead of them and no one cleaned up the mess. So the band had to march around piles of horse manure and since they were playing instruments at the time, it was not so easy to watch where they stepped. Whoever organizes the parades, please put the marching units at the FRONT of the parade next time and the horses BEHIND all of the marching units. There were only three marching units I think—the ROTC, the band and a twirler group. ROTC was at the front of the parade but the band and the little twirlers had to march through the mess the horses left.

• Every parade—on the parade form it says that if you have horses or other animals in your parade entry, you have to provide your own "pooper scooper." And every parade people come with animals and no one with the unit to clean up the mess and they still let them be in the parade. Since no one ever enforces that rule, I think they should just change the parade plans and make sure that all of the marching units are at the front of the parade and no unit with horses or other animals is in the parade in front of a marching unit. Problem solved.

• It is a shame the Chamber of Commerce was closed all summer and they had to throw the Labor Day festival together at the last minute. It used to be such a nice event. This year, if it had not been for the candidates running for office, the parade would have been over in 15 minutes. If the chamber can't be there in August to organize the festival, maybe another organization would like to take it over.

• I want to commend the high school band director and the Osceola Middle School band director for the way the middle and high school bands were combined for the Labor Day parade. I thought the kids sounded great and it was nice to see such a large band marching along. Maybe not '76 trombones', but there were 'rows and rows' of musicians.

College football

• It looks like Lonnie Pryor is having another great year. Go Lonnie! We are so proud of you!

Sexual predators

• The other day I received in my mailbox along with my fellow neighbors and packet on two sexual predators living near by. Here is my problem. A few years ago there was a man who was arrested for molesting little kids. Now there are two more sexual predators at this same address. You see there are a lot of different trailers set up at this address that are not legal. I just find this very strange. It is weird enough that two people come from the same address, but three!

• If they are not legal, turn them in to the code board. They can't be hooked up on the same sewer and there are new guidelines on trailers in Okeechobee.

• I was quite shocked at the high number of sexual offenders and sexual predators on the FDLE list. I thank the newspaper for running those in the paper. They are always available online but people don't remember to check them or just don't think about it. You think a small, rural community like this is safe from such things. But they are here and we need to know who they are and where they live. Protecting the children of this community is the most important job that we have—the most important job both for law enforcement and for the parents.

Break-ins

• I heard there have been houses and cars broken into in the Oak Park area. People need to be aware of this.

• Lock your cars. Lock your homes. Never leave valuables in your car. Install motion lights outside your doors. Don't ever think it won't and can't happen to you.

• Install security cameras, \$40 for one. Buy two and set them toward your entrances. A picture is worth a thousand words and will get the thieves convicted in court.

Football

• Congratulations to the Brahmans on their win! They were some happy players on that field Friday night. I'm proud of them. Let's support them, win or lose. GO BRAHMANS!

• Way to go OHS JV football team 8-2 over Clewiston—great game!

• It looks like the JV football team is doing well, which bodes well for future years at the high school as these players get a little older. Many people don't seem to realize how important it is for the kids to learn the basics of sports at a young age. To have a successful sports program at the high school, we need programs at the grade school and middle school levels to teach the kids the basics and also help them get in good physical condition before they even start high school.

Old problem

• When is someone going to have the courage to do something about the junk yard in the middle of town? He is supposed to have every thing behind the fence. Each day more and more is being put out front and it is a real eye sore. There is stuff behind the fence grown over with weeds. What is the use of having a code enforcement department if they don't enforce the law? Someone needs to get this mess cleaned up. It sure doesn't look very nice for people driving through Okeechobee.

Rabies shots

• I am glad to see the Humane Society is sponsoring a low cost clinic where people can get rabies shots for their pets. Also, many people think you have to pay for an expensive vet visit in order to get the annual shots for your animals. That is no longer true. Many vets offices will let you pay for just the rabies shot and a vet tech can take care of it. For those on a limited budget, that is an option. You don't want to let any animal that is allowed outside to go without a rabies vaccination.

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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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.

MEMBER



QUESTIONS

Continued From Page 1

BURROUGHS: This facility has not been readily accepted in this community since its inception. Currently, the County will carry a debt service of approximately \$262K per year through 2018, not including the operating expenses. The Agri-Center Advisory Group has been taking the ownership of assisting the facility manager in marketing this product to generate additional revenues to assist in offsetting the operating expenses.

I would propose the facility be open to public (soccer & football practice, bicycling, walking, etc.) after 5 p.m. until dusk. Currently, the general public does not have daily access to the facility after 5 p.m. In the meantime, the County should explore the option of leasing the facility to the private sector, but continue to maintain it to ensure the facility value does not decrease.

HOOVER: I believe that the Agri-Civic Center is a valued asset to the community. I think that it would be great if there were funds available to complete the entire plan, which would make it more appealing to potential renters. The county has explored several avenues over the years including grants to complete the amenities. So far, those efforts have not been successful. Until the economic situation improves, we will have to do the best with what we have. It may not be perfect but does provide basic cover and facilities which are a dramatic improvement from the old ag barn. It's not just our facility. In these financially stressed times, recreation venues, both public and commercial, are far from operating capacity. I'm not an expert when it comes to the marketing or operation of facilities such as the Agri-Civic Center but I do believe it is an asset just as our library, sports complex and parks, none of which operates on a profit basis.

If county employees have to take a pay cut, should the county commissioners also take a voluntary cut and return part of their salary to the county as a donation? Why or why not?

BURROUGHS: If elected, I would submit to any reduction in salary the employees of the County would be subject to.

HOOVER: Just as I committed to last year during the budget hearings, my wife and I continue to donate back to civic causes at a rate much higher than the proposed 3 percent payroll decreases. I do believe that commissioners should lead by example and at a minimum, agree to donate the 3 percent standard set for other employees.

Some elected officials treat their positions as a full time job. Some just attend a few meetings a month. Most are somewhere in between. If elected, how many hours a week would you spend on county business?

BURROUGHS: I believe elected officials should treat themselves as management employees where the number of hours are determined by the needs of the business or in this case the citizens of the County. As an elected official, your time cannot be allocated into a minimum or maximum number. You need to be able to respond to a citizen when they call upon you.

HOOVER: I don't know about other elected officials, but I can say that a commissioner is on the job 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Most people only see the hours

we spend in scheduled meetings, but my wife and children can attest that there is no such thing as a holiday or vacation without work. I receive county related phone calls at night and on the weekends including Christmas Day last year. Even at church, people engage me on topics regarding county business. On vacation, I return phone calls and/or follow up with staff every day. In addition to commission meetings, commissioners are also assigned service on related boards such as Children's Services Council, Florida Heartland and Rural Economic Development Initiative, Value Adjustment Board, etc. Commissioners also attend numerous civic, business and social events. As I travel about the county on work or personal business, I am constantly observing and making notes on the condition of the roads, facilities or other actions under the county control. If I had to estimate an amount of time spent on county business, it would average somewhere between 20 hours on the low side and 60 hours on the high side.

Are you currently employed? If so, who is your employer and what do you do? How many hours a week do you work at your job? If elected, how will your job affect your work as a county commissioner? How will your work as a county commissioner affect your job?

BURROUGHS: I am retired from the private sector and part owner of my mother's business Syble's Flowers & Gifts. My wife manages the business with assistance from our valued employees. The business will not interfere with the duties, if elected, as a county commissioner.

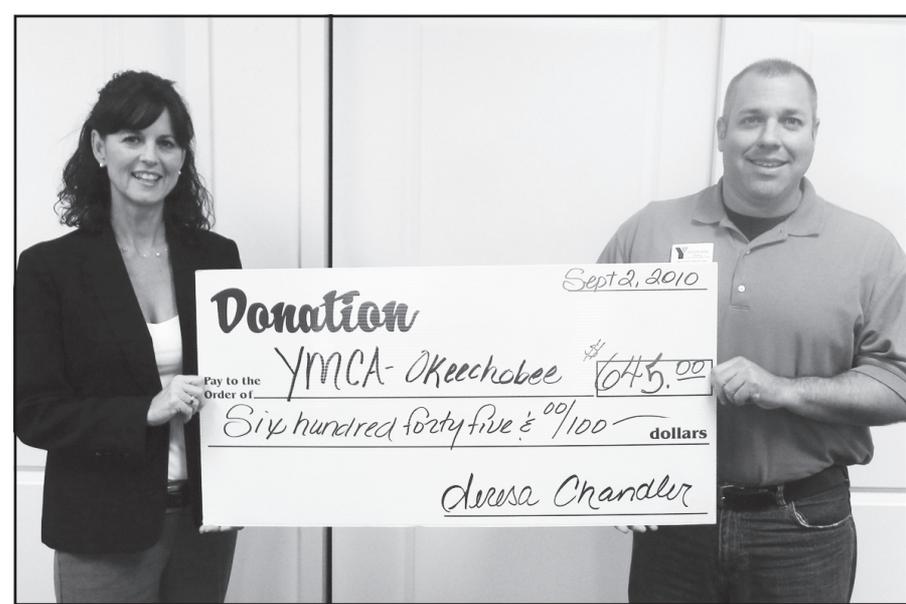
HOOVER: My primary employer is Classic Asphalt Sealing and Striping, Inc., which I own and have operated for the past 13 years. We are a pavement maintenance company offering our services in Okeechobee, Highlands, and surrounding counties. I also own and operate Classic Closets (custom storage design and installation) and Economic Development Associates (business consulting service). Like any other small business owner I don't work standard hours. As work demand increases and decreases, my hours fluctuate as well. I have been on the County Commission since March 2009 and I have never missed any scheduled county meetings. I am not aware of any adverse affects between my position as a commissioner and my business commitments.

How available will you be to the voters? Will you give voters a phone number or email address where they can reach you?

BURROUGHS: If elected, I will be available to the citizens of the County whenever they need assistance. They will be able to reach me via cell phone or email.

HOOVER: I encourage citizens to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns. Upon my appointment to the board, I obtained a cell phone at my own expense that is 100 percent dedicated to commission related calls at 863-532-8336. My email address is jhoover@co.okeechobee.fl.us.

Early voting for the Nov. 2 election will be from Oct. 18 to Oct. 30. For more information online, go to the Okeechobee County Supervisors of Elections web site at www.voteokeechobee.com.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Teresa Chandler

Great turnout for Teen Dance

The August Teen Dance held on Aug. 21, at the Okeechobee Freshman campus and organized by Teresa Chandler was attended by 126 teens. The dance was the largest yet! Student enjoyed music by DP Productions, participated in games winning gift cards and enjoyed pizza! The proceeds from this dance went to the YMCA Okeechobee project. A check was presented to Okeechobee Executive Director, Shawn Keil. Special thanks to the following who continuously support the Okeechobee Teen Dance Program! Okeechobee County School Board, Dominos Pizza, Ding-A-Ling Deli, DP Productions, East Coast Signs, Wemmer Family Orthodontics, Wal-Mart, Sheriff and City Police Departments, Best Western and the many volunteers that make it happen! For more information on the teen dances, please call 863-801-4996.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly cloudy, with a high near 92. Heat index values as high as 103. East wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

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

Extended Forecast

Thursday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 92. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Friday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2pm. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 96. Calm wind.

Friday night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Monday AM in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 3-5-9; **Play 4:** 6-4-7-9; **Fantasy 5:** 4-7-25-31-34; **Mega Money:** 2-6-39-40 MB 18; **Florida Lotto:** 2-7-9-22-29-42 X 5; **Powerball:** 11-14-22-33-42 PB 38 x2. Numbers drawn Monday PM, **Cash 3:** 3-0-7; **Play 4:** 6-0-8-2.



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Community Events

Moose Lodge hosts meatloaf dinner night on Thursday

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. 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.

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

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**. Members and qualified guests are invited. There will be a prime rib dinner, (served by local celebrities) from 5–7 p.m. Also included: a cake wheel, auction and other activities with the proceeds going to Mooseheart/Moosehaven and local community charities. For information call Malinda, 317-340-6955 (cell).

Obituaries

Charles Russell Stryker, 86

OKEECHOBEE — Charles Russell Stryker, age 86, of Okeechobee, died Friday, Sept. 3, 2010, in the Hamrick Home Hospice.

He was a resident of Okeechobee since 2002 and was an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Okeechobee.

Mr. Stryker was a former resident of Cadillac, Michigan where he spent much of his retirement years fishing on Lake Michigan. He proudly served in the United States Navy during World War II and the Korean War.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred; his parents, Charles and Gertrude Hawley Stryker; and two brothers, James V. Stryker of Greenville Michigan and Richard E. Stryker of California.

He is survived by one son, Stanley Stryker; two granddaughters, Dominique and Rachel; sister and brother-in-law, Mary Jane and Les Snider; and many friends and relatives.

Mr. Stryker will be buried in Marne, Mich., in Wright Township Cemetery directly adjacent to his Grandparents Family Home.

All local arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee. Out of town arrangements will be under the direction of Throop Funeral Home, 214 Church St, Coopersville, Michigan. On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com



Lois Smith, 76

BRIGHTON — Lois Smith, age 76, of Brighton Reservation, passed away Friday, Sept. 3, 2010, at her residence.

She was born March 10, 1934, in Bluefield, St. Lucie County.

Lois was a good hearted women and raised many nieces and nephews. She was a hog farmer for the Seminole Tribe. In addition she planted grasses for cattle pastures. She enjoyed fishing and hunting. She was a member of the First Indian Baptist Church of Brighton and the Women's Missionary Union.

She is survived by her nephews, Gilbert King (Tammy), Willie Tommie (Noreen), Mike Tommie, James Tommie, Jason Tommie (Shawna), Eugene Tommie, Freddie Tommie, Maxie Tommie (Kim); and nieces, Mollie Jolly (Chris), Virginia Lee Tommie, Alice Smith (Curtis Hardy), Leoda Poole, Leoma Simmons, Edna Tommie (Tray), Betty Billie (Sandy), Martha Tommie, and Lori Beth Smith. In addition she is survived by 44 grandchildren and 58 great-grandchildren.

The family received friends two hours prior to services that were 11 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010, in the First Indian Baptist Church, with pastor Matt Tiger officiating. Interment will follow in Ortona Cemetery.

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

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.

Artie B. 'Granny' Scroggin, 88

OKEECHOBEE — Artie B. "Granny" Scroggin, age 88, died Sept. 6, 2010, at her residence. She was a resident of Okeechobee for 22 years.

Granny lived for her family, children, and all of her grandchildren.

For 30 years she worked in food service in the Pahokee School System.

She is survived by sons, Bob (Lynda) Scroggin of Leslie, Ark., Bill (Cathy) Scroggin, of Marshall, Ark., Ed (Lynn) Scroggin, of Jacksonville, Fla.; daughters, Chris Roberts and Annette Usher, both of Okeechobee; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl and grandson, Billy Scroggin.

A graveside service will be held Sept. 9, at 1 p.m., at Port Mayaca Memorial Gardens and Park, Port Mayaca.

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

All arrangements are under the care and direction of Matthew and Paul Buxton, of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory, 4550 Highway 441 North, Okeechobee, Florida, 863-357-7283.

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10 unlocked vehicles burglarized on Sunday

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

Investigators are searching for clues after a number of unlocked vehicles were burglarized Sunday night in the Oak Park subdivision.

According to Detective Ted Van Deman of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) it is believed that kids were involved in 10 car burglaries during the nighttime hours on Sept. 5. It's also believed that these

same kids stole four, 12-packs of sodas, off the front porch of a home in the same area.

Like the vehicles, the door of the porch was not locked, he added.

"This is not the Okeechobee of the 1970s—it's 2010," said the detective, "and it's absolutely imperative that people lock their vehicles. If you must leave the doors unlocked, please remove all of your valuables from your car."

All of the break-ins occurred between 8:52 and 10:01 p.m. And, in all 10 cases, the vehicles were unlocked.

Detective Van Deman said the "thieves skulk around at night" just looking for things to steal. In Sunday's cases, the thieves mainly took currency, change and iPods. However, in one burglary they not only took a carton of cigarettes but oxycodone pills. In another, a person's wallet that held their driver's license, cash and debit card was stolen.

The detective went on to add that several items that had been reported stolen were later found discarded along the side of a road near the area. He said some GPS units were found, as well as some cupholders that

were taken from the vehicles.

The cupholders, said Detective Van Deman, were filled with change when they were taken from the vehicles.

"We have at least two of these (GPS units) in evidence that were found along the side of the road," he added.

The veteran investigator said the thieves are likely kids and that they are taking "only stuff that's of good to them."

"We had one victim whose motion light came on but they didn't go out and investigate. If you see people out in the neighborhood at night, you need to call us," the detective urged.

To notify the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, call 1-863-763-3117. If you live in the city, call the Okeechobee City Police Department at 863-763-5521. Or, call 9-1-1.

Detective Van Deman said if anyone has any information about these burglaries, they can contact CrimeStoppers at 1-800-273-TIPS and remain anonymous. Callers may also be eligible for a cash reward.

Woman accused of stabbing sister

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

A local woman is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail following her arrest for allegedly stabbing her sister during a fight at their home.



Tanya Kelley

Tanya Kelley, 35, N.W. First Way, was arrested Friday, Sept. 3, on a felony charge of aggravated domestic battery. Her bond has been set at \$2,500.

According to an arrest report by Deputy Matthew Hurst of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), he and Deputy Michael Hazellief were called to the home and found the victim with blood on her face and hands. The report stated that she had been struck over the right eye with a flashlight and stabbed in her right forearm.

The fight apparently erupted when Kelley

found the victim asleep on the front room floor. Kelley reportedly slapped the victim several times in the face and when the woman awoke a fight ensued. A witness reportedly took the flashlight away from Kelley.

Kelley then apparently left the kitchen. She returned sometime later with a knife and stabbed the victim in the arm, the report indicated. After the victim had armed herself with a large knife, and the deputies had arrived, Kelley fled out the back door of the home, stated Deputy Hurst.

Other OCSO deputies began to search the area and found Kelley a short distance from the home.

A witness reportedly told Deputy Hurst that he awoke to find the two women fighting then called 9-1-1 when "... he saw how serious everything was."

The deputy's report went on to state that the knife reportedly used against the victim has not been recovered.

Emergency medical personnel were called to the scene to treat the victim's wounds, added Deputy Hurst.

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).

- Juan Ramirez, 25, Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 3 by Deputy Lieutenant Keith Murrish on a warrant charging him with violation of probation - aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. He is being held without bond.

- Mark Elliot Hazlitt, 31, N.W. Sixth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 3 by Deputy Lt. Keith Murrish on a warrant charging him with dealing in stolen property and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Daniel Gary Johnson, 40, S.W. Fox Brown Road, Indiantown, was arrested Sept. 3 by Deputy Lt. Keith Murrish on a Hendry County warrant charging him with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. His bond was set at \$12,000.

- Steven Patrick King, 23, Pershing St., Hollywood, was arrested Sept. 3 by Officer Belen Reyna on a Jefferson County, Ala., warrant charging him with possession of a controlled substance. 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.

Woman accused of stealing undergarments

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

When an Okeechobee woman was arrested Tuesday morning she was reportedly not only wearing stolen underwear but also had several methadone pills in her purse, stated arrest reports.



Heather L. Paulk

Heather L. Paulk, 22, S.E. 12th Ave., was arrested Tuesday, Sept. 7, and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail by Officer Jack Boon of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD) and a detective from the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force.

Officer Boon said he charged Paulk with the felony of introduction of contraband into a detention facility and the mis-

demeanor of retail theft. Her total bond on those charges was \$3,000.

The task force detective arrested Paulk at 11:15 a.m. on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (methadone), and a misdemeanor charge of possession of a controlled substance outside a properly marked container. Her total bond on these charges was set at \$5,500.

An arrest report by the task force detective stated that while Paulk was being detained for retail theft at Walmart he asked for, and received, permission to search her purse. During that search the detective said 12, 10mg methadone pills were found in a coin purse.

Paulk was then taken to the county jail where she was found to be wearing three bras and a pair of underwear that were allegedly taken from the discount store, said Officer Boon.

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Church sponsors Gospel sing

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Believers Fellowship Church, 300 S.W. Sixth St., will sponsor a Friday Night Gospel Sing on **Sept. 10** from 7 to 9 p.m. Anyone who likes Gospel Singing is invited to come out for a good time of music and fellowship. Coffee and desserts will be served following the sing.

In conjunction with the beginning of school, the annual **September Prayer Walk**, sponsored by the **Okeechobee Ministerial Association**, began last night at Osceola Middle School, South Elementary School and New Endeavor. Community leaders met to pray for the administration, the teachers, the support staff, the students and their parents that they might have a positive, successful school year. Everyone is invited to attend and participants walk as much as they are able to. Some people choose to drive to the various schools and stand in one location while praying. The initial meeting location for the Tuesday **Sept. 14**, walk is at the Freshman Campus, 601 S.W. Second Ave. at 6 pm. Come and join fellow Christians in this unique community event.

The Senior Adult Ministry of **First Baptist Church**, 401 S.W. Fourth St., is showing the movie "The Bible vs. Joseph Smith" at 7



Places of Worship

Share your news and photos for this column by email to pgawda@newszap.com

p.m. on Thursday, **Sept. 16**. This unique documentary, produced entirely in Israel, discusses one of the most important questions of faith: "How do we know if a prophet is speaking the truth?" Everyone is welcome.

A Women's Conference with the theme "Diving In" will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, **Sept. 18** at **House of Refuge**, 7405 S.R. 70 E. There will be music by Darlene Miller. The speakers will be Donna Driggers and Scherilyn Phelps

and there will be a drama by Kristen Dryden and Taylor Woods. Lunch will be provided at no cost.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 901 S.W. Sixth Street, Okeechobee will be offering religious education classes for children and youngsters beginning on Sunday, **Sept. 19**. Registrations for C.C.D. (Catholic Christian Doctrine) are now being accepted. Classes for all grades including kindergarten through ninth grade will be held every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. until 12:35 p.m. For more information, please call the parish office at 863-763-3727.

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



Special to the Okeechobee News/OMA

Fifth Sunday

An offering of \$374, given at a recent Fifth-Sunday Community Service which was sponsored by the Okeechobee Ministerial Association, was donated to Big Lake Missions of Okeechobee. Three of the OMA Board of Directors are shown presenting the check to Bruce Swinford, co-director of Big lake Missions. Left to Right: President Rev. Jim Dawson-First United Methodist Associate Pastor, Treasurer Rev. P. Gwen Livatt-St. Stephens AME Senior Pastor, Mr. Swinford, and Secretary Sandy Perry-Okeechobee Community Choir Director. Not pictured are Vice President Rev. Loy Mershimer-Okeechobee Presbyterian Pastor and Executive Director Rev. Dr. Edward Weiss, Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Priest. The next Fifth-Sunday Community Service will be held Oct. 31.

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Brahman gridgers run over Berean Christian



Deforest Shanks had the game of his career as he led the Brahman offense to three touchdowns.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Myron Jackson earned his first victory as Brahman head coach thanks to the strong legs of senior running back Deforest Shanks, Friday.

Shanks scored three touchdowns and Jack Radebaugh and Aukeemian Mills also tasted the end zone as Okeechobee defeated Berean Christian, 33-8.

Coach Jackson said he felt his team still has things to work on but said he felt good about winning his first game as head coach. "We made some mistakes and there are things to fix but I feel good," he said.

Okeechobee led 6-0 at the half and after a competitive first half, were able to take charge late in the game.

Berean Christian, led by Keion Berry, managed just 107 yards in total offense. Berry had a big night on kick returns as he returned one kick 93 yards for a touchdown. He had over 180 yards in returns on the night. Berry had only 54 yards in the regular offense.

Shanks rushed for 159 yards on 13 carries as he replaced Daron Washington who injured his ankle in the first half. Shanks scored on a 45 yard run in the second quarter to open the scoring. He added a 15 yard dash for a score in the third quarter.

QB Jack Radebaugh, who ran for 49 yards on 14 carries, didn't have to go to the air very often. He attempted only three passes in the game. He ran well out of the shotgun and was able to outrace the defense for a 15 yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

Aukeemian Mills picked off a pass from Bulldog QB Caleb Pinkerman and with a convoy of Okeechobee teammates in front of him, was able to return the pick 40 yards for a touchdown.

Shanks finished off the scoring with a 20 yard run in the final four minutes.

Shanks said a three touchdown game will be a memory he has for a long time, "The offensive line did a great job. Everybody was blocking tonight. DJ Washington was able to run hard and I just came in and took up where he left off," he said.

Washington, who limped off the field in

the second quarter, had a big first half with 90 yards on 12 carries. Okeechobee had chances to score in the Bulldog red zone but were stopped on downs on one play. A fumble by the Brahmans stopped another scoring opportunity before halftime.

On defense Jose Santibanez had a big night with several tackles and big hits for Okeechobee. He said he felt the entire unit played well together on Friday, "We did a better job this week. Everybody played well. We wanted to direct traffic inside and it worked out for us."

Nick Immesberger had a fumble recovery for Berean Christian. Ronald Jackson recovered a fumble for Okeechobee. Jesse

Thomas also stripped a Bulldog receiver of the ball forcing a fumble in the fourth quarter.

Okeechobee also did a good job in rushing the passer as DE David Carter, DT Cody Walker, and others put pressure on the QB all night long. Radebaugh also had an interception at safety. He returned the pick 20 yards. Radebaugh said he felt good on the other side of the ball. "I was able to read the QB the entire way and I stayed in my zone. When he overthrew the ball, I was able to pick it off." The game was played at Wellington High School in Palm Beach County. This week Okeechobee hosts Avon Park. The kickoff is Friday night at 7 p.m.

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David Carter (left) Thor Harden (third from left) and other linemen race off the field after tasting victory Friday.

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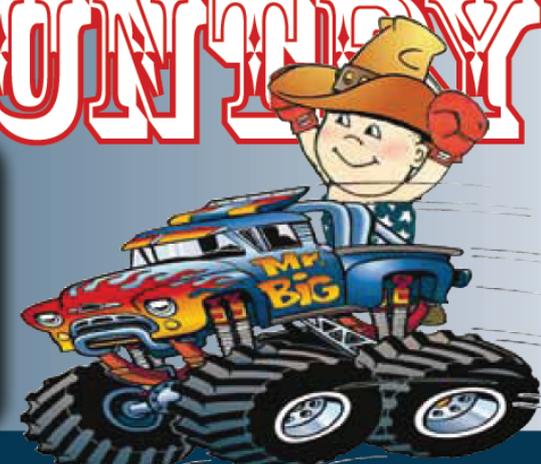
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Pop Warner football team defeats Jensen Beach

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Pop Warner teams travelled to the Treasure Coast Saturday and came away with two victories at different locations.

The Midget team defeated the Palm City Dolphins 14-13 in a tight battle. Okeechobee actually led 14-0 at the half time break and then had to hold off a Palm City comeback.

Okeechobee had 200 yards on the ground and 100 yards through the air in the contest.

Coach James Shockley said his team played a team game and played well on offense and defense. He also emphasized that the team didn't turn the ball over once, a change from the week before when they had nine turnovers. Okeechobee had two touchdowns called back by penalty in the game. This week the Midget team will host Jupiter Maroon on Saturday at 5 p.m.

In the Junior Pee Wee game, the Lil' Brahman offense got untracked in the second half as they defeated Jensen Beach 25-0.

Kysell Richardson had a 60-yard run for a touchdown in the first half. Darrius Houze had a 50 yard touchdown run called back by a penalty in the third quarter. Richardson added a 27 yard touchdown run in the third quarter. Matthew Garcia and Melvin Brown scored touchdowns in the final minutes.

On defense Melvin Brown had five tackles including two for losses. Mateo Vasquez had two tackles and a sack. Richardson had a tackle for loss and a fumble recovery. Matthew Garcia had four tackles, a sack and a

fumble recovery. On offense Richardson ran 12 times for 118 yards and two touchdowns. He threw for 53 yards and a score. Mark Youmans grabbed a key 23-yard pass on a fourth-down conversion. Garcia ran six times for 43 yards and a touchdown.

This week the Jr. Pee Wee team hosts Jupiter Maroon on Saturday at 3 p.m. The Pop Warner games are played in the soccer complex across from North Elementary School.



Lance Murphy (#80) battles a block during Saturday's game. The Brahman defense tossed a shutout against Jensen Beach.

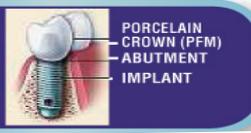


Matthew Garcia (#12) had a nice day rushing the football for the Chobee Lil' Brahman Saturday.

Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

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Tickets available for 'Hello Dolly'

Season tickets to all three shows scheduled for the Okeechobee Community Theatre's 32nd year are now available.

This year's line-up includes the all-time classic Broadway musical, "Hello, Dolly," along

with a "film-noir"-style comic crime adventure, "The Man With Bogart's Face," and a heart-warming comedy from the writers of past OCT hits, "Dearly Beloved" and "Christmas Belles," entitled "Dixie Swim Club."

Patrons can see all three productions for a total of just \$28, which is a savings of \$8 off the regular \$12 per show price. Season subscribers also get to reserve the best seats in the house several weeks before the single-show tickets go on sale to the general public.

A subscription form can be found on-line at <http://okeechobeecommunitytheatre.com>, or season tickets can be purchased by calling 863-763-1307.

"Hello, Dolly," which opens in November for a four-performance run, is one of Broadway's longest-running shows. It made an instant star out of Carol Channing in the title role on stage, and helped further the career

of a young Barbra Streisand in the motion picture version.

Dolly Levi specializes in finding suitable matches for unmarried men and women. When she accepts a wealthy but crotchety businessman as a client, she does everything possible to win him for herself. The title song from the show became so popular that it actually kept the Beatles away from the number one position on the charts for several weeks in 1964.

The role of Dolly will be played by Lonnie Kirsch, who will be remembered by Okeechobee Community Theatre patrons for her outstanding performance as Anna in the 2002 production of "King and I," and for her comedic talents in the OCT production of "The Cemetery Club," among others.

The cast of twenty also includes such audience favorites as Mike Zierden, Genna and Kevin Lute, Joyce Taylor, Michael White, John and Laurie Garner, Cathy Womble, Joey Marcinek, Jane Kaufman, Louise Chandler, Billy and Shawna McCullers, and Daniel Delagall.

The OCT's December offering will be "The Man With Bogart's Face." This comic

adventure is the unusual story of a man who so idolizes Humphrey Bogart that he has his face altered to look like him, and then becomes a private detective. His cases involve precious jewels, mysterious and beautiful women, and murder.

Concluding the season will be "Dixie Swim Club," a comedy from the same writing team who created the runaway OCT hits "Dearly Beloved" and "Christmas Belles." It involves five women who met while competing on their college swim team. They've remained close through the years by getting together annually at a beach house without husbands or children to renew their friendships and meddle in each others' lives. The show will be performed in March.

The Okeechobee Community Theatre is an all-volunteer non-profit organization of local people who produce Broadway-style entertainment for area audiences. It is a member of the American Association of Community Theatre, and the Florida Theatre Conference. For more information on the theatre and its activities, call Ron or Jacque Hayes at 863-763-1307.

Commissioners to set rates for fire, EMS

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

From the looks of the agenda, tomorrow's meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission should be short and routine. The major items to be considered are the setting of assessment rates for fire/rescue, emergency medical services (EMS) and solid waste collection.

If the new fire/rescue rate schedule is approved, residents will be paying the same as they did this year. Residential units will be assessed \$100. Hotels, motels and RV parks will pay \$8 per room/space. Agricultural/vacant land will pay \$56 per acre. Commercial and industrial rates, which are based on the size of the building will also remain the same.

However, under the proposed rate schedule, EMS assessment rates would double since they were cut in half this year. The assessment on residential property would increase from \$37 per residential unit to \$74. Hotel/motel/RV park rates would increase from \$1 per room/space to \$2. The rate for commercial and industrial property would

If you go ...
What: Regular meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission
When: 9 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 9
Where: Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 N.W. Second St.

also double. The solid waste assessment would increase from \$174 per residential unit to \$187.40.

Turning to other items, the board is scheduled to consider approval of payment of \$10,986.22 for emergency repair of the

airport generator. The board is also expected to schedule public hearings to abandon platted road and alley rights-of-way in Basenger and Petit Park.

In the only other action item on the agenda, PNC Bank has requested that the county subordinate a deferred payment loan agreement in the amount of \$15,000 in order for the bank to proceed with a new loan modification on a state housing initiative partnership program (SHIP) loan.

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

Upcoming local blood drives announced

The need for blood never stops, but the number of donors has. Only 5 percent of the total population donates blood. Will there be enough on hand when you or your family need it? Donate this month on the Big Red Bus. Dates and times:

- Saturday, Sept. 11 – two buses at Publix 10 a.m.– 4 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 12 – Golden Corral 11 a.m.– 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 21 – Okee High School 7:15 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 22 – Beef O'Brady's 4 – 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 25 - Wal-mart 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 1 – Okee County Health Dept., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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 8th - 11th

Free Admission

Show Times: Wednesday 12p - 6p
Thursday - Friday 9a - 6p
Saturday 9a - 2p

Holiday Inn Express

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For Directions: (863) 357-3529
Show Info: (386) 747-1816 or (386) 837-6112

Don't Miss Your Chance to Cash in. The Treasure Traders are paying Top Dollar for the following types of items.

• Coins

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

• Military Items

Civil War, Revolutionary War, WWI, WWII, Swords, Medals, Gear, Badges, Knives, and Clothes

• Advertising Items

Metal & Porcelain Signs, Beer & Liquor Makers, Automobile, Gas & Oil

Watches & Pocket Watches

Rolex, Cartier, Tiffany, Omega, Railroad & Pocket Watches



Paying Top Dollar for Guitars

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Soldier Tintypes



Folks Are Cashing in on the Current Gold and Silver Rush

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!

Illegal burn extinguished

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

County Fire crews spent close to an hour and used over 450 gallons of water to put out a fire that included boats and tires on NW 42nd Avenue on Sunday morning.

County Fire Rescue Lt. Robert Banfield said a Sheriff's Deputy noticed the fire around 8 a.m. at 2266 N.W. 42nd Avenue and firemen were dispatched soon afterward. One unit and two firemen were on

the scene for roughly one hour.

The fire report said several large areas had burned and two areas were still burning when firemen arrived. Three large boat hulls, tires and rims were all destroyed.

There was no estimate of damage available. Lt. Banfield said there were no injuries.

The Division of Forestry was called to the scene to investigate the fire because it appeared to be an illegal burn.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Raulerson Hospital

Scholarship funds

The Raulerson Hospital Auxiliary provides scholarships to local individuals looking into a career in the medical field. Monies are raised through sales in the Hospital Gift Shop. This year three individuals received \$1,500 scholarships each. Jean Rego Auxiliary Chair presents Sam Smith Provost of Indian River State College the scholarship check. Also on hand is Robert Lee, Raulerson Hospital CEO and scholarship recipients Brenda Ellerbee, Christina Morse and Gary Lanser.

Republicans open local office

The Republican Party of Okeechobee, now through November, invites the public to stop by their office, 401 N.W. Fourth Street in the SE corner of the Farm Bureau Insurance Building, on any Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come pick up your yard signs, bumper stickers and information! Be an informed voter! For more information online go to www.republicanpartyofokeechobee.com. The phone number is 863-532-9623.

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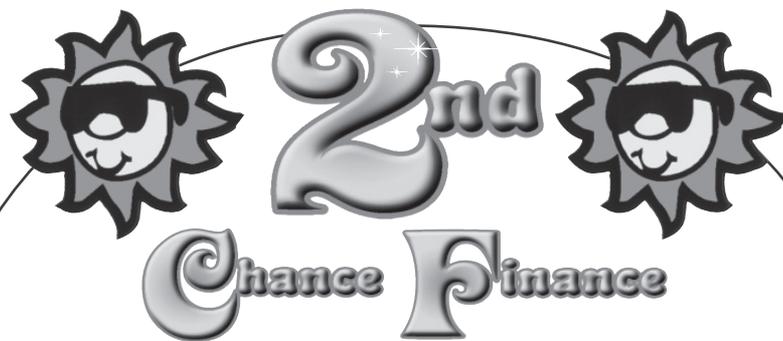
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Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a WRIT OF EXECUTION issued by the County Court of Manatee County, Florida, on the 5th day of August, 2010 in the cause wherein BARNETT RECOVERY CORPORATION, Plaintiff and WILLIAM RHODEN AKA WILLIAM W. RHODEN AND MELISSA RHODEN, Defendant(s), being Case No. 91-CC-000477 in the said Court, I Paul C. May, as Sheriff of Okeechobee County, Florida, have this day levied upon all of the right, title and interest of the Defendant WILLIAM RHODEN AKA WILLIAM W. RHODEN, in and to the following described personal property lying and situate in Okeechobee County, Florida to wit:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

2007 Chevrolet Avalanche, LT, Vin # 3GNEC12087G199585, TAG # W040MS

I shall offer the above described personal property for sale subject to all prior liens and encumbrances if any, on the 6th day of October, 2010 at 10:00 AM, or as soon as possible thereafter at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, 504 N.W. 4th Street, Okeechobee, Florida and will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, all right, title, and interest of said Defendant WILLIAM RHODEN AKA WILLIAM W. RHODEN in said property.

Vehicle may be seen one hour prior to sale at BMJ Towing, 414 S. Parrott Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34974.

Dated at Okeechobee, Florida this 5th day of August, 2010.

Paul C. May, Sheriff
Okeechobee County

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in the proceeding should contact Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 863-763-3117, ext. 2295. 365064 ON 9/3,8,10,17,24/2010

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2009-CA-658
JUDGE: Larry Schack

RIVERSIDE NATIONAL BANK OF FLORIDA A Division of and now known as TD BANK, NA
Plaintiff
VS.
GEORGE D. ETCHISON, MARILYN ETCHISON,
CITY ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY
UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY
Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE

The Clerk of the Circuit Court hereby gives notice of the following foreclosure sale in the above referenced matter:

A. The Property to be sold is:

Site Address: 5271 US Hwy 441 SE, Okeechobee, FL 34974
Okeechobee County Real Property
Tax Identification No.: 1-31-37-36-0A00-0003-C100

A PORTION OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA BEING FULLY DESCRIBED AS:

A parcel of land lying in fractional; Section 31 Township 37 South, Range 36 East Okeechobee County Florida said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the intersection of the West boundary of said Section 31 and the Northernly right-of-way line of State Road No 15 (66 foot wide right-of-way), Thence South 51'30"19" East along said Northernly right-of-way line of State Road No 15, a distance of 1,898.32 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING,

Thence South 51'29'28" East continuing along said Northernly right-of-way line a distance of 155.11 feet,
Thence North 32'57'29" East, a distance of 341.93 feet,
Thence North 55'45'18" West, a distance of 164.21 feet,
Thence South 31'19'03" West, a distance of 330.63 feet to the Northernly right-of-way line of said State Road No 15 and the POINT OF BEGINNING.

as recorded in ORB 628 PAGE 1165 of the public records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

B. The Clerk's Sale will take place on Oct. 6, 2010, at 11:00 AM, at Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972.

C. The sale will be made pursuant to the Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated July 22, 2010;

D. RIVERSIDE NATIONAL BANK OF FLORIDA, A Division of and now known as TD BANK, NA vs. GEORGE D. ETCHISON, MARILYN ETCHISON, CITY ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY; UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CASE NO.:2009-CA-658

E. This sale is being made by Sharon Robertson, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Okeechobee County of the Circuit Court, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, by and through a deputy Clerk of Court.

F. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated: July 23, 2010
SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY COURT
By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administration Department, 250 NW Country Club Drive Suite #217, Port St Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 within 2 working days of the receipt of the notice of a proceeding to make arrangements. For hearing or voice impaired contact 1-800-955-8771. 361546 ON 9/8,15/10

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2010-CP-88
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: Estate of
ADLAI ELDON MICHAELS,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Formal Administration

The administration of the Estate of **ADLAI ELDON MICHAELS, Deceased**, whose date of death was February 27, 2010, Case Number 2010-CP-88 is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which 312 NW 3rd Street, Suite 125, Okeechobee, FL 34972. The names and addresses of the Co-Personal Representatives and the Personal Representatives attorney are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate, must file their claims with this Court **WITHIN THREE (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. WITHOUT NOTICING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is: 9-1-2010.

Law Office of **CASSELLS & McCALL**
By: **JOHN D. CASSELLS, JR.**
Attorney for
Personal Representatives
400 NW 2nd Street P.O. Box 968
Okeechobee, Florida 34973
(863) 763-3131
Fla Bar No: 0261521

LEE MICHAELS
Co-Personal Representative
375 Log Fence Road
Palmerston, PA 18071

CAROL ANN PRICE
Co-Personal Representative
3126 Gracefield Road, Apt 416
Silver Springs, MD 20904
364379 on 9/1,8/10

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LEGAL NOTICE

Public Auction will be held at Johns Towing Service storage lot located at 704 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 on **SEPTEMBER 24, 2010, at 9:00 A.M.** Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage charges. Year, make, model and VIN are as follows.

2000 Chevy Venture
VIN#1GNDU03E6YD108051
2004 Chongqing KingT
VIN#LKXYCML0142001864

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right of final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL! NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE! Said automobiles will be sold in "As Is" condition with no guarantee's.
365479 ON 9/8/2010

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

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

Rainfall for wet season lags behind averages

Despite greater than average rainfall District-wide in August, rainfall amounts for the wet season continue to run at a slight deficit. From June 1 through Aug. 31, 20.53 inches of rainfall were recorded District-wide. The historical average for that time is 22.5 inches of rainfall.

During the current wet season, heavy downpours of 3 inches or more have been of a localized nature, with overall District-wide soakings occurring less frequently than average.

"Rainfall amounts during the wet season have created good conditions throughout the regional system, meaning there is water storage capacity in case a storm system moves through," said Tommy Strowd, SFWMD Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance. "The regional flood control system has

responded well to the few larger rainfall events we have seen."

From the beginning of the rainy season in June through Aug. 31, an average of 20.53 inches of rain fell across the 16-county District. The total represents about 92 percent of the normal rainfall for the three months, or a deficit of around 2 inches.

While June typically produces some of the wettest weeks of the year in South Florida, the six-week period between July 5 and Aug. 15 often provides a lull in the annual rainy season. The District-wide average of 8.72 inches of rain in August was 116 percent of normal, or a rainfall surplus of 1.18 inches.

Once again showcasing Florida's weather extremes, the rainy season rainfall deficit follows a 2009-2010 dry season that re-

corded 131 percent of average dry season rainfall. This represents 5.88 inches above normal with an average of 24.67 inches of rain falling throughout the District from the beginning of November through the end of May. The higher than average rainfall total presented challenges for wildlife, particularly wading birds that nest in the Everglades.

Even with above average rainfall, the District was able to perform vital maintenance work to the regional flood control system that normally occurs during the dry season. By the start of the 2010 rainy season, \$240 million had been invested in essential maintenance and upgrade work during the past five years to ensure the system of 2,600 miles of canals and levees operates at optimal capacity and provides effective flood control for South Florida's 7.5 million residents.

The rainy season lasts from June through October, when South Florida receives about 70 percent of its annual average of 52 inches of rainfall. Flooding may happen when large amounts of rain occur during a short period of time or from a single heavy storm, tropical system or hurricane. Forecasters are calling for above normal tropical activity during the current storm season.

This year, the District also enhanced its annual rainy season preparations by launching a new webpage with information on the shared responsibilities of flood control in South Florida and what residents, businesses and local governments can do to prepare for a storm.

Complementing the online effort, SFWMD staff hosted a series of rainy season readiness presentations across the region — at county commission meetings, schools and civic association gatherings — in an effort to continually inform the public about current conditions and citizens' role in local flood control.

Tips on how residents can prepare for the rainy season are available on the District's Rainy Season Readiness website. For updates from the District in case of an emergency, follow the District's Twitter feed: @SFWMD.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ACROSS | DOWN | |
| 1 Blissful state, slangily | 1 Eric Cartwright's nickname on "Bonanza" | 30 Illicit ignition |
| 10 Tack together | 2 Handling the task | 32 Lacking gravity |
| 15 Russian | 3 French Nobelist | 33 First to win 100 NCAA team championships |
| Orthodox church feature | André | 36 Unflinching |
| 18 "Kind of a Wonderful" update | 37 Magazine with opener | 37 Magazine with opener |
| 18 Bullock's "Miss Congeniality" costar | 45 Soul predecessor | 52 On the Beaufort scale |
| 19 French hagiological abbr. | 8 Antarctic denizens | 53 Chief Ouray's people |
| 20 Events on a card | 9 Headland | 56 Opposite of ask |
| 21 Jam highlights | 10 First "America's Funniest Home Videos" host | |
| 22 Doctor finder | 11 Puffy styles | |
| 23 Yacht site | 12 Critical 1942-43 battle site | |
| 24 Fuji setting | 13 It's part of the Rockies | |
| 27 Master: Abbr. | 14 Treebeard's kin | |
| 29 FDR program | 22 Vanishing word | |
| 31 Steadily fading sound | 23 Wee | |
| 32 French police detective unit | 24 Honored with a party | |
| 34 Elongated fish | 25 Jotting medium | |
| 35 Control tower concerns | 26 Dean Martin classic | |
| 38 Dig into | 28 Bottom | |
| 39 Fictional Queen | | |
| 40 Vacación destination | | |
| 41 MLB rally killers | | |
| 42 Logician Turing | | |
| 43 Not recent | | |
| 44 Fencer's defense | | |
| 46 Coconut's place | | |
| 49 Jazz pianist Ahmad | | |
| 50 Handbook, e.g. | | |
| 51 Ft. Worth campus | | |
| 54 Winning, barely | | |
| 55 A paddlewheel may propel one | | |
| 57 Drips | | |
| 58 Like sound frequencies above 20 kHz or so, to humans | | |
| 59 Beatnik of '50s-'60s TV | | |
| 60 Surfing equipment? | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

I	N	I	T	S	E	L	F	L	O	O	K	U	P	
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swordeditor@aol.com

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By Doug Peterson
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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.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

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Labor Day festival

Elijah Buhlmaier, (above) 2, and his dog, Lena, seem oblivious to all that's going around them at the Labor Day Festival in Flagler Park.

Members of the Okeechobee High School Band and the Osceola Middle School Band (photo above left) teamed up to march in the Labor Day Festival Parade in downtown Okeechobee on Monday.



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen
The Okeechobee Junior ROTC led the Labor Day Parade in downtown Okeechobee on Monday.

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Five Guys wins 'Best Burger' honors

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee can rightfully boast of having some of the best hamburgers in the nation. Nick Hilliard, manager of 5 Guys Burgers and Fries in Okeechobee, recently announced that the hamburger chain was named as having the "Best Burger" of 2010 by the Zagat Fast Food Survey. The hamburger chain beat out chains as Burger King and McDonald's. The chain, which has over 625 franchises in over 40 states and four Canadian provinces, also received the Zagat

"Best Burger" award from 2001 through 2008 consecutively.

For 2010, 5 Guys came in second for French fries behind McDonald's. The 5 Guys French fries, which are cut daily, are fried in peanut oil.

The 5 Guys hamburgers are 100 percent beef, fresh, never frozen. The hot dogs are Hebrew National, also 100 percent beef.

Boxes of peanuts are readily available to munch on while the customer waits for his custom made hamburger.

Zagat rates and reviews restaurants, hotels, nightlife, movies, music, golf, shopping and other entertainment categories.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Nick Hilliard, left, manager of 5 Guys Burger and Fries, recently announced that the fast food chain serves the "Best Burger" of 2010 according to the Zagat Fast Food Survey. Pictured, left to right, are 5 Guys employees, Ashley Lee, Linda (Diva) Cramer, Brittany Phillips and Ryan Jaymes.



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Local blood drive commemorates 9/11

Where were you nine years ago on Sept. 11? Maybe you were transfixed with the images on our TV screens. Or maybe you were one of the 48 people who responded to the news of the attacks and rushed to the blood bank which then had an office in Okeechobee, to donate blood. On that Tuesday and the two days following, 147 units of blood were drawn and flown to New York.

The memories have not faded. This nation, this community, still stands ready to help, whatever the cause or the need. Each month Florida's Blood Centers brings the Big Red Bus to Okeechobee many times to draw blood so it will be on hand to help with that need.

Publix and Golden Corral, in partnership with and service to Okeechobee, invite the public to respond as you did on that day in 2001 and come out to support two days of blood donations in memory and commemoration of that tragic day in history. They want to help you show that we have grown in community support and have more donors than we had that first Sept. 11.

Two buses will be at Publix from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11, and hope to see at least 50 donors. One bus will follow up at Golden Corral on Sunday, Sept. 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. What better way could we honor and remember than to once more give of ourselves for others.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Raye Duesinger Shawn at Publix (top photo) and Debra and Tony at Golden Corral (bottom) invite you to donate blood in honor and memory of Sept. 11

O.G. & C.C. Golf Results

Gold Tee winners

First place - B. Meyer; second place - D. Thomas; and, third place - J. Masters.



Community Share Contest

Share your "Most Outstanding Play" and "Most Outstanding Performance" Videos and Photos...**Starting on 9/1**

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June 25

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*Community voting opens on 9/22. Look for the vote button on OSN to cast your vote!

For details, visit www.newszap.com and click Okeechobee, then the "sports" tab and go to OSN. On OSN click on the "Community Share Contest" icon or

contact Renee Hawley at 888-853-7904 x 323 rhawley@communitysportsdesk.com



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