

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 13

Sunday, January 30, 2011

75¢ Plus tax



FFA members take honors at fair ... Page 7

Local man killed in auto accident ... Page 8

Disaster area declared ... Page 11

Lake Level

12.50 feet
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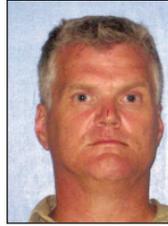
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Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp
A body found in a wooded area on the south side of S.R. 710 Friday morning, Jan. 28, has been positively identified as Timothy Lee Russell. Mr. Russell, 46, was last seen by family members on Jan. 18 as he was leaving his home on his bicycle.

Bicyclists find remains of missing man near SR 710

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



Timothy Lee Russell

A body found Friday morning by two bicyclists has been positively identified as that of a 46-year-old Okeechobee man who had been reported missing.

According to information released by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) the body of Timothy Lee Russell was in a wooded area on the south side of S.R. 710—about 2 to 3 miles from the City of Okeechobee.

OCSO Public Information Officer Michele

Bell said the sheriff's office received a call from the adult cyclists around 9:23 a.m. on Jan. 28. She indicated they were riding by the area when they noticed what appeared to be a body.

Detectives then responded to the area to find Mr. Russell's fully clothed body in a relatively open area of the woods. The body was just 52 feet from the highway's edge.

Mrs. Bell said there were no apparent signs of foul play but that, along with the time of death, will be determined by the District 19 Medical Examiner.

She said an autopsy was scheduled to be

See BODY — Page 5

Proposed flight school creates local controversy

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The Thursday evening, Jan. 27 meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission consisted of routine business except for a spirited disagreement on a proposed flight school.

During discussion of a proposal for a flight school at the Okeechobee County Airport, Commissioner Bryant Culpepper became frustrated with what he perceived to be a lack of action by the commission. He noted that this was the third time this issue had been postponed. He was concerned about the loss of a potential customer. He feared the board would hypothesize itself into bankruptcy.

"Don't tell people you want to see this county grow and pull out of this economic quagmire and consistently turn around and try to make it more and more difficult to do business," Mr. Culpepper asserted.

"You are directing those comments to us?" Commissioner Joey Hoover asked.

"Why are we discouraging people from coming in here to do business?" Mr. Culpepper asked.

"Mr. Culpepper, you can make a motion whenever you want to," Mr. Hoover said.

Mr. Culpepper then made a motion to approve the flight school which died for lack of a second.

The other three commissioners took exception to Mr. Culpepper's remarks. Commissioner Cliff Betts was not present.

"We have not said we weren't going to do this," asserted Commissioner Margaret Helton. "We just have questions."

She said they did not want a repeat of what happened in the past, possibly

See COUNTY — Page 5

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Special to the Okeechobee News/YMS

AVID students

The Yearling Middle School AVID students had a celebration on Friday, Jan. 21. The students maintained all As and/or Bs on their report cards for the first semester.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Guest reader

Gwen Chandler, Okeechobee County's supervisor of elections, was one of many volunteer guest readers who read to students at Central Elementary School on Tuesday, Jan. 25.

ACHIEVEMENT

2011 USFTL CHAMPIONS

Untouchable! That is exactly what the team, The Untouchables, was. Many teams came together in Orlando, Florida, January 14-16, 2011 to battle it out for the top spot in the league. This team was ranked #29 out of 32 and took it to the championship. The Untouchables were 6-0 in the tournament and it was 8 on 8 class C. They came to Orlando from Portage, Indiana. Members ages ranged from 20-50 years of age. Members of the team are as follows:



Dragan Trajkovski-21, Chris Blaszczyk-56, Dustin Wilson-1, Bennett Coulopoulos-9, Bevan Coulopoulos-4, Zack Wellsand-3, Anthony Curry-5, Billy Farrenkopf-00, Antuan Barnes-26, Tyrell Nicholson-29, Matthew Scheuer-94, Ryan Wring-75, Rich "Fluffy" Bartok-72, Branden Akers-58, Tony Spinoso-98, Demario Richardson-23, Eric Kratovil-47, Steve Vaught-8, Terry Cooper-10, Keith Dockery-36, Greg Blazak-24, Brad Hatfield-7, Coaches Jason Bruzek-22, Kevin Dermody-11, also former Brahman, and son of Okeechobee resident Russ Waytovich, Joshua Waytovich-78.

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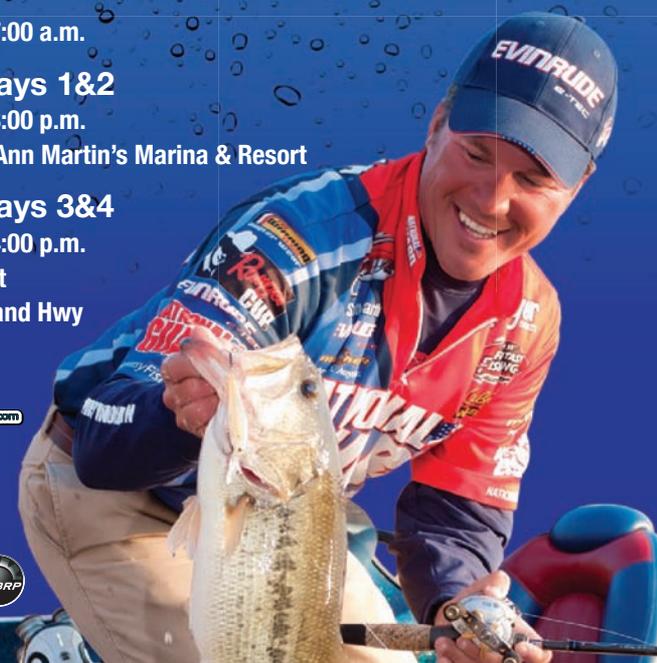
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Saturday, Feb. 5 - Sunday, Feb. 6
Noon - 4:00 p.m.
Clewiston Walmart - 1005 West Sugarland Hwy
Free Concert Featuring Colt Ford! Sunday, Feb. 6 at 3:00 p.m.

EVENT DETAILS:

TAKEOFF
Feb. 3 - Feb. 6 at 7:00 a.m.

WEIGH-IN Days 1&2
Feb. 3 - Feb. 4 at 3:00 p.m.
Roland and Mary Ann Martin's Marina & Resort

WEIGH-IN Days 3&4
Feb. 5 - Feb. 6 at 4:00 p.m.
Clewiston Walmart
1005 West Sugarland Hwy



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Commissioners hear report on county fair

By Pete Gawda

Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Commissioners held their first evening meeting of the year on Thursday, Jan. 27. There was good news concerning finances and electricity use as well as a report on the Okeechobee County Fair.

"My overall assessment is the revenues exceed expenditures by 10.64 percent," said deputy county administrator Robbie Chartier of the first quarter of the fiscal year. However, she urged caution noting that since the county's main income is from property tax and assessments, it is not unusual for this to happen in the first quarter when most taxes and revenues are collected.

"Right now I am cautious about where we are at," Mrs. Chartier said.

Looking at the financial reports of the constitutional officers she said that with the exception of the supervisor of elections they were all below or right on target with expenditures. She said the supervisor of elections is still catching up from the November elections. Expenditures for that office should taper off now.

Commissioners also heard some good news concerning electricity costs. Facilities manger Tony Ard used charts to explain to commissioners savings on electricity in county buildings.

"We're savings at least \$20,000 a year at the jail," he said, adding, "We're paying less than we ever have at the judicial center."

After an extensive discussion on utility savings, staff was directed to pursue the matter further and look into engaging a firm that specializes in reduction of energy use.

The commission discussed the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) of the county's comprehensive plan. This report is required periodically by state law.

"Our comprehensive plan is working pretty well for the county," Bill Royce, the county's planning official, said. "There are a few things the EAR suggests we look at."

He said that there are several transportation issues that will be addressed in the long range transportation plan. Mr. Royce said the EAR is not an actual amendment to the comprehensive plan. It is groundwork for amendments to the comprehensive plan.

"This is a report card on your comprehensive plan," said Commissioner Joey Hoover.

"This is a blueprint of where we are going," said Commissioner Culpepper. "This is a very important document."

He expressed a desire to study the report further before voting on approval, therefore action on approval of the report was tabled until next month.

Linda Syfrett of the Okeechobee County Fair Association gave a report on the 2010 and 2011 fairs. She said that paid attendance to last year's fair was 17,201. The fair association spent a little over \$9,000 for electrical improvements. Mrs. Syfrett said that in spite of "horrendous weather" the fair showed a profit.

The 2011 fair will be held March 11 through 20. The theme will be "Hometown Heroes" and will honor local law enforcement officers and firemen. A new attraction will be Batman roaming the midway. Wade Shows will be back. There will be over 14 independent midway vendors and 80 exhibitors. There will be a separate competitive exhibit tent. March 14 will be \$1 night with \$1 admission, \$1 rides and \$1 selected food items. March 16 will be Student Night with \$2 admission for students. This will be the second year for equine events. Mrs. Syfrett said the fair association spent just a little under \$10,000 to improve the outdoor horse arena. Rowdy Rooster, a hit several years ago, will be back.

"One of the most important things we do is involve young people in competition," Mrs. Syfrett said.

The county fair beauty pageant is affiliated with Miss Florida USA and Miss Florida Teen.

"What they have learned will benefit them the rest of their lives," Mrs. Syfrett said of beauty pageant contestants. "It's not just a beauty pageant."

"We have impacted the community with \$6,000 in scholarships," she added.

The fair association purchased 10 portable picnic tables for use at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center.

In other action the board:

- abandoned a portion of a platted right of way in Petit Park subdivision;
- authorized application for law enforcement grants and approved Romelis Planning and Development Services to provide grant application and administration services;
- executed a deferred payment loan and related documents to use grant funds to rehabilitate affordable rental housing affected by the 2008 storms; and
- voted to recommend that Dr. Roger E. Mittleman be reappointed medical examiner in District 19;
- heard the county attorney announce a settlement of the dispute with the airport's fixed base operator; and
- set a special meeting for 1:30 p.m. Feb. 8 to consider the sports complex injection well situation.

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

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Upcoming blood drives for Okeechobee

Friday, Feb. 4 - Health Dept., 9th Ave.,
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Saturday, Feb. 5 - Wal-Mart 11 a.m.-4
p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 6 - Brittany's blood drive,
Civic Center, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 10 - IRSC campus 2-8
p.m.

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

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!

Rain

- Thank goodness, we finally got some rain.
- How will they ever pump all this water out of the lake?
- They have the bestest, smartest college educated tree huggers standing in line trying to figure out the most ecologically efficient way to destroy the lake, you can bet on it.
- Officially, according to the ACOE, all that rain Tuesday night raised the lake level .01 feet. It went from 12.40 feet to 12.41 feet in the last 24 hours.
- If the lake is being destroyed, why did the local FWC biologist get a national award for work on the lake & it took over 60 lbs. of fish to win a tournament? Sounds like it's in pretty good shape to me.

Mailboxes knocked down

- The USPS is talking about closing 2000 local Post Offices across the country. Do you think they have the time or resources to send a Postal Inspector to look at a beat up mailbox that probably didn't even have mail in it when it was trashed? You need to worry about driving to Ft. Pierce or Stuart to go to a Post Office.
- I suspect the mail delivery will go down to two or three days a week eventually, that would be better than no delivery at all!
- Although I enjoy getting mail on Saturday, I wouldn't be surprised to see that go first. They keep talking about it.
- A few years ago after having my mailbox bashed several times, I bought a diamond plate steel mailbox and mounted it on a steel pipe buried in the ground with cement in the hole. A few weeks later when I went down one morning to get the paper I saw the broken barrel of aluminum baseball bat laying on the ground, I could see where it had hit the mailbox. Some punk had a messed up or broken wrist. That ended the mailbox bashing at my place.

Way to go Kentucky

- Kentucky is considering requiring random drug tests for those who receive food stamps, welfare or cash assistance. I hope this passes and I hope Florida follows suit.
- That sounds like a fine idea to me. If you have enough money to spend on dope, then you have enough for food.
- People should be drug tested for welfare. After all, most places of employment drug test.
- It will be cheaper in the long run to drug test. I've known plenty of druggies, and a crack head will gladly go without food to buy crack. If you give them food stamps, they will sell them to unscrupulous store owners, or individuals to buy their junk. Maybe, if they don't have a safety net, they will clean up, and re-join society.
- An addict knows how to beat a drug test and work the system. What about the children?
- If a drug addict is trading the food stamps for cash—and they know where to go to do this even though of course it is illegal—and using the money for drugs, the children of the addict are not getting any food now. Better to put the money into programs to set up soup kitchens to feed the hungry so they would actually get food to eat.

Parking between the lines

- It irks me when people who drive these big trucks take up two parking spaces. If you can't fit your vehicle within the lines in the parking space then you either need to drive a smaller vehicle, find a different place to park, or take more driving lessons. I drive a big pickup truck, so I feel that I do have room to talk on this issue. The same thing goes for the turnarounds and left turn areas on 441. I hate it when people with big vehicles don't angle their vehicle and pull up all the way. They leave half their vehicle sticking out in traffic. If you can't handle that big vehicle, either get a smaller vehicle or take some driving lessons.
- It is insane when you try to find a parking space and find that someone has taken up two or even four spaces. More times than I care to think about you are doing the speed limit and someone crosses in front of you and comes to a stop because there is traffic and they can't continue across. They leave their tail end sticking out in the middle of your lane and if you can't change lanes then you have to slam on the brakes to keep from hitting them.

Reflections from the pulpit

Wait for Instructions

By Rev. P. G. Livatt

Pastor, St. Stephen A.M.E. Church

"Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him." (Isaiah 30:18)

This is a wonderful day to be a child of God. Have you ever grown impatient with life and the pace it was taking? We just don't like to wait anymore. We live in a microwave society, we have instant coffee, instant grits, instant oatmeal, instant pain relievers, we used to pop our popcorn on the stove and it was fun to watch the aluminum foil grow but now we pop our popcorn in the microwave. We don't like to wait in line, the bank lines are too long, don't think about going to the emergency room.

For some reason you want things to move faster and come sooner. Do you know that patience is a virtue? Do you know God is up to something? Do you feel stuck in situations, stuck in a job, stuck at a point in your life, stuck in a relationship, stuck in financial distress? You might feel as though you are in a holding pattern with God. You are waiting on some guidance, you are waiting on some instructions, and you are waiting on some solutions to your problems. You have been praying, asking and petitioning God in the morning, noon and night. You wake up praying in the middle of the night because you can't sleep. When you open your eyes in the morning your situation is the first thing you think about. It's the last thing you think about before you go to bed. You feel as though you are about to bust, you might feel as though you are about to lose your mind. God knows what He has invested in you and He will not put more on you than you can bear. God is faithful and has already provided an escape.

You feel as though time is running out and you need to get an answer from the Lord right now. Your problems and situations have got you burdened down so that you can't think about anything else.

Do you know that what God has planned for you is better than what you currently see? However, over time you find yourself growing frustrated with the way things are going. Other people around you tend to receive their blessings right after they pray for them but you wait weeks, months and years to see the manifestation of your prayers. Have you ever wondered why you have to wait all the time? You're tired of being in a holding

pattern. You want a response right now. You want immediate answers to all your questions. Have you been there? Are you there now?

I would love to give you the specific date and time when your blessings will manifest, but I cannot. I would love to tell you that you are next for receiving the overflow, but I cannot. Everything that occurs will come due to your disobedience or obedience. I know you hate waiting. It can be boring and at times overwhelming but if God requires it there must be a good reason.

Over and over again God's people were told to wait. Psalm 27:14 says: "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." In Psalm 37:7 we read: "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him." When we are tempted to take matters into our own hands, Proverbs 20:22 offers this counsel: "Do not say, 'I'll pay you back for this wrong!' Wait for the LORD and he will deliver you." Isaiah 30:18 expands on this theme: "For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait on him!" Perhaps the most famous—and most beloved—verse on waiting in the entire Bible is Isaiah 40:31: "They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."

While you are in your holding pattern, or waiting for instructions from the Lord, He will give you strength which means there is going to be some rejuvenation, then He said they shall mount up with wings as eagles which means there is going to be some elevation, you are going to get to another level, you are going to be released from your holding pattern, then He said they shall run and not be weary which means there is going to be some acceleration which means you won't be in your holding pattern long. Then He said they shall walk and not faint, which means there is going to be some endurance, so that you can see what the end is going to be.

You have been waiting on God for a long time, let patience have her perfect work, when the perfect work is done you shall be perfect, and whole, and lacking for nothing.

The instructions God gives will keep you when family and friends neglect you. These instructions will prepare you for whatever comes your way.

Let us pray. Lord we thank you for showing us how to wait for instructions, and to trust you in all things. Amen!

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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MEMBER



Governments to lobby for environmental issues

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

There is strength in numbers. That is the principle officials in the 16 South Florida counties served by South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) are hoping will influence the Florida Congressional delegation.

On Friday, Jan. 28 local officials gathered at the SFWMD Service Centers and the Clewiston field office for a teleconference to plan lobbying strategies to influence Congress. Glades County Commissioner Russell Echols and Okeechobee County Commissioner Margaret Helton took part from the Okeechobee Service Center. The teleconference was moderated by Paul Millar, Water Resource Manager from Martin County who was at the Martin County Service Center.

The meeting was a follow up to a meeting held at the Okeechobee County Courthouse in December to discuss ecosystem restoration projects.

Mr. Millar said a date would be arranged in March when interested officials from the 16 counties could go to Washington to meet with the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Participants in Friday's teleconference were e-mailed ahead of time a list of priorities from the December meeting.

The list included doubling the annual appropriation for Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation to \$260 million. Another priority was increasing appropriation for the Indian River Lagoon South project, a part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) to \$50 million. This project in St. Lucie and Martin counties includes among other things, 12,000 acres of above ground water storage, 9,000 acres of stormwater treatment areas and 53,000 acres of restored wetland.

The list also included increasing the annual appropriation for another CERP project, the Picayune Strand Project, to \$56 million. This project includes the restoration of natural water flow across 85 square miles in western Collier County. It includes the restoration of three pump stations and the removal of 227 miles of roads.

Other priorities included congressional authorization of the Caloosahatchee River C-43 West Reservoir, a proposed above-ground reservoir with a capacity of 1,700,000 acre feet located south of the Caloosahatchee River and west of Ortona.

Another priority was the C-111 Spreader Canal, Western Project. This project, located in south Miami-Dade County, includes pump stations, culverts, a spreader canal and water control structures. Also on the priority

list was the Broward County Water Preserve Area Project located in central/southern Broward County and northern Miami-Dade County. This project will enhance the buffer between residential development and protected Everglades wetlands, capturing and diverting stormwater runoff and reducing underground seepage.

The last priority on the list is the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetland, Phase I Project. This is a flow-way that will redistribute excess freshwater runoff, directing it away from existing canal discharges and spreading it out as sheetflow prior to discharge into

Biscayne Bay.

The priorities were not numbered.

Commissioner Echols felt that rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike should be the number one project. That sentiment was echoed by several other participants.

Paul Gray of the Audubon Society said his organization favors rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike. They also support Kissimmee River restoration.

Commissioner Echols also expressed disappointment that no one from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers participated in the event.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Officials gathered via teleconference at SFWMD offices on Friday.

Kiwanis Club learns about Hospice

The Kiwanis Club meeting was held at Hammerhead's Billiards, Bar and Grill and Frank Irby talked to the Kiwanis members about Hospice of Okeechobee which was started in 1983 under the umbrella of Treasure Coast Hospice. In 2005, the building at 411 SE 4th St. in Okeechobee was remodeled as a residency where their patients could stay.

Hospice Care provides medical attention and pain management tailored to the patient's needs and wishes and also offers emotional and spiritual support for families and loved ones.

They are in constant need of volunteers who may sit with their residents while their loved ones find time to do their necessary tasks. Hospice of Okeechobee has many fund raising events throughout the year in-

cluding the huge Yard Sale twice a month which does very well for them.



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Man accused of stealing heavy machinery parts

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man has been arrested and charged with allegedly selling stolen heavy equipment parts to a local recycling center.

Jarrold Wayne Hair, 20, S.R. 710, was arrested Friday, Jan. 21, on a felony charge of dealing in stolen property. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a \$2,000 bond, but has since been released after posting bond.



Jarrold Wayne Hair

An arrest report by Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Detective Rick Durfee stated that Hair reportedly took the radiator out of a Caterpillar drag line, then sold it for scrap.

According to Detective Durfee's report, Hair took the radiator on Jan. 12. He went on to state that the radiator "... is a one of a kind," and is not a common item.

The detective stated that he went to the recycling center where he found a photo of the radiator. He then took that photo to the owner of the drag line, who identified it as the one missing from his machinery.

Detective Durfee added that his investigation into this case is continuing.

the public fairly.

"I, too, have a problem with the approach you took toward the commission," Mr. Domer said.

The board went on to discuss procedures for usage, fees and reservations for aircraft tiedown sites, one of the items in question.

Evidently, in the ensuing discussion, all questions were answered satisfactorily because the board voted to authorize the flight school and instructed staff to develop a policy for rental of aircraft tiedown sites.

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

COUNTY

Continued From Page 1

referring to problems with a flight school several years ago.

"Mr. Culpepper, I took some offense at how you spoke to me," Mr. Hoover said. He added that it was offensive to him that Mr. Culpepper inferred the board was trying to stifle growth at the airport. He said he had no problem with a flight school, he just had a few questions.

Commissioner Ray Domer said he was concerned with setting a good policy to treat

Community events

VFW to host chicken dinner

Chicken dinner with mashed potatoes, gravy and vegetables will be ready from 2 until 6 p.m. on Sunday, **Jan. 30**, for just \$5 at the VFW Post 9528 Buckhead Ridge. Five card BINGO starts at 5 p.m.

Church to have special speaker on Sunday, Jan. 30

Dr. Joe Davis will be preaching at Fountain of Life Church, 1302 S.W. 32nd St., at 11 a.m. on Sunday, **Jan. 30**. Dr. Davis is head of the Department of Apologetics at Southeastern University in Lakeland. He is an ordained Assemblies of God minister and a renowned Bible scholar.

North VFW Post to host Sunday lunch, karaoke

The VFW North Post 4423 - 300 N.W. 34th St. will be hosting a stuffed pepper Lunch on Sunday, **Jan. 30**, from 2 to 4 p.m. Karaoke show by Lisa Riley to follow from 6 to 9 p.m.

Business breakfast planned

Christian Business Breakfast at the Hampton Inn, Monday, **Jan. 31**, at 8 a.m., for just \$5. Come enjoy breakfast and a great Bible study led by Brandon Tucker. Come let us know who you are and what your business is so that we can know you and share your information with others. See you on Monday morning!

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Calm wind becoming east southeast around 5 mph.

Tonight: Sunday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. East wind around 5 mph.

Monday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53. East wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. East southeast wind from 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday night: Mostly cloudy, with a low of 57. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Thursday: **Cash 3:** 2-4-3; **Play 4:** 8-2-8-4; **Fantasy 5:** 12-13-16-28-29; **Mega Money:** 26-28-30-36 MB 22; **Florida Lotto:** 7-18-19-23-35-52 X 3; **Powerball:** 4-5-36-47-58 PB 6 x3. Numbers drawn Friday, **Cash 3:** 5-8-3; **Play 4:** 7-1-7-7.

Healthy Start Coalition to meet on Wednesday

The Board of Directors of the Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition will meet on Wednesday, **Feb. 2**, at 11:30 a.m. in their office, located at 575 S.W. 28th Street within the New Endeavor High School building. Open to the public. The coalition is part of a statewide network of coalitions responsible for planning and implementing services for pregnant women and infants. For information, call Kay Begin at 863-462-5877.

Griefshare group to meet

Griefshare is a support group program for anyone who has lost a loved one. It is your journey from mourning to Joy. Sessions are every Saturday beginning **Feb. 5** through April 30. For more information, please call Jess at 863-697-0494 or 863-763-4127.

Musical presentation at the library planned for February

A program on the great Broadway composers and performers will be presented at the Okeechobee County Library on Saturdays, **Feb. 5, 12 and 26**, at 1 p.m. R.B. Nairnsey, who is very knowledgeable, is the speaker for the program and will present slides and musical illustrations. The topic for the **Feb. 5** program will be Meredith Willson who wrote "The Music Man."

Church to host yard sale - tables are still open

The Church of God Ladies Ministry will host a community yard sale on **Feb. 5**, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Church of God, 301 N.E. Fourth Ave. The public is welcome. Sellers - Come join us with a space with table for just \$10 and a space and bring your own table for just \$5 while spaces last! To reserve your space with our without a table, please call Norma Sue Kemp at 863-634-2930. Church of God Ladies Ministry will take care of the advertising.

FWS to hold public meeting

As part of the planning process for the proposed 150,000 acre wildlife refuge, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will hold a public meeting to solicit input at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, **Feb. 9**, at Okeechobee High School. At this early stage input is requested from the public.

Diabetes Education Program

"Living with Diabetes," a free Diabetes Education Program, will be presented by Wanda Haas, RN, CDE on **Feb. 9**, at 1:30 p.m. at the VNA's Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility, 203 S.E. Second St. For more information call 863-357-2197.

Obituaries

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

Joseph R. 'Joe' Hidy Sr., 79

OKEECHOBEE — Joseph R. "Joe" Hidy Sr., age 79, passed away Jan. 25, 2011, at the Hospice's Hamrick Home in Okeechobee.

A disabled American Veteran, he is survived by his wife, Elaine; granddaughters; daughter-in-law; great-grandchildren; brother and sister.

Graveside services will be 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, 2011, at South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, PO Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bas-sokeechobee.com.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 NE 2nd ST, Okeechobee, FL 34972.



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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Crash claims life of Okeechobee man

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man died at a Fort Pierce hospital Thursday night from injuries received in a single vehicle accident on U.S. 441 N.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) accident report a vehicle operated by Deke A. Padgett, 24, left the roadway on U.S. 441 N. at N.E. 208th St. The 2000 Dodge Ram pickup truck overturned and threw Mr. Padgett from the vehicle around 8:40 p.m.

He was airlifted to Lawnwood Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced dead by Dr. Jose Diaz at 11:58 p.m. on Jan. 27.

The report by FHP Trooper R.T. Ruiz stated that Mr. Padgett was northbound when, for unknown reasons, he drifted into the southbound lane. He then over-corrected and the truck began to spin, stated the report.

Trooper Ruiz stated that the truck left the roadway and overturned. Mr. Padgett was then ejected from the half-ton pickup.

Mr. Padgett was not wearing a seat belt, the trooper stated, and the accident is under investigation.

Construction licensing board to hear two cases

When they meet Tuesday afternoon, the Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board will hear two cases when they meet Feb. 1, at 3:30 p.m. in the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium.

Alfred W. Nyman Jr. of Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. will have to answer charges that he installed a heating and air conditioning system even though he is not a licensed contractor and did not pull the necessary permits.

Alberto Rodriguez has been charged with doing business as a contractor without having the proper license and not obtaining building permits.

The board will also discuss the fact that the board meetings will soon be moved to the courthouse and that the terms of two board members expire March 1.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Jim Davis

Grand Champion Market Steer

Okeechobee High School FFA member Sarah Helen Davis exhibited the Grand Champion Market Steer at the 2011 South Florida Fair. The 1,260 pound steer named, "Rockwall" was chosen on Saturday from entries representing Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Charlotte, and Manatee Counties. Sarah was also named the champion senior showman. Other Okeechobee winners included Shelby Kirton as champion junior showman and Bailey Kirton as champion intermediate showman. Special thank you to Eli's Western Wear for sponsoring the championship belt buckles.

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7 DAYS A WEEK

OHS softballers sign college scholarships

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Two stars on the Okeechobee High School girls softball team signed letters of intent to play college softball for Indian River State College at a special party at Okeechobee's Hammerheads restaurant on Thursday.

Ashtyn Brown and Naomi Stevens celebrated in front of a large crowd of family, friends and supporters.

Both girls have starred for the past three years and have displayed tremendous softball talent. They are among the best hitters and fielders in the Treasure Coast region and a major reason most pundits give Okeechobee a chance to win their District and go deep into the post season this year.

Former Brahman Coach Kim Hargraves saluted the girls for all of their efforts and told the crowd the girls have the ability to star in college. "They were a blessing to coach and now they move on to bigger and better things," she said. "I wish them the best of luck."

OHS Principal Toni Wiersma said the entire community is behind the girls and she noted the team is expected to have a great season in 2011. She said the girls make not only the school, but the entire community proud.

"These scholarships are what we are all about. I think we are going to have a great season," she added.

Ashtyn Brown celebrated the moment with her father Russ Brown, a former Brahman player and coach who also played baseball for the University of Florida and is now a member of the North Florida University Hall of Fame.

Ashtyn said she has always looked up to her dad and what he has accomplished in athletics, "I've played forever and I always wanted to play college softball," she said. "I have a lot to look forward to."

Mr. Brown said Ashtyn always wanted to play ball and had excellent hand eye coordination at a young age. He emphasized she always had fun on the field.

"She has the ability to play any position on the field. She watches other players, and

asks questions to try to become better. I'm very proud and excited for her," he added.

Ashtyn said the signing ceremony was a dream come true. She said IRSC has an excellent softball program and that she always had wanted to attend that school. She said making this decision will take a lot off of her shoulders.

"It would be really hard playing in front of other coaches not knowing what you're going to do next year. I'm glad to have this out of the way so I can relax and enjoy playing," she added.

Stevens celebrated the moment with her father Darrell Erts. She said she was very excited about having this opportunity.

"I selected IRSC because I know a lot of players," she said. "The coach has worked with me for a long time. I hoped this day would come and I'm happy it did. I have big plans for my future."

Stevens plans to major in physical therapy. She said the decision takes a lot of pressure off of her. She said she will continue to work hard to improve and had high hopes for her senior year.

"I have a lot of good hopes. We should really be good this season," she added. "I'm so happy everybody is here and supporting me. I really needed that."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
OHS Administrators (L-R) Athletic Director Gina Davis, Principal Toni Wiersma and Assistant Principal Dylan Tedders were on hand to congratulate softball players Ashtyn Brown (front left) and Naomi Stevens (front right) on their signing day.

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Business women give to needy children

The Okeechobee Business Women's Referral Network is a group of women from many backgrounds involved in business, government, civic groups and volunteerism. These women meet monthly, every third Friday. They share information about upcoming events, promotions and business expertise over lunch at Hammerhead's. The network has open membership with no dues or roll-calls, just camaraderie among local businesswomen. Over time the ladies have made special collections for items to support the troops, provide Christmas gifts for many not profit organizations and other charitable projects. At their December meeting, these generous women collected more than 50 gifts which were donated to the Guardian ad Litem Angel Gift Drive. This drive provides holiday gifts to children who are served by the Guardian ad Litem Program and are victims of abuse, neglect or abandonment. Over 100 children in Okeechobee are served by Guardian ad Litem and all of them received holiday gifts this year. To know more about the Okeechobee Business Women's Referral Network contact Courtney Moyett (Attorney Philip DeBerard's Office) at 863-467-7100. To learn more about Guardian ad Litem call 772-785-5804, or visit the web site at www.gfnf4kids.org.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Members of the Okeechobee Business Women's Referral Network met at their December luncheon meeting to present gifts to the Guardian ad Litem program. More than 50 gifts were gathered to support the Guardian ad Litem Angel Gift Drive.

Yard Sale to benefit Relay for Life

Seacoast National Bank is hosting a Relay for Life "Yard Sale" Feb. 12, from 7:30 a.m. until noon. The sale will benefit the Okeechobee Relay for Life scheduled for March 25, at Okeechobee High School. Seacoast will be accepting donated items starting Jan. 31, until Feb. 11, during normal business hours. Please deliver your items to Seacoast National Bank, 1409 South Parrott Ave. If you have any questions regarding the yard sale please contact Amy at 863-467-4663. For more information on the Relay for Life event, go to: http://main.acevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY11FL?pg=entry&fr_id=29654

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USDA designates county as natural disaster area

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 26 counties in Florida as primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by frost and freezes that occurred Nov. 5 - Dec. 17, 2010.

"President Obama and I understand these conditions caused severe damage to

corn, cotton, soybeans, pasture and forage, and a wide variety of vegetable crops," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This action will provide help to hundreds of farmers who suffered significant production losses."

The counties are: Alachua, De Soto, Hardee, Lee, Miami-Dade, Putnam, Bradford, Di-

xie, Hendry, Levy, **Okeechobee**, Sarasota, Charlotte, Flagler, Highlands, Manatee, Palm Beach, St. Johns, Clay, Gilchrist, Indian River, Martin, Polk, St. Lucie, Collier, and Glades.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas Jan. 25, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA also has made other programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; the Emergency Conservation Program; Federal Crop Insurance; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

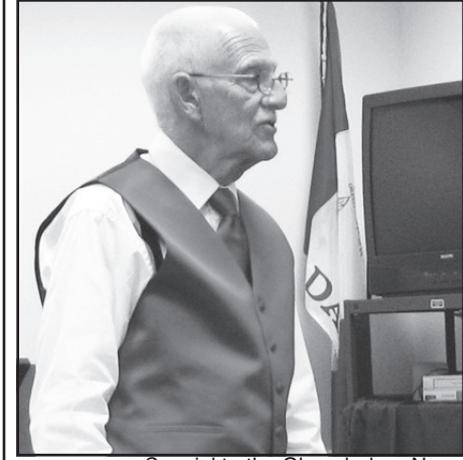
Toastmaster Club to meet Feb. 1

On Feb. 1, from 5:15 until 6:30 p.m., the Okeechobee Toastmaster Club will meet at the Clock Family Restaurant, 1111 S. Parrott Ave. This event is open to anyone who

would like to attend. The program is called, "So you think you can make me laugh." It will be a fun meeting and club organizers hope that all who have thought about attending one of our meetings, this will be the one to attend. There will be tons of laughter and good times. The club has the room from 5 until 7 p.m. They are asking that no food be eaten during the meeting from 5:15 until 6:30 p.m., as it distracts the speakers. Drinks will be fine. You may order something to eat that can be served at 6:30 p.m. if you wish.

Last week's meeting had to be cancelled due to a conflict in scheduling with the library.

Thanks go to Jean Chaplic for allowing the club to have their next two meetings at the Clock Family Restaurant. They have proved to be a great community supporter, especially at the last minute. If you have questions please call Carole Witt, President at 863-532-8289 or email okeechobeetm@yahoo.com.



Special to the Okeechobee News
George Williams gave a speech about the Child ID program at the last meeting of the Toastmasters Club.

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Brighton Charter defeats OMS in girls basketball

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Pemayetv Emahakv School used a stingy defense and fast break points to defeat Osceola Middle School 34-18, in girl's middle school basketball Thursday afternoon at the Warriors gym.

The Seminoles held Osceola to only seven points in the first half and shut out the Lady Warriors in the second quarter with a tight man-to-man defense. Sydnee Cypress

and Darlah Cypress provided most of the offense for Brighton.

Warriors Coach Tyrone Smith said his girls came out slow but did a better job in the second half. "We still have a lot of work to do defensively as a team. We gave up way too many fast break points," he said.

The Warriors wind up their schedule next Monday when they meet Yearling Middle School at Okeechobee High School. Coach Smith said he hopes the team comes out

with a better mind set of what needs to be done to win.

Taylor Trent hit a three pointer and Carly McCain scored in double figures to lead the Warriors. The Seminoles led 13-7 after the first quarter and held a 19-7 advantage at the half.



Sydnee Cypress repeatedly led the Seminoles fast break against Osceola. She is defended by Amber Evans (right) of Osceola.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Two of the better basketball players in this area Darlah Cypress (left) and Carly McCain matched up when the Seminoles visited the Warriors Thursday.

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Local man accused of aluminum theft

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man has been arrested in connection with the alleged theft and sale of over \$3,000 worth of aluminum items.

Chad Ryan McWhorter, 28, S.W. 24th Ave., was arrested Thursday, Jan. 27, on felony charges of grand theft and dealing in stolen property by Detective Rick Durfee of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO). He was also arrested by OCSO Deputy Matthew Crawford on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him



Chad Ryan McWhorter

with grand theft and burglary.

McWhorter is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail under a total bond of \$27,500.

An arrest report by Detective Durfee stated that McWhorter allegedly took a semi-trailer aluminum rim, an aluminum cow trailer gate, an aluminum swing gate and numerous aluminum

sheets that, together, had a total value of \$3,700.

The detective said McWhorter then took those items to a local recycling center where he sold them for \$95.70.

Detective Durfee said as part of the process of selling the items McWhorter had to provide his thumbprint and signature on the paperwork, as well as provide the center with a copy of his driver's license.

The arrest warrant, which dealt with a separate case against McWhorter, stated that he allegedly entered the victim's home and took an unspecified amount of cash.

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).

- Thomas Charles Gamble, 29, S.E. Pitcher Road, Port St. Lucie, was arrested Jan. 26 by Deputy Cpl. Aric Majere on St. Lucie County warrants charging him with dealing in stolen property (four counts), giving false information to a pawnbroker (four counts) and second degree petit theft. His bond was set at \$65,000.

- Lenorth Lecarl King, 16, S.W. 23rd St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 26 by Deputy Matt Crawford on a juvenile take and hold warrant charging him with violation of probation - second degree petit theft (two counts), violation of probation - making or possession of a destructive device, violation of probation - battery, violation of probation - resisting a law enforcement officer without violence, burglary of an unoccupied conveyance, grand theft (two counts), burglary of an unoccupied structure and possession of marijuana under 20 grams. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie County Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

- Brian Anthony Guzowski, 48, Bell St., Wauchula, was arrested Jan. 27 by Deputy Cpl. Aric Majere on a Highlands County warrant charging him with the felonies of failure to appear - attempt to manufacture methamphetamine and failure to appear - possession of methamphetamine. He was also charged with the misdemeanors of failure to appear - no valid driver's license and failure to appear - possession of drug paraphernalia. He is being held without bond.

- Harry Gray Barber, 26, S.E. Fini Drive, Stuart, was arrested Jan. 27 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (xanax) and possession of a controlled substance (roxicodone). He was also charged with the misdemeanors of possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$21,000.

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.

Waste Management disposes of tires and waste

Okeechobee residents can dispose of up to four passenger tires a year for free at Okeechobee Landfill, 10800 N.E. 128th Ave. Okeechobee. Household Hazardous Waste Amnesty Day is a free service for Okeechobee County residents and held bi-annually at 306 N.W. Ninth Ave. Okeechobee. The next scheduled Household Hazardous Waste Amnesty Day is Saturday, April 2, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Up to four passenger tires can be dropped off there as well.

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NEW LISTING 1005-H: FL perfection! Open floor plan on captive water with great fishing. Hurricane proof. Very lrg sunroom. 55+ community with several activities. MLS #204655	REDUCED 1009-H: In town concrete blk 3bdr/2ba completely remodeled, fenced back yard, large screened porch, shed, windows w/awnings, landscaped yard, concrete drive, large living room. MLS #204230
REDUCED 5000-H: King's Bay Concrete block 3/2 remodeled from top to bottom on a cul-de-sac. Appliances, new flooring, hardwood and Ceramic tile. \$109,000 MLS #204342	FORECLOSURE 5001-H: Fixer upper. 3 bedroom frame home on 1+/- acre located behind Four Seasons (S.E. 68th St). Home needs some TLC. Easy to show. \$45,000 MLS #204615
REDUCED 5008-M: Edwards Subdivision Mobile home on 1+/- acre. Fenced yard. Animals are welcome in this area. (NW 163 rd CT) \$25,000 MLS #204372	REDUCED 5014-M: Edwards 3/2 DWMH on 1 acre. Short Sale. Call today for further information. Easy to Show. \$55,000 MLS# 203812

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Announcements

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against the Delaware State News. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Delaware State News style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Lost



Missing dog - Jack Russell, male - PeeWee was last seen in Platts Bluff on Thursday, Jan 20, 2011. He is a family pet and we miss him very much. PLEASE help us find him. Monica (863)763-4029 or (863)634-4458

Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

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



Employment

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

Employment Full Time

LAND APPLICATION OPERATOR

Agricultural tractor experience needed.

Call:
(386)365-7905
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LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD DRIVERS

Walpole, Inc is looking for Class A-CDL drivers with 2 years OTR driving experience, clean MVR. Full benefits package available

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Over the road, good driving record, HAZMAT Required. (863)697-6468

COOK SUPERVISOR

Immediate opening at Okeechobee Juvenile Detention Center food service department. Institutional cooking and hands on experience preferred. Competitive wages and benefits. Must pass background check and pre-employment drug screen.

Contact Dawn
(ask for kitchen)
863-357-9922
or fax resume to:
863-357-0205
email to:
dept1@
ablmanagement.com
EOE

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

Maintenance/ Carpenter

skilled in electrical, plumbing, painting, construction. Drug Free workplace, valid DL lic. required. Comp., salary & housing provided. Apply at:
www.rollinsranches.net

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

Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful people!

WAITRESS

Looking for experienced waitress. Apply in person:
ALICE'S RESTAURANT Brighton Reservation

Employment Medical

HEALTHCARE SPECIALIST

Lincare, leading national respiratory company seeks Healthcare Specialist. Responsibilities: Disease Management Program, clinical evaluations, equipment setup & education. Be the doctor's eyes in the home setting. RN, RRT, CRT licensed as applicable. Great personality with strong work ethic needed. Competitive salary, benefits & career paths. Drug Free Workplace, EOE. Please fax resume to Angel, 863-763-5191 or call 863-763-7337

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.

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

Employment Part Time

GIRL FRIDAY Needed part time, 3 days a week for Basinger parrot farm. Hours are 8:30am-4:30pm. Bird exp. a plus. Background Check. 863-8001-9544

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

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

How do you find a job in today's competitive market? In the employment section of the classifieds



Financial

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Business Opportunities



Financial

For more listings, go to
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Business Opportunities

BE YOUR OWN BOSS

The Okeechobee News has immediate opportunities for New Independent Delivery Agents who want to provide excellent service to our readers.



Kissimmee Estates Area & Basinger Area

Must have a dependable car and provide excellent service to our customers.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Come in and fill out a contractors information sheet at the Circulation office
107 S.W. 17th St. Suite D,
Okeechobee, FL
Call Janet Madray at
863-763-3134 ext. 4233

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

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

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

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

Find it faster. Sell it sooner in the classifieds

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

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

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

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

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



Services

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Excavation

CLEARING & HAULING

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

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

General Contracting

NOAH'S LIGHTNING PROTECTION

Protect your home Lic # BT10-69352
Serving Central & South Fla. 15% off Seniors 30yrs exp. Free Estimates. Aluminum or Copper Systems. (239)257-1365

Real Estate Services

Ride by and see beautiful 2 bedroom duplex. All new remodeled interior. 2 bdrm 2 porches \$650 1004 SE 8th Drive washer/dryer Call anytime (772)231-4919



Merchandise

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Pets/Supplies

5x4 Foot Metal fence cage can be used for dogs and etc. call for more info (863)801-3071

Wanted To Buy

WANT TO BUY LAPTOP COMPUTER - DEL, Micro-soft, any good computer (260)348-9947



Rentals

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Apartments

FURN EFFICIENCY - TCI, On Lake with dock, util/cable included. No pets, \$600/mo. 1st & last month. (863)697-3351

Apartments

2BR/1BA Duplex in town, a/c, ceiling fans, w/d hook up. Very clean, no lawn fee, septic/city water, No pets or smoking \$600/mo. plus deposit. Call (352)528-4795 or (352)283-9040

LG. CLEAN APT in town - 2/2, w/d, lawn maint included, \$750 + \$300 sec. (863) 634-3572

OKEE - 2BR, 1BA New kitchen, bathrm., paint. Laundry. Very clean \$600/mo. 772-215-0098

OKEECHOBEE - 1 br, Utilities incld, no pets, smoke free environment. \$700 month. 863-610-0861.

River Acres - Cottage 1/1 on water, furn, satellite & wireless network. \$500/mo, \$250 deposit (863)467-1950

Commercial Property

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

Condos/Townhouses Rent

OKEECHOBEE - 2 bdrm/2ba Villa, all appliances & privacy fence. Must have references. Call: 863-763-2416 or 863-447-0925

Houses - Rent

3bd/1ba, CBS, concrete drive, metal roof, hurricane shutters, privacy fence, a/c, tile floors and W/D. \$850 mo. plus sec. Call 863-697-6224

AFFORDABLE - New Houses, 3/2, 3/2/2, & 3/1, 1,800 sq ft, washer, dryer, large kitchen. Bring Pets. \$1000/\$900 per mo. (561) 723-2226

BUCKHEAD RIDGE, 4br/2ba, fenced yard, Move in for \$800. \$675 mo. Must have references. Call 863-824-0981

CANAL POINT - 3/1 house, roomy, new flooring and paint, \$700/mo., 1st, last & \$500 sec. (561)261-1554

Fully remodeled 3/2 home New Kitchen & Bath cabinetry, tiled floor throughout house. Screened in porch. New SS kitchen appliances. \$900/month. Call 305-970-7440

INDIAN HAMMOCK House on 2.5 acres 3/2 equine friendly, Horse Barn. \$1400/mo (863)467-0831.

Houses - Rent

KINGS BAY Nice Twnhs. 2 br/1ba, Tiled floors. Inclsd Water. \$675/mo. + sec. Pool & Tennis Court. 863-697-6428 or 561-358-8128

Large 4bd/1&1/2 ba. Brick home, newly renovated, Italian tile thru out, large kitchen and master suite. Non smoker, 1st and security, \$700 a month. Call 863-634-5185

MODERN BRICK: Newly painted. 3BR, 2.5 BA, 1 car garage. On Rim Canal w/Boat dock. Rent neg. Please call (772)359-1640

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

OKEECHOBEE - 2/1 home for rent on large corner lot in town. \$750 a month with security deposit. (561)445-8281.

OKEECHOBEE 4br, 2ba, tile throughout, \$975 mo. & up. 1st & sec. moves you in. (561)248-3888 or (863)599-0156

S.E. OKEE: 3 BR, 1 BA, CBS Home. Annual lease. W&D. Water furnished. \$850 mo. 1st. & last sec. dep. (863)697-1129

Office Space Rent

Down Town Area - 4,000 square feet. Set up for restaurant. Call (863)634-7353 for details.

Real Estate
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Lots - Sale

OFF 710 & 15A, 1/2 Acre vacant lot, fenced. Oak trees. House or Mobile Home okay (or just for storage). Owner finance. \$26,000 (863)610-1600

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

Mobile Home Rent

SMALL 1 BR, 1BA - Clean, comfortable, On Rim canal, \$450 + \$300 Sec. Call (863)697-0214

Mobile Home Rent

BUCKHEAD RIDGE - Dbl. Wide 2 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$500 mo. 3 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$525 mo. No pets. Yearly lease plus sec. (863)763-4031

BUCKHEAD RIDGE 2br/2ba, Furnished. Very clean. Small pets welcome. \$800 to move in. \$600 per month. (863) 634-0663.

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

FORT DRUM - 5 acres, small pond creek, 2BR, 2BA Trailer, needs interior or work - in light of repairs, if tenant can help with them. Deposit will be \$1000 and Rent \$500 (772) 464-9226

OKEECHOBEE - Cute 2br unfurn. waterfront single. Lrg. Lot, Rm. for Motor Home, Boat slip, Sea wall. \$450 mo. 863-226-3436 Rent with option to buy.

Mobile Home Sale

2004 Chariot 34x14 park model, 10x34 addition, partly furnished, double lot, 10x16 Woolley shed, full RV hook up on 2nd lot, at Big O RV Resort asking \$124,900 OBO Call 863-447-1696

BANK REPO'S Starting at \$15,000 Mobile Home Angels 561-721-2230

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

Campers/RVs

1999 COACHMAN TRAVEL TRAILER w/Sup Slide. Sleeps 8, Front bedroom, rear bunks beds, center kitchen. Excellent condition. Fully loaded. Asking \$6500 Call (954)547-1984

Motorcycles

(2) 2008 Mini Choppers 200cc. \$1,500 each or 2 for \$2,500 can be seen at 2011 SE 8th Ave, Okee.

Travel Trailers

KZ Spree 2008- LIKE BRAND NEW!!!! 31', 2 SLIDES, SLEEPS 9, OUTSIDE SHOWER, MICROWAVE, TOO MANY EXTRAS TO LIST!!! HOOK UP & GO! \$ 1 8 0 0 0 . 0 0 . (863) 634-7832

Public Notices

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE OKEECHOBEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 2011 DR-08
Division: Domestic Relations

Jose G. Domínguez, Petitioner
and
Elisabete Debora Dos Santos Respondent

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

TO: **Elisabete Debora Dos Santos**
35820 NE 7th Drive
Okee, FL 34972

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Jose G. Domínguez whose address is 35820 NE 7th Drive, Okee, FL 34972 on or before February 8th, 2011, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972, before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915). Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285 Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
DATED: January 4, 2011.

SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: /s/ BEATRICE RODRIGUEZ
Deputy Clerk
375450 ON 1/9,16,23,30/2011

Shop here first!
The classified ads

Public Notice

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute", will register with Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations the fictitious name, to wit:

Chilly Willys Ice Cream

Under which we expect to engage in business at:

5705 NE 3rd Lane Okeechobee, FL 34974

In the City of Okeechobee/County of Okeechobee, Florida. That the parties interested in said Business enterprise are

Leland Williamson

Dated at Okeechobee, Okeechobee County, Florida this the 27th day of January, 2011
377423 ON 1/30/11

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given: Pursuant to Florida Statute 715.109. The sale or disposition of abandoned property of Arthur E. Lanning will be sold at a Public Sale held on the 7th day of February, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. The sale will be held at Lakeside RV Park, 4074 Hwy 441 SE Lot 7, Okeechobee, FL 34974. The following abandoned property will be sold to the highest bidder:

Description of Property:
35 ft. 1981 Yellowstone Travel Trailer with attached room
VIN#5200R20B1095175

Terms of Sale are cash. No checks will be accepted. No refunds. Seller reserves the right to bid. Said travel trailer with attached room will be sold "AS IS" with no guarantees. Said property must be removed or arrangements made with seller to rent lot.
376848 ON 1/23,30/2011

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2011 AT 9:00 A.M. AT 17429 NW 242nd STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL, 34972 (FIELD OFFICE). A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE UNDERSIGNED. IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING; THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, IS MADE. ANY PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING MUST HAVE THEIR NAME AND TOPIC PLACED ON THE AGENDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING. ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S OFFICES BY CALLING (863)763-4601 AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING. NOTICE: COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT HAS AN ONGOING AQUATIC SPRAYING PROGRAM, DISTRICT WIDE.

WILLARD M. BYARS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
17429 NW 242ND STREET
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972
(863)763-4601 OR (863)634-3166
377117 ON 1/30/2011

Reading a newspaper provides the opportunity to get involved in your community.

No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!

Bell ringer finds happiness in giving

A veteran of the military, Wesley Cox, 81, finds great joy in being the man to stand with his bell, bucket and apron, for the Salvation Army ringing six days a week from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. You might have seen him in front of two or three of the local businesses.

That is approximately 130 hours of volunteer time for the cause, to raise over \$26,000 this

"It is worth it all to see the little children smile as they reach to give me their money."

~Wesley Cox~



Special to the Okeechobee News/
Bobbi Poole
Wesley Cox, 81, gives the most precious gift of all, the gift of "time" helping to collect donations within the local community each year.

year alone.

His "ringing" career began in 1974 with the late Jack Earles, a former Salvation Army leader here in Okeechobee. One evening in front of the old Eckerd Drug store, Mr. Cox was ringing the bell, Mr. Earles came by to see him very, very cold. Mr. Cox literally gave him the jacket he had on, inspiring Mr. Cox to ring all these years.

It was just like Mr. Earles to give the shirt off his back, but even better, he bought Mr. Cox

a brand new jacket of his own three days later.

Asked, "Why do you do this ringing?" Mr. Cox replied, "It is worth it all to see the little children smile as they reach to give their money."

The Salvation Army gives to many families in the community of Okeechobee, helping with light bills, etc.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Red Hat Society

Out and about

The Foxy Divas of Okeechobee enjoyed their January outing at Ft. Pierce Manatee Observation center, and were amazed at the large size of the Florida Sea Cows. **Leanne Sohl, Jean Mindel, Mary Skjoldal, Kay Touchette, Delores Brown and Marilyn Hadley.**

OHS girls basketball team falls to Port St. Lucie

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee couldn't hold a 10 point half time lead as they fell to the Lady Jaguars of Port St. Lucie 57-47 in high school girl's basketball action Thursday night at the Lady Brahman senior parent night.

Ami Edwards had 20 points and 24 rebounds in a losing effort for Okeechobee. Chante Wallace led the Jaguars with 29 points.

The Jaguars won the game with a 21-4 run in the third quarter as Okeechobee had trouble with the PSL full court pressure defense.

Brahman Coach Erin Morrow said her girls played very well in the first half and came out ready to play. She said they had trouble when the Jaguars raised their level of play in the second half.

"It was kind of the opposite of what we really do. The third quarter it fell apart men-

tally. I just try to tell the girls that teams will go on runs and you have to stand up to it. We weren't able to do it tonight."

Okeechobee led 16-7 after the first quarter thanks to some good work on the fast break. Edwards had some inside baskets and Jaryaca Baker, nine points, put in two baskets. Everything seemed to be clicking for Okeechobee in the first eight minutes.

Okeechobee continued to control the boards in the second quarter as they were able to build a 10 point lead.

Wallace came out hot in the third quarter with a pair of three point baskets as Port St. Lucie went on their major run. They also forced a lot of Brahman turnovers in the back court. Jaide Micco made a mistake when she hit a jump shot to score for the Jaguars.

"We had intensity but when you're out-scored 21-4 in a quarter it is unlikely that you'll come back from that. We fought hard in the fourth quarter but it was too much to come back from," Morrow added.

Thad Sanders had eight points, five rebounds and four assists. She was injured in the third quarter. Jodi Raulerson celebrated her final home game with two points, four rebounds and two steals.

Morrow said she was pleased the team grabbed 42 rebounds. She said Edwards has been a real key for the team inside and she likes the way her game has improved, "She does an excellent job underneath. She grabs rebounds you don't think are possible and

makes impossible shots. She keeps trying all the time. She is big for us on the offensive and defensive end."

The Lady Brahman's will play Boynton Beach in the first round of their district tournament on Wednesday, Feb. 2, in West Palm Beach.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jodi Raulerson dribbles up the court after a first half steal. Raulerson is the only senior on this year's girls basketball squad.



Ami Edwards had 20 points and 24 rebounds in Okeechobee's loss Thursday to Port St. Lucie.

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