



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 85

Sunday, July 17, 2011

75¢ Plus tax



Upgrades enhance flood control

... Page 8

Sexual predator notice ... Page 7

Tewksbury plays baseball for IRSC

... Page 13

Lake Levels

10.00 feet

Last Year: 14.40 feet

Sponsored By:



Pogey's Family Restaurant
1759 S. Parrott Ave.
763-7222

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



See page 4 for information about how to contact this newspaper.

newszap.com
Free Speech Free Ads



IRS seizes Chamber for back taxes

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) seized the Chamber of Commerce building Friday morning to satisfy a tax lien, and a city leader is now concerned about what will become of the building since the city holds the deed.

While the Okeechobee County Chamber of Commerce building has been at 55 S. Parrott Ave. since 1985, that Chamber fell on hard times and currently owes the IRS \$105,467.50 for unpaid taxes from 2001 through 2009.

Brenda Appelton, the former director for the Chamber, said hurricanes and the loss of income from local festivals played a big part in the Chamber's demise.

"Because of the hurricanes in 2004 and 2005 the Chamber lost two of its biggest fundraisers (Speckled Perch and Labor Day festivals) and was never able to come back," said Mrs. Appleton, who served as the Chamber's director for nearly 21 years. "The Chamber asked the city and county for help but didn't get it. It's not anyone's fault. We had a lot of good people trying to keep it going."

According to City Administrator Brian Whitehall, the City of

Okeechobee purchased the property on which the Chamber sits from the Hamrick Trust with the deed restriction that the building only be used for a chamber of commerce.

Mr. Whitehall said he has had prior conversations with the IRS over the building and they are aware of the deed restriction and the city's stance.

"I've been told there's no dispute from the IRS as to who owns the building and they're not going to pursue liquidating the building itself," he said in a July 15 interview. "What they're interested in is the value in the right of occupancy. They believe the lease value amount would help satisfy the tax lien."

In short, the IRS expects to sell the lease to help satisfy the lien.

The administrator went on to say that the IRS will accept sealed bids for the personal property and that "they've been consistent in telling me that."

Mr. Whitehall said the IRS has apparently marketed lease values in other scenarios and arrived at a dollar amount. He said he has made it crystal clear that, because of the deed restrictions, only a chamber of commerce can occupy the building.

See CHAMBER—Page 19



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

Internal Revenue Service representative Wanda Quilex (center, facing) posts a notice on the front door of the Okeechobee County Chamber of Commerce Friday, July 15, that her agency has seized the building in lieu of back taxes. As the notice is posted Gloria Scherre (right), from Gary's Lock & Safe, changes the lock on the door. While the man in the foreground is also from the IRS, his identity was not released.

Lake coalition hears of SFWMD budget cuts

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District, Melissa Meeker, explained the budget proposal for her agency to the County Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee at the Coalition's quarterly meeting Friday.

She explained flood control and emergency response is the main mission of the district who have focused on their core mission

'It (fishing on Lake Okeechobee) is fabulous. Bass fisherman can catch 100 fish per day and that is not out of the ordinary.'

— Don Fox, biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

amidst major budget reductions and increased state legislative control this year. She recently announced 100 employee layoffs to the District Governing Board. The proposed budget totals

just over \$557 million. Restoration projects represent 39 percent of the budget. They will

See LAKE — Page 18

SUBWAY
eat fresh.
TOWN STAR

Party Platters to Go
Let us cater your next party or event.
July Special Platters
ONLY \$29.99
Serves up to 10 people
With coupon only 24 hour notice required!

NEW STORE CORNER OF 15 A AND 441 SE
12800 Hwy 70 E 863-467-6012
8605 Hwy 441 SE 863-467-8507
2398 Hwy 70 W 863-467-4320
3990 Hwy 710 863-467-4188

bp
with Invigorate

Citizen input wanted in redistricting district lines

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

It's time for redrawing state and congressional district lines based on the 2010 census. The Florida Legislature, which will make the final decision when they convene in January 2012 has asked for the public's help in this complicated process.

The number of congressional districts in Florida will increase from 25 to 27 based on the increase in population. However, the number of state house and senatorial districts will remain the same at 120 and 40 respectively. Those are the maximum number of seats allowed under the state constitution.

On the congressional level, district lines will be redrawn to create two new districts. Each of the 27 districts will contain about 696,345 people. On the state level, while the number of districts will remain the same, district lines will be redrawn to reflect increases and shifts in population. House districts will include approximately 156,687 citizens and senate districts will consist of about 470,033 citizens each.

The current population of Okeechobee County, according to the 2010 census is about 40,000, that is up from the almost 35,000 population in 2000. Therefore all or portions of Okeechobee County will have to be lumped together with all or portions of other counties to form new congressional and state districts. Okeechobee County could end up with 1, 2 or even more districts depending on how the county is divided up and grouped with portions of other counties.

Currently, on the state level Okeechobee is represented by Representative Steve Perman of District 78 which consists of parts of Broward, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties and Representative Mike Horner of District 79 consisting of parts of Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola and Polk counties. On the Senate side we are represented by Sen. J. D. Alexander of District 17 made up of Hardee, Highlands and parts

of DeSoto, Glades, Okeechobee, Polk and St. Lucie counties and Sen. Joe Negron of District 28 made up of Martin and parts of Indian River, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties.

On the congressional level, Okeechobee is in the 16th congressional district which is made up of portions of Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and all of Okeechobee, Highlands, Glades Charlotte and Hendry counties. That district is currently served by Rep. Tom Rooney.

Prior to deliberating the issue of redistricting, the State Legislature is holding a series of public meetings around the state to solicit public input. There are three meetings scheduled near to Okeechobee County. On Tuesday, July 26, there will be a meeting in Wachula at the Hardee County Civic Center at 8 a.m. On Monday, Aug. 15, a meeting will be held in Stuart at the Blake Library at 6 p.m. The last area meeting will be in Clewiston on Thursday, Sept. 1 at 8 a.m. at the health department. As much public testimony as possible will be heard at these meetings. Citizens are welcome to supplement the record with written material. While advance registration is optional, it is recommended that interested persons who wish to attend one or more of these meetings go to www.flsenate.gov, click on redistricting and fill out the RSVP form. Interested persons can also email comments or suggestions to RedistrictFlorida@flsenate.gov.

On the county level, commissioners will redraw the commission district lines to ensure each one has about the number of inhabitants.

According to the state constitution no district shall be drawn to favor or disfavor a political party, or an incumbent. Neither shall district lines be drawn that deny or abridge the equal opportunities of racial or language minorities.

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

Roofing with the name you trust!

BIG LAKE

ROOFING & REPAIRS

Residential Commercial

FREE Estimates

Licensed and Insured St. Lic. CCC046939

Don't make a Mistake!

Call Big Lake

863-763-ROOF (7663)

Brahman Theaters III

July 15th - July 21st **MOVIE LISTINGS**

For Info, Call 763-7202

THEATRE I: "TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON"

Fri. 7:00 & 10:00, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00 & 7:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG-13**

THEATRE II: "HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART II 3D"

Fri. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG-13**

THEATRE III: "ZOOKEEPER"

Fri., 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG**

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2 Tickets: Adults - \$8, Children & Seniors - \$6.50, Matinees - \$6.00
All Other Movie Tickets: Adults - \$6.50 • Children 12 & under - \$5.00 • Senior Citizens - \$5.00 all movies • Matinees - \$4.50

Marder Dermatology

MARDERDERMATOLOGY.COM

First 25 callers receive a FREE SKIN CANCER EXAM!

SKIN CANCER IS CURABLE

Board Certified Dermatologist • Most Insurances Accepted

(863) 763-9484 Exam is **\$135** Value

202 NE 2nd St Okeechobee Call for an appointment today!

DO YOU SUFFER FROM CHRONIC HEARTBURN?

July 19th
6:00pm - 7:00pm
Dr. Philip Moyer: Performing TIF

Tentative Schedule:

Physician Lecture
20-25 minutes

Question & Answer
10-15 minutes

Refreshments will be provided

Held at:
Tradition Town Hall
10799 Civic Lane
Port St. Lucie, FL 34987

This event is free and open to the public

Please RSVP to reserve your seat: (800) 382-3522

Presented By:

LAWNWOOD Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute

RAULERSON HOSPITAL

St Lucie Medical Center

Xplosion/Brahman
2nd Annual Wee Cheer Clinic

July 18 - 22, 8:30am - 12pm
at Xplosion Gym (behind Eli's)

\$75

Join the Xplosion staff and OHS cheerleaders for a week of fun. Early drop off available!
Call 863-441-3826 for more information.
Walk ins okay! All athletes receive a shirt.

"Always on Top of the Job"

LUVIANO ROOFING CO INC

Re-Roofing Specialists

- Metal & Shingle Roofs
- Flats & Leaks Repair

FREE ESTIMATES

State Lic.#CCG1327338

863-357-3838

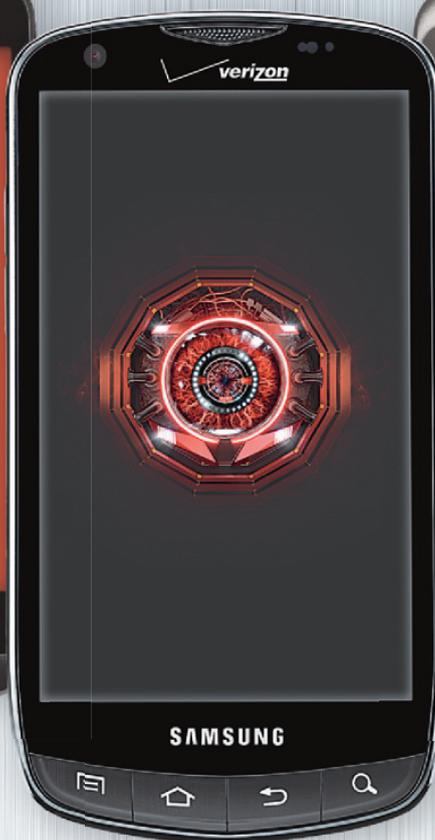


VERIZON 4G[™] SMARTPHONES.

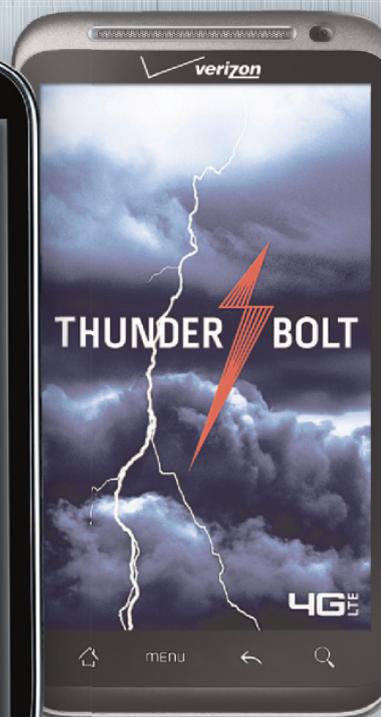
Twice as fast as any AT&T smartphone.



Verizon Exclusive
NEW! Revolution™
by LG



Verizon Exclusive
NEW! DROID CHARGE
by Samsung



Verizon Exclusive
NEW! ThunderBolt™
by HTC

trade in You could get up to a **\$250** Verizon Gift Card to use on Verizon services and products when you trade in your current phone from any carrier. Visit www.trade-in.vzw.com for info.

1.800.256.4646 • VERIZONWIRELESS.COM • VZW.COM/STORELOCATOR

Activation fee/line: \$35.

IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Cust. Agmt, Calling Plan & credit approval. Restocking fee may apply. Twice as fast claim based on comparison of Verizon's 4G LTE vs. AT&T's HSPA+ network. LTE is a trademark of ETSI. 4G LTE is available in 55 metros & 70 major airports in the U.S.; coverage maps at vzw.com. DROID is a trademark of Lucasfilm Ltd. and its related companies. Used under license. Netflix unlimited membership required. © 2011 Verizon Wireless.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



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!

Reduce spending

- The first cuts need to be on Congressional pay and their medical benefits. Over the years they have cut benefits to the poor many, many times. Yet not one nickel has been cut from their pay. Why is there no public outrage over this?

- Why cut their pay? How much would it amount to anyway? Let us search for real savings.

- What the taxpayers pays them is insignificant when you consider it does allow the less wealthy to serve. Beating up our elected officials financially will only provide a lower class of elected official or the wealthy elite.

- The base pay for a congressman is \$174,000 per year. They pay 1.3 percent into retirement and 6.2 percent to Social Security. The average retirement benefit payment of a retired congressman is about \$60,000 per year.

Child abuse

- What happened to protection of our children? Okeechobee is a *family* important town. How can people know things are going on and don't say anything? These children cannot fight for themselves. Those of you who know things are going on right now with these children need to step up to the plate. Do the right thing. How anyone can sleep at night and know what's going on without telling someone, I do not understand. If you know or even suspect someone is hurting a child, you need to report it.

- The recent cases in the news about child abuse break my heart. Look at the little girl who was beaten so badly she suffered brain damage. And then the little boy whose bones were broken and they sought no medical care. He had to be in agony and still they beat him because he cried. And poor little Caylee Anthony who was killed and her body just thrown away in the swamp in a garbage bag. When did this society stop valuing children? It may not take a village to raise a child, but it is obvious that we can't just let parents do whatever they want to.

Guilty: python kills child case

- Looking at the case of the python that killed a child makes one wonder why "stupidity" isn't against the law. My guess is defining it would take eons.

- Three yards of black fabric enshroud my computer terminal. I am mourning the passing of an old friend by the name of Common Sense.

His obituary reads as follows: Common Sense, aka C.S., lived a long life, but died from heart failure at the brink of the millennium. No one really knows how old he was, his birth records were long ago entangled in miles and miles of bureaucratic red tape. Known affectionately to close friends as Horse Sense and Sound Thinking, he selflessly devoted himself to a life of service in homes, schools, hospitals and offices, helping folks get jobs done without a lot of fanfare, whooping and hollering. Rules and regulations and petty, frivolous lawsuits held no power over C.S. A most reliable sage, he was credited with cultivating the ability to know when to come in out of the rain, the discovery that the early bird gets the worm and how to take the bitter with the sweet. C.S. also developed sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn), reliable parenting strategies (the adult is in charge, not the kid) and prudent dietary plans (offset eggs and bacon with a little fiber and orange juice).

A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression, the Technological Revolution and the Smoking Crusades, C.S. survived sundry cultural and educational trends including disco, the men's movement, body piercing, whole language and new math. C.S.'s health began declining in the late 1960s when he became infected with the If-It-Feels-Good, Do-It virus. In the following decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of overbearing federal and state rules and regulations and an oppressive tax code. C.S. was sapped of strength and the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, criminals received better treatment than victims and judges stuck their noses in everything from Boy Scouts to professional baseball and golf. His deterioration accelerated as schools implemented zero-tolerance policies. Reports of 6-year-old boys charged with sexual harassment for kissing classmates, a teen suspended for taking a swig of Scope mouthwash after lunch, girls suspended for possessing Midol and an honor student expelled for having a table knife in her school lunch were more than his heart could endure.

Reflections from the pulpit

By Elder John Garner

More 2 Life Ministries

There is a disease that is affecting fruit bearing trees in a large portion of the U.S. Apparently, the problem is a root problem. You see, on the surface, the tree appears to be healthy, but, underneath, where you can't see, the root of the tree is being attacked; eventually disconnecting the tree from its' root system. Unless someone takes the time to do a careful inspection of the fruit the tree produces, it could take years to detect the problem. Too long a delay in dealing with the affected tree could mean that the tree will not be able to produce fruit at all. If the tree is not treated, it will finally die from this disease.

This illustrates very well one of the real problems affecting the Church today. The Church of America has a serious root problem. For the Church has become so preoccupied with determining what its purpose is and making sure that it can appeal to the ever-widening religious options that present themselves that it has become disconnected from the "root" or core of what the Church is all about, which is and must always be Christ.

Jesus made it very clear that those who would chose to be His disciples to "follow" Him, must be willing to "lose" their life. There is a fundamental truth in Christianity that demands that we have to give it all to Christ, seeking only to live for Him and through Him. Jesus demands that we accept the loss of all things so that we can gain the life that Christ wants to give to those who will sell out completely to Him. This is the only way that we can stay connected to the root or core, Jesus. Disconnected from

Clarification

The Friday, July 15, article headline "Street lights proposed on Peavine Trail" stated that school bus driver Erma Murrish requested street lights at the school bus stops on the Peavine Trail in the Viking property area. It should have stated that Mrs. Murrish and Susie Walter requested stop lights on roads on both sides of the Viking property. Their concerns about safety issues include but are not limited to the bus stops on the Peavine Trail. We regret this error and any confusion that it may have caused.

Christ will mean no fruit for the Christian, and eventually death.

So what does that mean in practical terms? It means that we must seek only to do what Christ calls us to do. We have to stop worrying about building the biggest and the best and start making sure that we are attending to the needs of the people here in our mission field of Okeechobee. It means that we have to make our top priority being right before a righteous God.

Let me say it as simply as I know how: "We must seek to be men and women of God! We must seek to live for Christ and Him only. This is the only way we will produce the fruit that will allow the church to flourish and those who need Christ to desire to seek Him for Who he really is and not the sad imitation we present way too often.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 89. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 93. Calm wind becoming east northeast around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Monday night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 73. Southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Tuesday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 93. South wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Tuesday night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. South wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Wednesday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. South wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Website: www.newszap.com

To Submit News

The Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

E-Mail: okeenews@newszap.com

To Place A Display Ad

Phone: 863-763-3134

E-Mail: okeeadsales@newszap.com

To Place A Classified Ad

Call 877-353-2424 to place a classified advertisement from home.

Fax: 877-354-2424

E-Mail: classads@newszap.com

Billing Department

E-Mail: billteam@newszap.com

To Start or Stop A Paper

Phone: (800) 282-8586

E-mail: readerservices@newszap.com

The Okeechobee News is available three times a week via home delivery and is on sale at rack and store locations throughout Okeechobee County. Call the office to find out if your home is within our present home-distribution boundaries.

Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.

Additional copies of the newspaper are available for 50 cents Wednesday and Friday and 75 cents for Sunday at the office. Home delivery subscriptions are available at \$18.00 for three months.

Okeechobee News

USPS 406-160

Published 3 times a week: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday by Independent Newspapers, Inc.

107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D • Okeechobee, FL 34974
Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Okeechobee News
Circulation Administration
PO Box 7011 • Dover, DE 19903

Staff

Editor: Katrina Elsen
Circulation Manager: Janet Madray
Publisher: Tom Byrd

Our Purpose...

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



2011 OHS Scholarship Night



Special to the Okeechobee News

Recipients of the Lake Okeechobee Airboat Association Scholarship were Adam Brandel, Kelsey Burnham and Jennifer Jaenz (not pictured). Scholarship awards were presented by Michelle Wilson in the amount of \$500. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Recipients of the Okeechobee Educational Foundation/United Way Scholarship were Ashtyn Brown, Teresa Casas, Kyle Foster, Samuel Kenworthy, Celena Letcher, Melissa Lujan and Carma Rowlett. Scholarship awards were presented by Gretchen Robertson, Linda Syfrett and Joseph Stanley in the amount of \$1,000. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Recipients of the State Farm Insurance "Good Neighbor" Scholarship were Emily Berggren and Alexandria Ming. Scholarship awards were presented by Gretchen Robertson 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 Okeechobee Educational Foundation/Grow Our Own Scholarship was Mariela Gamez. The award was presented by Gretchen Robertson, Linda Syfrett and Joseph Stanley in the amount of \$5,500. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Recipients of the Children's Services of Okeechobee County Scholarship were Kayla Born, Shemaiah Henderson, Juan Lugo, Phillip Murray, Brittany Nichols and Tiffany Rowlett. Scholarship awards were presented by Cathleen Blair in amounts between \$4,000 to \$6,000. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.



Special to the Okeechobee News

The recipient of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Scholarship was Mariela Gamez. The award was presented by Cathleen Blair and Mary Hurley in the amount of \$500. Scholarship awards were presented at Okeechobee High School's 2011 Scholarship Night on May 26.

A REAL ^{No} BRAINER!

If you're looking to save money -- and who isn't these days? -- subscribing to the Okeechobee News is a real *no brainer!*

And if you enroll today in our **EZPay** subscription plan, you'll not only save REAL money, but you'll s-t-r-e-t-c-h every cent. Plus we'll give you a complimentary e-Subscription, so you can read YOUR newspaper anywhere via the Internet.



That's a value of \$72 -- Yours for **FREE** if you act **NOW!**

(*Value based on annual subscriptions)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

For **ONLY \$6.00** a month

EZPay is simplicity personified. It is the most convenient way to pay for your subscription. Once it's set up, it's automatic every month. And with no bills, no checks and no mail, EZPay is kind to the environment.

Act now! Limited time offer!

Visit:

<https://circulation.newszap.com/>

Email:

readerservices@newszap.com

Call: 800-282-8586

It's all about you, your news, your neighbors, your life.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Community Events

Advisory board meeting set

There will be a meeting of the Treasure Coast Community Action Agency Advisory Board on Wednesday, July 20, at 2 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Community Service Office, 437 North Seventh Street, Ft. Pierce.

Democratic executive council meeting planned

The Okeechobee Democratic Executive Council will be meeting on Thursday, July 21, at 6 p.m. in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's.

National Day of the Cowboy celebration is July 22 & 23

The public is invited to the National Day of the American Cowboy Celebration to be held on Friday and Saturday, July 22 and 23, at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center! Gates will open Friday night at 5 p.m. with a ranch rodeo, festivities and a barn dance ending at midnight.

Saturday the gates open at 3 p.m., with the cattle drive beginning at 4 p.m. at Eli's Western Wear and ending at the Agri-Civic Center where all the festivities will go on until midnight.

The celebration will be two days of western heritage, dancing, food, fun, vendors and cowboys. Admission is only \$5. For more information on the event please contact Teresa Chandler, Event Coordinator at 863-801-4996.

Garbage clean up tournament planned

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

VFW Post to celebrate Christmas in July

VFW Post 10539 will celebrate Christmas in July on Saturday, July 23, at 5 p.m. with a traditional turkey dinner for a donation of \$6. Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit "Unmet Needs." Entertainment will be provided by Cheyenne at 7 p.m.

OCRA sign ups are July 23

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

Okeechobee Christian Church plans Vacation Bible School

We at Okeechobee Christian Church are going inside out & upside down on main street this year for VBS and would love for you to join us! The fun begins July 25-29, at 6:30 p.m., to 8:30 p.m. You can visit our website at: www.okeechobeechristianchurch.com to register online or call 863-467-7858 for information on the registration event.

Missionary Baptist Church will host VBS July 25-29

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

CCC July meeting set

The next meeting of the Community Collaborative Council, a part of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, will be Tuesday, **July 26**, at 10 a.m. in the board room of the School Board Office.

Early Learning Coalition meeting set for July 28

The Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee Counties, Inc. will meet for board orientation on Thursday, July 28, at 1:30 p.m., at ELC Office, 10 SE Central Parkway, Suite 400, Stuart.

Golden Corral will host Martha's House fundraiser

Golden Corral will be host to a Celebrity Server fundraiser on July 28, from 5-8 p.m., to benefit Martha's House with the Chobee Steelers serving it up for a great cause! For tickets please call Martha's House at 863-763-2893.

Freedom Outreach holds fishing tournaments

The Freedom Outreach fishing tournaments will be held on Sundays, **July 31**, Aug. 28 and Sept. 25. The \$80 (cash only) entry fee includes the big fish pot and Classic fund. All tournaments will be held at Okee-Tantie Marina Boat Ramp from safe light until 2 p.m. Scott Driver will be used as a backup if low water occurs. The Classic, on Sunday, Oct. 30, will be a one-day, cash only event with a \$120 entry fee. You must fish three tournaments to be in the Classic. Register early. Please call 561-719-5989 or 863-634-8127 to register or with questions.



with *an* **Online Guestbook**

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

Visit:
www.newszap.com

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

newszap.com

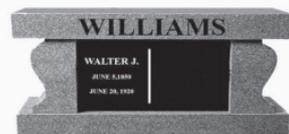
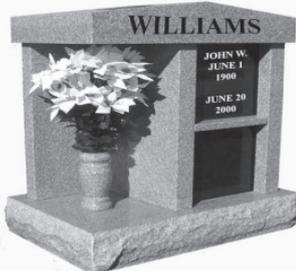
Summer Reading Program at the Library

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. The Friends of the Okeechobee Library have generously provided the program materials.

Foster parents needed

Hibiscus Children's Center Foster Care Program recruits, trains and licenses all the traditional Foster Parents in St. Lucie, Martin and Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. The required 30 hour (MAPP) classes are held one evening a week or on Saturdays and are free. There is a tremendous need for loving and nurturing Foster Parents in all four counties on the Treasure Coast. For additional information about becoming a Foster Parent or to register for a class please call: 1-800-403-9311 ext. 415.

PERSONAL FAMILY CREMATION ESTATES FOR A PERMANENT PLACE OF REMEMBRANCE IN ANY CEMETERY



FOR A FULL LINE OF CREMATION PRODUCTS INCLUDING:
CREMATION NICHES, CREMATION BENCHES
AND ALL TYPES OF URNS

FOREVERGLADES
1500 GATOR BLVD BELLEGLADE, FL
(561) 996-0939

FREE Automotive Classified Ads!

400 Words + 4 Photos Online for 4 Weeks Absolutely FREE!



Example: Chrysler Convertible 2009, Excellent Condition, Heated Leather Seats, Front-Wheel Drive, Satellite Radio. \$0,000. Call 555-5555.

Place your **FREE AD** online: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at...

www.newszap.com click on **Classifieds**

Plus...post your ads in these Florida newspapers for as low as \$8 each!
Okeechobee News, Caloosa Belle, Immokalee Bulletin, Clewiston News, Belle Glade Sun & The Glades County Democrat

FHP issued 8,000+ tickets from July 1-4

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Early figures show that Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) troopers issued over 8,500 traffic citations in their heightened enforcement effort during the July 1-4 holiday weekend. "Our troopers worked hard to help our residents and visitors have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend," said Colonel David Brierton, FHP director. "Motorists who operate their vehicles in an unsafe fashion are a danger that puts innocent lives at risk. The men and women of the Florida Highway Patrol did their part to identify the unsafe drivers and take the steps necessary to decrease that risk."

Preliminary figures released by FHP Tuesday, July 12, indicate that during the holiday weekend troopers: issued 8,541 traffic citations; made 90 arrests for driving under the influence; issued 3,257 speeding citations; issued 1,060 safety belt citations; and, assisted 2,221 motorists.

FHP increased its numbers of troopers on the state's highways during the four-day holiday weekend and used auxiliary troopers to augment FHP's force.

Sexual Predator Notification

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office is disclosing this information to the public in order to enhance public safety, awareness and protection. This information is not intended to increase fear; rather it is this agency's belief that an informed public is a safer public.



Wesley Stone

This bulletin should be used only for information purposes. Citizen abuse of the information to threaten, intimidate or harass offenders will not be tolerated in any manner. The individual who appears in this bulletin has served the sentence imposed on him by the courts and is NOT wanted by the police at this time.

Sex offenders have always lived in the communities. The only change is the public is now better informed.

Wesley Stone is a white male, DOB 10/22/87. He has brown hair and brown eyes, is 5'9" tall and weighs 265 lbs. He is living at 6022 S.E. 95 Trail, Okeechobee, Fla.

Wesley Stone was convicted of two counts of Sexual Assault-Offender Over 18 YOA, Victim Less Than 12 YOA on July 18, 2005, in Okeechobee County. The victim was a minor.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, contact Michele or Connie at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 863-763-3117, Ext. 240.

Call a PRO^{essional}

AN AFFORDABLE WAY TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS!!!

Stinnett, Inc. Serving Okeechobee Since 1969
Residential & Commercial

- Painting
- Wall Coverings
- Pressure Cleaning
- Sand Blasting

Lic. #1406-01
(863) 763-5251 (863) 634-0614

Grand Oaks
ASSISTED LIVING BY THE VNA
License AL11944

203 SE 2nd St. Okeechobee Phone: 863-824-6770
Diane Wood, RN Administrator
www.grandoaks.org

Cindy Murphy
General Manager

Best Western
Lake Okeechobee

3975 Hwy. 441 S.
Okeechobee, Florida 34974
(863) 357-7100; FAX (863) 357-7100
Toll Free: 1-800-WESTERN
www.bestwestern.com
BWLAKEOKEECHOBEE@HOTMAIL.COM

Okeechobee Christian Academy
"Equipping Minds and Nurturing Hearts"

(863) 763-3072
701 S. Parrott Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34974
www.okeechobeechristianacademy.net

Rent to Own Appliances • TV • Furniture

BUDDY'S HOME FURNISHINGS
WWW.BUDDYRENTS.COM

JUAN CORTEZ
Manager

Office: (863) 357-3301 Fax: (863) 357-2804
3389 U.S. Hwy. 441 So. Okeechobee, FL
manager033@buddyrents.com

UP TO 6 months same as cash

Tree Locators, Inc.
"Don't Destroy Nature When You Can Recreate It"

- Plants
- Trees
- Natural Stone
- Decorative Gravel
- Manufactured Stone
- Design
- Installation
- Full Garden Center

16162 Hwy 441 N. Okeechobee, FL 34972
863-763-7736
Fax 863-763-8730
treelocators@aol.com

Elvie Posey
Realtor®
863-634-4399
elvieposey@aol.com

COLDWELL BANKER Berger Real Estate
425 W.S Park Shreet
863.763.5335

M&M Auto Brokers, Inc.

CASH for Junk CAR\$!
Call Anytime!
(863) 763-0330 or
Call (954) 214-8877
3565 Hwy 441 N.. Okeechobee

New Fashions & Accessories Accepting Select Consignment By Appt. Only

Ladies Collegiate Wear
Toni's Chic Boutique & Consignment
863-357-8664
tonischicboutique@centurylink.net
"Where Fun & Fashion Meet"
123 SW Park Street - Okeechobee, Florida 34974

The **Tucker Group** LLC
"Second to None"

Brandon D. Tucker
Lic. Real Estate Broker
863-763-4010
104 N.W. 7th Ave., Okeechobee,
Commercial & Agriculture Specialist

Philip DeBerard
Injury Attorney
Let 37 Years Experience Work For You

www.PhilwillHelp.com
1120 S. Parrott Ave.
467-7100 888-763-4878

Affordable Term Life Insurance
Rates shown as non tobacco preferred

30yr old male	250k	\$11.31 per month
40yr old male	250k	\$14.57 per month
50yr old male	250k	\$30.89 per month

Contact Adam Homer
863.467.4522 office • 863.801-0999 cell

Concerned About Funeral Costs?
www.QualityDiscountedCaskets.com

- 20-Gauge Steel- Non-Gasketed
- Crepe Interior
- Available in 7 Colors
- Priced at \$450.00 ea.

(Includes 50 Mile Delivery) Other Models Available
Call for More Details: (561) 906-1786
Email: geraldredd@ymail.com

Lori C. Berger
Exclusive Agent

Allstate
You're in good hands.
24-Hour Customer Service

Allstate Insurance Company
800 S. Parrott Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34974
Phone 863-467-1265
Fax 863-467-1085
Cell 863-634-8437
AO58810@Allstate.com
Auto • Home • Life • Retirement

Privacy screens & bras Boat tops & covers
5th wheel skirts Repairs & modifications

The Canvas Shop, LLC
On-site service

909 S. Parrott Ave. Ste B
Okeechobee, FL 34974
863.763.7500
Carl & Donna Gaiser Fax: 863-763-6754

Gilbert CHEVROLET
Home of the No Bull Pricing!
www.GilbertChevrolet.com
(863) 763-3154

A FULL SERVICE REPAIR FACILITY
Choice Automotive
and Custom Exhaust

Computer Diagnostics • Exhaust • A/C Service
• Brakes • Window Motors • Tune Ups • Welding
• Engine Mechanics
863-467-6633

Located Behind Rita's Don't Make the Wrong Choice!
704 NE 2nd Ave. Okeechobee, FL

M&M Auto Brokers, Inc.
Buy Here! Pay Here!
As low as \$500 Down Easy Payment!
We'll work with you! ASK ALL AROUND
Call Mitch or Ronnie
(863) 763-0330
3565 Hwy 441 N.. Okeechobee

Upgrades enhance flood control capacity

WEST PALM BEACH — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board recently approved two construction projects to stabilize canal banks and improve regional flood control north of Lake Okeechobee.

"The canal bank repairs will improve our storm and flood response, which is one of the agency's most critical missions," said Tommy Strowd, Director of the SFWMD Operations, Maintenance and Construction Division. "Investments in maintenance and infrastructure upgrades are needed to ensure the regional system can protect South Florida's 7.7 million residents, businesses and the environment."

The latest infrastructure improvement projects include:

- C-41A Canal, Highlands County: The canal had extensive erosion during Hurricane Wilma in October 2005. The repair project includes removing existing vegetation, compacting the banks, adding sod and other improvements. Work is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2012.

- C-24 Canal, St. Lucie County: A routine inspection found erosion caused by heavy rain along a stretch by Shinn Road. The repair project will stabilize the banks so they can withstand extreme conditions. Work is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2012.

Structural maintenance and upgrades, accomplished primarily during the dry sea-

son, are critical to ensuring that the regional flood control system of more than 1,600 miles of canals and 1,000 miles of levees and berms operates at optimal capacity. During the past five years, the District has invested \$240 million in essential maintenance work, including:

- Hardening and overhauling pump stations;
- Overhauling gated spillways;
- Replacing project culverts;
- Dredging canals;
- Stabilizing canal banks; and,
- Enhancing stormwater treatment areas.



The SFWMD continues to maintain and upgrade the banks of South Florida's primary canals, such as the C-24 Canal in St. Lucie County. Special to the Okeechobee News/SFWMD

YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP
FOR COMFORT



Emory Walker Company
(863) 763-6742
208 S.W. 5th Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34974
**Okeechobee's
Longest-Established
Lennox Dealer Since 1975**

LENNOX
HOME COMFORT SYSTEM
Innovation never felt so good.™



Receive up to
\$1,300 in Rebates*
with the purchase of a qualifying
Lennox® Home Comfort System
**AND up to \$500 in
Federal Tax Credits****

CAC014022
Offer expires 8/26/2011. *Rebate offer is valid only with the purchase of qualifying Lennox® products. **See dealer for details and visit www.energystar.gov for more information. © 2011 Lennox Industries Inc. See your participating Lennox dealer for details. Lennox dealers include independently owned and operated businesses.

We've got a second mortgage for that!

**Debt
Consolidation**

OR

**Home
Transformation**

Whether you need relief from mounting debts or you are inspired to renovate your home, MIDFLORIDA can help you with a fixed-rate Second Mortgage!

- Debt Consolidation
 - Home Improvements
 - College Expenses
 - Vacation
 - Up to 80% of appraised value
 - Interest may be tax deductible
- or whatever you may need!**

Rates
as low
as

3.99% Fixed¹
up to 5 years

Effective APR **4.234%**

Fixed rates and terms available to 20 years



\$200 credit² to your MIDFLORIDA Visa Platinum
Credit Card with a new second mortgage!



1. The approval of a second mortgage is subject to application, credit and acceptable property. This offer available for primary residences and excludes manufactured homes. A \$5 savings (share) account is required for membership with MIDFLORIDA Credit Union. A \$20,000 second mortgage at 3.99% for 60 months would have payments of \$368.30 with an effective APR (Annual Percentage Rate) of 4.234%. Rates may vary based on your credit and the term of your loan. MIDFLORIDA is an equal housing lender. 2. To qualify for incentive, this must be a new second mortgage (closed-end loan) of \$15,000 or more. Loans of \$5,000 to \$14,999 will qualify for \$100 credit. If you do not have a MIDFLORIDA Visa Platinum Card, one will be opened for you. Allow up to two weeks for receipt of credit to Visa Platinum Card and new card, if applicable. This offer is not valid on the refinancing of any MIDFLORIDA loan.

MIDFLORIDA
What A Bank Should Be

www.midflorida.com

OKEECHOBEE 3261 U.S. Hwy. 441 S.
(863) 688-3733 Toll Free (866) 913-3733

Federally
insured by
NCUA.

Civic group strives to save Okeechobee train depot

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

One of the hottest topics of 2008 is back on track - the restoration of Okeechobee's historic train depot.

In 2008 Okeechobee Main Street (OMS) and the Okeechobee City Council were in discussions with AMTRAK, Okeechobee's passenger train provider, and CSX Transportation, the owner of the building, over restoration of the depot. Then talk of restoration died down for a while.

Interest was renewed by OMS's month long campaign in June to try to secure a grant to save the building. The depot restoration was entered in the "This Place Matters" contest sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It was one of the top 100 "This Place Matters" entries. During the month of June residents were asked to email their votes for the depot. The top vote getter would receive a \$25,000 grant, The second place winner will receive \$10,000 and third place gets \$5,000 in grants. Voting ended June 30.

"Everything is on hold," according to Kathleen Shatto of OMS. She said her organization has gotten word from the National Trust that they were overwhelmed by the number of votes cast. So OMS is just waiting to see if they received enough votes to win a grant.

The eastern end of the building, which once housed the passenger waiting room has been boarded up for some time. Up until recently, the western end, which was originally used for shipping freight, had been used for a livestock feed business.

"It is very solid and can be fixed very easily," stated city engineer Oscar Bermudez about the condition of the depot.

The roof over the waiting room would probably have to be replaced because the ceiling has fallen in several places indicating leaks. However, the floors are concrete and the walls are of block construction so there is no water damage to the walls or floors.

A fireplace flanked by windows dominates the east side of the waiting room. Doors on the north and south sides of the waiting room gave access to the street and to the track. Rest rooms adjoin the waiting room. Behind a frosted glass window is the ticket booth which is not accessible from the waiting room.

The depot was built in 1924 for the Florida, Western & Northern Railroad, a subsidiary of the Seaboard Airline Railway. The building was built in the Mediterranean Revival architectural style that was popular in the 1920s. Okeechobee's city hall and courthouse are also built in that same style.

The depot was designed by the architectural firm of Henry Stephen Harvey and Louis Phillips Clark. These same architects designed the depots at Deerfield Beach and Delray Beach. Both of those structures are listed in the National Registry of Historic Places.

The importance of the railroad to Okeechobee is indicated by the fact that in 1926 the Okeechobee News carried this caption in large letters across the bottom of the front page: "South Florida's Chicago - Okeechobee the highway, railway and waterway center."

In fact the City of Okeechobee owes its existence to the railroad. In 1912 the Florida East Coast Railroad formed the Model Land Company which laid out the plat for the City of Okeechobee. Flagler Park is named for railroad baron Henry Flagler. The main north-south street, Parrott Avenue, is named for the president of the Florida East Coast Railroad, J. R. Parrott.

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



LAKE MOTORS INC

Pre-Owned Vehicles

"Best Prices in the Lake Area!"

WE BUY CARS!

863-467-5243

Se Habla Español



 <p>2002 Ford F-150 Crew Cab, Lariat, Leather, T.Towing Pkg. Loaded ONLY \$7995* U2462</p>	 <p>2001 Mazda MPV DX, 7 pass, Auto, A/C, Loaded ONLY \$4495* U8810</p>	 <p>2005 Ford Taurus SE 4 dr, Auto, A/C, 6 cyl, PW, PL, CD Player, Loaded WOW \$5695* U9018</p>
 <p>2004 Dodge Caravan 7 pass, Auto, A/C, Loaded ONLY \$5995* U9426</p>	 <p>2001 Ford E150 Travelers Van 7 pass, Dual TVs - Dual A/C, Leather, Low Miles, Loaded, X-clean ONLY \$6295* U8049</p>	 <p>2003 Mitsubishi Eclipse Auto, A/C, CD Player, Loaded ONLY \$4995* U7767</p>
 <p>2000 Chevy 1500 Super Cab Silverado Auto, A/C, V8, Loaded ONLY \$5695* U1799</p>	 <p>2003 Ford E 250 Cargo Van 89,512 miles, Auto, 6 cyl, A/C ONLY \$5695* U2718</p>	 <p>1999 Chevy Astro Van 7 pass, A/C, Auto, 6 cyl, Loaded ONLY \$3995* U1212</p>
 <p>2001 Dodge Dakota Sport 4 dr, 6 cyl, Auto, A/C, Loaded ONLY \$5995* U2716</p>	 <p>2000 Toyota Sienna Van 7 pass, Auto, 6 cyl, PW, PL, Loaded ONLY \$5695* U1613</p>	 <p>2001 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab A/C, Auto, 7.4 engine, Bedliner, T.tow pkg ONLY \$6495* U1891</p>
 <p>2001 Ford F 150 Super Cab Auto, A/C, V8, Loaded ONLY \$7495* U2384</p>	 <p>2003 Ford Explorer XLT Auto, 6 cyl, A/C, PW, PL, Cruise Control, Loaded ONLY \$6695* U7182</p>	 <p>2003 Ford Expedition XLT V8, A/C, Leather, 73,436 miles, Loaded, 7 pass. ONLY \$9995* U6885</p>

***Plus Tax, Tag & Dealer Fee**
147 Hwy 441 SE Okeechobee, FL 34974

Choose how you want your news published

Put yourself in print! 100 words and one photo for only \$25!



Newszap.com

Publish Your News today!

Just visit www.newszap.com,
click on your community,
and then on the link
for Publish Your News.

Company Care: Locals' choice for Occupational Health Services

Where do business owners in Okeechobee turn to for the pre-employment screenings and occupational health needs of their staff?

Since 2008, Company Care, a department of Raulerson Hospital, has offered occupational health services to over sixty businesses in the community, in both the private and public sectors. These employers choose Company Care because Raulerson Company Care offers employers one-stop shopping for injury prevention, emergency care, pre-employment testing, and workers' compensation treatment in Okeechobee.

Raulerson Company Care is a comprehensive, proven solution for local businesses. It provides 24-hour access for any medical care required for injured employees. Utilizing Raulerson Hospital's Emergency Department for acute injuries/illnesses after hours and its free-standing Clinic during normal business hours, allows Company Care to keep costs low for employers, yet still provide the care and access they expect. Raulerson Company Care has positive, working relationships with large workers' compensation insurance companies including: Summit, FCCI, Florida School Board Insurance Trust, Gallagher Basset, Sedgwick, Liberty Mutual and FFVA.

Keeping up with OSHA and Florida workers' compensation laws can be a challenge,



Special to the Okeechobee News/Raulerson Hospital
Raulerson Hospital's Company Care department offers many occupational health services to local businesses in the area.

and Company Care works with employers to keep them informed and current with relevant legal and employee health issues. Raul-

erson Company Care performs Department of Transportation (DOT) certified Physicals, Alcohol, and Drug Screen testing.

Company Care also provides comprehensive case management services to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the medical care of the injured employee. In conjunction with physicians, trained personnel manage patient cases, coordinate all clinical appointments, including referrals to specialist, and provide communication to the employers and/or insurance carriers. Ensuring the Medical Plan of Treatment is being adhered to for an aggressive return to work status.

Company Care understands lost time due to an injured employee equals lost productivity for a business. Company Care is dedicated to getting employees healthy and back to work. Representatives from Company Care can even come to your place of business and facilitate occupational health services, health and safety education and ergonomic compliance. Company Care strives to have complete customer satisfaction and the flexibility local employers need. Company Care is located at 1930 Hwy 441 North, in the blue-roof building, north of Raulerson Hospital.

For more information visit the Services section of RaulersonHospital.com or contact Melanie Giles at 863-763-2670.

This column was provided by Raulerson Hospital.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

DR. EDWARD DOUGLAS



Happy 50th anniversary as a Chiropractic Physician and welcome to the 50 year Club from National University of Health Sciences (NUHS), Chicago. Congratulations from Southern Adventist University from Collegedale, TN, and presentation of the Honorary Diploma from the University.

Thank you, Okeechobee, for allowing me to bring you alternative Health Care with Chiropractic for 49 years at 916 NW Park St.

Dr. Douglas is a native of Okeechobee, class of '51, Military US Army Medic (SAU '55 - '57), Doctor of Chiropractic May '61. He has 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. He was married to Carolyn Sue Mitchell. Dr. Douglas opened his practice in Okeechobee on July 19, 1962. His studies have been ongoing and his practice includes Acupuncture, Nutrition, Kinesiology, CRA, Contact Reflex, Nutritionist Analysis-NeuroLink (NIS) and Physiotherapy (limited).

For the last 35 years, he has operated the Douglas Fitness Center (gym) next door. His community services include 16 years of City Council, 6 years Mayor, 16 years teaching nutrition classes, 2 years Board of Director - Florida League of Cities in Tallahassee, 2 years Board of Directors of HUD (Housing and Urban Development), 2 years Board of Directors Local Chambers of Commerce and School Board Chairman of a Local Christian School.

RAULERSON HOSPITAL



For more than 30 years Raulerson Hospital has been your community hospital, providing quality patient care twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Many impactful changes have occurred in healthcare over that time, including: technological advancements in equipment and procedures, introduction of the HIPPA Privacy Rule and even the very pharmaceuticals used to treat patients' needs, have evolved from tedious research studies and trials. One thing that will never change is our commitment and responsibility to provide you and your family with safe, quality health care services in a professional manner.

We are Raulerson
 your hospital

Some of the services available include:

Emergency Care	Twenty-four hours, seven days a week, Emergency Room care
Radiology	X-ray, Ultrasound, MRI, CAT Scan, and Nuclear Medicine
Rehabilitation	Including physical therapy, speech therapy, & occupational therapy
Surgical Services	Including colon/rectal surgery, ear nose and throat surgery, endoscopic surgery, general surgery, gynecology, orthopedic, podiatry, stereotactic breast surgery, TIF (for chronic heartburn), vascular surgery and urology

If you have not been to Raulerson Hospital recently for your medical needs, come and experience the quality patient care we provide everyday; because We are Raulerson!

For a physician referral or health information contact **Consult-A-Nurse at 1-800-449-8642**
 To schedule an appointment contact **877-331-7027**.



1796 Highway 441N • Okeechobee, FL 34972
 (863) 763 - 2151 • RaulersonHospital.com





Special to the Okeechobee News/SEM
 The summer reading program is open to all Seminole Elementary School students every Thursday night from 6-8 p.m. through the month of July in the school library.

Summer fun starts with reading at Seminole Elementary School

Seminole Elementary students kicked off their summer with "s'more" reading fun. Seminole is hosting its third annual Summer Reading Program with this year's theme being "The s'more you read, the s'more you'll know!" Each Thursday evening from 6-8 p.m., Seminole opens its library doors for students to check out some books, enjoy some reading activities, and enjoy a snack. Students are encouraged to continue to read throughout the summer to prevent the summer reading loss that typically happens to

school age children who do not read over the summer. How can you prevent this reading loss in your child? Here are a few quick tips to help you.

- Have your child read for 20 minutes a day.
- Talk about places you and your family travel to during the summer.
- Create a picture book with your child about his or her summer.
- Look over any materials sent home with your child from the school.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

School Board honors Mary Hurley

Mary Hurley (at left) received an award for helping lead the district as the interim Superintendent of Schools in May and June of this year at the monthly meeting of the Okeechobee County School Board on July 12. Also in the photo is Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy.

FARM & RANCH OWNERS

We can insure your farm property and pasture liability. "A" rated companies. Call us for a free quote.

BERGER INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.

800 S. Parrott Ave. • Okeechobee
 www.BergerInsurance.com
 (863) 763-6411



July Special

\$23.50 For A Round of Golf

Includes lunch Call For Tee Times (\$28.30 weekends)

SUGARCANE
 GOLF CLUB
 Belle Glade

561-996-6605
 2619 W. Canal St. North
 Good Thru July 31, 2011

HEAT WAVE ALERT

Will Your Air Conditioner Survive the Summer?

Don't risk the chance of a hot weather breakdown. Call Okeechobee Air Conditioning today to schedule a precision tune-up and safety check.

It will not only reduce your energy bills, but it will prolong the life of your unit.

Turn to the Experts

100%
Customer
Satisfaction

GUARANTEED!

REBATES AVAILABLE UP TO \$3,755

Unit Trade-In (up to) \$500
 Carrier Spring Promo. (up to) \$1250
 Federal Tax Credit . . . (up to) \$300
 FPL Rebate (up to) \$1705

OKEECHOBEE Air Conditioning & Refrigeration

Serving South-Central Florida

(863) 763-8391

Lic# CAC 023499

FPL PARTICIPATING INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

312 SW 2nd St • Okeechobee • (800) 741-3994

Carrier Spring Promotion, FP&L Rebate and Federal Tax Credit are based upon unit model, size and efficiency rating.



Special to the Okeechobee
News/Rotary Club

Lumpkin speaks to Rotary

Rotarian Kyle Reno (left) extends a warm Rotary welcome to guest speakers Lisa Lumpkin, director and Cecilia Silvas (right) of The Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee, Inc. The ladies shared information with club members about a new parenting class that the

center is now offering to prepare young mothers and fathers for the duties of parenthood. The mission of the Pregnancy Center is to serve as a sanctuary where through the offering of life-affirming alternatives the unconditional love and acceptance of Jesus Christ may flow to women and families facing pregnancy or abortion. For more information regarding services offered by The Pregnancy Center please call 863-467-8748.

Guardians for New futures board welcomes Michelle Akins

Michelle Akins, of Okeechobee, has joined the Board of Directors for Guardians for New Futures. Ms. Akins has held the position of Quality Assurance Coordinator for the Child Abuse Death Review Committee for the past seven years. She has established 24 local Child Abuse Death Review Committees in Florida. She sat on many gubernatorial task forces that directed legislative changes.

Ms. Akins worked for the Department of Children and families for over 21 years. She has a B.S. in Social Work from Augsburg College in Minnesota. Her extensive appointments and organizational involvements include but are not limited to The Board of Directors for the Florida American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, The

Southeast Coalition on Child Fatalities, The Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council, The Treasure Coast Human Trafficking Coalition, Healthy Families Okeechobee and Martin Advisory Board Member, The Domestic Violence Fatality Committee for Circuit 19 and The Child Abuse Prevention Advisory Council for Circuit 19. Her extensive professional experience will be a huge asset to Guardians for New Futures, a not for profit, supporting Guardians ad Litem and children who are victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment. The organization also works to increase awareness about abused, neglected, and abandoned children in Florida and helps the public become involved in advocating for and protecting these vulnerable children.

Gold Tee Winners

Gold Tee winners at Okeechobee Golf and Country Club last week were: First place - J. Masters; second place - G. Guldosh; and, third place - D. Thomas.

Available 24/7



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



OPEN UNTIL
7 P.M.
ON
JULY 21

say hello

TO 500 REASONS TO SWITCH TO SEACOAST

Enter to win a \$500 Visa® gift card when you stop by Seacoast this summer.

Stop by your local Seacoast National Bank today and enter to win a \$500 Visa® Gift Card. It's a great chance to upgrade your summer with the best choice for all your banking needs. In fact, the only thing easier and more beneficial than switching to Seacoast, is staying with Seacoast.

Consider Seacoast today and enjoy:

- Free checking
- No monthly fee Visa® check card
- Free first order of checks
- Free online banking & bill pay
- Free direct deposit
- Personal & mortgage loans
- Discount loans with auto pay
- Savings plans
- Wealth Management

 **Seacoast**
NATIONAL BANK

say hello TO A MORE HUMAN WAY TO BANK

500 N. PARROTT AVE.
863.467.5330

1409 S. PARROTT AVE.
863.467.4663

SEACOASTNATIONAL.COM

Open Entry. No purchase necessary. Must enter before July 22nd to be eligible to win. Limit one entry per person.

 Member
FDIC

Tewksbury signs to play for IRSC

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Former Brahman catcher Adam Tewksbury will return home this fall and play baseball for the Indian River State College Pioneers.

Tewksbury signed a letter of intent earlier this month and should compete for the starting job at catcher for IRSC.

"It's good to be close to home but I'm excited to get a chance to play. The coaching is pretty good. I've been around these coaches and they definitely have a good name as a program. I hope to play a lot," he said.

Tewksbury was "redshirted" last year by Tallahassee Community College but continued to work out and practice with the team and served as the bullpen catcher. He did not appear in any games and has four years of college eligibility left. He said he is glad to get another opportunity.

"I hope to play a lot. I kept working and I tried to work hard in the off season and learn from the guys around me," he added.

The 19 year old Tewksbury was a four year letterman for Okeechobee High School. The team won a district championship during his junior year. His twin brother Cameron, a left handed pitcher, plays for Tallahassee Community College and is a sophomore this year.

Tewksbury said his personal connection with IRSC pitching coach and former Brahman Coach Mark Ward, assisted him in getting the scholarship.

"The college game is definitely a little quicker. The pitching is a lot better," he added.

He intends to seek an associate degree in



Special to the Okeechobee News/Linda Tewksbury
Adam Tewksbury is flanked by IRSC Athletic Director Scott Kimmelman (sitting) and Coach Mitch Markham.

general education and has not pinpointed a major of study.

His father Harry Tewksbury, played baseball at OHS under Tim Gillis. Harry coached both of his son's as they grew up. He is now the Athletic Director at the Brighton Charter School, which could start a boy's baseball program this school year.

This will be the first time Adam has been played without his twin brother. He said that will be quite the experience. "I think getting a chance to play against him would be a pretty good experience. I have never played against him at a higher level."

Tewksbury was named MVP of the Senior All Star Game played at Met Stadium in 2010 and hit a three run homerun in the game. He said that moment, and the Brahman district championship, were two of his fondest memories.

"I have a lot of memories from high school. My senior year I was injured and missed half the season. That all star game was kind of the height of my career. The MVP was a pretty big honor," he added.



Jonathan M. Royal, DMD; T.A. Aliapoulis, DDS; Wade B. Harrouff, DDS; Salvatore V. Melita, DDS; Matthew J. Fien, DDS, Edward Spector, DDS

Quality Dentistry at Affordable Prices

All Phases of Dentistry - Implants - Full Mouth Reconstruction
Veneers/Lumineers, - Dentures - Porcelain Crowns and Bridges,
Root Canal Therapy and Sedation Dentistry

LIMITED TIME ONLY!

DENTAL IMPLANTS

FROM
\$499



IMPLANT

(D6010) NEW PATIENTS ONLY • EXP. 7/31/2011

FREE

DIGITAL X-RAY & CONSULTATION
(D9310, D0330)

EXP. 7/31/2011

NEW DENTURES

FROM
\$359

SIMPLE EXTRACTIONS

Start at \$25 ea.

(D7140)

WITH DENTURE PURCHASE

(D5110, D5120) NEW PATIENTS ONLY • EXP. 7/31/2011

Open Evenings

Emergencies
Welcome

ROOT CANAL THERAPY

FROM
\$299

NEW PATIENTS ONLY • EXP. 7/31/2011

ALL INSURANCE WELCOME



"After my dentist of 20 years quoted me a price on an implant, I looked for a second opinion. I had seen ads for Appearance Implants and sought out Dr. Harrouff. When I walked into the lobby of the office the first thing I saw was a photo of the late Republican strategist Lee Atwater, who I later learned was a childhood friend of Dr. Harrouff. As a South Carolina Democrat I didn't have a lot of love for Lee, he had gotten the best of me in my first campaign, I sure as hell wasn't too keen on letting any buddy of Lee work on me. After that first encounter, I felt very comfortable with Dr. Harrouff. The entire experience was purely first rate. From the people who greeted me in the lobby and to the dental staff, the Appearance Implant & Laser Dentistry team makes you feel right at home. When Dr. Harrouff got down to performing the procedure it was fast, relatively painless and the result was just perfect. The finished implant works better than I'd expected. He provided me with the most affordable treatment and I have been more than impressed and satisfied by the results. I have recommended Dr. Harrouff and his professional and friendly staff to many of my friends.

Call our office to schedule your complimentary consultation and let our team create a beautiful smile for you!

561-741-7142 • 1888-FL-IMPLANTS

6390 W. Indiantown Road, Chasewood Plaza • Jupiter

APPEARANCE IMPLANTS & LASER

DENTISTRY OF JUPITER

IMPLANTOLOGY IS NOT A RECOGNIZED SPECIALTY BY THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION AND FLORIDA BOARD OF DENTISTRY. NEW TREATMENT PROGRAM ONLY. THE PATIENT AND ANY OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE OR PAY, CANCEL PAYMENT OR BE REIMBURSED FOR ANY SERVICE, EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT WHICH IS PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RESPONDING TO THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FREE, DISCOUNTED OR REDUCED FEE, SERVICE, EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT.

MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

TREASURE COAST DERMATOLOGY

Specializing in the Treatment of Skin Cancer

- Mohs micrographic surgery is a specialized, highly effective technique for the removal of skin cancer
- Mohs surgery is recognized as the skin cancer treatment with the highest cure rate for basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas
- The Mohs technique preserves more healthy tissue than any other surgical method for the removal of skin cancer

Okeechobee
863-467-9555

Vero Beach
772-778-7782

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

- Board Certified by the American Board of Dermatology
- Fellow of the American Society for Mohs Surgery
- Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology
- Fellow of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery

www.TCDermatology.com



Tests show Gulf seafood is safe

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) is responsible for testing seafood harvested from the Gulf of Mexico to ensure they are safe to eat. Laboratory testing shows that Florida seafood products are plentiful, safe and have not been affected by the oil spill.

Between August 2010 and June 2011, the Department's Division of Food Safety has screened 298 seafood samples, including 208 finfish, 38 shrimp, 34 oysters, 15 crabs, 2 lobsters and 1 clam for possible oil contamination from polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Except for finfish (at least 1.0 lb fillet), samples represent a composite of multiple organisms (10 crabs, 15 oysters, 0.5 lbs shrimp). All findings are well below the FDA's levels of concern.

With \$10 million in additional funding over the next three years, the DACs Division

of Food Safety will enhance its laboratory capabilities to conduct seafood inspections in an effort to further restore public confidence in the safety of Gulf of Mexico seafood. In addition to PAH analyses, nearly half of the samples have also been screened for the dispersant dioctylsulfosuccinate (DOSS). All findings for dispersant are also well below the FDA's levels of concern. In the future, the laboratories will expand their screening of seafood to include metals.

Current analyses include PAH analyses using the liquid chromatography fluorescence screening and analysis of the dispersant, dioctylsulfosuccinate by liquid chromatography mass spectroscopy. Continued testing will assure the safety of Florida's seafood for several years to come.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

July 11 and 12, 2011

			Med #1	Steers	Hfhrs
Cows			200-250	180-190	152-160
Breaking	\$70.00	\$77.00	250-300	170-195	140-160
Cutter	\$63.00	\$70.00	300-350	157-177	130-139
			350-400	145-157	124-135
			400-450	132-145	117-127
Bulls			450-500	125-140	115-125
1000-1500	\$82.00	\$83.00	550-600	120-128	112-119
1500-2000	\$84.00	\$94.00			

	Monday	Tuesday	Med #2	Steers	Hfhrs
Calves	683	1081	150-200	147-170	
Cows	289	496	200-250	140-160	128-137
Str	0	162	250-300	132-155	115-135
Hfhrs	114	73	300-350	124-143	118-128
Bulls	32	33	350-400	119-131	108-122
Yrlngs	84	115	400-450	115-124	110-115
Mix	18	17			
Total	684	1977			

Vacations are over and it's back to work! Large

sales this week, over 3,000 head! Cows and bulls a little weaker. Calves were a little stronger, \$1-\$3 higher. Fundamentals are good - still lots of variables out there including federal budget, etc. that could play into things. H & P & Hardie Driggers topped the calf market with a high of \$1.95. Williamson Cattle topped the cow market with a high of \$79. We have a handful of Charolais Bulls on hand if you need a bull, just under two years old - Good bulls - \$2,000.

See ya next week, Todd

National Day of the Cowboy celebration set for July 22-23

The public is invited to the National Day of the American Cowboy Celebration to be held on Friday and Saturday, July 22 and 23, at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center! Gates will open Friday night at 5 p.m. with a ranch rodeo, festivities and a barn dance ending at Midnight. Saturday the gates open at 3 p.m., with the cattle drive beginning at 4 p.m. at Eli's Western Wear and ending at the Agri-Civic Center where all the festivities will go on until midnight. The celebration will be two days of western heritage, dancing, food, fun, vendors and cowboys. Admission is only \$5. For more information on the event please contact Teresa Chandler, Event Coordinator at 863-801-4996.



Sales:
Monday at 12 p.m.
Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Okeechobee Livestock Market
U.S. 98 North, Okeechobee
(863) 763-3127

Your Hometown Realtor
Giving you the service you deserve!

Anderson
REALTY CO.



Vicki S.
Anderson,
Lic. RE Broker

863-634-4106

vic_anderson@earthlink.net

www.andersonrealtyco.com

21442 E. SR 78, BHR • Okeechobee

ALWAYS SAVING PROPERTY BUYERS MONEY!



BUYER BROKERAGE CO. OF OKEECHOBEE

BILL F. STEGKEMPER,
CRS, GRI, APPRAISER
BK129997

(863) 763-2334 • (863) 801-9497 CELL
P.O. Box 1074, Okeechobee FL, 34973
1039 S.E. Everglades Blvd • Okeechobee

Tucker Group LLC

104 NW 7th Ave.
Okeechobee

863-763-4010

or

888-874-2945

Second to None

Service Integrity Experience

Lic. RE Broker
Auctioneer # AU2579.

NEW LOCATION!

We're Growing Into A Larger Office!

1126 South Parrott Ave.
White House Plaza
(South 441 & 12th Street)

Mixon REAL ESTATE GROUP, LLC

www.MixonGroup.com

Lori Mixon

Lic. Real Estate Broker

(863) 634-1457

LMixon@MixonGroup.com

Office: 763-6000

Buying or Selling?...Let's Make It Happen!

A UNIQUE FIND!

302+/- acre parcel with a 130+ acre beautiful lake that was a former sand/crystal



mine. Paved road frontage. Nice home with screen enclosed swimming pool on-site. Zoned Agriculture with an Outdoor Recreation Activity Area Future Land Use/possible RV park on lake. Property is located in NE Okeechobee County just 3 miles east of US 441 North and NE 304th St. Very close to new prestigious Pine Creek Sporting Club

\$1,440,000.

Call Brandon at (772)-201-8722

Century 21

David Hazellief • 863-610-1553 Betty Hazellief • 863-610-0144

Sharon Prevatt • 863-634-7069 Dee Reeder • 863-610-2485

(863) 763-2104

Hazellief & Prevatt Realty Inc.

Se Habla Español

CALL FOR A LIST OF FORECLOSURES



2002-H: Taylor Creek lake access CBS home with large addition, large open back porch, dock, boat lift, seawall, garage, concrete drive. \$139,500
MLS #204703

FORECLOSURE



5001-H: Fixer upper. 3 bdrm frame home on 1+/- acre located behind 4 Seasons (S.E. 68th St). Needs some TLC. Easy to show. ~~\$45,000~~
NOW \$39,900
MLS #204615



5004-M: MH w/lg screened front porch & rear deck, Metal roof, several upgrades. Shed and hurricane shutters. Great for east coast commuters. \$49,000
MLS #204619



5010-H: Remodeled and multiple upgrades, whole house generator, fenced and cross fenced, barn/workshop all on 5+/- acres in Quail Woods. MLS #204669



REDUCED

5015-H: Dixie Ranch Est 3 bdrm 2 ba concrete blk home at the end of the cul-de-sac on 2 lots. One lot has fence yard, concrete drive, back screen porch. ~~\$95,000~~
\$84,000 MLS #204757



5018-M: Pine Ridge Park 3/2, 2006 DWMH. Split bdrm plan and det 2 car garage with loft for storage, 2 driveways. Close to the convenience store. MLS #204938

• FORECLOSURE Buildable Lots in Oaks at Okeechobee total of 5 sites each \$8,900
• FORECLOSURE 20+/- acres enough room for your dream home and livestock (1139 Cabbage TRL LOT

#76) \$69,900 MLS #204700

• VIKING 6+/- acres \$20,000

• VIKING 10+/- acres \$45,000 MLS #2045352

• 50.4 +/- ACRES SR 710 MLS #204068

www.century21okeechobee.com • Email: century21okeechobee@earthlink.net • 1200 S. Parrott Ave.

Online Classifieds



Free Speech
Free Ads

newszap.com

Create Your Own Ads Online! Four weeks FREE ... It's Easy!

Submit Your Free Online Classified Ad Today at WWW.NEWSZAP.COM - Click on Classifieds

Post your ads in any of these newspapers for as little as \$8 each:

Okeechobee News • Caloosa Belle • Clewiston News • Glades County Democrat • Immokalee Bulletin • The Sun

- Online for 4 weeks - 400 words + 4 photos
 - Absolutely FREE!
 - Post your ads in our papers for as little as \$8 each
- www.newszap.com
click on classifieds

Announcements

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against 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

Garage/Yard Sales

TREASURE ISLAND - 3035 SE 36th Ave, July 16th & July 17th, 8:30am til 4pm. Lots of stuff. Tools, bikes, PS2/games, Nindo/games, Christmas stuff, PC games, fishing items, computer monitors, TV's, and lots more!

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

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

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

Auctions

Equestrian retreat at ...
Absolute Auction
13.5 +/- acres
10730 NE 26th St., Okeechobee
7.5 miles from SR 710
Tues. • July 19th • 5 p.m.



- Estates of Okeechobee Pines
- Fenced property • Paved Roads
- Agricultural exemption
- Deed-restricted, equestrian community
- Great investment!

Selling to highest bidder, regardless of price!

EPC & COMPANY AUCTIONS
ELLIOT PAUL
(772) 219-8448
www.elliotpaul.com
Licensed Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers, Palm City • AU1582AB1589

Reading a newspaper helps you plan your time wisely.



No wonder newspaper readers enjoy life more!

Employment

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

Healthy Families Okeechobee
FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER
Help families succeed! Bilingual (Spanish/English) position providing educational home visits to families with newborns in Okeechobee County. Comp pay. Apply Helping People Succeed, Inc.
1100 S. E. Federal Hwy. Stuart or Fax resume (772)320-0180 or to careers@hpsfl.org. DFW/EOE.

Software Company needs BOOKKEEPER
FT/PT. Quickbooks Exp. Fax to 863-357-8302.

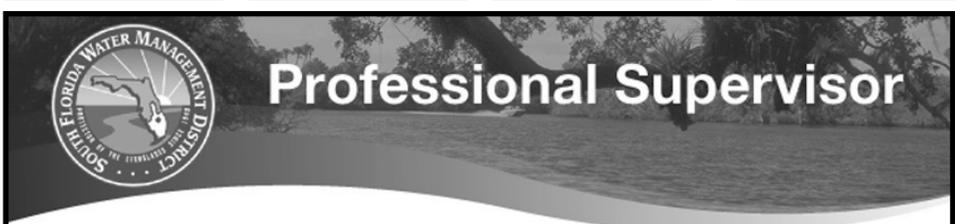
Live in Nanny
Room / board/ weekly salary/ most weekends off. Privacy, your own bathroom/ bedroom/ Television with cable. Must be able to handle children ages 18 months - 13 years. All inquiries should be submitted to silvermoon@silvermoonstowing.com and reference "Nanny Position" in subject line. Equal opportunity employer with pre-employment background check and drug test requirements.

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

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

Find it faster. Sell it sooner in the classifieds

Employment Full Time



The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) offers some of the most dynamic career opportunities on our planet, and a world of new experiences. We cover 16 counties from Orlando to the Florida Keys and serve a population of 7.5 million residents. We currently have an outstanding opportunity available for a Professional Supervisor.

In this position, you will assist with managing the physical, fiscal, and human resources of a remote regional field facility. You will also supervise water resource operations and maintenance program efforts including the coordination, implementation, tracking and communication of comprehensive program and project objectives, milestones and schedules.

To qualify, you should have a Bachelor's degree in Engineering or a related field along with a minimum of six years' experience in the operation and maintenance of water management works including increasingly responsible experience in construction, maintenance and operation of program area of responsibility. At least 3 of those years experience should be in a supervisory capacity. You should have a valid State of Florida driver's license.

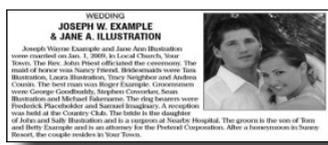
For immediate consideration, please apply to www.sfwmd.gov/careers and reference job code 627BR.

We are an equal opportunity employer. sfwmd.gov

Just married? Share your news in print and online

Celebrations

fl.newszap.com/celebrations



- For a modest charge, each package includes:**
- A print announcement in the newspaper of your choice.
 - An online listing at fl.newszap.com/celebrations.
 - Online guestbook for friends and family to sign and view.
 - Online photo gallery for up to 10 photos.
 - Gift registry page
 - Profile page

Submit your good news today at <http://fl.newszap.com/celebrations>

**Employment
Full Time****Employment
Full Time****Assistant Manager Turnpike C-Store**

Florida Turnpike Services is seeking an assistant manager for our gas and C-store at the Ft. Drum service plaza on Florida's Turnpike. The successful candidate will train to supervise staff and represent our company working the 3-11 shift and weekends.

A competitive starting wage will increase as the applicant demonstrates a commitment to the position and learns operational responsibilities. Benefits include paid vacation and transportation reimbursement. Advancement opportunities exist for motivated individuals as our company opens new stores which are currently under construction. Convenience store/retail experience and a strong commitment to customer service are required. Management or supervisory experience is preferred. Applicants must pass a drug screen and background check. Submit resume to mpcfdrum@msn.com.

**Employment
Medical****Employment
Medical****I am Raulerson***your hospital***We have immediate openings
for the following positions:**

- **Case Manager PRN**
- **RN's**
F/T, PT, PRN
- **MAINTENANCE MECHANIC**
PRN
- **ULTRASOUND TECH**
F/T, PRN

**We offer competitive wages
& excellent benefits**

To complete an online application please visit

www.raulersonhospital.com
or you may come to

Human Resources at
Raulerson Hospital,
96 Hwy. 441 N, Okeechobee, FL

**Reading a newspaper helps
you get more out of life.**

*No wonder newspaper
readers have more fun!*

**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

Real Estate Services

Ride by and see beautiful 2 bedroom duplex. All new remodeled interior. 2 bdrm 2 porches \$650 1002 SE 8th Drive washer/dryer Call anytime (772)231-4919

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

**Merchandise**

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

**Buildings &
Sheds**

Covered carport and screened in Aluminum porch with shed all in excellent condition. You take down and move \$3,000 OBO call for more info (315)486-0935

Guns/Supplies

BROWNING SHOTGUN
- Belgium made Browning 16 gauge semi-auto. Very nice condition. NOT a sweet 16. \$ 6 5 0 . 0 0 / n e g . (863)824-0835 or (863)634-5023

Pets/Supplies

Tiny YORKIE PUPS - Shots/Health cert.CKC Reg./Females 8 wks.Also Female Morkie Pup 11 wks.\$450.ea.cash only.863-610-2725.

Tools

Welder For Sale 10,000 BTU with extra, 25 hours. \$2,500 or best offer Call 863-801-2852

**Rentals**

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Apartments

1,2 or 3 Bedroom Apartments For Rent and Yearly RV Spots for Rent located by 15b and 441. Call 561-386-5636 or 561-968-2083

Apartment for Rent

2BR 1 1/2 BA Town House In Town, Very clean, W/D \$650 mo, 1st, last & sec. Yearly Lease 863-697-1129

Apartments in City

2BR/1.5 Bath 1 Block north of Walmart Carpet/Tile All Appliances, W/D on each floor, Clean/Newly Painted Call 863-763-8878 \$600 mo., \$300 Sec.

Beautiful Samantha's Garden Apartments

2BR/2BA, in town, W&D, \$800 mo. + \$500 sec. Call (863)634-5780 or (863)467-9250

Dixie Ranch Acres area,

2 br. duplex. Clean, quiet, \$500/mo includes water and lawn maintenance \$200 deposit. NO DOGS Call 863-610-0001

FURNISHED APT ON WATER

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

IN TOWN STUDIO APT

nice area, \$650/mo 1st & Sec. Non smoking environment. No pets. 863-610-0861

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

Apartments

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

KISSIMMEE RIVER - 1 Bdrm., 1 Bath, fully furnished, Dock, includes utilities, Dish TV, WI FI & local phone service. \$650 mo. + sec. (863) 467-1950.

Oak Lake Apartments, 2BR, 1.5BA, 2 story, fenced patio, washer, dryer, very clean. \$700 first, last, and \$500 sec. (863)634-3312 or 634-3313.

OKEE - Huge, Clean, 2BR, 2BA inside laundry, \$725/month. First, last, Sec. Call 772-215-0098

**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 Power/water/sewer/pool included. \$725 per mo. 1st mo. FREE! Call 863-824-0981

Houses - Rent

2bd/2ba - Den and Fl room on 5 acres. Rent with option to buy. Between Indiantown and Okeechobee. \$995.00 monthly Call 772-260-3068

3 Bedroom 1 Bath private home, 2 carports and garage, fully furnished, washer & dryer \$1000 monthly (954)658-0108 1008 SW 2nd Ave Okee.

3BR 2BA beautiful ranch home located 12 miles from town. Lawn, trash, and water included. \$650/mo. Pasture available. Call for move in special Mon. - Fri. (863)467-9800. No Pets.

Dixie Ranch Acres area 3 br clean, quiet \$700/mo. water & lawn care included. \$200 security. NO DOGS. Call 863-610-0001

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

Location, Location , Location CBS House 3bd/1 1/2ba SW section, near Wal Mart 1600 SW 3rd Ave Okeechobee. First,last and sec \$875 a month \$2,000 to move in (863)634-0512

Houses - Rent

TREASURE ISLAND 3br/2ba (CBS on the water). Nice area. Small pets OK. \$1100 (561)262-1390.

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Office Space Rent

2300 sq.ft. - Beautiful Historic Commercial Rental, 1 block off State Rd. 70, highly visible from highway. \$1500 per mo. (863)447-0092

Vacation Rentals

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

Real Estate**Real Estate****Real Estate**

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Houses - Sale

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

CBS 3/2/2, Metal Roof, Screen Porch, Corner Lot, Patio, Sprinklers, Freshly painted in/out, Space for Motor Home and Boat. Ideal investment or starter home, asking \$69,800 Owner 863-763-7998

Large 2/1 on water in Treasure Island. Adults, no pets, \$700/mo. + \$500 sec. (863)467-1308.

Owner Financing- 3 bdrm 2 bath house on 1 acre \$3,500.00 down \$931.42 a month. 2bdrm/1bath house \$2,500.00 down \$731.83 a month. Call Beverley 863-634-2820

Land - Sale

Dixie Ranch Acres 1 Acre lots \$9,000 \$500 down Owner Financing Call 863-763-6358

Lots - Sale

Lot For Sale Lot Size .462 3225 NW 28th Ave Okeechobee, FL. 34972 Asking \$6,000 Call 863-447-4318

**Waterfront
Property****WATERFRONT
PROPERTY**

Lake Okeechobee, FL. Bass Fishing Paradise, 2 Lots (apx 1/3 acre) each with sewer & well, 1100 sq. ft. Mobile home with Florida room, screened porch, carport, 32' x 40' garage, covered boathouse with lift, seawall. Pics available upon request. Priced to sell @ \$67,500 OBO. Email: kgreene@tds.net or Phone: (513) 875-4395.

Mobile Homes

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

**Mobile Home
Lots**

MOBILE HOME LOT ONLY Fence, City Water, Electric, Pad, Septic Tank 50'x127', Shade Trees NW 2nd St \$7,500 Call 763-4588 After 10 am.

**Mobile Home
Rent**

BUCKHEAD RIDGE - Dbl. Wide 2 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$500 mo. Large 3 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$600 mo. No pets. Yearly lease plus sec. (863)763-4031

Double wide mobile home 3/2 in Treasure Island, 2/1 mobile home in Little Farm, 2/1 Mobile home off highway 68 west on 1.5 acre. From \$450 - \$700. (863)447-2172 or (863)467-2563

TREASURE ISLAND 3/2, large yard. Clean. On water. Move in now for \$900, first month free! \$725/mo incld lawn service. 863-824-0981

Mobile Home Sale

\$17,000 STEAL 2-2 Double Wide Includes Lot Nice Wood Floors, Great Interior, Some TLC Call 863-801-1739

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

Palm Harbor Homes Red Tag Sale... Over 10 Stock Units Must Go Save Up To 35K! 800-622-2832

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

**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

**Employment
Full Time**

2007 Honda SHADOW 600CC - Black with windshield and leather saddlebags. New tire and battery. Just been serviced and has new tire and battery. Ready to ride with 2 helmets. \$ 3 , 5 0 0 . 0 0 (863)801-5078 or (863)381-4992

Automotive**Automotive****Automotive****Automotive**

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Automobiles

2008 PRIUS 55mpg@55mph. Immaculate, new tires & transferable Factory 7/100 Warranty \$16,995 Will take reliable pickup partial trade(example:90-93 S-10 under 100,000=\$2,500 Photos on newszap.com (516)-318-3515

Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."

Pickup Trucks**Pickup Trucks****Pickup Trucks****Pickup Trucks****Pickup Trucks****Pickup Trucks****Pickup Trucks****Pickup Trucks**

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

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

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

Public Notice

Public Notice

Notice of Hearing
Okeechobee County Code Enforcement
Special Magistrate

The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Faye Huffman at the Planning and Development Department, 1700 NW 9th Ave., Suite A, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, (863) 824-3001.

All interested parties shall have the opportunity to be heard at this public meeting. Any person deciding to appeal any decision by the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate with respect to any matter considered at this meeting 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. Code Enforcement tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Department.

Faye Huffman, Secretary to the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate
392447 ON 7/17/2011

INVITATION TO BID
Sidewalk Rehabilitation
Bid No. PW 05-00-07-11

Sealed BIDS will be received by the City of Okeechobee, **GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT in Room 101** at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974 no later than **1:00 p.m., on August 8, 2011** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers. Any BIDS received after the time specified will not be accepted.

The bids are for one unit price per Linear Foot for new construction sidewalks, curb cuts and handicap accessibility within the City. Description and specifications are available in the bid packets from the City General Services Department for the non-refundable purchase price of \$50.00. Questions may be directed to Betty Clement, General Services Coordinator 863-763-3372 ext. 218.

A **MANDATORY** pre-bid meeting will be held **Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.** at City Hall in the Council Chambers, Room 201.

The City has the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids must be sealed and the outside of the envelope **MUST** be marked: **CITY OF OKEECHOBEE SIDEWALK REHABILITATION BID NO. PW 05-00-07-11.**

By: Brian Whitehall, City Administrator
392558 ON 7/17,24/2011

NOTICE

On **July 30, 2011**, there will be sold to the highest bidder At the premises of **SABAL PALM SELF STORAGE, 14040 Hwy 441 N, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 (Landlord)** the contents of storage spaces rented by Tenants, for failure to pay rent due on the spaces. Sealed bids will be accepted until the day of the sale. The contents of the spaces consist of personal property including household goods, furnishings, clothing, boxes, bags, and totes, and other miscellaneous property. The names of the tenants whose property will be sold are:

Michelle Gunnaldsen
Unit # A-08
Minimum Bid \$400

Sabel Palm Self Storage
863-357-1110
392000 ON 7/10,17/2011

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

PURSUANT TO F.S. 713.78 ON **JULY 30, 2011 @ 9:00AM** SILVERMOON'S TOWING & RECOVERY 3197 NW 20TH TRAIL OKEECHOBEE, FL.

WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES AND/OR VESSELS.
VEHICLE INFO: 1995 OLDS
VIN: 1G3AJ55M7S6422213
SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO BID

SOLD AS IS, NO WARRANTY. SELLER GUARANTEES NO TITLE, TERMS CASH.
SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY OR ALL BIDS
91750 ON 7/17/2011

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

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

Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."

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

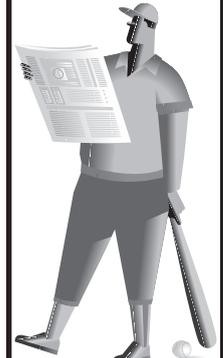
School Board Executive Session and Negotiations

The Okeechobee County School Board will meet in closed Executive Session on Thursday, July 21, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. in the office of the Superintendent, 700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee. The meeting is for School Board members, their attorney, and chief negotiator to prepare to continue negotiations with Okeechobee County Education Association #1604 regarding Race To The Top and Senate Bill 736.

The School Board and Education Association will resume negotiations at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2011, and will continue as needed on Friday, July 22, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. Collective bargaining sessions are open to the public and will be held in Room 303 of the School Board Administration Building at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee.

Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools
392426 ON 7/15,17/2011

READING A NEWSPAPER HELPS YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY.



No wonder newspaper readers have more fun!

Code enforcement hearing Tuesday

The Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate will hear four new cases and review one old case on July 19, at 2 p.m. in the auditorium of the Okeechobee County Health Department, 1728 N.W. Ninth Avenue.

- A structure on 804 N.E. 13th Avenue owned by Suternes V LLC has been condemned. The owner has been notified that the structure is unsafe and creates a hazard. A demolition permit must be obtained from the Department of Planning and Development and the structure must be removed from the property in accordance with county codes.
- A NW 80th Way property owned by Eduardo and Marcela Pineda was cited for junk and debris. Owners must immediately

remove the lid from a deep freezer, which creates a safety issue. Accumulations of household goods, mechanical parts, trash and debris must be removed. All vehicles must have current license tags or be stored completely inside an enclosed structure.

- Church of God in Christ, 651 N.E. 16th Avenue, was cited for an unsafe structure on the property. The structure has been condemned by the building official and must be demolished with the required demolition permit.
- John and Kristina Hendricks were cited for demolition of a burned mobile home without the required permits. On April 1, a building official found four unlicensed individuals engaged in the demolition of the structure without the required permit and

issued a stop order. On May 31, building officials found the demolition had been completed still without the required permit, and in violation of the stop order.

Under old business, Florida Prairie of Pompano Beach is on the agenda in regard to the use of a property on NW 252nd Street as a campground. To come into compliance, a special exception is needed for this property. The property owners have also been ordered to remove the official seal of Okeechobee County from any advertising.

Okeechobee Arrest Report

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

- Winston Clyde Collins, 58, N.E. 11th St., Okeechobee, was arrested July 14 by Deputy DeMarcus Dixon on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with felony battery. He was also arrested on another Okeechobee County warrant charging him with failure to appear on a misdemeanor battery charge. His bond was set at \$2,500.
- Richard Moore, 41, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested July 14 by Deputy Patricia Massung on a Martin County warrant charging him with the felony of failure to appear - driving while license suspended - habitual offender. He is being held without bond.
- Jamie Louis Douglas, 38, S.R. 70 W., Okeechobee, was arrested July 14 by Deputy Joseph Hall on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with grand theft and giving false information to a metal recycler (two counts). His bond was set at \$22,500.
- Gray Curtis English, 64, N.E. Fifth Trail, Okeechobee, was arrested July 14 by Deputy Brian Cross on felony charges of possession of cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He was also charged with the misdemeanors of possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$35,000.
- Hugh Edgar Phillips, 41, N.E. 120th St., Okeechobee, was arrested July 14 by Officer Bryan Enderle on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone) (two counts), possession of a controlled substance (alprazolam) and possession of a controlled substance (hydromorphone). He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$21,500.

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.

SFWMD lifts burn ban on district lands open to the public

Due to recent rainfall that has reduced wildfire danger, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is once again allowing the careful building of campfires in designated areas on certain District lands open for recreation.

The action follows the July 7 lifting of a similar ban on campfires in state forests by the Florida Division of Forestry.

While conditions have improved, regional water levels will need time and significant rainfall to recover from a record drought.

The SFWMD continues to ask residents and businesses to conserve water and follow landscape irrigation restrictions to stretch and protect the public water supply. For water saving tips, visit www.savewaterfl.com.

FREE Classified Ads!

4 Lines + 8 Photos Online for 2 Weeks Absolutely FREE!

Place your **FREE AD** online: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at...

www.newszap.com click on Classifieds

YOU DECIDE What it SAYS → How it LOOKS → Add your PHOTOS
And before you know it, you've got an ad online!

Plus...post your ads in these Florida newspapers for only \$8 each!
Okeechobee News, Caloosa Belle, Clewiston News, Glades County Democrat, Immokalee Bulletin and The Sun

FREE!
Absolutely
FREE!

ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS

So easy...and it's free!

LAKE

Continued From Page 1

also spend more money from reserves to possibly lower property tax rates and build Everglades' restoration projects. The district plans to have \$60 million in reserve within five years.

Projects funded in this area included the Lakeside Ranch STA Phase I, the C-44 reservoir north of Indiantown, continued work on the Kissimmee River restoration and work in the Caloosahatchee River watershed.

Spending is down \$105 million in the proposed budget.

In other business, Glades County Commissioner Russell Echols was elected chairman of the Coalition. Commissioner Carson Turner of Hendry County was elected vice chairman.

Okeechobee Commissioner Margaret Helton said she would like to see the Corps of Engineers address low water levels in the Kissimmee River.

Highlands County Commissioner Jack Richie said his county received 15 inches of rain in the past two months. He noted the levels of Lake Istokpoga have risen by nearly a foot during that time.

Mr. Turner urged the district to start construction on the C-43 reservoir in Hendry County because the land is overgrown with invasive plants and has sat idle. He said public access should be allowed on this property for activities like horse back riding and ATV use.

Ms. Meeker said the district needs to get something done in the Caloosahatchee basin to increase water storage and improve water quality.

Colonel Al Pantano of the US Army Corps of Engineers announced \$50 million had been awarded from Congress for the C-44 project phase one.

Col. Pantano said the Kissimmee River project should be complete by 2014. Contracts for the reach 2 and 3 Oxbow excavation, the S-65 boat ramp and the S-66

weir will all be awarded in the next three months.

Approximately 7.2 miles of The Herbert Hoover dike wall rehabilitation between Port Mayaca and Belle Glade have been completed. Another 13.2 miles are under construction. The Corps awarded two contracts to remove culverts around the dike. Fourteen culverts are already under construction and contracts to remove four more will be awarded this fall. He also defended the Corps decision to remove water out of Lake Okeechobee in April, 2010. He said he had no other choice due to the threat of water to lakeside communities. He said a philosophical discussion is needed to determine the future role of Lake Okeechobee because it can't be everything to everyone.

"If you want it to be a very deep reservoir it can be, but you will make sacrifices (to the environment)," he noted.

There is an argument to make it more of a reservoir but that is a philosophical change from where we are headed since we have tried to repair the dike, he added.

Col. Pantano said the ecology of the lake is healthy when the lake levels are between 12.5 and 15.5 feet. "It is not as simple as fixing the dike, raising the lake to 20 feet and say there it is," he added.

The dike belongs to the federal government and the water belongs to the state. That is where the friction is, he explained to the coalition. He said many people don't like the fact that the federal government makes decisions about Florida water.

There hasn't been a serious incident where people have lost their life because of how the lake has been managed, Col Pantano said. He explained the dike was built in 1930 to standards that would not be accepted today.

"We are trying to fix it and it is a tough task. It is a big dike, it's massive," he said.

Commissioner Echols criticized the Corps because his county hasn't gotten permits to dredge the Harney Pond canal. He said businesses depend on the lake and lake access and levels of the lake should remain higher.

"You have more of an ability to say 'we

can't' than any agency I have ever dealt with," he noted.

Palm Beach County Commissioner Paulette Burdick said it is imperative that farmers in the Glades receive enough water to provide produce to the nation, a \$2 billion industry.

Tommy Stroud of the SFWMD reported that July rainfall has helped raise the levels of the Lake. He predicted the drought conditions would improve during the wet season.

"It is a relatively low possibility that we will be hit by a Tropical Storm that raises the lake to high levels," he added.

He said there is a 65 percent chance that the lake levels will not leave water shortage levels by the end of the wet season.

Biologist Don Fox of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said the lake is in great shape. He praised the lake regulation schedule because it allows agencies to make good, common sense decisions. Aquatic vegetation has thrived in the lake.

Mr. Fox agreed that fishing has never been better on Lake Okeechobee.

"It is fabulous. Bass fishermen can catch 100 fish per day and that is not out of the ordinary," he said.

Black crappie have not recovered as well as bass. According to a FWC study, fishermen could catch 30 black crappie per minute in 1997. That rate is three crappie per minute in 2011.

He said they are building up the black crappie population.

The coalition will meet again on Sept. 30, at 10 a.m. at the Okeechobee County Courthouse.



Philip DeBerard
INJURY ATTORNEY

**Accident Victims...
Call Us First!**

- Tractor Trailer Crashes
- Auto Crashes
- Motorcycle Crashes
- Wrongful Death

FREE Consultation
Se Habla Español

**Phones answered
24 Hours, 7 days-a-week!**

**1120 S. Parrott Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34974**

467-7100

www.crashinjuries.com

Amazing Weight Loss!



**All New
Enhanced
HCG
Weight Loss
Plans
Safe!
Effective!
Accelerated!**



HCG Injections Now Available!



FREE Consultations! Call today for more details!
863-357-9967 414 S. Parrott Ave.



Searching For a New House? Thinking About Moving?

It can be a daunting process, but ZapHomes can make searching for a new home and neighborhood easier than you think. ZapHomes has all the information and tools you need to find your dream house in just the right location.

Our new site allows you to:

- Browse listings by city, town or ZIP code
- Evaluate the community
- See recent home sales, trends and property values
- Calculate your mortgage

ZAP HOMES

To get started, visit
www.newszap.com
and click on ZapHomes

CHAMBER

Continued From Page 1

“They can’t just simply liquidate the building to anyone—then, they will end up in a legal predicament,” he offered.

But to help protect the city, Mr. Whitehall said he’s been in contact with U.S. Congressman Tom Rooney’s office about the situation. He said the congressman has already assigned an advocate to help the city, and that he’s already had conversations with the advocate.

“This parcel is to be used only as a chamber of commerce—it’s pretty clear. Brenda (Appleton) knows that; and, the IRS is keenly aware of it,” continued Mr. Whitehall. “I’ve had more than one conversation with them about a chamber being the only occupant in there and that clearly the city owns the building.”

However, he added, at least one of those conversations with the IRS was “a little frictional.” And because of that, he’s concerned that the federal agency will just let the building sit empty if it doesn’t get what it wants.

“If we have to take on the IRS it’s a waste of taxpayer’s money—on both sides,” offered Mr. Whitehall. “I’m having a difficult time getting from the IRS what legality they are using to take the action they’re taking to seize the lease.”

“This is tailor-made for one of our legislators to intervene,” he added.

When asked if the city would be amenable to changing the language in the deed restriction to allow another type of non-profit entity to occupy the building, Mr. Whitehall stated firmly that was not likely to happen.

“I think the City Council feels there’s another viable chamber; we need a viable chamber; and, that’s a viable location. So, I don’t foresee anything like that,” he replied.

When it was learned that the current Chamber of Commerce was in financial difficulty, at least two other local chambers—the Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County and the Okeechobee Area Chamber of Commerce—have registered with the Florida Department of State - Division of Corporations.

Mr. Whitehall said Terry Burroughs, a representative for the Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County, met with him and an IRS official about the building. And while a dollar amount was discussed, he said Mr. Burroughs told the government official that

“This parcel is to be used only as a chamber of commerce -- it’s pretty clear. Brenda (Appleton) knows that; the new Chamber knows that; and, the IRS is keenly aware of it. I’ve had more than one conversation with them about a chamber being the only occupant in there and that clearly the city owns the building.”

— **Brian Whitehall**
City Administrator

his Chamber officials would not approve that amount.

Mr. Whitehall did not indicate how much money the IRS was seeking for the lease.



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp
Gloria Scherre, from Gary’s Lock & Safe, changed the lock on the front door of the Okeechobee County Chamber of Commerce building Friday, July 15. The building, located at 55 S. Parrott Ave., and its contents were seized by the Internal Revenue Service for back taxes.

YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR COOLING



Emory Walker Company
(863) 763-6742
208 S.W. 5th Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Okeechobee’s Longest-Established Lennox Dealer Since 1975



Receive up to **\$1,300 in Rebates*** with the purchase of a qualifying Lennox® Home Comfort System AND up to **\$500 in Federal Tax Credits****

or
Special Financing through GE Money Bank***

CAC014022 Offer expires 8/26/2011. *Rebate offer is valid only with the purchase of qualifying Lennox® products. **See dealer for details and visit www.energystar.gov for more information. © 2011 Lennox Industries Inc. See your participating Lennox dealer for details. Lennox dealers include independently owned and operated businesses.

Like us on **Facebook**



Like Us on Facebook and be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card from **Ultimate Gamer**

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Search ‘Okeechobee News’ on Facebook to find us!



Marder Dermatology
MARDERDERMATOLOGY.COM

First 25 callers receive a FREE SKIN CANCER EXAM!

SKIN CANCER IS CURABLE

Board Certified Dermatologist • Most Insurances Accepted

(863) 763-9484 Exam is **\$135 Value**

202 NE 2nd St Okeechobee Call for an appointment today!



Dodgeball

July 23

**Osceola Middle School
Tournament starts
at 9 a.m.**

6 Person Teams

Ages 15-50

**Teams must pre-register by calling
Jess 634-5020, Bobby 634-6523
or Harry 634-1692**

Annual Dodgeball Tournament

**Future Stars
Scholarship Fundraiser
Sponsored by**

**\$150 per team
1st place will receive \$300**

Okeechobee



DODGE

CHRYSLER



Jeep



**YOUR COMPLETE
AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR SHOP**

**"We Service, Repair, Rebuild or Replace all
Makes and Models"**



**John
Deel
Service
Manager**



**Terry
Miller
Assistant
Service
Manager**

**TRUSTWORTHY
TRANSMISSION
SERVICE & REPAIR** WE HAVE 4
**TRANSMISSION
TECHS!**
Certified Factory Trained Technicians

**\$9.95
Oil Change
Every Day!**

Some models may be more due
to engine size.

Diesel Engines
Start At \$39.95

4224 Hwy 441 S. Okeechobee, FL

863-357-0500

www.okeechobeedodgechryslerjeep.com

MIDFLORIDA
financing available



Hours:
Mon- Fri 7:30 am - 7:00 pm
Sat 8 am to 5 pm