



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 98

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

50¢ Plus tax



Back to school information and school bus schedule inside!

5 arrested in drug sting ... Page 18

Lake Levels

10.34 feet

Last Year: 13.87 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



Fun in the mud: Mudfest draws crowds



Mudding enthusiasts with vehicles large and small gathered in Okeechobee over the weekend for the Aug. 12-14 Mudfest. For more on the Mudfest, see page 10. (Photo courtesy David Menten)

Sex offender gets two life sentences

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A man with a self-professed "young girl problem" won't have to worry about molesting young girls any more because he will be in prison for the rest of his life.

Billy Wayne Webb, 38, was sentenced to two life sentences Monday, Aug. 15, by Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger. The judge added enhancements to Webb's conviction and declared him to be a habitual offender, a prison releasee re-offender and a dangerous felony sexual offender.

Judge Belanger also ruled that Webb will have to serve a minimum mandatory sentence of 25 years in prison.



Billy Wayne Webb

Assistant State Attorney Don Richardson said although Webb will spend the rest of his natural life in prison, the minimum/mandatory was ordered in case the State Legislature should change the law.

"The law could change, however, and the Florida Legislature might amend the law to allow a defendant who receives a life sentence to apply for, and be granted, parole. I don't think this is likely, but it is possible," explained the prosecutor.

Then, Judge Belanger's sentence requires

the defendant to still serve at least 25 years in the Department of Corrections."

The sentences will run concurrently and Webb will receive credit for the 446 days he has already served in the Okeechobee County Jail.

Webb was convicted June 28 of two counts of lewd and lascivious molestation on a child under 16. He was arrested in May of 2010 by Detective Rosemary Farless, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), after he had grabbed the breasts of a young girl while at a party in the girl's home.

In her testimony, the girl told the jury how Webb first asked her to be his girlfriend. Then

See WEBB — Page 13



LAW OFFICE OF GERALD LEFEBVRE
1910 S. PARROTT AVE
OKEECHOBEE, FL

763-33333
accidentattorneyoffice.com

JUST CALL ME "JERRY"
Your Hometown Injury Attorney

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

PAYING CASH FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS & OTHERS

WE BUY ALL GOLD & SILVER JEWELRY

INFORMATION

WHO PREMIERE ESTATE BUYERS

WHAT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO SELL THEIR VALUABLES

WHERE HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
3101 US HWY 441 S
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

WHEN AUGUST 15TH - 20TH
MON-FRI 9AM-6PM
SATURDAY 9AM-4PM

DIRECTIONS 863.357.3529

INFORMATION 217.787.7767



1832 CLASSIC HALF CENT
UP TO \$80,000*



WHEAT BACK CENT
UP TO \$1,500*



BRAIDED HAIR LARGE CENT
UP TO \$3,800*



BUFFALO NICKEL
UP TO \$1,800*



CAPPED BUST HALF DIME
UP TO \$10,000*



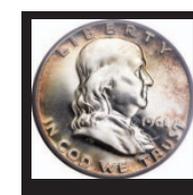
MERCURY DIME
UP TO \$3,600*



BARBER HALF DOLLAR
UP TO \$6,750*



WALKING LIBERTY HALF
UP TO \$4,700*



FRANKLIN HALF DOLLAR
UP TO \$3,500*



SCRAP GOLD



STERLING SILVER



JEWELRY

GUITARS

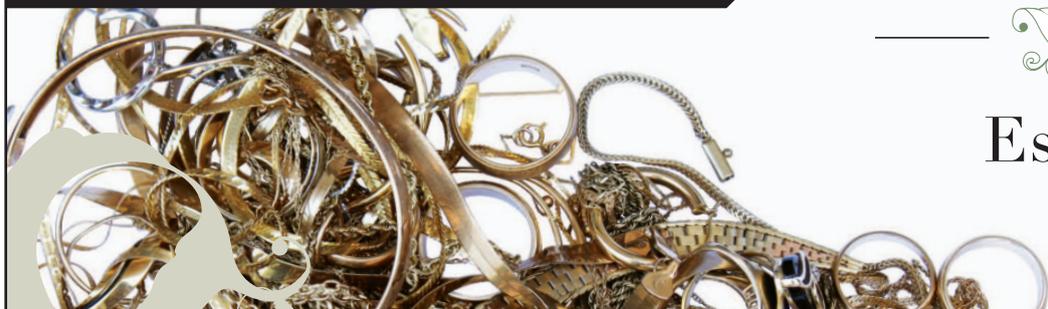
BUYING ALL GOLD, SILVER & JEWELRY!

PREMIERE

Estate Buyers

WE ALSO PURCHASE
PRE 1970 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
WAR ITEMS
POCKET & WRIST WATCHES

amount depends upon rarity, condition and what collectors are willing to pay



Budget cuts force SFWMD layoffs

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

As part of the state's overall budget reduction, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) cut 32.2 percent or about \$129 million from its budget as compared to the current year. On the local level part of that cut was achieved by the firing of four SFWMD Okeechobee Service Center employees.

In an Aug. 1 letter to Gov. Rick Scott, Melissa Meeker, SFWMD executive director outlined the tentative budget for fiscal year 2011/12. She stated that one of the budget efficiencies would be "re-engineering" the agency's organizational structure. That move will save \$27.5 million by eliminating more than 270 positions, four of which were in Okeechobee.

To achieve the elimination of those 270 positions in the month of June, employees were given the option of voluntarily leaving with one month's severance pay and one month's insurance. The balance of the 270 reductions came from recent involuntary separations with no severance package.

However, Gary Ritter, director of SFWMD's Okeechobee Service Center, said the

personnel reductions would not affect his operations. Mr. Ritter said that of those laid off, one was an administrative type person, one worked with electronic mapping, one was involved in resource compliance and one was an inter-governmental/outreach person. He said none of his employees took advantage of the voluntary offer in June. While the remaining personnel will have to work harder to take up the slack, Mr. Ritter said that the public will see no change in the services provided. His office will still be doing regulatory permitting and working with local governments. Issuing permits for various environmental projects is one of the service center's functions. Mr. Ritter said the public will actually see permits issued quicker because they are on a tighter schedule for issuing them.

Mr. Ritter added that there were no layoffs at the SFWMD Okeechobee Field Office. He said that office is critical to SFWMD's core mission of flood control.

Ms. Meeker's letter to the governor stated that the tentative budget totals \$557.1 million. She went on to say that that amount would allow SFWMD to reduce taxes and direct its resources to its core mission of flood control,

water supply, water quality and natural systems.

On Aug. 16 Ms. Meeker issued the following statement: "The South Florida Water Management District is in the process of implementing its budget reductions, which include a \$57.7 million reduction in operating expenses, \$17.7 million reduction in employees benefits and \$27.5 million reduction in staffing and salaries. Like public agencies at the local, state and national levels—as well as private businesses—the District is working diligently to achieve its mission during challenging economic times. We ask that you respect the agency and its employees during this transition."

Ground beef recalled due to E. coli

By Jennifer Warner
Health News

Reviewed by Laura J. Martin, MD

More than 60,000 pounds of ground beef sold at three major grocery store chains in the Southeast have been recalled because of potential E. coli contamination. The ground beef was supplied by National Beef Packaging Co. of Dodge City, Kan. and sold by Winn-Dixie Stores Inc., Publix Super Markets Inc., and Kroger Co.

The USDA says routine testing at an Ohio Department of Agriculture facility revealed E. coli 0157:H7 bacteria. Further investigation identified the National Beef Packing Co. as the sole source of the tainted ground beef. The USDA says there have been no reports of illness from the tainted ground beef.

E. coli 0157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacteria that can cause bloody diarrhea, dehydration, and in the most serious cases, kidney failure. Children, the elderly, and people with weak immune systems are the most susceptible to illness caused by E. coli bacteria.

Officials say the ground beef recall affects products sold mainly in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

At Kroger, the recalled products include ground chuck, ground beef patties and meatballs, and meat loaf made in the stores. Packages have a "sell by" date of July 29 through Aug. 12 and were sold at stores in Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, and Knoxville, Tenn.

At Publix, the products include meatballs, meat loaf, ground chuck patties, prepared burgers, stuffed peppers, seasoned Salisbury steak, and other ground beef products with "sell by" dates of July 25 through Aug. 12. The products were sold at stores in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and Tennessee.

At Winn-Dixie, recalled products include ground chuck and patties with "sell by" dates between July 31 and Aug. 12.

People should return any affected ground beef products to their stores for a full refund.

USDA officials recommend that all ground beef products be cooked to a temperature of 160 degrees in order to kill any potentially harmful bacteria.

For more information on the recall, contact National Beef at 816-713-8631.

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)

PROTECT YOUR ANIMALS FROM THE DANGERS WET WEATHER BRINGS...

Frontline • Advantage
Cooper Best • Fly Relief • Bronco
Repel-X • Mosquito Halt • Saber & Many More

Stop by and see us today!

Walpole Feed & Supply Co. **763-6905 • Hwy 98 N. • Okeechobee**

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!

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.

"Always on Top of the Job"

Re-Roofing Specialists

- Metal & Shingle Roofs
- Flats & Leaks Repair

FREE ESTIMATES

Slate Lic.#CCG1327338

863-357-3838

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!

11 and 12 year old arrested

• Kids need structure. Kids need rules. I have found that most kids respond to it. My kids' friends who have very few rules at their own homes do just fine following the rules at my house because we explain the rules clearly and also let them know that failure to follow the rules means their parents will be called to come and get them. These kids, whose parents don't take them to church, are even happy to go to church and Sunday school with us. I never take a child to church without first asking the parents' permission. But if a kid wants to spend the night at our house on Saturday, I explain we will all be going to church on Sunday morning, so we can drop the child off at home on the way to church or they can come with us. And most of the time, they want to go with us.

• I think parents should be held accountable for their children's actions. A parent who allows a kid to stay up at night watching porn should be charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, for having the porn channel or video available where a child could access it and for not supervising the kid. Put the parents in jail, maybe others will wake up and pay more attention to their own kids.

• I think it is a good thing the sheriff posted the photos online because people need to know. If a child is accused of molesting other children, and that child lives in your neighborhood, you need to know that so you can protect your own kids.

Organizations seek funding

• The question is—should county tax money be given to private organizations? Some people think that is appropriate. Some people don't. Many people seem to be surprised to find out county money is used for something other than county business.

Debt ceiling

• The Democrats claim they had to raise the debt ceiling because they cannot raise enough money with taxes. But they had two years when they controlled both houses of Congress and the presidency and they could have put tax reform through. They had two years to do that, and they didn't do it. They didn't raise taxes because they did not want to be blamed for raising taxes. They waited until after the election when they were no longer in control of the House to bring up tax reform. If tax reform is so important, they should have taken care of that when they were in control. Two whole years and they didn't bring it to a vote. The Republicans could not have stopped them. The Democrats had a majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. But all Obama wanted to talk about was his health care bill, which the American people did not want and still do not want.

Thoughts to ponder

• "Giving every man a vote has no more made men wise and free than Christianity has made them good." H. L. Mencken

• "Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery." Winston Churchill

• Before they invented drawing boards, what did they go back to?

• "Did you ever stop to think, and forget to start again?" Winnie the Pooh

Mudfest

• From what I heard from people who live in the area near State Road 70, Mudfest was better this year, with not so much traffic. There also seemed to be more deputies around, which I am sure helped keep things a little more under control. I am sure the gas stations like this event and it probably helps the local stores a bit.

Island might tip?

• There is a video on YouTube that shows a U.S. Congressman, Hank Johnson (D-Ga.) stating he was afraid the Island of Guam might tip over and capsize due to overpopulation if additional military personnel were stationed there. It is amazing that Admiral Robert Willard was able to keep a straight face while answering the Congressman's questions.

Letters to the editor

Lake friends to meet

Friends of Lake Okeechobee will host their first meeting on Aug. 19 at 7 p.m., in Lakeport, at the former site of Northlake Marine, 1205 S.R.78, Lakeport. Anyone that has interest in the lake levels and how it is affecting local businesses need to attend. All local businesses are affected by the lack of tourism in the area due to low water. From motels and gas stations, to restaurants and fishing guides all are welcome and encouraged to come to make a change in how this

great lake is managed. We have to do something to stop the Army Corps of Engineers from putting us at the bottom of the ladder. Please come with your concerns and ideas to help with our livelihood. Everyone is welcome, please come and support your lake! We will also be taking ideas to stop the over-spraying of the lake, and talk about dredging projects as well as lock closures. Call 937-728-1344 for questions or details.

Friends of Lake Okeechobee

Pet of the Week

Tiger is a male, about 2 years old. Tiger is one of our SPIN training graduates. He is house trained, playful, and does well with other dogs. Adoption fee is \$175. He is neutered, trained, vaccinated and available for adoption at Okeechobee Humane Society/Pet Rescue on Highway 98, next door to the Livestock Market. For more information, contact Humane Society Pet Rescue Florida, at 863-357-1104. To see more available animals go to petfinder.com. Homes are also needed to "foster" animals who are waiting for a permanent adoptive home.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Humane Society Pet Rescue

Okeechobee Forecast

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

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. East southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. Calm wind becoming east southeast between 5 and 10 mph. Chance

of precipitation is 50 percent.

Thursday night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. Southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Friday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 91. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Friday night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. Southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 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 OF:



Cowboys for Christ meets in Basinger

By Pete Gawda

Okeechobee News

The children's clothes closet at **Grace Brethren Church**, 701 S. Parrott Ave., will be open on Wednesdays, **Aug. 17, 24 and 31**. There is no cost to those in need. Please call Ada at 863-697-8539 for more information or to donate gently used clothes.

Cowboys for Christ of Basinger will meet Thursday, **Aug. 18** at the Basinger Community Center. There will be a potluck supper at 6 p.m. followed by a service at 7 p.m. The featured speaker will be Kaylee Murphy. For more information call Doyle McDuffie at 863-763-2285.

New St. Stephen AME Church, 811 N.W. Ninth St., is celebrating their 58th anniversary. On Wednesday, **Aug. 17**, Rev. Milton Broomfield of Payne Chapel AME Church, West Palm Beach, will conduct a service at 7 p.m. at the church. On Thursday, **Aug. 18**, Rev. Shenna H. Washington, of Allen Chapel AME Church, Wabasso, will conduct a service at the church at 7 p.m. On Friday, **Aug. 19**, Rev. Melvin Hymes, Jr., of St. Paul AME Church, Fort Pierce, will conduct a service at the church at 7 p.m. On Sunday, **Aug. 21**, Elder Charles L. Hendley of Greater Mt. Pleasant PB Church, Fort Pierce, will conduct a service at 3:30 p.m. at the Douglas Brown Center, 828 N.E. 16th Ave.

Okeechobee Church of God, 301 N.E. Fourth Ave., will have a grilled chicken din-



Places of Worship

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

ner on Friday, **Aug. 19**. The menu consist of chicken leg quarter, potato salad, green beans, roll and dessert. Eat in, pick up or we will deliver. To place orders either call 863-763-4127 or 863-634-2930, email okeechobeeocog.com or fax 600-875-1804.

New Testament Baptist Church, 535 N.E. 28th Ave., will have a King James Bible Revival **Aug. 21 - 25**. The speaker will be Dr. Bill Bradley, professor of Bible and History courses including a course devoted to the history and the inspiration of the King James Bible. Special music will be by Jed Maness. Rev. Jim Gilbert is the host pastor. Sunday services will be at 10:20 a.m. and 6 p.m. Services Monday through Thursday will be at 7 p.m.

Okeechobee Missionary Baptist Church, 4212 U.S. 441N., beginning **Aug. 23** and every Tuesday afterward throughout the school, will have Bible Clubs for preschool through 12th grade from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The **Church of God of Prophecy**, 102 N.W. Tenth, 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.

Okeechobee Church of God, 301 N.E. Fourth Ave., presents the "So Long Summer Tour" featuring Caleb and Samestate on Saturday, **Aug. 27**, at 7 p.m. Admission is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets are available at the church, Pritchards and Associates and at itickets.com.

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

School News in Brief

Schools plan open house night

Open House for the start of the 2011-2012 school year will be held on Thursday, **Aug. 18**. In order to help parents who have children in more than one school within the district, times will be staggered. Elementary Schools will be open from 5 to 7 p.m. Middle Schools will be open from 6 to 8 p.m. Okeechobee Achievement Academy will be open from 6 to 8 p.m. Okeechobee High School and Okeechobee Freshman Campus will be open from 7 to 9 p.m.

Big Lake Missions to sponsor annual school drive

Big Lake Missions Outreach is currently sponsoring their annual school supplies drive for their needy families. They will accept donations up until school starts which is Aug. 22. For a complete list, check local stores or call the school. The organization will also gladly accept checks made out to the Mission or gift cards and staff can do the shopping. Call 863-763-5725 or 863-610-1815 for more information or drop off locations.

Third annual 'Tween Summit' is planned

Come one - Come all 'Tweens and parents to the Third Annual Shared Services of Okeechobee County 'Tween Summit.' The event is for children ages 10-12. The Summit is set for Friday, **Aug. 19**, from 6-8 p.m., at the Freshman Campus Auditorium, 612 S.W. Second Ave. The event is free. Pizza, soda and cookies will be provided for all who attend. For more information please call Sharon Vinson at 863-462-5000 ext 257.

Pre K accepting applications

The Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County, Inc., is accepting applications for Okeechobee Northside Head Start and VPK (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten). Please call the Northside Head Start office at

863-357-8677 for an appointment and additional information.

Children must have been born before Sept. 2, 2008. Birth Certificate and Social Security number for the child applying and proof of family income is required. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m., until 4:30 p.m.

Register now for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program

The FREE Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) program is available. This program is not income based and the following are the only requirements: Child must be a Florida resident; Child must be 4 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2011; Child must NOT have participated in a VPK program during the school year or summer. Please call the Early Learning Coalition at, 863-357-1133, to schedule an appointment.

Blood drives planned

Okeechobee Community Blood Drives planned in August at the following locations:

- Wednesday, Aug. 17, Publix Supermarket from 1 to 3 p.m. and Beef O'Brady's Restaurant from 4 to 8 p.m.;
- Thursday, Aug. 18, in Ft. Drum, Edye Beaulieu of Little Bit of Everything Shop (behind Pat's Country Kitchen), from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.;
- Friday, Aug. 19, at Walgreen's from 1 to 7 p.m.; and,
- Saturday, Aug. 27, at Wal-Mart from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Your paper, not ours.



We pledge to operate our newspaper as a public trust.

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

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

How are we doing?

Let us know by emailing feedback@newszap.com or calling your editor.

OKEECHOBEE
NEWS

*Community Service
Through Journalism*



Community Events

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 Poge Restaurant, 1759 S. Parrott Avenue. The event is sponsored by Bubba's Redneck Yacht Club.

Obituaries

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

Ellene J. Branstetter, 93

OKEECHOBEE — Ellene J. Branstetter, age 93, of Okeechobee, passed away Aug. 13, 2011, at the Hamrick Home.

She was born Aug. 9, 1918, in Sutherland, Iowa. She came to Okeechobee from Boca Raton in 2000. She was an accountant.

Mrs. Branstetter was preceded in death by her husband, Robert L. Branstetter Sr. in 2004; and her sister, Eleanor Bettinger.

She is survived by her son, Robert L. Branstetter Jr. (Jeanne); daughter, Linda Papy (Russ), all of Okeechobee; two sisters, Donna Mau of Omaha, Neb., and Marion Reitsma of Primgar, Iowa; brother, David Rein of Moorhead, Minn.; seven grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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

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

Madelyn Yvonne Smith Cote, 79

BABSON PARK — Madelyn Yvonne Smith Cote, 79, of Babson Park, died Aug. 14, 2011.

She was born in Winchendon, Mass., on July 22, 1932, and had been a resident of Polk County for four months. She had lived in Okeechobee most of her life. Mrs. Cote was a homemaker and Pentecostal by faith.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Cote.

Survivors include a son, Scott Cote; daughter, Bonnie Cote of Babson Park; sisters, June Abbraira of Sanford, and Dot Hiscock of Okeechobee; grandson, William Sirola, and granddaughter Lauren Sirola.

Arrangements by Heartland Cremation & Burial Society, Avon Park.



Food stamp help available

Treasure Coast Food Bank will be at Welcome House Drop-in Center, 1925 Hwy 441 SE, on Wednesday, **Aug. 17**, 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.

Albert 'Al' K. Mace, 66

OKEECHOBEE — Albert "Al" K. Mace, age 66, of Okeechobee, passed away Aug. 14, 2011, in Fort Pierce.

He was born Aug. 19, 1944, in Akron, Ohio. Mr. Mace proudly served our country in the U.S. Navy. He enjoyed antique cars and Scottish Terriers. He was a friend to everyone.

Mr. Mace is survived by his wife of 16 years, Chris Velazquez of Okeechobee; mother, Barbara Herring of New Jersey; brother, James Klein (Yolanda); daughters, Jennifer Wilson (Harley) and Kristen Kasprick (Hans); son, Jim Klein (Laura) all of Michigan; sister and brother, Donette and Kent; best friend, Jim and Linda Schnider; and many loving family and friends.

Visitation will be 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2011, at Buxton Funeral Home with services following at 7 p.m. Interment will take place in New Jersey.

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

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Buxton Funeral Home, 110 NE 5th ST, Okeechobee, FL 34972.

Bertha Teresa Austin, 89

OKEECHOBEE — Bertha Teresa Austin, 89, died at her home on Sunday, Aug. 14, 2011.

A resident of Okeechobee for the past 12 years, she attended More To Life Church.

Bertha enjoyed reading, needle work of any type, and painting.

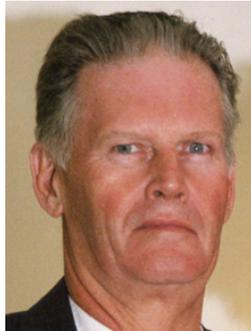
She was preceded in death by her husband, Royce L. Austin; three brothers and eight sisters.

Survivors include her son, Larry (Patricia) Austin of Irving, Texas; daughters, Mary Lookabill of Okeechobee, Barbara (Fred) Stricker of Laredo, Texas; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

There will be no services.

Friends may send condolences online to www.buxtonseawinds.com

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



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.

Nar-Anon invites newcomers

Are you struggling with the addiction problem of a loved one? You are not alone. "Finding Hope" Thursday Nite Nar-Anon meeting on **Aug. 18**, at 7:30 p.m. meets at Church of Our Saviour, 300 NW 2nd St. As a 12-step program we offer our help by sharing our experience, strength and HOPE.

Pregnancy Center to hold fundraising dinner

The Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee will hold a barbecue dinner fundraiser on Friday, **Aug. 19**, from 10:45 a.m. until 2 p.m., at 500 N.W. 6th Street. Barbecue pork dinners are \$10 each. All proceeds will benefit the clients of the Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee. For more information or to place an order, please call 863-467-8748. Pick up or delivery is available.

Moose Lodge plans dinner

The Okeechobee Moose, #1753, at 159 N.W. 36th Street, will host a Moose Legion Dinner on Saturday, **Aug. 20**, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Dinner is fried shrimp for \$7. The queen of hearts drawing will be held at 7 p.m. Music with Gerry Harmon from 7-10 p.m. Come and join every one for an evening of fun.

August CCC meeting planned

The next meeting of the Community Collaborative Council, a part of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, will be Tuesday, **Aug. 23**, at 10 a.m., in the board room of the school board office.

Dodgeball tourney set as scholarship fundraiser

Come and join us at the Future STARS Scholarship fundraiser - A Dodgeball Tournament set for Saturday, **Aug. 20**, 9 a.m., at Osceola Middle School. Bring your team and play to win. Teams of six must pre-register and registration is \$150 per team. For information on registration, please call 863-634-5020 or 863-634-6523. First place winners will receive \$300. The tournament is sponsored by Okeechobee Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep.

Legion Post to hosting benefit

The American Legion Post #64 is hosting a Poker Run benefit for Sabrina Yeates on **Aug. 20**. Registration is at 8 a.m. on Saturday or early registration is on Friday, Aug. 19, at the post on 501 SE 2nd in Okeechobee, the run will go around the lake with 12 stops and end at the post at 6 p.m. where the drawing will take place. There will be dinner and music beginning at 5 p.m., and you are invited to come and join us even if you do not ride in the poker run. The dinner is \$5 and there will be music by JODY for your enjoyment. Sabrina is suffering from an autoimmune disorder called Sarcoidosis, it has attacked Sabrina's lungs, liver, salivary glands, bones, joints and eyes. She has just returned from Kansas City where she had surgery to remove cysts from her spinal cord. The treatment for this disease is on going and very expensive. We hope to see you there.

New Habitat home being built - volunteers needed

If you have some time and would like to help Habitat for Humanity, we are going to start building a Home at 912 N.W. Fifth St. on **Aug. 20**, at 7:30 a.m. Come and bring your favorite hammer. Work an hour or several hours. Questions call 863-357-1371 and leave message. Habitat ReStore in the Trading Post Flee Market is having 50 percent off all their inventory for the month of August.

Considering Adoption? orientation session planned

Anyone interested in learning more about adoption is encouraged to join the Children's Home Society of Florida, Treasure Coast Division at the monthly Adoption Orientation session. The next meeting is scheduled to take place at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, **Aug. 25** at the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County office, located at 804 S. 6th Street in Fort Pierce. This informative, casual and free open house-style orientation will provide an overview of foster care adoption and answer all questions related to adoption and CHS' adoption process.

Please help us raise adoption awareness in our community as we try to find additional permanent "Forever Families" for local children in foster care. To RSVP or for more information, contact Children's Home Society's Adoption Information Line at 772-429-2001.

Celebrate A Life

with — an —
Online Guestbook

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

Visit:
www.newszap.com

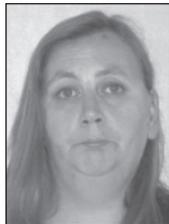
For a complete list of Obituary Notices, click on your community,
then click on "Obituaries".

newszap.com

Bookkeeper sentenced to county jail, probation

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A bookkeeper who stole over \$4,000 from her employer was sentenced Monday to a year in the Okeechobee County Jail by Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger.



Rebecca Caldwell

The judge also ruled that Rebecca Caldwell, 36, will serve four years on probation upon her release from jail and must pay \$4,450 in restitution to Home Depot.

Caldwell was found guilty at trial of three counts of grand theft and one count of making a false entry into the books of a corporation. She was given a year's sentence on each count, with the sentences to run concurrently. She will also receive credit for the 18 days she has already served.

A company representative spoke to the judge at the Aug. 15 sentencing and said that Caldwell actually stole closer to \$8,000 from the store and asked that she receive the

maximum sentence.

"This is an ongoing scheme to defraud situation," said Judge Belanger, prior to pronouncing sentence.

And because she was convicted of multiple felonies he went on to say that, theoretically, she could receive a sentence of up to 20 years.

Assistant State Attorney Stephanie Tew reminded the judge that Caldwell was found guilty of the felonies at trial and that her plan to steal was "quite thought out."

Defense attorney Roger Azcona told the judge that Caldwell has her children to care for and asked for leniency.

But, Judge Belanger was not swayed by that fact.

"The time to think about your children is before you go out and commit a felony," he told the woman standing before him.

Woman given house arrest

In another sentencing Monday Judge Belanger agreed to withhold adjudication and sentenced Merri Joella Spearow to three months on house arrest, to be followed by

20 months on probation as part of a plea agreement with the state.

Spearow, 41, U.S. 441 S.E., was arrested Dec. 15, 2010, by detectives with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone) with intent to sell. She was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Spearow was taken into custody after task force detectives executed a search warrant on her home and found 150 oxycodone pills and \$822 in cash.



Merri Joella Spearow

undercover drug operation.

In a detective's arrest report Spearow, who was unemployed, was quoted as saying she had been selling pills for about a year and that she was getting \$15 per pill.

The search warrant was issued after Spearow reportedly sold a confidential source six oxycodone tablets for \$90 during an

"It looks like she's been law abiding for four decades and then made some stupid decisions," said Judge Belanger.

He also warned Spearow that if she violates the terms of her probation, she could likely end up in the Department of Corrections.

"You have a large amount of prison hanging over your head," he told the woman.

Spearow was represented by Shannon Henne from the public defender's office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant State Attorney Don Richardson.

Local man sent to prison for third time

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man who was released from a Florida prison in May of last year, is on his way back to prison.

Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger sentenced Edward Ray Thomas to 18 months in prison after finding him guilty on felony drug charges Monday, Aug. 15. Upon his release from prison Thomas, 26, will be placed on four years probation.

"I'm going to give you enough rope to hang yourself," said Judge Belanger. "If you come out of prison and commit new crimes, you've got 30 years in prison hanging over your head."

Thomas was arrested Oct. 10, 2010, on felony charges of sale of a controlled substance (roxycodeone) and possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell (roxycodeone).

He was arrested after selling a confidential source seven roxycodeone tablets for \$100 in an undercover drug operation staged by

the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force.

Prior to being sentenced, Thomas told the judge that even though he had been in prison he was trying to straighten out his life. Thomas told the judge that he now had a full-time job, was going to go back to school and is expecting his first child.

"I've made some bad decisions," he told Judge Belanger.

But Assistant State Attorney Don Richardson pointed out that Thomas has been in prison twice, and should be sent back for a third time for no less than seven years.

Judge Belanger agreed that, given the man's record, "seven years is not unreasonable."

Department of Corrections (DOC) records show that Thomas was first sent to prison on June 9, 2004, after being convicted of robbery. He was released July 11, 2007.



Edward Ray Thomas

Thomas was sent back to prison on Dec. 17, 2008, after being found guilty of escape. He was then released from the Taylor Correctional Institute on May 8, 2010.

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

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

Available 24/7



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

Okeechobee man gets 12 years for sex offense

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man was designated as a sex offender and sentenced to 12 years in prison for crimes of sexual activity with a minor and sexual battery on a person over 12 for an incident at the Martin Girls Academy where he worked as a prison guard.

Xavier Leach, 25, entered a plea of no contest to the two felony charges and was adjudicated guilty by Circuit Court Judge William Roby at a court appearance on Aug. 4 in Stuart.

He received credit for eight months and

seven days he has already served.



Xavier Leach

Leach was accused of sexual activity with a 17 year old girl while he was on duty. The secure facility is for high risk girls and is located in Stuart.

The arrest report from Martin County Sheriff Office deputies said Leach and the girl were discovered in a laundry room closet in a state of undress. The victim

stated she had sex with Leach on multiple

occasions. The U.S. Marshal's Regional Fugitive Task Force and Okeechobee County Sheriff Office deputies arrested Leach at his residence in Okeechobee last November

without incident. Leach, 6'5", was also a graduate of OHS and played for two seasons on the varsity basketball team.

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).

- Christopher Edward Gillaspay, 38, S.E. 33rd Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 11 by Officer Bryan Enderle on a felony charge of driving while license suspended - habitual offender. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Rojelio Santos, 36, N.W. 39th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 11 by Deputy Corporal Randy Thomas on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with failure to appear - driving under the influence, failure to appear - no valid driver's license and willful and wanton reckless driving. His bond was set at \$5,000. He was also arrested by Deputy Anthony Kibler on a charge of no valid driver's license. His bond on that charge was set at \$500.

- Dawna Lashay Hopewell, 29, N.W. Sixth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 12 by Officer Charles Green on charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and grand theft. Her bond was set at \$6,000.

- Codene Wigfall, 22, Short St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 12 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with failure to appear - failure to return leased property. She is being held without bond.

- Hubert Cornett, 61, Brinkerhoff Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 12 by Deputy Marcus Collier on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Mercy Ancero Priest, 51, S.E. 39th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 12 by Deputy John Hazy on a felony charge of aggravated assault and a misdemeanor charge of battery. Her bond was set at \$5,500.

- Brett Allen Joiner, 26, N.E. Fourth Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 13 by FHP Trooper T.D. Burk on charges of driving under the influence and driving while license suspended. His bond was set at \$750

- David Edward Farmer, 44, S.W. 28th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 14 by Officer Kelley Margerum on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- William Leslie Thomas, 46, N.W. 42nd Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 15 by Deputy Matthew Crawford on a charge of battery on a person 65 years of age or older. His bond was set at \$1,000.

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.

Okeechobee man charged in theft of tools & tackle

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A man accused of stealing over \$6,000 in tools and other items is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on \$20,000 bond.

Daniel Anthony Pelham, 35, S.E. 28th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Wednesday, Aug. 10, and is charged with the felonies of burglary of an unoccupied structure, grand theft, defrauding a pawnbroker and dealing in stolen property.



Daniel A. Pelham

An arrest report by Detective Augustin Saucedo, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that the homeowner first noticed some

things missing from his home on July 15. The report indicated that those items included: a 2,300 watt generator; a radio controlled helicopter; a circular saw; a tackle box and tackle; a .22 caliber rifle and two boxes of shells; several nail guns; a compound miter saw; and, two containers of hand tools.

In all, said the detective, the missing items were worth a total of \$6,350.

According to Detective Saucedo four nail guns were pawned at a local pawn shop. When he checked the shop's records, the detective stated that he found a pawn slip that contained Pelham's identification as well as his thumb print.

The detective's report went on to state that Pelham received \$150 for the nail guns.

The investigation is continuing.

For you.

SOMETIMES LIFE REMINDS US THAT EVERY DAY IS A GIFT. Hope HealthCare Services, helping individuals and their families get the most out of every moment together is at the heart of the services we provide.

Hope
HealthCare Services

HOPEHCS.ORG
800.835.1673 · 24 hours a day

Engaged? Just married?
Golden anniversary? New baby?
Share your news in print and online

Celebrations

www.newszap.com/celebrations

Each Celebrations package includes:

- A print announcement in the newspaper of your choice.
- An online listing at www.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 www.newszap.com/celebrations

Peace Lutheran Church welcomes new teachers



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Two new teachers (left to right) at OHS, Gary Pierce and Robert Olive, enjoyed the lunch at Peace Lutheran Monday. Mr. Pierce will teach history and government and Mr. Olive will teach world history.

By Charles M. Murphy
 Okeechobee News

The placemats on the tables read "Teaching is a work of art." It was a message to welcome and encourage new teachers.

Peace Lutheran Church kicked off a week of welcome lunches for first-year teachers in Okeechobee Schools on Monday as they saluted teachers and their contributions to our children and the community.

School Board member Gay Carlton invites the teachers to her church every year. She said there were at least 24 new teachers in the school system this year. She said there were about 10 more teaching positions to be filled by the start of school.

President of the Church Congregation Jerry Ferraro said teachers are always welcome in their church. He said the church offers classes to explain how the Lutheran religion differs from other congregations.

"You have a great job ahead of you, teachers. I know all your efforts will be worth it if



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
(L-R) Sonya Smith will teach math and Charity Olivarez will teach inclusion at Osceola Middle School this year.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Pam Catron, Nancy Dearborn and Carol Johnston (left to right) are teachers at Peace Lutheran Church Pre-School.

thanked the church for their support of the school system. She remembered back to when she began her teaching career here in 1986 and reflected on how the church treated her, "I thank you so much for making me feel welcome all those years ago."

Church elder John Simms, a veteran of the U.S. Army and member of Special Forces, said he couldn't have accomplished what he did in life without the help of a teacher. Simms grew up in Orlando. He said the woman saw something in him and encouraged him to improve.

"She told me I could accomplish anything if I put my mind to it," he added.

Simms admitted he was a difficult stu-

dent who was a good athlete who had simply settled for routine grades in school until the teacher reached him.

"I thank all you teachers for what you do," he added.

He was the first member of his family to graduate from college and did it with straight As.

The Peace Lutheran Early Childhood Center and Preschool was also recognized for their contributions to the community. They will accept two-year-olds for the first time this year. This is the 29th year for the local school.

you turn one kid around. You offer a child a better life through education," he said.

Ferraro's daughter is a teacher in the New York City School system.

Assistant Superintendent Mary Hurley



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

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.

Mudfest draws crowds

Okeechobee Mudfest, drew thousands of mudding enthusiasts to the 11705 State Road 70 East mud festival grounds Aug. 12-14.

The festival included live entertainment with concerts by Rhett Akins, Tom Jackson, The Lacs and The Value Meal Killah and The Snack Pack.

Festival rules require that anyone under the age of 18 be accompanied and super-

vised by a parent or adult legal guardian at all times. Everyone must sign a liability waiver upon entering the grounds. Vehicles must obey the posted speed limit of 15 mph.

The festival prohibits firearms, pets, fireworks, glass bottles. Riders under the age of 16 are required to wear a safety helmet and eye protection as required by state statute.

The next event will be Feb. 17-19, 2012.



Special to the Okeechobee News/David Menten

Many participants in the weekend Mudfest festivities brought tents or RVs to the festival grounds.



Special to the Okeechobee News/David Menten

Okeechobee Mudfest attracted mudders who ride small vehicles such as ATVs and giant vehicles such as monster trucks. For more photos and videos see links on the Okeechobee News Facebook page.



Our focus is to make you comfortable!

How to fix your air conditioner
with a pair of scissors.



Clip this ad and receive a **FREE** diagnostics.
(\$75 value)

467-1545

www.qualityacokee.com

Repairs must be made by us to receive the free diagnostics. This offer valid Monday - Friday
8:00 am to 5:00 PM. Does not apply to holidays, overtime or travel charges (if applicable).
Offer Expires July 31, 2011. Call for details.

Lic # CAC029420

Social Security Disability Free Consultation

Our Fees and costs are only paid After we've recovered money on Your behalf.



INJURY LAW OFFICES OF
John T. Kennedy
Personal Injury Attorney

Can't work because of an illness or injury?
You may be entitled to Social Security Benefits.
I can help you file your application for benefits
or represent you on appeal, if your claim has been denied.

Over 27 Years Experience

465-9990

Ft Pierce • 1221 Delaware Ave.
10 blocks west of US1

357-2224

Okeechobee • 414 NW 2nd St
Next to the Courthouse

Flower Petals hosts Main Street Mixer



Special to the Okeechobee News/OKMS Cultural director Bridgette Waldau, executive Director Cindy Birdashaw, Pat Yeates and Bree Breaux from Flower Petals, vice president Paul Mitchell, Flower Petals Owner Lisa Fralix, past president Maureen Burrows, secretary Phyllis Shumate and president Kathleen Shatto.

Flower Petals, located at 202 Northeast 2nd Street, hosted the August 2011 Okeechobee Main Street Mixer on Tuesday, Aug. 9. The nearly 60 members and visitors that attended the event walked into a "Garden Party" complete with large colorful flower bouquets and fresh floral arrangements, befitting of the business. Owner Lisa Fralix and her staff prepared delicious hors d'ouerves

and snacks, with a tasty selection of desserts and beverages. Main Street members and their guests used this opportunity to chat and network with their community partners and also had the chance to win a variety of exciting door prizes provided by Main Street Members. President Kathleen Shatto took this opportunity to introduce the new Executive Director Cindy Birdashaw to the group.

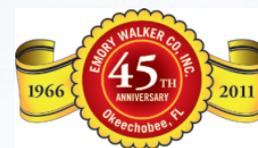
Main Street volunteers were recognized for their recent efforts and new members were applauded.

The September Mixer will be held on Thursday, Sept. 8, at the Hampton Inn, located at 1200 N.E. Park Street. Existing members, new business owners and visitors are all welcome to attend! Current members are asked to bring a friend! Okeechobee Main Street would love the opportunity to share our recent accomplishments and current projects with you. Please join us for networking, refreshments, door prizes, and a chance to win our 2011 Mega 50-50. For more information contact the Okeechobee Main Street Executive Director Cindy Birdashaw at 863-357-6246 or stop in the Main Street office at 111 Northeast 2nd St.

Main Street invites Labor Day event participants

Okeechobee Main Street is now taking applications for vendors and parade participants for the 2011 Labor Day Festival in the Parks. The festivities will take place Sept. 3, 4, and 5, with the parade scheduled for 10 a.m. on Sept. 5. Anyone interested in participating, please see Cindy Birdashaw at the Main Street Office, 111 Northeast 2nd St., or call 863-357-6246.

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



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.

Gilbert

SNAPPER & GOLF CARS

315 S. Parrot Ave. Okeechobee FL 34974

OPEN HOUSE

AUGUST 20th 10am-2pm

GAS COUPON \$50

0100 863 763 6434

Gilbert Golf Cars Expires: Aug. 31, 2011

0% APR FINANCING FOR UP TO 36 MONTHS

Enter our raffle for a chance to win a Snapper Generator!

Enjoy BBQ ribs hot off the grill!

Dolmar Handheld Equipment

PE251 Edger \$339	PB7601 Backpack Blower \$399	PB251 Handheld Blower \$189
PS45-14 Chainsaw \$199	PS6400 Chainsaw \$449	P5105 Chainsaw \$399

Snapper Mowers

26hp 48in S50x Commercial \$4,499	26hp 52in S150x Commercial \$6,999
28hp 61in S200x Commercial \$7,499	

Scan this QR code with your smart phone to save our contact info directly to your phone!

One entry per person. No purchase necessary. Must be at least 18 years old to win. Employees of Gilbert Golf Cars and related companies are excluded. Must be present at time of drawing to win. Must bring in this print ad as well as proof of current business ownership to receive gas coupon. Only one per business. 0% APR financing available through yard card on purchases of Snapper products over \$2,000. All offers assume qualified approved credit. Offers expire 9/30/11.

Start your party here!

Everything you need for game day, all in one place.
The Ultimate Tailgate Party. Guaranteed to score.



PUBLIX
DELI

Publix Deli
20-Piece Hot & Spicy Wings.....**6⁹⁹**

Hot or Fresh Chilled, Hand Breaded or Non Breaded,
Fried in Trans Fat Free Oil, each box

SAVE UP TO 1.90



PUBLIX
BAKERY
established 1957

Colombian
Bread.....**2¹⁹**

Authentic Recipe, Baked Fresh Throughout the Day,
From the Publix Bakery, 14-oz loaf

SAVE UP TO .50



Lance
Crackers.....**2 FOR 5⁰⁰**

Or Cookies or Wafers,
Assorted Varieties, 6 to 14-oz pkg.

SAVE UP TO .70 ON 2



Glacéau
Vitaminwater.....**10 FOR 10⁰⁰**

Or Vitaminwater Zero, Fuze Beverage,
or Gold Peak Tea, Assorted Varieties, 16.9 to 20-oz bot.

SAVE UP TO 3.90 ON 10

Publix®

WHERE SHOPPING IS A PLEASURE®
OFFICIAL SUPERMARKET OF THE MIAMI DOLPHINS

Visit theultimatetailgateparty.com
for your next play.



24-Pack Assorted
Budweiser Beer.....**17⁴⁹**

12-oz can and/or bot.

SAVE UP TO 1.50

**CAROLINA PANTHERS
vs.
MIAMI DOLPHINS**

**FRIDAY,
AUGUST 19, 7:30 p.m.**

Prices effective Thursday, August 18 through Wednesday, August 24, 2011.

Only in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Okeechobee and Monroe Counties. Any item carried by Publix GreenWise Market will be at the Publix advertised sale price.
Quantity rights reserved.

Special magistrate deals with condemned structures

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

All three cases heard by Okeechobee County Special Magistrate Lois Nichols on Tuesday, Aug. 16, dealt with condemned structures.

English received a complaint that several individuals were demolishing a mobile home without a permit. He visited the S.E. 26th Street property of John and Kristina Hendricks. There he discovered several individuals involved in demolishing a burned mobile home without a permit. He issued a stop work order.

Code enforcement officer Beth Albert stated that on Aug. 15, the mobile home had been completely demolished with no permit being issued. She said the owners had told Mr. English that the insurance company had demolished the mobile home.

the owners could face a fine of up to \$250 a day for every day of noncompliance.

The special magistrate ruled that the owners have until Sept. 15 to secure a demolition permit and get the proper inspections or be fined up to \$250 a day for every day of noncompliance.

The N.E. 16th Avenue property belonging to Church of God in Christ had previously been cited because of a condemned structure on the property. Last month the special magistrate ruled that a demolition permit must be obtained by Aug. 11, and the property must be demolished by Sept. 15. Mrs. Albert stated that a demolition permit had been issued before the prescribed deadline. However, the pastor, Elder Dan Jones, Jr. requested more time for demolition because of volunteer labor. He was granted an extension until Oct. 13 to complete the demolition.

Mrs. Albert stated that a condemned house stands on the N.E. 13th Avenue property belonging to Sauternes V, LLC of Aventura. The special magistrate ruled that a demolition permit must be obtained and the building demolished with the proper inspections. If that is not accomplished by Sept. 15,

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

Okeechobee Community Theatre season tickets are now available

Season tickets are now available for all three shows to be presented by the Okeechobee Community Theatre in its 33rd year of producing Broadway-style musicals, comedies and dramas for local audiences.

only through October 6. Single show tickets will not go on sale until October 10. Season subscribers get the best seats prior to the sale to the general public.

The season includes a repeat of the organization's most popular show in its 33-year history, the gospel music-comedy "Smoke on the Mountain," to be presented in November, plus a new Christmas comedy-variety show, "Christmas On the Air" in December, and the gripping drama, "The Diary of Anne Frank," in March, 2012.

All shows are presented in the theatre on S.W. Second Avenue at Seventh Street, one block west of Golden Corral restaurant.

Reserved seats for all three season shows may be purchased for \$28, which represents an \$8 savings off the \$12 single seat ticket price. Season subscriptions are available

Tickets may be charged to VISA, MasterCard or Discover, by calling 863-763-1307.

Information on how to purchase tickets by check can be obtained on the theatre website, at: www.okeechobeecommunitytheatre.com. The Okeechobee Community Theatre is an organization of local adults and young people who enjoy producing Broadway-style musicals, comedies and dramas for local audiences.

WEBB

Continued From Page 1

later, as he sat on a couch next to her, he reached under the child's shirt and grabbed her breast. He then touched her breast on the outside of her shirt, she told the jury.

victim who came on to him. But as the investigator continued to press, Webb capitulated.

"I know it's wrong. I'm trying to get help," he said, with head bowed. "I know I need help—bad."

At that trial, Mr. Richardson told Judge Belanger that Webb had six prior felony convictions. One of those came in 1999 when Webb was convicted on three counts of lewd and lascivious assault on a child under 16 in Suwannee County. He spent 18 months in prison on that conviction and was placed on 10 years probation.

As Mr. Richardson argued Monday for the enhancements he told Judge Belanger that Webb also had felony convictions in Broward County. Those convictions were: failure to register as a sex offender in 2006; possession of cocaine in 2005; and, fraudulent use of a credit card and forgery in 2003.

The young girl testified that she knew the defendant as Dale Williams. Apparently, Webb was hiding behind the fake name.

After he had summed up Webb's convictions, the prosecutor said: "In this case, life is appropriate."

In a videotaped interview with Detective Farless played in open court, Webb initially denied the allegations and said it was the

"He told Detective Farless that he had a young girl problem. We would ask you to take the defendant at his word," Mr. Richardson added.

And without comment, the judge did just that.

Mobile home destroyed in fire

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Workers tried to dismantle an old mobile home without incident on Aug. 10, but instead got the chance to put out the dilapidated structure when it caught fire.

scrapped for aluminum. They had gone to the salvage yard with a load and when they returned found the fire. County fire reports said they tried to put out the flames with well water and two extinguishers but were unable to.

Okeechobee County firemen reported to 19836 N.W. 264th Street and found the 30-foot mobile home completely engulfed in flames, Paramedic Jay Curtis said.

The report said \$2,200 in damage was reported and no one was injured. A crew of one unit and two firemen were on the scene for just over an hour.

The workers said the trailer was

Coal Creek

999.95
5pc Set

3pc. Bed \$499.95

Chest \$299.95
Night Stand \$199.95

Dresser, Mirror, Headboard, Footboard & Rails \$999.95

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

Tell your own story! 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.



Ashley Furniture Homestore

804 E. North Park Street
Okeechobee
863-763-6293

MEDICAL

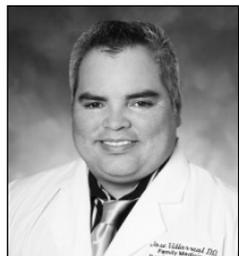
Health &
Fitness
Directory



FAMILY MEDICINE

RAULERSON PRIMARY CARE

Jose Villarreal, D.O.



Dr. Villarreal is a Family Medicine Doctor who is Board Certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians.

**New Primary Care
Physician**

Accepting New Patients
& Walk-ins

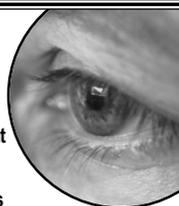
Evening Hours Available
Per Request

202 NE 2nd Ave
Okeechobee, FL 34972
863-467-2159

www.raulersonprimarycare.com

OPHTHALMOLOGY/ OPTOMETRY/OPTICAL

Comprehensive Eye and
Contact Lens Exams
Advanced Cataract
Microsurgery
Diabetic Eye Exams
Glaucoma Evaluation & Treatment
State of the Art Complete
Optical Laboratory
Eyeglasses & Contact Lenses



Optical Gallery
763-4334

Silviano Matamoros, M.D. Richard L. Soldinger, O.D.
Board Certified Eye Physician & Surgeon David J. Underhill, O.D.
Board Certified Optometrists

357-4899 763-3403

Medicare/Medicaid and Most Vision Plans Accepted
520 S. Parrott Ave. • Okeechobee
Website: www.opticalgalleryeyecare.com

UROLOGY

DAVID A. SIGALOW, M.D.

Board Certified In Urology



Specializing in:
Adult & Pediatric
Urology

Bladder & Kidney Infections
Impotence/Implants
No Scalpel Vasectomy

215 N.E. 19th Dr.
Okeechobee
(863) 763-0217

Advertising in
the
**Okeechobee
News**
is a bright
idea!

Call
763-3134
today!



REHAB THERAPY/NURSING HOME

We Love to Care!

Family-Owned & Operated, OHCF has been Providing Rehab & Residential Care to Okeechobee & the Surrounding Communities Since 1984

- Rehab, Physical, Occupational, Speech and Out-Patient Therapy
 - Long-Term Nursing Care Available 7 Days a Week/24 Hours a Day
 - Secure Dementia and Alzheimer's Memory-Care Wing
 - Delicious Dietitian-Planned Meals
- Stimulating & Fun Daily Activities*

**Okeechobee
Health Care Facility**
1646 U.S. Highway 441 North
★★★★
Five-Star Rated 863-763-2226

VARICOSE VEIN REMOVAL

Symmetry®
LASER VEIN CENTER

S. Scott Tapper, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Board Certified General Vascular Surgeon

Specializing in the Removal of
Varicose Veins



- ◆ Minimally Invasive In Office Procedure
- ◆ Performed more than 1500 Endo Venous Laser Ablation procedures
- ◆ Insurance Accepted

Why look like this When you can have this



Before



After

2169 S.E.
Ocean Blvd.
Stuart
772-286-5501

symmetrylaservein.com

RADIATION ONCOLOGISTS

**Can Your Skin
Cancer be Cured
with 5 days of
Radiation?**

COME IN FOR
FREE INFORMATION

DO YOU NEED TO TALK? CALL
863.467.9500

**Big Lake Cancer
Center**

1115 N Parrott Ave
Okeechobee

FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK.COM/
RADIATIONDOCTOR

Ramesh Kumar MD, William Crook MD
and Julie Santelli MD
Board Certified Radiation Oncologists



Visit
us
online
at

www.newszap.com

The 2010 – 2011 Medical Information Guide is available
online at <http://specialsections.newszap.com>
Use this interactive site to browse through articles and advertisements on
our updated Newszap website

Advertise in the
Medical Directory
Call **763-3134 today!**

MEDICAL Health & Fitness Directory



FAMILY MEDICINE

Yasmin Akhtar, MD

Diplomate American Board of Family Medicine

- Comprehensive Medical & Preventive Care
- Routine Annual Physicals
- Well Woman Exam
- Geriatric Care
- Management of:
 - Hypertension
 - Diabetes Mellitus
 - Menopause
 - Depression
 - Arthritis



Accepting New Patients!

Most Insurance Accepted



202 NE 19th Drive • Okeechobee • For appointments, call (863) 357-6030

DERMATOLOGY



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

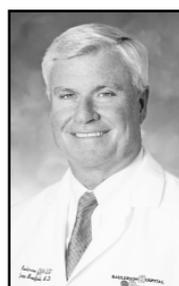
www.TCDermatology.com

HEALTHCARE

120 BEDS
Glades Health Care Center
Skilled Long & Short Term Care Facility
Caring for Those You Care About

- Specialized Wound Care
 - Full Time Medical Director
 - Dialysis Support
 - Alzheimer's Support Groups
 - Intravenous Therapy
 - Resident & Family Council Groups
 - Specialized HIV Care
 - Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
 - 24 hour Registered Nurse Staffing
 - Therapeutic Activities
 - Jody Carter, Assistant, C.E.O.
- 230 South Barfield Hwy • Pahokee
561-924-5561 • www.floridacare.net
Other facilities in Gainesville & Bradenton

GYNECOLOGIST



James E. Bradfield, MD FACOG

Gynecology Board Certified

All Major Insurances Accepted

- Loss of Libido
- Endometriosis
- Urine Control
- Infertility
- Menstrual Abnormalities
- Sterilization
- Laser Surgery
- Minimally Invasive Surgery

Email: drbradfield@earthlink.net

863-763-8000
1713 Hwy 441 N, Suite F, Okeechobee

HEALTH

Weight Loss Transformation



Join us as we follow Chief Denny Davis' weight loss journey. He has lost 41 pounds in 6 weeks and he's just getting started! Stay tuned! His journey to be continued...



HCG Injections Now Available!



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

MRI

The Best is Right Here!

OPEN MRI OF OKEECHOBEE

OKEECHOBEE'S FINEST OPEN MRI

115 NE 3rd St. Suite A



863-824-6736

SPECIALTY TRAINED/BOARD CERTIFIED RADIOLOGISTS
2 Blocks North of CVS Drugstore

www.newszap.com

The 2010 – 2011 Medical Information Guide is available online at <http://specialsections.newszap.com>
Use this interactive site to browse through articles and advertisements on our updated Newszap website

Advertise in the Medical Directory
Call 763-3134 today!

Online Classifieds

Free
Speech

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

FREE!
Absolutely
FREE!

• 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

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

Employment Full Time
Drivers Needed for long distance produce hauling. CDL a must call for more information. 863-261-1116

LPN'S
needed in Okeechobee. Outpatient Only. Monday thru Friday. Days, No Nights or weekends. Excellent Compensation! Fax resume to Cinda at: 513-488-8818 or email:

cp راحت@sterlingmedcorp.com
Radiology Technicians, Medical Assistants & Phlebotomists

needed in Okeechobee. Outpatient Only. Monday thru Friday. Days, No Nights or Weekends. Excellent Compensation! Fax resume to Cinda at: 513-488-8818 or email:

cp راحت@sterlingmedcorp.com

We are looking for an Experienced Automotive Diagnostics Technician. ASE certified is a plus but not required Call 863-763-0564

Shop here first!
The classified ads

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

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

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

Business Opportunities
Busy concession stand/restaurant for lease at a local business. Must have restaurant experience. Contact Heather for more info (863)763-4114.

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Turn your trash to treasure with an ad in the classifieds.

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifieds.

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.

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

Furniture
Used Furniture, Dining room table and chairs, end tables, entertainment center, hutch, 26" flat screen like new and odds ends furniture Call 863-763-3728

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
BEAUTIFUL 2 Bedroom CBS, Large kitchen, new carpet, screen room, utility room. \$700 mo. includes water, lawn and garbage. (863)467-2784

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

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

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

Apartments
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

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

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

Condos/Townhouses Rent

CONDOS 2/1 fully furnished downstairs, w/ utilities \$950. mo., seasonal rates available. Washer, Dryer, pool and dock. 863 634 0663

OKEE - 1 br, furnished, Lease available. 1st, last & sec. (407)448-2495

Houses - Rent
2BR/2BA w/ 5 acres and pond. In Fort Drum area \$600/mo. New flooring, a/c, and w/d. (863)447-6009.

Houses - Rent

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

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 863-610-1980

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

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

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

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.

Houses - Rent

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.

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

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

Office Space Rent

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT (863)763-8565

Roommate

FEMALE ROOMMATE
Brand New Apts. Your own furnished Studio apt. Private entrance with Cable, A/C, HS Internet provided. \$100/wk \$200 to move in. Call (863)801-8278

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

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

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.

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

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

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

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

Mobile Home Rent
TREASURE ISLAND 3/2 large yard, new carpet. Lawn service \$675. mo. No pets. BHR 4/2 w/fenced yard & lawn service, \$675 mo. Sec. dep.req. 863 634 0663

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

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 35%! 800-622-2832

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

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

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.



Public Notices

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com



Public Notices

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF OKEECHOBEE CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2011CA-218 PARCEL NO.: 119

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, Petitioner,
vs-
JOY KIDWELL, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE, ET AL Defendants.

NOTICE TO SHOW CAUSE AND NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF FLORIDA TO: OUT OF STATE ADDRESS
T. D. Bank, N.A.
SERVE: Bharat B. Masrani, as President
2035 Limestone Road
Wilmington, DE 19808
Parcel 119
ADDRESS UNKNOWN
Any unknown business owners
Parcel 119

To all said defendants who are living, and if any or all defendants are deceased, the unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, lienors, or other parties claiming by, through, under, or against any such deceased defendant or defendants, if alive, and, if dead, their unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, legatees, grantees, creditors, lienors, or other parties claiming by, through, under, or against any such deceased defendant or defendants, and all other parties having or claiming to have any right, title, or interest in and to the property described in the Petition, to wit:

FP. NO. 1969044
SECTION 91070-000 STATE ROAD 70 OKEECHOBEE COUNTY DESCRIPTION
PARCEL 119
ESTATE OR INTEREST TO BE OBTAINED: FEE SIMPLE - RIGHT OF WAY

That portion of the southeast 1/4 of Section 35, Township 36 South, Range 36 East, Okeechobee County, Florida.
Being described as follows:

Commence at the southeast corner of said Section 35; thence along the south line of said Section 35, South 89°46'27" West a distance of 1,499.99 feet to the survey base line of State Road 70 (Okeechobee Road); thence along said survey base line North 54°32'47" East a distance of 118.94 feet; thence North 60°07'08" West a distance of 42.61 feet to the north existing right of way line of said State Road 70 (per Section 91070-2519) for a POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue North 60°07'08" West a distance of 122.45 feet; thence North 54°32'47" East a distance of 692.56 feet; thence North 50°11'23" West a distance of 359.13 feet; thence North 45°13'22" East a distance of 141.81 feet; thence North 58°35'11" East a distance of 57.65 feet; thence South 35°27'13" East a distance of 14.43 feet; thence North 58°35'11" East a distance of 236.97 feet; thence South 69°53'08" East a distance of 174.70 feet; thence North 70°57'46" East a distance of 18.81 feet; thence South 81°12'55" East a distance of 63.55 feet; thence North 58°09'22" East a distance of 72.21 feet; thence North 01°53'32" East a distance of 18.70 feet; thence North 54°25'54" East a distance of 94.52 feet; thence South 35°34'06" East a distance of 122.87 feet; thence North 54°32'47" East a distance of 478.74 feet to the west existing right of way line of NE 128th Avenue (Berman Farm Road (per Official Records Book 133, Page 877, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida); thence along said west existing right of way line South 00°07'02" East a distance of 178.83 feet to the north existing right of way line of said State Road 70; thence along said north existing right of way line the following five (5) courses: 1) South 55°00'17" West a distance of 485.58 feet; 2) South 55°07'10" West a distance of 400.02 feet; 3) South 54°32'47" West a distance of 100.00 feet; 4) South 55°20'55" West a distance of 500.05 feet; 5) South 52°03'55" West a distance of 214.40 feet to end said courses and to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing 9.356 acres.
You are each notified that the Petitioner filed its Petition and its Declaration of Taking in this Court against you as defendants, seeking to condemn by eminent domain proceedings the above described property located in the State of Florida, County of OKEECHOBEE.

You are further notified that the Petitioner will apply to the Honorable Larry Schack, one of the Judges of this Court, on the 27th day of October, A.D., 2011, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 312 NW Third Street, Courtroom B, Okeechobee, Florida, for an Order of Taking in this cause. All defendants to this suit may request a hearing at the time and place designated and be heard. Any defendant failing to file a request for hearing shall waive any right to object to the Order of Taking.

AND
Each defendant is hereby required to serve written defenses, if any, and request a hearing, if desired, to said Petition:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Post Office Box 1249
Bartow, Florida 33831
c/o Andrew J. DeNering, Esquire
District One Chief Counsel
(863) 519-2623
Florida Bar No.: 975117

on or before the 12th day of Sept., A.D., 2011, and file the originals with the Clerk of this Court on that date, to show cause what right, title, interest, or lien you or any of you have in and to the property described in the Petition and to show cause, if any you have, why the property should not be condemned for the uses and purposes set forth in the Petition. If you fail to answer, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition. If you fail to request a hearing on the Petition for Order of Taking you shall waive any right to object to said Order of Taking.

"IT IS THE INTENT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TO PROVIDE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS WHEN REQUESTED BY QUALIFIED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS AN ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A COURT PROCEEDING OR ACCESS TO A COURT FACILITY, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT: COURT ADMINISTRATION, 250 NW COUNTY CLUB DRIVE, SUITE 217, PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL 34986; (771). IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED."

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court on the 1st day of Aug. A.D., 2011.
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

394623 ON 8/10,17/2011

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

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

Your next job could be in today's classifieds. Did you look for it?

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

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE WILL MEET TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2011 IN ROOM 302 OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT 3209 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34981-5596.

BOARD POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE - 1:45 P.M.
FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE - 2:15 P.M.
PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE - 2:45 P.M.

ANY PERSONS SEEKING TO APPEAL THE DECISIONS OF THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE.
395356 ON 8/17/2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION Case No.: 47-2011-CA-000154

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF SOUNDVIEW HOME LOAN TRUST 2008-1, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2008-1 Plaintiff,
BRUCE D. WATFORD; TERESA WATFORD; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARY WOREL F/K/A MARY SNYDER; OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; CONNERS GABLES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION INC.; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAME UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
Unknown Spouse of Mary Worel f/k/a Mary Snyder
Last Known Address:
6700 Wall Street Apt #18 J
Mobile, AL 36695

Current Address: Unknown
Previous Address: 3282 SE 4th Street Okeechobee, FL 34974

ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAME UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, 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:
LOTS 5 AND 6, BLOCK 34, LESS THE SOUTH 5 FEET, A REVISED AND ADDITION TO PLAT OF CONNERS GABLES REVISED, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 15, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
This property is located at the Street address of: 2282 SE 4th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974
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 Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 350 Jim Moran Blvd., Suite 100, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's 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 a week for two consecutive weeks in The Okeechobee News.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on August 3, 2011.
SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE COURT
Arlene Nealis
BY: Deputy Clerk
****IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS ANY ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT: COURT ADMINISTRATION AT 250 NW COUNTY CLUB DRIVE, SUITE 217, PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 working 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.**
394404 ON 8/10,17/2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2010 CA 441

TD BANK, A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
VS.
JAMES VULPETTI, SR., OLGA MARIA VULPETTI, and RIVER OAK ACRES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that pursuant to the Summary Final Judgment Of Foreclosure dated June 7, 2011, in Case No. 2010CA441, in the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, in which TD BANK, A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION is Plaintiff; and JAMES VULPETTI, SR., OLGA MARIA VULPETTI, and RIVER OAK ACRES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Jury Assembly Room, Second Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, at 11:00 A.M. on September 7, 2011, the following described property set forth in the Summary Final Judgment Of Foreclosure, to-wit:

Lot 2, RIVER OAK ACRES, according to the map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 5, Pages 48 and 49, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.
Parcel ID Number: 1-19-37-34-0010-00002-0000
394404 ON 8/10,17/2011

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE

Find it faster. Sell it sooner in the classifieds

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold its Regular Session on **Tuesday, August 23, 2011** at 9:00 a.m. in the "Judge William L. Hendry Courthouse" 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
394903 ON 8/17/2011

PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
DATED this 9 day of June, 2011.

SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Sandra L. Crech
Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW County 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.
389500 ON 8/10,17/2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2011 CP91

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JESSE JAMES HUNTER Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JESSE JAMES HUNTER, deceased, whose date of death was April 16, 1976, and whose social security number is 264-09-6613, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 4th St., Okeechobee, FL 34972. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, 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 7, 2011.

Personal Representative:
CHERI NORMAN THOMAS
17055 NW 176th Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34972
Attorney for Personal Representative:
HARVIN & HARVIN, LLP
Wes Harvin II, Esq. for the firm
306 NW 4th Street
Okeechobee, FL 34972
Telephone: (863) 824-7179
Facsimile: (863) 824-0017
Florida Bar No. 0527068
394437 ON 8/10,17/2011

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.

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

cc: Gregory A. Sanoba, Esq., 422 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33801
Roger Azcona, Esquire, 420 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972
COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC., c/o CT Corporation System, Registered Agent, 1200 South Pine Island Road, Plantation, Florida 33324
TENANT #1, 1401 SW 83rd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974
394239 ON 8/10,17/2011

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

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

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

Coquina water customers can rest a bit easier

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

With rising prices and possibly rising property taxes, residents of Viking can rest assured that their assessment will remain the same. On Wednesday, Aug. 10, the Coquina Water Control Authority Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting.

Chairman Melvin Byars announced that the assessment for the coming year will remain at \$62.64 an acre.

Board members also discussed a problem they have dealt with before, the fencing of Coquina public easements. Martin and Carlin Galvin own property on both sides of N.W. 254th Street and have put gates across the easement for that street.

"I'm not fencing your land, I'm fencing my land," Mrs. Galvin asserted. She claimed that an easement was for property owners and the only property owner past her property on the easement had another means of access to his property. Board attorney Tony Young claimed it was a public easement and

therefore must be kept open.

"We had a similar case," stated board member Kenneth Childs, "We took them to court and prevailed."

Mrs. Garlin offered to lease the easement stating that when the rest of her property flooded, the easement was on high ground and that is where her livestock gathered.

"We don't have the authority to lease that easement," stated Mr. Byars. "We don't have the authority to let you fence the easement."

The board agreed to meet with property owners again on Aug. 24 to try to reach a compromise.

Turning to other business, Mr. Young informed the board that special magistrate Lois Nichols had recommended to the county commissioners that a lien for code violations on land Coquina wished to purchase for fill dirt be reduced to \$500.

The board learned that the audit for the previous fiscal year showed no discrepancies.

Five arrested in cocaine sting

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Five area people were arrested late last week when they allegedly bought crack cocaine from law enforcement officers during a reverse sting operation staged by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force.

Arrested Friday, Aug. 12, were:

- William A. Milek, 53, S.E. 57th Drive. He was charged with purchase of cocaine and possession of cocaine. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Bruce Douglas Bolling, 48, S.E. 55th Trail. He was charged with purchase of cocaine and possession of cocaine. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Tammy Lynn Chapman, 34, S.E. 26th St. She was charged with purchase of cocaine and possession of cocaine. Her bond was set at \$10,000.

- Thomas Lee Watford, 62, S.E. 68th Ave. He was charged with purchase of cocaine and possession of cocaine. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- April Lee Murray, 29, N.W. 102nd St. She was charged with purchase of cocaine and possession of cocaine. Her bond was set at \$10,000.

An Okeechobee woman reportedly with Milek was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. The woman, stated a detective with the task force, never went into the residence but stayed in a vehicle outside the home.

However, when asked by another task force detective if she had anything illegal on her person she reportedly turned over a

pipe similar to those used for smoking crack cocaine. She is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on a \$500 bond.

Jail records also indicate that Milek is still being held on bond, while the others arrested in the sting have been released on bond.

According to a task force detective's arrest report, the sting was set up at a residence for the express purpose of selling crack cocaine. During the five-hour operation, an undercover police officer posed as a street level drug dealer.

The report indicated that the purchases ranged from \$10 to \$100.

Once each buy was made, the target was taken into custody and the drugs were recovered, stated the report. At that point, the undercover officer turned the money over to task force detectives.

All of the crack cocaine used in the operation had been tested prior to Friday by the Indian River Crime Lab and had tested positive for the presence of cocaine, added the detective's report.

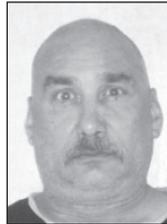
The detective went on to state that this investigation is continuing.



Tammy Chapman



Bruce Bolling



William Milek



April Murray



Thomas Watford

Superintendent Danny Faircloth expressed the need for a computer to read discs containing property records and the board agreed to the purchase of a computer. Mr. Faircloth stated that the current policy of mowing and then spraying is not working. He said the vegetation is getting ahead of the

mowing. He recommended and the board approved that spraying be done before rather than after mowing.

The board agreed to advertise for bids for dirt hauling.

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

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

AIR CONDITIONING

EMORY WALKER CO. INC.

Air Conditioning & Refrigeration

7/24 SERVICE FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

208 SW 5th Ave. • Okeechobee

Serving the Lake Area for 40 Years! **863-763-6742**

CAC042747
CAC014022
CAC057129

OKEECHOBEE Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
Serving South-Central Florida

• 24/7 Emergency Service • Senior Citizen Discount
• FREE Estimates on System Replacements.
"We Sell The Best And Service The Rest!"

763-8391

QUALITY A/C

Serving the entire lake area for 25 years

"Our Focus Is To Make You Comfortable"

FREE Estimates
Sales • Service • Installation

467-1545

St. Lic. CACO29420

ATTORNEYS

HOSKINS, TURCO, LLOYD & LLOYD

• Auto Accidents • Social Security Disability
• Bankruptcy • Veterans' Disability

www.HoskinsTurco.com
212 S. Parrott Ave.
Okeechobee, FL 34974 **(863) 357-5800**

FURNITURE

We have furniture you want and credit you can actually get!

Badcock
HOME FURNITURE & more

512 W. North Park St.
Okeechobee
(863) 763-3823
Mon. - Fri. 9am to 6pm
Sat. - 9am to 5pm

Advertise here!
Great place to get noticed!

PICK A HEADING

Advertise your business

HAIR CUTS

CITY CUTS LLC

Tues. - Fri 9-5:30 • Sat. 9-3 • Closed Sun & Mon

863-467-0418

105 SW 3rd Ave.



Cheri Stevens

HEALTHCARE

Glades Health Care Center

Skilled Long & Short Term Care Facility

Jody Carter, Assistant, C.E.O.

230 South Barfield Hwy. • Pahokee

Other facilities in Gainesville & Bradenton **PHONE: 561-924-5561**

www.floridacare.net

HEALTH & READING MATERIAL

Christian Books, Bibles and Videos

Nature's Pantry

417 W S Park St • (863) 467-1243

LOCAL DONATIONS

Now accepting donations of household goods.

Local donations helping Local people

FREE PICKUP

Okeechobee Campus

7595 NE 128th Ave. Okeechobee, FL

(863) 763-4224

www.faithfarm.org



A church with a heart for the hurting

WANTED TO BUY

We Buy Scrap Gold, Silver and Coins

Elliott's Pawn Shop

419 W.S. Park St. • 863.763-5553

ATTORNEYS

MARINA

REAL ESTATE

CONTRACTOR

INSURANCE

Local girl second in nation in softball throw

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Raeley Matthews had a busy summer as she competed in Miami and Hershey, Pa. in a national track and field competition.

Matthews, a fifth grader for Okeechobee Schools, finished second in the nation at the Hershey's Finals earlier this month in Pennsylvania in the girls ages 9-10 division.

It was the end of a long series of events for Matthews. She won her school track meet at the Brighton Charter School (Pemayetv Emahkv School) last spring, won the Okeechobee County Track Meet at Okeechobee High School, and then the regional in Miami.

"It was fun and I really liked it," Raeley said, "I didn't feel any pressure. I had a pretty good feeling that I would go to Pennsylvania."

Raeley said she was impressed with how different Pennsylvania was. She said she expects to go back to the event next year. She has made the state finals two years in a row.

Matthew's best toss at the nationals measured 113 feet. Amelia Baldo won with a throw of 114' 2."

Matthews got to stay at the Elizabethtown College dormitory, and received autographs from Olympic stars Carl Lewis and Rafer Johnson. She also got to exchange t-shirts with contestants from other states and got to attend the Hershey's Chocolate Factory and Amusement Park.

Matthews has also played Firestix Softball for three years.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Raeley Matthews, placed second in Hershey Finals softball throw.

She competed against 13 other girls at the Hershey's North American Final. There were a total of 480 athletes at the various events.

Her mom, Pam Matthews, a teacher and Coach for Brighton Charter, was a 1993 graduate of Okeechobee High School. She went to college at Lake City Community College and Florida Southern College on a softball scholarship. She played under Amy Williams at OHS when softball was still slow pitch. She made the adjustment to fast pitch

softball while in college. The OHS softball team made it to the state tournament during her junior and senior years. She was all Treasure Coast Conference as a senior. Matthews was also all area in Volleyball during high school.

Pam said she didn't expect her daughter to make it to the nationals because there is a lot of strong competition. She said her son Zeke Matthews, a Dixie Youth Ozone all-star this year, has also caught the Hershey's fever and wants to earn a trip there next year.

"It was such an awesome experience. Raeley is bound and determined to go back to the event. She'll be one of the younger athletes so she will have to work extra hard," she added.

Pam said she was also impressed what the Hershey's company has done for the community. Milton Hershey started a school for orphan boys and the school now serves students with special needs. She said it is an amazing school that shows how much Hershey cared about students and their well being.

Raeley's dad, Brett Matthews, is also an OHS graduate. He is the owner of John's Towing.

Matthews is believed to be only the third Okeechobee athlete to compete at the Hershey's Nationals. Gene Harris, who pitched in the major leagues, and Erena Billie, are the other athletes.

Gabe Greseth also represented Okeechobee at the State Hershey's Finals in the softball throw.



Adults and Children come to **Raulerson Hospital's Cafeteria** for a **FREE** and informative evening filled with fun and food!

Registered Dietitian Pat Small and Executive Chef Ron Corrado invite you to **learn** and **sample** some **healthy, affordable, quick** snacks & meals. Then take home easy to follow **recipes** just in time for back-to-school.

August 30, 2011
5:30 PM-6:30 PM

R.S.V.P. at 1-800-449-8642



RAULERSON HOSPITAL

1796 Highway 441N ~ Okeechobee
RaulersonHospital.com



COMMITTED TO TOTAL CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

- Family Owned & Operated Since 1978
- We Service All Brands
- 1 Year Guarantee on Replacement Parts
- 24/7 Emergency Service
- FREE Estimates & Second Opinions on Equipment Replacements
- Senior Citizen Discounts



OKEECHOBEE Air Conditioning & Refrigeration

Serving South-Central Florida

FPL Lic# CA C023499

(863) 763-8391

PARTICIPATING INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

312 SW 2nd St • Okeechobee



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

Okeechobee



DODGE

CHRYSLER



Jeep



YOUR COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR SHOP



John Deel
Service Manager



Terry Miller
Asst. Service Manager

**“We Service,
Repair,
Rebuild or**

\$9.95
Oil Change
Every Day!

Some models may be more due
to engine size.

Diesel Engines
Start At \$39.95

**Replace all
Makes and
Models”**

**TRUSTWORTHY
TRANSMISSION
SERVICE & REPAIR**

**WE HAVE 4
TRANSMISSION
TECHS!**

Transmissions - Diesel Engines

4224 Hwy 441 S. Okeechobee, FL
863-357-0500

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

MIDFLORIDA
financing available

www.okeechobeedodgechryslerjeep.com

