



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No.109

Sunday, September 11, 2011

75¢ Plus tax

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## Quilter recalls Sept. 11

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

People express their patriotism in various way. Janet Engwiller of Basswood expressed her patriotism in the form of a unique quilt. It started out as a tribute to Sept. 11, 2011 but the theme was expanded to contain other patriotic ideas.

"I've made a lot of quilts through the years," she said. "I always try to match up the quilt to the person."

It could be said that this particular quilt is matched to Uncle Sam.

"I am a product of World War II," Mrs. Engwiller said. "I love this country." She was six years old when World War II started.

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Okeechobee News/D.Hamilton  
Janet Engwiller's quilt has a patriotic theme. One panel (below left) depicts the World Trade Center towers before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Another (below right) shows the firemen raising a flag over the wreckage.



## Pair pass bad checks

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

A detective is looking for clues as to the identities of a man and woman who are wanted for questioning in connection with the cashing of a counterfeit check at a local supermarket.

Detective Susan Morrison, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), said an unidentified black man on Tuesday, Aug. 30, asked a clerk at the

See CHECKS — Page 14



Special to the Okeechobee News/OCSO  
Do you know this person? Surveillance photos show the woman who reportedly cashed bogus checks.



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Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

## Students of the Week

Seminole Elementary would like to congratulate their Students of the Week for the week of Aug. 26: Foy Cunningham, Michael Edwards, Quanaisia Futch, Gracie Miller, Brandon Kennedy, Reyes Rodriguez, Leo Pascarella, Luiz Reynoso, Joshua Henry, Daisy Campos, Lita Landaverde, Danesa Casares, Karla Alderman, Jaden Arnold, Marc Rediker, Marlene Huerta, Dakota Spells, Adrianna Beltron, Isabel Avila, Zia McKinnon, Chris Crum, Yasmin Abonza, Megan Burns, Francisco Delalto, Ariana Cason and Wyatt Cannon.

## IRSC offers automotive careers skills programs

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Okeechobee News/Diana Whitehall

## Best parade entry

Thursday, Sept. 8, Kiwanis meeting held at The Lodge at the Lake Family Restaurant highlighted the presentation of the award trophy for first place in the Labor Day Parade to John Creasman, Frank DeCarlo and J.D. Mixon for their Adam Bryant Minimal Regatta float. The trophy was presented by Teresa Chandler, president/founder of The B.R.A.T. (Building Relationships Among Teens) Club and Kiwanis member. The boat race, set for Oct. 8, will raise money for a scholarship. For more information, call J.D. Mixon at 863-634-1778 or Adam Homer at 863-801-0999.

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# County to hold first public hearing on budget

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Citizens will get a chance to voice their opinions on the proposed county budget Tuesday night. That is when Okeechobee County Commissioners will hold the first of two required public hearings before final adoption of the budget.

Commissioners are also scheduled to take the first formal step toward adoption of the budget by approving a proposed millage rate, a proposed budget and final rates for fire, EMS and solid waste collections assessments.

The proposed millage rate is 9 mills. This rate is calculated to bring 4.09 percent more revenue into the county than last years millage rate. However, the final millage rate, to be adopted after the second public hearing, will probably be lower. One mil equals \$1 in property taxes for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The fire assessment will remain the same

## If you go ...

**What: Public hearing on the county budget**

**When: 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13**

**Where: Commission Chambers, Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 N.W. Second St.**

The EMS assessment rate will also stay the same. Individual dwelling units will be assessed \$74, hotels, motels and RV parks will stay at \$2 per space. Commercial properties will pay \$0.06 per square foot and industrial/warehouse property will pay \$0.01 per square foot. However, the residential solid waste assessment will increase from \$187.40 to \$193.02 per residential unit.

The final action on the agenda will be to schedule a time and date for the second public hearing before adoption of a final millage rate and budget.

**Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com).**

## City code board to consider fine reduction

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

In addition to the six other cases to be heard by the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board Tuesday night, the board will also consider reducing the fine of Janet Doster who accrued a fine on her property in the 700 block of S.E. Tenth Avenue.

Ronnie and Charlene Jacobs, owners of property at 311 S.E. Eighth Drive, and Williams Grigsby, Jr., owner of property at 1100 S.R. 70 E. were cited because of the lack of cleaning and beautification on their properties.

The Church of God Of Prophecy, at 102 N.W. Tenth St. was cited for lack of a building permit.

Anita Leverett will have to answer to charges of junk on her 804 N.W. Twelfth St. property.

Robert and Melody Jennings were cited for a public nuisance on the 810 S.E. Eighth Street property.

In addition to public nuisance Matthew Williams was cited for general cleaning and beautification because of the condition of his 1103 S.E Eighth Ave. property.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Ten years service

**At the Thursday, Sept. 8 meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission, Chairperson Margaret Helton presented Billie Freeman with a plaque for 10 years service to the county. Mr. Freeman was born in Indianapolis, Ind. His family moved to Okeechobee in February 1976. He worked for his father in their citizens band shop for several years. Mr. Freeman obtained employment with Okeechobee County in the Cemetery department from 1978 to 1983. He worked several positions before coming to Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina in April of 2000 as a part-time security technician. His position became full-time in May, 2001.**

**If you go ...**  
**What: City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board**  
**When: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 13**  
**Where: Council Chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.**

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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](http://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!*

### FCAT Tests

- Schools run on money and the powers that be have demanded that if you can't produce you don't get money to run your school. Therefore, they teach to the test we are witnessing. The students have way more needs than we did growing up, and the county must provide for them with less state and government money than we have ever had before, but they are expected to produce more than ever before as in the FCAT scores. As a side note, many parents don't value an education as much as their forefathers and do not help the students succeed in the system that is stacked against them and the teachers.

- The "No Child Left Behind" Act/Law is a failure and will eventually be repealed. We have a lot of good leaders and teachers in our local education system here in Okeechobee. Let them set standards and teach our kids. Anytime the Federal Government steps in they seem to always screw things up. Not really sure I know what the hell I am talking about but it does sound good. If our teachers were making \$60k to \$70k a year they should have to learn to cope and deal with these undisciplined kids. Well... they do not make that much! If these kids can't behave in school, send these brats home and let the parents home school them.

### Politics

- I wouldn't vote for any candidate that said "I will vote strictly based on democratic/republican party platforms." A good politician will research the issue at hand and make his/her decision based on what they truly believe is the best for the residents of their district. Republicans disagree with other Republicans and Democrats with other Democrats all the time. Otherwise, we could just have one member of Congress, or just one commissioner and the residents could vote Republican or Democrat and that person could easily make all the decisions based on whichever party got elected.

- We should do away with the Republican and Democratic parties. We should have people in congress who represent America. No titles! No parties! Have each politician cast their vote for the best idea/law in America's best interest, no matter who came up with the law/idea first. The American people need to vote for the best candidate and stop worrying about voting out of your party. We need to get away from the Republican vs. Democrat attitude. They keep fighting each other and nothing gets done. Meanwhile the American family and our country is hurting. At what point do you stop the political games and start making America great again?

### Flags

- Someone should take down the tattered flags flying around Okeechobee. It is a disgrace to see someone flying a flag like that. Please retire the old flags and replace them with respect.

- Tattered flags should be replaced and the old ones should be given to the American Legion for proper disposal. The Legion collects old torn up or faded flags and retires them with a special ceremony. Also, I was disappointed that a lot of people did not stand up when the color guard carried the flag past them in the parade today. Show some respect for the flag. It is a symbol of something that a lot of very brave men have given their lives for so that you could enjoy your freedom. At least have the respect to stand up when it passes.

- Another violation of the proper flag etiquette is to fly more than one American flag. People who put multiple American flags in front of their homes or businesses are not showing proper respect for the flag. It is not to be used as a decoration. One flag is appropriate and respectful. Multiple flags is a misuse.

### Obama's speech

- "It will not add to the deficit." THE FACT: It's hard to see how the program would not raise the deficit over the next year or two because most of the envisioned spending cuts and tax increases are designed to come later rather than now, when they could jeopardize the fragile recovery. Deficits are calculated for individual years. The accumulation of years of deficit spending has produced a national debt headed toward \$15 trillion. Perhaps Obama meant to say that, in the long run, his hoped-for programs would not further increase the national debt, not annual deficits.

## Reflections from the pulpit

### It's A Miracle!

**By Rev. Jim E. Benton**  
Pastor at Faith Farm

Prior to moving to Okeechobee, I worked in Newark, N.J. as the director of a Homeless Mission. I was there for five years and we saw God do amazing things! Among the many miracles that we saw was a financial miracle that brought us back from the brink of fiscal ruin.

When I arrived in Newark, the mission was about \$500,000 in debt and we were losing about \$200,000 a year. At the end of my first year, I cut the annual deficit to \$100,000 but we were still losing money and now were \$600,000 in debt. At this rate, we would be out of business before we could turn things around.

In a prayer meeting with other staff, we decided that our best course of action was to pray for a miracle. So we did! We prayed that God would give us \$1 million! That is what we needed in order to pay off our debt and to get us to the place where we could do some things to generate funds.

Two weeks after we prayed, I received a notice in the mail that Lillian Hinsberg passed away and left us some money in her

will. I went to my computer to see what Lillian had given in the past to see if that was an indication of what we might expect. But I was disappointed. Ms. Hinsberg only gave us \$252.80 over a 10 year period; approximately \$25 bucks a year. Oh well, perhaps she had some money tucked away somewhere.

The next week I received a copy of her will and it stated that we would get 25 percent of the remainder of her estate after all bequests had been doled out. Then I read that if the estate is worth less than \$5 million, we get nothing.

To make a long story short, Ms. Hinsberg died at the age of 102. If she had died at 101, we would likely have gotten nothing. If she would have died at 103, we would have likely gotten nothing because much of her estate was in blue chip stocks. The stocks matured during this very specific time in 2007. So we got \$1.7 million! We got our miracle ... and more! Enough to pay the debt, improve the facility and invest in some ideas to bring in more funds! It was truly a miracle.

God is still in the miracle business. I know, it happened to me!

Do you need a miracle? Ask God to meet your need and don't be surprised when He does!

## Okeechobee Forecast

**Today:** Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 93. Calm wind becoming east between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Tonight:** Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. East southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

### Extended Forecast

**Monday:** Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 89. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

**Monday Night:** Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 71. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Tuesday:** Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 90. East northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Tuesday Night:** Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. Northeast wind around 5 mph.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Nat. Preparedness Month

**At their Thursday, Sept. 6, meeting, Okeechobee County Commissioners proclaimed the month of September to be National Preparedness Month in the county. Chairperson Margaret Helton presented the proclamation to Interim Public Safety Director David McCain.**

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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### Staff

**Editor:** Katrina Elsen  
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# County resolution memorializes Sept. 11 anniversary

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, JOINING THE NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

WHEREAS, the governing body of Okeechobee County expresses their support of the United States Senate regarding coming together as a Nation and ceasing all work or other activity for a moment of remembrance beginning at 1 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on September 11, 2011, in honor of the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks committed against the United States on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, at 8:46 a.m., on September 11, 2001, hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the upper portion of the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, New York; and

WHEREAS, 17 minutes later, at 9:03 a.m., hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center; and

WHEREAS, at 9:37 a.m., the west wall of the Pentagon was hit by hijacked American Airlines Flight 77, the impact of which caused immediate and catastrophic damage to the headquarters of the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, at approximately 10 a.m., the passengers and crew of hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 acted heroically to retake control of the airplane and thwart the taking of additional American lives by crashing the airliner in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and, in doing so, gave their lives to save countless others; and

WHEREAS, nearly 3,000 innocent civilians were killed in the heinous attacks of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of individuals narrowly escaped the attacks at the Pentagon and World Trade Center and, as witnesses to this tragedy, are forever changed; and

WHEREAS, countless fire departments, police departments, first responders, governmental officials, workers, emergency medical personnel, and volunteers responded immediately and heroically to those horrific events; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department of New York suffered 343 fatalities on September 11, 2001, the largest loss of life of any emergency response agency in United States history; and

WHEREAS, the Port Authority Police Department suffered 37 fatalities in the attacks, the largest loss of life of any police force in United States history in a single day; and

WHEREAS, the New York Police Department suffered 23 fatalities as a result of the terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, the impact of that day on public health continues through 2011, as nearly 90,000 people are at risk of or suffering from negative health effects as a result of the events of September 11, 2001, including 14,000 workers and 2,400 community residents who are sick, and tens of thousands of others whose health is being monitored; and

WHEREAS, 10 years later, the people of the United States and people around the world continue to mourn the tremendous loss of innocent life on that fateful day; and

WHEREAS, 10 years later, thousands of men and women in the United States Armed Forces remain in harm's way defending the United States against those who seek to threaten the United States; and

WHEREAS, on the 10th anniversary of this tragic day, the thoughts of the people of the United States are with all of the victims of the events of September 11, 2001, and their families; and

WHEREAS, the lives of Americans were changed forever on September 11, 2001, when events threatened the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Congress and the President joined together to designate September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance under the Serve America Act (Public Law 111-13; 123 Stat. 1460); and

WHEREAS, in September 2009 and 2010, President Obama issued Proclamation 8413 (74 Fed. Reg. 47045) and Proclamation 8559 (75 Fed. Reg. 56463) proclaiming September 11, 2009, and September 11, 2010, respectively, as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance; and

WHEREAS, September 11 will never, and should never, be just another day in the hearts and minds of all people of the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of Okeechobee County:

(1) Recognizes September 11, 2011, as a day of solemn commemoration of the events of September 11, 2001, and a day to come together as a Nation; and

(2) Offers its deepest and most sincere condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the innocent victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and

(3) Honors the heroic service, actions, and sacrifices of first responders, law enforcement personnel, State and local officials, volunteers, and countless others who aided the innocent victims of those attacks and, in doing so, bravely risked and often gave their own lives; and

(4) Recognizes the valiant service, actions, and sacrifices of United States personnel, including members of the United States Armed Forces, the United States intelligence agencies, the United States diplomatic service, homeland security and law enforcement personnel, and their families, who have given so much, including their lives and well-being, to support the cause of freedom and defend the security of the United States; and

(5) Reaffirms that the people of the United States will never forget the challenges our country endured on and since September 11, 2001, and will work tirelessly to defeat those who attacked the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on the 10th anniversary of this tragic day in United States history the governing body of the Okeechobee County calls upon all of the people and institutions of the United States to observe a moment of remembrance on

September 11, 2011, including (i) media outlets; (ii) houses of worship; (iii) military organizations; (iv) veterans organizations; (v) airlines; (vi) airports; (vii) railroads; (viii) sports teams; (ix) the Federal Government; (x) State and local governments; (xi) police, fire, and other public institutions; (xii) educational institutions; (xiii) businesses; and (xiv) other public and private institutions; and

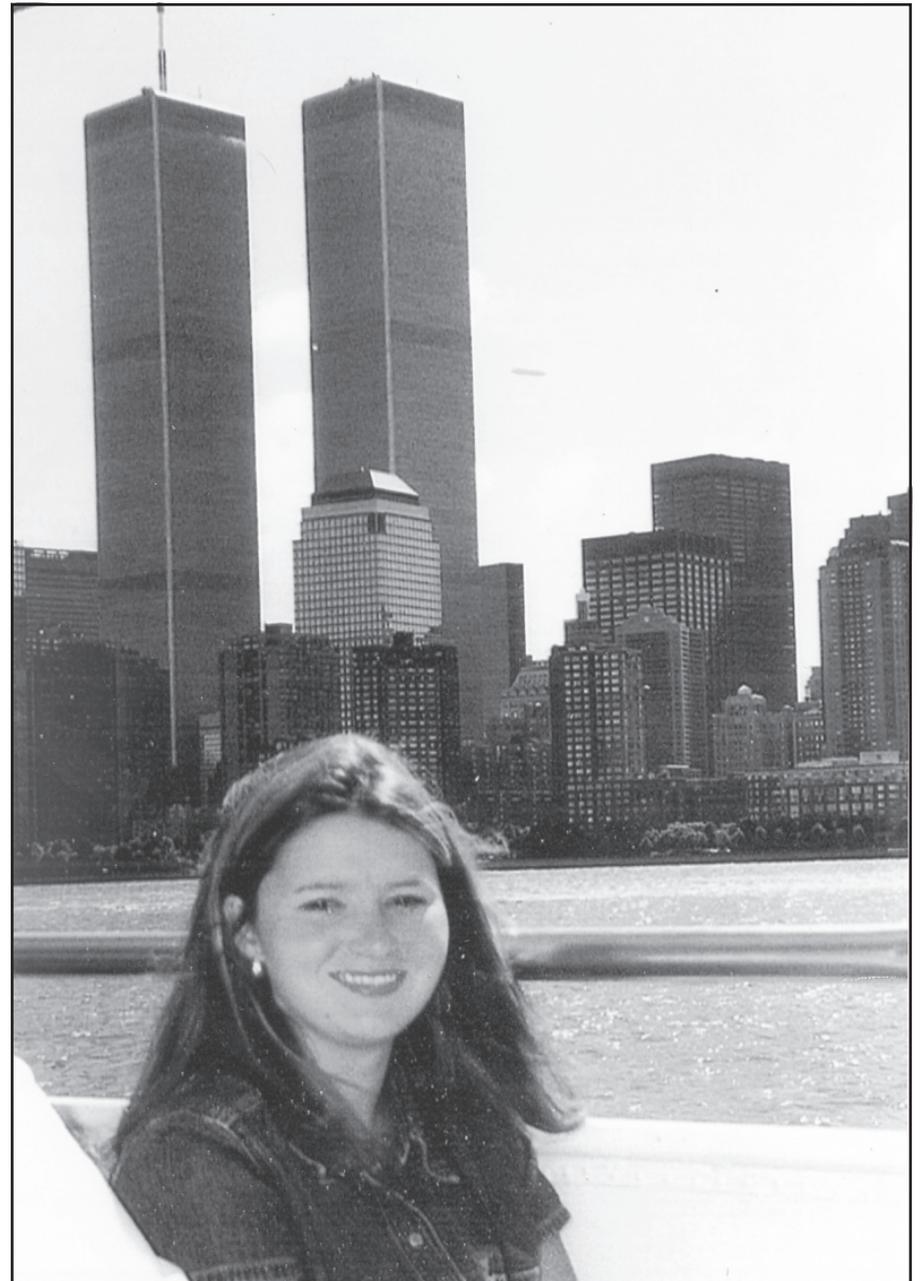
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of Okeechobee County encourages the observance of the moment of remembrance to last for 1 minute beginning at

1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time by, the maximum extent practicable ceasing all work or other activity; and marking the moment in an appropriate manner, including by ringing bells, blowing whistles, or sounding sirens.

That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

RESOLVED this 8th day of September, 2011.

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



Special to the Okeechobee News

## A special memory

This photo of Heather Williamson Rucks was taken in June 1999 on a graduation trip with her grandparents, Sonny and Betty Williamson. In this background the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center are seen dominating the skyline. The picture now has special meaning since these are the towers destroyed by an attack using hijacked airliners as weapons. Their presence in this photography is a somber reminder of that terrible event.

## Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing [obits@newszap.com](mailto: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](http://www.newszap.com).

### Carolyn Gustin, 69

SEBRING, Fla. — Carolyn Gustin, 69 years old, went to meet her Lord, Sept. 4, 2011, in Sebring at Highlands County Regional Hope Hospice after an extended illness.

She was born Dec. 3 1941, to Arthur and Wilma (Plummer) Stanley in Anderson, Ind. She was married to Joseph Gustin on Dec. 21, 1971, they were married 41 years and he was the love of her life. She retired



from SCM in Marion Indiana and came to Okeechobee in 1990. She has worked for OkeeTantie campground for 12 years. She was a wonderful wife and mother. She loved all of her grandchildren and especially appreciated the loving care from her great-granddaughters Savanna and Heather throughout her extended illness.

She enjoyed her family fishing and bingo for many years.

She is survived by mother, Wilma Knopp of Okeechobee; seven children, Dawn (Jerry Fortune) of Batesville, Ark., Beverly (Bill Swallows) of Georgetown, S.C., Janet (Donald Madray) of Okeechobee, Sherry Zion of Gas City, Ind., Dee Dee (Greg Scott) and Theodore Gustin, both from Marion, Ind., and Joey (Donna) Gustin of Seagoville, Texas; two sisters, Charlene (Bud Keefer) of Okeechobee, and Nichole (Ted Dorsey) of Middletown, Ind.; 11 grandchildren, Carolyn (Julio Castro) Travis Goff, Teia (TJ) Gentrey, Brian Elbert II, Willie Breedlove II, Amanda (Gary George), Shiann Breedlove, Jodi (Jason Gaine), Billi Jo (Charlie Newton), Michelle (Brad Cantley), Jessica (Jason long), Donald Cady, Michael (Tiffany) Rocker, Tish Gustin, Brandon (Polly) Peterson, Katie Scott, Adam (Kelly) Zion, Brandon (Charity) Gustin, Jamie Gustin, and Nicki (Joe) Butler; and 36 great-grandchildren. Carolyn also had a great-great-grandchild, Zoey.

She was preceded in death by husband, Joseph Gustin of 41 years; two special fathers, Willie (Pete) Emerson, and Donald Knopp; brother, Jack and sister-in-law Dixie Stanley, and their son Kevin Stanley; and sister and brother-in-law, Judy and Jim Miller; and son-in-law, Bobby Zion.

Memorial services will be held Monday, Sept. 12, 2011, for family members.

### Erio Ochoa, 48

OKEECHOBEE — Erio Ochoa, age 48, died Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011.

Visitation will be held at Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011, at 1 p.m. with a service following at 2 p.m. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

Friends may send online condolences at [www.buxtonseawinds.com](http://www.buxtonseawinds.com).

All arrangements are under the care and direction of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home, 3833 SE 18th Terrace, Okeechobee, Florida.

### Sergio Fernando Valbuena, 33

STUART — Sergio Fernando Valbuena, 33, of Stuart, died Sept. 8, 2011.

He was born in Bogota, Colombia and had been a resident of Stuart for eight years, having moved from West Palm Beach. He had been a co-owner of Great Florida Insurance franchise in Okeechobee.

He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Universidad Externado de Colombia in 2001.

Survivors include his wife, Paola Valbuena of Stuart; his parents, Fernando and Pilar Valbuena of Port St. Lucie; mother, Nely Benito of Long Island, N.Y.; brother, Esteban Felipe Valbuena of Port St. Lucie; sister, Natalia Valbuena of Port St. Lucie; and grandmothers, Julia Rodriguez of Colombia and Anais Adela Martinez of Colombia.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Diego Arturo Valbuena in 2009.

Visitation will be 1 - 9 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011 at Forest Hills Funeral Homes, Palm City Chapel. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10 a.m., Sept. 12, 2011 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. Interment will follow in Forest Hills Memorial Park, Palm City.

A guest registry may be signed on [foresthills-palmscityflorida.com](http://foresthills-palmscityflorida.com).



### Robert T. Dailey, 53

OKEECHOBEE — Robert T. Dailey, age 53, died Friday, Sept. 2, 2011. Burial will take place in Nicholasville, Ky.

Friends may send online condolences at [www.buxtonseawinds.com](http://www.buxtonseawinds.com).

Local arrangements are under the care and direction of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home, 3833 SE 18th Terrace, Okeechobee, Florida.

### Sergio A. Salgado, 30

TRINIDAD — Sergio A. Salgado, age 30, died Sept. 1, 2011, in Trinidad.

Services were held Friday, Sept. 9, 2011, at the Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

All arrangements were under the care and direction of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home, 3833 SE 18th Terrace, Okeechobee, Florida.

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### Lawrence 'Butch' T. Fields, 66

OKEECHOBEE — Lawrence "Butch" T. Fields, 66, died at home on Monday, Sept. 5, 2011.

A resident of Okeechobee for the past 12 years, he was a member of the Treasure Island Baptist Church. He loved being outdoors deep sea fishing and riding on his pontoon boat. Playing Santa at the American Legion Christmas party was a favorite activity. Family reunions provided him a great deal of enjoyment. During his lifetime he was employed in the construction industry, and held a 42 year membership in the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 925.

During the Viet Nam War, Butch proudly served his country as a US Marine. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart and was 100% disabled due to his service. He held lifetime membership with the American Legion, the VFW, the DAV, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

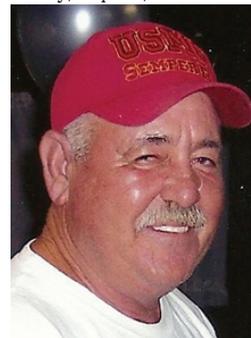
He was preceded in death by his son, Michael Lawrence Fields; a daughter, Teresa Lynn Fields; brothers, Billy Joe Fields, James Wylie Fields, and Edward Curtis Fields; and a sister, Neva Joyce Fields.

Survivors include his wife of 29 years, Sherri Nieland Fields; brother, Roger Dale (Merrill) Fields of Blanchard, La.; sisters, Kathy Lynn (Robert) Roy of Blanchard, La., Reba Ann Ramsey of Huntington, Texas; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Visiting hours will be held from 4 until 6 p.m. at the Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011, with the service on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011, at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at Ft. Drum Cemetery.

Friends may send online condolences at [www.buxtonseawinds.com](http://www.buxtonseawinds.com).

All arrangements are under the care and direction of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home, 3833 SE 18th Terrace, Okeechobee, Florida.



### Jeanne Laurel Branstetter, 70

OKEECHOBEE — Jeanne Laurel Branstetter, 70, of Okeechobee, and formerly of Boca Raton, passed away Sept. 8, 2011, at the Hamrick Home.

She was born Feb. 22, 1941, in Emmetsburg, Iowa, to the late Wilbur and Ruth Raper. She came to Okeechobee from Boca Raton in 2000. She lovingly provided daycare to nine grandchildren in their early lives. She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of V.F.W. Post 10539.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Kay Grau.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Robert L. Branstetter Jr.; brother, Mick Raper (Delores); twin brother, Jerry Raper (Marge); sister, Gayle Goeders (Dennis); sister-in-law, Linda Papy (Russ); four children, Kendyl Arnold (Doug), Todd Branstetter (Elizabeth), Tammy Schmidt (Steven) and Robyn Harris (Jeff); and eleven grandchildren, Ryan, Steven Kelly, Brittney, Jennifer Laurel, Andres, Jackson, Austin, Zachary, Christopher, Jeffrey James "JJ" and Jameson.

Memorial services will be 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, at Advent Lutheran Church, 300 East Yamato Road, Boca Raton. Celebration of life services will be 3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011, at the V.F.W., 3912 HWY 441, Okeechobee.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, PO Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973 or Matthew 25 Ministry, PO Box 5690, Lake Worth, FL 33466-5690.

Friends may sign the guest book at [www.BassoOkeechobeeFH.com](http://www.BassoOkeechobeeFH.com)

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

Search obituaries nationally at  
<http://www.legacy.com>

## Community Events

### Family Fun Fling

The First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. will have their annual Family Fun Fling on Sunday, **Sept. 11**, from noon to 3 p.m. There will be hamburgers and hot dogs, water slides, face painting, horse shoes, kiddie games and pools, spin art and snow cones. For more information call the church office at 863-763-4021.

### Food Stamp

#### Assistance available

Treasure Coast Food Bank will be at Welcome House Drop-in Center, 1925 Hwy 441 SE, on Monday, **Sept. 12**, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 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.

### VFW to hold Bingo on Monday evenings

VFW Post 9528, in Buckhead Ridge, on Highway 78 W., will have Bingo on Monday evenings beginning **Sept. 12**, at 6 p.m. This is in addition to the usual Thursday Bingo starting at 1 p.m. and our Sunday night five-card Bingo starting at 5:15 p.m.

### 4-H Club plans to meet

The Udder Bunch 4-H Club will hold their first meeting of the 2010-2011 on Monday, **Sept. 12**, at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center on Hwy. 98. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please call 863-610-2946.



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# Woman charged in theft of computer

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

A woman is being held on bond in the county jail following her arrest on charges that she was allegedly trying to leave a local department store with a computer without paying for it.

Stefenie Marie Morgan, 26, S.W. 21st Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Thursday, Sept. 8, on a felony charge of grand theft. She was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of criminal mischief.

Morgan is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.

An arrest report by Officer Ryan Holroyd, of the Okeechobee City Police Department



**Stefenie Marie Morgan**

(OCPD), stated Walmart surveillance video showed Morgan using snips to cut the security alarm off a Toshiba Satellite laptop computer.

On the video, the officer stated that a woman could be seen snipping off the alarm then placing the alarm under some clothing, continued the report. The woman then laid the snips on a shelf and walked away. Officer Holroyd said she picked up the aviation snips after she had picked out the laptop.

The woman, stated the officer, walked out of the store without paying for the \$428 computer.

The security alarm was valued at \$25, added Officer Holroyd.

According to the officer's report Morgan had her two children with her while in the store. After Morgan was arrested, the children were released into the custody of another adult, Officer Holroyd stated.

## Electric bill assistance for seniors

Okeechobee Senior Services can help pay electric bills, Past due/Final Notice, for low income residents age 60 and over or those who have an elderly person living in the household. The organization is also purchasing window unit air conditioners for those who qualify. Applicants must be FPL or Glades Electric customers living Okeechobee County and be over age 60 or have a 60 year or older person residing in the household. Please call 863-462-5180 for more information and to make an appointment.

## 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).

- James Henry Wright, 53, N.E. Second St., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 8 by Deputy Brian Cross on a felony charge of possession of cocaine and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$5,500.

- Wanda Jean Oshields, 25, S.E. 37th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 8 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with felony pet theft. Her bond was set at \$5,000.

- Jarrod Jamell Neal, 25, N.E. 15th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 8 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an amended Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - possession of cocaine. He is being held without bond.

- Burt Tomlinson, 57, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 8 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with felony battery. His bond was set at \$20,000.

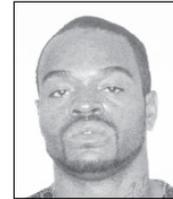
This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.

## Okeechobee's Most Wanted

The following person is on Okeechobee's Most Wanted list. There are active warrants for this person. 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.

- Jesstarius Dortch, black male, 27, 5'11", 175 lbs. His address is unknown. He has a tattoo "R.I.P. JoJo" on his neck. He is wanted on charges of Child Neglect (bond \$2,500), resisting a law enforcement officer without violence (bond \$2,500), and fleeing/elude (bond \$30,000).



**Jesstarius Dortch**

Call Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers 1-800-273-8477 or the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 863-763-3134.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Rotary Club

## Rotary Club officers installed

The Rotary Club of Okeechobee recently installed the new 2011/2012 Officers. In the top row are: Donna Gaiser, board member; Kristy Crawford, treasurer; Jim Benton, vice president; Darlyn Fried, board member; Donna Huth, board member; Sean Downing, board member; first row Jeanette Miller, secretary; Dr. Trini Garcia, board member; Lyle Fried, club president; Tabitha Trent, past president & board member; Mike Costopolous, asst. district governor and board member).

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

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# OHS Lady Brahmans golf bests Martin County girls

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Raychel Rabon shot 47 and Emily Raulerson shot 48 to lead the Okeechobee High School Lady Brahmans to a 16-stroke victory over the Martin County Lady Tigers on Thursday night at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club.

Even a torrential downpour that left the fairways and greens a bit soggy couldn't stop the Lady Brahmans from their first win of the year.

Okeechobee shot 198 and Martin County shot 214.

Golf Coach Brent Stuart said the girls did a good job battling the elements after that 30-minute rain delay, "The girls dodged the puddles and commenced with their fighting spirit and posted some great scores against a tough Tiger squad."

Samantha Harrell shot 49, and Hannah Raulerson shot at 54 for Okeechobee. McKenzie Merritt led Martin County with a 47.

Other Brahmans who competed included Kailey Hoover, Cameron White, Bethany Stuart, Paige Rivero, Danyelle Sheffield and Kirston Doney.

Stuart had some of the Lady Brahman golfers play matches against each other to keep their skills sharp.

The golf team travels to Martin County



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Raychel Rabon watches an approach shot on the third hole at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club Thursday. She shot the low score of the afternoon, 47.**

next Tuesday and to Lake Placid next Thursday.



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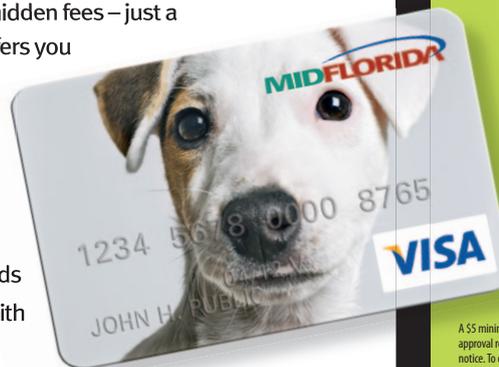


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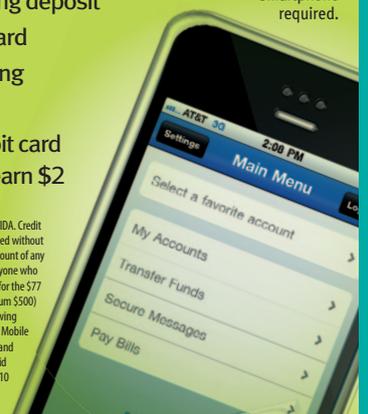
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SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

# REMEMBERING

# 9.11.

September 11, 2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the terror attacks that took place in New York City, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. by extremists.

Nearly 3,500 people lost their lives on September 11, including hundreds of firefighters who entered the towers in response to the attack. Many other first responders have subsequently fallen ill or died due to respiratory illnesses from inhaling toxic fumes and smoke at Ground Zero.

For the last several years, rebuilding efforts have been underway in NYC. As the nation prepares to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the attacks, the Ground Zero memorial plaza has nearly been completed in time for remembrance events. Two waterfall reflecting ponds are complete and stand in the footsteps of the original tower buildings. Approximately 200 trees have been planted at the Memorial Plaza. The glass facade has also been erected, which serves as the entryway to the underground museum.

The completed plan for the site will include seven towers, a visitor center, a transportation hub, and a performing arts center. The Freedom Tower, recently renamed as simply 1 World Trade Center, is slated for completion by 2013. Developers promise the tower will be the tallest building in New York — 1,776 feet in height to the top of the antenna.

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**A Number of events are planned to commemorate 9/11.**

- A FDNY 10th Anniversary Memorial Service
- Evening of Light 10th Anniversary Gala
- Tunnel to Towers Run in NYC and nationwide
- Staten Island 10th Anniversary 9/11 Commemoration to take place at Staten Island's 9/11 memorial.
- The National September 11 Memorial will open

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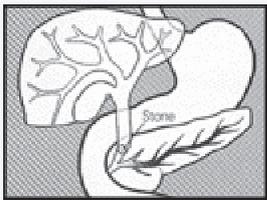
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# 'Dine with a doctor' series resumes

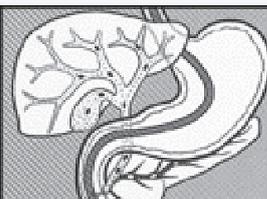
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Raulerson Hospital's Dine with the Doctor Lecture series will resume Tuesday, Sept. 27. Dinner will be available for \$5 per person beginning at 4:30 p.m. Board Certified Gastroenterologist Dr. Albert Bravo will be discussing the Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangio-Pancreatography (ERCP) procedure he performs at Raulerson Hospital. Dr. Bravo will begin his presentation at 5 p.m. There is no fee for the presentation. To register for this event, call 1-800-449-8642.

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## Women's health luncheon

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month, Raulerson Hospital will be hosting a Women's Health Luncheon on Friday, Oct. 7. The 2011 Women's Health Luncheon will be held at IRSC's Williamson Conference Center located at 2229 N.W. 9th Ave. in Okeechobee.

Guest speakers will include local physicians as well as remarks from a two-time breast cancer survivor. Gynecology-Board Certified Doctor, James Bradfield will address the group, as well as Dr. Philip Moyer, who performs stereotactic breast biopsies at Raulerson Hospital. Raulerson Hospital is hosting this event to enhance awareness and education about issues affecting women's health. The buffet-line and seating will begin at 11:30 a.m. inside IRSC's Raulerson Hospital Auditorium. The presentation will begin at noon and end at 1 p.m.

Registration is free, space is limited. RSVP today at: 1-800-449-8642.



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Raulerson Hospital will become a tobacco-free campus effective November 1, 2011. To sign up for a free, 8-week smoking cessation class, contact Shawn Poland at 824-2757.

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# Okeechobee football falls to Arcadia Desoto

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

A 90-minute rain and lightning delay didn't seem to hamper Arcadia Desoto Friday night as they scored 13 points in the first three minutes of the game and went on to defeat Okeechobee 34-21 in high school football action Friday night in Okeechobee.

Brahman Coach Myron Jackson had emphasized in practice last week that his team get off to a better start. Okeechobee (0-2) fell behind Gulliver Prep by 14 points in the first quarter last week.

"It's not the kids. I've got to figure out something to get them off to a better start. I felt even though we gave up those two early touchdowns we kept playing," he said.

Okeechobee was hurt by two early fumbles. On the first play from scrimmage QB D.J. Washington threw a poor pitch to his tailback and Cedric Jackson scooped it up inside the Brahman 10-yard line and ran in for the score.

On the Brahmans second drive, Ty'Ronte Files, who rushed for 110 yards and three touchdowns, fumbled the ball on a second effort, and Machale Harville scooped it up and ran it back 43 yards for a touchdown.

It was a coach's dream for Arcadia as they had scored 13 points before their offense had even taken the field.

Okeechobee responded to the adversity well in the first half as they rallied to take a 14-13 lead. After a personal foul gave Okeechobee a first down at the Bulldog 40, the Brahmans took just four plays to score late in the first quarter. Al Morris hauled in a 25-yard pass from Washington at the two yard line and Files ran the next handoff into the end zone to make it 13-7.

Okeechobee drove 68 yards in 14 plays in the second quarter to take the lead. Key plays included a 16-yard pass from Washington to Morris, a 15-yard run by Files, and an 18-yard pass from Washington to Will Jackson. Files capped off the drive with a one-yard touchdown run.

Okeechobee's one-point halftime lead was short lived as Desoto came out of the locker room fired up. Xavier Payne, who grew up in Okeechobee through the eighth grade, made his homecoming sweet, as he returned the opening kick off 50 yards to put Desoto at the Okeechobee 30. Six plays later Justin Richardson scored on a three-yard run to put Desoto up for good. Richardson had 82 yards rushing in the game.

Payne made two big plays in the third to put the game away. On second down and 13 on the next series he busted up the middle for a 60 yard touchdown run. On the next scoring drive he took a handoff and weaved his way through the Brahman defense for a 39 yard touchdown run. Payne finished with 103 yards on offense, and 163 total yards in the game.

I really looked forward to coming back to Okeechobee and play this game," Payne said. "I hadn't seen my friends in a long time."

Okeechobee finished off the scoring with a 62-yard drive in the fourth quarter that was keyed by two-pass reception by Eddie Neal for 26 yards. Files ran for 20 yards on the drive, the final one yard for the score.

Jackson said he thought if Okeechobee could have gotten another score it would have been a totally different outcome in the fourth quarter.

Okeechobee's Cory Vickers recovered an onside kick on the next play but Okeechobee misfired on four passing attempts and turned the ball over on downs to Desoto, effectively ending their last chance.



**Ty'Ronte Files had over 100 yards rushing in a losing cause for the Brahms Friday night.**



**Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy Adrian Minondo had some key stops for the Brahman defense on Friday night.**

### Game notes

Okeechobee did not have a penalty in the first half but had four in the third quarter for 38 yards.

Kavarius Polk had a 34 yard punt return for Desoto (1-1). Okeechobee fumbled the ball five times, and lost two fumbles in the game. Marquis Dickens had an interception for Desoto.

Several Brahms had tackles for loss on defense including Cade Stokes, Thor Harden, Cody Walker and Jose Garcia.

Okeechobee travels to St. Lucie West to take on Centennial next Friday night. The Junior Varsity team will have a home game next Thursday night at 6 p.m.

Brahman football game statistics for Desoto

Desoto County	13	0	21	0-34
Okeechobee	7	7	0	7-21

### How they scored:

#### First Quarter

Desoto Jackson six-yard fumble return. (run failed) 6-0. 11:44.

Desoto Saunders 43-yard fumble return. (Polk failed) 13-0. 9:30.

Okeechobee-Files two-yard run. (Piedra PAT) 13-7. 0:41.

#### Second Quarter

Okeechobee-Files one-yard run. (Piedra PAT) 14-13. 2:53.

#### Third Quarter

Desoto Richardson three-yard run. (Kick failed) 19-14. 9:35.

Desoto Payne 60-yard run. (Richardson run) 27-14. 6:52.

Desoto Payne 39-yard run. (Polk PAT) 34-14. 0:00.

#### Fourth Quarter

Okeechobee-Files one-yard run. (Piedra PAT) 34-21. 5:40.

Team Statistics	Okeechobee	Desoto
First Downs	15	7
Third Downs	10-17	1-6
Penalties	4-38	10-99
Rushing yards	162	240
Passing yards	115	15
Punts	4-129	4-140
Punt returns	1-3	3-38
Kick returns	5-64	4-80
Fumbles/lost	5-2	1-0
Interceptions	0-0	1-3

### Individual Statistics

#### Okeechobee

Passing	Att	Comp	Yds	TDS	Int
DJ Washington	26	7	115	1	0
Rushing	No.	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Washington	7	17	2.4	12	0
Ty'Ronte Files	30	110	3.6	9	3
Elijawon Williams	6	33	5.5	10	0
Adrian Minondo	1	2	2.0	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>
Receiving	No.	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Eddie Neal	2	26	13.0	14	0
Al Morris	3	65	21.7	25	0
Will Jackson	2	24	12.0	18	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>



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## Community Events

### Sept. 11 memorial today

Okeechobee area firefighters, EMTs and law enforcement officials will gather today at 1 p.m. at the flag pole in front of the old Okeechobee County Courthouse in memory of those who died on Sept. 11, 2001. The public is invited to attend.

### Historical Society to meet

The Okeechobee Historical Society will meet on Monday, **Sept. 19**, at noon at the museum on U.S. 98 N. Anyone who would like to join the organization is encouraged to attend this covered dish luncheon.

### 4-H photo & video club planned

A new 4-H club is forming for those interested in digital photograph and making videos. The club is open to 4-Hers ages 12 to 18, and will meet on the third Monday of each month at the Okeechobee News office, 107 S.W. 17th Street (in the plaza next to the Brahman Movie Theater) at 7 p.m. Members should have access to a digital camera or video recorder to use for club projects. The first meeting will be Monday, **Sept. 19**. Club members will select a name for the club and nominate officers. For more information, email club leader Katrina Elsen at: [kelsen@newszap.com](mailto:kelsen@newszap.com) or call 863-634-9751.

### Hospice to host yard sales

Hospice of Okeechobee's Yard Sales will be on, Wednesday, **Sept. 21** and Thursday, **Sept. 22**, from 8 a.m. until noon. The yard sale is located at the corner of SE 4th Street and SE 3rd Ave. For information call 863-467-2321.

### Sacred Heart offers classes

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will offer religious education classes for children and youngsters, beginning Sunday, **Sept. 18**. Registrations are now being accepted. Call 863-763-3727, for information.

## QUILT

Continued From Page 1

When she first heard about 9/11 Mrs. Engwiller said it was like when President John Kennedy was shot, "I couldn't believe it."

Mrs. Engwiller started on the Twin Towers square as soon after the event as she could find material.

Her husband, Vick Engwiller, who is commander of a local VFW Post, helped her a lot by locating pictures on the computer. The quilt squares use bits of different

colored materials to copy photographs. It took Mrs. Engwiller two and a half to three years to complete the quilt. It was stitched entirely by hand without the use of a frame or hoop.

There is a square depicting the Twin Towers before 9/11. Another square shows a boat parade in New York Harbor a year later with the New York skyline in the background minus the Twin Towers. Another square duplicates the famous photograph of firemen raising the American flag amid the rubble of the Twin Towers. Still another square copies a photograph of the huge American flag hanging from the top of the Pentagon after that building was struck by an airplane.

Each of the bogus checks have been made out for around \$390 or, "about what a weekly payroll check would be," said Detective Morrison.

She had not yet contacted law enforcement in those counties.

Detective Morrison said as far as she can tell the counterfeit checks started showing up in July. Locally, however, only the two aforementioned checks have been seen.

The detective went on to say that she's waiting to get the bogus check from the store so that it can be processed for fingerprints.

No height, weight or clothing description of the man and woman was released, but officials are hoping someone might recognize the woman from store surveillance photos.

If anyone has any information about the man and woman, they are asked to contact Detective Susan Morrison at 863-763-3117.

## CHECKS

Continued From Page 1

local store to cash a check for \$394.57. The check was supposedly a payroll check, added the detective.

A few minutes later a black woman tried to cash a similar check, but the request was denied because she did not have the proper identification. Detective Morrison said there are indications the man and woman are using fake driver's licenses for identification.

Both of those checks were drawn on a local bank.

According to the OCSO investigator, as of Friday afternoon she has learned that 32 similar checks have been cashed at supermarkets in several different counties—including Lake, Citrus, Marion and Martin—for a total of around \$12,000.

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**OKEECHOBEE NEWS**

# OHS swim teams beat Fort Pierce Westwood

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School swim teams got off to a good start Thursday as they swept a swim meet against Fort Pierce Westwood at the Okeechobee Sports Complex.

The boys team won 96-67 while the girls

team prevailed 123-45 against the Panthers. On the boys side Ryan Reister won the 50 freestyle, Jason Rucks won the 100 breast-stroke and Dustin Houston won the 500 freestyle and the 100 backstroke. The 400 freestyle relay led by Houston, Rucks and Timmy Farrell also prevailed in a close race. "It was a solid first meet last night."

Coach Brian Turner said, "We had some good swims and the kids are working really hard."

Turner said the kids show up at 5 a.m., each school day to practice and improve their skills. He said a key asset for Okeechobee was their ability to beat teams off the walls during turns and that was the difference on Thursday.

The girls team was led by Jessica Wackler who won the 200 freestyle and the 500 freestyle. Savannah Whitlock won the 200 individual medley. Okeechobee also won the 200 freestyle relay, the 200 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay.

Okeechobee had the top three finishers

in the 200 freestyle, Wackler, Sage Douglas and Jordan Bolan, and the 100 butterfly, the 100 freestyle and the 500 freestyle.

"Fort Pierce Westwood is one of the best coached teams we will see this year," Coach Turner, "I am sure they will be much improved when we see them at the district meet."

This was the first home swim meet for OHS in the past three years. Turner said there was a great turnout of Okeechobee fans at the event.

"This community's support for our kids is something special and we appreciate everyone who came out to see us compete," he added.

## Community Events

### Amateur Radio Club to host monthly meeting

Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club will be holding it's September meeting on Monday, **Sept. 12**, at the Red Cross Office on North Parrot Ave. at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to the public and all licensed ham radio operators in the Okeechobee area, and anyone interested in Amateur Radio are invited to attend. For more info, contact Tom Timmons N3RHV at timmons@dtimmons.com.

### Douglas Chiropractic offers free nutritional analysis

CRA Nutritional Analysis class will be offered by The Douglas Chiropractic Clinic on Monday, **Sept. 12**, at 5:30 p.m. at Douglas Chiropractic and Fitness Center on S.R. 70, Okeechobee. The class is taught by Dr. Edward Douglas. For more information call 863-763-4320. There is no charge for the class.

### Coffee with the Commissioner

Coffee with the Commissioner will be hosted by Commissioner Bryant Culpepper on Tuesday, **Sept. 13**, from 10 a.m.-noon, and will be held in the meeting room at the Lodge at the Lake Restaurant, formerly The Clock Restaurant, at 1111 S. Parrott. Citizens wishing to participate are encouraged to call 863-763-6441 to schedule an appointment.

### Democratic Council to meet

The Okeechobee Democratic Executive Council will meet on Thursday, **Sept. 15** at 6 p.m. at Beef O'Brady's. Anyone who is interested in joining the council is encouraged to attend.

### Prayer walk on Tuesday

In conjunction with the beginning of school, the annual September Prayer Walk, sponsored by the Okeechobee Ministerial Association, will begin Tuesday night at Osceola Middle School, followed by South Elementary the Sheriff's Office, the Courthouse, the Police Station and City Hall. Community members meet to pray for the administration, the teachers, the support staff, the students and their parents that they all might have a positive, successful school year. Everyone is invited to attend and participants walk as much as they are able to. Some people choose to drive to the various schools and stand in one location while praying. The meeting location for Tuesday, **Sept. 13**, will be the front steps of the Freshman Campus at 6 p.m.

### Okeechobee Retired Teachers to attend conference

Okeechobee Retired Teachers Association will be attending the Regional Conference on Friday, **Sept. 15**. Those members who have paid the registration fee for the meeting are reminded to meet at the First Baptist Church ROC center at 7 a.m. in order to carpool.

### Health Fair seeks vendors

Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility is sponsoring a Health Fair on Saturday, **Sept. 17**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Organizers are presently looking for health educating organizations that would like to participate. There is no charge to be included in the program. Anyone wishing to participate, please call 863-697-0211 or e-mail bill.casian@vna-florida.org.

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	<b>3000-M:</b> Treasure Island 3 bedroom 2 bath DWMH. All double pane windows and sliding glass door. Two carport, 2 sheds, screened rm, back porch. <b>\$58,900</b> MLS #205163	<b>FORECLOSURE</b> 	<b>4001-M:</b> 3 Bedroom 2 Bath year 2000 DWMH in Buckhead Ridge. Easy to show. Call today to see! <b>\$37,500</b> MLS #205206
	<b>5011-H:</b> Four seasons, on 1+ acres. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, lots of trees, garage, carport, sheds, 2 utility rooms, fenced. Kitchen has been redone. <b>MLS #204677</b>		<b>5013-H:</b> Okee Golf Estates 3/2 concrete home on a large lot. Paved drive, double garage, split bedroom plan, and large utility room. <b>MLS #204742</b>
<b>REDUCED</b> 	<b>5015-H:</b> Dixie Ranch Est 3/2 concrete block home at the end of the cul-de-sac on 2 lots, one fenced yard, concrete drive, back screen porch. <del>\$84,000</del> <b>NOW \$75,000</b> MLS #204757		<b>5023-M:</b> Lake Okee access 2Bdr/2ba RV in Ancient Oaks. Gated RV Resort Park, 55+ community. Lots of activities and amenities. <b>\$49,900</b> <b>MLS #204975</b>

- COMMERCIAL LOT (.45) with road access on two sides HWY 98. **MLS #204065**
- FORECLOSURE Buildable Lots in Oaks at Okeechobee total of 5 sites. **MAKE OFFER!**
- VIKING 6 acres **\$20,000** (Owner Finance a possibility)
- FORECLOSURE Viking 1.25 acre \$3,400 or better offer. **MLS #205025**
- 2 BD/2BA Mobile Home **\$10,500** **MLS #205236**

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# Panther conservation progress comes with challenges

Efforts to recover the Florida panther population are showing success with a steady rise in numbers to an estimated 100 to 160 adults of this federally endangered species living in South Florida, according to a report presented Sept. 7 to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

"Panthers are very difficult to count, but there is no question that conservation efforts have reversed the downward spiral toward extinction of this imperiled species," said Kipp Frohlich, head of the Imperiled Species Management Section at the FWC.

Last year the FWC revised its official estimate upward to as many as 160 adults in the panther's primary range of South Florida. At any given time the total number of panthers may vary, because the estimate does not include the addition of kittens or losses due to a variety of causes. In addition, there are an unknown small number of male panthers dispersed into Central or North Florida. The FWC is working with partners to develop better methods to count panthers and assess the statewide population.

In the 1970s, the panther population was estimated to be as few as 20 animals in the

wild and showed signs of inbreeding. In 1995, the state, in cooperation with federal agencies, embarked on a genetic-restoration project attempting to avert extinction of the Florida panther. Eight young female Texas pumas were released into South Florida to increase the genetic health of the Florida stock. This conservation effort was intended to mimic the genetic exchange that once occurred naturally between panther populations in the Southeast and pumas in East Texas. It proved successful and resulted in improved panther productivity and health, and a growing population.

The progress made in conserving Florida's official state animal appears to be having an unintended consequence: livestock losses to cattle ranchers. Panthers normally prey on white-tailed deer, wild hogs and other game. Yet, last year the FWC began receiving reports of panthers preying on calves.

Southwest Florida cattle ranches typically are spread over tens of thousands of acres, with cows and calves dispersed on a range that includes excellent and essential panther habitat.

"Partnering with Florida's cattle ranching industry is an important part of our long-term

panther recovery strategy," said Nick Wiley, the FWC's executive director. "The history of Florida cattle ranching is a rich one, and the state's cattle operations are among the largest in the country. Ranching is a critically important economic engine. It is absolutely essential to keep ranching viable in Florida, not only because of its economic value, food productivity and its place in our cultural heritage, but also because it provides valuable habitat for many types of wildlife, including panthers." Speaking from a cattleman's perspective, Russell Priddy said, "Florida cattle ranchers understand that a balance needs to be reached between protecting endangered panthers and addressing the financial impacts of losing calves to panther predation. We will do our part, and we are expecting that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be responsive to our situation."

The FWC is addressing conflicts between panthers and human activities in several ways. A \$25,000 fund is being proposed by the FWC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to compensate ranchers who lose calves to panther depredation. The FWC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are working with ranchers, elected officials and conservation groups to figure out the best way to initiate this program. It is viewed as a possible first step towards more comprehensive and effective long-term solutions.

The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) will initiate a cooperative research project this

fall to learn more about the panther's impact on cattle ranching by monitoring calf survival. This research, which is being funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and IFAS, is designed to provide scientific data on which factors are contributing to calf deaths on these ranches.

The FWC is also directing resources to this project. Agency staff will study individual panthers that are on or near the same ranches where the calf studies will be conducted and look at panther prey selection to determine the role that calves play in the panther's diet. To learn more about the panther, go to [www.floridapanther.net.org](http://www.floridapanther.net.org).

## Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

Sept. 5, 2011

			Med #1	Steers	Hfhrs
			200-250	185-195	140-170
<b>Cows</b>			250-300	170-185	135-145
Breaking	\$58.00	\$64.00	300-350	150-165	125-133
Cutter	\$65.00	\$68.00	350-400	130-145	118-126
			400-450	123-136	110-120
			450-500	119-130	109-115
<b>Bulls</b>			550-600	115-124	
1000-1500	\$72.00	\$77.00			
1500-2000	\$67.00	\$70.00			
	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Med #2</b>	<b>Steers</b>	<b>Hfhrs</b>
Calves	N	1127	150-200		
Cows	O	321	200-250	142-175	115-135
Str		14	250-300	142-165	110-130
Hfhrs	S	57	300-350	130-147	107-117
Bulls	A	23	350-400	120-128	102-109
Yrlngs	L	14	400-450	110-121	101-107
Mix	E	0			
Total	0	1556			

Cows and bulls were \$1-\$2 lower. Calves were mostly steady, plainer calves were somewhat cheaper with light demand. Next internet sale is Sept. 22, Bred heifer sale, Sept. 30.

Hardie Driggers, Sr. topped the calf market with a high of \$197.50, bought by Scott Cattle. Seminole Tribe topped the cow market with a high of \$69 bought by Central.

See ya next week  
Pete

**Monday sales at noon**  
**Tuesday sales at 11 a.m.**

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## Announcements

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk \*.

For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

## Auctions

**Farm Equipment Horse Tack Auction**  
Saturday Sept. 24th  
6 am - 8 pm  
[www.whiteowlfarm.com](http://www.whiteowlfarm.com)  
for Details  
973-220-4369

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

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

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

## Lost



**Lost Boston Terrier**  
To the gentleman who called the Vets. office on Friday Sept. 2nd  
Our phone# is 863-610-4422  
Reward  
Please, Please Call

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

## Services

I am looking for Part-time work caring for an elderly woman in her home. Please call and ask for Sandi Aberman, Phone - 863-610-3446

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## Employment

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## Employment Full Time

**MANAGER** Wanted for pecan orchard in Albany, Georgia. Farming experience required preferably orange grove. **SEND RESUME TO:** The Graham Farms, P. O. Box 1108, Moore Haven, FL 33471

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## Employment Full Time

## Employment Full Time

## Employment Full Time

## Employment Full Time

## Employment Medical

## Employment Medical

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

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

For immediate consideration, please apply to [www.sfwmd.gov/careers](http://www.sfwmd.gov/careers) and reference job code 627BR.

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- Occupational Therapy Assistant: PRN
- Physical Therapist: PRN
- Radiology Tech: PRN
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When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.

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  - \* Non-Smoker
  - \* Healthy weight
- You will receive up to \$6000.00 compensation for travel and time away from work. Please call Sharon at (561)368-5220 for more information.



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## Guns/Supplies

**Guns** - Savage bolt action 300 Rem Ultra Mag., 3 X 9 scope \$400. Savage deer Slayer 12 Ga. bolt action, 1.5 X 4.5 scope. \$500 Both new condition and have soft cases. Pictures on web ad. Winchester 120 pump shotgun 12 ga. \$ 2 0 0 / n e g . (863)824-0835 or (863)634-5023

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**2 BD/1BA** Duplex in town & 2 BD/1BA in Kings Bay. No Pets! First, Last and Security. \$550.00/mo. Call 863-634-2820

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2BR/1.5 Bath  
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Carpet/Tile All  
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**LG. CLEAN APT** in town - 2/2, w/d, lawn maint included, \$750 + \$300 sec. (863) 634-3572

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FOR SALE OR LEASE  
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@ 210 NE 3rd Ave.  
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**CONDOS** 2/1 & 2/2 fully furnished downstairs, w/ utilities \$875. mo., seasonal rates available. Pool & dock. 863-634-0663

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## Houses - Rent

**2 Bed/1Bath** Between Okeechobee and Indiantown on Tommy Clements Street. 5 Acres w/pond and fenced \$790 a month. Call 772-260-3068

**Furnished 1/1 or 2/1** in Kings Bay with garage, washer and dryer starting at \$650 per month, plus utilities call 863-467-4371

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**NESTLED ON AN ESTATE**, in town. Small cottage, 2BR, 2BA, laundry room w/W&D, porcelain tile floors, 5 ceiling fans, screened porch, lawn service. small pet ok, Non-smk. env., \$800 mo., 1st, last & \$500 sec. 941-504-3954.

**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

**OKEE** - 3/2, \$598 mo. or 2/1, \$459 mo. Beautiful ranch setting located 12 miles N.E. of town. Water, Lawn, pest, and trash incl. Pasture avail. Recently remodeled. Move in special. Mon-Fri. 863-467-9800. No Pets.

**OKEE**- 646 NE 28th Ave. 2br/2ba, 1 car garage, lrg. scrd. patio, fam. room, & nice yard. \$800 mo., plus 1 mo. sec. Call 954-868-8806.

## Roommate

**FEMALE BOARDER**  
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



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**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

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**TREASURE ISLAND** LARGE 3BR, 2BA Dblwide w/screened pool, many upgrades, on the water. \$149,000 or will lease for \$1200 mo.

**NW 5th STREET** LARGE 3BR, 1BA, CBS house, new ceramic tile through out. \$99,000 or will lease for \$800 mo. Call 863-634-9119

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**Wanted Land**  
Looking for 10 to 20 acres in the Ft. Drum Area.  
Please Call 863-467-6377



## Mobile Homes

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## Mobile Home Rent

**2 Bed/1 Bath** Mobile Home in Pine Ridge Park. \$650.00 mo. 1st month and \$500.00 Security to move in. No pets Call 863-634-9139

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

**Move in now for \$700!**  
BHR 4/2, C/Air, fenced yard & lawn service \$675 mo. 863-634-0663

**NEWLY REMODELED** - Available Immediately 2BR/2BA Double Wide Stove Frig. \$650 mo. (863)634-8885

## Mobile Home Rent

**RIVER ACRES**  
2BR/1.5BA, Single, on Kissimmee River, \$600/mo. + sec. & electric. Yearly lease. (863)634-8885

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

## Mobile Home Sale

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

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

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

**Palm Harbor Homes**  
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## Recreation

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## Boats

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The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

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**Year round RV sites** at River Bluff on Kissimmee River, 30 or 50 amp, Bath house, Laundry Facility, includes boat slip. 863-467-4371

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**2003 Harley-Davidson FAT BOY** - 2003 Harley-Davidson Fat Boy 100th Anniversary FLSTFI black 12,800 miles \$5300 No time wasters! WAR-DEN334@GMAIL.COM \$5,300.00

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## Automotive

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## Automobiles

**1999 LEXUS RX 300** - 143,400 miles Millennium Silver Metallic, SUV. Good Condition, Single owner, RX 300 Leather Seats, Aluminum Wheels. V6/Automatic. Exterior Paint Looks Good, No accidents. Radio/CD with disc changer Power front Seats. Sun-roof, Cruise, security, remote entry (loaded) Air Conditioning| Anti-Lock Brakes. \$8,400 /or best offer (863)824-2973 or (863)357-2156

## Four Wheel Drive

**1985 Suzuki Samurai**  
Needs motor rebuilt, has lift kit, mud tires, new clutch asking \$1,000. Call 863-801-5359 if no answer leave message.

## Parts/Repairs

**Brand New** still in box Hitch Receiver and Ball Mount for a Dodge Caliber asking \$150 Call 863-634-5140



## Public Notices

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## Public Notice

### OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Okeechobee County School Board will consider amendment of the School Board policies listed below at their meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., in Room 303 of the School Board Administrative Office at 700 S.W. Second Avenue, Okeechobee. A copy of the proposed amendments/policies are available in the Superintendent's office, Room 307, located at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue.

#### AMENDMENT OF BOARD POLICY 4.20 Student Progression Plan

1. This policy includes the Student Progression Plan.
2. Proposed revisions include those required by statute as well as updates from the Florida Department of Education.
3. The legal authority for this policy is F.S. 1001.41 and 1001.45. Laws implemented are F.S. 1001.43, 1003.43, 1002.437, 1003.49, 1008.25.
4. This policy amendment will not affect individuals from an economic standpoint.

#### AMENDMENT OF BOARD POLICY 6.43 Unlawful Discrimination Prohibited

1. This policy provides descriptive and compliance criteria regarding unlawful discrimination.
2. The proposed revisions update the policy to meet state and federal guidelines.
3. The legal authority for this policy is F.S. 1001.41, 1001.42, 1012.22, 1012.23. Laws implemented are F.S. 1000.05, 1000.21, 1001.re, 1012.22; 28 CFR 35, 34 CFR 100, 34 CFR 104, 34 CFR 108, 34 CFR 200.43(c); P.L. 110.233.
4. This policy adoption will not affect individuals from an economic standpoint.

#### AMENDMENT OF BOARD POLICY 7.40 Purchasing Policies and Bidding

1. This policy provides criteria for authorizing purchases and entering into contracts pursuant to awarded bids.
2. The proposed amendment adds language to clarify that procurement of food for the School Food Service program is not exempt from district, state, and USDA bidding and purchasing procedures.
3. The legal authority for this policy is F.S. 1001.41 and 1001.42. Laws implemented are F.S. 120.57, 212.08, 212.0821, 255.04, 274.02, 287.017, 287.057, 1001.43, 1010.04, 1013.47.
4. This policy amendment will not affect individuals from an economic standpoint.

Ken Kenworthy  
Superintendent of Schools  
897091 ON 9/11/2011

### School Board Executive Session and Negotiations

The Okeechobee County School Board will meet in closed Executive Session on Friday, September 16, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. in the office of the Superintendent, 700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee. The meeting is for School Board members, their attorney, and chief negotiator to prepare to continue negotiations with Okeechobee County Education Association #1604 regarding Race To The Top and Senate Bill 736.

The School Board and Education Association will resume negotiations at 4:00 p.m. on same date. The negotiating session is open to the public and will be held in Room 303 of the School Board Administration Building at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee.

Ken Kenworthy  
Superintendent of Schools  
896201 ON 9/11/2011



## READING A NEWSPAPER...

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# SUDOKU

	5		1		7	4		
					5	1		
	6					9		8
	4				5	7		1
7	2			8		5	6	
3			5					
		6	4			3	8	
		9		1				

Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

5	7	8	1	6	9	6	7	2
6	2	8	3	7	4	9	1	5
7	1	9	6	2	5	4	8	3
8	9	5	4	8	6	1	2	7
1	6	7	9	5	2	8	4	8
4	8	2	1	3	7	5	6	9
8	6	2	4	3	7	9	1	
9	7	1	6	5	8	2	8	4
2	4	3	7	4	1	6	5	8

ANSWER:



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# OHS volleyball team defeats Summit Christian



**Darby Jones questions a line call during Okeechobee's victory over Summit Christian on Thursday.**

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Rebekah Bryan had 15 kills and 14 digs and Sarah Davis had seven kills and 10 digs as Okeechobee High School's volleyball team defeated Summit Christian, 25-18, 24-26, 25-19 and 25-18 in their home opener on Thursday night.

Paige McCrary added 13 kills at the net for Okeechobee (2-0). Summit Christian fell to (2-1).

It was a marathon match as there were few easy points for either side as the teams played at a very high level.

there were few easy points for either side as the teams played at a very high level.

Brahman Coach Todd Jones said he felt his team would have an easier time in this match, "I took more liberties than I would have otherwise. I thought we would pull through in game two but when we didn't I was still confident our girls would win and finish off the next two games."

Okeechobee jumped to a lead in all of the games. They led 15-11 in the second game before Summit Christian rallied. Okeechobee led 5-0 and 16-9 in the third game and held on. The fourth game was back and forth until Okeechobee opened up a 24-15 lead.

Coach Jones said the team still needs to improve their passing. He also thinks the girls must play smarter and hit the ball, not only to avoid blocks at the net, but at open areas on the floor.

"Summit Christian noticed we play a perimeter defense that focuses on the strong offense and we gave away a lot of points on

tips because we didn't read their arm swing quick enough," he added.

Junior, Maci Thomas was praised for her passing skills. She earned high grades in this match. She said Summit Christian was definitely better than she thought they would be.

"We were definitely upset when we lost the second game but we came back more intense and ready to play. It helped us in the long run to play better," she added.

Thomas said she works every day on her passing and defensive skills and focuses in practice.

"I'm very happy because I feel we have pushed hard at practice. We hope the hard work pays off and so far it has," she added.

The Lady Brahmans travel to Sebastian River next Tuesday night. The next volleyball home match will be Tuesday, Sept. 20 against Port St. Lucie.

The Brahman Junior Varsity also won their first home match of the year, 25-18 and 25-22 over Summit Christian.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Maci Thomas prepares to return a serve as Rebekah Bryan (#14) looks on. Okeechobee won their home opener against Summit Christian on Thursday evening.**



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