



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 97

Sunday, August 14, 2011

75¢ Plus tax



2011 Sales Tax Holiday today!

The Florida Sales Tax exemption for clothing, footwear, accessories and school supplies will be in effect through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14. This exemption applies to each eligible item of clothing selling for \$75 or less and to each eligible school supply selling for \$15 or less and applies no matter how many items are sold on the same invoice to a customer.

City police chief history sought ... Page 5

Lake Levels

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Wounded warrior comes to area to hunt



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Eric Edmundson (front) was recently hunting on the Brady Ranch as part of the Wounded Warrior Project.

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

It is obvious that Eric Edmundson is passionate about hunting. His eyes light up and his facial expression shows his enthusiasm as the topic is discussed.

His father, Ed Edmundson, was doing all the talking. Eric is wheelchair bound and cannot talk as a result of a brain injury received on Oct. 2, 2005, when a roadside bomb exploded as he was driving a Stryker Light Armored Vehicle while serving in Iraq. He received a Purple Heart for his injuries.

Eric was recently hunting at the Brady

Ranch, a private game preserve on the Seminole Reservation in Glades County, with his father who is his permanent caregiver. The night before the interview, Eric killed an 8 foot alligator. His next goal at the ranch was to kill a hog.

The visit was part of an eight-state hunting trip sponsored by the Wounded Warrior Project. This program exists to honor and empower wounded warriors who incurred service connected injuries on or after Sept. 1, 2001.

According to that organization's website, for every soldier killed in World Wars I and II,

See WARRIOR — Page 17

Council to discuss Sunday liquor sales

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The budget, alcohol sales and vegetable vendors will be the main concern at Tuesday evening's meeting of the Okeechobee City Council.

Councilmen will hold their first budget workshop Aug. 16 for the new budget at 5 p.m. The regular meeting will follow.

The \$5,263,506 proposed budget is funded, in large part, by a property tax millage rate of 7.9474. That millage rate, taking into consideration decreasing property values, is calculated to bring in the same amount of taxes to the city as last year. Therefore, some city residents will see no tax increase.

One mil equals \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The council will be considering two different issues dealing with alcohol.

They will have the first reading of

What: Okeechobee City Council budget workshop/regular meeting

When: 5 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 16

Where: City Council Chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.

an ordinance designed to allow restaurants to sell alcoholic beverages on Sundays between the hours of 11 a.m. and midnight. Such restaurants must be able to seat at least 50 customers. With certain exceptions, the proposed ordinance forbids the sale of alcoholic beverages within 100 feet of a church, school or day care center.

See CITY — Page 17

Boil water notice lifted

The OUA has lifted the boil water notice as of Friday, Aug. 12, afternoon. According to OUA, residents may go back to normal water use.

OHS gridders handle the heat



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Football practice begins

D.J. Washington (right) hands off to Jose Santibanez during the first days of Brahman football practice this week at OHS. Coaches take extra precautions in this heat to make sure the kids are properly hydrated. See page 11 for full story.



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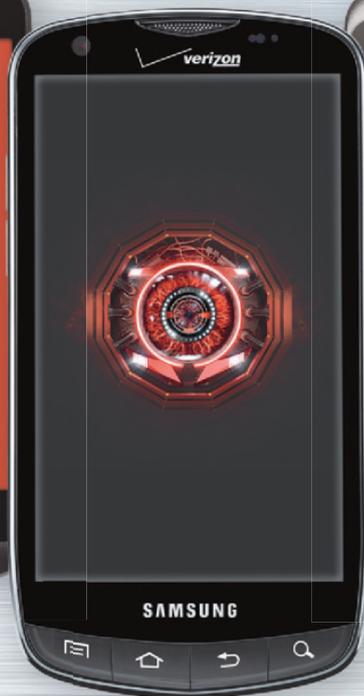
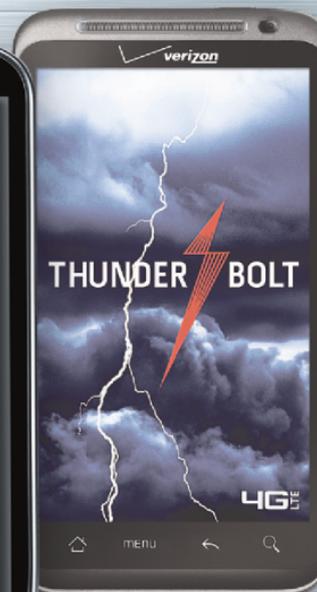


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Grand Oaks residents enjoy parties



Special to the Okeechobee News/Grand Oaks
Francois Tardiff had a great time doing the limbo with the help of Administrator Diane Wood and Activities Coordinator Jennifer Dodd at the Grand Oaks Luau.



Wanda & Angelo Villies shared wine and memories with other residents at Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility.



John Cantrell gets assistance with his wardrobe malfunction from Activities Coordinator Jennifer Dodd during the Grand Oaks Luau at Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility.



Activities Coordinator Jennifer Dodd and Chef John Garcia enjoyed preparing the food and assisting with paring the wines and cheeses.

Labor Day Parade cancelled - Festival is still slated

The Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association has decided not to hold the Annual Labor Day Parade this year. Okeechobee Main Street will still host the Annual Labor Day Festival in the Park. Main Street is now taking applications for vendors and entertainment. The festivities will take place on Sept. 3, 4 and 5 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Anyone interested in participating in the event, please contact Cindy Birdashaw at the Main Street Office, 111 Northeast 2nd Street, 863-357-6246.

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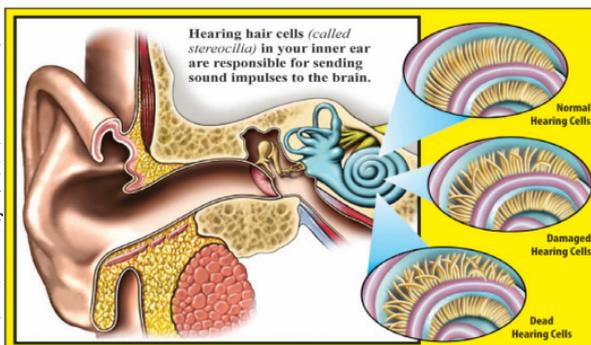
Study by Cambridge University in England Reveals Key Answer

Until recently, there was no practical way to identify dead regions of hearing cells in the ear.

However, a new British developed procedure using standard test equipment now allows for identification of dead hearing cell regions. The study suggests that the presence or absence of dead regions may have serious implications in the fitting of hearing aids.

This research reveals that amplifying dead cells is a mistake which will result in poorer speech understanding in noise. A new type of digitally programmable microcircuit is now being released from Audibel - the world leader in nano Science technology - that can be programmed to bypass the dead cells. As a result, the patient's unable hearing cells receive amplification, thereby improving speech understanding in noise.

We are able to achieve maximum speech understanding by frequency shaping this new hearing aid. The results have been phenomenal. These new products come in all shell sizes, including the smallest digital models. Call the Audibel Hearing Care Centers nearest you for a no-obligation appointment.

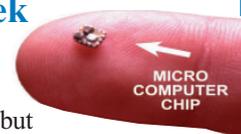


"I've Got Good News!" - Kim Harris, Owner

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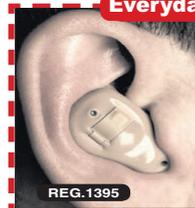
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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Thought for the day

- The doctor who treats himself has a fool for a patient.
- Be kinder than necessary ~ for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

Water restrictions

• We had nearly 4 inches of rain in the neighborhood on Wednesday night, according to the rain gauge. We had nearly another inch on Thursday. And yet, my neighbors are running their sprinklers again. Just how much water does that lawn need? My yard is still soggy from the rain. I can't imagine anyone in my area needing to run a sprinkler system when the ground is already waterlogged.

Quotes to ponder

• "The truth is, everyone is going to hurt you. You just got to find the ones worth suffering for." — Bob Marley

Kids arrested

• This country's problems go back to the breakdown of the family. It used to be the norm that folks got married first and talked about having children. Children were planned for, hoped for and cherished. If you get married first and have a chance to find out if you get along well before you consider having a child, it's just better for everyone. Children deserve to come into a home where the parents are committed to each other and to that child. If people would wait a while before having kids, I think we could avoid a lot of these problems.

• It made me sick to read about the 12 year old who watched porn in his own home and then tried to act it out on another child. Those parents should be charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Allowing a child access to that type of material should be enough to charge the parents and hold them accountable.

School

• The summer is going by so fast. Open house for the schools is coming up so soon. I hope those who can help will donate to the school supply drives. It is hard on the kids to start school without all the supplies they need. And some parents are out of work and really struggling. Anything you can do to help will be appreciated, I am sure.

Government

• I am so sick of the president and the Congress playing political games. If I could vote every one of them out of office today, I would. None of them should be there. They are all acting like spoiled children fighting over a toy. They are messing with our lives. We cannot afford another recession. We cannot afford higher interest rates. They need to quit playing these political games and do what is right. If only the politicians would do what is right instead of always trying to do what they think will get them re-elected. Do any of them even have a conscience?

The Lost Boys

• I hope the families of the Lost Boys know that their boys will always be loved and remembered by this community. They touched many lives and their memory will live on.

Dogs out

• If you can't commit the time and energy needed to take care of a pet, you should not bring one home. A dog needs attention and interaction with his human family. If you just open the door and let the dog run, you might as well just not get a dog to begin with. You are not doing the dog any favors by letting him roam the neighborhood as he might be hit by a car. And you are being a rude and inconsiderate neighbor by not keeping your animals off of other people's property.

Hurricanes

• We dodged the bullet on the first few storms of the season, but everyone in South Florida should be ready for a hurricane. Do you have a hurricane plan? Do you have bottled water and nonperishable food on hand? If not, now is the time to prepare.. We won't be this lucky forever. And if it turns out we get through the season without a bad storm, you can still drink the water and eat the food. So you have not wasted any money.

Reflections from the pulpit

Wendy Schaffer

Pastoral Counselor, Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee

You are More!

Recently the Pregnancy Center held a parenting class called "You Are More." Several young ladies were touched emotionally and spiritually by the message presented. Precious tears flowed as ladies accepted Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior. They realized God loves each of them and accepts them. In turn, they could begin to love themselves, accept themselves, and receive and know their God-given worth.

In Jeremiah 31:3 the Lord affirms his love, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving kindness." Knowing God loves you, you can accept yourself. If you have accepted Jesus Christ, you are acceptable to Christ. (Romans 15:7) In accepting yourself, you can forgive yourself by confessing your sins to God, turning your back on former sins, and asking God to forgive you. (1 John 1:9) The Lord says, "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgression (sins), for my own sake, and remembers your sin no more." (Isaiah 43:25)

Hope for the Heart Ministry gives out various pamphlets. The following offers a tool to realize your worth: W- Work in elimination of negative attitudes and beliefs (Philippians 4:8); O - Obtain scriptural understanding of having love for yourself. (Galatians 5:14); R- Refuse to compare yourself with others (II Corinthians 10:12); T - Thank God for His unconditional love for you. (Psalm 48:9); H- Hope in God's promise to mold you to like Christ. (Romans 8:29)

Now, you can yield your talents and abilities to help others (Romans 12:6-8). Know that God, who began a good work in you

will bring it to completion. (Philippians 1:6) God has a purpose for your life which you are called to do. He has deemed you worthy of that calling, "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) "Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called." (Ephesians 4:1)

The Pregnancy Center has now been invited to give self-worth classes at the Okeechobee Girls Academy. Please join us in prayer that the message "You Are More" is received by the teenage girls. Pray each girl realizes they were formed by God in their mother's womb. David was inspired to write, "Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb." (Psalm 139:13-14) The Lord said to Jeremiah, "Before thou camest forth out of the womb - I knew thee," (Jeremiah 1:5) God has a unique and special purpose for each of the young ladies' lives. We pray each one seeks to have a closer relationship with our Lord God and to know God loves them.

Jesus died on the cross for each one of them and each one of us. Every person has a God given worth Realize - Your Are More!

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m.. Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 75. South southwest wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 93. West southwest wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Monday night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. West southwest wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

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

Angel Food Ministries

Angel Food Ministries is available for anyone seeking to stretch their budget! Everyone is eligible! First Baptist Church of Okeechobee is a distribution site, call 863-763-2171, for complete information. Better yet, check out the website, sample menu, order and pay on-line and pick up your food on the appointed day.

<http://www.angelfoodministries.com/about/>

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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

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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.

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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



Letter to the editor

Police Dept. History

My name is Larry Parzygnat. I became a police officer for the City of Okeechobee on Feb. 19, 2007.

I live in Loxahatchee near Lion Country Safari. When I came to Okeechobee I was taken aback by the small town feeling that reminded me of where I grew up in Davie in the 1970s. The family atmosphere within the police department and the politeness of the citizens leads me to often tell my friends in Palm Beach County that I work up in Mayberry—which, I love.

In November of 2009 I decided that I would go to City Hall and ask for the list of past police chiefs and their photographs. Then I would take what I figured to be about a dozen, put a photograph of each chief on each month of a calendar and hand them out as Christmas gifts.

Well, if that sounds relatively easy it wasn't.

According to City Clerk Lane Gamiotea, former City Clerk Bonnie Thomas had begun this same type of project and there were only two photographs.

So, I tried the Internet. There was a lot of information about the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, but it was as if the city police department did not exist.

Well, I have always had interest in nostalgia and, along with my curiosity about my new-found family in Okeechobee, I set out to find some history.

I have spent countless hours in the library looking at microfilm—the ladies there, by the way, are awesome. I have met and spoken to dozens of Okeechobee's finest residents who have been very helpful and have opened their hearts, memories and photo albums to me. I have been truly touched by the openness with which they have greeted me, an outsider.

What I discovered is there have been 23 police chiefs in Okeechobee since our city's conception in 1915. I have gathered dozens of photos, hundreds of newspaper clippings

and items such as old uniforms, badges and arm patches from the families and friends of past officers and chiefs.

But, I have not been able to locate anything on several of our past chiefs.

To complete our department's history, I need help from the community. If you are related to, or have any connection to, any of the chiefs of police listed below and could help supply me with any information, photos or memorabilia from their times as chief, please contact me at the Okeechobee City Police Department.

My phone number is 863-763-5521 and my e-mail is parzygnat784@bellsouth.net.

I need information for:

Chief Benjamin F. Hall - July 15, 1915 to Sept. 14, 1915

Chief T.O. Perkins - Sept. 14, 1915 to Oct. 12, 1915

Chief J.W. Raulerson - Oct. 12, 1915 to March 13, 1916

Chief J.A. Daughtery - April 13, 1920 to Feb. 1, 1921

Chief LeRoy E. Davis - Feb. 1, 1921 to Jan. 2, 1923

Chief Clinton Bass - Jan. 5, 1925 to Dec. 21, 1926

Chief William H. Arndt - Jan. 8, 1935 to March 5, 1935

Even group photos are acceptable. With today's technology, I can take them out of the photo for an individual shot.

I will not keep your photos—I just need them long enough to scan them onto my computer.

And, the same goes for photos of old Okeechobee police cars—even if they are parked on a street full of cars I can pull it out for an individual shot.

I am not using anything given to me for this project for personal gain. It will all be the property of the Okeechobee City Police Department.

Thank you again for welcoming me to your town.

**Sincerely,
Larry Parzygnat**

IRSC to hold Performing Arts Academy open house

The Indian River State College Performing Arts Academy provides the highest quality arts instruction to school-aged community members (ages 3-17) by offering culturally enriching, entertaining and engaging classes to expand their artistic development.

Instruction is offered in music (individual and group lessons), dance, children's theatre and youth musical theatre. Find out about all the opportunities this program offers at the Performing Arts Academy Open House/Registration event on **Tuesday, Aug. 30**, 4-6 p.m., at the McAlpin Fine Arts Center on the IRSC Main Campus at 3209 Virginia Avenue in Fort Pierce. Classes will be available in theatre, music, art and dance for ages 3 to 17.

Music Lessons — Private music instruction is available in voice, piano, strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion.

Group Vocal Class — This course establishes the basic fundamentals of vocal technique through demonstration and student performance.

Percussion Ensemble — The Treasure Coast Youth Percussion Ensemble is a group of intermediate to advanced level students interested in acquiring additional skills to prepare percussion literature for performance (by audition only).

Visual Arts — A drawing studio for young artists ages 10 to 15.

Group Music Lessons — This course establishes the basic fundamentals of vocal technique through demonstration and student performance.

Theatre Workshops — This technical workshop is a class designed to introduce young actors to various forms of acting situations.

Youth Musical Theatre — Students participating in this workshop will have an opportunity to share their talents and experience the joy of performing.

Be sure to attend the event to ensure placement in the programs of interest, as classes fill quickly. There is a one-time \$25 registration fee for the Performing Arts Academy.

For more information on the program and the cost of Performing Arts Academy programs, call 1-866-792-4772 or visit www.irsc.edu.

IRSC establishes nuclear energy education center

The nation's first Regional Center for Nuclear Education and Training (RC-NET) will be established at Indian River State College, funded by a prestigious \$3.1 million National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant. IRSC will lead the regional initiative to develop and deliver nuclear energy training throughout the Southeast. The four-year program will help meet the national need for 41,000 skilled nuclear employees by 2030, with over half the nuclear energy job openings projected to emerge in the Southeast. RC-NET will be based in the college's new Brown Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (BCIE) at the IRSC main campus in Fort Pierce in January.

Primary partners with IRSC include Central Virginia Community College, Chattanooga State Community College in Tennessee, Midlands Technical College in South Carolina, and North Carolina State University. Additionally, 15 colleges, three universities, 12 government agencies and 27 industry partners will participate in the project. Over time, the Regional Center will develop a model that can be utilized at the national level to benefit utilities and colleges providing nuclear energy training.

Acting as a centralized resource the Regional Center will provide curriculum, training for faculty and staff and facilitate communication and collaboration across the nuclear industry, colleges and universities. Instruction will be enhanced by state-of-the-art technology in the College's Brown Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (BCIE), enabling students to gain experience with a technologically-advanced flow loop replicating the functions of a nuclear power plant.

Beginning with the 2012 spring semester, the BCIE will provide a variety of training opportunities in alternative energies and new technologies. The multi-purpose facility will be home to the highly-successful Power Plant Technology Institute developed by IRSC and Florida Power & Light (FPL) in 2006 to support the growing need for maintenance technicians at the FPL St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. Over 100 graduates of the program have found employment with FPL, Progress Energy, Southern Company, Wolf Creek and Duke Energy at salaries exceeding \$55,000.

For information about nuclear energy education at IRSC, contact Dr. Kevin Cooper at: Indian River State College at kcooper@irsc.edu.

Annual Blood Roundup planning is under way

The 6th Annual Okeechobee Blood Roundup will be held November 19 and 20 this year. Planning is now underway to make this the biggest drive yet, with a goal of 600 units of blood drawn in just two days. Area retailers, professionals, restaurants and volunteers have contributed to making this the largest independent blood drive in Florida. The event will be held at the Freshman Campus Auditorium from 9 to 6 both days. Eight buses will be present so there will be no waiting. As at previous Roundups, tee shirts and goody bags will be given to all donors who will also have their names entered in drawings for prizes.

One of the grand prizes will be an all-day fishing trip, fresh or salt water, with Mike Jones Guide Service. Other grand prizes will also be awarded.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Raye Duesinger
Part of our planning committee includes (front row, left to right), Maureen Bradley, Marie Kirchhoff, Raye Duesinger, Marilyn Rinear. In the back row, left to right are: Russ Colwell, Florida's Blood Centers, Linda Woloski, Susan Williams, Trish Lowry, Florida's Blood Centers and Joan Roden.

Obituaries

Carolann Mcleod, 68

OKEECHOBEE — Carolann Mcleod, 68, of Okeechobee passed away Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011, in Raulerson Hospital.

She was born Dec. 25, 1942, to Harold McLeod and Barbara Bristow Roberts in Klmeth Falls, Ore.

She is survived by daughter, Tammy J. Brown (Kevin) of Swanton, Vt.; son, Christopher S. Miller (Shari) of San Diego, Calif.; grandchildren, Justine Tkachenko-Thimister, Kwana Christine Miller and Reid Roberts Brown; sisters, Linda Rochford of Okeechobee, Marcia Loreto of Okeechobee, and Laura Lee Brady of Tucson, Ariz.

A memorial service was held on Friday, August 12, 2011 at 11 a.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, 110 NE 5th St., Okeechobee. Online condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee.



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

Mary J. Lepley, 70

OKEECHOBEE — Mary J. Lepley, 70, died Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011, at her home. Born in Oil City, Pa., and formerly of West Palm Beach, Mary moved to Okeechobee 10 years ago.

She enjoyed working crossword puzzles and caring for cats and birds.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Bernard Swartzlander; and three sisters, Dorothy Swartzlander, Leona Scrivinn, and Alberta Stallman.

Mary is survived by Charles E. Lepley Sr., her husband of 53 years; sons, Charles E. Lepley Jr. of Okeechobee, Rusty (Linda) Boggess of Gainesville, Fla.; daughter, Donna Jane Prosser; grandson, Charles "Skeeter" T. Holland; granddaughters, Amanda Gates and Taylor Lepley; great-grandsons, Christopher Gates and Caden Lepley, all of Okeechobee; brothers, Clayton Swartzlander of Orlando, Gerald Swartzlander of Youngstown, Ohio, Ronnie Swartzlander of Lovedon, Mo.; sisters, Phylliss Carnahan of Clearwater, June Wilt of Greenville, Pa.; one niece and several nephews.

Visitation will be held Monday, August 15, 2011, at Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home at 10 a.m. until service time of 12 p.m.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, Florida 34973.

Friends may send condolences online to www.buxtonseawinds.com.

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



Dock Melvin, 68

OKEECHOBEE — Dock Melvin, 68, of Okeechobee passed away Friday, Aug. 12, 2011, at his residence in Venus.

He was a cowboy and heavy equipment operator. He enjoyed hog hunting, frog hunting and loved the outdoors.

He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Jennie of Okeechobee; sons, Robert (Tina) Melvin of Venus, Billy (Suzanne) Melvin of Venus, Roy (Melissa) Melvin, Dock Melvin Jr. all of Okeechobee; daughter, DJ Simmons of Okeechobee; sisters, Lete Pilgrim, Vi Owens both of Okeechobee; brothers, Lloyd Melvin, Tom Melvin both of Okeechobee. In addition he is survived by a host of grandchildren and friends.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, August 18, 2011, from 10 a.m. until service time of 11 a.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, 110 NE 5th St., Okeechobee.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th St., Okeechobee.

Online condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

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

Community Events

Church to have special speaker

Fountain of Life Church, 1302 S.W. 32nd St., will have a special speaker at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, **Aug. 14**, Dr. Charles Gauldin. Dr. Gauldin is an Associate Professor of Religion at Southeastern University, Lakeland. For more information call Pastor Dave Robertson at 863-801-1297.

Church offering clothes closet for entire family

The **Church of God of Prophecy, 102 N.W. 10th, St.** has a clothing ministry called God's Closet that is open each Tuesday evening from 5:15 to 7 for any families in need of clothing. They have a large variety of children's and teen's clothing. For more information call Lisa Mullins at 863-261-0841.

Lady Brahman Golf team tryouts open

Any OHS Girls interested in trying-out for the Lady Brahman Golf Team will meet at 4 p.m. on Aug. 15, at the Okeechobee Golf & Country Club. You must have a completed physical to participate. For more information call Coach Stuart at 863-634-7841.

New 4-H Club will meet

A new 4-H Club, the Lamb and Goat Club, will have its first meeting on Tuesday, **Aug. 16**, at 6:30 p.m. at the extension office in the county annex on U.S. 98 N. For more information, call Debbie Deloney at 863-634-6181 or Jay Zeller at 863-634-7964.

Retired educators association to meet

The Okeechobee County Retired Educators Association will be having their first meeting of the new school year on Thursday, **Aug. 18**, beginning at 11 a.m., in the meeting room of the Lodge Restaurant. All retired educators are invited to attend and become members. The organization does many service and mentoring projects for the schools as well as selling the annual historical ornaments to raise money for academic scholarships.

Poker tourney to benefit ARC

Aug. 17 is the date set for a poker tournament benefitting The ARC (for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities). The tournament will take place at the VFW, 3912 Hwy. 441 SE. Registration begins at 6 p.m. and the entry fee is a donation of \$50. The tournament will go until 7 p.m. with "cards in the air." Prizes will be awarded in Wal-Mart gift cards. Barbecue dinners will be available for \$10 each at 5 p.m. Tickets for the dinners can be purchased at Mid-Florida Credit Union, 3261 Hwy 441 South and also The ARC Thrift Store, 403 NW Second Ave. For tournament information and sign ups contact: Rhonda Altman at 863-634-6586 or sign up at Pogey Restaurant, 1759 S. Parrott Avenue. The event is sponsored by Bubba's Redneck Yacht Club.

Food stamp help offered

Treasure Coast Food Bank will be at Welcome House Drop-in Center, 1925 Hwy 441 SE, on Wednesday, August 17th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. helping with food stamp applications and recertification. This service is open to the public and no appointment is necessary. For more information please call 772-971-3316.

DEC plans to meet

Okeechobee Democratic Executive Council meeting will be on Thursday, **Aug. 18**, beginning at 6 p.m., in the Beef O'Brady's meeting room. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

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

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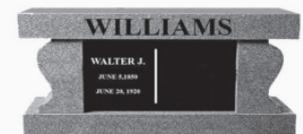
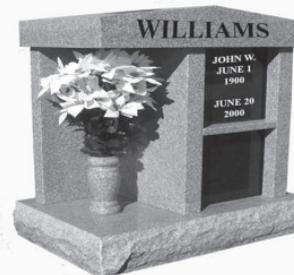
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INTERNATIONAL PREMIER ESTATE BUYERS HAVE CHOSEN OKEECHOBEE FOR THEIR NEXT STOP!

David Morgan
STAFF WRITER

On this rare occasion, the town of **Okeechobee** has the chance to host Premiere Estate Buyers at the **Holiday Inn Express**. "We are paying local residents this week on the spot for their treasures," said Jordan Parsons, a spokesperson for the event. The main items of interest, said Parsons, are anything jewelry related, **with gold and silver prices at Record Highs**. Another category that has recently increased due to market highs is coins. One coin could be worth hundreds or even thousands of dollars. "Coins start to accumulate a premium when they are dated 1970 or earlier," said Parsons. The astonishing part about the event is that they will pay you on the spot. Nothing has to be mailed off while you are stuck waiting for a check. This is not an appraisal event either—we are here to purchase residents' items for a fair market value.

"IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, I BROUGHT IN SOME OLD COINS THAT HAD BEEN IN A LITTLE CIGAR BOX FOR YEARS AND SOME OLD HERRINGBONE NECKLACES—IN LESS THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES I LEFT WITH A CHECK FOR \$700."

Premiere is capable of paying a higher percentage because of their vast network of clients. It also saves on refinery charges because of the large volumes they deal in. Smaller dealers, in most cases, cannot pay as high of a premium.

Huge premiums can also be paid for vintage watches. Parsons explained that, "One time in a show in Illinois, a customer brought in a watch that they had bought for a few hundred dollars back in the seventies. Turns out, it was a rare submariner that brought the local resident in excess of a thousand dollars." Parsons continued to say that Rolex, Cartier, Patek Phillippe, Hamilton and Omega are all great brands that could bring in a large amount of money.

The company recently purchased an old Gibson guitar in Grand Rapids, Michigan for \$124,500. And just last week they paid a Huntsville, Alabama resident \$15,000 for an old Martin guitar that had been refurbished and altered. Parsons said that most all pre-1970 Gibson, Fender, Martin, National and Rickenbacker guitars are valuable. They are worth at least a couple hundred dollars and in extreme cases, a couple hundred thousand. Another ecstatic customer exclaimed, "It's unbelievable, I brought in some old coins that had been in an old cigar box for years and some old herringbone necklaces—in less than fifteen minutes I left with a check for \$700."

Residents are encouraged to gather up similar items from their lockboxes, closets, jewelry boxes and even under the bed. Bring them into the Premiere Estate Buyers event and cash in. "We are fortunate to host the event here in **Okeechobee**," said Parsons, "—don't miss your opportunity to cash in."

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SFWMD expanding access to public lands

As part of an ongoing effort to provide recreational access to public lands, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board expanded to almost 4,000 acres a popular hunting area in Miami-Dade County known as Rocky Glades.



Public Small Game Hunting Area, represents a successful melding of restoration with public access and recreation. The District acquired this land in western Miami-Dade County for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' L-31N Seepage Management Pilot Project, a component of

the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). "Increasing recreation on public land helps connect residents to these incredible natural areas," said Tommy Strowd, SFWMD Director of the Operations, Maintenance and Construction Division. "Allowing hunts has the added benefit of helping to control non-native invasive reptiles and other nuisance species."

Ducks and doves are among the small game that can be hunted in Rocky Glades, along with hogs and invasive Burmese pythons and Nile monitors. Hunts at the site are managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Expansion of hunting at the 3,900-acre site, officially designated as the Rocky Glades

the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

Portions of the property have been open since 2006 for small game hunting while awaiting project construction. Other recreational activities at the site, offered outside the hunting season, include hiking, biking and bird watching.

To date, the District has opened 621,000 acres of land to the public. Many of these properties are in their natural state or have basic enhancements such as informational kiosks and hiking trails. For more information on recreational opportunities throughout the District's 16-county region, visit www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

Sports News in Brief

Hunter safety class offered free

Quail Creek Plantation is hosting a FREE hunter safety class on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You must complete the online course before attending the class. Bring completion certificate with you to class. Lunch will be available for \$6. Open to kids and adults. Limited space available please call or email to sign up.

Lady Brahman Golf team tryouts open

Any OHS Girls interested in trying-out for the Lady Brahman Golf Team will meet at 4 p.m. on **Aug. 15**, at the Okeechobee Golf & Country Club. You must have a completed physical to participate. For more information call Coach Stuart at 863-634-7841.



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School Board tours new Achievement Academy

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Florida Schools have heard a lot about Race to the Top in recent months. In Okeechobee it is more like a race to the finish for one school.

Time is running short for the school that will replace New Endeavor High School, the Okeechobee Achievement Academy.

The first day of school is Aug. 22 and workers with the general contractor Marco Bay Construction and other firms have had to scramble to have the new school ready in time.

Last week the Okeechobee County School Board and top school administrators toured the building with architect Richard Opalinski, School Principal Randy Weigum, and Director of Operations Dale Barrett.

Weigum said he was hopeful the school would be ready for the first day of students, "That is the main question. We are pushing very hard and everybody is working. Once one crew is done we have another right behind them. We'll be done one way or another."

The district put together a \$5.8 million facility that will come under budget. It not only includes buildings and classrooms, but a clinic, a library, a cafeteria lunch room that seats 150 comfortably, and sports facilities for basketball, soccer and softball. It also has outdoor bathrooms and a covered area outside.

"I believe the students will be very appreciative. They say facilities don't teach but

sometimes they do. It provides an atmosphere that states we care about you and want you to receive. This facility says that very loud and clear," he added.

It was a great tour as the school board members got to see the facility, the classrooms, offices, and the outdoor facilities.

"It was an excellent tour. It is just nice to have everybody see what the community, school board and administration has done. It is wonderful for our kids," Weigum said.

School officials asked a number of questions and most of them were whether the building will be ready in time. After open house on Thursday, Aug. 18, a formal ribbon cutting and tour for the community is planned. The facility will be open from 7 to 9 p.m., for open house.

BMK Architect Richard Opalinski said the building classifies as a Red Cross Hurricane Shelter and can withstand 120 mile per hour winds. It also has a large generator.

The only problem with the construction



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

BMK Architect Richard Opalinski shows off the lunchroom at the new Okeechobee Achievement Academy to Okeechobee School Superintendent Ken Kenworthy during a special tour this week.

came with a subcontractor which went bankrupt and abandoned the job a few weeks ago. That left the contractor to scramble for a replacement to do the parking lot and site work in time.

Barrett said the project would normally be an 18 month project and will be completed in just nine months. He expressed confidence the school will be ready on time.

"We will give it our best shot. I hope we can get it done," he added.

Weigum said the school board, architects and staff did a phenomenal job to create a high quality facility for students. "This is everything I expected and more."



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OHS Brahman football practice begins

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Approximately 50 players braved the high heat and humidity this week as Brahman football practice began at Okeechobee High School.

The players practiced early in the morning from Tuesday until Friday after a Monday morning classroom session to review the team's play book and formations.

Coach Myron Jackson enters his third season with his staff mostly in place. He will be assisted by offensive coordinator Jon Enrico, defensive coordinator Rex Erwin and assistant Coach Melissa Tomlinson.

The junior varsity squad is coached by Daron Washington and Rafe Erwin, who also assist the varsity squad.

Already the Brahmans have had some adversity as starting quarterback Jack Radebaugh was lost for several games due to a finger injury he suffered during a freak accident in July.

D.J. Washington, Eddie Neal and Cade Stokes have all taken snaps at quarterback during the first week of practice. Washing-

ton missed all but one quarter of one game last year due to a broken ankle.

Okeechobee also lost potential Division I recruit Aukeemian Mills, and wide receiver defensive back Lavante Spivey who transferred to John Carroll in Fort Pierce.

The Brahmans' first game is a kick-off classic exhibition game on Friday, Aug. 26, at home against John Carroll High.

Among the key players who return this year are Thor Harden, who was sidelined with a minor chest injury until Monday, John Kemp, Al Morris, Jose Santibanez and Cody Walker.

Players are given multiple rest periods and plenty of water to deal with the hot temperatures and humidity during summer practice. Competition was fierce for starting positions during the first week of practice. A number of starting jobs were up for grabs on both sides of the ball especially at wide receiver and defensive back.

The coaching staff has also been encouraged with the off-season workout program and the number of starters they have returning on the offensive line and at linebacker.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Coach Melissa Tomlinson works the players through some wide receiver drills during Brahman football practice this week.

Yearling volleyball practice begins

Yearling Middle School opened practice for the 2011 season with open gyms that start Monday, Aug. 15, coach Bruce Conrad said.

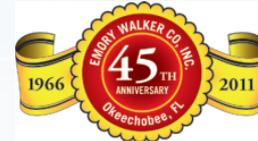
The open gyms will be from 4 to 6 p.m. on August 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24. "All of the girls who wish to participate must have a current FHSAA physical turned into the school," he added. Yearling has not lost a match in over three years and wants to keep the winning tradition going this fall.

Gold Tee Winners

Winners of the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club Gold Tee are:

First place - W. Hall; second place - J. Masters; and, third place - G. Guydosh.

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Raulerson now offering osteoporosis screenings

Most people will not realize they have osteoporosis until a bone break occurs. That is why it is sometimes referred to as a silent disease, but a bone screening can show signs of the condition well before you find yourself in a cast.

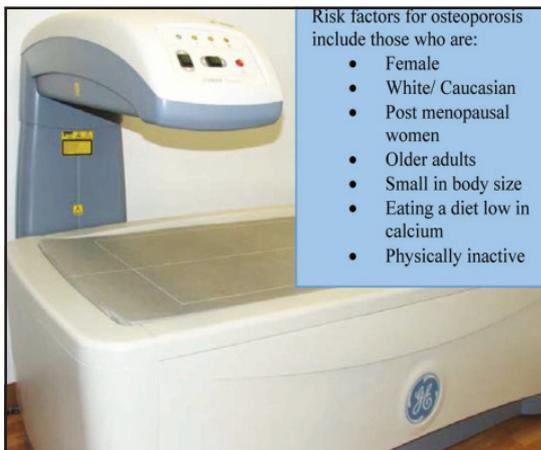
People who suffer from osteoporosis or 'porous bone' disease can experience such breaks in their bones from even the simplest of activities. The aging process can cause some natural bone weakening.

Risk factors for osteoporosis include those who are female, white/Caucasian, post menopausal women, older adults, small in body size, eating a diet low in calcium and physically inactive.

While some of these risk factors are unavoidable, there are preventive steps to lessen your risk of developing osteoporosis. Like many diseases, the prevention begins early. In youth and adolescence it is very important to build bone density through proper calcium absorption and physical activity. This helps ensure you reach your genetic potential for bone density, or your peak bone mass. By the age of 20, the average woman has acquired most of her skeletal mass.

Early detection is important since there is no cure for osteoporosis at this time. Older patients of either gender should look into bone screening if they have a family history of osteoporosis, have already experienced several fractures, suffer from thyroid disease, drink more than two glasses of alcohol a day, or lead a sedentary lifestyle. If you suspect you might have osteoporosis, it is better to find out your status from a screening before bones begin to break.

Osteoporosis can easily be diagnosed



Risk factors for osteoporosis include those who are:

- Female
- White/ Caucasian
- Post menopausal women
- Older adults
- Small in body size
- Eating a diet low in calcium
- Physically inactive

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with an X-ray called a dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA). This is a non-invasive examination that requires little preparation from the patient, aside from wearing loose clothing without metal zippers and buttons. Your doctor will probably also recommend that you do not take calcium supplements for at least 24 hours before the scan.

Once diagnosed, the goals of osteoporosis treatment include slowing or stopping further bone deterioration, controlling pain, and reducing the risk of fractures, falls or other complications. Your health care provider may recommend a plan that includes lifestyle changes, including changes in diet and physical activity, and possibly medications.

For a physician referral contact Consult-a-Nurse® at 1-800-449-8642.

This column was provided by Raulerson Hospital.

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Teen faces felony drug charge

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



Andrew J. Jackson

A local teenager was arrested by deputies on a felony drug charge after they reportedly saw him drop suspected marijuana on the ground during a traffic stop.

Andrew J. Jackson, 13, N.E. 16th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana with intent to sell. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

An arrest report by deputies with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Street Crimes Unit stated that the vehicle in which Jackson was a passenger was stopped in the 300 block of N.E. 14th Ave. because its headlights were turned off.

When the 2010 Ford stopped, the deputies saw a passenger in the front seat of the vehicle open the door and put his hands

down toward the bottom of the vehicle.

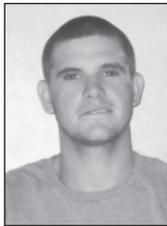
According to the report, after the occupants of the vehicle were removed a deputy found a clear plastic bag on the ground underneath the front door of the vehicle on the passenger side that contained a suspicious substance. When that substance was field tested it indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana, added the report. The suspected pot reportedly weighed 5 grams with packaging.

The deputy's report went on to indicate that a large number of smaller plastic baggies were found in a larger plastic bag. The smaller bags are commonly referred to as nickel bags, stated the deputy's report. All of these bags were allegedly found on the ground below the front passenger-side door.

It was also noted in the arrest report that the driver of the vehicle was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of driving without a license and was given a verbal warning for driving the vehicle with its headlights off.

Detective: 'bored' burglar charged in theft of firearms

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



Justin Lee Jarriel

An Okeechobee man has been arrested for his alleged connection in a home break-in and the theft of three handguns.

Justin Lee Jarriel, 20, S.W. Ninth Lane, was arrested Thursday, Aug. 11, on felony charges of grand theft and burglary of a dwelling.

He is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on \$12,500 bond.

An arrest report by Detective M.D. Faulkner, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that Jarriel entered the home through a window then opened a locked bedroom door with a crowbar.

Once inside the bedroom, Jarriel re-

portedly found a locked safe. After taking the safe, Jarriel allegedly used a grinder to open it.

The OCSO investigator said there were three guns inside the small safe—a .45 caliber automatic with one magazine, a .25 caliber automatic with one magazine and a .38 caliber revolver. The guns reportedly have a total value of \$550.

Detective Faulkner went on to state that Jarriel didn't want the guns because he was looking for cash, so he threw them in a pond. After the man learned that the detective wanted to talk to him, Jarriel retrieved the guns and put them in a dresser drawer in his bedroom, added the detective.

According to the detective, Jarriel indicated that he committed the burglary because "he was bored with nothing to do."

The investigation was initiated by OCSO Deputy Matthew Hurst who took the original complaint on Aug. 5.

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Free Kittens - Cute as can be! Litter trained and eating well. Only two left! 863-610-1556 or 863-447-9664.

Stereo Equipment

50/60's Juke Box Old time Rockola from Players Pub, 50/60's music with extra records, great collection excellent condition \$600 Call 863-634-3451

FOR RENT Rentals

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Apartments

1,2 or 3 Bedroom Apartments For Rent discounted \$60 per month and Yearly RV Spots for \$175 mo. located by 15b and 441. Call 561-386-5636 or 561-968-2083

Beane Point Apartments
Apts. are furnished and all utilities paid. Adult complex, no pets or children. Required sec. dep. + one week rent. A background check will be done, also verify employment. (863)357-2044 Leave name and number if no answer.

EFFICIENCY - 1BR furnished, for 1 person, Utilities & Direct TV included \$525 per mo. 1yr lease & sec. dep. Call 863-634-8885

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

LOCATION, LOCATION 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.

Nice 2/1 Apt. over commercial office space in the city. \$600/mo. Plus utilities. Dishwasher and microwave. No pets. First and Last and \$800 sec. dep. req. Please contact Sandra at (863)697-6082.

Oak Lake Apartments, 2BR, 1.5BA, 2 story, fenced patio, washer, dryer, very clean. \$650 first, last, and \$500 sec. (863)634-3312 or 634-3313.

OKEE - Huge, Clean, 2BR, 2BA inside laundry, \$700/month. First, last, Sec. Call 772-215-0098

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

Commercial Property

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

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

Condos/Townhouses Rent

CONDOS 2/1 fully furnished downstairs, w/ utilities \$950. mo., seasonal rates available. 1/1 unfurnished, upstairs w/utilities \$725. mo. w/year lease 863 634 0663

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

Houses - Rent

3 Bedroom/2Bath
CBS Home Clean & Well Maintained Fenced Back Yard 938 NW 3rd Street \$850.00 a month. David May Big Lake Real Estate 863-610-1970

3/2 CBS House, screened porch, den, carport, workshop, storage shed, on corner lot, large yard, close to schools and shopping, non smoking/no pets. 2301 SW 3rd Ave. \$900 per month or \$850 by direct deposit plus security deposit. Call 863-801-3178

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

HOUSE FOR RENT
2847 NW 33 road Basswood 3/2, garage, fenced in, New House \$1,200 per month + \$800 deposit. No pets allowed Call Rafael at (561)683-9754

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

IN OKEECHOBEE CITY: 4 Br/ 2Ba, \$1,000 mo + 1st, last, sec. & refs. Call Barry for more info. 772-216-1461

IN TOWN - 2BR, 2BA, W&D, porch, lawn serv. small pet ok, Non-smk. env., \$800 mo., 1st last & \$500 sec. Call 941-504-3954

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

OKEE - 2/1, \$459 mo. or 3/2, \$620 mo. Beautiful ranch homes located 12 miles N.E. of town. Lawn, pest, trash, and water incl. Pasture avail. Recently Updated. Move in special. Mon-Fri. 863-467-9800. No Pets.

OKEE 2bd/1ba CBS House, large lot, freshly painted, new carpet, w/d, well water, Located by 15-B \$675 mo. plus security. Call 786-201-0306

Houses - Rent

OKEECHOBEE - MODERN BRICK: 3BR, 2.5BA, 1 car garage. New carpet. On Rim Canal w/Boat dock. Opt. 1/BR cottage w/dining room. \$795/month. Call 772-359-1640

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
For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Houses - Sale

2BA 2BA handicap friendly house built in 2003. Sits on 1/2 acre. Comes furnished. \$ 2 5 0 . 0 0 0 (863)357-3972.

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

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

Mobile Home Rent

1 Bedroom Trailer
\$350 monthly or \$100 per week. \$550 to move in Call 863-634-8954.

2 Bedroom 2 Bath Mobile Home, Fenced Yard, Security Required, No Pets Call 863-634-7231

2bd/1ba furnished, a/c \$175.00 per week \$300 security deposit no charge for water, garbage removal or electric Call 863-763-3613

3BR 2BA in Pine Ridge Park with carport. First, last + sec. dep. (will work with tenant) \$750/mo. (863)634-9139

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

Mobile Home Rent

KISSIMMEE RIVER Estates, 2 Bedroom, 17216 Brynwood Lane, \$400 mo. + sec. Lawn & Water maintenance included. 317-402-5441

NEWLY REMODELED - Available Immediately 2BR/2BA Double Wide Stove Frig. \$700 mo. (863)634-8885

OKEECHOBEE- 3 br/2 ba. Has covered carport, fenced in yard on 70 east. \$500 mo. plus Utilities, Avail. 8/15/11. 863-634-1783 or 863-655-2454.

TREASURE ISLAND 3/2 large yard, new carpet. Lawn service \$700. mo. No pets. BHR 4/2 w/fenced yard & lawn service, \$700.mo. Sec. dep.req. 863 634 0663

Mobile Home Sale

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

OKEECHOBEE- Lg. 3br/2ba DW, w/14x40 addition, metal roof, FP, 11x20 shop, on Canal. Covered dock & slip. Sprinklers, 20' \$75K O.B.O. 772-321-1835 or 772-664-6799.

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

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

Campers/RVs

2002 Franklin 36 Ft. Camping Trailer Good Shape.
1997 GMC Box Truck 24 Ft.,New Clutch and Tran. Good Shape,Cat Motor Runs Good. Call 772-215-2089

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

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

Automobiles

97 Honda Civic LX 145 k miles, cold a/c, 31 mpg \$2,500 firm Call 863-357-0256

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

Public Notice

Notice of Hearing
Okeechobee County Code Enforcement
Special Magistrate
The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 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 Jennifer Cannon at the Planning and Development Department, 1700 NW 9th Ave., Suite A, Okeechobee, Florida, 34972, (863) 824-3074.
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.
Special Magistrate
Code Enforcement
894906 ON 8/14/2011

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

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will resume their Budget Meetings on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the "Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom" at the Historic Courthouse, 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of such proceedings is made, which record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Administrator's Office not later than four (4) working days prior to the proceeding at 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Room 123 Okeechobee, Florida 34972, or call 863.763.6441. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-222-3448 (voice) or 1-888-447-5620 (TTY).

Margaret Garrard Helton, Chair
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Paula Poskon/ Deputy Clerk
895105 ON 8/14/2011

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2011 AT 9:00 A.M. AT 17429 NW 242 ND STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL. 34972 (FIELD OFFICE). A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE UNDERSIGNED. IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING; THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, IS MADE. ANY PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING MUST HAVE THEIR NAME AND TOPIC PLACED ON THE AGENDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING. ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRECEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S OFFICES BY CALLING (863)- 763-460 1 AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING.
NOTICE: COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT HAS AN ONGOING AQUATIC SPRAYING PROGRAM, DISTRICT WIDE.

THE 2011-2012 BUDGET WILL BE ADDRESSED.

WILLARD M. BYARS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
17429 NW 242ND STREET
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972
(863)763-4601 OR (863)634-3166
895004 ON 8/14/2011

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The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

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

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

Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you.

No wonder newspaper readers enjoy life more!



Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 47-2011-CA-000184

BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP
 Plaintiff,
vs.
DEBRA J. SCONYERS, et al,
 Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DEBRA J. SCONYERS
 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 3421 SW 23RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974
 CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN
 CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in OKEECHOBEE County, Florida:

LOT 19, BLOCK 15, OAKPARK SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 3, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Florida Default Law Group, P.L., Plaintiffs attorney, whose address is 4919 Memorial Highway, Suite 200, Tampa, Florida 33634, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

This notice shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in the Okeechobee News (Independent Newspapers).

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

Sharon Robertson, Clerk of the Court
 By: Arlene Nealis, As Deputy Clerk

****See Americans with Disabilities Act**
 Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540 Notices to Persons With Disabilities - If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at not cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
 394826 ON 8/14,21/2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
CASE NO. 2011-CP-125

IN RE: ESTATE OF
LEONA HALFHILL,
 Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Summary Administration)

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of LEONA HALFHILL, deceased, File Number 2011-CP-125, by the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee County, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; that the decedent's date of death was July 20, 2011; that the total value of the estate is \$7,000.00 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:

Scott L. Halfhill
 1307 S. Parrott Avenue, Lot 22
 Okeechobee, FL 34974

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this Notice is August 14, 2011.

Person Giving Notice:
 SCOTT L. HALFHILL
 1307 S Parrott Avenue, Lot 22
 Okeechobee, FL 34974

Attorney for Person Giving Notice:
 Colin M. Cameron, Esquire
 Florida Bar No.: 270441
 200 N.E. 4th Avenue
 Okeechobee, FL 34974
 (863) 763-8600
 395022 ON 8/14,21/2011

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

www.newszap.com
click on
classifieds

WARRIOR

Continued From Page 1

1.7 were wounded. However, in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom for every military person killed, seven are wounded. Combined, there have been almost 42,000 injuries in the two conflicts.

From here, Eric will hunt elk in Colorado, buffalo in Missouri, bear in Idaho, pronghorn antelope in Montana and white tail deer in Wyoming. The trip will be over just in time for Eric to return to his wife and two children in New Bern, N.C., for deer hunting season.

"Eric has been hunting with me ever since he could walk," said Ed.

His son has always been an avid outdoorsman. He enlisted in the Army because the recruiter told him he could go to Alaska where he was stationed at Fort Wainwright near Fairbanks.

"He loved it in Alaska," Ed said. Eric was later sent to Iraq. It was his ambition to become a professional hunter when he got out of the Army.

"He's been so excited he has not been able to sleep for a month." Ed said of his son.

He said the Wounded Warrior Project has a number of activities other than hunting and fishing for veterans. The father's goal is to help the son accomplish any task to which he sets his mind.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Eric Edmundson (front) was recently hunting on the Brady Ranch as part of the Wounded Warrior Project. Karen Winant (center), events coordinator for the Wounded Warrior Project, presented Danny Sant Angelo (right) and Alex Johns (left) with a plaque for hosting Mr. Edmundson at the ranch.

"Eric's dreams for his life have not gone away," Ed said in a press release. "We have just had to modify them so he could reach

them. We think this is an important message for anyone who may be struggling with a severe injury or illness. We hope our story will inspire those folks to change their philosophy from 'I can't' to 'I can and I will.'"

When he is not hunting Eric does outreach presentations for the Wounded Warrior Project at different functions using a programmable communications board. He has appeared at the White House and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Steve Nardizzi, executive director project, stated in a press release: "We know the public will be as inspired by Eric as we are and come away with the knowledge that despite the physical and neurological challenges many wounded warriors face, their passion for what they love remains strong. More than anything, Eric's story is one of perseverance. He is a symbol of the strength and resiliency of the human spirit."

Eric's visit to the Okeechobee area was hosted by Danny Sant Angelo who, in addition to his connection with Brady Ranch, is on the board of directors of the Sportsman's Foundation for Military Families.

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



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Eric Edmundson (center) was recently hunting in the Okeechobee area as part of the Wounded Warrior Project. He is flanked by his parents Ed and Beth Edmundson.

CITY

Continued From Page 1

In the second alcohol-related issue, the city administrator will be discussing the consumption of beer and wine in the city parks for special events.

At the request of Ellis Hayden, the council will be discussing the sale of produce in the city. Ordinance 742 prohibits temporary produce sales in the city.

Turning to other business, the council is expected to:

- consider the temporary closing of S.W. Third Avenue and S.W. Fourth Avenue for the Speckled Perch Festival;
- consider the temporary closing of S.W. Third Avenue on Oct. 22 for a Family Fall Festival;
- award a contract for sidewalk construction;
- amend the franchise agreement with Waste Management to include, among other things, a waiver for claims for consumer

price index increases and fuel adjustments for the coming fiscal year; and,

- discuss the 2011 Okeechobee Delegation Legislative Session.

The mayor is scheduled to recognize Chad Troutman, of the Okeechobee City Police Department, for five years of service to the city.

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

Families should be "food safe"

**By Tom Vilsack
Agriculture Secretary**

America has one of the safest and most abundant food supplies in the world. But even in this country, too many people get sick from the food they eat.

This year, one in six Americans will get food poisoning – that's 48 million people. 128,000 will end up in the hospital. And 3,000 will die. These aren't just statistics. These are real people, real families, impacted by the food they put on the table.

We can do better. Under the leadership of President Obama, USDA and our federal partners are more committed and united more than ever before to reduce the rates of food-related illnesses.

We are doing that, first of all, by making sure the food industry provides the safest products possible. We are strengthening America's food safety system with policies based in prevention, and building on best practices that decrease potential risks. And we are continually looking for ways to improve.

But our food safety system isn't perfect, and given the nature of the products we regulate, the risk isn't zero. So in addition to doing everything we can to ensure the safety of food before it reaches grocery store shelves, I believe it's also our responsibility to give consumers the information they need to prevent food-related illnesses at home.

That's why this week USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services

launched a national public service campaign called Food Safe Families.

The Food Safe Families campaign is based on four simple steps that consumers can take to help protect themselves and their families from food poisoning:

Clean: Clean kitchen surfaces, utensils, and hands with soap and water while preparing food.

Separate: Separate raw meats from other foods by using different cutting boards.

Cook: Cook foods to the right temperature by using a food thermometer.

Chill: Chill raw and prepared foods promptly.

These are small steps that can make a big difference in preventing food-related illnesses.

We know that it's our job to make sure food is as safe as possible before it reaches consumers, and we take that job seriously. But we want all Americans - cooking in the kitchen, or outdoors on the grill - to take the messages of clean, separate, cook and chill to heart. And year-round, we want consumers to have the information they need to be food safe at home.

To learn more about the new campaign and for answers to questions about keeping your food safe, visit www.foodsafety.gov.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

August 8 & 9, 2011

Cows			Med #1	Steers	Hfrs
Breaking	68.00	73.00	200-250	180-200	145-160
Cutter	62.00	68.00	250-300	170-185	137-152
			300-350	155-165	130-137
			350-400	137-155	120-126
Bulls			Med #2	Steers	Hfrs
1000-1500	81.00	90.00	400-450	127-143	115-126
1500-2000	73.00	90.00	450-500	123-132	113-120
			550-600	119-126	-
Monday			Tuesday		
Calves	707	906	150-200	-	-
Cows	174	347	200-250	157-170	125-135
Str	8	32	250-300	142-165	120-125
Hfrs	4	26	300-350	135-150	115-127
Bulls	4	19	350-400	120-135	110-119
Yrlngs	23	93	400-450	118-126	105-112
Mix	0	19			
Total	920	1442			

What a "Roller Coaster Ride" on Wall Street this week! Fortunately cattle prices held their value. Everything was steady. Texas still needs rain but at least we're catching up on ours. Driggers, Sr., topped the calf market this week with a high of \$2, bought by Reynolds. Robert Capote, Clarence Bear and San Marino topped the cow market this week with a high of 78. Closed Monday Sept. 5 — Labor Day Rodeo!

See ya next week
Todd

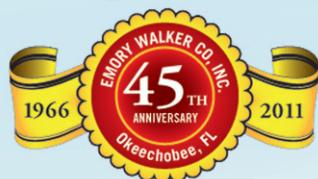


Sales:
Monday at 12 p.m.
Tuesday at 11 a.m.

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

August 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 August 31, 2011

YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR COOLING



Emory Walker Company
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Okeechobee, FL 34974

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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.

Rock Solid Christian Academy

Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more.
Proverbs 9:9

Rock Solid Christian Academy is excited to offer science enrichment to all students. Students participate in weekly

science experiments in addition to meaningful ongoing experiments and investigations. Students enthusiastically discover



the wonder of the laws of nature in God's Creation.

Call:
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Rock Solid Christian Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school administered programs.

Wanted: Friendly Green Thumbs for Master Gardening

**By Dan Culbert,
Extension
Horticulture Agent**
UF/IFAS Extension Service -
Okeechobee

**UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION**

in our office, or they may be placed with other volunteer groups that need a gardening expert.

People who love plants often enjoy sharing their knowledge and love of horticulture with others. This need to share plays a big part in why I love working as an Extension horticulture agent.

The University of Florida Extension Service responds to requests for good plant knowledge using trained volunteers. These volunteers are known as Master Gardeners. Okeechobee County is now looking for a few friendly folks who would like to receive Master Gardener training and then help this community.

While there are lots of gardening answers out there, many are driven by commercial interests or they may rely on limited experience. The Extension office provides horticulture answers, but with a difference: our answers are backed by research. And when the number of requests exceeds the amount of agent time, volunteers are asked to pitch in to help keep the community green.

Would you or someone you know like to join the ranks of thousands of Master Gardeners from all over the world? Being a Master Gardener will involve completing a comprehensive training program and then providing 75 hours of service back to the local community by next year.

Trained volunteers will receive plenty of handouts and a shirt. The program fee this year is \$150, and will cover the cost of training materials. One-third of the fee (\$50) will be returned when the volunteer provides 75 hours of service.

Class begins Sept. 8

The training class will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 8, and continue for twelve weeks every Tuesday until Nov. 15. Classes will start at 9 a.m. and finish around 4 p.m. We are currently planning our classes in cooperation with the Indian River County Extension office in Vero Beach, with the majority of the classes being taught here in Okeechobee.

Trained volunteers may be asked to answer routine horticultural questions here

Near the top of my list is my desire to get kids and plants together. Our 4-H clubs are very active with animal livestock projects. The need is critical this year for persons wishing to lead community gardening groups and to assist in the maintenance of the downtown butterfly garden. We need 4-H leaders in Okeechobee that can help grow great kids and great gardens.

There is no prerequisite of gardening knowledge for prospective Master Gardeners. However, persons who wish to be volunteers do need good people skills and an enthusiastic attitude.

Get a Sprouting Kit

If you are interested, call me! We can send you the "sprouting kit," or you can view it on-line at this web page: <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu/Master%20Gardeners/MG.Sprouting.Kit.htm>. It has more information about the Master Gardener Program, and includes an application.

Return the application along with the program fee, and schedule an interview. Applications must be received by Monday, Aug. 22, in order to be a part of the class that begins on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

If you need additional information on the Master Gardener program, or to request a Sprouting Kit and application, call or stop by our office at 458 Hwy. 98 North. Our phone number is 863-763-6469, and you can email me at indiano@ufl.edu!

Local blood drives planned

Okeechobee Community Blood Drives planned in August at the following locations: Tuesday, Aug. 16, Raulerson Hospital, from noon to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, Aug. 17, Publix Supermarket from 1 to 3 p.m. and Beef O'Brady's Restaurant from 4 to 8 p.m.



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