Okeechobee News

Vol. 102 No. 80 | Wednesday, July 6, 2011 | 50¢ Plus tax

Rodeo team heads for finals ... Page 3

Strong men compete for title ... Page 19

Lake Levels

9.83 feet
Last Year: 14.11 feet

Sponsored By:

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Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level

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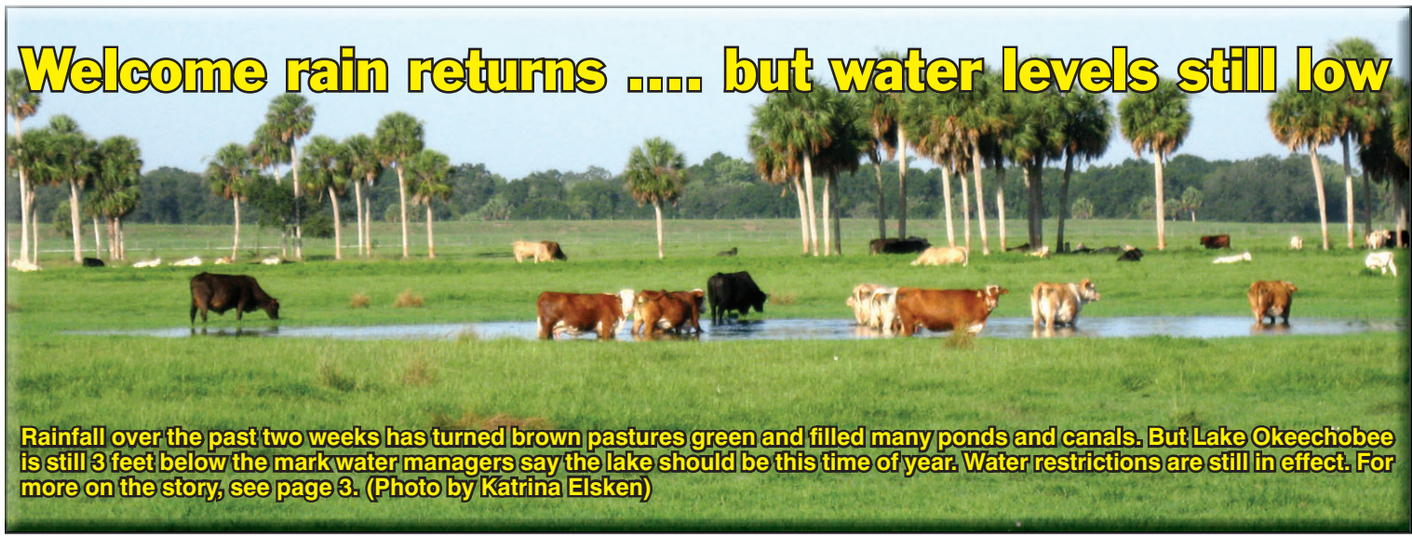

Welcome rain returns .... but water levels still low

Rainfall over the past two weeks has turned brown pastures green and filled many ponds and canals. But Lake Okeechobee is still 3 feet below the mark water managers say the lake should be this time of year. Water restrictions are still in effect. For more on the story, see page 3. (Photo by Katrina Elsken)

Ex-YMS teacher being held without bond

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A former middle school teacher and youth pastor returned late last month to the Okeechobee County Jail is not only facing a new felony charge, but he also has a new tattoo stating his love for a 13-year-old girl.

Joel Huddleston

Joel Huddleston, 28, is now being held without bond in the Okeechobee County Jail following his arrest on a felony charge of tampering with a witness/victim.

Huddleston was first arrested May 5 on charges of lewd and lascivious molestation on a child 12-16 years of age and lewd and lascivious conduct offender over 18 years of age. He was then released on bond with the stipulation that

See HUDDLESTON — Page 2

Special to the Okeechobee News/OCSO

Joel Huddleston's new tattoo features the name of the girl he is accused of molesting. The girl's name was blurred to protect her identity.

County jobless rates consistent in June

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County continued to have a double digit unemployment rate in May according to the monthly report from the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program.

Okeechobee had 2,119 residents collect benefits, a rate of 11.1 percent. The jobless rate stood at 10.8 percent in April when 2,042 residents collected benefits. In May, 2010, the jobless rate stood at 11.2 percent with 2,124 residents able to collect benefits.

Glades County had a jobless rate of 8.4 percent in May. There were 485 residents who collected benefits in May. In April the jobless rate was 8.3 percent with 479 able to collect benefits. In May, 2010, the jobless rate stood at 9.0 with 488 people unemployed and collecting benefits.

The State jobless rate was 10.5 percent in May. The national rate was 8.7 percent. Those

See JOBS — Page 2

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HUDDLESTON

Continued From Page 1

he was to have no contact with the victim in this case.

In early June Detective Bill Suggs, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), learned that Huddleston, who was now living in his parent's home in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and the now-13-year-old victim in this case were contacting each other on Facebook.

This contact violated the stipulation of his release on bond so Detective Suggs obtained a warrant for tampering and had Huddleston arrested and returned to Okeechobee.

While waiting extradition back to Okeechobee, Huddleston apparently was given a tattoo that included the name of the victim. On one side of the victim's name were Greek symbols that spell out the word 'agape' which means eternal love, said the detective. On the other side of the victim's name is a heart and the word 'forever.'

"It appears to be a jailhouse tattoo," said Detective Suggs.

The tattoo not only indicates the child's name, but shows her last name to now be "Huddleston."

Huddleston was returned to Okeechobee on June 30.

The former Yearling Middle School teacher and girls basketball coach was arrested after he was reportedly caught in bed with the girl by his wife. Huddleston's wife apparently came home and found her husband and nearly nude child asleep on a bed.

She took photos of her husband and the child with her cell phone and gave them to the sheriff's office.

In his arrest report, Detective Suggs said the girl was nude from the waist up and the only clothing she had on were her underpants.

Huddleston, added the report, was fully clothed.

The detective said in an interview that the child is now in foster care with the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

The OCSO investigator went on to state in his report that Huddleston initially denied "doing anything inappropriate," even though he admitted to locking the bedroom door. He reportedly told deputies that he and the child "were just cuddling."

Huddleston was originally arrested on a charge of lewd and lascivious molestation. The second charge came about as a direct file by Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright.

Mr. Albright explained that he filed the second charge because while it is a lesser count to the first charge, it is not a lesser included charge. Both charges are second degree felonies.

"I added it as a second count. It's sort of like a lesser offense," he said. "But, it arises out of the same course of action."

Huddleston is scheduled to be back in front of Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger on July 14. Court records indicate that he is being represented by defense attorney Wayne Richter.

JOBS

Continued From Page 1

figures were virtually identical to the jobless rates in April.

Okeechobee was ranked as the 10th highest unemployment rate among Florida Counties in May. Glades County was 49th highest among Florida Counties.

Hendry County had the highest jobless rate at 13.3 percent last month. Monroe County had the lowest jobless rate at 6.3 percent.

Around the Big Lake region, Martin County had 10.1 percent, Palm Beach County 10.2 percent, St. Lucie County 12.5 percent, and Highlands County 10.3 percent.

Red Cross training classes planned for July

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

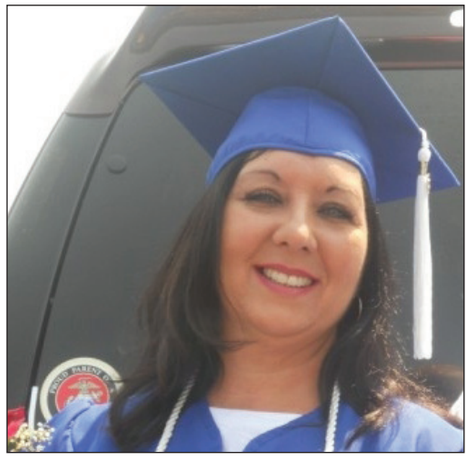
- Wednesday, July 6-First Aid Basics;
- Tuesday, July 12-Adult CPR/AED; and,
- Thursday, July 21-Infant/Child CPR/AED.

All classes begin at 6 p.m. and are held at their local office located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register or for more information, please call 863-763-2488.

GRADUATION

SHERYL TANNER

Sheryl Tanner of Okeechobee, had her graduation ceremony at New Mercies Christian Church in Lilburn, Georgia on June 4th, 2011, with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Criminal Investigations. She is the daughter of Carol Davis and the last Milton Davis and the late Don Crawford. She is pursuing a career as a Crime Scene Technician and hopes to continue her education to obtain a position in a Crime Lab.



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Rainy season arrives, but water levels still low

Following one of its latest starts in two decades, the wet season has finally arrived to begin recharging regional groundwater levels, lakes, rivers and canals across the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). However, significant time and rainfall will be necessary for this short-term relief to bring long-term improvement from months of record drought conditions.

The 16-county region averaged 5.92 inches of rainfall in June, which still represents a deficit of about 2 inches District-wide for the month. The June deficit for the coastal areas of Palm Beach, Broward and Miami -Dade counties ranged from 4 to 5 inches.

"While it is encouraging to report that the Upper Kissimmee and Caloosahatchee basins received nearly 100 percent of their historic June rainfall, we need to see this daily rainfall pattern continue across large portions of South Florida before key areas such as Lake Okeechobee and the Water Conservation Areas begin to reach normal water levels," said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. "While relief is in sight, certain portions of the District are still facing rainfall deficits of more than a foot and, without adequate rainfall during the wet season, we could enter the next dry season still in a deficit."

Much of June's rainfall fell during the past week, with an average of 3.5 inches District-wide. Some localized areas received a maximum of about 9 inches. Lake Okeechobee rose more than two inches to 9.77 feet NGVD on Friday, July 1. More rain over the weekend also helped. On Tuesday, July 5, the lake was at 9.83 feet. Eastern Palm Beach County, one of the areas hardest hit by the drought, averaged 2 to 4 inches of rain last week. The Southwest Coast averaged 3 to nearly 5 inches, while Martin and St. Lucie counties averaged 2 to 4 inches.

However, signs of the driest October-to-mid-June period on record in South Florida remain. Groundwater levels are still significantly below average for this time of year. There is currently little to no flow down the Kissimmee River to Lake Okeechobee. The lake still remains more than 3 feet below its historic average for this time of year. Other key storage areas, such as the Water Conservation Areas, are also still below their optimal water levels.

The U.S. Drought Monitor lists much of the region in extreme to exceptional drought conditions, the driest on the scale.

A burn ban remains in place on SFWMD public lands because of the remaining threat of wildfires. The ban means fires in grills, fireplaces or fire rings are not permitted. The Okeechobee County burn ban was lifted Saturday, July 2. A statement from Okeechobee County Interim Public Safety Director David McCain stated, "In response to the current conditions, Okeechobee County along with the City of Okeechobee are lifting the city and county-wide burn ban which prohibited the burning of yard trash or other types of open fires, such as campfires, bonfires, burn barrels and the use of fireworks. Due to the recent amount of rainfall and the decline in the Drought Index and Fire Danger Index, conditions are suitable for the burn ban to be lifted."

The SFWMD is closely monitoring water levels and is urging residents and businesses to conserve their water use and continue to closely follow landscape irrigation restrictions. Like the rest of the district, Okeechobee County is still under mandatory water restrictions. Landscape irrigation is prohibited between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Even addresses, installations with irrigation systems that irrigate both even and odd addresses within the same zones, such as multi-family units and homeowners' associations, and rights-of-way or other locations with no address, may accomplish necessary landscape irrigation only on Thursday and Sunday. Odd addresses may water only on Wednesday and Saturday.

Preliminary OUA budget shows little increase

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

It's budget time once again. So far, the Okeechobee Utility Authority appears to be holding the line on expenses. At their meeting on June 15 The OUA Board of Directors approved a preliminary budget that showed little actual increase and no rate increases.

"We have a balanced budget with anticipated revenues meeting projected expenses," stated John Hayford, OUA's executive director.

The preliminary budget contains no rate increase. However, Mr. Hayford cautioned that, in the final budget, the board could decide on a rate increase that could be set aside strictly for debt retirement as the previous two rate increases were. He said that at some time either now or in the future the board would have to address long term debt.

The proposed budget also includes a one-time 2 percent bonus for employees. If approved, this would be the first increase for employees since 2009. Finance director Basil Coule stated that some savings have resulted from leaving vacant non-critical positions unfilled.

"You want to present a budget that is reflective of cost," Mr. Coule said. "We have been trimming the budget a little at a time as we absorb the increasing cost of commodities."

While OUA is a quasi-governmental organization, OUA employees do not fall under the state retirement system. They belong to the city's pension program.

Red cross seeks disaster volunteers!

The American Red Cross is looking for Disaster Services Volunteers for this Hurricane Season! There are 4 main areas where volunteers are needed: Shelter Operations, Mass Care Feeding, Damage Assessment, Administrative Functions.

All necessary training is free of charge, and a background check will be required. If you would like to give of your time and talents to help your local community residents in times of disaster, please call your Okeechobee Branch office at 863-763-2488.

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A Heartfelt Thank You

My heart is full of gratitude and love for all the lessons and blessings I have received since my recent injury and surgery.
God is providing for my every need through the obedience of His children.
For all the prayers, food, cards, calls, visits and participation in the luncheon fundraiser, I am eternally grateful.
To my sisters in the Esther Sunday School Class, the choir, the community, all my Christian family at First Baptist, your generosity is overwhelming.

Connie Abney

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!

Casey Anthony trial

• The defense is there to confuse, all the black and the white should soon turn to grey. The prosecution is there to amuse, all the thoughts and affections to be nursed along the way. The judge gives the rules, and the yes and the no, not a thought to be cared for, no opinion to show. The jury is taught to be mindfully mindless, fact after fact, witness after witness. Who then holds the keys to this magnificent riddle? Of course it's the Court Bailiff, he's stuck in the middle.

• I've been watching, and I doubt we will ever know what really happened to Caylee during the 31 days that Casey was out partying, and robbing her friend's checking account. Watching her sit emotionless in the courtroom, when her family members melt down on the witness stand makes me view her as some kind of sociopath. I don't have any sympathy for her whatsoever, and I think she is as guilty as sin.

School grades

• School grades: Central Elementary School - A; OHS - pending; South Elementary School - A; Yearling Middle School - A; North Elementary School - B; Everglades Elementary School - B; Seminole Elementary School - A; Osceola Middle School - C. What happened to Osceola?

• The teachers at Osceola Middle didn't teach the test very well did they? Maybe they spent the time teaching stuff like reading, writing, math, history, civics, science ...

• They should just get rid of the FCAT and focus on actual education. Kids today can't even tell you how our country came to be. Future generations will be less educated than the previous generation.

• If they keep graduating kids from Florida schools, they'll have to build more McDonalds.

• That's where Scott's 700,000 jobs are coming from.

• It's a shame what our kids are not taught in school. Future generations will be at a tremendous disadvantage.

• Schools can't do it all. What about the parents? Are they reading to the children at home, and listening to the children read to them? Or are they all just watching television? If you are watching television, do you have it on the history channel or the science channel, or is it always on a mind-numbing cartoon or sit-com? Are the parents using everyday situations to help teach their kids about math and science? Cooking is a perfect teaching moment. You measure the ingredients, and adjust if you want to increase the number of servings, which means you have to multiply fractions. Cooking is also a great chance to illustrate scientific concepts, like water boiling and turning from a liquid into a gas, or solids dissolving into a liquid.

Get to work

• How is Governor Scott ever going to keep his promise about putting Floridians back to work? So far, he seems to eliminating jobs faster than the economy is creating new ones. Look at the cuts in the South Florida Water Management District budget. That is going to put quite a few people out of work.

July 4

• I think it is sad that Okeechobee County did not have any kind of local celebration to mark the Fourth of July. We have Main Street and a new Chamber of Commerce and lots of service clubs but no one thought to organize any kind of community celebration. What happened to the Jaycees. That was their big project for years? Do we even have Jaycees anymore? What about the American Legion? They used to organize the Fourth of July parade? Have they all gotten too old to do it? When times are tough, it's more important than ever for the community to pull together. Maybe someone will pick up the ball and get something going for next year. Even if we can't afford fireworks, maybe we could do something like a parade or raft races. It just seems like such a shame that we ignored our nation's birthday.

Letters to the editor

Rodeo team thanks community for support

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Missie Peaden**

Okeechobee High School Rodeo Team includes (in the top row): Nat Stratton and Tyler Mills; bottom row: Josh Keese, Andrew Holmes, Austin Holmes. Not in the photo: Carlie Lanier, Garrett Rucks and Jacob Anuez.

OHS Rodeo Team would like to take the opportunity to thank such a wonderful community for all their support with our travel fundraisers. Traveling across the U.S. to represent Florida at the National High School Rodeo Finals is both a huge honor and expensive responsibility. Without the gracious support of self-less businesses, ranchers, farmers and residents these trips would not be able to happen for these children. The support and generosity for the children in Okeechobee County is one that cannot be compared anywhere else. A special Thank You to Okeechobee Livestock Market for allowing us to hold our Annual Cake Auction. Thank you, Danny Marsocci at Bill's Mini Mart, for your donation toward the $500 Gas Card. The winner of the Gas Card was Adam Osceola. Thank you to Golden Coral for allowing us to hold many celebrity servers throughout the year. These events are always a lot of fun and very successful. There are so many local businesses and residents who help in many different ways to give to these kids. Thank you also to Billy Dean and Okeechobee News for always keeping the community up to date with our news. We truly appreciate each and everyone of you.

Missie Peaden and the OHS rodeo team

Grand opening a success

Thank you to all who attended the Grand Opening of Total Roadside Service on Saturday, June 25. We had almost 250 people come out, eat lunch and win prizes, including two sets of tires.

We are proud to say we are a locally owned and operated business and have been happy to serve Okeechobee and the surrounding areas for over 10 years. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and look forward to you visiting our new location on S.R. 710 E.

The new building also incorporates solar to supplement the energy consumption, and the shop and office can operate almost solely on the solar panels. In addition to our local commitment to the community, we are also excited to be the first building in Okeechobee which incorporates this technology.

Thank you again and hope to see you soon.

(At left)
Jeremy and Tabatha Larue

Owners and Operators of Total Roadside Service

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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

We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
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- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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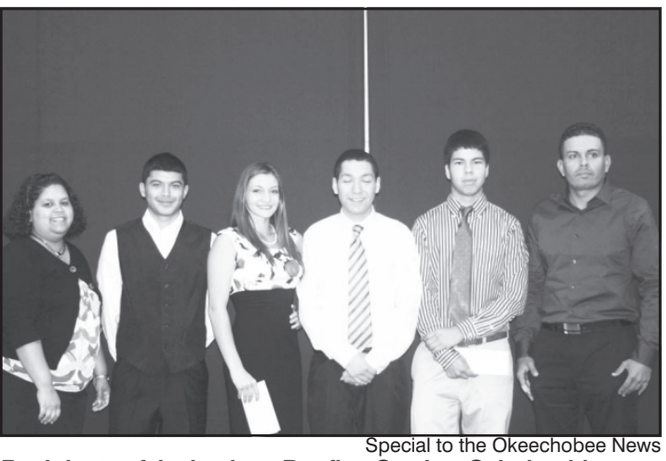
2011 OHS Scholarship Night

Special to the Okeechobee News

Recipients of the Jimmy Gary Jr. Refuse To Be Denied Scholarship were Adam Brandel, Erick McQueen and Courtney Wilson. Scholarship awards were presented by JoAnne Rhinehart and Jimmy Gary 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 Luviano Construction Co., Inc. Scholarship were Victoria Bostic, Sarah Brewer, Hector Lopez and Jesus Nunez. Scholarship awards were presented by Flerida Algarin and Osiel Luviano 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 Luviano Roofing Co., Inc. Scholarship were Rosendo Cabrera, Jr., Hector Hernandez, Elizabeth Turner and Amado Vega, Jr. Scholarship awards were presented by Flerida Algarin and Osiel Luviano 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

The recipient of the Peter Repak Memorial Scholarship was Eric Aquirre. The award was presented by Beverly Repak and Marie Gaona in the amount of $2,000. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Recipients of the Okeechobee County Board of Realtors Scholarship were Victoria Bostic, Sarah Brewer, Hector Lopez, Jesus Nunez, Elizabeth Turner, Amado Vega, Jr. and Wayne (Trey) Watson III. Scholarship awards were presented by Shelly Doyle, Vicki Anderson and Jim Fowler in the amount of $500. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 11 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 92. East northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 74. East southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Thursday night: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 72. Southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Friday: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Partly sunny, with a high near 92. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

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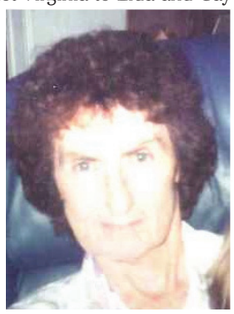
OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Obituaries

Brenda Gay Phillips, 68

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — Brenda Phillips, died July 2, 2011, at home in Okeechobee. She was born in Crumpler, West Virginia to Elda and Gay Roberts.



She moved to Fort Pierce, Florida in 1957, and then to Okeechobee in 1986. She was a Fort Pierce substitute school teacher, owner operator of Phillips 66 Gas, Frontier Grocery, Phillips Harvesting of Fort Pierce and Big Lake Auto Sales & Service of Okeechobee. She attended Northside Baptist Church of Okeechobee.

Survivors include her sons, John Phillips (Katrena) and Donny Phillips, both of Okeechobee; daughter, Michelle (Leve Arnold Jr) of Okeechobee; brother, Granville Roberts (Sue) of Altus, Okla.; sister, Judy Douglas of Fort Pierce; 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 39 years, Al Phillips; sister, Jean Brady; brother, Ronnie Roberts; granddaughter, Misty Yavonne Phillips; grandson, Cody Wilcox and son-in-law, Robert Reichert.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee.

A visitation will be held on Thurs. July 7, 2011, from 10 a.m. to noon at Haisley Funeral Home with a funeral service to follow at noon with Pastor Arlen Cook officiating from Northside Baptist Church of Okeechobee. Entombment will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Arrangements are under the direction of Haisley Funeral & Cremation Service. A guest book may be signed at www.haisleyfuneralhome.com.

Charles C. 'Chuck' Green, 83

OCEAN SPRINGS, Miss. — Mr. Charles C. "Chuck" Green, age 83, of Ocean Springs, Miss., passed away on Monday, July 4, 2011, in Ocean Springs.

Mr. Green was a resident of Okeechobee, Fla. for over twenty years prior to moving to Ocean Springs a year ago. He retired from the Air Force and continued his work as Fire Chief with Civil Service.

Survivors include his wife, Charlotte Green, seven children and three step-children.

Private services will be held at a later date.

The Ocean Springs Chapel of Bradford O'Keefe Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

View and sign register book at www.bradfordokeefe.com.

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

David J. Davis, 74

OKEECHOBEE — David J. Davis, age 74, passed away peacefully with his family by his side at 8:22 a.m., Sunday, July 3, 2011, at the Hamrick Home in Okeechobee.

David was born in Okeechobee on May 29, 1937, to Horace Greely Davis and Inez Johnson Davis. During his lifetime he worked as a meat cutter, grocery man, and a cattleman while living in Okeechobee. He served as clerk of the Okeechobee Church of God for many years. David was a faithful member of the Okeechobee Church of God for 63 years. David was best known to his family as, "Pop." and the most important things to him in life were his love for the Lord, and love for his family.

David is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Myrna Davis. He is also survived by his Children, David Davis, Jr. (Amy), Joey Davis (Angela), Jeannie Duff (Dereck); grandchildren, Rachel Williams (Austin), Marshall Davis (Courtney), Holly Davis (Justin Taylor), David J. Davis III, David, Zoey and Alexcia Duff; great-grandchildren, Carsten Davis and Clayte Davis.

David was preceded in death by both his parents, a sister, Helen Davis Webb, and a brother, Alfred Jackson Davis.

Visitation will be Wednesday, July 6, 2011, at Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home between the hours of 5 to 8 p.m. Funeral services will be 11 a.m., Thursday, July 7, 2011, at the Okeechobee Church of God with Pastor Don Leon and Pastor Mark Smith officiating. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery, Okeechobee.

In memory of David, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bassokeechobeefh.com.

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

Legacy.com®

View obituaries from the past month at http://www.legacy.com

Celebrate A Life with an Online Guestbook

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

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Community Events

Main Street banquet is July 7

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!

Do you want to quit smoking? More than 70% of tobacco users report that they do. 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. Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy is available for those who are eligible including patch, gum, lozenges while supplies last. Register now, seating is limited. To register or for more information contact: 877-819-2357. The classes are sponsored by Everglades Area Health Education Center www.eahectobacco.com.

OCRA sign ups slated

Sign ups for football will be held at the sports complex score tower on **July 9, July 11 and July 23** from 9 a.m to 2 p.m. for ages 8 to 14. The OCRA website is ocrasports.com.

Amateur Radio schedules July meeting

The Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club will meet on Monday, **July 11**, 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 club meets the second Monday of each month.

OCRA to hold monthly meeting

The monthly meeting of OCRA will be Monday, **July 11** at 7 p.m. at the score tower at the sports complex. The public is invited. OCRA has a new website at ocrasports.com

OCRA sign ups planned

Sign ups for football will be held at the sports complex score tower **July 11 and July 23** from 9 a.m to 2 p.m. for ages 8 to 14.

Vacation Bible School scheduled for July 11-15

First Baptist Church of Okeechobee will offer Vacation Bible School **July 11-15**, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at the church, 310 S.W. 5th Avenue, for kids entering kindergarten through fifth grade. The program is free. For more information, call 863-763-2171.

Coffee with Commissioner will be held Tuesday, July 12

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.

Jam session open to local musicians

Huge jam session, open mic at Buckhead Ridge VFW, S.R. 78 West, on Saturday, July 16, starting at 7 p.m. All musicians and singers welcome. For more information call Buck at 863-763-8111 or 863-623-8566.

Garbage clean up tournament planned

Lake Okeechobee and Kissimmee River garbage clean up tournament is planned for July 23, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Prizes for heaviest weight total and more. Sign up at Crappy Jack's and for more details call 863-763-7753.

Good news about your business? Your civic group? Your community?

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Chapter 116.21, FLORIDA STATUTES, that the following unclaimed monies were collected by the Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for Okeechobee County, Florida in her official capacity prior to January 1, 2010 for which claims have not been made. Persons/entities having or claiming any interest in such funds or any portion thereof shall file a written claim with Sharon Robertson, Clerk of Circuit Court, Finance Division, 312 NW Third Street, Suite 165, Okeechobee, FL 34972, on or before September 1, 2011. Persons/entities shall make sufficient proof of ownership and upon doing so shall be entitled to receive any part of the money claimed. Unless said monies are claimed on or before September 1, 2011, said monies shall be declared forfeited to the State of Florida.

ACCOUNT	ISSUED TO	DATE ISSUED	AMOUNT
General Operating	Ines Meras	02/10/04	$15.00
General Operating	Michael W. Rainwater	02/10/04	$15.00
General Operating	James E. Lowe	03/18/04	$15.00
General Operating	William L. Mullens	04/08/04	$15.00
General Operating	David L. Montgomery	04/19/04	$15.00
General Operating	Troy W. Kennedy	05/05/04	$15.00
General Operating	Jerrod A. Tindall	05/12/04	$15.00
General Operating	Ella M. Simmons	07/29/04	$15.00
General Operating	Kellie J.Scalf	10/07/04	$15.00
General Operating	Robert T. Cook	10/13/04	$15.00
General Operating	Benjamin R. Gray	10/13/04	$15.00
General Operating	Mary V. Raulerson	10/13/04	$15.00
General Operating	David L. Hawthorne	11/02/04	$15.00
General Operating	Emilio A. Madrigal	11/02/04	$15.00
General Operating	Miguel A. Baltazar	12/13/04	$15.00
General Operating	Icidro Castillo	01/12/05	$15.00
General Operating	Tammy M. Hand	01/12/05	$15.00
General Operating	Hudd Gorham	02/17/05	$15.00
General Operating	Kristina A. Chapman	02/28/05	$30.00
General Operating	Gregory P. Thomas	03/18/05	$15.00
General Operating	Clarissa R. Snipes	04/06/05	$15.00
General Operating	Clifford G. Johnson	04/12/05	$15.00
General Operating	Brian K. Mackin	04/12/05	$15.00
General Operating	Travis J. Boney	05/11/05	$15.00
General Operating	Alice L. Brown	06/10/05	$15.00
General Operating	Janet P. Godwin	06/10/05	$15.00
General Operating	Graciela S. Orozco	06/10/05	$15.00
General Operating	James R. Bass	08/24/05	$15.00
General Operating	Kenneth E. Sprigle	09/23/05	$30.00
General Operating	Mark A. Lee	10/13/05	$15.00
General Operating	Juan M. Prado	10/13/05	$15.00
General Operating	Richard E. Burbank	11/09/05	$15.00
General Operating	Janice D. Fehrman	11/09/05	$15.00
General Operating	Karen R. Hanawalt	12/07/05	$15.00
General Operating	Rolando Baltazar	02/09/06	$15.00
General Operating	Jeffrey A. Barnes	03/16/06	$15.00
General Operating	Peter R. Kotula	03/16/06	$15.00
General Operating	Thomas B. Manton	03/16/06	$15.00
General Operating	Debra A. Mathis	03/16/06	$15.00
General Operating	Phillip P. White	03/16/06	$15.00
General Operating	Lorna J. Gregorio	04/13/06	$15.00
General Operating	Joy K. Yavenue	04/20/06	$15.00
General Operating	Shawna G. Mullis	05/02/06	$15.00
General Operating	Cathy N. Williams	05/30/06	$15.00
General Operating	Richard W. Bowman	06/05/06	$15.00
General Operating	Arenda R. Platt	06/05/06	$15.00
General Operating	Wendy J. Romer	08/17/06	$15.00
General Operating	Amber D. Patterson	09/26/06	$15.00
General Operating	Jennifer H. Szentmartoni	09/26/06	$15.00
General Operating	Martin Gonzalez	09/29/06	$15.00
General Operating	Lacey A. Leitner	09/29/06	$15.00
General Operating	Robert A. Rhew	09/29/06	$15.00
General Operating	Brenda W. Soto	09/29/06	$15.00
General Operating	Michael S. Dyce	10/24/06	$30.00
General Operating	Wanda L. Pollock	10/31/06	$15.00
General Operating	Amy T. Goding	12/12/06	$15.00
General Operating	Mannix W. Bast	12/14/06	$30.00
General Operating	Marilyn M. Howard	12/14/06	$15.00
General Operating	Melanie S. Jolly	12/14/06	$15.00
General Operating	Wilhelm A. Burkhardt	01/04/07	$15.00
General Operating	Aaron R. Stone	01/04/07	$30.00
General Operating	Rose L. Brindley	02/01/07	$15.00
General Operating	Reed A. Hanawalt	02/14/07	$15.00
General Operating	Mary D. Smith	03/06/07	$30.00
General Operating	Willard A. Melear	03/08/07	$15.00
General Operating	Frank A. Mullins	03/27/07	$15.00
General Operating	Justin C. Beadnell	04/02/07	$15.00
General Operating	Cykeithia N. Kelly	04/02/07	$15.00
General Operating	Cheryl M. Figueroa	04/05/07	$15.00
General Operating	Jennifer C. Riley	04/12/07	$15.00
General Operating	Julie Ann Sergel Ingram	04/18/07	$15.00
General Operating	Barbara W. McClellan	05/03/07	$15.00
General Operating	Herman J. Sutton	05/03/07	$15.00
General Operating	Cynthia R. Valles-Holmes	05/03/07	$15.00
General Operating	Jane L. Kaufman	05/11/07	$15.00
General Operating	Jeanne M. Myers	05/11/07	$15.00
General Operating	Wayne Leggett	06/01/07	$15.00
General Operating	James E. Lowe	06/01/07	$15.00
General Operating	James R. Stas	06/01/07	$15.00
General Operating	James W. Marshall	06/06/07	$15.00
General Operating	Jennifer L. Allen	06/22/07	$15.00
General Operating	Juan F. Juarez, jr.	06/22/07	$15.00
General Operating	Keith A. Brown	06/29/07	$15.00
General Operating	Robert L. Walker, jr.	06/29/07	$30.00
General Operating	Daun-Joan F. Bryan	07/17/07	$15.00
General Operating	Heather D. Needham	07/17/07	$15.00
General Operating	Bryan E. Van Camp	08/01/07	$15.00
General Operating	Erika D. Boone	08/13/07	$30.00
General Operating	Jimmy L. Byrd	08/13/07	$15.00
General Operating	Vickie L. Elkins	08/28/07	$60.00
General Operating	Angus J. Freeman	09/06/07	$15.00
General Operating	Kimberly A. Gopher	09/07/07	$15.00
General Operating	Charles D. Heppe	09/11/07	$15.00
General Operating	Darrell A. Bobrowski	10/03/07	$15.00
General Operating	Norman M. Maupin	10/10/07	$15.00
General Operating	Michael A. Daigneault	10/23/07	$15.00
General Operating	Kelsey J. Spencer	10/23/07	$15.00
General Operating	Teresa A. Hathaway	11/02/07	$15.00
General Operating	Sonya F. Washington	11/02/07	$15.00
General Operating	William A. Miller	11/16/07	$15.00
General Operating	Guardians for New Futures	12/07/07	$60.00
General Operating	Mark R. Whitlock	12/07/07	$15.00
General Operating	Derilus Jeune	12/27/07	$15.00
General Operating	Richard L. Lowry, jr.	12/31/07	$15.00
General Operating	Juan M. Prado	12/31/07	$15.00
General Operating	Michael S. Dyce	01/18/08	$15.00
General Operating	Jennifer M. Benson	01/29/08	$15.00
General Operating	Aaron D. Hembree	01/30/08	$15.00
General Operating	Wendi B. Riley	01/30/08	$15.00
General Operating	Jonathan A. Dryden	02/18/08	$15.00
General Operating	Marshall N. Waldron	02/20/08	$15.00
General Operating	John H. Hancock	03/06/08	$15.00
General Operating	Sheila J. Bradley	03/31/08	$15.00
General Operating	Laurie J. Garelick	03/31/08	$15.00
General Operating	Kenneth R. Nichols	04/11/08	$15.00
General Operating	Sara K. Thomas	05/20/08	$15.00
General Operating	Charles V. Stratton	05/28/08	$15.00
General Operating	Richard E. Amiet	06/30/08	$15.00
General Operating	Cassandra McCrone Kelly	01/19/06	$12.00
General Operating	Samantha Channing Williams	01/19/06	$6.00
General Operating	Charles Edwards Tyrrell,jr.	01/19/06	$10.00
General Operating	Jose Gonzalez Salas	01/19/06	$31.50
General Operating	Fidel Masedo Bentancourt	02/09/06	$18.00
General Operating	Justin Curtis Howard	03/23/06	$18.00
General Operating	Richard D. Girard	04/21/06	$13.00
General Operating	Bethann M. Gold	04/21/06	$6.50
General Operating	The 5 'A' Harvesting	04/21/06	$9.00
General Operating	Arnulfo Valdivia	04/21/06	$9.00
General Operating	Eckerd EYDC	05/15/06	$2.00
General Operating	Gerald Edward Acheson	05/15/06	$100.50
General Operating	Richard Don Mayer	05/15/06	$16.50
General Operating	Kerry L. Meredith	05/25/06	$82.50
General Operating	Ricardo Expinoza	08/14/06	$10.80
General Operating	Christian Manuel Bonilla	08/14/06	$9.50
General Operating	Eugene A. Scott	12/28/06	$9.00
General Operating	Richard Draper	01/17/07	$50.00
General Operating	Jennifer R. Soto	03/15/07	$10.80
General Operating	Melva Richards	03/21/07	$6.50
General Operating	Ashley Newman	07/05/07	$9.00
General Operating	United Title Company	10/02/07	$32.00
General Operating	Francis T. Oreardon	01/04/08	$22.50
General Operating	Adam Allen Marsh	02/27/08	$27.00
General Operating	Narendra Patel	04/02/08	$50.00
General Operating	Norma K. Leitner	04/16/08	$686.50
General Operating	Jaimie D. Wright	05/16/08	$10.00
General Operating	David Lamar Fennell	06/25/08	$6.50
General Operating	Donald L. Brummett, II	07/15/08	$15.00
General Operating	Jeremy J. Root	07/15/08	$15.00
General Operating	Justin C. Beadnell	08/15/08	$15.00
General Operating	Karen M. Rayman	08/15/08	$15.00
General Operating	Kenneth Pickering	08/26/08	$15.00
General Operating	Brian R. D'Ancona	09/17/08	$15.00
General Operating	Kylie D. Eckhardt	09/17/08	$15.00
General Operating	Craig Matthew Wacker	09/18/08	$0.85
General Operating	Sheila Core	09/26/08	$7.55
General Operating	Glen A. Bishop	10/07/08	$15.00
General Operating	Julio A. Interiano	10/07/08	$15.00
General Operating	Christopher B. Roberts	10/07/08	$15.00
General Operating	Korey L. Sallette	10/07/08	$15.00
General Operating	Denise J. Cooper	11/07/08	$15.00
General Operating	Tiffany J. Hillyer-Hays	11/07/08	$15.00
General Operating	Arturo Sanchez, jr.	11/07/08	$15.00
General Operating	Kevin W. Throop	01/26/09	$15.00
General Operating	Richard C. Cyr	01/30/09	$15.00
General Operating	Francis W. Crampton	02/12/09	$15.00
General Operating	James A. Green	02/12/09	$15.00
General Operating	Brian C. Pinder	02/12/09	$15.00
General Operating	Darrell A. Bobrowski	02/26/09	$15.00
Geeral Operating	Kendrick Foster	03/02/09	$10.00
General Operating	Matthew Paul Pope	03/02/09	$16.00
General Operating	Matthew C. Perez	03/05/09	$15.00
General Operating	Nicholas A. Thompson	03/05/09	$30.00
General Operating	Michelle Fisher	03/09/09	$2.00
General Operating	Maria Hernandez	03/20/0	$209.00
General Operating	Stacy D. Scruggs	03/24/09	$15.00
General Operating	David J. Stern, P.A.	04/08/09	$34.20
General Operating	Margarita Gamez	04/29/09	$15.00
General Operating	Robert C. Mobley	05/07/09	$15.00
General Operating	Anthony Darell Dowling	06/11/09	$10.80
General Operating	Luis Humberto Palacios	07/10/09	$50.50
General Operating	Edwin Lee Cason, III	07/31/09	$5.00
General Operating	Roy A. Odell	08/18/09	$15.00
General Operating	Jessica Rae Grinslade	09/10/09	$25.00
General Operating	Marshall C. Watson, P.A.	09/10/09	$10.00
General Operating	Kimberly B. Fralix	10/06/09	$15.00
General Operating	Pedro Santos, jr.	10/08/09	$27.00
General Operating	Lacora Mae Shanks	10/26/09	$1.90
General Operating	Preston L. Collins	10/30/09	$15.00
General Operating	Douglas M. Griffin	10/30/09	$15.00
General Operating	Roger L. Macy	10/30/09	$15.00
General Operating	Timothy B. Scibek	10/30/09	$15.00
General Operating	Michael E. Holsomback	11/09/09	$15.00
General Operating	Darlene F. Stagani	11/09/09	$15.00
General Operating	Kris R. Jones	11/17/09	$15.00
General Operating	Marc F. Elad	12/07/09	$15.00
General Operating	Michael J. Lester	12/07/09	$15.00
Cash Bond	Irma Galan	03/31/09	$100.50
Cash Bond	Micheline Raymond	03/31/06	$500.00
Cash Bond	Irma Santivanez	04/24/06	$18.50
Cash Bond	Gabino Herrera	04/24/06	$43.50
Cash Bond	Maria Deanselmo Reyes	06/06/06	$18.50
Cash Bond	Shaun Osceola	07/03/06	$251.00
Cash Bond	Allen Hargis	07/07/06	$500.00
Cash Bond	Micheline Raymond	07/14/06	$250.00
Cash Bond	James Schock	08/02/06	$100.00
Cash Bond	Fabian Lopez	08/03/06	$500.00
Cash Bond	Ricardo Gil Soto	08/10/06	$136.00
Cash Bond	Demetrio Calderon Martinez	01/17/07	$132.50
Cash Bond	Juan Perez	03/08/07	$92.50
Cash Bond	Martha Martinez	05/02/07	$92.50
Cash Bond	Juan Perez-Ferman	05/02/07	$92.50
Cash Bond	Michael Paul Jarrell	07/24/07	$57.00
Cash Bond	Aguileo Posadas-Cruz	08/24/0	$400.00
Cash Bond	David Garcia-Hernandez	09/11/07	$132.50
Cash Bond	Giraldo Nelson	10/01/07	$721.00
Cash Bond	Gregorio Casarruvias-Onofre	11/02/07	$585.00
Cash Bond	Saul Garcia Ortero	12/07/07	$132.50
Cash Bond	Ramon gomez	01/03/08	$117.50
Cash Bond	Manuel Carcamo-Fernandez	01/31/08	$750.00
Cash Bond	Lorenzo Trejo	05/02/08	$3.50
Cash Bond	Angelita Nicole Cortez	05/02/08	$3.50
Cash Bond	Maria Isabell Estaban Chavez	05/02/08	$3.50
Cash Bond	Reyna Alcala	05/02/08	$626.00
Cash Bond	Ruben Bustos	06/17/08	$3.50
Cash Bond	Patricio Fabian Fonseca	09/17/08	$500.00
Cash Bond	Yesenia Gomez	12/30/08	$750.00
Cash Bond	Felicitas Hernandez	02/12/09	$22.50
Cash Bond	Luis Perez	02/23/09	$367.50
Cash Bond	Mario Alberto Martinez	02/23/09	$22.50
Cash Bond	Cesar Galvin Caceres	02/23/09	$22.50
Cash Bond	Veronica De La Cruz	03/11/09	$22.50
Cash Bond	Ana Maria Prieto	03/26/09	$152.50
Cash Bond	Jeff Vickers	04/07/09	$500.00
Cash Bond	Fidel Bentacourt	05/06/09	$72.50
Cash Bond	Jose Pelayo	07/30/09	$250.00
Cash Bond	Melanie Sue Jolly	08/27/09	$60.00
Cash Bond	Vitalino Ramirez	10/08/09	$100.00
Cash Bond	Samuel Cardenas	12/02/09	$22.50

Dated this 21stday of June, ,2011 in Okeechboee County, Florida.

Sharon Robertson
Clerk of Circuit Court

By: Debbie Jenkins
Deputy Clerk

Publish: July 6, 2011
Okeechobee News

Alleged prowler tells deputies he was just 'looking for his girlfriend'

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Chester Woodall

A man who was reportedly trying to get in homes because he "was looking for his girlfriend" is being held in the county jail on a felony drug charge.

Chester Eugene Woodall Jr., 21, N.W. 30th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Saturday, July 2, on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance and a misdemeanor charge of loitering or prowling. He is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail in lieu of $3,000 bond.

An arrest report by Deputy Steven Pollock, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that Woodall was trying to get into people's homes in Debbie Park. When the deputy found the man he was reportedly standing in a car port at one of the homes. When asked why he was going to all of the homes, Woodall reportedly told the deputy that he wanted to see if "people were home in their houses."

According to Deputy Pollock, Woodall "appeared to be very intoxicated."

During a search of the man, the deputy allegedly found eight lorazepam 1mg tablets. Lorazepam is an anti-anxiety medication.

The pills had a total weight of 2 grams, added the report.

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).

• Clarence Lee Corkey, 45, Okeechobee, was arrested July 1 by Sergeant Russell Cale on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with giving false information to a pawnbroker and dealing in stolen property. His bond was set at $12,500.

• Corey Lee Taylor, 20, N.E. 15th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested July 1 by Deputy Jason Hickman on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - grand theft. He is being held without bond.

• Mark Dickinson, 21, N.W. Second Place, Cape Coral, was arrested July 1 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with grand theft, dealing in stolen property and giving false information to a pawnbroker. He is being held without bond.

• Kevin Holata, 32, N.W. First St., Coral Springs, was arrested July 1 by Deputy Heath Hughes on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence. He is being held without bond.

• Aaron Orlando Rodriguez, 14, N.E. Eighth Way, Okeechobee, was arrested July 1 by Deputy Yamil Astacio on a warrant charging him with absconding from probation, violation of probation - battery on an education employee and violation of probation - trespassing on school property. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

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.

Available 24/7

Community Guide: http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=65039&pagenum=1
Medical Directory: http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=59786&pagenum=1
Meet Your Merchant :http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=56360&pagenum=1
School Information Guide :http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=68371&pagenum=1

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment to Code of Ordinances of Okeechobee County, Florida

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Public Hearing before the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners to receive public input regarding adoption of an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of Okeechobee County, Florida. The title of the proposed ordinance is:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING APPENDIX B - GLOSSARY; AMENDING ARTICLE 11, LAND USE: TYPE, DENSITY, INTENSITY, SECTION 2.04.00 - PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED USES IN ZONING DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT CLINICS WITHIN CERTAIN ZONING DISTRICTS; AMENDING ARTICLE 11, LAND USE: TYPE, DENSITY, INTENSITY, SECTION 2.05.02 - HOME OCCUPATIONS TO ADDRESS PAIN MANAGEMENT CLINICS, ALL OF WHICH ARE CONTAINED WITHIN THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CODE; PROVIDING REGULATIONS FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT CLINICS; ADDING A NEW ARTICLE VII - PAIN MANAGEMENT CLINICS TO CHAPTER 22, BUSINESSES OF THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CODE; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY; CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 270, Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.

Interested persons may appear and be heard. This public hearing will be the first of two public hearings. A second public hearing will be held on Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the same location.

A copy of the proposed ordinance will be available for public inspection at the Planning and Development Department, 1700 NW 9th Avenue, Suite A, Okeechobee, Florida each weekday, Monday through Friday, except holidays and furlough days between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30p.m.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. County Clerk tapes are for the sole purpose of backup from official records of the Clerk.

Margaret Garrard Helton, Chair
Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida

Publish in The Okeechobee News: July 6, 2011

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Bobbi Poole**

New hobby

The very first scrapbooking class was held on the evening of June 28, in the studio of Photography By Bobbi. The colorful, fun project to be constructed was a birthday card containing a pop up cake and candles.
While here, the ladies and children shared snacks, music, conversation, and their thoughts on what they would be interested in pursuing in their scrapbooking hobby. Classes are held at 6:30 p.m. Please call for the date and to add your name to the list.

County commissioner receives recognition

Special to the Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Commissioner Margaret Garrard-Helton was recently recognized following the completion of an advanced study program.

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) presented Okeechobee County Commissioner Margaret Garrard Helton with the Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) designation following her completion of a comprehensive study program developed by the association. Commissioner Helton received the designation along with 29 other county commissioners during an awards ceremony held at the FAC Annual Conference in Orange County.

"This certification allows our citizen electorate to become experts in county government improving their communities," said FAC Executive Director Chris Holley. "Through FAC's education programs we are able to teach commissioners how to advance their policies through the complexities of government bureaucracies."

The ACC program is organized as a series of three seminars, with 27 hours of course work. The course content focuses on leadership with an over-arching theme of growth and development in Florida. Participating Commissioners must commit to fully participate in all three seminars in order to graduate. Seminars include: Leadership Skills in Florida's Growth Environment; Strategic Visioning & Implementing that Vision, and Understanding and Working with Stakeholders in Florida's Growth Environment. This year, the University of Florida/IFAS Extension sponsored the program in Alachua County.

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www.newszap.com
and click on **ZapHomes**

Okeechobee News/**Diana Whitehall**

Kiwanis meeting

The Thursday, June 30, Kiwanis meeting was held at The Lodge on the Lake Restaurant in Okeechobee. In the photo left to right are: J.D. Mixon, club vice president; Megan Williamson, guest speaker, and Dowling Watford, Kiwanis member. Mr. Watford introduced Megan as his guest speaker. She is a fourth grade teacher at North Elementary School and she thanked the Kiwanis members for the Mini Grant that her class recently received from the Kiwanis Club as well as from other businesses that was put to good use. They had a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 21, the day before Earth Day for the 3,000-square-foot Reading Garden where her students have planted seeds and shrubs native to Florida. Mrs. Williamson believes that 95 percent of what the students learn is retained through touch, feel and smell. Her students have taken ownership of the Reading Garden and look forward to each school day when they can go outside to their garden to read and learn. Mrs. Williamson invited the Kiwanis Club Members and the community as well to volunteer as time will allow them.

Summer jobless grants available

In response to this summer's high teen unemployment rate, Do Something, a national nonprofit organization that helps young people create and participate in community service projects, is offering a grant program to help young people get involved in or create their own local projects to provide youth with volunteer opportunities in place of jobs.

Summer Jobless Grants can be used to help cover the costs of implementing a youth volunteer project, including food, materials and supplies, event space, and transportation, and include more teens in community action projects. All applicant programs must engage at least 25 teens in volunteerism.

The program will provide eight grants of $2,000 and 18 grants of $500.

Applicants must be 25 years of age or younger and must be a U.S. or Canadian citizen.

Applications are due by July 10; applicants will be notified whether or not they have won by July 15, 2011. Visit the Do Something Web site at http://www.dosomething.org/ for complete program guidelines and application procedures.

Ceramic Fire Pot warned of dangers

Recently, there have been several incidents throughout the United States involving ceramic fire pots using fire gel, resulting in serious injury. This safety advisory serves as an awareness of the potential dangers associated with the use of ceramic glass fire pots:

People have no idea they are dealing with something so potentially dangerous.

Refilling the fire pot with gel-style fuel while the pot is still lit is the number one cause for injury.

Injury occurs during refueling because the flame appears colorless; giving the impression the fire pot has extinguished itself. However an active flame is present.

Ceramic pots can break, causing the ignited fuel to burst outward towards people, resulting in catching their clothes afire and causing injury.

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9:45AM • FORT PIERCE
MCDONALDS
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Casino Departure 5:30pm
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HAMPTON INN
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Casino Departure 5:30pm

WEDNESDAYS/THURSDAYS
11:45PM • PORT ST. LUCIE
EAST PORT PLAZA US-1
NORTH OF WALTON RD.
Behind Taco Bell • Casino Departure 6:30pm
12:45PM • VERO BEACH
VERO BEACH RESORT
8800 20TH ST.
Casino Departure 7:30pm
1:30PM • FORT PIERCE
MCDONALDS
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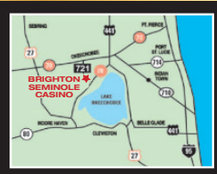

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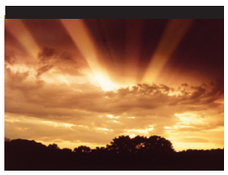
Local churches plan Vacation Bible schools

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News



Places of Worship

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

Seventh Day Adventist Church, 412 N.W. Sixth St., will host Vacation Bible School **July 10 through 14** from 6 to 8:30 each evening. Boys and girls, start your engines! Get in the fastest, most exciting event in racing, the race for the eternal crown. This race lasts a lifetime and the finish line is in Heaven! Packed with fun, racing games, snacks, crafts, music, and awesome Bible training. "Drive" is one race that boys and girls will love.

First Baptist Church, 401 S.W. Fourth St. is having Vacation Bible School **July 11 through 15** at the ROC from 8:30 a.m. until noon each day. The theme is "Big Apple Adventure" and it is for children from kindergarten through the fifth grade. The event is completely free. For more information call the church office at 863-763-2171.

Okeechobee Church of God, 301 N.E. Fourth Ave., plans to hold Vacation Bible School **July 18 through 22** for children ages three through 12. The hours are 5:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. There will be food, crafts, games, Bible lessons and puppets each night.

Oakview Baptist Church, 677 S.W. 32nd St., is accepting Upward Soccer registration for children going into K-4 through 8th grade. The cost is $65 per child and the deadline to register is **Aug. 9.** The first practice is the week of Sept. 6. Register for either activity at the church office or by going to www.oakviewbaptist.com under FORMS. For more information on either activity call 863-763-1699.

The children's clothes closet at **Grace Brethren Church**, 701 S. Parrott Ave, will be open Wednesdays in July. The dates are **July 6, July 13 and July 27** from 10:30 a.m. until noon each day. There is no cost to those in need. Please call Ada at 863-697-8539 for more information or to donate gently used clothes.

Believers Fellowship Church, 300 S.W. Sixth Ave., will have a Gospel Sing, Friday, **July 8** at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome, singers, musicians or toe tappers. If you love to sing or play Christian music or just sit back and praise God by clapping your hands and tapping your foot, this is the place to be. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

Fountain of Life Church, 1320 S.W. 32nd St., has a series of community outreach ministries. Every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. a grief share support group for adults and teens grieving the death of a loved one will be meeting. For more information contact Elizabeth or Hannah at 863-697-6047. On Fridays the church presents "Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus Christ," a Bible based study for recovery from addiction to drugs, alcohol or other out of control habits. For more information ladies should contact Peggy at 863-763-1728, men should contact Jerry at 863-484-0865.

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

Okeechobee Croppin' Crew to meet on second Saturday

The Croppin' Crew now meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Okeechobee County Library. The next meeting will be July 9 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. All levels of scrapbookers are welcome. Check out what other local scrapbookers and cardmakers are doing and share your ideas too. Bring your pictures, scrapbook pages and/or projects that you are working on. This month there will be a Sizzix Sidekick machine and dies (border and alphabet) available for your use.

The Tobacco Free Partnership of Okeechobee supports tobacco free sports! Be your best, keep your lungs clean!

For more information on how you can join the movement, contact Rosalind Brown at 863-462-5781.

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Commissioner criticizes county operations

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Commissioner Bryant Culpepper managed to ruffle the feathers of his fellow commissioners, the interim county administrator, the property appraiser and the county attorney at the June 30 commission meeting.

In the morning session Mr. Culpepper stated that viewers of the county commission webcast expressed concern about texting on cell phones during commission meetings. He said he wanted absolute transparency. While Mr. Culpepper thought no one was communicating by cell phone during the meetings, he added "perception is reality." He voluntarily offered to turn off his cell phone and put it on the front of his desk in plain sight. Commission Chairperson Margaret Helton said in her two and a half years on the board she had never seen anyone use a cell phone during the meetings.

"Would you please produce that?" asked Commissioner Joey Hoover of the tapes. "I can't respond unless I see what you are talking about." He, too, said he had never seen anyone text during meetings.

Mr. Culpepper said he was only repeating allegations relayed to him. He did not name any individuals.

During the afternoon session Mr. Culpepper launched into a long discussion critical of the building department and the property appraiser. He complained of a $5 parking fee at C. Scott Driver Park, for fishing tournaments. Interim county administrator Robbie Charter said that has not been in effect for some time. It was removed soon after it was imposed.

He called for more improvements at Okee-Tantie that would not cost much. "If I identify funding sources don't stop me with procedural problems," he said. "I've found money before and I'll find it again." The commissioner vowed to find funding sources to improve Okee Tantie Campground and Marina but asked not to be stopped with "procedural problems." He claimed county government made things difficult for new businesses. Because of tough economic times he urged creative ways to help businesses. He asked the board to be receptive to helping new business. "The city has worked hard trying to be a good business partner." He mentioned problems with Robert Lambert, the airport's fixed base operator, that he felt were the county's fault.

Mr. Culpepper criticized the building department and code enforcement operations charging that they were making things more difficult for the citizens. .

He suggested changing policies. "We need to streamline the process," he said.

"If I have presented myself in an adverse way, I apologize," Mr. Culpepper said at one point.

Mr. Culpepper said he got frustrated by hearing something was being looked into. He claimed some situations have been ongoing on for six months. "I'm all for the permit process," Mr. Culpepper said. "But it is not created to intimidate people and I think that's where the line, at times, has been crossed."

Mr. Culpepper also criticized the property appraiser. "Some people do not upgrade their houses because they can't pay property taxes," Mr. Culpepper asserted. "I think ours (property appraisers) are a little overzealous to get every penny." Mr. Culpepper charged that the property appraiser treated different people differently and mentioned the agricultural classification being applied in some areas and not in others.

Mr. Culpepper asked about the granting of agriculture classification and was explained the process by which a property is declared to be a bone fide agriculture property.

"Could you tell me that every person that has an agriculture classification is entitled to it?" asked Mr. Culpepper.

As far as I know," Mr. Sherman replied. "We investigate it as much as we possibly can every day and it's open for the whole world to look at."

Mr. Cassels was critical of Mr. Culpepper's dealings in the matter of a long-running pending litigation. Mr. Culpepper said he called the judge involved to find out why there was no decision. "Commissioner, that is a very dangerous procedure for you as a policy maker," responded the attorney. "You flabbergast me. Yours is a policy function, not to try to prejudice the county's case by talking to the judge directly."

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Chapter 116.21, FLORIDA STATUTES, that the following unclaimed monies were collected by the Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for Okeechobee County, Florida in her official capacity prior to January 1, 2010 for which claims have not been made. Persons/entities having or claiming any interest in such funds or any portion thereof shall file a written claim with Sharon Robertson, Clerk of Circuit Court, Finance Division, 312 NW Third Street, Suite 165, Okeechobee, FL 34972, on or before September 1, 2011. Persons/entities shall make sufficient proof of ownership and upon doing so shall be entitled to receive any part of the money claimed. Unless said monies are claimed on or before September 1, 2011, said monies shall be declared forfeited to Okeechobee County, Florida.

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General Operating	Madeleine Perez	04/11/07	$27.00
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General Operating	Disney Worldwide Services, Inc.	08/13/07	$10.37
General Operating	Progressive Business	11/29/07	$39.95
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General Operating	Stephen E. Myers, jr.	08/27/08	$22.00
General Operating	Stellar Title	09/18/08	$17.00
General Operating	TFA National Operations	09/18/08	$9.00
General Operating	Betsy Sheffield	11/06/08	$9.36
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Dated this 21stday of June, ,2011 in Okeechboee County, Florida.

Sharon Robertson
Clerk of Circuit Court

By: Debbie Jenkins
Deputy Clerk

PUBLISH: July 6, 2011, Okeechobee News

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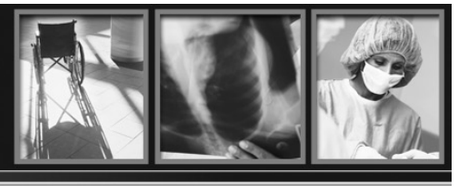

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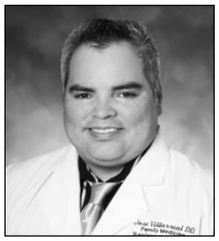

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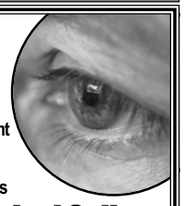

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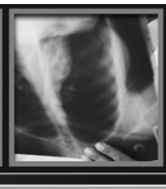

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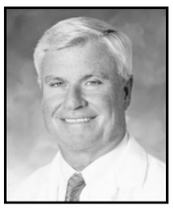

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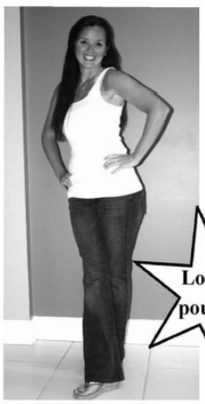

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Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent 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 Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA. 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 Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA 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

Services

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Employment

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

Ag Mechanic Wanted Gas/Diesel and General. House, Elect, Maintenance Free, Medical, Pension. Hourly Rate Call 863-763-2808

Financial

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

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.

Services

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Settlements

1990 ? mobile home 12x45 good for farm . or camp pretty good shape must move from lot 1500. lorida. (561)310-1443 or (561)626-0541

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Merchandise

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

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ADORABLE MALTIPOO PUPPIES - SILKY, FLUFFY, SUPER TINY black & white pups, all shots, wormed, lively little healthy pups. 400.00 4 M 1 F 801-6144 or 6103.

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Machine Shop Equipment
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For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Poultry Supplies

Baby Chicks For Sale - $3.95-$11.72. Fancy Chicks, Egg Laying Chicks, Meat Chicks; also Goselings and Ducklings. (863)673-7280

Rentals

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Apartments

2 Bedroom 1 Bath Duplex located close to court house, lawn and garbage included Call 863-634-8331

Apartments

FURNISHED APT ON WATER - Including all utilities, some restrictions, apply by appt. only. (863)357-2044 leave name and number if no answer.

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

OKEECHOBEE- Large 1 Br/ 1 Ba. 1st and last. $600 per mo. Deposit $400. In town. Call 863-467-8705

Commercial Property

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

Condos/Townhouses Rent

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

Houses - Rent

3BR 2BA beautiful ranch home located 12 miles from town. Lawn, trash, and water included. $590/mo. Call for move in special Mon. - Fri. (863)467-9800. No Pets.

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

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Houses - Rent

Big Lake Real Estate
3/2/1 Kings Bay $850
3/2DW T.I. $800
Fl room. Rent to own or Owner financing avail.
2/2DW T.I. w/bonus room & new floors $700
2/1in town $650
Lrg workshop avail.
2/1.5/1T.C.I $750
fenced,screen porch.
4/3DW T.C.I $1,000
Rent to own or owner financing avail.
3-CBS 3/2 avail off 15A $850-$1,000.
Sena Treadway (863)697-3207

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

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Real Estate

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Houses - Sale

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

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

OKEECHOBEE- Lg. 3br/2ba DW, w/14x40 addition, metal roof, FP, 11x20 shop, on Canal. Covered dock & slip. Sprinklers, 20' Pontoon boat. $80K O.B.O. 772-321-1835 or 772-664-6799.

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Palm Harbor Homes
Has closed 2 Model Centers.
Save up to 60K on select models.
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Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifeids.

Recreation

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Motorcycles

2004 Harley Davidson FLSTC Heritage Softail Classic in Smokey Gold/Black Two Tone, Screaming Eagle Exhaust w/Free Breather, Lot of Chrome, A Must See. Only 9800 Miles Garage Kept Real Clean. Call For App. 863-697-1636. Asking $12,995.00

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Automobiles

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

Public Notices

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
CASE NO. 2011-CA-152

GLENFORD SMITH and DELORES SMITH,
Plaintiffs,
VS.
RETHA M. D'AGOSTINA, and as to each of the foregoing persons, if alive or deceased, their unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, under or against this Defendant.
Defendant.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: RETHA M. D'AGOSTINA, and as to each of the foregoing persons, if alive or deceased, their unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, under or against this Defendant.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action for quiet title of the following described property:

Lot 11, Block 7, DIXIE RANCH ACRES, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 35, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, to it on Anthony Young, P.A., 3128 Highway 441 South, Okeechobee, FL 34974; 863-824-6776; and file the original with the Clerk of the above styled Court within thirty (30) days from the date of the first publication, otherwise a judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court on this 8 day of June 2011.

SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of Circuit Court
BY: Chris Watson
DEPUTY CLERK

389518 ON 6/15,22,29;7/6/2011

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

NOTICE

I, the undersigned, **Mark Edwards,** will not be responsible for debts contracted by anyone other than myself, from this date, June 9, 2011 forward.
Mark Edwards
13300 SE 34th Street
Okeechobee, FL 34974
DATE: 7/1/2011

391425 ON 7/6/2011

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 Notice

Notice of Meeting/Workshop Hearing

The Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC), as defined in Section 259.035, Florida Statutes, announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: Friday, August 19, 2011 at 9:00 AM (Only); August 11 and 12, 2011 has been CANCELLED

PLACE: Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
Conference Rooms A&B
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: ARC reviews proposals for the management and use of state-owned conservation lands and for identifying new lands for potential conservation via state acquisition. The ARC public hearing and meeting for August 11 and 12, 2011 has been CANCELLED. ARC will receive public testimony and conduct its business at its meeting to August 19, 2011.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained 7 days in advance of the meeting by contacting: Teresia Whalen, Office of Environmental Services at (850)245-2784 or on the web at www.floridaforever.org.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 5 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Teresia Whalen, Office of Environmental Services at (850)245-2784 or teresia.whalen@dep.state.fl.us. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

For more information, you may contact: Teresia Whalen, Office of Environmental Services at (850)245-2784 or teresia.whalen@dep.state.fl.us.
390913 ON 7/6 CGS 7/7/2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY
CASE NO.: 2009 CA 000830

The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York, as Trustee, for the Certificateholders CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-21,
Plaintiff,
-VS.-
Jeffrey A. Butzin and Jillian M. Butzin, Husband and Wife; et al
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS-PROPERTY

TO: Jeffrey A. Butzin; ADDRESS UNKNOWN BUT WHOSE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS IS: LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 15264 Northwest 262nd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34973
Residence unknown, if living, including any unknown spouse of the said Defendants, if either has remarried and if either or both of said Defendants are dead, their respective unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors, and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant(s); and the aforementioned named Defendant(s) and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants as may be infants, incompetents or otherwise not sui juris.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced to foreclose a mortgage on the following real property, lying and being and situated in Okeechobee County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

THE WEST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF TRACT 21, SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGES 3A THROUGH D, INCLUSIVE, OF THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORDS.
more commonly known as 15264 Northwest 262nd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon SHAPIRO, FISHMAN & GACHE, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360, Boca Raton, FL 33431, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately there after; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on the 24 day of June, 2011.
SHARON ROBERTSON
Circuit and County Courts
BY: Linda F. Young, Deputy Clerk

Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540 Notices to Persons With Disabilities
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptaciem para poder participar de este procedimiento o evento; usted tiene derecho, sin costo alguno a que se le provea cierta ayuda. Favor de comunicarse con Corrie Johnson, Coordinadora de A.D.A., 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, Fl. 34986, (772) 807-4370 por lo menos 7 dias antes de que tenga que comparecer en corte o inmediatamente despues de haber recibido esta notificaciem si es que falta menos de 7 dias para su comparencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva eo de habla, llame al 711.
KREYOL: Si ou se yon moun ki kokobe ki bezwen asistans ou aparey pou ou ka patisipe nan prosedu sa-a, ou gen dwa san ou pa bezwen peye anyen pou ou jwen on seri de ed. Tanpri kontakte Corrie Johnson, Co-ordinator ADA, 250 NW Country Club Drive, suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 O'mwen 7 jou avan ke ou gen pou-ou parêt nan tribunal, ou imediatman ke ou resevwa avis sa-a ou si le ke ou gen pou-ou ale nan tribunal-la mwens ke 7 jou; Si ou pa ka tande ou pale byen, rele 711.
390829 ON 6/29;7/6/2011

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No wonder newspaper readers enjoy life more!

Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE

The St. Johns River Water Management District (District) issued consumptive use permit(s) at least five years ago for the water use(s) described below. The permit(s) contained a condition requiring the permittee(s) to submit a compliance report demonstrating that the permitted water use(s) will continue to meet the District's permitting rules for the duration of the 20-year permit(s).

The District gives notice of receipt of Compliance Report(s) for the following consumptive use permit(s):

Individual Consumptive Use Permit(s)

Mr Walter D Randall, PO Box 12663, Fort Pierce, FL 34979, application #10868. The District issued a permit on December 12, 2000. This is a 10-year compliance report. The applicant proposes to continue the use of 2.83 million gallons per day of groundwater for agricultural use. The withdrawals used by this proposed project will consist of groundwater from FAS - Upper Floridan Aquifer via 21 active wells in Okeechobee County, located in Sections: 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9, Township: 34 South, Range: 36 East, known as Sunny Grove Ranch.

The file(s) containing the permit(s) and compliance report(s) are available for inspection Monday through Friday, except for District holidays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the District's Headquarters, 4049 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177-2529. You may also view files at one of the District's service centers, but you should call service center staff in advance to make sure that the files are at a specific service center. Service center contact information is available online at floridaswater.com/contactus/offices.html. Additionally, most permit file documents can be viewed online at floridaswater.com/permitting/index.html. To obtain information on how to find and view permit file documents, visit floridaswater.com/permitting/index.html and select the topic of interest from the "Find permits and applications" heading, and then follow the directions provided under "How to find a Technical Staff Report (TSR) or other application file documents."

Decisions on compliance reports for Standard General permits will be made at the District's service center where the permit was processed, unless the decision on a compliance report is upgraded to a decision on a compliance report for an Individual permit as explained below. A substantial objection to a compliance report for a Standard General permit must be made in writing and filed with (received by) the Director of Regulatory Support, P.O. Box 1429, Palatka, FL 32178-1429, or by e-mail at applicationsupport@sjrwmd.com, within 14 days of notification of the compliance report. Please include either the Permit Number or the Project Name in the objection. Notification of the compliance report is either the fifth day after the date on which the written notice is deposited in the U.S. mail (for those persons who receive actual notice by U.S. mail), the date on which the notice is e-mailed (for those persons who receive actual notice by e-mail), or the date the notice is published in the newspaper (if actual notice is not provided by U.S. mail or e-mail). A "substantial objection" means a written statement directed to the District that identifies the objector, concerns hydrologic or environmental impacts of the consumptive use, and relates to applicable rule criteria. A timely substantial objection will cause the decision on a compliance report for a Standard General permit to be considered a decision on a compliance report for an Individual permit. If the District receives a timely substantial objection from you, then you will receive written notice of the District's intended decision on the compliance report.

Decisions on compliance reports for Individual permits will be made by the District's Governing Board. Notice of Intended District Decision will be provided to persons who have requested individual notice. A request for individual Notice of Intended District Decision on a compliance report must be received by the Director of Regulatory Support prior to the date the Notice of Intended District Decision is generated. For compliance reports for Individual permits, you are advised to notify the District within 14 days of notification of the compliance report if you have questions, objections, comments, or information regarding the compliance report. If you make a written request to the District for additional information regarding a specific compliance report, you will be provided an opportunity to obtain the available information. Please note that filing a written objection does not entitle you to a Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, administrative hearing.

Victor Castro, Division Director,
Division of Regulatory Support
St. Johns River Water Management District
4049 Reid Street
Palatka, FL 32177-2529
(386) 329-4570
391436 ON 7/6/2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2010 CA 558

SOUTH FLORIDA FEDERAL LAND BANK ASSOCIATION, FLCA A FEDERALLY CHARTERED INSTRUMENTALITY,
Plaintiff,
Vs.
ROBERT J. SMITH, JR., AND MARY ELLEN SMITH,
Defendants,

NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE BY CLERK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment entered June 23, 2011 in the above styled cause now pending in said Court that I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 at 11:00 a.m. on July 27, 2011, the following described real property:

Lot 32, of the Plat of Sundance Trails Ranch as recorded in Plat Book 7, Page 69, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE
DATED: June 24, 2011.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
By: SANDRA L. CREECH
Deputy Clerk
390718 ON 6/29;7/6/2011

READING A NEWSPAPER HELPS YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY.

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

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

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 Unshiny photo finish
6 Tree with quaking leaves
11 Usually nonmelodic music genre
14 Not moving
15 Work on a loom
16 Under the weather
17 *Hilarious joke
19 Narc's org.
20 Ages and ages
21 Depression era migrant
22 Bat one's eyelashes, perhaps
24 Method: Abbr.
25 Lincoln wore one
27 Pay for a hand
28 Bank encumbrance
30 Sound heard twice in "gargantuan"
32 Command to an attack dog
35 Dressing for romaine and such
38 Palm Pilot or BlackBerry, briefly
39 *Worry, slangily
42 Mex. neighbor
43 Hardly geniuses
45 Contest submission
47 Arrived
48 Poet Pound
50 Old hands
52 Coerce
54 Infield protector
58 Retreats in the desert
60 Bring up
61 Field of expertise
62 Jr. high, e.g.
63 *Frosted Lenten pastry
66 Maneuver among moguls
67 One way to read
68 White-sheet wearer, on Halloween
69 Sixth sense, for short
70 Sources of blue eyes, say
71 Shipping weight deductions

DOWN
1 Studio sound equipment
2 Be a thorn in the side of
3 Prom goers
4 Railroad bridge support
5 UFO crew, presumably
6 Greet the morning
7 Brownish photo tint
8 Party headgear
9 Genesis outcast
10 Spongy ball brand
11 *Enduring, as a storm
12 Tip off
13 One in a buffet stack
18 Ear part
23 "Shane" star Alan
26 Surrealist Salvador
29 "That'll do, thanks"
31 Movie critic, at times
32 Restful resort
33 Deposed despot Amin
34 *Freight-bearing vessel
35 Stockholm-bound carrier
36 Jerusalem is its cap.
37 Set (down)
40 Street urchin
41 Ralph Kramden's pal
44 Sprinkler attachment
46 Boris's partner in toon espionage
48 Online birthday greetings, e.g.
49 Round number?
50 Outlaw-chasing group
51 Poolroom triangles
53 Prompt again
55 Vine-covered recess
56 Get extra value from
57 Garment that can follow the starts of the answers to starred clues
59 Thick carpet
64 Bullfight shout
65 Rank above cpl.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

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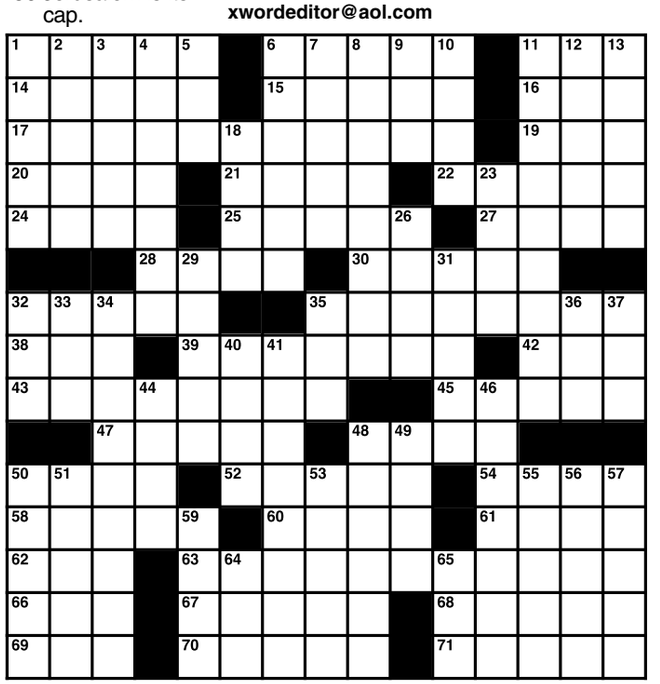

By Gail Grabowski
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Okeechobee Ozone All Stars qualify for State Tournament

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

A win over Lake Placid propelled Okeechobee into the State Tournament after their strong performance at the Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone District 8 championship in Sebring this past weekend.

The OCRA team lost two games to powerful Sebring and lost in the championship game. Sebring outscored opponents 47-2 during three games in the double elimination tournament.

Okeechobee advances to the state tournament which is set to begin play on July 16, at the Durrah Martin Sports Complex in Avon Park as the District runner-up.

Key players for the Okeechobee All Stars included Dylan Sheffield, Dylan Morris, Gary Matthews, Jared Joyner, Baron Stuart and Gabe Greseth.

Okeechobee lost 14-1 and 15-0 to Sebring and defeated Lake Placid 8-4 in the three games at the tournament.

Tournament games are scheduled to be broadcast live on the internet at jockjive.com

Commission starts budget discussion short handed

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The budget season has begun. Okeechobee County Commissioners are starting budget debates one person short. Governor Rick Scott has yet to appoint someone to fill the seat vacated by the death of longtime Commissioner Clif Betts.

"There is no set time line for the governor to make the appointment," stated Lane Wright of the governor's press office.

The seat has been vacant about three months and there is no indication as to when the governor will act. At the last commission meeting, interim county administrator Robbie Charter gave the first preliminary report on the proposed budget. The budget will probably be discussed again at the July 14 commission meeting. Budget workshops are scheduled for July 25, July 28, Sept. 1 and Sept. 3. Even if a new commissioner were appointed and sworn in during the budget process, that person would possibly have a lot of catching up to do to be fully informed on the budget.

"I think the people of Okeechobee deserve diverse representation," stated Commissioner Joey Hoover. Even though he had confidence in the county staff and his fellow commissioners in preparing the budget, he did not think the people would get a fair shake without a full board of county commissioners.

"We have to do the best we can," stated Commissioner Ray Domer.

To date there are six applicants for the seat: former hospital administrator Frank Irby, business owner Tara Boshell, real estate appraiser J. D. Mixon, rancher and businessman Brad Goodbread, Rev. Pauline Livatt, Pastor of Satin Stephen AME Church; and, former county commissioner Noel Chandler.

2012 elections shaping up for candidates

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Even though the next election for county offices is over a year away, some candidates are getting an early start by filing with the supervisor of elections. It could be a busy election year with three county commission seats, all constitutional officers, two school board members and the county judge up for election.

In 2012 county commission seats for districts 1, 3 and 5 will be up for grabs. The district 1 seat is currently held by Ray Domer. Margaret Helton holds the seat for district 5. The district 3 seat is currently vacant pending the governor's appointment of a replacement for the late Clif Betts.

Neither of the incumbent commissioners has taken any formal action yet. However, there are already two candidates filed for the district 1 seat, Carl Shumate and Jocely Weeks Elliott. Both candidates are Republicans.

These candidates still have to qualify, which involves either paying a fee based on the annual salary of the office or submitting a petition with a certain number of names. The deadline to qualify is noon, June 8, 2012. So the two filed candidates could have additional opposition by then. Prospective candidates can also wait until June 8, 2012 to file.

All of the constitutional officers will be up for re-election. So far only the property appraiser, Bill Sherman, has filed for re-election. While Sheriff Paul May (Republican) has announced that he will run for re-election, he has not taken any formal action yet. J.H. Folbrecht, also a Republican, has filed for the office. The qualifying deadline for constitutional officers is also noon, June 8, 2012.

The office of county judge is also up for elections. To date no one has filed. The deadline to qualify is noon, May 7, 2012.

School board seats for district 2, currently held by Kelly Owens and district 4, currently held by India Riedle. 4 are also up for election. To date, no one has filed for these seats.

The 2012 primary election will be a little early. Ordinarily it would be Aug. 28, 2012. However, the National Republican party is meeting in Tampa during that time so Florida's primary elections will be held on Aug. 14, 2012.

Before the election, district lines will be redrawn due to the population changes shown on the 2010 census.

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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Fitness Factory holds Strong Man Competition

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Sarah Reno**

Strong man competition

The fitness factory hosted a Strong Man Competition on Saturday, July 2. In the truck pull event Kyle Reno is assisted by Jonathan Schopp and pictured in the tire flipping event are Sam Vuleta and Fitness Factory owner Jay Creamer.

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

OCRA will hold sign ups for the 2011 football and cheerleading season on the following Saturdays: **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.

O.G. & C.C. Golf Results

Gold Tee

First place - B. Meyer, second place - G. Guydosh, and third place tie - C. Ferguson and H. Shelkie.

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