



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 78

Friday, July 1, 2011

50¢ Plus tax

County's finances improving

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County's budget situation is looking better than it did this time last year. That was the message interim county administrator Robbie Chartier delivered to county commissioners at their Thursday, June 30, meeting. She conducted the first preliminary budget discussion for fiscal year 2011-2012.

The county is holding the line on expenditures. Countywide expenditures as of May 31 compared to the budget are below target by 1.62 percent. Expenditures as compared to revenues received as of May 31 are below receipts by \$2,845,58.

Mrs. Chartier said that in April auditors reported that six of 18 indicators were unfavorable. She said this was an improvement from the 12 of 18 indicators reported unfavorable in an earlier audit.

The interim administrator recommended that the county continue to only use current revenues for current operating expenses and continue to build up reserves. At the present time there is a general fund reserve shortfall of \$423,000. This time last year the shortfall was \$1.5 million.

It is possible that the fire assessment might stay at the same level it has been for the last three years. The good news is that it is possible that taxpayers might see a significant reduc-

tion in their EMS assessments.

The bad news is that employees may not see a raise. "Giving back furloughs is probably as far as we can go," stated Mrs. Chartier. Elimination of the seven furlough days will amount to about a 2.69 percent increase for county employees.

Property values have dropped 6.36 percent. That means that a millage rate of 8.5431 would be necessary to bring in the same amount of taxes as last year's 8.0 mills. One mil equals \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed value.

Mrs. Chartier reported that the commission staff had been reduced by three positions due

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Softball team to compete for state championship

... Page 12

Wildfire danger lessens

... Page 3



Lake Levels

9.75 feet

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Swim meet: Shockwaves compete

Billie Levitt of the Okeechobee Shockwaves swim team took first place in the butterfly event for her age group in the swim meet held June 25 at the Okeechobee Sports Complex. The Shockwaves include children ages 5 to 18. They compete against other South Florida swim teams. For more, see page 11.

Ordinance would limit pain clinics

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

On Tuesday evening, June 28, the Okeechobee County Planning Board took a step toward regulating pain management clinics.

The board recommended that the county commission pass a proposed ordinance that would modify the county's land development regulations to govern the location and operation of pain management clinics.

"This is taking more of a land use approach," stated county attorney John Cassels, the author of the proposed ordinance. "It's not strictly a law enforcement issue, it is a public health issue." He said he was more comfortable with this approach than with the approach of a proposed ordinance last year which

See PILLS — Page 16

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Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Okeechobee County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast

Friday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 90. Calm wind becoming east between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Friday night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 69. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 94. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Saturday night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. Calm wind becoming south southeast around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Sunday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 93. Southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Sunday night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. Southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Missing Okeechobee man found safe in Fort Pierce hospital

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



Ralph Wolfenbarger

A mentally challenged man who walked away from his Platt's Bluff home late last week has been found in a Fort Pierce hospital.

According to Detective Susan Morrison, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), Ralph A. Wolfenbarger, 55, was found Wednesday, June 29, at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center.

"He's alert and his family has been notified," said the detective. "When he was found he was disoriented, but after receiv-

ing treatment he was able to tell Lawnwood staff who he was."

Mr. Wolfenbarger was reported missing Friday, June 24, after he walked away from a N.W. 151st Terrace home where he was staying with family.

Detective Morrison, who was the lead investigator on the case, said the sheriff's office received a call Wednesday after reading an article about the missing man in the Okeechobee News. The detective followed up on the information and learned that Mr. Wolfenbarger was a patient at Lawnwood.

The OCSO investigator said the man had been without his medications since he left his home, which brought about his disorientation.

Wildfire risk starting to diminish

The wildfire risk for Okeechobee County and the Treasure Coast is starting to diminish with every storm that passes through. "We seem to be settling into a summer wet season pattern", said State Meteorologist Sean Luchs. Since the storms in some areas are bringing more lightning than rain, firefighters are still concerned about new lightning ignited wildfires.

Wildfires may be smaller in size due to the rain soaking into parched brush. Any period of no or little rainfall that allows the fuels (brush) to dry out again could prompt an increase in fire activity. This break provided by the recent rains, give residents time to prepare their homes and community.

Florida's fire season is 12 months long. We have fires throughout the year. The most active part of our year is typically December through June. Generally, we experience the greatest number of fires during April, May & June. The leading single cause of fires, during the late spring and early summer in our area over the years is lightning. Non-lightning caused fires, that is, man caused fires, account for over 75% of our fires during the remainder of the year.

Since Dec. 1, 2010, the Division of Forestry has responded to 94 wildfires in Okeechobee County with 6,297 acres burned; 64 wildfires in Martin County with 1,926 acres burned; 43 wildfires in St. Lucie County with

878 acres burned; and, 35 wildfires in Indian River County with 680 acres burned.

Wildfire Tips

- Homeowners are moving into the wooded areas; they like that "nature feeling". This trend of more homes being built in high fire risk areas is expected to continue. Homeowners who live in these areas need to create a zone of "Lean, Clean & Green" space around your home. (a) Lean - Trim vegetation away from home. (b) Clean - No accumulation of dead vegetation or flammable debris. (c) Green - Less flammable plants that are healthy, watered and green during dry season.

- As our area transitions into wet season, the Florida Division of Forestry will take this opportunity to prepare high risk communities for wildfires. State Firefighters will be mowing firebreaks, chopping down dead or flammable vegetation and burning off the dead vegetation that has been accumulating for decades.

Anyone needing additional information may contact the local Division of Forestry at 772-260-0053 (St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee Counties) or 863-655-6407 (Highlands and Glades Counties). For more information, visit the web site at www.fl-dof.com.

ARC Thrift Store requests donations of useful items

The ARC of Okeechobee Thrift Store is currently requesting donations of household items, dishes, kitchen appliances, furniture and clothing. Your tax deductible donation will be used to help further the mission of the agency to provide social, educational and vocational opportunities to the developmentally disabled. The store is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All items can be dropped off at the thrift store location, 403 N.W. 2nd Ave. in Okeechobee. For further information, call 863-763-2419.

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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

• It seems Rick Scott is taking his good 'ole time on finding a replacement for Betts' seat. Anybody have an idea why it's taking so long? We need that seat filled, asap!

• Cause he's still busy burying Florida 6 feet under.

• With the annual budget hearings coming up, it could be a problem if we only have four commissioners. There is no one to break a tie vote. It has been months since Mr. Betts died, and there are quite a few candidates who have put their names up for the spot. Surely at least one of them is acceptable. Guess Okeechobee is just not important to Scott.

Man tries to borrow healthy child to pass DCF inspection

• Just borrow someone else's kid, huh? Sickos. Hope they get what they deserve.

• People like that don't need kids period.
• This story makes me wonder how the case will compare with the Harden case. The mother of that child got one year in the county jail. Will this woman get the same punishment or prison?

• I don't understand how any mother can let her child be injured and not even seek medical care. A mother who won't protect her children does not deserve to have any children. I am glad DCF took the kids because now they have a chance at decent care.

• Someone needs to remind these women that there is a shelter in Okeechobee for the victims of domestic abuse. If this woman was afraid of the boyfriend, she should have grabbed both kids and left. The shelter would have helped her and the kids. *Editor's note: If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, call the 24/7 direct line for help in Okeechobee and the surrounding areas: 863-763-0202.*

Fireworks

• It is a shame that Okeechobee won't have a community fireworks show again this year. This community used to celebrate the Fourth of July with a parade, a festival in the park. One year they had bed races. That was hilarious. Now they don't even have fireworks. When did people stop caring?

Exotic invaders

• The Game & Fish Commission should quit worrying about poachers and the likes and start concentrating on these folks who turn these non-native species loose. I wish Florida would pass a law forbidding their import in the first place!

• Other than the use as a biological control for pests, the cane toad has been employed in a number of people, commercial and non-commercial applications. Traditionally, within the toad's natural range in South America, the Embera-Wounaan would "milk" the toads for their toxin, which was then employed as an arrow poison. There are also suggestions that the toxins may have been used as a narcotic by the Olmec people. The toad has been hunted as a food source in parts of Peru, and eaten after the removal of the skin and parotoid glands. More recently, the toad's toxins have been used in a number of new ways: bufotenin has been used in Japan as an aphrodisiac and a hair restorer, and in cardiac surgery in China to lower the heart rates of patients.

• The toads are becoming abundant, but wait until the northern snakehead starts taking over—they are omnivorous, they eat everything in the lakes. Or the pythons makes it way north in the lake. Then the problems will begin. Snakeheads are native to southeast Asia and Africa. They have been imported to the U.S. as aquarium fish and for the live food fish trade. Intentional introductions of four species have occurred throughout the U.S. and fishery biologists have captured wild individuals in California, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Snakeheads compete with native aquatic wildlife at all life stages, but adult snakeheads are voracious predators consuming all sorts of fish, crustaceans, amphibians, reptiles, and even birds and small mammals. Experts believe these fish pose a significant threat to fish and wildlife resources of North America.

Letters to the editor

Amvets host membership drive

On July 4, Amvets Post 2001, in conjunction with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9528, will host an open house and celebration of the Fourth of July at the VFW Post on Hwy. 78 West in Buckhead Ridge.

If you are now a member or have been honorably discharged, from any of the armed forces including army, navy, marines, coast guard, national guard or any of the reserve units of these forces, you may be eligible to join the Amvets. You do not have to be in any conflict or served over seas.

As a member of the Amvets, you may visit almost any post of the Amvets, VFW, or American Legion in the U.S. As a guest of these posts your Amvets membership can open a lot of doors for you to associate with all your fellow members of the armed forces.

Hope to see you on the 4th.

Sincerely,

Jack Krok

Commander Amvet Post 2001

Summer news! Summer fun!

School's out! Yeah! What now? Hey, what

Fireworks can be hazardous

Fireworks safety issues from the National Fire Protection Association:

• In 2005, 95 percent of emergency room fireworks injuries involved fireworks that Federal regulations permit consumers to use.

• In 2005, 10,800 fireworks-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms, the second highest total in the decade of 1996-2005.

• About 48 percent of 2005 emergency room fireworks-related injuries were to the extremities and 44 percent were to the head; 54 percent of these injuries were burns, while 29 percent were contusions and lacerations.

• Nearly half the people injured by fireworks were under the age of 15. The risk of fireworks injury was nearly three times as high for children ages 10-14 as for the general population.

• Sparklers, fountains, and novelties alone accounted for 26 percent of the emer-

gency room fireworks injuries in 2005. Males accounted for 69 percent of fireworks injuries that same year.

is the primary concern for so many parents, grandparents, teachers, staff, guardians, kids and teens? OK, what's next?
Summer time, summer fun, summer camp, summer vacations and family reunions ... It is my privilege, responsibility, and love as a good writer to ring it all up. Check out your local library. A library card is one of the hottest/coolest tickets in town. The summer activity guide shows summer camps, swimming, activities, etc.

I practice what I'm writing about—mix in some summer exercise. Walk, run, jog, bicycle, stroll your neighborhood, get outdoors, eat healthy. Be safe, dance to your favorite CD. School's out—summer fun is in! Now what?

I just love reading books, writing, too. All the above is priceless...so find time this summer, to remember, to give the Lord some of your time. If we learn to take care of the Lord's business, including the Almighty in some form or fashion, watch the blessings flow! Amen! Enjoy this summer, family and dear friends.

Brenda Scott

Poet, playwright and author

gency room fireworks injuries in 2005. Males accounted for 69 percent of fireworks injuries that same year.

• On Independence Day in a typical year, more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for half of those fires, more than any other cause of fires.

• July 5 accounted for the second highest number of fires. Some areas may also see heightened fireworks use around New Year's Day, Chinese New Year, or Mardi Gras.

• In 2004, fireworks caused an estimated 1,500 total structure fires and 600 vehicle fires reported to fire departments.

• These 2,200 fires resulted in an estimated 20 civilian injuries and \$21 million in direct property damage. In 2004, there were no reported civilian deaths, but 900 home structure fires were caused by fireworks.

• Nearly 30,000 fireworks-related structure, vehicle, or outdoor fires were reported per year in 2000-2004.

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.

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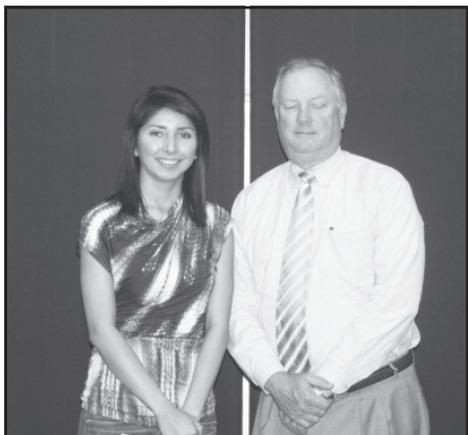
- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
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- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
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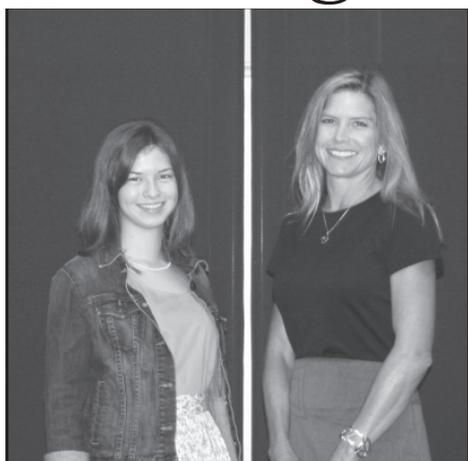
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2011 Okeechobee High School Scholarship Night



Special to the Okeechobee News
The recipient of the Law Firm of Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd Scholarship was Jocelyn Cardenas. The award was presented by Steve Hoskins in the amount of \$1,000. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.



Special to the Okeechobee News
The recipient of the Treasure Coast Builders Association Scholarship was Carma Rowlett. The award was presented by Tara Boshell in the amount of \$1,000. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Recipients of the Okeechobee Community Improvement Assoc. scholarship included Carliegh Alderman and La'Shanti Brown. Scholarship awards were presented by Weena Harris and Shirlean Graham in the amount of \$500. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Recipients of the Okeechobee Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution/Essie D. Millspaugh Scholarship was Ana Maria Hernandez for \$500. The recipient of the \$500 Roberta Frazier Memorial Scholarship was April Moore. Scholarship awards were presented by Debbie Clemmons, Regent. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Recipients of the Okeechobee Livestock Market Scholarship were Hayley Belding and Raybon Durrance. Scholarship awards were presented by Jeff and Debbie Clemmons in the amount of \$500 each. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Recipients of the Eli's Western Wear, Inc. Scholarship were Ana Maria Hernandez, Alexis Lepere, Meaghan Thomas and Johanna Trimble. Scholarship awards were presented by Linda Durrance and Samantha Durrance in the amount of \$250. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Recipient of the Remy-Lou Durrance Memorial Scholarship was Raybon Durrance (\$1,000). The scholarship award was presented by Linda Durrance and Samantha Durrance. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.

Community Events

Annual BBQ contest is set for July 1 & 2

The second annual O.L. Raulerson Jr. 4th of July Barbecue Contest will be held **July 1 and 2** at the Okee-Tantie Marina on S.R. 78 W. Judging will start at 7 p.m. on Friday and at noon on Saturday. Awards will given to Grand and Reserve Overall, as well as the top three finishers. The contest is open for backyard grillers only. Water and electricity will be provided. For information contact: Laurie Raulerson Stephen at 863-634-3462; Keith Stripling at 863-634-9108; or, Bobby Schoonmaker at 863-634-3910.

Legion Post 64 to host diner night

American Legion Post 64 will host dinner night from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, **July 1**. This week we offer Fish dinner, shrimp dinner, clam strips or a combo platter, for land lovers we offer the country fried steak sandwich, all dinners include coleslaw, French fries and hushpuppies. Everyone Welcome Happy Hour 4-7 p.m.

Grace Brethren Church to host family movie night

Grace Brethren Church, 701 S. Parrott Ave. will have a free family movie night, Friday, **July 1**, at 7 p.m. The Disney movie, "The Other Side of Heaven," is an epic adventure filled with breathtaking scenery set on the island of Tonga. Starring Anne Hathaway and Christopher Gorham, it is a movie for the whole family. There is no cost and the public is invited.

Post #4423 plans celebration in honor of Independence Day

Join VFW Post 4423 for a celebration of our country's independence! Friday, the kitchen will be open from 5 to 9 p.m. and they will have Karaoke by D & K (Danny & Kathy) from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday they will have \$2 burgers on the grill from noon to 2 p.m. A spaghetti dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. for a \$5 donation with Steve On A Stick (karaoke) playing form 7 to 10 p.m. Sunday Lori will be cooking chicken fried steak, potatoes, veggies, salad, roll and dessert from 2 to 4 p.m. for a \$6.50 donation with Steve on On A Stick providing music from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday at 2 p.m. There will be a pig roast with swamp cabbage and the fixings (covered dish appreciated). Music will be provided by D & K. Don't miss out on all the fun!

July Teen Dance is July 2

Come and join the fun at the Teen Dance Party planned for Saturday, **July 2**, from 7-10 p.m. The party is for teens and 'tweens from 12-15. The cost is just \$7 each and includes, pizza, chips, soda and entertainment including a live DJ with plenty of hip hop dance music, hula hoop and Limbo! Proceeds from the dance will benefit CASTLE - Child abuse services, training and life enrichment of the Treasure Coast. For information, please call Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996.

Legion Post #64 hosting NASCAR Sunday on Saturday

American Legion Post 64 host NFL/NASCAR Sunday, this week NASCAR will be on Saturday evening, **July 2**. Bring a covered dish and join the fun. Ladies Day all day buy one get one free. We have Happy Hour from 4-7 p.m.

Community yard sale planned for July 2

The Ladies Ministry at Okeechobee Church of God, 301 N.E. Fourth Avenue, will host a community yard sale on Saturday, **July 2**, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Have you wanted to have a yard sale? Not enough room, space or bad location? Spaces are \$10 each. There will also be a concession window. To reserve space call Norma Sue at 863-634-2930.

Eagles host Family Fun Day

Come join the North Eagles on Sunday, **July 3**, for a family fun day. We will have hamburgers for \$2 donation and hotdogs for \$1.50 donation, There will be horse shoe games, a dunk tank, and lots of fun for everyone.

Buckhead Ridge VFW to host July 4 celebration

Come join us at Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528 for a day of fun! July 4 celebration and 'Liar's Club.' Dinners will be available with Cornish hens, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and green peas for a \$7 donation. "Liar of the Year" will be crowned at the annual 'Liar's Club.' Join the club and you eat FREE Ladies Auxiliary will also hold a Cake Walk, Jail and Bail and Fireworks are set for sundown. We will have a membership drive throughout the event. For more information, please call Jonnie Patent at 863-467-0600

Legion Post #64 hosting July 4 party

American Legion Post 64 to host a 4th of July party from 1-4 p.m. Monday we will have food starting at 1 p.m., until it runs out. Cowboy Jody Karaoke from 1-4 p.m. Come join the fun. We will pick the winner of our grill at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome!



Celebrate A Life

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All Obituaries now include **Online Guestbooks** where family and friends can share reflections, remembrances and condolences.

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

newszap.com

Conkerr Cancer pillowcase 'sit & sew'

A Conkerr Cancer "sit and sew" event will be held on Tuesday, **July 5**, from 10:30 a.m., until 2:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue. Bring your sewing machine and fabric and sew with other ladies in our community who want to help make a difference to a child with cancer or other life changing illnesses.

Main Street Banquet slated

Okeechobee Main Street's annual dinner will be held on Thursday, **July 7**, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Williamson Conference Center of IRSC. This is the night that our officers and directors will be installed as well as a night to honor and pay tribute to our former president Maureen Burroughs for her many years of service to our community and Okeechobee Main Street. Dinner choices are roast beef, pork loin or baked chicken with the fixin's for \$20 per person. Advance ticket sales must be purchased by **July 6**, at the Main Street Office.

Quit Smoking Now!

Come to the Okeechobee County Public Library, 206 SW 16th Street, Okeechobee on Thursday, **July 7**, at 5:30 p.m. and find out how you can quit for good! There will be a total of six sessions each Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m. To register or for more information contact: 877-819-2357.

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.

Olga Esther Cruz, 77

OKEECHOBEE — Olga Esther Cruz, 77, died Tuesday, June 28, 2011, at her residence.

Born in Camaguay, Cuba, she relocated to Miami in 1960. She lived in Okeechobee for the past 33 years. She was of the Catholic faith. Her animals and cooking were her favorite pastimes.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Pedro Cruz and two sisters. She is survived by four children, Margarita (Jose), Ramon, Eddie (Mary), Maria Elena; grandchildren, Margarita, Sonia (Joe), Maria Elena (Jorge), all of Sarasota, Ed, Kylie, Kaylee, all of Okeechobee, and five residing in Cuba; great-grandchildren, Anthony, Tatum, Sebastian, all of Sarasota, Chloe of Okeechobee, and five residing in Cuba; and one great-great-grandchild residing in Cuba.

Visitation will be held Saturday, July 2, 2011, at the Buxton-Seawinds Chapel at 11 a.m. until service time of 2 p.m. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, friends may make contributions in memory of Olga to the funeral home.

Online condolences may be sent to www.buxtonseawinds.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home, 3833 S.E. 18th Terrace, Okeechobee, Fla.

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

The Okeechobee News will be closed *Monday, July 4th* for Independence Day

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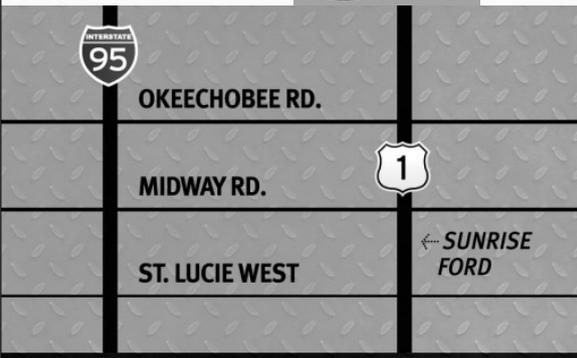
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Women's group plans upcoming fall conference



Special to the Okeechobee News/Robin Delgado

The Women Empowering Women host committee includes (left to right, sitting) Robin Delgado, Tami Karol Nicholas, Linda Probst and Holly Altman. Standing are Melissa Barnes and Susan Somerset Webb.

Planning committee works towards "Women Empowering Women Conference"

Ladies Power Lunch has announced the members of the host committee for its second "Women Empowering Women" business conference and expo scheduled for Nov. 3, at the Hutchinson Island Marriott.

Women attending this half-day conference, which begins at noon, will gain insight into sales, leadership and social media from lectures by three nationally-acclaimed keynote speakers. The program is designed to help all professional, ambitious women—entrepreneurs, freelancers, corporate executives, solopreneurs and career-switchers—elevate themselves beyond where they are

today. The conference will be one of the region's premier and most dynamic gatherings of female professionals.

The "Women Empowering Women" conference host committee members are: Robin Delgado, RDC Robin Delgado Consulting; Melissa Barnes, Bank Atlantic, Financial Advisor/Vice President; Linda Probst, Swiss Mango Web Consulting; Tami Karol Nicholas, Tami Karol Insurance Agency Inc.; Susan Somerset Webb, TapIntoYourLife.com; and, Holly Altman, Sweet Smiles, Corporate Gifts.

For more information about the conference and the featured keynote speakers, go to <http://www.powerlunchbunch.com>. Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are available. Profits will benefit the Treasure Coast Food Bank.



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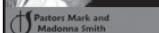
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Amateur radio operators show off emergency capabilities

“Radio Hams” from Okeechobee join in national deployment Public Demo of Emergency Communications, June 25-26

Okeechobee’s “hams” joined with thousands of Amateur Radio operators who were showing off their emergency capabilities this past weekend by meeting at the old EOC building to communicate with other “hams” nationwide via HF radio.

Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications during unexpected emergencies in towns across America including the California wildfires, winter storms, tornadoes and other events worldwide.

During Hurricane Katrina, Amateur Radio—often called “Ham Radio”—was often the ONLY way people could communicate, and hundreds of volunteer “hams” traveled south to save lives and property. When trouble is brewing, Amateur Radio’s people are often the first to provide rescuers with critical information and communications.

This annual event, called “Field Day” is the climax of the week long “Amateur Radio Week” sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators constructed emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and backyards around the country. Their slogan, “When All

Else Fails, Ham Radio Works” is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 35,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year’s event. “We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather’s radio anymore,” said Allen Pitts, call sign WIAGP, of the ARRL. “The communications that ham radio people can quickly create have saved many lives when other systems failed or were overloaded. And besides that – it’s fun!”

There are over 685,000 Amateur Radio licensees in the U.S., and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL’s Amateur Radio Emergency Services program, ham volunteers provide both emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies and nonemergency community services too, all for free.

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to www.emergency-radio.org. The public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams. See what modern Amateur Radio can do. They can even help you get on the air!

The Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club meets the second Monday of each month at the American Red Cross Office, 323 N. Parrott Ave, at 7 p.m. and encourages anyone interested in Ham Radio to attend. Meet the members and have a cup of coffee with us. The next meeting is Monday, July 11.



Special to the Okeechobee News/T.Timmons
Dave Fanter, call sign KA4DCF, is at the controls of the radio for the Amateur Radio National Field Day at the old EOC office in Okeechobee. Local “Ham” radio operators will meet on July 11 to update themselves on availability of radio equipment, discuss how they can help in local emergency situations and also to interface with local emergency operations management so they can be ready in the event of an emergency.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Grand Oaks

Special visit

Diane Wood, administrator of the Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility (ALF) in Okeechobee, and her staff, welcomed Deputy Sheriff Matt Crawford with “Nero” (right) and Deputy Sheriff Brian Cross with (Barco) (left) on Friday, June 24, who provided an in-depth K-9 demonstration for the residents of the facility. Assisting Ms. Wood was her grandson Maddox. A special thank you to Sheriff Paul May and his K-9 team from the Okeechobee County Sheriff’s Office for their support.

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Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

Shockwaves compete in swim meet

The Okeechobee Shockwaves Swim Team competed in a swim meet at the Okeechobee County Sports Complex on Saturday, June 25. The team competes against other South Florida teams. The next meet will be July 16 in Vero Beach. The championships will be July 29-31 in Coral Springs. The team has swimmers ages 5 to 18. Coach Laura Luchetta is coaching the team for the third year. The swimmers practice two hours a day, five days a week during the summer.



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

Swimmers line up for the start of a race. Due to the depth of the Okeechobee Sports Complex swimming pool, they cannot use diving starts.

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Okeechobee to host Taekwondo Tournament

Five counties to compete in upcoming martial arts event

Taekwondo is a Korean form of martial arts which means, foot (tae), hand (kwon) and art or way (do). Sparring taekwondo style typically involves about 70 percent kicking and 30 percent hands. The teaching of Taekwondo is a non-violent sport. It helps improve self-discipline to help children avoid conflict, develops self-control and increases their self-confidence.

The Russ Adams' Taekwondo Martial Arts school and Teresa Chandler are organizing the South Florida regional championship tournament for competitors from Okeechobee, Clermont, Orlando, Clewiston and St. Lucie counties on July 16. The event will be held at the Osceola Middle school gym from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The events scheduled include:

- 9 a.m. Black Belt Divisions Begin
- Noon - Padded Weapons Sparring

- 1 p.m. Juniors White through Sr. Red
- 2:30 p.m. All Colored Belt Adults & VIPs

Russ Adams is a local Certified Taekwondo instructor and has been serving Okeechobee since 1995. His school is a part of Taekwondo America, a national organization. Everyone is invited to come, see and be a part of this event. Competitors and parents will attend with an audience of approximately 400 people. The day will be filled with events, concession and exciting information on Martial Arts. The admission is \$5 per adult and children under 5 are free. All proceeds will benefit The B.R.A.T. Club (Building Relationships Among Teens) to help continue providing safe, fun-filled activities for our youth in Okeechobee.

For more information on the event or to become a sponsor, please call Russ Adams at 863-697-1206 or Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Russ Adams Taekwondo
In the first row from left to right are: T.J McKenna Jr. In the second row from left to right are: Cristian Morales, McKayla Skinner, Junior Certified Instructor, Mia Lazaro, and Juliet Skinner, Senior Certified Instructor. In the third row from left to right are: Senior Certified Instructor/ Owner Russ Adams, Hannah Morales, Nicolas Brown, Michael Lazaro and Travis McKenna Sr.

Sports News in Brief

All Stars raising money to go to championship

Okeechobee Dixie Allstars 10 and Under Angels Softball Team will host a golf tournament on Saturday, **July 2**, at 8:30 a.m. Shotgun start will be at 9 a.m. at Blue Heron Golf and Country Club. Cost is \$120 for a team of four players. They are seeking sponsors for a donation of \$50 a hole. They will have barbeque dinner for sale there for \$7 per plate. The All Stars team has three players from each team of the league that ended their regular season in May. They participated in tournaments in Okeechobee the past two weekends. They beat DeSoto once 14-2, and Lake Placid twice, 15-13 and 16-14, which qualified the girls to go the state championships in Carabelle on July 7, 8 and 9. Since the tournament is about 500 miles away, the team is raising funds to help pay for the travel and hotel expenses. For more information, call 863-634-2825.

Soccer Camp to open

Okeechobee Club Soccer is inviting youth ages 7-18 to participate in a week-long soccer camp **July 18-22**. The camp operates Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the soccer fields (across North Elementary). The cost is \$40 per camper, plus \$20 for additional siblings. Participants will work on fundamentals as well as intense training to build speed, agility and ball control. Registration is being held Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6-8 p.m., at the soccer fields. Parents must complete an application form and pay check or cash to Okeechobee Club Soccer. The last day to sign up is July 7. For more details, contact Coach Davy at 863-634-7852.

OCRA to hold fall sports sign ups on Saturdays in July

OCRA will hold sign ups for the 2011 football and cheerleading season on the following Saturdays including **July 9**, July 16 and July 23, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. under the score tower at the baseball complex. All children between the ages of 5-14 are eligible to sign up (age as of Aug. 31) The cost is \$75 per player, \$60 for second child, \$45 for cheerleaders, \$45 flag (5 and 6) A copy of child's birth certificate is a must at the time of sign up. Any question, please call 863-634-0515.

Public review and comment period to begin in August

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to announce the upcoming release for public review and comment of the draft Land Protection Plan (LPP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area (now anticipated for August 2011). To help save money, a digital copy of the draft LPP and EA will be available for download on the Internet at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/greater-everglades/>. Copies will also be mailed out to those who request them (please call 321.861.0667 or email EvergladesHeadwatersProposal@fws.gov to request a copy if you have not already done so and wish to receive a copy in the mail). And, copies will be available at the public meetings, which will be scheduled during the public review and comment period. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact us at: EvergladesHeadwatersProposal@fws.gov or phone us at 321.861.2368. Additional information can be found at the project's website: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/greatereverglades/>.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Shawn Owens

2011 District 6 Darlings Division Champions

The Okeechobee team won the District 6 Darlings Division Championship. They have earned the honor of participating in the 2011 State of Florida Championship Tournament on July 7 through 11 in Carabelle, Fla. The team includes: Riley Owens, Julia Smith, Alaina Sweat, Kiley Sadler, Elle Thomas, Lauren Sills, Adryauna Baker, Kelsie O'Cain, Bridgett Curl, Faith Vest, Justice Rodriguez, Matie Garcia and Myrasa Farmer. Coaches: Mike Sadler, David Farmer, Bryan Kennedy and Head Coach Shannon McAlhany.

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Dad arrested; DCF removes kids

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A state agency removed three small children from a man's home when it was reported that he was allegedly abusing prescription medications.

Joel C. Nettle, 31, S.E. 86th Blvd., Okeechobee, was arrested Wednesday, June 29, on a felony charge of child neglect. He is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail in lieu of \$1,500 bond.

An arrest report by Deputy Corporal Chris Hans, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that when a Department of Children and Families (DCF) investigator went to Nettle's home the man was apparently asleep on a couch.

While the investigator was trying to wake Nettle, two small shoeless children walked up to the residence and opened the door, stated the report. The investigator reportedly told Cpl. Hans that he had been outside the man's residence for 20 minutes and that Nettle "... was passed out on the couch and was unresponsive."

The report indicated that Nettle's three children range in age from 1 month to 4 years.

According to the deputy's report, Nettle has prescriptions for trazodone (an anti-depressant), tramadol (a pain killer) and alprazolam (for anxiety disorders).



Joel C. Nettle

Cpl. Hans said he found a prescription bottle for alprazolam, which is a generic form of xanax, that had been filled Tuesday, June 28. The deputy stated that the bottle was supposed to contain 90 pills that were to be taken three times a day.

However, continued the report, that bottle was empty.

When asked why the bottle was empty, Nettle reportedly told the deputy that "... someone must have stolen his pills."

At that point, Nettle was placed under arrest and the children were removed from the home by DCF.

Woman accused of selling oxycodone

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee woman was arrested by detectives with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force after she allegedly sold prescription medication in an undercover drug operation.



Alice Fay Moctezuma

Alice Fay Moctezuma-Vazquez, 55, U.S. 441 S.E., was arrested Tuesday, June 28, on felony charges of sale of a controlled substance (oxycodone) and possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone) with intent to sell. She was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of a legend drug (trazodone).

Moctezuma was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of

\$20,500. A task force detective's arrest report stated that Moctezuma sold 30mg oxycodone to a confidential source during the operation. Then, along with the Special Response Team from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), a search warrant was later executed on the woman's home.

According to the report detectives found a bottle of oxycodone 15mg on Moctezuma for which she has a valid prescription. Also found in the woman's bedroom was a pill bottle containing the anti-depressant trazodone. The label on that bottle indicated that it belonged to a man who does not live in the home and has no apparent familial ties to Moctezuma.

Trazodone is a non-scheduled drug.

Okeechobee Arrest Report

The following individuals were arrested on felony or driving under the influence (DUI) charges by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the Department of Corrections (DOC).

- Britney Allison Dorgan, 20, Mississippi Ave., Clewiston, was arrested June 24 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on a Hendry County warrant charging her with failure to appear for a felony offense. Her bond was set at \$700.

- Carlos Javier Garcia, 26, S.E. 26th St. Okeechobee, was arrested June 26 by Deputy Joseph Hall on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation possession of a controlled substance (two counts). He is being held without bond.

- Brandon Clinton Pitt, 19, N.W. 36th St., Okeechobee, was arrested June 27 by Deputy Steven Pollock on Okeechobee County warrants charging him with failure to ap-

pear - theft of a firearm and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He is being held without bond.

- Kelsey Nicole Yother, 23, S.E. 26th St., Okeechobee, was arrested June 27 by Deputy Arlene Durbin on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with violation of probation - aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Her bond was set at \$202.84.

- Randy Ted Thornton, 28, N.E. Third Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested June 27 by Deputy Steven Pollock on a warrant charging him with violation of community release - burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, violation of community release - grand theft, violation of community release - battery on a law enforcement officer and violation of community release - grand theft motor vehicle. He is being held without bond.

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

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WEDDING
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. ILLUSTRATION
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Illustration were married on June 2, 2011 in Local Church. The bride and groom were officiated by the Rev. Dr. John Smith. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith.

BIRTH
SUSAN A. EXAMPLE
Susan A. Example was born at 2:08 pm on June 2, 2011, at Friendly Hospital. She weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. Her mother is Mrs. Jane A. Example and her father is Mr. John A. Example. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example and Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example. Her great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example and Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example. Her great-great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example.

ANNIVERSARY
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. EXAMPLE
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Example celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary with family and friends on June 2, 2011. The couple were married on October 2, 1981 at Local Church in the presence of their families. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example.

ENGAGEMENT
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. EXAMPLE
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Example announced their engagement on June 2, 2011. The couple are both graduates of Okeechobee Central High School. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Example.

MEDICAL

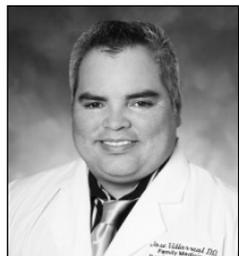
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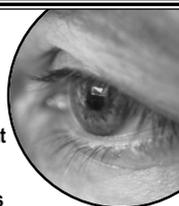
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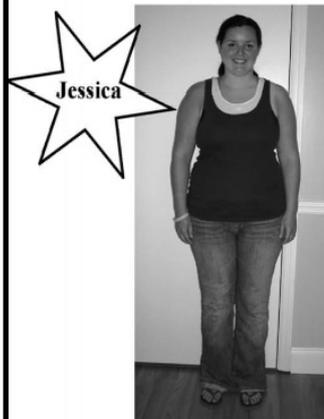
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COUNTY

Continued From Page 1

to attrition.

One area of concern is Okee Tantie Campground and Marina. Current figures indicate a \$150,000 shortfall which could call for a reduction in staff and operations. Boat slip rentals are down. Mrs. Chartier said that

PILLS

Continued From Page 1

dealt more with the doctor-patient relationship.

Planning official Bill Royce said the misuse of pain management clinics is a serious problem that the county should attack from as many different directions as possible.

Under the proposed ordinance pain management clinics would be limited to operating in light commercial and heavy commercial zoning districts only. Pain management clinics would also be banned from operating within 250 feet of U.S. Highway 441 and State Road 70. Mr. Cassels said the proposed ordinance would make a pain management clinic less visible and more of a local facility. The ordinance also requires a pain management clinic to be located within one half mile of a general hospital. Mr. Cassels said that legitimate doctors who have offices near a hospital could help police any illegitimate practices. He added that medical facilities would be close by in case of any emergency.

A pain management clinic could not operate within 100 feet of another pain management clinic or within the same building or within 500 feet of a pharmacy. They would not be able to operate between the

the bait and tackle sales was the only part of the operation doing all right. She suggested possibly using an online reservation system to save money. Commissioner Bryant Culpepper suggested looking into privatization of the park. He volunteered to look for funding sources for the park.

Mrs. Chartier said that revenues from the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center are still short of expenses and host fees and

hours of 6 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Another provision of the ordinance would prohibit pain management clinics from operating on a "cash only" basis.

Pain management clinics would be required to keep personnel records on employees including all criminal convictions.

Records would be required on patients that include gender, race, age group and the initial two digits of the zip code of the patient's address. "If 99 percent of the zip codes do not start with '34' there is an issue," said Mr. Cassels.

There is also language in the proposed ordinance dictating the wording on signs for pain management clinics. A pain management clinic would have to be operated by an approved pain specialist or be a Florida Agency for Health Care Administration licensed operation.

Turning to other matters, the board approved a special exception and the development plan for an outdoor shooting range in an agriculture zoning district at 63412 N.E. 96th Ave. The property owner, JL Partners, LLC, plans to build a shooting range, an archery range and a range for sporting clays in addition to primitive and RV campsites on the 80 acre site.

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

the small county surtax were being used to make up the difference.

Mrs. Chartier intends to have a tentative budget ready by July 15 and a tentative millage rate by Aug. 4.

Budget workshops were set for 9 a.m. until noon on July 26, from 2 to 5 p.m. on July 28, from 9 a.m. until noon on Aug. 1 and from 2 to 5 p.m. on Aug. 3. The first public hearing on the budget was set for 6 p.m. on Sept. 8.

It must be remembered that the above figures are preliminary and are subject to change as more exact figures become available.

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Coffee with the Commissioner date set for July

Coffee with the Commissioner will be hosted by Commissioner Joey Hoover on Tuesday, July 12, from 10 a.m.-noon, and will be held in Commissioner Hoover's office located at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Room 244, Okeechobee. Citizens wishing to participate are encouraged to call 863-763-6441 to schedule an appointment.

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ON RIM CANAL - 1 BR Cottage w/screen porch. Overlooking rim canal. \$150 week, utilities included. (772)359-1640

Commercial Property

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

Condos/Townhouses Rent

KINGS BAY - 2br, 1ba, W/D, very clean, tile floors \$575 + sec. (863)763-2414

TAYLOR CREEK CONDO 1/1 Unfurnished. Power/water/sewer/pool included. \$725 per mo. 1st mo. FREE! Call 561-262-9316

Houses - Rent

2bd/2ba - Den and Fl room on 5 acres. Rent with option to buy. Between Indiantown and Okeechobee. \$1,090.00 monthly Call 772-260-3068

AFFORDABLE - New Houses, 3/1/1 = \$900, 3/2/2 = \$1100, Large yards. Bring pets. Washer/Dryer included. Call 561-723-2226

Basswood - 3br, 2ba, CBS, \$875/mo + \$875 sec. No pets Call (772)528-7004 or (863)697-6817

CBS House 3bd/1 1/2ba SW section, near Wal Mart 1600 SW 3rd Ave Okeechobee. First, last and sec \$900 a month \$2,000 to move in (863)634-0512

Dixie Ranch Estates, 3BR, 2BA CBS, fenced yard, tile floors, new bathroom, W/D hookups, D/W. Small pets allowed \$800/mo + \$500 electric dep. Call 561-596-1344 or 561-596-8310

MODERN BRICK: 3BR, 2.5BA, 1 car garage. New carpet. On Rim Canal w/Boat dock. Rent \$875/mo. Optional 1/BR cottage w/dining room. Please call (772)359-1640

Houses - Rent

"Nice!"Waterfront House: For rent or sale. 2bd/1ba in Buckhead Ridge, furnished, desirable location. Rent \$800 monthly, Sale 100% financing possible. Call Sheryl 561-746-0448 or 561-352-5977

Okeechobee Hammock
3 Bedroom/2 Bath 2009 CBS Custom Home Asking \$850.00 Monthly Well Maintained 8622 SE 68th Drive David May 863-610-1980 Big Lake Real Estate

OKEECHOBEE 4br, 2ba, tile throughout, \$800 mo. & up. 1st & sec. moves you in. (561)248-3888 or (863)599-0156

OKEECHOBEE (SE Section) 3 br/2 ba, with carport. Nice neighborhood. \$895 mo. plus Sec. 863-634-1567.

SMALL - 1BR, 1 1/2BA, Lg. storage room, newly decorated, kitchen remodeled, all new appliances. SW 7th Ave., \$550 mo. 1st, last & sec. dep. Call (863) 357-1197

Office Space Rent

Professional office space for rent.
Park Street Office Suites
Down Town Okeechobee
Starting@ \$250.00 per month
863-634-7622

Vacation Rentals

Choose from 2/2 or 1/1 Beautifully furnished rentals located at River Bluff Fishing Resort on the Kissimmee River. With or without utilities. Call today, You'll thank your vacation!(863)467-4317

Waterfront Rentals

PRIVATE PENINSULA ON TAYLOR CREEK NICELY FURNISHED 2/1 ADULTS ONLY FROM \$700 CALL (863)-697-1280

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

Houses - Sale

2 Houses on 5 acres with pond asking \$239,900 Call 772-260-3068

TREASURE ISLAND LARGE 4BR, 2BA, CBS house on the water. \$159,000. LARGE 3 BR, 2 BA Dblwide. w/screened pool, many upgrades, on the water. \$149,000. Will lease for \$1200 mo. + dep. \$2900 move in. Call (863)634-9119

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

Mobile Home Rent

DBL WIDE - 3br, 2ba, in Four Seasons, completely remodeled, too much to list, \$800/mo, Call (863)634-8885

OKEE- Unfurnished DW. 3 BR, 2 BA, Sunroom. New carpets & appl's. On Canal w/access to lake. 2 Car Carport. C/Air & Heat. Lease only. \$800 mo. + sec. dep. Call 772-794-2438 or 772-538-8183.

TREASURE ISLAND 2br/2ba on the water. 1br on the water. 3br/2ba (Concrete Home on the water). Nice area. Small pets OK. From \$500. (561)262-1390. Free Month Rent.

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

Palm Harbor Homes
Has closed 2 Model Centers. Save up to 60K on select models! Call Today! 800-622-2832

Mobile Home Sale

FOR SALE
3 Bedroom Mobile Home with 2 lots & access to river.
44 Boondock Rd. \$40,000
Call 863-763-2346 or 863-610-4625

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

18' Pontoon Boat with trailer, 50 hp. Johnson 1992 runs good. Asking \$3,500 Call 863-261-1891

1983 Fury PONTOON - All aluminum including deck w/150hp Johnson motor and custom tandem trailer. Includes generator and lights for night fishing. Must see. \$9,500.00 or (863)273-9318 or (863)655-5852

1993 Harris DECK BOAT - Set up for fishing. 70hp Johnson w/SS prop and trolling plate. Bimini Top. Good condition. Must see. \$ 4 , 9 0 0 . 0 0 (863)273-9318

24' Chaparral 1974 Cab-in. In-Out board, New motor never used. Needs outdrive work (Merc. Cruise) 2002 Loma Aluminum trailer (used one time) \$ 4 5 0 0 . 0 0 (863)467-1542

PRO CRAFT Bass boat-20 ft. 200 hp mercury, tandem trl. Only 16 orig. hrs. Garage kept, New cond., loaded with extras. Paid \$35K, asking \$15K, Call Mike at 863-675-3424.

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

Automobiles

OTHER - TOP DOLLAR PAID FOR YOUR JUNK CAR OR TRUCK. PHONE PAUL AT 863 801 8278

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

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

Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE
A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on Friday the 8th day of July 2011 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows:

1996 RED MERCURY COUGAR 1MELM6244TH608998

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" with no guarantees. 391119 ON 7/1/2011

John F. Hayford
Executive Director
390926 ON 7/1/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2011TD053

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2572** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **TREASURE ISLAND UNIT 8 LOT 286**

1-25-37-35-0090-00080-2860
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**DOANNA H LEE
JOHN ROWE
SHANNON P LEE**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **14th day of July, 2011**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990:
In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
388009 ON 6/3,10,17,24/2011

SUDOKU

2						6	
5	3	8	6		9	7	
7		5	9	3			8
1		9	7				8
9	7			4	5		
4	5	3	8	1		9	
	5		1		7	3	6
	7	4	2			1	9
	1			5			2

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

2	7	8	9	5	1	6	1	8
6	5	1	8	8	2	7	1	9
9	8	1	6	7	1	2	9	8
1	6	9	1	8	8	9	2	7
8	1	9	7	2	9	1	8	6
7	8	2	9	1	6	9	5	1
8	2	7	6	8	9	1	9	1
1	1	6	2	9	8	6	7	9
9	9	8	1	7	4	9	6	2

ANSWER:

Public Notice

NOTICE OF OUA MEETING.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 8:30 A.M., at the Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

The needs of hearing or visually impaired persons, shall be met by contacting the Executive Director's Office at 863-763-9460 at least 48 hours prior to the Meeting by any person wishing assistance.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Authority with respect to such meetings, he or she will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made; which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Such person may provide a court reporter, stenographer, or tape recorder for such verbatim record.

BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford
Executive Director
390926 ON 7/1/2011

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2011TD047

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **870** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOT M OF TRACT 12 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF S1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 12 25 34S 33E**

1-25-34-33-0A00-00012-M000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**HOWARD D EVANS
YVONNE M EVANS**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **14th day of July, 2011**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990:
In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
388002 ON 6/3,10,17,24/2011

RFP 2011-16 OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS GRANT ADMINISTRATION AND ACTIVITY DELIVERY SERVICES FOR: NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM 3 (NSP-3) GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY ENHANCEMENT FUNDS (DREF) GRANT

Notice is hereby given that Okeechobee County, Florida, hereby requests proposals from qualified individuals or firms to provide grant administration and activity delivery services for CDBG Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 (NSP-3) Grant in the amount of \$1,029,844 and Disaster Recovery Enhancement Funds (DREF) Grant in the amount of \$174,145.72. Proposals may be submitted for both grants or for a single grant and will be evaluated separately for each grant.

Inquiries and/or requests for additional information may be obtained by contacting Robbie L. Chartier, Interim County Administrator, at (863)763-6441 or fax (863)763-9529 or on the county's web page www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/courtydocuments. Contracts resulting from the process will be subject to state and federal requirements and grant award and release of funds by the funding agency. The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, waive technical errors, waive any informalities or irregularities, and award the contracts in the best interest of the County.

Administration services may include management and reporting for the grant(s), environmental review, contract development and administration, financial administration, labor standards compliance, reporting, and other necessary tasks. Housing service activities/project administration should be described specifically as a separate task. A scope of work outlining tasks to be performed for each service must be included in the proposals.

Proposers desiring to provide the services described in this RFP shall include a title page, table of contents, letter of transmittal, profile of proposer, and summary of proposer's qualifications. Proposals must include a fee proposal, which may include a separate fee for activity delivery.

Interested parties shall submit an original and three (3) copies thereof in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the proposer and the words "PROPOSAL FOR CDBG NSP-3 and/or CDBG DREF GRANT ADMINISTRATION AND ACTIVITY DELIVERY SERVICES" no later than 3:00 p.m. EDT on July 13, 2011, to the Board of County Commissioners, 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 222, Okeechobee, FL 34972. Proposals received after the time and date specified will be returned to the submitter unopened. Proposals for each grant submitted will be opened and evaluated by a committee (separately) as soon thereafter as possible.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER; FAIR HOUSING & HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE JURISDICTION.
Okeechobee County accepts no responsibility for any expense related to preparation or delivery of proposals, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, reserves the right to award a separate contract for each grant program, to waive technical errors and informalities, and to accept the proposal, which in its judgment, best serves the public interest.

Okeechobee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Margaret Garrard-Helton, Chair
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida
391184 ON 7/1/2011

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Fire/Rescue personnel hold Miss Firecracker pageant

By Bobbi Poole

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Miss Firecracker pageant was held June 25, sponsored by the Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue volunteers. The winners were:

Baby Miss:

Photogenic winner: Patricia Entry
 Best dressed: Patricia Entry
 Most beautiful: Kayden Saunders
 Winner: Patricia Entry
 1st runner up: Kayden Saunders

Toddler Miss:

Winner Maci Gagliardi
 1st runner up: Charlotte Burks
 2nd runner up: Andie Elliot
 Photogenic: Maci Gagliardi
 Best dressed: Maci Gagliardi
 Most beautiful: Maci Gagliardi

Tiny Miss:

Photogenic winner: Adleigh Schwier
 Best dressed: Rylee Bowers
 Most beautiful: Adleigh Schwier
 Winner: Adleigh Schwier
 1st runner up: Bailey Bowers

Pee Wee Miss:

Winner: Anaya Gomez
 1st runner up: Jaelyn Lineberry
 2nd runner up: Jaylah Nolan
 3rd runner up: Esperanza Gomez
 Photogenic: Jaelynn Nolan
 Best dressed: Anaya Gomez
 Most beautiful: Jaelyn Lineberry

Little Miss:

Photogenic: Tristen Simmons
 Best dressed: Mackenzie Ayala
 Most beautiful: Mackenzie Ayala
 Winner: Mackenzie Ayala
 1st runner up: Livi Campbell
 2nd runner up: Jillian Durfee

Petite Miss:

Photogenic winner: Kayleigh Crum
 Best dressed: Kayleigh Crum
 Most beautiful: Kayleigh Crum
 Winner: Kayleigh Crum
 1st runner up: Payton Besaw
 2nd runner up: Harley Davis.

Junior Miss:

Winner: Destiny Whaeln
 1st runner up: Julie Arnold
 Photogenic winner: Destani Whalen
 Best dressed: Julie Arnold
 Most beautiful: Destani Whalen

Miss Firecracker:

Winner: Taylor Fulford
 1st runner up: Brittany Avant
 2nd runner up: Tiffany Bowers
 3rd runner up: Ashley Mullin
 Photogenic winner: Taylor Fulford
 Best dressed: Tiffany bowers
 Most beautiful: Brittany Avant

Baby master:

Winner: Jose Garcia
 Photogenic: Jose Garcia
 Best dressed: Jose Garcia
 Most handsome: Jose Garcia



Special to the Okeechobee News/Bobbi Poole

Miss Firecracker winners

The Miss Firecracker pageant winners were (left to right) 3rd runner up Ashley Mullin, winner Taylor Fulford, 1st runner up Brittany Avant, 2nd runner up Tiffany Bowers.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Bobbi Poole

Tiny Miss Firecracker

Adleigh Schwier (far right) was crowned Tiny Miss Firecracker in the pageant held June 25 in the Okeechobee High School lecture hall. Bailey Bowers (second from right) was runner up. Other contestants were Rylee Bowers, Sumberlie Villars and Cheyenne Wilson. The information with the photo in the June 29 edition was incorrect. We regret the error and any confusion it may have caused.

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We pledge to operate our newspaper as a public trust.

We believe journalists are nothing more than guardians of every citizen's right to a free press. We have no authority to compromise, bargain away or dishonor the principles underlying the First Amendment.

We don't play loose with the facts. We give notice to your opinions, not ours. We encourage vigorous discussion of public issues, but try to keep everybody's comments within the bounds of fair play.

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