



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 103

Sunday, August 28, 2011

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Festival, rodeo and parade planned ... Page 3



Seniors lead volleyball team ... Page 16

Okeechobee's Most Wanted ... Page 10

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Historic brands still used

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County ranchers still carry on the tradition of branding cattle, some with brands that have been in the family for several generations.

Contrary to popular belief, the American cattle industry began in Florida—not in the western United States. The Spaniards brought cattle and cattle brands to Florida in the early 1500s.

See BRAND — Page 5



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Ray Domer, owner of Domer's Machine Shop, holds an "F2" branding iron that was made in his shop. The business has been making most of the branding irons used in this area since 1926.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Sonny Williamson holds a "Bowlegged W" branding iron. That is one of the brands of Williamson Cattle Company.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
This display, at Domer's Machine Shop, includes boards with brands burned into them from branding irons made by Domer's.

FHP is part of national DUI effort

'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' on Labor Day weekend

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) is stepping up its impaired driver enforcement by taking part in the national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign that runs through the Labor Day weekend.

FHP is taking part in the campaign to reduce the number of impaired drivers on Florida's highways in an effort to save lives. The campaign officially began Aug. 19, and will continue through Sept. 5.

"Drunk driving is simply not worth the risk. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but also the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for impaired driving can be significant," said FHP director Colonel David Brierton. "Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, attorney fees, time away from work and dozens of other expenses. Do not take the chance. Our troopers will pull you over if you do not drive sober."

There were 17 people killed in traffic incidents on Florida roads during the 2010 Labor Day weekend, according to FHP reports.

Out of the roughly 1,300 crashes worked by troopers Friday through Monday, 78 involved alcohol. Troopers also made 80 arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

More than 14,000 citations were issued—including 5,000 for speeding and 1,500 for failure to wear a seat belt.

See DUI — Page 5

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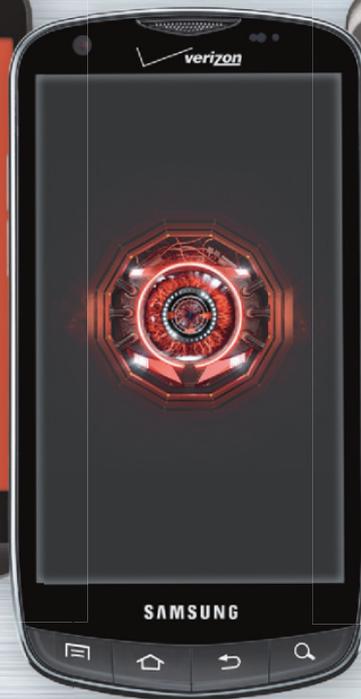
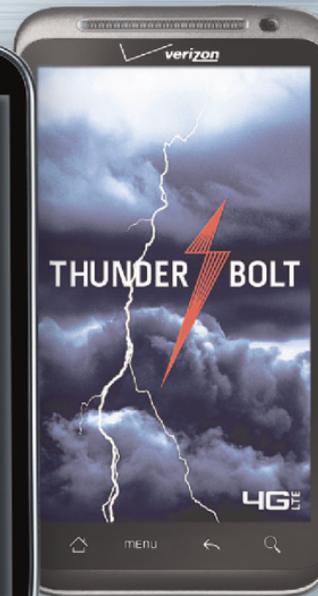


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Okeechobee Main Street invites everyone to celebrate Labor Day

Okeechobee Main Street invites everyone to celebrate your 2011 Labor Day Holiday in Flagler Park on Sept. 3, 4 and 5 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Festival organizers are excited to announce that Lunker's Sports Grill will be sponsoring the First Corn Hole Competition, a game in which small bags of corn are thrown into holes in wooden targets. The competition is double elimination with prizes to be awarded to the top contenders. Applications for this event are available at Lunker's Sports Grill located at 4825 Highway 441 South or at the Okeechobee Main Street Office, 111 Northeast 2nd Street. Cost is \$10 per team and the championship competition will be held Monday, Sept. 5, at noon.

Okeechobee's own Chobee Steelers will be rocking the stage on Monday at noon. These young men, under the direction of Shirlean Graham, are amazing on the Steel

Drums and are absolutely a must-see! Scott Bengé will be providing music in the parks on Saturday and Monday. An accomplished acoustical guitarist and vocalist, he has played in numerous venues on the east coast, as well as in Okeechobee. Scott describes his music as "Acoustic Music with Heart and Soul."

In addition to the kids activities and music on Saturday, attendees can enjoy the Sacred Heart Martial Arts program at 11 a.m. and the "Top Dog" Hot Dog Competition at noon.

On Monday, Sept. 5, the B.R.A.T. Club will sponsor the Labor Day parade, following the regular parade route in downtown Okeechobee and ending in Flagler Park. Following the parade, meet fair and festival royalty on stage at 11:30. Also see a demonstration provided by the X-plosion Cheer and Dance squad and "Hoop It Up" with the

Kids' Hula Hoop Contest. The brave of heart can sign up to participate in the "Soda Chug" on Monday at 2 p.m. Those interested in the "Top Dog" hot dog eating contest or "Soda Chug" competitions can sign up at the Main Street Office or at the Main Street Booth at the Festival.

Daily kid activities include the "Kids Workshop" sponsored by Home Depot, the Limbo Shuffle, 3-legged race, Kids Korn Hole, and a water balloon race "Balloon Lagoon," among others. Also look for Ronald "Eugene" Dawson as he wanders through the crowd performing "Simply Magic" for everyone!

Over 70 vendors and non-profit organizations will be on hand to entice festival goers with amazing festival food items, specialty wares and important information about our town. Come support local organizations as they attempt to help others in the community!

For further information about the festival, festival applications or if you would like to volunteer please contact Cindy Birdshaw, Okeechobee Main Street at 863-357-6246.

Labor Day Parade applications are avail-

able at the Okeechobee News office, 107 S.W. 17th Street and at Toni's Chic Boutique, 121 S.W. Park Street. Applications are also online on the Okeechobee Public Form on www.newszap.com and on the Okeechobee News Facebook page. Parade rules are on the application form.

Cattlemen sponsor Labor Day Rodeo

The Okeechobee County Cattlemen's Association will present a weekend of rodeo excitement Sept. 3-5.

On Saturday, Sept. 3, the Cattlemen will host Championship Bull Riding at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center at 7 p.m. The entrance to the Agri-Civic Center is off State Road 710. A free dance will follow the bull riding.

On Sunday, Sept. 4, the Cattlemen will

present the first day of the Labor Day Rodeo, at the Agri-Civic Center at 2 p.m. The event is a PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) event, and attracts top rodeo cowboys from all over the country. On Monday, the second day of rodeo action will start at 2 p.m. Advance rodeo tickets are on sale at Eli's Western Wear. For more information online, go to www.okeechobee-cattlemans-association.com.

Rodeo Team does well at Brighton

The First Florida High School Rodeo Association rodeo of the season took place at the Fred Smith Brighton Arena on Aug. 20 and 21. The FHSRA had 45 new members and 55 returning members sign up. Of those 100 members, 16 are from right here in Okeechobee. The Okeechobee High School Rodeo Team includes: Shiloh Anuez, Dalton Boney, Summer Douglas, Austin Holmes, Raylee Holmes, Josh Keese, Joshua Lea, Tyler Mills, Trevor Nelson, Ashton Rogers, Jerrod Sparks, Josie Stratton, Nat Stratton, Mackenzie Tomlinson, Allyson Trimble and Acealyn Youngblood.

The Okeechobee High School Rodeo Team did well in the Brighton event. Those in the top 10 placings included the fol-

lowing. **Saturday Aug. 20:** Goat Tying: Raylee Holmes placed 10th.; Tie Down Roping: Dalton Boney placed 4th; Saddle Bronc: Nat Stratton came in 1st place; Barrels: Josie Stratton placed 7th; Team Roping: Boney/Brassfield team placed 5th; Bull Riding: Austin Holmes placed 2nd.

Sunday Aug. 21: Bareback Riding: Tyler Mills tied for 1st place; Goat Tying: Allyson Trimble placed 10th; Tie Down Roping: Dalton Boney placed 5th.; Saddle Bronc: Nat Stratton came in 1st place; Barrels: Acealyn Youngblood placed 6th; Team Roping: Tomlinson/Trimble team placed 3rd. Sparks/Stratton team placed 9th; Pole Bending: Josie Stratton placed 10th; Bull Riding: Tyler Mills came in 1st place.

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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Dean's Court eyesore

• Homeowners are paying more than their fair share of taxes in Dean's Court and getting no services in return. Allow me to ask the question if even one of our commissioners have driven by N.W. Ninth Ave. and N.W. 12th St. in the past six years? Well, I am pleading to the "powers that be" again to do something about those two dilapidated buildings standing there. The buildings harbor stray animals and everything else you can imagine. Please remove them. I know you would not allow this in your neighborhood for even one day, why mine?

Selling alcohol to teens

• Teenagers are very different now. Maybe this is because of the different factors in the society that we have today. And I can't imagine the situation 20 years from now. This alcohol issue is just one of their bad habits. Parents should pay attention for this. The police officers and the concerned authorities are also involved in this issue. Crime will arise if we let this happen.

Athletes need help

• What on earth is going on in the athletic department at Okeechobee High School? Students, parents and guardians are sharing their deepest concerns with the principal and sports faculty. The athletes are doing their part, giving their best, year after year, playing their hearts out and they are bringing home ribbons, medals and trophies, and all they receive in return is the "you did great." Well, that is not good enough. These promising athletes require more than a "you did great" and a pizza party. Show some genuine care, concern and competency by advocating for these young athletes with potential and assist them with attaining scholarships to further their education. In doing this you will give these athletes the opportunity they so desperately desire and need to become contributing citizens in our society. Please, please OHS help these students. Do what other high schools of excellence are doing.

Football

• Congratulations to the OHS Brahms football team. How nice to start the year with a win! I hope they have a great season!
• Thank you to everyone who came out to support the football team and the band! All in all, everything went off without a hitch considering the game was changed with less than 24 hours notice! Great job to everyone who played a role.

Labor Day Parade

• So glad to hear we got the Labor Day Parade back. These small town traditions may not seem important, but they are. These traditions are the things that hold a community together. We all need to pull together to keep the town going. I am especially pleased that it was a group of young people who stepped up and volunteered to help put on the parade. We need kids like that, kids who care about something other than themselves.

• I love the zombie idea for the parade. If the emergency management office wants to do it all they have to do is post it on newszap and I am pretty sure they will get plenty of volunteer zombies.

• It sounds like Labor Day weekend will be a busy one in Okeechobee, with the big festival in the park with new activities added, the rodeo and the parade. If we can keep the hurricanes away, it should be great.

• I am so happy the Labor Day Parade is going to be held after all. In response to the comments in the letter to the editor, I don't think the parade rules were the problem. The rules have to do with public safety. You can't throw candy from a float because kids have gotten hurt when they dash into the street after the candy and sometimes fall or run right in front of a vehicle or horse. In another state, a child ran for some candy, fell and a float ran over him. You can have people walking the parade route handing out candy to those on the sidelines. A lot of people do that. You just can't throw it. Whip cracking during the parade was banned because not all horses are desensitized to that loud crack. In a past parade, one cowboy cracked a whip and another rider's horse spooked and nearly ran over people on the sidelines. Music must be family-friendly with no offense language. That is just common sense for a family event.

• As a band parent, I was happy to learn we will have the parade. I love to see the band march in a parade. It's something those kids will always remember, marching in their hometown parade.

Reflections from the pulpit

By Rev. Calvin Fryar
Pastor, Brighton Baptist Church

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia." (II Timothy 4:10)

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:11-14)

Demas is mentioned three times in the Bible Colossians 4:14; Philemon 1:24; and in our text. When you read these references carefully, you will find that Demas turned away from the Gospel for the world-that is an ever existing danger. "Just one letter of the alphabet makes all the difference between us now," said a recently-converted young woman to an unsaved friend, who could not understand the great change that had come over her. "You love the world," she said, "and I love the Word." - "Word of Life"

A young preacher, Joel Osteen, wrote a book entitled, "Your Best Life is Now." I do not know if he meant to say what the title implies but our best life is not now --it is yet to come. Sin has ruined this world. But God says He has made a new one, a world not cursed with sin.

The Christian must understand that as long as we are in this sin cursed world, life will be a struggle. John Bunyan wrote about this struggle as he saw it from his dark, damp cell in the Bedford Jail. He was there for preaching the Gospel!

He wrote that Christian and Faithful were persecuted in Vanity Fair for four reasons: First, the pilgrims were clothed with such a kind of raiment as was diverse from the raiment of any that traded in that fair. The people, therefore, made a great gazing; some said they were fools, bedlams, outlandish men. Secondly, few could understand what they said; they naturally spoke the language of the Canaan, but they that kept the fair were the men of this world; so that they seemed barbarian each to the other. Thirdly, these pilgrims set very light by all the wares sold in the fair; they cared not so much as to look upon them, (but) looked upward, signifying

that their trade and traffic was in Heaven. - "Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations."

Our world may sometimes be very dark, but blessings are sometimes hidden in the darkness. Mr. N. Hartas rummaged through an attic in northern England and found "A Hare Among Plants, with a Robin, Lizard and Insects," the only existing painting of sixteenth century German artist Hands Hoffman. Aside from the accumulated grime, the painting was in fine condition and looked exceptional when cleaned. Lying within reach of the homeowners for years, the painting simply gathered dust and went unappreciated. Only when an art expert discovered it did the owners reap the financial advantage they could have enjoyed long before: \$610,500.

The Christian must remember that his hour of darkness and trouble are only temporary and accordingly we must continue to let our light shine. According to Jesus, we should never hide it. (Matthew 5:15)

Arthur Gordon reminds us of an inscription that was found on a small new gravestone after the devastating air raids on Britain in World War II. "There is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of one small candle." - "Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations"

Without darkness, we would never understand the light; we must see and understand the contrast between light and darkness. God knows that we will become more aware of the light as we travel these dark valleys called life.

The following was found in a church bulletin: "As you leave church, may God grant you;/ Enough darkness - to see the light;/ Enough trials - to evaluate rest;/ Enough conviction - to seek redemption;/ Enough tears - to understand love;/ Enough kindness to lift burdens;/ Enough grace-to shield sinners;/ Enough silence-to hear the Holy Spirit;/ Enough vision-to reflect Christ. - "Lutheran Digest"

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. Calm wind becoming southwest between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 10 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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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

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We Pledge...

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- 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.
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- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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BRANDS

Continued From Page 1

Cattle theft probably started shortly afterward and is still going on. It was believed to be one of the causes of the Seminole Wars. In 1871 Andrew Jackson led several skirmishes which resulted in the capture of over 1,600 head of cattle, some with brands from Georgia farms.

According to Okeechobee County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Hazellief, cattle theft is on the rise in the area. Since most cattle have no natural identifying characteristics, brands are used to establish ownership. Determining ownership can be complicated when branded cattle are sold and the new owner's brand is added. It may take some investigation to determine which is the current brand.

Brands also come in handy to identify cattle that have strayed from their pastures.

Brands are read from left to right and from top to bottom. If there is one letter or figure inside another, the brand is read from the outside in. Some brands are designed from letters from the owners initials.

The wood fires that were originally used to heat branding irons have been replaced in many cases by propane. The secret to a good brand, according to local ranchers, is to have a hot iron applied to the animal for about 3 seconds. It must be applied firmly but not hard. It must be done quickly before the animal has time to flinch and possibly cause a blurred brand.

There are over 5,400 brands in the state registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Animal Industry. Okeechobee County, which has the largest livestock market east of the Mississippi River, is well represented among that number.

Brand registration must be renewed every five years. Originally brands were registered to a particular county. Most of the brands currently registered and all new brands registered are registered statewide. The older brands are registered to a particular county. There are around 40 of those older brands registered to Okeechobee County, many to pioneer cattle families such as Pierce and Raulerson. Registered brands may be sold, assigned or donated as personal property. The use of brands is not required in Florida, but if brands are used, they must be properly registered.

In Florida, horses are not usually branded.

Since 1926 most of the branding irons in this area have been made by Domer's Machine Shop. Ray Domer, third generation owner of the business, said he still makes branding irons, but not as many as his father and grandfather. Many times he or his father or grandfather would have to offer suggestions for improving the design of the brand. Sometimes cattle owners came up with designs that would result in a blurred, splotched burn. The Domers made suggestions that would result in a clearer brand. Mr. Domer said that ranchers usually had two branding irons made. That way one could be in use while the other was on the fire getting hot. He said they also had a set of numbers made into branding irons so they could brand the year the calf was born.

Retired Judge Bill Hendry grew up in the cattle business. His parents had the brand "HD," which stood for Hendry and Dunkinson, his mother's maiden name. His first brand was "BH" but he later changed it to "Flying H" after his time in the Air Force. While he has not owned any cattle since some time in the 1970s, the judge keeps his brand registered in case some of his children or grandchildren want to use it.

One of the oldest and better known brands in Okeechobee is the "101" brand. This brand was established in Oklahoma in 1893 on the 101 Ranch near what is now Ponca City. At its peak of operations, the 101 Ranch spread over four counties and consisted of 101,000 leased acres, hence the name. In the early 1900s, the ranch operated the 101 Wild West Show that performed all over the country including Madison Square Garden. According to Williams family records, Fitz Hugh Williams, who was born in 1870, ran cattle in Glades and Highlands counties. In the 1930s he expanded his cattle operations into Okeechobee County when he bought some cattle from the 101 Ranch. Since there was no "101" brand in Florida, it was decided to keep that brand. The "101" brand was easily refitted over the Williams family brand of "O."

A few years later some cattle bearing the "101" brand appeared in the movies. According to the Okeechobee News of Aug. 16, 1946, 700 steers bearing the "101" brand were shipped to Nogales, Ariz. to appear in the John Wayne movie "Red River." The cattle were also used on other western movies of that era. Today the "101" brand belongs Fitz Hugh's grandson, Haynes, former clerk of the courts, who operates the 101 Ranch on part of his grandfather's original acreage.

The "TO" brand belonged to Frank Williamson, Sr., founder of Williamson Cattle Company, who established the Okeechobee Livestock Market in 1942. It looked like a T with an O bisecting the stem of the T. His son, Frank Williamson, Jr. (Sonny) said there was no significance to the letters. He said it was a brand from Texas that his father liked. Today there are several brands used by the Williamson Cattle Company which is operated by Frank Williamson, Jr. his sons and grandsons, including one known as the "Bowlegged W." The "Right Turn" or "Bent Arrow" is the one most commonly used today.

The most famous of several brands used by the Adams Ranch is the "Crossed Seven" which is comprised of two backwards sevens with their stems intersecting at a right angle. According to "The Adams Ranch Stewardship Program Historical Analysis and Report" by Joe A. Akerman, Jr., this particular brand has been used on Florida cattle since the early 1890s. Mr. Akerman quotes Bud Adams as saying that the "Crossed Seven" has probably been used to identify nearly one half million head of cattle. The "Crossed Seven" has been in the Adams family for about 70 years.

DUI

Continued From Page 1

All uniformed FHP personnel, including those normally assigned to administrative duties, will patrol interstates and other major state roads during the four-day holiday period. The Labor Day holiday officially begins Friday, Sept. 2.

FHP auxiliary troopers also will volunteer to add to FHP's presence during the holiday weekend. While FHP is aiming to increase its presence to deter traffic violations, it is also enhancing its services to motorists who break down while traveling or need other assistance.

To contact the FHP to report an aggressive or impaired driver, or to request roadside help, dial *FHP (*347) from your cell phone.

Soccer sign up deadline approaches

The deadline to register for the Okeechobee County Parks & Recreation's Youth Soccer League is Thursday, Sept. 1. Parents can register Mondays-Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Parks & Recreation Office at 640 N.W. 27th Lane (in the Sports Complex). It is \$35 per child and will require a copy of the participant's birth certificate. The league consists of divisions: 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 & Under. Age determination date is Dec. 31. For more details, call 863-763-6950. Anyone interested in coaching or sponsoring a team is encouraged to call the office. If you have any outgrown or unused soccer shoes and shin guards, please bring them to the Recreation Dept. so that those who need it can make use of them.

Correction: Red Cross office still open

The article headlined, "United Feed Co-op Mill destroyed by fire," in the Friday, Aug. 26 edition of the Okeechobee News contained an error.

The article stated the American Red Cross no longer has an office in Okeechobee and that firefighters had to rely on good Samaritans and family members to supply firefighters with food and water. This was incorrect.

The American Red Cross does still have an office in Okeechobee County, and according to Red Cross spokesperson Chuck Parker, Red Cross volunteers did take water, ice and Gatoraid to the firefighters who were battling the feed mill fire. He added that they did have some difficulty getting to the scene due to the road closures caused by the fire.

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Community Events

Freedom Outreach holds fishing tournaments

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

Senator Nelson to visit Okeechobee

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson will visit the Okeechobee County Historic Courthouse Commission Chambers, 304 N.W. 2nd Street on Monday, **Aug. 29**, at 10:15 a.m. for a Okeechobee Community Leaders Meeting. For more information, please call Senator Nelson's office at 561-514-0189.

Food Stamp Assistance

Treasure Coast Food Bank will be at Welcome House Drop-in Center, 1925 Hwy 441 SE, on Monday, **Aug. 29**, from 1 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.

Firestix softball to hold tryouts this week

Chobee Firestix Fall softball will hold tryouts for four travel squads this week.

The tryouts take place Tuesday and Wednesday, **Aug. 30 and 31**, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Okeechobee Christian Church at 3055 S.E. 18th Terrace. Players attend only one day and teams will be announced on the team's Facebook page.

The four teams are for eight and under, 10 and under, 12 and under and 14 and under.

For more information call 863-634-6322 or 863-467-4900.

OCEA has first meeting

The Okeechobee County Education Association (OCEA) will have its first General Membership Meeting of the 2011-2012 school year Thursday, **Sept. 1**, at 4:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Okeechobee Freshmen Campus, 610 S.W. 2nd Ave.

All OCEA members of the instructional and classified bargaining unit are encouraged to attend. Potential members may join at the meeting. Come hear and see the teacher evaluation system of which negotiations will continue on Sept. 7, current legislative issues affecting public education employees, and get door prizes and refreshments. Now is the time to be informed! Contact Candy Walker, at 863-634-2268 for information.

Democratic Executive Council to meet

The ODEC (Okeechobee Democratic Executive Council) will have a workshop session on Thursday, **Sept. 1**, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Beef O'Brady's meeting room. All members are encouraged to attend.

Pregnancy Center to hold yard sale

The Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee, 500 N.W. 6th Street, will be having a yard sale on Friday, **Sept. 2**, only, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Center and the programs available for the community.

Labor Day party at VFW

VFW, #9528, at 29012 E. S.R. 78, will hold an "all you can eat," all-day party for \$8. The Labor Day party will start at noon and last until 5 p.m. There will be pork butts and polish sausage, a 50/50 drawing, ladies cake walk, and men's auxiliary and Amvets jail and bail. Music by Buck Wallace and True Country Band. Call 863-467-2882 for information.

ConKerr Cancer

September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. To honor this event the local chapter of ConKerr Cancer will join together with chapters nationwide to produce more pillowcases than ever before. During the entire month of September, we will participate in the Second Annual Miles of Pillowcase Smiles or "MOPS" for short. Did you know that it takes 2,112 pillowcases laid end-to-end to make one mile of pillowcase (smiles)? Okeechobee ConKerr Cancer will meet at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Ave, on Tuesday, **Sept. 6**, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

There will be sewing pillowcases for children with cancer or other life-changing illnesses. There will be door prizes and refreshments will be served. Donations of time, cash and fabric (suitable for infants through 18 years) are always welcome. If you can't sew, we also need volunteers to wash, iron and package pillowcases. Please contact Joan at 863-467-0290 for more information.

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.

David J. DeVaughn, 57

OKEECHOBEE — Loved by family and friends, David J. DeVaughn passed away after a long illness at Hamrick House. He was 57.

Memorial service will be held 10:30 a.m. on August 30, 2011, at the Church of God, 301 NE 4th Ave., Okeechobee, Fla.

Children's Services Council budget hearing set

The Children's Services Council of Okeechobee will have their first Public Budget Hearing for the year 2011-2012 on Wednesday, **Sept. 7**, at 5:01 p.m., in the Okeechobee County School Board office, Room 303 at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee.

Healthy Start to meet

The Board of Directors of the Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition will meet on Wednesday, **Sept. 7**, at 11:30 a.m., in their office, located at 575 S.W. 28th Street within the New Endeavor High School Building. This meeting is open to the public. The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition is part of a statewide network of coalitions responsible for planning and implementing services for pregnant women and infants. The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition is made up of citizens interested in promoting healthy families and healthy outcomes for babies in Okeechobee. For more information about the Coalition, please contact Executive Director, Kay Begin, at the Coalition office, 863-462-5877.

Fundraiser planned to help local dying man

Flower Petals is sponsoring a benefit for a local man with stage 4 bone cancer. His name is Jim Dwyer, formerly of JD Dog Training. Jim has lived in Okeechobee for over 16 years and is an Air Force Veteran. He is unable to work as his cancer is very aggressive. Our fundraiser consists of the antique pictures of children. The photographer will bring clothing (up to a child's size 16) and all the props. The Hampton Inn has generously donated a meeting room for the location and it will be held **Sept. 9-10**. Coupons for sittings must be purchased in advance. The cost is \$10 per family and includes a FREE 10X13 photo. Other photos will be available for purchase. Anyone wishing to do so can earn free picture packages, helping themselves and a very good cause. For more information please contact Lisa or Pat at one of the following numbers: 863-763-5051, 863-634-6985, or 863-634-7994.

Your right to reply.



We are pledged to operate our newspaper as a public trust. Fairness is extremely important to us.

We admit our errors promptly and we don't "bury" the corrections. (If error appears on the front page, that's where we print the correction.)

Sometimes people don't like what has been written about them. In those cases, we offer a "right to reply" and allow them to tell their own side of the story.

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Boat ramp reopens with improved access

A new surface at the Henry Creek Boat Ramp allows for smooth launch

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) opened the refurbished Henry Creek Boat Ramp Friday, improving access to Lake Okeechobee on public land.

Once just a slope of sand and shells, the 30-year-old boat ramp now has a surface of interlocking concrete blocks, 72 feet long by 10 feet wide. The new ramp is designed to allow for an easier and safer launch for the boating public.

New parking spaces were also added at the ramp, located in the Lake Okeechobee Rim Canal (L-47) in Okeechobee County.

The District is steadily increasing recreational access to public lands while continuing to manage them to support environmental restoration, water supply, water quality and flood control missions. At present, the District has opened 621,000 acres of land to the public. Many of these properties are in their natural state or have enhancements such as picnic tables, informational kiosks, campsites and hiking trails.

For more information on recreational opportunities throughout the District's 16-county region, visit www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.



Courtesy photo

SFWMD has revamped the ramp at Henry Creek which will allow boaters a smoother launch into the Rim Canal. The ramp has always been a popular launch point however, the once bumpy surface of shells and sand is now lined with concrete pavers smoothing out the launchpad.

Philip DeBerard
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Okeechobee Field Station welcomes Cliff Starling

The Okeechobee USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Okeechobee County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to welcome Soil Conservationist, Cliff Starling.

Mr. Starling hails from Suwannee County and joined the staff at the Okeechobee Field Office on Aug. 15. He brings a wealth of knowledge including a lifetime of experience farming and ranching. Agriculture is a part of his heritage; his family has farmed the same piece of land in Live Oak for over 100 years.

Mr. Starling holds a Bachelor of Science

degree in Plant Science and has held several different jobs in the agriculture industry including: Extension Agent, BMP Research Coordinator, and Commercial Forest Manager. He was employed with NRCS in Bonifay, Fla. for 14 months before being stationed in Okeechobee.

Mr. Starling moved to Okeechobee along with his wife, Angela, and two children, Erin and Clay, for the opportunity it afforded him to gain new experiences. He is also looking forward to putting his expertise to work for the local agricultural community.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Mr. Starling is looking forward to putting his expertise to work for the local ag community at the Okeechobee Field Office.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

Aug. 22 and 23, 2011

Cows		Med #1	Steers	Hfrs	
Breaking	65.00	70.00	200-250	180-205	140-160
Cutter	60.00	67.00	250-300	170-200	135-155
			300-350	155-180	130-145
			350-400	137-157	120-140
			400-450	118-130	112-123
			450-500	117-125	110-118
			550-600	114-120	
Bulls					
1000-1500	80.00	86.00			
1500-2000	71.00	75.00			
Monday Tuesday					
Calves	779	1371			
Cows	280	362			
Str	50	69			
Hfrs	65	71			
Bulls	15	26			
Yrlngs	40	107			
Mix	0	55			
Total	1229	2061			

Prices still pretty good and steady on calves. Some good 600# steers bringing \$1.20. Slaughter cows and bulls were \$2 lower. David Lott and Dennis Coulter topped the calf market with a high of \$2.05. Seminole Tribe of Brighton topped the cow market with a high of \$76, bought by Central. Still need rain out west to help things.

See ya next week
Jeff

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

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

Brahman Theatres III

August 26TH - September 1ST

For Info, Call 763-7202

THEATRE I: "BAD TEACHER"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 [R]

THEATRE II: "MONTE CARLO"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 [PG]

THEATRE III: "COWBOYS & ALIENS"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 [PG-13]

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Raulerson Hospital offers free smoking cessation classes

Beginning Nov. 1, Raulerson Hospital will become a tobacco-free campus. After this time, no tobacco use of any kind will be permitted — inside or outside — on hospital property. This initiative will include the elimination of designated areas outside Raulerson Hospital where employees, patients and visitors are currently permitted to use tobacco products. Nationally, more deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined, according to the American Medical Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Raulerson Hospital is providing early and frequent communication regarding this new policy. Signage has been posted, both inside and outside the hospital to help educate and inform patients, visitors and employees about the campus becoming tobacco-free. As a resource to assist anyone wishing to quit smoking, Raulerson Hospital will offer free smoking cessation classes beginning in September. The classes are free and open to employees, as well as the public. Two of Raulerson Hospital's Respiratory Department employees have been trained to lead the American Lung Association's Freedom From Smoking classes. Eight, one-hour cessation classes will occur weekly, beginning Sept. 12. The classes will be held each Monday at 5:30 p.m., in Raulerson Hospital's Dining Room. For more information or to register, contact Shawn Poland at 863-824-2757.

Raulerson Hospital's decision to go tobacco-free is not an attempt to force anyone to quit using tobacco products. Rather, the tobacco-free initiative is a concrete way to demonstrate our ongoing commitment



Special to the News/Raulerson Hospital Signs, like this one, are part of Raulerson Hospital's efforts to inform and educate patients, employees and visitors about the Nov. 1 tobacco-free policy for all Raulerson Hospital property. Raulerson Hospital will also be offering free smoking cessation classes for employees and the public, beginning in September.

to healthy living. Hospital officials are asking for community support in Raulerson's tobacco-free initiative as they move toward Nov. 1, 2011. Initiating tobacco-free facilities is not uncommon for area hospitals. Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and St. Lucie Medical Center, who along with Raulerson Hospital comprise HCA's (Hospital Corporation of America) Treasure Coast Market, are both already tobacco-free zones.

Upcoming local Blood Drives - Give blood - Save lives!

Okeechobee Blood Drive season is here again and we will kick off our fall season with a three-day blood drive to be held on Labor Day weekend.

Labor Day Weekend, Saturday, Sept. 3, Sunday, Sept. 4, Monday, Sept. 5 - buses in the Park at the Festival, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 10 - TD Bank, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 11 - Golden Corral, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday, Sept. 15 - Okeechobee High School; Friday, Sept. 16 - Health Dept., 11 a.m-5 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 16 - Seacoast, South, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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BHR man facing 11 felony charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A Buckhead Ridge man is being held in the Glades County Jail following his arrest on Okeechobee County warrants that charge him with 11 felonies.

Ryan Joseph Bosold, 22, Peach St., was arrested Thursday, Aug. 25, on felony charges of grand theft, fraudulent use of a credit card (four counts), criminal use of personal identification (four counts) and credit card



Ryan Joseph Bosold

theft (two counts).

He was also arrested on three misdemeanor counts of petit theft.

Bosold is being held without bond. It was not known as of newspaper deadline when he would be returned to Okeechobee County.

Detective Rosemary Farless, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Of-

fice (OCSO), is the lead investigator on the case and it was she who applied for and received the 14 arrest warrants.

According to the detective, the charges stem from Bosold's theft of a man's ATM card. The man, who is disabled and lives on a fixed income, noticed a large amount of money missing from his account.

Bosold allegedly used the ATM card to get \$686 from the man's account.

"When you live on a fixed income, you notice when that much money is missing from your account," said the detective.

Detective Farless said Bosold, in a three-day period, used the money to make purchases from local businesses.

The case remains under investigation, said the OCSO investigator.

Okeechobee's Most Wanted

The following persons are on Okeechobee's Most Wanted list. There are active warrants for these persons. The criteria for making Okeechobee's Most Wanted list is based on the severity of the crime in conjunction with the age of the warrant.

If you have any information on the whereabouts of any of Okeechobee's Most Wanted you can call the Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 1-800-273-TIPS (8477). If you call Treasure Coast Crimes Stoppers, you have the option of remaining anonymous. You can also receive a reward if the information results in an arrest.



Timothy Henderson
2001

• Timothy Henderson, 37, is a white male, 160 lbs., with blue eyes. He may have shaved his head. He is wanted on a charge

of aggravated battery with a weapon (knife). Jarrod Neal

Timothy Henderson
2007

He is wanted on charge of violation of probation (possession of cocaine.)



Jarrod Neal

If you see this person, do not approach him. Call the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 863-763-3134.

• Jarrod Neal, is a black male, 155 lbs., 6'0, with black hair and brown eyes.

Local Red Cross seeks disaster volunteers

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

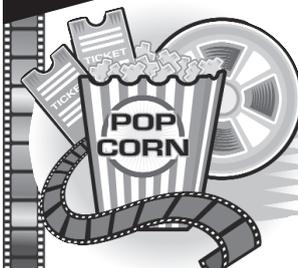
All necessary training is free of charge, and a background check will be required. If you would like to give of your time and talents to help your local community residents in times of disaster, please call your Okeechobee Branch office at 863-763-2488.

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Man reportedly caught with pills, pill crusher

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man was arrested on a felony drug charge after the vehicle in which he was a passenger was stopped for running a stop sign.



Jeremy D. Jones

Jeremy Dustin Jones, 35, S.E. 28th St., was arrested Thursday, Aug. 25, on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (roxycodone) and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Jones is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail in lieu of \$5,500 bond.

An arrest report by a detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force stated that a blue Ranger pick-up truck was stopped for failing to stop at a stop sign. The driver of the Ford truck reportedly gave the detective

permission to search the vehicle.

During that search, the detective's report stated that a pill crusher and half of a plastic straw were found near the rear passenger seat. The report went on to indicate that Jones was sitting in the area where these items were found.

According to the report, the detective then found five small round blue pills in the crusher. The pills, added the detective, were later identified as roxycodone.

The detective went on to state in the report that another roxycodone tablet was found in a cigarette pack that was lying on the floor of the truck.

During Jones' interview, he reportedly told the detective that he bought the roxy-codone pills for \$18 each.

The driver of the truck was issued a traffic citation for failure to stop at a stop sign, stated the detective.

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).

- Orrin Tell Wilkerson, 33, N.W. 266th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 22 by Deputy Howard Pickering on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with grand theft. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Lance Hank Tommie, 26, N.W. 39th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 23 by Officer Charles Green on a Broward County warrant charging him with felony battery and culpable negligence. He is being held without bond.

- Steven Mitchell Alderete, 23, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 23 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on a DOC warrant charging him with violation of probation - grand theft motor vehicle and violation

of probation - resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. He is being held without bond.

- Jamie Douglas, 38, S.E. 27th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 23 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee warrant charging him with dealing in stolen property. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Andrew Buzan, 20, N.W. 64th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 23 by Deputy Arlene Durbin on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with introduction of contraband. He is being held without bond.

- Nathaniel Brown Jr., 28, West Fifth Terrace, Pahokee, was arrested Aug. 24 by Deputy DeMarcus Dixon on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with giving false verification of ownership to a secondary metal recycler. His bond was set at \$5,000.

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.

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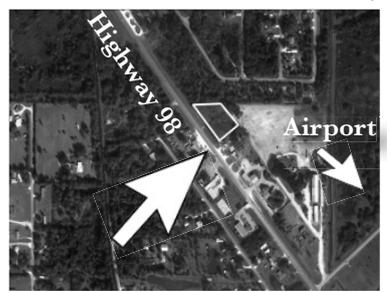
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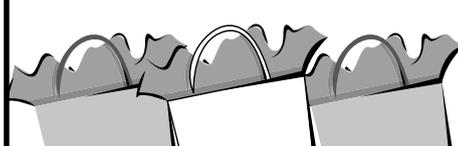
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Public Notice

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FACILITIES MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT CUSTODIAL SERVICES BID NO. 2011-20
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Notice is hereby given that the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners, hereby requests sealed bids to provide the following:
SCOPE:
• Provide custodial services for one or more of seven (7) Okeechobee County office buildings located throughout the county. The contractor will provide all personnel, cleaning materials, cleaning equipment and supplies, including but not limited to trash bags, soaps, polish, cleaners, toilet tissue and paper towels. One (1) hour emergency response time required. Some locations will require one (1) full time on site employee.
• The bid will be awarded for a three (3) year period and can be renewed for up to two (2) additional one (1) year terms subject to the agreement of both parties.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE BID AND WILL BE USED TO EVALUATE BIDS:
• Cost (building bid forms must be completed)
• Cost per square foot (to allow for additions or deletions of areas to be cleaned)
• Number of personnel to be used for cleaning
• References
• Emergency cleaning services contact phone number
• List of anticipated subcontracted work and vendor name

Please provide bid on County provided bid form in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the proposer, and the words "OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CUSTODIAL SERVICES BID 2011-20" marked clearly on the outside. Upon award of contract, successful bidder will be required to furnish: Certificates of insurance coverage's with minimum \$100,000 coverage for Workers Compensation, \$300,000 minimum commercial general liability coverage and \$300,000 minimum automobile liability coverage, with "Okeechobee County" listed as an additional insured, copies of licenses of all contractors involved in project and a satisfactory background check for all personnel. It is anticipated that these services will go into effect on October 1, 2011.

For more information on the buildings and cleaning frequencies and to pick up a bid packet, contact Tony Ard, Facilities Maintenance Director at (863) 357-7007.

The sealed bids shall be delivered to:

Okeechobee County Historic Courthouse
304 North West 2nd Street, Room 222
Okeechobee, FL 34972
Deadline: September 12, 2011 at 2 p.m.
Bids received after that time will be unopened.

Okeechobee County accepts no responsibilities for any expense related to preparation or delivery of proposals, reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive errors or informalities and to accept the proposal which, in its judgment, best serves the County's needs.

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896217 ON 8/28/2011

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Race To The Top and Senate Bill 736 Negotiations

The Okeechobee County School Board and Okeechobee County Education Association #1604 will resume negotiations at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2011, regarding the effects of Race To The Top and Senate Bill 736 on teacher evaluation, and will continue as needed on Friday, September 9, at 4:00 p.m., and Friday, September 16, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. All sessions will be held at the School Board District Office at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue and are open to the public.

Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools
895981 ON 8/28/2011

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Coaches stress conditioning for OHS griders

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

It has not been a coincidence that Okeechobee football coaches have spent a lot of time working on tackling and conditioning this summer.

Once again it appears Okeechobee will have a number of players that must play on both offense and defense and that means they have got to be in excellent shape.

Coordinator Rex Erwin said he has some experience on the defensive squad, and he also likes the fact that Okeechobee has some size up front.

Thor Harden, Cody Walker and John Kemp have the most experience, and are going to be counted on to be the leaders of the defense this year.

Add to that trio talented guys like Al Morris, D.J. Washington and Eddie Neal and Okeechobee appears to have a solid corps of defenders.

"It is coming along pretty well," Erwin said, "Some of the kids have really progressed."

Erwin and the staff put in a new defense this spring and it did well enough to hold a speedy Moore Haven team to 12 points. Still the coaches know they must build depth and have to find players who can give the starters a rest.

He said players like Seth Hedrick and Cade Stokes have earned starting jobs on defense and have really impressed the coaches this summer.

Jose Santibanez, a starter at linebacker last year, has moved to safety. He appears to have transitioned well to the new position.

Other players to look out for are Alex Guido, Will Jackson and a handful of others. One starting position at corner back was still up for grabs in the final days of summer camp.

"I think things are coming along. We have some new kids with a lot to learn but I feel we'll be a good defense. We will bring pressure and rush the passer pretty well," Erwin said.

The defensive line will be Harden, Walker, Hedrick, and Guido. Starters at linebacker include Kemp, Stokes, and Raul Piedra. Secondary starters include D.J. Washington, Eddie Neal, Santibanez, and Al Morris.

Jack Radebaugh could earn time at corner back when he recovers from his hand injury.

"I think the group that played in the spring have stayed together and have worked hard to get ready for the season," Erwin added.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Kicker Raul Piedra has impressed with his accuracy on extra point attempts at Brahman football practice.



Fundamentals, tackling, discipline and conditioning are the main focus of Brahman gridiron coach Myron Jackson during practices this month at OHS.



Quarterback Jack Radebaugh is on the mend as he recovers from hand surgery.



Al Morris has concentrated on his hands and catching passes at the OHS football practices this summer.



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OHS seniors ready to lead volleyball team

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Three seniors who have gotten used to winning matches hope to keep that habit this year as Okeechobee High School begins their volleyball season.

Maranda Serrano is a two-year starter, while Paige McCrary and Rebekah Bryan will earn four-year letters for the Brahms this year.

All of them will be counted on not only for their talent to hit the volleyball, but for other assets like leadership, building camaraderie, and their instincts and confidence.

"I'm excited and I look forward to this season," Serrano said, "I think I can be a leader on the team. Everybody else on the team is younger."

Serrano said summer practice was called a family reunion by the girls because they get along so well and enjoy being with each other. He said the new players on the squad were welcomed with open arms.

Serrano started to play volleyball five years ago when she started the seventh grade. She decided to try out for the team, made the squad, and stuck with the sport.

She knows this year will be tougher than ever because Okeechobee is no longer in Class 4A, but have jumped to 6A where the schools are a lot better.

"Martin County will definitely be a challenge. There are a lot of difficult teams on our schedule this year," she added.

Serrano said while her main goal is to win, she also wants to help the younger girls get better so they can compete in future seasons.

McCrary is a four-year letterman on the volleyball squad. She said this will be her last year in school but she thinks the team will do very well.

"We are pretty well put together because we know how each other work and where everybody puts the ball. It's a lot easier that way," she noted.

Yearling Coach Bruce Conrad urged her to try out for the volleyball squad when she entered the seventh grade and Paige took



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Okeechobee High School volleyball team members (left to right), Maranda Serrano, Rebekah Bryan and Paige McCrary expect to lead another strong volleyball squad to the post season this year.

the advice and really enjoyed the sport. She said when she was younger the older girls helped her and now is her chance to return the favor.

"The younger girls look up to us a lot. I will be a good role model for them," she said.

Bryan said volleyball has become a tradition for her family. Her older sister was a four-year letter winner for OHS and earned a scholarship to play at Polk Community College. Unfortunately Katie fell off a horse and broke her back and couldn't play in college. Her aunt is a volleyball coach and even her younger sister plays volleyball.

Bryan said she hopes to avoid injury and earn a college scholarship next year, "I have played basically my whole life. We all worked hard this summer so I think we will do great."

Bryan said her goal is to win another district title and defeat Martin County, who finished second in the state in 2011, and was state champion in 2010.

"We are bound and determined to beat them. They are a very hard team. This year things will be harder in 6A but we'll be ready," she concluded.

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