



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 116

Sunday, September 26, 2010

75¢ Plus tax

Sheriff to file budget appeal Monday

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners officially approved their 2010/11 budget Thursday and come tomorrow Sheriff Paul May will officially file his budget appeal.

When the commissioners adopted their \$89,701,970 spending plan for next fiscal year, the move officially cut Sheriff May's budget to \$15,190,281. To meet that \$15.1 budget, the sheriff will have to lay off up to 26 more employees.

Those cuts would be in addition to the nine positions he has already eliminated.

"I hoped it would never have come to this," said Sheriff May on Friday afternoon, Sept. 24. "I didn't want this but I see no other recourse. The cuts I made were very deep and serious to this budget. The additional (cuts) they want to take, I can't operate on and I have to do now what I think is right."

In May, the sheriff submitted a proposed spending plan of \$17,059,651. He later submitted a second proposal of \$16,296,542, which he then changed to his final proposed budget of \$16,606,802.

The \$16.6 million budget is one the sheriff said he can operate on and still provide quality law enforcement.

Before the sheriff can officially file his appeal he must receive a letter from county administrator Lyndon Bonner stating that his budget request of \$16.6 had been denied. But when he had not received that letter by early Friday afternoon Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Major Noel Stephen called Mr. Bonner to inquire about the letter.

"He (Mr. Bonner) asked me, 'Are you still going through the appeals process?'" said Maj. Stephen. "I said: 'Yes sir, Mr. Bonner.' He then said 'I'll draft the letter and have it to you by mid afternoon.'"

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Local middle schools compete in soccer ... Page 14

Brahman football game ... Page 13

Recycling company faces DEP charges ... Page 3



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Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

Hunter Bryant, 11, and his yearling Mustang Okee are training for the Extreme Mustang Makeover in October. As part of their freestyle routine, a comedy skit includes Okee taking a bandanna from Hunter's pocket and handing it to the boy.

Young horseman competes in Extreme Mustang Makeover

By Katrina Elsen
Okeechobee News

A yearling mustang born in the Wyoming wilderness and an 11-year-old boy from Okeechobee are teamed up for the youth division of the Extreme Mustang Makeover, Oct. 22-24 in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Hunter Bryant named the bay gelding "Okee." Ever since Hunter and his grandpar-

ents traveled to Mississippi to pick up the mustang in July, the boy and horse have spent a lot of time together.

Participants in the competition are given about 90 days to train a wild mustang.

Extreme Mustang Makeover is sponsored by the Mustang Heritage Foundation. The foundation's mission is to increase adoption of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) American

Mustangs through innovative gentling competitions and awareness programs.

The Extreme Mustang Makeover competition began in 2007. Past competitions have been featured on RFD TV. This is the second year for the youth division in the Tennessee event.

See MUSTANG — Page 9

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OHS swim teams defeat Westwood

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Both the boys and girls swim teams from Okeechobee High School enjoyed a victory Wednesday when they defeated Fort Pierce Westwood in a swim meet hosted by Indian River State College in Fort Pierce.

The boys team won 90-74 and the girls team won 125-51.

The Okeechobee boys finished second in the 200 medley relay, and had victories in the 200 freestyle, the 100 butterfly, the 500 freestyle and the 200 freestyle relay. Jason Rucks won the 100 breast stroke, and the 400 freestyle relay was also victorious.

Coach Brian Turner said Dalton Hodges had a strong run in the 200 meter intermediate. It was a personal best time for the Okeechobee swimmer.

Rucks also set a personal best time in the 100 breast stroke at 1:17.30.

On the girls side Okeechobee won the 200 meter medley relay, the 200 freestyle relay and the 400 freestyle relay. Jessica Wackler won the 200 freestyle, and the 400 freestyle. Celena Letcher won the 200 individual medley and the 100 breaststroke.

Katie VanBeek won the 50 freestyle, Adriana Mitchell won the 100 freestyle and Jaiden Barnhart won the 100 butterfly.

The swim teams travel to Avon Park on Tuesday to meet the Red Devils.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Kiwanis

Guest speaker

Kiwanis member Maureen Burroughs introduced Raye Deusinger as the guest speaker for this week's meeting. Raye represents Florida's Blood Centers. She spoke about the upcoming Okeechobee Blood Roundup on Nov. 20 and 21, at the Freshman Campus. This event has always been held at the First United Methodist Church but because of their success they have outgrown that location. They have also changed the Roundup to a Saturday and Sunday in hopes more people can donate. The goal this year is to collect 600 units of blood in two days. She emphasized that the blood donated here stays here. Every donation saves three lives! For more information call 863-610-2176.

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Atland owner, worker arrested by FDEP agents

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The owner of a local recycling center and one of its employees have been arrested by agents with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on charges they discharged hazardous materials onto the ground.

Oscar Rodriguez, the owner of Atland Recycling, was arrested Thursday, Sept. 23, on felony charges of criminal felony littering and discharge of pollutants or hazardous substance into or upon lands or water. Rodriguez, 38, 77th Lane, Loxahatchee, was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$6,000.

Also arrested on the same charges was Gabriel Martinez, a crane operator at the center. Martinez, 34, N.W. Second St., Okeechobee, was also booked into the county jail under a bond of \$6,000.

Jail records indicate that both men were

released on bond later that same day.

According to Cristina Llorens, public relations manager for FDEP's southeast district in West Palm Beach, an investigation surrounding the recycling center located at 2248 U.S. 98 N. had been going on for a few months. She said the probe centered around the purchase of vehicles and the crushing of those vehicles over a non-impervious surface or collection basin that would contain the fluids from those vehicles.

A copy of the arrest warrant obtained by FDEP Special Agent William Snyder states that on or about May 17 through Aug. 11 Rodriguez and Martinez "... did willfully discharge pollutants or hazardous substances..." that exceeded the water quality standards set down by the FDEP.

Both men were also accused of unlawfully dumping litter in an amount exceeding 500 pounds or 100 cubic feet during that same time frame.

FDEP agents learned during their investigation that no one at the facility was checking or inquiring if any fluids remained in the vehicles prior to accepting them for disposal, stated an FDEP arrest summary. That report went on to state that this appeared to be an accepted practice at the center.

Soil samples were collected at the site by the FDEP, and those samples indicated soil contamination of petroleum products at the facility were above the residential threshold allowed by state regulations, the report continued.

Ms. Llorens said, as of late Friday, there was no court order to shut down the recycling facility. She went on to state that FDEP is currently looking into the case to determine if additional soil sampling will be required.



Oscar Rodriguez



Gabriel Martinez

Okeechobee's Most Wanted

The following people are among Okeechobee's Most Wanted persons. There are active warrants for each of them.

The criteria for making Okeechobee's Most Wanted top five is based on the severity of the crime in conjunction with the age of the warrant.

If you have any information on the whereabouts of any of Okeechobee's Most Wanted you can call the Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 1-800-273-TIPS (8477).

If you call Treasure Coast Crimes Stoppers, you have the option of remaining anonymous. You can also receive a reward if the information results in an arrest.

Oscar Martinez, H/M, DOB 9/21/1988, Brown eyes/brown hair, 5'9", 170 lbs., Home Invasion Robbery W/Firearm, tattoo left arm joker, tattoo neck Jerome, tattoo neck Penny.



Oscar Martinez



Troy Lewis

Troy Lewis, B/M, DOB: 10/13/1969, 5'4", 160 lbs, Tattoo right arm Chinese writing w/ flame, Att Uttering A Forged Instrument - Bond \$1,000.

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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

The owner of Atland Recycling, 2248 U.S. 98 N., and an employee were arrested Sept. 23 by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Both men were charged with felony littering and discharging pollutants or hazardous substances onto the ground. According to an arrest report, the men were crushing vehicles without draining, or containing, petroleum products that leaked from the vehicles as they were being destroyed. Arrested were Oscar Rodriguez, the owner of the business, and crane operator Gabriel Martinez.

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Healthy Start Coalition to meet

The Board of Directors of the Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 11:30 a.m., in their office at 575 S.W. 28th St. within the New Endeavor High School building. Meeting in open to the public.

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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 commission

• Just curious what you thought about the Sept. 23 meeting. It was an utter mess to me. Please, if you haven't watched it please go and watch. It is time for some new changes to our current administration. We as a community must get together and rally behind the people challenging the incumbents. It is time we take a stance and stand together for the betterment of our community.

• I do not think we are in a financial crisis because of poor financial planning and policies except for that juggernaut of an emergency operations center they are building. We are in a financial crisis for the same reasons everyone else is: the economy brought about, in large part, by the real estate bust. The county department heads are very aware that they cannot deviate from the budget but they can move money from one area to another, for example, if gasoline is through the roof then something else has to be put on hold for the year. These people are in a box. It is a shrinking box because of the times we are in.

• Now they are giving employees making \$20,000 a year a 3 percent pay cut per hour, then they are mandating 56 hours off AND they have lowered what they provide them with for their insurance which makes more out of pocket expense. It will be cheaper to go on Medicaid and get free insurance, food stamps, and an unemployment check. The sheriff will go to Tallahassee and he will get this money, so they will still be short then what? I cannot wait for elections.

• Just where do you think the sheriff is going to get his money from? We, the taxpayers. It's not like the state will write him a check.

No homeless shelters

• I think it's pretty sad that this county is way behind in many things, no homeless shelter, no low cost spay/neuter program, I could go on forever. Nothing at all. We should have a place for these people to go to when it's cold. Why can't one of the churches open up for them, just during the cold nights?

Sheriff's budget

• In our country, if you have a moral thought, or stand up for what is right and put down what is wrong, you are labeled a radical or backwards or worse. What happened? How did we let this get this far? Better question is, where do we go from here? Every one claims change, but change to what? How about we change back to what we used to stand for. How about we change back to "if you work, you eat." How about we change back to "We the People" and not let the insurance companies and the lazy takers, dictate to us how OUR money is spent. Is it too late? And do we just sit back and continue to let our government lie and spend and spend and lie? Please someone tell me where to start to repair our country. What can I do to stop the fall of America? I see it coming, but it's like watching a powerful train heading for a school full of children. What do I do to stop it before it's too late?

• It's called political correctness, that is where you (if you are a white, anglo saxon, protestant) have to carefully measure everything you say, and do, so that you do not offend any animal, vegetable, or mineral, real or imaginary, that has ever existed, or may exist in the future, from ridicule, or harm. Everyone else is exempt. You should be ashamed of yourself if you succeed at life, because it was at the expense of someone else.

Scholarships

• The reason that some students receive multiple scholarships is because they have worked specifically for those scholarships. A business student qualifies for business, livestock exhibitors qualify for ag, high test scorers qualify for Bright Futures and so on. Local donors see which students have worked hard. Local donors want to see the money they give used wisely. A student with a C average in high school has not worked hard enough. If a student only made a C average in high school, that student is probably not able to do well in college and so donors do not want to throw money away. That's just the way it is. Time after time I have seen capable young people in this town waste the opportunities they have been given. It's time for parents and students to wake up and face the facts. No one is entitled to a college education. It is something that must be worked for. There is plenty of financial aid for students who qualify. Many students waste the opportunities that they have in high school and in college. Let's not whine about how unfair things are. Let's encourage students to do their best and make their own opportunities. It's never too late. It's sometimes just more difficult. That's life.

• And sometimes it's about who your parents are or who you know.

Reflections from the pulpit

By Wendy Schaffer

Pastoral Counselor, The Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee

The majority of us have been brought up to say "Thank you" when someone does something nice for us. Sometimes we say it simply to be polite. I pray our children are still being brought up to say it.

The first use of the word "thanked" in the Bible appears in II Samuel 14:22. The first meaning was to declare blessing. "Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king; and Joab said, To day thy servant knows that I have found grace in thy sight...in that the king has fulfilled the request of thy servant." To confess praise was the second use of "to thank" in the Bible, which appears in I Chronicles 16:4. David "appointed certain Levites to minister...to thank and praise the Lord God." In the New Testament, "thank" gains more of a meaning of grace. Grace means undeserved favor from God. Those who were not Jewish, who became followers of Christ, were grafted into the body of believers and received salvation. Paul wrote, "Thou being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of...the olive tree." (Romans 11:17) They shall be grafted in for God. (Romans 11:23).

God, through the community of Okeechobee, fulfilled the prayer request of the Pregnancy Center to have a meaningful and financially successful banquet. The staff and volunteers want to say "Thank you" for blessing the Pregnancy Center. We ask God to bless each person, church and business that prayed, served, pledged, and gave. We give praise for the community's support. We are able to expand our space in order to offer more services. We pray that young ladies are touched by the love of Christ, as we serve them, and are drawn to a closer or new relationship with our Lord. We pray for grace and continued giving as we continue helping young ladies through this non-profit ministry. We pray for young ladies to be grafted into the body of Christ. "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity." (Ephesians 6:24). "For by grace are you saved through faith." (Ephesians 2:8) "For the son of man is come to save that which was lost." (Matthew 18:11)

"But now in Christ Jesus you who were sometimes far off are made nigh (near) by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:13). Rick Warren wrote that a Christian community is a devoted family forged by the fires of God's love. John wrote, "Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions." (1 John 3:18) Thank you for really loving our young women and for showing it.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 91. Calm wind becoming east southeast between 5 and 10 mph.

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

Extended Forecast

Monday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 90. South southeast wind around 5 mph.

Monday Night: A 20 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 Thursday AM in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 1-3-9; **Play 4:** 2-6-5-5; **Fantasy 5:** 18-20-28-32-34; **Mega Money:** 2-16-18-36 MB 15; **Florida Lotto:** 3-4-5-7-19-30 X 5; **Powerball:** 10-24-36-52-55 PB 15 x5. Numbers drawn Thursday PM, **Cash 3:** 1-0-0; **Play 4:** 3-6-7-8.

September local blood drives

The need for blood never stops. Donate this month on the Big Red Bus.

Saturday, Sept. 25 - Wal-mart
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 1 - Okeechobee County Health Dept., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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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.
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- 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



City to consider final approval of budget

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The major business before the Okeechobee City council when they meet Tuesday evening will be consideration of final approval of the budget and millage rate for fiscal year 2010/2011. The millage rate being considered is 7.2432. That means that a property owner would pay \$7.24 for every \$1,000 of assessed value. One mil equals \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed value. Even though the millage rate is one half mil more than the current year's millage rate, it is calculated to bring in 10.51 percent less in revenues due to a decrease in property values.

The budget includes about \$5.3 million in the general fund budget and close to \$1.7 million for other budgets. The city has over \$10 million in reserves in various funds.

Turning to other business, the city's grant coordinator will be discussing the Community Development Block Program for fiscal

If you go ...

What: meeting of the Okeechobee City Council

When: 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28

Where: City Council Chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.

year 2010. The council will take action on two ordinances that will bring the zoning on a parcel of property in compliance with its use. A nursing home has occupied 1646 U.S. 441 N. since 1984. When the city's comprehensive plan was adopted in 1985 the property was given a zoning that allowed for nursing homes. When the city adopted its new land development regulations in 1998 the new zoning classification did not allow for a nursing home. One ordinance would change the zoning on the property to heavy commercial and the other would amend the land development regulations to allow

for special exception uses of commercially zoned land for nursing homes.

Also, the council is scheduled to consider temporarily closing a section of S.W. Fourth Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues on Saturdays this fall to accommodate First Baptist Church's flag football program.

The mayor is scheduled to present Victoria Williams with a Ten-Year Service Award.

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

SHERIFF

Continued From Page 1

However, when Maj. Stephen was contacted around 3:30 p.m. he had still not received the letter.

Sheriff May is not the first Okeechobee County sheriff to appeal his budget. In 1980, Sheriff Clayton Williams took his budget fight to Tallahassee and petitioned then-Governor Bob Graham for more money.

"I asked for \$80,000 in additional money and the governor gave me \$60,000," said Mr. Williams, who is now in the insurance business locally.

After 30 years, Mr. Williams said he couldn't remember the total budgets for his department or for the county.

"The highest budget I ever had was \$980,000—that was my last year in office," he said. At the time, he said he had 48 or 49 employees.

Mr. Williams was sheriff from 1977-1981.

According to county records the commissioners at that time were Jim Lashley, Charles Harvey, Clyde Durrance and Oscar Thomas. Sara Price became the fifth commissioner in January of 1981.

Mr. Williams said he sent the paperwork to Tallahassee then later travelled to the capital to plead his case. He said he went back a second time and presented his case before the governor and his cabinet. The county was represented at that second hearing by then-county attorney Kyle VanLandingham.

"I made a plea before the cabinet and the governor, and the cabinet approved the recommendation made by their staff," recalled Mr. Williams.

When asked, he could not remember how long this process took.

Sheriff May said Friday that he and his staff got the process started a couple of weeks ago, and that he will officially file the appeal Monday, Sept. 27.

Maj. Stephen said the appeal petition has been completed and sent to the sheriff's attorney for review.

If by chance the state should decide to give Sheriff May more than the requested \$16.6, he said he would not take it.

"I will operate this department on \$16.6 million. I would return the difference to the county," he said.

Once the appeal is filed in Tallahassee, the sheriff has five days to notify the county of that filing.

"I hoped it would never have to come to this. I didn't want this but I see no other recourse. The cuts I made were very deep and serious to this budget."

Sheriff Paul May



Philip DeBerard
INJURY ATTORNEY

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

*Community
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Fisheating Creek chapter of Florida Trail Association to meet

The Fisheating Creek Sub-Chapter of the Florida Trail Association (FTA) will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 28 to plan hiking and canoeing events for October and November. Anyone interested in exploring the beautiful wilderness of Glades and Hendry counties with a bunch of friendly folk are invited to attend the meeting held at Beef O'Brady's in LaBelle.

Dinner is optional at 6 p.m. followed by the regular meeting at 7 p.m. Guest speaker(s) will also update the group on the latest developments in the Fisheating

Creek Wildlife Management Area. If you are new to FTA, or wish to join, this is a great opportunity to learn about the benefits of being an FTA member. FTA has approximately 5,000 members statewide and there is a full agenda of hikes, canoeing, bicycling treks and camp outs throughout Florida that you, and your family, can participate in year round.

For more information about the meeting of this local sub-chapter, contact Margaret England at 863-674-0695.

Community Events

Freedom Outreach Fishing Tournament

The Freedom Outreach Fishing Tournaments have been held monthly since spring. The final event, the Classic, will be held Sunday, **Sept. 26**. To qualify for the classic, you must have fished at least four events since spring. The classic is a one-day event with a \$120 cash entry fee. All tournaments are held at Scott Driver park from safe light until 2 p.m. with Taylor Creek as the alternate in case of low water. Please register early. To get an entry application or for questions, call 863-634-3790 or 863-634-9889.

Masons to host Sunday breakfast

Masonic Lodge of Okeechobee will host Sunday breakfast on Sunday, **Sept. 26**, from 8-11 a.m. The public is welcome to enjoy eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, pancakes, biscuits, and gravy, juice and coffee. The Masonic Lodge is located at 107 N.W. Fifth, Okeechobee. Breakfast is held every second and fourth Sunday and carry out is available.

Okeechobee Orchid Club to meet

The Okeechobee Orchid Club will meet on Monday, **Sept. 27**, at 7 p.m. at the Extension Office, 458 Highway 98 N. Local grower Victor Elliott is speaking on How to Grow Healthy Orchids. Bring your favorite orchid or one with a problem. The Garden Club meets at 6 p.m. For more information please call the Extension Office at 863-763-6469.

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.

CCC meeting for September set

The next meeting of the Community Collaborative Council, a part of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, will be Tuesday, **Sept. 28**, at 10 a.m. in the board room of the School Board Office.

Change of location for prayer walk

The Okeechobee Ministerial Association will have their last prayer walk on Tuesday evening, **Sept. 28**, beginning at 6 p.m. The prayers will meet at Everglades Elementary School instead of Okeechobee High School as was previously announced.

Democratic Party to meet

The Okeechobee Democratic Party will hold its monthly meeting Wednesday, **Sept. 29**, at 6:30 p.m. at Brahma Bull Restaurant (Hwy. 441 S). Public is invited to attend.

Save the date: Arrangements are being made for the 2010 Jefferson Jackson Dinner at KOA on Oct. 29.

Library Book Club to meet

Friends of the Okeechobee Library Book Club will meet on Thursday, **Sept. 30**, at 6 p.m. at the library. The group is discussing "The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie" by Alan Bradley. For more information call Jan Fehrman at 863-357-9980.

Guardian ad Litem volunteers meet

Thousands of abused, neglected and abandoned children end up in judicial proceedings each year in Florida. Their voices are often unheard and best interests overlooked. Guardian ad Litem volunteers represent the best interests of the child. Meet a GAL volunteer on Thursday, **Sept. 30**, at 2 p.m. at Mom's Kitchen, Hwy. 441, Okeechobee. Have a cup of coffee and hear how you can be the voice of a child.

Clay Shoot fundraiser benefit planned

Please join us for our second Clay Shoot fundraiser to benefit the mentoring programs of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Okeechobee County on Saturday, **Oct. 30**, at Quail Creek Plantation, Hwy. 68 E. Orange Avenue/5 miles east of Hwy. 441. Rolling start: 8 a.m. \$100 per shooter or \$375 per team includes lunch. Call 863-824-BBBS or make your reservations online at www.bbbsbig.org.

'Griefshare' begins support sessions

Griefshare, a support program teaching a direction for the bereaved - 'A Journey from Mourning to Joy' is supported by leaders who have walked the same path is inviting anyone to find healing and hope and attend a 13-week faith-based group beginning Saturday, **Oct. 2**, from 10 a.m. until noon. The sessions run through January 15. All sessions will be held at the Church of God, 301 N.E. 4th Avenue, Okeechobee. For more information, please call 863-763-4127. Visit our web site at www.griefshare.org.

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Farm Bureau Annual Membership Meeting set

Okeechobee County Farm Bureau's Annual Membership Meeting is being held Thursday, **Oct. 7**, from 6-8 p.m. at the Civic

Center on Hwy 98N. Members are being asked to bring a covered dish of salad, vegetable or dessert. Steaks, drinks and rolls are being provided by the Okeechobee County Farm Bureau. Please RSVP by **Oct. 5**, to the Farm Bureau Office by calling 863-763-3101.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Rotary Club

A quilt from Haiti

Louis Venuti, District Governor for Rotary District 6930 visited with the local Rotary club. He is joined here by joined here by Mike Costopolis and club president Tabitha Trent as they presented Mr. Venuti with a quilt made by orphans being sponsored in Haiti. Mr. Venuti discussed Rotary goals and his desire to make Rotary Club of Okeechobee's Haiti Projects a district-wide effort.

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People and their pets face tough times

By Jane Bicks, DVM

Humane Society Pet Rescue Okeechobee

Pets are suffering because times are hard for millions of people around the United States. Unemployment, loss of savings and other issues have led to situations in which families don't have enough money to live the way they once did. People are moving from homes into apartments, moving in with family and friends, and even joining the homeless. These circumstances do not always allow a family to stay with their pets. One can only imagine the pain and suffering a family must go through as they let their pets go. Some pet owners are fortunate enough to place their pets with family or friends. Others must surrender them to rescue organizations. Unfortunately, some pets are left abandoned. Owners leave them in empty homes. Rescue organizations are running out of room and resources. They need your help.



Dr. Jane Bicks, DVM

• **Volunteer at a shelter.** Shelters are laden with more pets than ever before. They need volunteers to walk the dogs, play with and groom cats and dogs, work the telephones, clean, help at fund raising events and more. If you don't have a lot of time

to donate, it doesn't matter because any amount is accepted. There is always a job that fits a volunteer's schedule. Volunteers are the heart of a shelter and we know that, and are always looking for more.

• **Donate money.** Running a shelter takes money. The additional burden of these poor homeless victims makes money contributions necessary. Donated money is spent carefully on lights, phones, veterinary care, food, bedding, repairs, and so much more. No contribution is too little. How about creating an animal organization money bank, something that you can put change and one dollar bills in every night? Your contribution will be tax deductible.

• **Donate goods.** If you can't donate money, you can help with other donations like, treats, blankets, towels, litter, water and food dishes or toys. If you contact your local shelter you can ask what type of donated goods will work for them. Your contribution will be tax deductible at a non profit 501c3 organization.

• **Foster a homeless pet.** Many foster parents believe that fostering is the only way to go if one loves pets and wants one or more. Being a foster home allows you the opportunity of being with different pets throughout the year. Imagine the variety of animals you can foster; having a kitten for a month, an 8 year old regal Persian for a few months and a small Yorky Mix dog for a short time. Don't worry about getting pets

you can't handle because you and the shelter will be sure to make the proper selection.

• **Adopt a pet.** Adopting a shelter animal is the most wonderful offering of love and respect to both the animal and the original parents that you can do. Remember that these animals have been through hard times and they need a long-lasting home. If there is any doubt that the timing is wrong for adoption, don't do it. Help the homeless the other ways mentioned.

Animals give us unconditional love. The people that had to give up their pets no longer have that love. If only they could know that their beloved pet was with a family again.



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Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

Sept. 20 and 21, 2010		Med #1	Steers	Hfhrs	Small #1
Cows		200-250		120-127	300-3550 105-115 93-100
Breaking	\$51.00 \$56.00	250-300		121-125	Slaughter cows and bulls
Cutter	\$45.00 \$55.00	300-350	130-152	100-107	were pretty steady compared to
Canner		350-400	118-130	96-103	last week. Calves were cheaper
Bulls		400-450	110-116	96-106	by \$3-\$5, better quality calves
1000-1500	\$60.00 \$64.00	450-500	102-111	93-101	not off as much. Billy Marcum
1500-2000	\$60.00 \$70.00	550-600	100-107	92-101	of Okeechobee topped the calf
		600-650	94-103	89-93	market with a high of \$1.65,
					bought by Murrey. Neill Properties
					of Ft. Pierce topped the cow
					market with a high of \$59
					bought by Central.
Monday Tuesday		Med #2	Steers	Hfhrs	
Calves	1150 1103	150-200			Oct. 8 - Bred Heifer Sale
Cows	79 274	100-115			Oct. 15 - Graham Angus
Str	13 13	200-250	135-157	105-109	Oct. 22 - Lemmon Angus
Hfhrs	6 13	250-300	105-137	95-110	Oct. 29 - Little Creek Brangus
Bulls	14 41	300-350	110-125	65-70	See ya next week, Todd
Yrlngs	89 60	350-400	106-116	80-101	
Mix	0 19	400-450	84-112	70-85	
Total	1351 1523				

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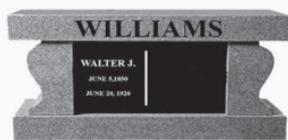
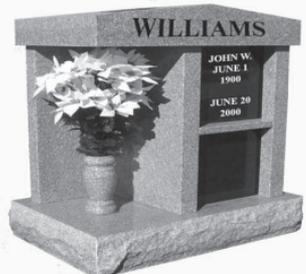
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Local shelter needs financial help

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

"Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming." Hellen Keller

One of the places in Okeechobee for women to overcome suffering is Martha's House. Martha's House provides counseling, legal services and a resident shelter for women who are victims of sexual and domestic violence.

"I attribute this place to be the first step in healing," said one of the clients of Martha's House.

"Our mission and our focus is to keep families safe," asserted Theresa Alexander, executive director of Martha's House. The resident shelter holds 24 people. Recently they had to turn away women from out of town because they have to save three beds for Okeechobee clients. Sometimes Martha's House sends a client to another county or state to be safe.

Besides a 24-bed residential shelter, Martha's House offers a 24-hour crisis hot line, counseling and education, self-sufficiency assistance, help in obtaining legal, medical and financial aid, victim advocacy, children advocacy, information and referral, community and law enforcement training and primary prevention programs.

"It's a no-win situation without help," said Shirleen Graham-Stevens, a counselor at Martha's House. "You have to take it one day at a time."

Like all Martha's House counselors she

receives 24 hours of training a year. However, she thinks there is a more important factor than academic training.

"You have to have heart and love for the people," Mr. Graham-Stevens said. "You must have empathy."

The counseling program deals with such things as rights, grief and fears. It is a minimum of 12 weeks and can last longer if a client needs more time.

Most clients, along with their children, if necessary, spend 6 to 8 weeks in the shelter. However, Mrs. Alexander said that because of the bad economy some clients are now staying longer. She said that because there is no transitional or affordable housing in Okeechobee sometimes clients have to come back to the shelter. In the future Martha's House would like to provide transitional housing.

Martha's House also has an outreach program for victims that choose to stay at home.

All services are free and confidential.

Martha's House also sponsors Chobee Steelers, a steel drum band made up of at risk youth. In addition to playing steel drums, the members of Chobee Steelers attend workshops on healthy relationships and they do community service. Mrs. Alexander said that students in Chobee Steelers often improve a grade level and join the band or other organizations.

Martha's House is partially funded by grants and partially by community donations. However, in order to receive a grant

Martha's House must show community support either through donations or volunteers.

"We need community support," said Mr. Alexander. "Not everything is covered by grants."

Because of administrative turnovers, Mrs. Alexander said there have been no large fund raisers this year.

Martha's House has nine full time and two part time staff members as well as volunteers. Mrs. Alexander more volunteers are need to operate the shelter.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Martha's House
Martha's House Executive Director Theresa Alexander accepts a \$1,000 donation check on Monday, Sept. 20, presented by Tender Care Daycare Center and Butch's Fish Camp owner Debbie Schooley.

Fountain of Life Church welcomes new Pastor, **Dave Robertson and wife Linda.**

Pastor Dave brings with him an abundant knowledge of God's word, a wonderful praise team, and a loving group of fellow believers. He has a great love for the Lord and people.

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MUSTANG

Continued from page 1

In the youth division, young trainers ages 8-18 work with yearling mustangs. Contestants were chosen from applications which were submitted by May 15.

Hunter and his grandmother were in Tennessee in March to watch the Road to the Horse training competition, when Hunter noticed a booth for the Extreme Mustang Makeover.

"The first I knew anything about it, he came back with an application packet, and said 'I want to do this'," recalled his grandmother, Suzanna Rucks.

At age 11, Hunter is already an accomplished horseman. He competes in reining horse events, as well as in 4-H horse events. He also helps his grandfather work cattle.

When he was chosen for the Extreme Mustang Makeover, he traveled with his grandparents to Mississippi to meet his horse. The yearlings were assigned to the young trainers by a random computerized system. "They gave us the number, and the horses had tags on their necks. Whatever number I had, that was my horse."

Hunter said he was warned that mustangs were mean. "But Okee wasn't," he added.

Okee was, however, "very, very wild," Hunter explained.

The training had a difficult start after the long drive from Mississippi to Okeechobee.

"We pulled in here at 2:30 in the morning," Mrs. Rucks remembered. "I thought it would be better to leave the horse in the trailer until morning. Walking around the trailer, I slipped and fell and dislocated my elbow."

So for the first four weeks of training, "I was one-armed and he was 11," she said.

"At first, if I tried to touch him, he would run around and around and around the pen," Hunter said. "He would not stop."

The yearling spooked easily, the boy explained.

"One time when I was lounging him, he spooked, and she (his grandmother) said 'hang onto the rope' and he about drug me at least five times around the pen."

But with a lot of patience and hard work, Hunter earned Okee's trust.

The young trainers are allowed to have adult help to train the horses but they may not have help when they show the horses in competition. They will be judged in a combined handling and conditioning class, a showmanship class and an in-hand obstacle course. The trainers will lead their horses or direct them from the ground. They are not allowed to ride the yearlings.

Those with the top 10 scores in the first

phase of the competition will present a three minute "free style" routine to music. The routine must include certain elements such as the trot, back, and pivot 360 degrees. The judges are also looking for the "wow" factor based on style, creativity, artistic elements, choreography, use of props and overall originality.

Hunter and Okee are working on a routine in which Hunter will be a rodeo clown and Okee will perform tricks as part of a comedy skit. He said he hopes to get some pointers from family friend and former PRCA Rodeo champion "Mr. D.R." Daniel.

After the competition, the trainers may adopt their mustangs for the standard \$125 adoption fee, or place the yearlings up for

adoption in an auction. If the horses go to auction, the trainers receive a commission of 50 percent of anything over \$125.

Hunter said he plans to keep Okee and make him a roping horse or train him to work cows.

Mrs. Rucks said there was never any question about whether or not they would keep the mustang. She knew that Hunter would become attached to the yearling and it would be too heartbreaking to separate them.

"When we filled out the application, we knew this horse was a keeper," she said.



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elskan
Hunter says his mustang does not mind if he uses him as a resting spot (above). The horse also likes to give Hunter a hug (photo at left).



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elskan
Okee the mustang seems to enjoy chasing a ball with his friend Hunter.



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Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

National pride

Everglades Elementary School celebrated a National Anthem Day event on Wednesday, Sept. 22, third, fourth, and fifth grade students and their music teacher, Mrs. Kathleen Wilson honored the day by proudly flying our nation's flag and listening and singing the Star-Spangled Banner during the morning announcements.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the Students of the Week at South Elementary School for the week of Sept. 20-24. They are: Lacey Bowers, Brice Anuev, Cheyenne Lara, Jacob Moats, Matthew Heaton, Kayla Vasquez, Raymond Sandoval, David Almanza, Leo Lopez, Elizabeth Lopez, Kendrick Forlifer, Bryan Nieto Reyes, Cristian Trejo, Jay Krall, Laura Sanchez, Karla Romero Ortega, Tray Marshall, Joanna Cruz, Aaron Cauilan, Maria Medrano, Shelbey Warren, and Marisabel Gomez.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Students of the Week

Central Elementary students selected as Outstanding Students of the Week are: kindergarten, Anahi Calvillo, Deni Yanez, Riley Russell, Syleena Lawson, Janessa Whidden, Juan Cruz-Diaz; first: Vanessa Johnson, Alecziyah Gomez, Samantha Fralix, Aaliyah Olvera, Luis Noel Espinoza, Wyatt Friend; second graders, Yuliana Licea, Lynndsy Johnson, Zachary Reister, Andrea Ramirez, Amanda Lara, Emma Baird, Hubert Jenkins; third: Marisol Salazar, Christian Campos, Tyler Arnold, Adrien Smith, Elana Rodriguez, Eboni Koivunen, Mayra Garcia-Castaneda; fourth graders, Adamari Lopez, Mark Holmes, Nicholas Williams, Alec Muller, Tivonah Cochran. Congratulations students!



Special to the Okeechobee News/YMS

Students of the Week

Yearling Middle School is pleased to announce the names of the students selected as this week's Students of the Week including—front row from left to right are: Baron Stuart, Alix Blankenship, Jacie Harvey and Marisa Hernandez. In the back row left to right: Jose Velasquez, Rabon Carrier, and Jessica Burkhalter. Also pictured are Assistant Principal Kim Markham and Brent Stuart. Congratulations Students of the Week!

Benefit for Shirley Tripp

The friends and coworkers of Shirley Tripp, who suffered a stroke, are having a fund raising sliced pork dinner on **Oct. 15**. Tickets must be purchased by Oct. 5. The meal includes mushroom rice, green beans and dessert for a \$10 donation. For tickets please call Patti Wilson, 863-697-1075, Dora Seabolt, 863-634-2022, Mickey Bandi, 863-634-1216, Andy Arrants, 863-634-6344 or Debbie Conroy, 863-634-0923. Orders can also be faxed to 863-467-0019. Fax orders should include the number of dinners, total amount of money, whether the order will be picked up or delivered. If delivered delivery location, contact person, telephone number and delivery time. Delivery is available for 10 or more dinners ordered at the same location. Dinner pickup will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, ROC, 310 S.W. Fifth Ave.

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Jonathan Sanders, M.D., J.D.

Sebastian River defeats Brahmans

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Sebastian River scored 28 points in a span of two minutes late in the first quarter to break open a tie game and went on to defeat Okeechobee 52-14 in varsity football action Friday night in Sebastian.

Nikko Finnegan scored on two touchdown runs in the first quarter to get the Sharks (2-1) rolling. Johntavis Brown added a 62 yard touchdown run, Javonte Pierce a 19 yard touchdown run, and Stephan Clark grabbed a nine yard touchdown pass to give the Sharks a 35-7 lead after the first quarter.

Okeechobee Coach Myron Jackson said his defense did not play well as they rarely put up much of a fight against the Sharks Wing T offense.

"We aren't strong enough at this point when we have some adversity. We have some problems to fix," he said afterward.

He said his team must get back to fundamentals especially on the offensive line which had no success opening holes for the running game.

Deforest Shanks had 62 yards on 23 carries but most of those runs came on a drive in the second half when the game was already decided.

The Sebastian River homecoming crowd was not disappointed early on as the Sharks offense rushed for over 270 yards and threw for another 62 yards.

"We were pleased with our performance on both sides of the ball," Sharks Coach Randy Bethel said afterward, "It all came back to a strong week of practice."

The Sharks had some distractions during the week as one of their offensive linemen was suspended for three games for throwing a punch during their game last week against Centennial.

The Sharks also had a 38 yard field goal from Michael Nottage, a 65 yard fumble return for a touchdown by Kendall Gibson and an eight yard touchdown run by Octavia Jefferson in the game.

Highlights for Okeechobee included a long 14-play 80 yard drive for a touchdown in the first quarter. Key plays included an 18 yard run by QB Jack Radebaugh. He hit Aukeemian Mills on a 15 yard pass and Al Morris on a 21 yard pass on the drive. Radebaugh sneaked it over from the one on fourth and goal to tie the score at 7-7.

Okeechobee's other scoring drive cov-

ered 78 yards in 12 plays. Shanks broke loose on a 25 yard run on fourth and one to set up the touchdown. Radebaugh hit Morris who deflected the pass, and caught it on the rebound from a defender in the end zone.

Game notes: Okeechobee lost three fumbles which gave Sebastian River short fields in the first half. Aukeemian Mills dropped a pass on the first play from scrimmage that could have resulted in a touchdown. Ronald Jackson, Aukeemian Mills and Jesse Thomas knocked away pass attempts for Okeechobee's defense. Erick McQueen led the defense with six tackles. Thor Harden had five tackles and Aukeemian Mills three tackles. Sebastian River only had 11 first downs as most of their scoring drives were boosted by big plays. Okeechobee had seven first downs. Sebastian River had 10 penalties for 77 yards while Okeechobee had five penalties for 35 yards.

Next week is homecoming for Okeechobee. They host Martin County on Friday at 7 p.m.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Al Morris caught two passes and scored one touchdown in the Brahman defeat Friday.



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Yearling soccer teams beats Oslo Middle

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Yearling Middle School continued a two-year win streak in soccer with an impressive 9-1 wipeout of Oslo Middle School on Wednesday in Okeechobee.

Yearling was never threatened after they allowed a first half goal to Oslo. They had balanced scoring with goals from Jhovanni Hernandez, Alberto Diaz, and several goals from Wilson Barahona. Victor Nunez was solid in goal for Yearling.

Coach Erik Rios explained that his team might be better this year than last year when they were a juggernaut and went undefeated.

"We're doing better than last year. Our kids are really playing well."

Rios said most of the kids have experience playing team soccer. Some play for the Okeechobee Club soccer program. Others have played on the Yearling team in previous years. He said he really doesn't have to tell the kids what to do when they hit the field.

He also is impressed about the team's ability to pass the ball and the unselfishness of his players, "Most of our kids are unselfish and they want to play team ball. You see our forwards passing the ball to

other players so they can score."

Rios said he felt Sebastian Middle School would be the toughest opponent but his team overwhelmed them earlier this year. He said unless the team has a really bad game or suffer injuries, they could be undefeated this year. "The streak means a lot to these kids. They are very motivated. They want to have another flag in the gym that states undefeated season. They want their names on the gym wall."

Yearling travels to Gifford on Monday and host Storm Grove next Wednesday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Cole Owens races after the ball during the soccer match between Yearling and Oslo Middle Schools Wednesday.

Yearling soccer team defeats Osceola Middle

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The steam roller also known as the Yearling Middle School soccer team continued to roll toward an undefeated season Thursday when they defeated Osceola Middle School 6-0 at Yearling Middle School.

Yearling (4-0) would like to have another undefeated season this year. Osceola provided a scare last year when the Yearlings won 2-1 at Osceola.

Thursday's match was different although Osceola defenders held their own in the first half.

Francisco Bucio, Omar Cardoso and MacKenzie Delacruz stood strong in the first 30 minutes of the contest for the Warriors (0-3-1) defense.

Wilson Barahona proved to be too much for the Warriors in the second half. He had three goals and one assist. Saul Rios and Alberto Diaz also added goals for Yearling. Rios added an assist on a pretty pass late in the second half. Osceola did

rest many of their starters down the stretch.

Yearling Coach Erick Rios said he felt the team feels strongly about getting a second consecutive undefeated season. He said his team is very motivated and unselfish.

The two teams will have a rematch at Osceola Middle School on Oct. 12.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Francisco Bucio (left) and Angel Alvarez (right) compete for the soccer ball during Thursday's match between Yearling and Osceola Middle Schools.

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Yearling volleyball team remains undefeated



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Hannah Collier of Osceola receives the ball from a teammate during the Thursday match at Yearling Middle School.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Yearling Middle School volleyball continued an unbeaten streak alive this week with a tough win on the road at the Brighton Charter School and a home victory against Oslo Middle School.

Monday Yearling travelled to the Brighton Reservation to meet the Seminoles and came away with a tough 25-22, and 25-15 victory.

Coach Bruce Conrad took his hat off for the Seminoles and the effort they put in, "They had us down 18-12 at one point. They just played awesome," he said. "Brighton has a scrappy little group."

Yearling rolled in the second game at Brighton. Lexi Ward led the way with eight service aces and seven assists. Sarah Hurst had four aces and six assists. Delaney Osceola had two aces and six assists.

"That was by far our best match of the year. There were a lot of friends between the two teams and a lot of the girls were nervous. It was a good match," he added.

Oslo had been a tough opponent last year but they didn't provide much competition on Wednesday as Yearling prevailed 25-4 and 25-8. Coach Conrad used a number of reserves in the second game. "We played awesome in the first game. We served real well and had about 10 kills at the net."

Hurst had eight assists, three kills and three aces. Ward had five aces and two assists. Airi Nunez had five service aces. Aubrie Reister had five aces and one kill. Osceola had four aces and three kills.

Conrad said he hasn't been very impressed with the competition from Indian River County this year, "The conference is not very good. Oslo was probably the best team we faced last year. This year they were weak. From what I've seen there isn't a lot of competition."

On Monday the Yearling squad travels to Gifford. They return home Wednesday to host Storm Grove.

Cross Country teams do well at Tommy Lacayo Memorial Invitational

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School boys cross country team won the team trophy and the girls team finished second at Wednesday's Tommy Lacayo Memorial Invitational race at Port St. Lucie High School.

The Okeechobee boys narrowly defeated Lincoln Park as they had four of the top seven finishers in the race.

Mauro Dominguez continued his strong performances with a second place finish and a time of 17:30. Augustine Leon was fifth at

18:43. Shawn Horvath took sixth place at 18:44. Adrian Tagle finished tenth at 18:45. Phillip Suarez took 12th place for Okeechobee. Austin Cox of Lincoln Park won the race with a time of 17:18.

Okeechobee finished second, well behind Lincoln Park in the girls race. Top performers for Okeechobee included Tabatha Henry who finished sixth with a time of 24:12. Marilu Rodriguez finished in seventh place with a time of 24:13. Carrissa Licata finished 17th and Abril Maldonado finished 18th. Janeen Smith of Lincoln Park won the race with a time of 22:38.

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Charles Bartels O.D.

and quality contractors we have here in Okeechobee," states Dr. Bartels.

Construction is due to be completed in mid November and a grand opening event will take place welcoming the public to come tour the new state of the art medical facility and meet Big Lake Eye Care's doctor and professionally trained staff.

Dr. Bartels was born in Okeechobee and graduated from Okeechobee High School. He and his wife Rachel have two daughters, Carley 3.5 yrs. and Olivia 8 months.

His education includes studies from Indian River Community College, University of Florida, Doctor of Optometry from Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry and is a Board Certified Optometric Physician granted by Florida Board of Optometry.

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When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.

State Parks service officials hold meetings on Battlefield Park plans

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The plan for the Okeechobee Battlefield State Park was the subject of two public meetings in Okeechobee this week.

State Parks officials said while there is no money in the state budget to improve the facility or hire employees they are hopeful that once the conceptual land use plan is complete, money will become available.

Park Manager Mark Nelson said the input was very positive and he looked forward to getting the plan together and putting the park on the map.

The current plan calls for trails, exhibits, a welcome center, museum, picnic area, parking area and restrooms. The improvements won't come all at once and it could be a while before the 150-acre park is complete.

"There will be no major changes in the next couple years. We have a very small but unique piece of property that has cultural and historical significance. There are a lot of opportunities for education here," he added.

Ideas suggested at the meetings this week included walking trails, picnic tables, a system of vegetative screens at the property line and even an Indian garden. There were also suggestions of allowing Cracker cattle and Cracker ponies to roam the property.

Seminole Indian and independent historian Willie Johns said he felt it is important to preserve not only Seminole history, but Florida history.

"Florida was occupied almost 80 years before Jamestown. There's two generations of people that lived and died here before Jamestown was developed," he said. "Florida is an important part of United States history but in the history books its significance is toned down."

Mr. Johns suggested a museum to discuss what happened at the battle and what caused it. He said a lot can be learned from a facility like that.

Mr. Johns also predicted it could be a tourist attraction if planned right. He said the reservation in Brighton was the tribe's best kept secret until word got out about Las Vegas-style gaming.

State officials expect to have the conceptual land use plan approved by the end of this year. Mr. Nelson said he expected to see some improvements on the property in 2011.

The annual battle re-enactment on the property is scheduled for Feb. 5-6, 2011.

Some concerns raised included traffic on S.E. 38th Avenue and residential neighborhoods. State officials said they would place park signs on U.S. 441 so most traffic would be on smaller county roads.



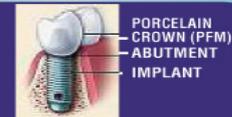
Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

OCRA football action

The OCRA football season is well under way, Cody Louthen outran the defense to score a touchdown during OCRA games on Saturday.

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