



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 83

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

50¢ Plus tax

IRSC among best bargains in U.S. colleges ... Page 3

OCRA Junior Dixie Boys in tournament ... Page 15

Teen arrested in OHS drug sting sentenced to jail ... Page 7

Fire damages home ... Page 3

Lake Levels

9.96 feet

Last Year: 14.41 feet



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



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Coleman gets 9 life sentences

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Although an occasional sniffle could be heard, those present sat spellbound Monday afternoon in Courtroom A as Ashley Wester read a handwritten letter on behalf of her 3-year-old cousin—Lilly Harden.

"I still can't see my mamaw. She is crying. I want to tell her it's OK. I can't. I can't talk. Now papaw is holding me and singing to me. Why is he crying? It's OK, I want to tell him, but I can't," read Ms. Wester, 18. "All these strange people keep coming in. I don't know who they are or what they're doing. Some of it hurts. What happened to me? It is so dark. Why can't I see anyone? I think my eyes are open."



John T. Coleman

Lilly, who suffered horrendous and life-threatening injuries at the hands of her mother's boyfriend, was not in the courtroom. But, the man was.

And as John T. Coleman stood shackled with his head bowed, he heard Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger repeat himself nine times: "guilty - life in prison."

"I didn't expect him to get life. Justice has been served," said a teary-eyed Deputy John Ashby, Lilly's grandfather.

Coleman, 27, had been found guilty in June on eight counts of aggravated child abuse, one

'A lot of bad things are happening to me and I don't understand why. I am only 2.'

— Lilly's story (see page 5)

count of child neglect with great harm and one count of child abuse. On July 11 he was sentenced to life in prison on each count, except for the child abuse charge which carries a maximum sentence of five years. The sentences will run concurrently.

See COLEMAN — Page 2

Cowboy program at library

Gordie Peer will present a program on the "History and origins of the cowboy," at the Okeechobee Public Library on July 16 at 3 p.m.

Gordie Peer is a former Western Film Stuntman, Wild West Entertainer, and Local Rancher.

In honor of the upcoming National Day of the Cowboy celebration, set for July 22 and 23, Gordie will share the History and Origins of the Cowboy, and describe the evolution of the Cowboy's tools such as their ropes, whips, and guns. Gordie will also be displaying authentic western memorabilia in the glass display cases at the Library. This program is free and open to the public and provided by the Friends of the Library.



Special the Okeechobee News
Gordie Peer will present a program on the history of the cowboy at the library on July 16.

OUA trims its budget, may pay off loans early

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The discussion of long-term debt, merits of a rate increase, and plans for the OUA Waste Water plant near Lake Okeechobee highlighted the agenda when the Okeechobee Utility Authority Board met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday.

The board considered a long-range plan to pay off at least one of three loans the utility has received from the state revolving loan fund. Close to \$2.7 million could be spent in the next fiscal year budget. This revenue would come from developer payments reserved for debt retirement. If they paid off the loan early, the utility would save over \$1.22

See OUA — Page 2



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COLEMAN

Continued From Page 1

Judge Belanger also ordered Coleman to give a sample of his DNA and that he would receive credit for the 438 days he has already spent in the Okeechobee County Jail.

Coleman was arrested April 29, 2010, for abusing the then-2-year-old daughter of his girlfriend, Amanda Lynn Ashby-Harden.

In June, Ashby-Harden pleaded no contest to a charge of child abuse/neglect and was sentenced to one year in the Okeechobee County Jail. She was arrested not only for leaving her daughter in Coleman's care while she went to work, but also because she knew about the abuse and did not report it.

According to an arrest report by Detective Bryan Lowe, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), Coleman's abuse of the child included: spanking her with a paint stick wrapped with electrical tape; making the child stand on one leg in a corner, then hitting her in the head if she lowered her foot onto the floor; and, wiping the child's face with her soiled diaper.

Detective Lowe, a seasoned investigator, said this case was so horrendous it actually made him re-think his chosen career.

The report goes on to state that Coleman spanked the child so violently that her buttocks were bruised—even though she was wearing a diaper. On one occasion, he reportedly threw Lilly into the air and the child's head struck a beam on the ceiling of the mobile home.

"This is a very clear, compelling case," said Judge Belanger. "It was horrible conduct over a period of time." He went on to say that he could find no way to believe what happened to Lilly was accidental or unintentional.

Lilly spent 23 days battling for her life at St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach. She suffered from bleeding in her brain, bruising to both sides of her brain, bilateral retinal bleeding, an impact fracture of the right elbow, ligament damage to her neck and a multitude of bruising to her face and body.

Deputy Ashby and his wife Linda were by Lilly's side holding her hand and singing "Jesus Loves You" over and over, even though the child was in a coma.

"That's one of her favorites," said Mrs. Ashby in an earlier interview.

Today, Lilly, who is in the Ashby's custody, is making progress. While she still suffers from weakness on her left side, Lilly is gaining strength and can now see and talk again. She is also receiving counseling to help her deal with the traumatic experience.

After he had sentenced Coleman, Judge Belanger said a hearing will be held at a later date to determine the amount of restitution to be paid.

But Monday afternoon, OCSO Deputy Ashby and his wife were not concerned about restitution. "I'm just glad he's not getting out (of prison) so he can't hurt anyone else," said Linda, who actually wrote Lilly's letter. "We hoped he would get life, but we didn't expect it."

Editor's note: To read Lilly's letter in its entirety, please see Page 5.

OUA

Continued From Page 1

million. The utility borrowed \$23.96 million in the three loans.

The first loan of \$10 million was to be repaid over 20 years. The interest rate of 2.3 percent resulted in interest of \$2.55 million. The second loan of \$10 million was due to be repaid over 12 years at an interest rate of 2.3 percent. The interest on this loan was close to \$1.4 million.

The third loan of \$2.96 million was to be repaid over 20 years at an interest rate of 1.91 percent. The interest paid would be just over \$596,000.

OUA Board member Thomas Hoover said the utility would have to raise rates 7 percent in the next few years to raise the revenue to recognize savings on the loans. He said that another option would be to add customers.

The east side force main and the Treasure Island collection system could add customers but would also cost approximately \$15 million and add to the debt of the utility.

Chairman Steve Nelson said he didn't like the thought of a rate increase. He said the utility must plan for the future, and if growth does come, they could reduce rates in the future.

"We have to work on the assumption that there is no money out there and there may not be for several years," he added.

Board member Frank Irby said he would support reduced spending this year and not raise rates this year. He said they could still accelerate the loan payment.

He noted the preliminary budget of \$6.5

million would be the first time the utility spent over \$6 million since 2006.

"In my opinion we don't need a rate increase to make this thing work."

Board member Randy Huckabee said he felt customers want the utility to get out of debt and reduction in principal will reduce long term costs. "I'd be willing to pay more for my water if I knew I was getting out of debt."

Staff was directed to cut the proposed budget and include no rate hike for this year. The accelerated loan payments were still under consideration for this year but could be between \$750,000 and \$2.7 million. A decision on these payments could be made at the Aug. 9 meeting.

The board approved a preliminary budget earlier this month that included a 2-percent merit bonus for employees based on employee evaluations, fuel savings, and other considerations.

Irby said the utility has done a good job in reducing expenses in the past several years.

The board voted to approve an Okeechobee Waste water treatment plant five-year permit renewal proposal from Metzger and Willard, Inc. for \$7,250.

OUA Executive Director John Hayford said the plant is aging and he predicted there would be major repairs needed at the facility in the next few years. He said it could cost up to \$100,000 to refurbish the plant. He noted the utility must make firm decisions before they make these upgrades.

"The far range goal for us is to make it a pump station only if we put a force main on State Road 78. Before we had a major investment here we must look at our long range goals," he said.

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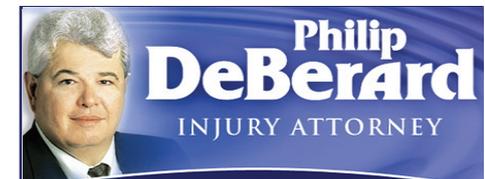
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IRSC ranked third most affordable U.S. college

Indian River State College has been rated as the third most affordable college in the country according to a CNN Money report. The ranking was based on average net prices for colleges in the United States with undergraduate enrollment of 5,000 or more and generated from the U.S. Department of Education's College and Affordability List released June 30.

"IRSC combines reasonable tuition with top-notch faculty and small classes to provide an exceptional educational value. Affordable higher education is the gateway to good career prospects for our residents and a skilled workforce for our community," said Dr. Edwin R. Massey, IRSC President. "Students often tell us that choosing IRSC was the best decision they ever made."

Average net price for full-time freshmen at IRSC was \$2,128 in the report for the 2008-2009 academic year. The net price is based on the average cost of attendance after financial aid, grants and scholarships are subtracted.

Tuition at IRSC equates to 40 percent less than Florida state universities and many thousands less than private career colleges and universities.

The IRSC Financial Aid Department works closely with students to help them obtain all types of financial aid, including grants and scholarships which do not require repayment. About 66% of IRSC freshmen typically receive financial aid or scholarships, and over \$38 million in financial aid was awarded to IRSC students last year.

Despite diminished state funding to education, IRSC has been able to hold down operational costs by implementing cost efficiencies in energy usage and administration to ensure that funds are directed into the classroom to the greatest extent possible. According to the Florida College System, IRSC ranks Number One in the state for the percentage of funds directed to instruction.

Established in 1960, IRSC is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), with transferability of credits to universities for continued undergraduate and graduate level studies.

Registration for the Fall Semester begins July 11 and classes begin August 23. Students are encouraged to apply for financial aid and register now.

IRSC offers over 150 programs, including Bachelor's Degrees, Associate in Arts degree programs for university transfer, and Associate in Science degree programs for career training. Campuses are located in Fort Pierce, Stuart, Port St. Lucie, Vero Beach and Okeechobee. For more information, call toll-free 1-866-792-4772 or visit www.irsc.edu.

Heavy property damage done in S.W. 11th Street fire Saturday

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee City firefighters said \$43,000 in property and other damage was done after a fire July 9th at 1101 S.W. 11th Street.

Fire Lt. Jeff Baugh's report stated firemen arrived at just after 8:20 p.m. and found the east side of the home on fire, and an adjacent RV on fire.

Lt. Baugh said both the trailer and the RV were totaled in the blaze. The cause of the fire was ruled accidental and was

sparked by an electric cord on the bed after an investigation by the State Fire Marshall's Office.

Firefighters used 1,500 gallons of water to put out the blazes. Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue provided mutual aid.

The county report from Lt. Ron Suit said the home was 50 percent involved when their units arrived on the scene. They used 375 gallons of water.

Firemen were on the scene for over two hours. There were no injuries reported. The American Red Cross Okeechobee office assisted at the scene.

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Public Forum/Speak Out

Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

Toads and dogs

• My vet told me when my dog used to get a hold of these frogs was to give them a capful of peroxide, pour it down their throat and stand back. It has to be done immediately when you find your dog but sometimes it's too late.

• Doesn't peroxide make dogs vomit?
• Why do you suppose the vet told him to stand back?

• I have heard that if the dog lived they get addicted to the high and intentionally hunt them.

School grades

• What happened to Phoebe Raulerson's system? When she was principal at OHS—and later when she was superintendent of schools, she said her goal was that every graduate should either be ready for college or ready to go to work. She was big on offering vocational classes for kids who were not college-bound. It made a lot of sense to me. If they weren't going to college, they need some job skills. College is great but it isn't for everyone. And some of the most financially successful people I know never went to college.

• They do offer auto-mechanics and they still have FFA I believe. They used to have cosmetology years ago. The kids who make the grades, who want to succeed usually go off to school and leave this one story town in the dust. Then you have the ones who join one of the branch's of the armed-services to serve their country. You have the ones that float by, who know from family connections they can get a job with the city or county and float on the coat tails of taxpayers for the rest of their lives. Then you have the ones who really don't like to go to school anyway who steal trucks, sell drugs, smoke cigarettes and drink in a parking lot on Friday and Saturday night. Sooner or later they'll wind up in jail or prison.

• Do you think the school system here would offer vocations with the way our education system is now thanks to the government? The FCAT has virtually destroyed the way they can teach our kids. If they offered vocational classes such as welding, ac repair, electronics, they would have to cut out the FCAT and that's not gonna happen because the state of Florida thinks that every student is gonna be a Rhodes scholar because of it. What needs to happen is the total abolishment of the FCAT. Going back to teaching kids every subject without having the feeling that someone is always watching. Making kids take P.E. every year instead of skirting around it. Giving kids an hour for lunch, instead of the 30 quick minutes they get to gorge down their food before they are trudging back to class like their on a factory assembly line having to meet the daily quota. I know our teachers here really care about what goes on. I know some, they are top-notch people and would love nothing better than to go back and really teach, like it used to be.

• I could not agree more on the point regarding vocational programs in schools. Not every student is cut out for the academic rigor of college. Add in the increasing cost of college and the shrinking scholarship dollars college has become impossible for many parents and students to even consider. The combination of class work and hands on training with apprenticeships would give many students a direction in life they otherwise would not have.

• The expectations put on the education system and teachers to teach all students regardless of all the issues students bring to school is unrealistic—abused, homeless, hungry, dirty, angry, untreated medical issues, on and on. The number one factor in the success of a student's education is the parent and too many parents are not involved or worse just don't care.

• It all goes back to the parents. If you send your children to school ready to learn, the teachers can do their jobs.

• Where the testing should be done is in the workplace with the students after they have graduated. Anyone who has to deal with them (many of them), can see that something is lacking. I have no idea what the percentage of students might be who pass with high grades and go on to achieve great things in life. The rest of them shouldn't even get a diploma, maybe a certificate of attendance?

Letters to the editor

'My hero'

I'm so glad Robert Mears has been able to retire. He will be missed so much. All the guys are great, but Robert was above great. Once when I was very sick, my family was all at work and unable to come to the hospital, Robert stayed with me. He is my hero. Robert, I hope you have a wonderful retirement.

Frankie Edwards, Okeechobee

Support appreciated

The 2011 OCRA District 6 Belles would like to thank the community of Okeechobee and the Seminole Tribe of Florida for all of their support and generous donations towards our journey to Carrabelle, Fla. to represent them at the state tournament, July 7 through July 11, 2011.

Thank you all.

OCRA District 6 Bells and their families

Dedication of staff at the sheriff's office appreciated

I would like to take a moment to thank the entire staff, patrolmen, detectives, auto theft division, lead detective and office personnel for the professional and dedicated level of work performed in helping me, my family and neighbors this past weekend. We all too often take our civil servants for granted or never pay much attention until they pull us over for something that is probably our fault anyway, but we always blame them when they are actually just protecting us and our community while doing their daily jobs. Thank you to their spouses that have to wonder if or when they will be coming home and then support them when their jobs are stressful almost seventy percent of the time.

This past weekend I awoke Sunday morning (July 3) to find my truck stolen, my wife's car vandalized and our S.W. neighborhood had encountered numerous thefts and stolen golf carts. I called the sheriff's department and within 15 minutes Officer Hickman responded, and immediately finding me and my wife in a state of anger and disbelief, consoled us and put us at ease while taking the report and getting the information needed so he could get the report out there to the rest of the officers within minutes.

I received a call at 2 o'clock in the morn-

ing Monday from another detective, away from his family on the holiday (July 4), that my truck had been recovered, finger printed and processed and was waiting for me to pick up. This all occurred within a period of less than 18 hours. When I went to retrieve my destroyed vehicle, yet another officer met me and discovered more evidence in the vehicle which led him to a local gas station where a video closed the case and led to the arrest of the people involved within another 24 hours.

The whole ordeal was like watching 48 hours on TV and I'm not sure if any law enforcement agency could have done a better job or treated me and my wife with more respect and caring than Sheriff May's dedicated employees. I can assure everyone that if any department deserves their budget increased and supported, it is our police departments and the great people they have, which I now consider my friends and family. If I can ever do anything for these folks, I will be there with no questions asked.

Thank you.

Ford and Margaret Cook

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 93. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. South wind around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 94. Calm wind becoming south southeast around 5 mph.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 72. South southeast wind around 5 mph.

Friday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 93. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

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.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

MEMBER



An abused child: Court hears Lilly's story

Editor's note: The following story was written by Linda Ashby, the grandmother of Lillianna Harden, who was at the center of a child abuse case heard last month in Judge Robert Belanger's court in the Okeechobee County Judicial Center. She wanted the judge to hear Lilly's side of the story. The story was read by Lilly's cousin, Ashley Wester, to the judge, on Monday, July 11, before the sentencing of J.T. Coleman. Coleman was convicted of injuring the little girl so badly she was hospitalized with trauma to her brain.

"Hi. My name is Lilly and I am now 3 years old. I would like to tell you my story.

"Around the time that I turned 2 years old, bad things started happening to me. A very bad person named J.T. came into my life.

"Every time I was bad, I would get a spanking with a belt at first, then a stick. I didn't understand why I was being spanked so hard that it was leaving bruises on my bottom. I am only 2.

"Every time I didn't eat all my food, I got hit with a spoon. I still don't understand. I am 2 and I only weigh 20 pounds. I don't eat much. When I cry, I get into more trouble. When I threw up because I was upset, even more trouble, more spankings. I still didn't understand. I am only 2.

"Now I have to stand in a corner on one foot. I don't understand. I am only 2. My balance is not that good. If I lose my balance, I get hit. I don't understand. I am only 2.

"I am taking a bath. I get water sprayed in my face. I don't like it. I cry and I get popped in the mouth now. My lip hurts and it is bleeding so I cry harder. I don't understand. I am only 2.

"I am getting potty trained. I have an accident and now I have poop on my face. I cry. I didn't mean to go in my diaper. I am not good at going potty on the toilet yet. I am only 2.

"A lot of bad things are happening to me

but I don't understand why. I am only 2.

"Things are getting worse. I have marks I can't tell anyone how I got. I am scared. I am only 2.

"Now all of the sudden, things are really bad. I hear a lot of people. I can't figure out what is going on. I am really scared. What is happening? I don't know. I am only 2.

"I am trying to wake up. I can't. I can hear people talking. I can hear my Papaw and Mamaw talking to me, singing "Jesus loves me." But I can't find them. My eyes won't open. I am really scared. I hear my Papaw and Mamaw telling me it's OK. I hear singing again. I still can't get my eyes to open. Finally my eyes open. I think, "Wait. It is still dark. Why can't I see?" I hear everyone but I can't find them. What is in my throat? I can't talk. All I can do is cry. I feel Mamaw stroking my head and holding my hand. "It's OK baby. Go back night-night." I am still scared.

"Finally that thing is out of my throat. I still can't talk. I still can't see. Why is it so dark? I don't know. I am only 2.

"Someone is moving me. What is going on? Why can't I talk? Why can't I see? Why won't my arms and legs do what I want them to? Wait, I know those arms. I am finally in my Mamaw's arms, rocking. This feels good. I am not as scared anymore. Why did Mamaw not hold me all these days? She keeps saying, "OK, it's OK, it's OK." I still can't see my Mamaw. She is crying. I want to tell her, "it's OK." I can't. I can't talk.

"Now Papaw is holding me and singing to me. Why is he crying? "It's OK," I want to tell him but I can't.

"All these strange people keep coming in. I don't know who they are or what they're doing. Some of it hurts. What happened to me? It is so dark? Why can't I see anymore? I think my eyes are open.

"Now I have a tube in my nose. I don't like it.

"I said "OK" this morning. Why is Mamaw so excited? What is she crying? Silly Mamaw.

"Now Papa is here. I said "I love you." Why is he crying? Silly Papaw.

"Papaw and Mamaw said we are going outside to play. I like to play outside. We have a wagon to take outside, Mamaw says. I can't see it. They are putting me in the wagon. Why can't I sit up? I don't know.

"We are outside. The sun feels good but it is still dark. Papaw puts me in the grass. I want to play but I can't. Nothing is working. He takes my hands and lets me feel the grass, the leaves. What is that noise? They tell me it is a train but I can't see it.

"I'm talking more. Every time I talk, everyone gets excited. I can't see them though.

"I hear voices. Wait, that's my Nanny. I heard Boo Boo and J.J. Then I hear Pam. Why can't I see them?

"My arm is working a little bit now but it still doesn't work right.

"Mamaw said I am going to her house soon, Maybe it will be light there and I can see.

"Me and Mamaw are alone. She said it's time to get up. She turns a light on, and I said "light." She's crying again. Silly Mamaw.

"We go outside. The light hurts my eyes. Why is Papaw excited? Silly Papaw.

"They keep trying to make me sit up, stand, walk. I can't. I cry. I used to be able to. Now I can't. What happened?

"We are going home. Everyone is excited. I still can't see them,

"Mamaw holds a doll in front of my face and asks me what it is. I tell her "a doll," then she does a frog. I tell her "frog." She keeps holding stuff in front of my face. When I tell her what it is, she starts crying. Papaw too. They are so silly.

"We are at Mamaw's and Papaw's every day. They take me to see Techic and Angela.

They want me to sit up, stand, walk. I try but I can't. I cry but Mamaw tells Papaw, "she has to do it, even if she cries." He is mad.

"Finally I can sit up and I am trying to crawl on my belly. Everybody gets excited when I move a little bit.

"I can crawl really good now on my belly. Now they want me to stand. It's hard but I am trying.

"I can stand up a little bit now and crawl on my hands and knees. It is Halloween and I am outside crawling all over the yard at our party. I am getting really dirty. Mamaw tells Papaw, "It's OK. She'll wash."

"Christmas is coming. Papaw says all he wants for Christmas is to see me walk. I am trying really hard.

"It's Christmas. I can take a couple of steps now. Papaw got his Christmas wish.

"I am 3 now. I can walk. I fall a lot but I am walking, trying to run and climbing on everything. I still don't know what happened but I am not scared anymore.

"My Mamaw says my new name is Rot-ten because I am spoiled rotten. Papaw says I am stubborn and bullheaded. Mamaw says I get that from him.

"They also say I am their miracle from God.

"Thank you for listening to my story."
Lilly



Special to the Okeechobee News

Everglades scholarship

The recipient of the Everglades Farm Equipment Scholarship was Megan Moore. The award was presented by Mike Boling 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

Masonic Lodge scholarship recipients

Recipients of the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge #237 Scholarship were Dal-lon Boyd (\$1,000), Brittany Hass (\$500), James Marquis (\$500), Michael Watson III (\$500) and Preston Wiggins, Jr (\$500). Scholarship awards were presented by Kip Gardner and Jim Vensel. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.

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Obituaries

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

Eddie 'Transman' Keith, 46

OKEECHOBEE — Eddie "Transman" Keith, age 46, of Okeechobee, passed away on July 10, 2011.

Mr. Keith was born in Mobile, Ala., on Nov. 25, 1964, to Edward Keith, Sr., and Betty Miller.

Eddie Keith was the owner and operator of Trans Pro Transmissions. He loved racing, fishing and most of all hanging out with friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Edward Keith, Sr.

He is survived by his mother Betty McClelland of Clewiston. His loving wife, Melody Keith of Okeechobee; brothers Jamie McClelland (Joan) of Moore Haven; Benny McClelland (Meghand) of Ft. Myers, William Williams (Lisa) of Sebring, FL, Sisters: Deanna Bray (Ron) of Ft. Myers, Children Tony Keith of Marianna, FL, Crystal Keith, of Marianna, Devon Keith of Punta Gorda, Shannon Earhart Nunez of Marianna, FL, Christopher Zeh, Okeechobee, Justin (Tracy) Tallahassee, and Meagan Green of Okeechobee. Seven grandchildren, many nieces and nephews.

Cremation entrusted to Buxton Seawind Funeral Home, Okeechobee.

Memorial Service will be held at 904 SW 6th Avenue, on Saturday, July, 16 at 10 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made for the family.

Mildred Hacker Nash, 83

OKEECHOBEE — Mildred Hacker Nash, 83, passed away on July 7, 2011.

Born in Hazard, Ky., on March 14, 1928, she lived in Okeechobee for 25 years.

She is survived by two daughters, Linda Baker of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Diane Fleetwood of Davie, Fla.; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Her best friend and partner, Victor, will miss her greatly.

The family will hold a service in the family home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Big Lake Hospice, 1201 SE Indian ST, Stuart FL 34997.

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

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



Joshua Raymond

Estrada Warren, 22

CLINTON, Tenn. — Joshua Raymond Estrada Warren, age 22, of Clinton formerly of Okeechobee, passed away Tuesday July 5, 2011, in Clinton, Tenn.

Joshua was born Nov. 6, 1988, in Biloxi, Miss. Joshua was a devoted loving son to his mother Adela Smith and dad the late Thomas A. Smith.

Other than his dad, Joshua was preceded in death by his grandparents and is survived by his mother, Adela Smith of Clinton; brother, Joseph Estrada of Clinton; sisters, Jennifer Warren, Jillian Warren, both of Tampa, Fla., and Courtney Smith of Little Rock, Ark.; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

The family received friends Saturday July 9, 2011, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Martin Oak Ridge Funeral Home with a graveside service following at 1:30 p.m., at Anderson Memorial Gardens with Marty Shelton officiating.

Online messages to the family can be left at www.martinoakridgefuneralhome.com.

Martin Oak Ridge Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

William David Bowman, 82

OKEECHOBEE — William David Bowman, 82, died at the Hamrick Home on Saturday, July 9, 2011.

Born in Kentucky, he had lived in Lantana, Fla., and moved to Okeechobee 16 years ago. His hobbies included fishing and horses.

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Barbara; son, William Edward Bowman of Harrodsburg, Ky.; daughter, Sherry (Richard) Rose of Lantana; grandsons, Matthew (Ashleigh) Bowman of Palm City, William Bowman of White City; granddaughters, Angie (Brian) Smith of Lantana, Laura (Bill) Kirkpatrick of Lake Worth; and six great-grandchildren.

Private services will be held.

If friends choose, they may make memorial donations to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, Florida 34973.

Online condolences may be sent to www.buxtonseawinds.com

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



Community Events

Hospice to hold yard sale

Hospice of Okeechobee's yard sales in July will be on Wednesday, **July 13**, and Thursday, **July 14**, and Wednesday, July 27, and Thursday, July 28, from 8 a.m. until noon. The yard sale is located at the corner of S.E. Fourth Street and S.E. Third Ave. For information call 863-467-2321 or see our web page www.hospiceofokeechobee.org and click on Events tab.

Food Bank providing Food Stamp Assistance July 13

Treasure Coast Food Bank will be at Welcome House Drop-in Center, 1925 Hwy 441 S.E., on Wednesday, **July 13**, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. helping with food stamp applications and recertification. This service is open to the public and no appointment is necessary. For information call 772-971-3316.

Women of Moose plan dinner

The Women of the Moose, #2417, of Buckhead Ridge is sponsoring a Thursday, **July 14**, dinner. The menu consists of fresh fruit, garden salad, chicken and yellow rice, vegetable, rolls and butter, banana pudding and cookies. Dinner will be served from 5 p.m. until they run out for a donation of \$7. The dinner is for members and guests. Call, 863-763-8850, with questions.

Legion Hall hosts Dollar Day

American Legion Riders Post 64 will host dollar day on Thursday, July 14, (3) wings for a \$1, hamburgers, hotdogs, grilled cheese, ham salad, tuna salad, fried bologna, egg salad, beans, cornbread, and chili we will serve from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Happy hour is from 4 until 7 p.m. We will have Cowboy Jody karaoke from 4:30 until 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Business Women to meet

The monthly meeting site of The Okeechobee Business Women's Referral Network has been changed. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. Friday, **July 15**, at Beef O'Brady's, 608 S. Parrott Ave. This group, open to all women, meets to share business knowledge, opportunities and friendships. You are invited and you will be welcomed.

Church hosting fundraiser

Point of Light Fellowship Church of Lakeport is selling pork rib dinners with baked beans, corn, dinner roll and dessert all for just \$8 on Saturday, July 16, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the W&W Lumber parking lot. Call Pastor Eddie Woodham for delivery information at 863-261-1914.

Free diabetes program

Grand Oaks, 203 S.E. Second Street, will host a free diabetes education program on **July 13**, at 1:30 p.m. in the dining hall. "Living with Diabetes" will be presented by Wanda Haas.

Babysitter training offered

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will be holding their annual Babysitter Training class on Saturday, July 23, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Deadline to register is **Friday, July 15**, since space is limited! Youth, ages 11-15 years are invited to attend and the cost is \$50. The class will be held at the Red Cross office located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register or for more information, please call 863-763-2488.

Moose Lodge offers dinner

On Friday, **July 15**, the Loyal Order of Moose, #1753, at 159 N.W. 36th Street, will serve a country fried steak dinner for only \$5 per person from 5 to 7 p.m. Dinner is being prepared by the Moose Legion. Music will be played by Carl Cable, from 7 to 10 p.m. Members and guests are welcome.

Legion hosts dinner/karaoke

American Legion Post 64 will have Friday night dinner from 5 until 8 p.m. We will have fish, chicken strips or a combo of both, we will also offer country fried steak sandwich all meals come with french fries, coleslaw and hushpuppies. Karaoke will be hosted by BK productions' Penny and Bobby, from 5 to 8 p.m. Happy hour is from 4 until 7 p.m.

VFW hosting jam session

Huge Jam Session—open mic at Buckhead Ridge VFW, State Road 78 West, Saturday, **July 16**, starting time 7 p.m. All Musicians and Singers welcome. For more information call Buck at 863-763-8111 or 863-623-8566.

VFW holds fish fry

The Buckhead Ridge VFW, Post 9528, Rt. 78 W. is holding "the best fish fry in town." The date is Saturday, **July 16**, starting at 1 p.m. until The cost is just \$6. The menu is fish, fries, cole slaw and hush puppies. So come on in and have a great time! Call 863-467-2882 with any questions.

Amvets plans BBQ, bike show

Amvets, Post 200, and Amvets Riders will hold a Chicken BBQ & Bike Show on Saturday, **July 16**, at 1 p.m. at the Iron Eagle Bar on S.R. 78W. Menu serving is half a BBQ chicken, beans, and slaw for just \$6 (delivery available). A bike show with first, second and third mention for best bike will be held. Proceeds go to Okeechobee no kill animal shelter and Forgotten Soldier Outreach.

Sunday race day at Legion

This Sunday bring a covered dish and watch the race with us at the American Legion Post 64 from 1 p.m. until the race is over. Happy hour will be from 1 until 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

VFW hosts Sunday breakfast

VFW Post #9528 Ladies Auxillary will hold a breakfast on July 17. The post is located on S.R. 78 West in Buckhead Ridge. Breakfast will be served 9 until 11 a.m. for a \$5 donation.

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Local teen sentenced to 6 months in jail

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A teen arrested last year in an undercover drug operation at Okeechobee High School went before Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger on Monday and was sentenced to six months in the county jail.



Tony Randall DeVoss

Judge Belanger also withheld adjudication and ordered Tony Randall DeVoss Jr., 18, to submit a DNA sample pursuant to state statutes.

DeVoss was 17 when arrested in 2010 on two counts of possession of a legend drug without a prescription with intent to dispense and one count of sale of a substance in lieu of a controlled substance during an undercover drug sting dubbed Operation No More.

He was one of 16 other OHS students arrested during the operation in which undercover officers from agencies outside Okeechobee County posed as drug buyers on the school campus.

The teen was sentenced to six months in the Okeechobee County Jail on each charge, with the sentences to run concurrently. He will get credit for the one day he has already served.

During the operation officers bought several different types of drugs including marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy and various prescription pills. Some of the buys were made on the school's campus.

DeVoss was the last of those arrested and charged as adults to be sentenced, indicated Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright.

DeVoss entered a plea before Judge Belanger on May 25.

The judge on July 11 ordered that if the young man completes his stint in the Okeechobee County Jail without getting into any more trouble he will not have a felony record.

According to an Okeechobee Narcotics

Task Force detective prescription pills—including alprazolam, percocet, hydromorphone, darvacet, vyvanse, adderall, hydrocodone and xanax—were purchased for \$1 to \$15 each during the operation.

In another sentencing Monday, Samuel Hendrix was found guilty of possession of a controlled substance (roxicodone) and was sentenced to 100 days in the county jail as part of a plea agreement with the state. He will receive credit for the one day he has already served.



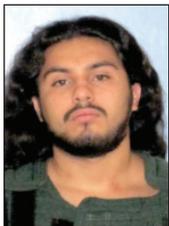
Samuel Hendrix

He was also ordered by Judge Belanger to give a sample of his DNA. He will also have to surrender his driver's license for a period of two years, although he may apply for a license that will allow him to drive back and forth to work.

Hendrix was arrested Aug. 19, 2010, by task force detectives.

Alleged gang member accused of fighting deputy

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



Adrian Valdez

A reputed gang member was arrested after he reportedly tried to commit suicide then fought with a deputy who was trying to get him examined by emergency medical personnel.

Adrian Valdez, 18, N.E. 64th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Saturday, July 9, on a felony charge of resisting a law enforcement officer with violence and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Valdez was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$3,000.

An arrest report by Deputy Bart Potter, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), indicated that he was called to the

man's home due to an apparent suicide attempt. Deputy Potter stated in his report that there was a strong odor of gas in the home.

When it was determined that Valdez was not armed with any sort of weapon, the deputy reportedly tried to get him examined by Okeechobee Fire/Rescue emergency medical services (EMS) personnel. However, Valdez walked past the EMS personnel and tried to get away from the deputy, continued the report.

Deputy Potter stated that Valdez was trying to get to the street when he grabbed him and told him that EMS needed to examine him.

Valdez reportedly started to fight with the deputy, but Deputy Potter stated that he was eventually able to wrestle Valdez to the ground and handcuff him. At this point, continued the report, family members were

closing in on the deputy in a threatening manner. The deputy said EMS personnel tried to help restrain the family.

According to the deputy's report, Valdez is a member of the Four Seasons Posse and has a tattoo of FSP on his stomach. Deputy Potter went on to state that both Valdez and another FSP member at the scene threatened "... to take care of me."

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Churches plan vacation bible school summer events

By Pete Gawda

Okeechobee News

The children's clothes closet at **Grace Brethren Church**, 701 S. Parrott Ave, will be open Wednesdays, **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.

Okeechobee Church of God, 301 N.E. Fourth Ave., is having 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.

Okeechobee Missionary Baptist Church, 4212 U.S. 441 N, is having Vacation Bible School, **July 25 through 29**, from 7 to 9 each evening with classes for all ages. For more information please call 863-763-7743.

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.

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.

Grab your bandana, dust off your boots



Places of Worship

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

and get ready to mine for True Gold as **Everglades Baptist Church** and **Treasure Island Baptist Church** partner together for Vacation Bible School. They are heading to the Old West in Gold Rush: Discovering the Rock of Ages! You'll have loads of fun in 24-Karat Crafts, Rip-Roarin' Recreation, Discovery Mine Bible Time, and Lip-Smackin' Snacks! They will be meetin' together for a Gold Rush Rally each night, **July 25-29th**, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Treasure

Island Baptist Church, 4209 Highway 441 SE. Registration will be open on the 25th at 5:15 p.m. So y'all who are 3 years old through 6th grade completed come on over. You can also register online at <http://www.answersvbbs.com/vbs/EvergladesandTreasureIslandBaptistChurch> If you need more info contact Lori Williams, VBS Director at 863-801-1414.

Okeechobee Christian Church will host Vacation Bible School July 25-29, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Visit the website at www.okeechobeechristianchurch.com to register online or call 467-7858 for information on registration.

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

Summer Reading Program held at the Library

Join us at the Library for a Read S'more Books! program every Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. during July. This program is for children Kindergarten through fifth grade, ages 5 to 12, siblings welcome. Parents or Caregivers must remain with their children during the program. This program consists of Camping Stories, Readers Theater, Craft Projects, and of course, Reading S'more Books! Rewards and Prizes will be given to Celebrate Reading Achievement. This program is provided free to the Public and No Registration is required.



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Special athletes take medals in district bowling

Special athletes from three counties competed in a districtwide bowling match for medals on Saturday, July 9, at Royal Palms Bowling Center in Lake Placid, Fla.

During the Special STARS District Bowling competition, Highlands County took home 42 medals while Okeechobee won 18 medals and Hardee took 11 medals. There were 104 athletes competing. Highlands won 16 gold, 14 silver and 12 bronze medals. Okeechobee had six gold, eight silver and four bronze medals. Hardee had six gold, one silver and four bronze medals.

The event opened with the Lake Placid Elks Lodge presenting the flag while Carl Gillilan, of Sebring, sang the national anthem. Bowlers competed in singles, doubles, teams and ramps. Medals and ribbons were presented and a lunch was served after the competition. Cracker Trail 4-H Club assisted with the awards and lunch.

Shawn Squires, of Highlands, had the highest score. He bowled a 224 and 199. He joined efforts with Joe Singha to bowl doubles and took the gold medals. Joe Borg and Rebecca Patrick, of Okeechobee, won silver while Frankie Smelser and Betty Burnett, of Highlands, won the bronze medals.

In another bracket of doubles, Bruce Brummett and Thomas Dirkson, of Hardee, took gold medals. John Patrick and Mary Jo Solloway, of Okeechobee, won silver medals while Donna Headdy and Lewis Simpson, of Hardee, won bronze medals.

Sara Canali and Patty Wilfong paired up

in unassisted ramp bowling to win gold medals against Herb Adkins and Emily Harrison. They are all from Highlands County.

Highlands had four teams competing in the event. Two teams tied for the first place with a score of 875 each. Team members winning gold were Owen Barnhill, Sharon Carpenter, Jeannene Eby, John Smith, Travis Moss, Alex Lopez, Nicole Lewis and Ricky



Special to the Okeechobee News/Cindy Marshall
Twins Gaye and Kaye Palmer, of Okeechobee, celebrate that they won medals at the Special STARS District Bowling competition in Lake Placid on July 9. Gaye won gold and Kaye won silver.

Marino. The second place team, consisting of Carol Snyder, Leon Gordon, Markevin Smith and Greg Robinson, had a total score of 747. The third place team getting bronze medals were Rob Ward, Amelia Titus, Kathy Mitchell and Brian Harrison. Avon Park Youth Academy also participated at the event with the teams. Other Highlands County athletes who won gold were Dennis Taylor and Hormel Biggs. Silver medalists were Frances Goff, Christine Frank, Alan Kufnowski, Josh Croston, Penny Holder, William Dickson and Mike Eldred. Bronze medalists were Richard Rossner, Terry Richardson, Nancy Cassels, Maricel Moreno and Ryland Biggs. Other Hardee County athletes won gold medals were Thomas Whitfield, Julie Kilbourne, Sue Egnoski and Bill Flemer. Melinda Hatchcock won silver medals. Carol Vitale and Christa Haegge won bronze medals.

Other Okeechobee County athletes who won gold were Nathan Perdue, R.J. Sandefur, Gaye Palmer, Jackie Wentworth, Jodi Mains

and Andrew Patrick. Silver medals were won by Joanna Austin, Connie Doyle, Bill Bailey and Kaye Palmer. Bronze medalists were David Westgate, Kandi McFarland, Leonard Bain and Steve Kotch.



Special to the News/Cindy Marshall
Special STARS athlete R.J. Sandefur, of Okeechobee, prepares to roll the ball down the ramp. Since he is blind, a volunteer lines up the ramp for him and he pushes the ball off on his own.

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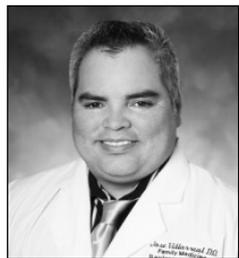
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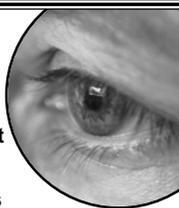
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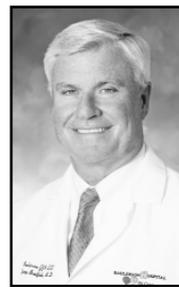
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Public Notice

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS Florida Department of Transportation Project

Bids will be received by the Tallahassee Office until 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, for Proposal ID T1465. A Certification of Qualification is not required for this SIGNING/PAVEMENT MARKINGS project on SR 78; FROM CANAL BOAT RAMP TO OKEECHOBEE COUNTY LINE in Glades County. Budget Estimate \$206,794.00. Complete letting advertisement information for this project is available on our website at http://www.dot.state.fl.us/cc-admin/Letting/Project_Info.shtm or by calling (850) 414-4000. 932270 ON 7/13,20/2011

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE COMPLAINT

On June 9, 2011, the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office seized the following property: UNITED STATES CURRENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,520.00 and intends to seek forfeiture under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act. 931810 ON 7/13,20/2011

Public Notice

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Okeechobee County School Board will consider amendment of the School Board policy listed below at their meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., in Room 303 of the School Board Administrative Office at 700 S.W. Second Avenue, Okeechobee. A copy of the proposed policy amendment is available in the Superintendent's Office, Room 307, located at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue. AMENDMENT OF BOARD POLICY 5.40 - Student Control 1. This policy includes the Code of Student Conduct. 2. Revisions to the Code of Student Conduct include deletion of the First Time Offender Program, addition of minimum consequences for inappropriate dress, addition of language on sexting, addition of dating violence section, and other revisions resulting from changes in legislation. Revisions are available in the Superintendent's office. 3. The legal authority for this policy is F.S. 1001.41; 1001.42. Laws implemented are F.S. 120.57(1); 1001.43; 1003.04; 1002.20; 1003.04; 1003.21; 1003.31; 1003.32; 1006.07; 1006.08; 1006.09; 1006.10; 1006.13. 4. This policy amendment will not affect individuals from an economic standpoint. Ken Kenworthy Superintendent of Schools 390839 ON 7/13,15/2011

PUBLIC NOTICE CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED SPECIAL EXCEPTION

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the City of Okeechobee Board of Adjustment and Appeals on Thursday, July 21, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 35 SE 3rd Ave, Council Chambers, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The agenda is available on the City website www.cityofokeechobee.com, or contact the General Services Department, gsclement@cityofokeechobee.com, 863-763-3372 x 218. Under consideration is Special Exception Petition No. 11-001-SE, submitted by property owner Thomas C. Close, on behalf of Close Properties, Inc., to allow a beauty shop within a CPO Zoning District (Ref. Code Book Section 90-223(2)). Property is located at 406 NW 3rd Street. Legal: Lots 9 through 12 of Block 126, Okeechobee, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 5, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida. All members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate in said hearing. The entire petition may be inspected during regular business hours, Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm, except for holidays. The Board of Adjustment and Appeals serves as the decision making body (quasi-judicial), on behalf of the City, to approve or deny Special Exceptions. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the Board of Adjustment and Appeals with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, or hearing will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. General Services media are used for the sole purpose of back-up for the department. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the General Services Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance. By: Brian Whitehall, Zoning Administrator Petition No. 11-001-SE 390911 ON 7/3,13/2011

LEGAL NOTICE

A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on Friday the 29th day of July 2011 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows:

- 2007 White Great Dane Trailer 1GRAA06257J619455
1998 Gray Dodge Caravan 1B4G45R0WB746855
1997 White Dodge 2500 Ram Van 2B7HB2LXQVK562636
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Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" with no guarantees. 392311 ON 7/13/2011

Public Notice

Okeechobee County School Board Meetings July 21 and July 28, 2011 The Okeechobee County School Board will meet on July 21, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., to consider advertisement of proposed millage rates and the proposed budget for 2011-12. The School Board will meet on July 28, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., for a public hearing to consider adoption of tentative millage rates and the tentative budget for 2011-12. Both meetings will be in Room 303 of the School Board Administrative Office at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, and both meetings are open to the public. Ken Kenworthy Superintendent of Schools 390839 ON 7/13,15/2011

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Public Notice

REQUEST FOR BID (RFB) NO. 600000428 S-193 NAVIGATIONAL LOCK REFURBISHMENT, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FL The Procurement Bureau of the South Florida Water Management District, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406, will receive sealed bids up to 2:30 p.m. opening time on Friday, August 12, 2011 for the S-193 NAVIGATIONAL LOCK REFURBISHMENT, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FL. An OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held on Friday, July 22, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m., at the South Florida Water Management District, Okeechobee Field Station Conference Room located at 1000 N.E. 40th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972 for all interested respondents. For directions call (863) 462-5280. Visit to field sites will immediately follow. Transportation will be the responsibility of interested attendees. Casual attire is recommended for the site visits. All bids must conform to the instructions in the RFB. Interested respondents may obtain a copy of the complete RFB (1) at the above address; (2) by downloading the solicitation from our website at www.sfwmd.gov; (3) by calling (561) 682-6588. The public is invited to attend the bid opening. Further information on the status of this solicitation can be obtained on our web site - www.sfwmd.gov. 391813 ON 7/13 CN 7/14/2011

Public Notice

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Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS 1 Big bird's grabber 6 Croquet venue 10 Vinyl container 14 Essential acid, familiarly 15 Working hard 16 Galway Bay's Islands 17 Make an appearance 20 Bolsheviks' bane 21 Ins. plans 22 Auto dealer's agreement, at times 23 Andy Taylor's boy 25 Cloak-and-dagger org. 26 Do nothing 33 Movie trailer, e.g. 34 Bartender's rocks 35 Takes home 37 Amorous sound 38 Fortified Portuguese wine 42 Draw 43 Throw in a chip 45 Nintendo game console 46 Yankees' home 48 Dancing instruction from KC and the Sunshine Band 52 "Groovy!" 53 Seaside city 54 More than sufficiently 57 Greeley's direction for young men 59 Linc's "Mod Squad" do 63 Death row reprieve 66 Enjoying a lot 67 Act the accomplice 68 Doomed Genesis city 69 YMCA part: Abbr. 70 Lessons learned early 71 Eat away at DOWN 1 Diplomacy 2 "Famous" cookie guy 3 South American capital 4 Like a studio apartment 5 Doze off 6 Marshals, usually 7 12 for Mg or 20 for Ca, e.g. 8 Mental faculties 9 Extreme degree 10 Peninsula bordering Massachusetts Bay 11 Diva's piece 12 Bloomingdale's rival 13 Genuflection joint 18 West Virginia border river 19 Lamb's pen name 24 Penh, Cambodia 25 "If I Could Turn Back Time" singer 26 Pet welfare org. 27 Presses 28 Place for a crown or cap 29 Old MacDonald refrain 30 Biol. or geol. 31 Artoo's "surname" 32 Be frugal 36 Erotic 39 Filled with wonder

- 40 Like some home improvement projects, briefly 41 E.g., e.g. 44 Near the outset 47 ___ cuff: pitching injury site 49 Fight stopper 50 Underdog victories 51 Campus mil. group 54 Where billions live 55 "White" peaks in N.H. 56 Butter units 57 Jack of "Dragnet" 58 Corporate VIP 60 Pet targeted by the first words of this puzzle's four longest answers 61 Large cross 62 "Dinner is ..." 64 Flight oversight org. 65 Exploit

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

Grid of crossword puzzle answers: M A T T E A S P E N R A P, I N E R T W E A V E I L L, K N E E S L A P P E R D E A, E O N S O K I E F L I R T, S Y S T B E A R D A N T E, L I E N H A R D G, S I C E M S A L A D O I L, P D A S W E A T I T U S A, A I R H E A D S E N T R Y, G O T I N E Z R A, P R O S F O R C E T A R P, O A S E S R E A R A R E A, S C H H O T C R O S S B U N, S K I A L O U D G H O S T, E S P G E N E S T A R E S

xwordeditor@aol.com

13x13 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for clues.

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OCRA Jr. Dixie boys lose to Winter Haven team

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Winter Haven scored three times in the top of the first inning and never trailed in the game as they upended Okeechobee 8-5 in the opening game of the Dixie Boys baseball Junior Dixie Tournament on Saturday in Sebring.

Okeechobee rallied to tie the game at 5-5 in the fifth inning but gave up three runs in the seventh as they fell into the loser's bracket of the tournament.

Chase Armbruster and Jordan Cogdon got Winter Haven off to a good start with RBI singles in the first against Brahman starter

Mason Joyner. Okeechobee responded with an RBI single by Elijah Finney in the bottom of the first and trailed 3-1 after one inning.

Armando Rodriguez RBI double made it 3-2 in the second.

Zach Joiner had an RBI triple for Winter Haven to make it 4-2 in the third.

Okeechobee threatened to score in the third as Codi Mostetter hit a long fly ball to deep left field that was caught at the fence. Two runners were stranded on base when Joiner made a diving catch in center field.

A balk call allowed Cameron Morris to score from third as Okeechobee closed to within 4-3 in the fourth inning.

Dylan O'Leary had a sacrifice fly for Win-

ter Haven in the fifth inning.

Okeechobee scored twice thanks to singles by Jarred Morgan and Mostetter and a throwing error by Winter Haven in the bottom of the fifth.

With the score tied at five, Winter Haven played small ball in the top of the seventh to win the game. An infield error and a walk,

followed by a sacrifice by Cogdon put two runners in scoring position. J.J. McIntyre drove home Armbruster with a single and a second run scored on an error. O'Leary delivered the final run with an RBI ground out.

Okeechobee could not score in the bottom of the seventh as they lost the opening round game.

AA All-star squad battles at State Dixie Youth tourney

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee AA All-stars lost a heart breaker to Bartow but responded with a strong victory over Holmes County during the first two days of the Dixie Youth baseball Florida State Tournament this weekend.

Bartow rallied in their final at bat to score five runs and defeat the Okeechobee stars 10-9 in the opening round game on Saturday in Brooksville.

Okeechobee had built a 9-5 lead before the Bartow rally. Braison Crews had two hits and a run scored for Okeechobee. Gavin Driggers drove in a run. Case Myers had three hits along with a run scored and a RBI. Landon Craig had a double and run scored and also had several impressive fielding plays. He was slightly injured by a batted ball in the sixth inning. Pike Dawson had two singles, an RBI and a run scored. Blake Joyner had an RBI single and Justin Comfort had a double and a run scored.

Noah Jones of Bartow had several impressive defensive plays. He also had an

RBI single and scored a run in the first inning, an RBI in the third, and a two-run single to tie the game in the sixth. He scored the winning run on a base hit by Austin Breadon on a close play at home plate.

The game started about an hour behind schedule due to a thunder storm in Hernando County.

Okeechobee defeated Holmes County 15-6 on Sunday evening to remain alive in the tournament.

Okeechobee pounded out 15 base hits as they won by mercy rule. Justin Comfort had a strong game with an RBI double. Jacob Hardy had an RBI single. Nicholas Hayford had two singles and an RBI along with a stolen base. Landon Craig added an RBI single.

The AA All stars are coached by Shawn Crews, Dale Hardy and John Hayford.

The Okeechobee squad was scheduled to play East Lakeland on Monday night. The winner and the runner up squad at the tournament will qualify for the Regional Tournament to be held in Mulberry. That tournament begins on July 30.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Teresa Chandler

Teen Dance Party

Teresa Chandler coordinated a teen dance party for CASTLE on July 2. Fifty-two students attended and had a great time playing "name that tune" with DJ "Allie," hula hooping and a limbo contest. Commissioner Culpepper stopped and enjoyed the fun also! Thank you to all of our contributors for their continued support and all of the volunteers who help make it happen! For more information on the teen dance program, contact Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996.

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