



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 111

Friday, September 16, 2011

50¢ Plus tax

Sex offender given two life sentences

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Economic Development Board director resigns ... Page 3



Love bugs return... Page 14

Lake Levels

10.92 feet

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Seminole Elementary School

Grandparents enjoy visit with students

Students in Mrs. Sickels' class at Seminole Elementary recently celebrated Grandparent's Day by performing songs, presenting handmade gifts and treating their families to root beer floats, ice cream sundaes, homemade cookies and Dirt 'n Worm pudding! Above is Jason Birdwell with his grandmother Vickie Russell. Below left is Grady Villarreal with his Nanna Sharon Douglas. Below right is Michael Danielson and his grandparents Daniel and Pat Pothier. For more news from Okeechobee County schools, see page 11.



County lowers tax rate

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The only person who spoke at the first public budget hearing on the proposed 2011/12 Okeechobee County budget asked for lower taxes and got his wish.

Dr. James Letcher addressed Okeechobee County Commissioners at the Sept. 13 hearing. He stated he was making less money, property values have been declining for years, his employees have not had a raise in two years and he might have to lay one of them off.

Dr. Letcher said that, including fire, EMS, and solid waste collection assessments he would be paying 25 percent more in taxes. His figures were probably based on the Truth in Millage Notice (TRIM) which recently went out to all property owners detailing the effects of a proposed millage rate of 9 mills on individual property owners. One mil equals \$1 in property taxes for every \$1,000 of assessed value. He said that South Florida Water Management District dropped its millage rate and the school board barely raised theirs.

"It is a large increase at a time when everyone is making less money, Dr. Letcher said. "A lot of people aren't working. A lot of our property values have gone down."

Commissioners heeded his plea and adopted a lower millage rate of 8.5470. This millage rate, taking into consideration decreased property taxes and new construction, is calculated to bring 1.15 percent less money to the county than last year's millage rate. Therefore, some property owners could see a reduction in their taxes. The proposed millage rate of 9 mills was calculated to bring 4.09 percent more revenue into the

See TAXES — Page 2

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Grandparents Day

Students in Mrs. Sickels' class at Seminole Elementary celebrated Grandparent's Day last week. T.J. Kayser enjoyed a visit from his parents and grandma Margaret Baldwin.

TAXES

Continued From Page 1

county than last year's millage rate.

The \$85,480,718 budget is a 12.59 percent reduction from the current budget. This budget maintains the required two months reserves. There is no increase in employee salaries. Employees will get back furlough days that were taken away from them in the current budget. However, that increase will be offset by the 3 percent of salary that county employees are now required to pay into the state retirement system.

Final approval of the budget will come after a second public hearing at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27 in the Commission Chambers, Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 N.W. Second St. There will probably be no further changes before final approval of the budget. Commissioners also gave final approval on assessments for fire, EMS, and solid waste collection.

The fire assessment will remain the same at \$100 per dwelling unit, \$56 per agriculture/vacant property up to five acres and \$0.64 per additional acre. Hotels, motels and RV spaces will continue to be \$8 per room/space and commercial property will be based on the amount of square feet. 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 was increased from \$187.40 to \$193.02 per residential unit.



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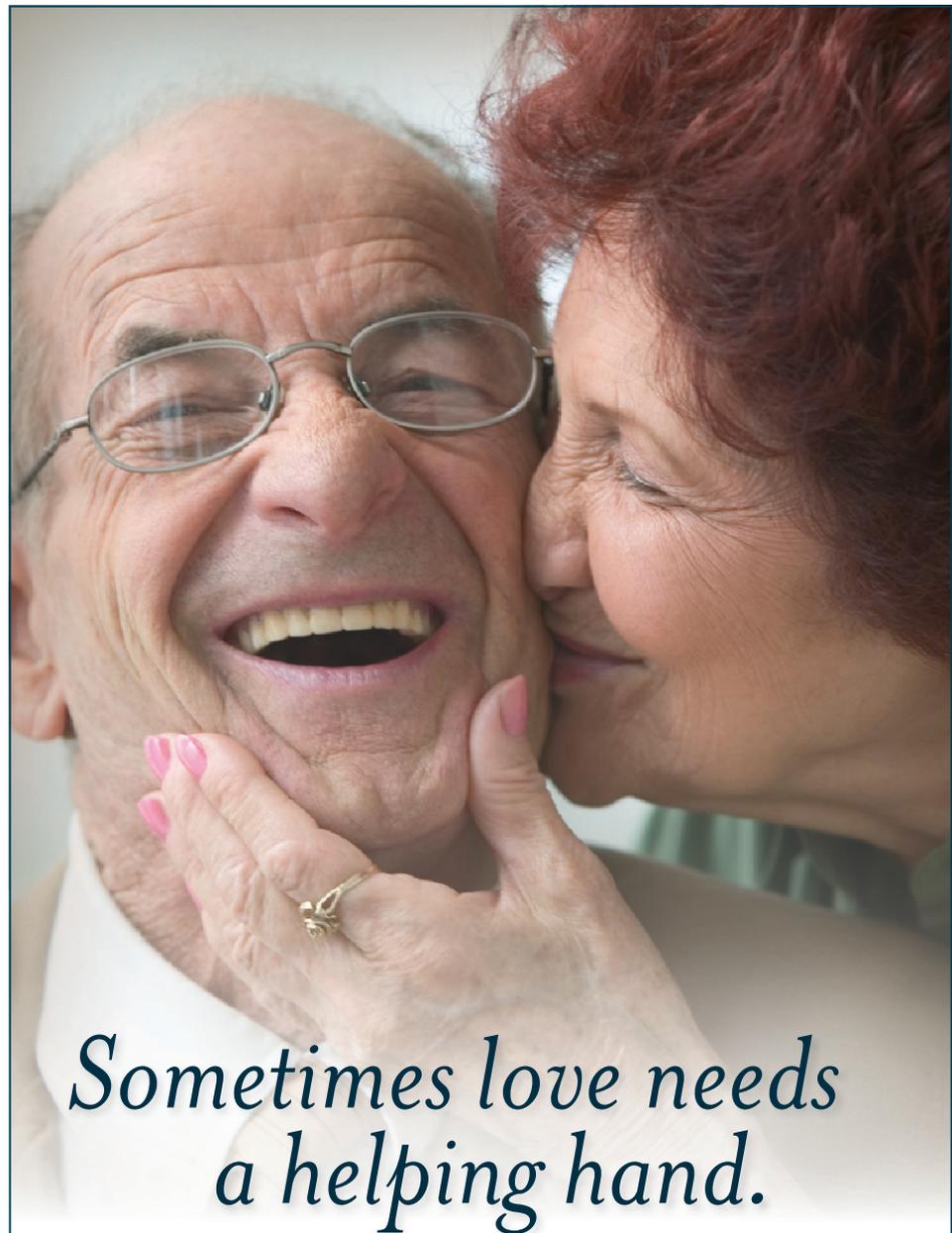
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BDB executive director resigns

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

In these hard economic times, Okeechobee County has just lost the man whose primary responsibility was to bring more jobs to the county.

In a Sept. 9 letter to Okeechobee County Commissioners, Brian Cartland, executive director of the Business Development Board of Okeechobee County (BDB) announced his Sept. 14 resignation. The letter stated in part: "I was concerned with commission recommendations to fund economic development efforts through a different organization. This direction was a major factor in my decision to consider other professional opportunities."

Mr. Cartland's organization had requested \$40,000 for economic development to be included in the county's fiscal year 2011/12 budget. While commissioners agreed to earmark \$40,000 for economic development, they put off until a later date determination of what organization or organizations would get the money.

In their new budget the City of Okeechobee allocated \$20,000 for the business development board.

Mr. Cartland's letter continued, "Funding a different program through another organization would divide the community and severely hinder economic development efforts. It would be a huge step backwards for Okeechobee."

In an interview with the Okeechobee News Mr. Cartland stated that he would be taking the position of Vice President of the Economic Development Board of Palm Beach County.

Mr. Cartland had been with the business development board for two years. He was the first full-time director of that organization. The original plan was for the organization to request county and city funding for three years in decreasing amounts and then become self supporting. This was the third year the Business Development Board had requested funds.

Mr. Cartland was also executive director of the Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County, an organization formed by the BDB whose full title is "Business Development Board of Okeechobee County d/b/a the Okeechobee County Chamber of Commerce." The primary thrust of this chamber is economic development. The Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County did not take the lead in such activities as parades and festivals, which had been a major focus of the previous chamber in Okeechobee.

Mr. Cartland said that Okeechobee Main Street stepped up to take the lead in festivals and parades. He expressed hope that the BDB and Main Street would continue to work together and decide what programs make sense for each organization.

Mr. Cartland said he was leaving with several projects in the works. "I will be sorry to miss announcements, ribbon cuttings and groundbreaking for projects that are going to come," he said. "But the projects are in good hands with Terry Burroughs and the rest of the chamber leadership."

When asked what he thought his most important accomplishments were, Mr. Cartland said he liked to talk of the accomplishments the city, the county and all other groups he worked with. "We also did a great job of getting the word out that Okeechobee is a great place to visit. My feeling is that tourism is a very important aspect of economic development."

Commissioner Joey Hoover questioned the figures Mr. Cartland produced in his annual reports to the commission as to the number and salary range of jobs the business development board claimed they brought to Okeechobee. He said some of those jobs were already in the works before the business development board came along. Commissioner Hoover said a chamber of commerce should promote existing business.

The search for Mr. Cartland's replacement has already begun according to Mr.

Burroughs. Until the Sept. 14 Business Development Board meeting, Mr. Burroughs was president of the chamber. At that meeting he was named interim executive director. President-elect J. D. Mixon was moved up to president.

Mr. Burroughs said he has been working with Mr. Cartland on a day to day basis, so he expected a smooth transition to his interim leadership. They hope to have a new executive director by December.

While Mr. Burroughs said he never begrudged anyone for taking a better position, he was not happy with the reason Mr. Cartland left. He felt that Mr. Cartland's good work was being discredited by the commissioners.

"Brain (Cartland) was a great asset to the community," Mr. Burroughs said. He described Mr. Cartland as personable, having business experience and cordial.

Mr. Mixon admitted that Mr. Cartland's resignation was a blow but he felt it was not going to slow things down.

Mr. Burroughs said that compared to other counties, the amount of money this county spends for economic development is very small.

"It's not just paying for the individual, it's marketing for community," Mr. Mixon said of the Business Development Board Executive Director.

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

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Vigil to remember those lost to drug abuse

The Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition and the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office will sponsor the NOPE (Narcotic Overdose Prevention and Education) Candle Light Vigil in Okeechobee on Oct. 27. The vigil is held in memory of those who have lost their lives due to drug and alcohol related incidents. Too often this disease is perceived as deserved and shameful, leaving families and friends to grieve in silence or an addict alone to struggle to recover. There are very few families in Okeechobee County that have not been affected by this crisis. Photos of lost loved ones can be added to the memory wall on-line at nopetaskforce.org or by bringing photos to the Sheriff's Office by Oct. 10. The vigil will be held at the Okeechobee County Civic Center on Highway 98 on Oct. 27. If you need further information please call Connie Curry, 863-763-3117 ext. 5101.

Upcoming local Blood Drives - Give blood - Save lives!

Okeechobee Blood Drives in September are planned for

- Friday, Sept. 16 - Health Dept., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.;
- Friday, Sept. 16 - Walgreens from 3-6 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 24 - Wal-Mart 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 29 - Okeechobee Correctional Institute, 12-6 p.m. This drive serves all those in the north county.

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See today's Sports section for more details.

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!

County budget

• I haven't heard much discussion of the county budget this year. Did the controversy leave with Lyndon Bonner?

• One item I found interesting in the paper about the county budget this year is that it is reported that the 'homeowners may get a tax break this year.' Now you must be asking yourself how is that possible when you look at your proposed tax bill. First the county raises the rate to 9 mills than lowers it to a level that is still higher than last years rates. See they gave you a tax break. How about giving me a real tax break and 'reduce county spending and waste.' If they need help to decide where to cut ask the people that have to pay it.

• I just wish someone could explain to me why those of us who live in the country have to pay more in fire tax and we get less service. I told a retired fireman what the response time was and he asked why do you have a fire dept. Then I told him what I have to pay in fire tax and EMS tax and he couldn't believe it. How is it that Highlands County uses volunteer fireman but this county doesn't? I'm too poor to pay attention, besides your property value drops and they raise the rate on you to pay the same amount. If the money coming in reduces then you better reduce the out flow by reducing the county services. The rate they are taxing us, no wonder there are so many businesses that have closed up.

• I live in the unincorporated area and Fire/EMS assessment is \$188. After twenty five years of West Palm Beach taxes, this is one good deal. I too am a little puzzled about the lack of volunteer fire fighter use. Glades and Hendry use them. Bear in mind though the changes to the state rules for volunteer firefighters circa 2003. There is mandatory training in the Firefighter One program of some 160 - 260 hours and rules for specific equipment requirements together with some other things. These all come with costs of money and time. It is no longer of matter of just showing up and saying here I

am. I think volunteers would go a long way, particularly in the brush fire season. The greatest challenge I think is getting the right volunteers. Young, healthy men and women who can leave their workplace and show up to assist at a fire possibly 25 miles away.

• Most of the county fire/ems assessment is probably for EMS since the majority of the calls are for emergency medical service rather than fires. I don't mind paying taxes to have that service available. I have never had to call them and I hope I never need it. But I sure want them to come quickly should a member of my family have a medical emergency.

Lake level

• The SFWMD biologists have always said the lake needs highs and lows in order to keep the fisheries healthy and the current lake schedule of 11.5 to 14.5 ft is the recommended one. The problem is Mother Nature does not always provide enough rain to keep the lake even that high. I see that people are calling for a change to raise the lake schedule to 12 to 15 feet. I don't see how raising the schedule will do any good if the rain doesn't fall. The schedule says it shouldn't be below 11 ft. but the lake is at 10.8 because we had lower than average rainfall for several years in a row. The main way the lake loses water is evaporation because it is a very large, relatively shallow body of water. We can't control the rainfall and we can't control the water lost to evaporation.

• The water managers released water in the spring even though the lake levels were already low because they were trying to improve the health of the Caloosahatchee River which was in danger of saltwater intrusion. They didn't dump water just to get rid of it. They were trying to improve the condition of the river.

• I think all these people who complain about the lake level need to look at their own water habits. Are they conserving water or are they running the sprinklers when it is raining?

• There is plenty of water up north of us in the Kissimmee chain of lakes. They are going to keep it there unless we have a major flood and then they will open the gates and send it our way and not care if it floods us out.

• I think the current water schedule is good for the lake as the fish and ducks are coming back and the bass tournaments are coming in with big stringers and putting us on the map again, which means money for our county and businesses.

Letters to the editor

Labor Day thanks

It takes a community and Okeechobee Main Street would like to thank the community for the overwhelming success of our 2011 Annual Labor Day Celebration. This three-day celebration, which included the Annual Labor Day Festival sponsored by Main Street; the Labor Day Parade, sponsored by the B.R.A.T. Club; and the Annual Labor Day Rodeo, sponsored by the Cattle-men's Association brought the community together for three days of fun, games, contests, mutton-rustlin', marching bands, Corn Hole, rodeo, pumpkin fry bread, antique cars and the finest of festival food and wares!

Nothing happens without the support and labor of dedicated volunteers and community partners. Okeechobee Main Street would like to extend a BIG thank-you to the following organizations who provided entertainment for the crowds during the festival. Thanks to the Chobee Steelers, under the direction of Shirlean Graham; Xplosion, under the direction of Victoria Osteen; Ron Dawson "Simply Magic," Sacred Heart's Martial Arts Program, Patricia Coffey, and the Humane Society. A special All-American thanks to Lisa Riley, who sang the Star Spangled Banner for the crowd and to Commander Russ Papy of VFW Post 10539 who inspired us with his patriotic words and rendition of the Pledge of Allegiance.

OKMS shared exciting moments with the crowd during each of several contests conducted throughout the weekend! We would also like to thank those organizations and individuals who provided prizes for our contest winners. Much appreciation to Luncker's Sports Grill, Seacoast National Bank, Holiday Inn Express, Cowboys BBQ and Steak Company, the Hampton Inn, Okeechobee KOA Kampground, the Outpost, the Best Western, Beef 'O' Brady's, Garrard's Bait and Tackle, and the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club.

A HUGE We-couldn't-have-done-it-without-you Thanks to Luncker's Sports Grill and owner Red Altman, who graciously agreed to co-sponsor our First Annual Corn Hole Competition! This competition, with 15 hard-core competitors started on Saturday and lasted throughout the weekend, culminating in the Grand Championship Contest on Monday afternoon. Thanks to Red who provided the equipment, set up the tournament brackets and supervised the event each day!! We are looking forward to our Second Annual next year! Thanks, too, to Teresa Chandler and the B.R.A.T. Club who

sponsored the Hula Hoop Contest!

An event cannot happen without advertising and we would like to extend a special thanks to our advertising partners the Okeechobee News, WOKC Radio, and the Pennysaver. Thanks also to the Okeechobee County School System who assisted in distributing our flyers to the youth and to Okeechobee Office Supply. We also greatly appreciate the coverage of our event by News Channel 5. Another huge thanks to Waste Management, who we really could not have done without!

An organization is only as good as its members and our volunteers are the best! Great Big thanks to those who volunteered their time and efforts to ensure that the Labor Day Festival was a success: Keith Strippling, Shelly Doyle, Cindy Murphy, Debbie Gillette, Phyllis Shumate, Kathleen Shatto, Kayti Ezard, Cecelia Elliott, Nicole Simpson, Kyle Durham, Marnie Amiet, Amanda Villars, Raye Deusinger, Linda Woloski, Yvonne Rieckhoff, Mari Walther, Pat Sheperd, Austin Villars, Diane Davies and Greg Thogersen. Thanks, too, to the Okeechobee Main Street Board of Directors for their unending support and encouragement.

Our final BIG THANKS goes to the City of Okeechobee and R.E. Hamrick Testamentary Trust, the Okeechobee City Police and Okeechobee County Sheriff's Department for use of the Flagler Parks and their assistance and support throughout the entire event. Thank You,

Cindy Birdashaw,
Executive Director
Okeechobee Main Street

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. Calm wind becoming east northeast around 5 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday night: A slight chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Sunday: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 90.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Covello found guilty, awaits sentencing

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

In less than 20 minutes, a six-member jury found a 20-year-old Okeechobee man guilty of burglary based on fingerprints found at the scene.

Jonathan Joseph Covello was convicted Wednesday, Sept. 14, of burglary of an occupied dwelling, a felony, and petit theft, a first-degree misdemeanor.

While the jury was out of the courtroom deliberating, Assistant State Attorney Don Richardson told Circuit Court Judge Belanger that Covello had also violated his probation and asked that Covello be classified as a prison releasee re-offender. He said Covello's 2010 arrest on the burglary charge violated his probation on 11 other felony cases.

Judge Belanger will sentence Covello on Friday, Oct. 21, at 1:30 p.m.

Covello was found guilty of entering a Palm Creek home around 7:30 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 16, 2010, as Sunito Dhillon and her 10-year-old daughter were in the kitchen preparing dinner.

Mrs. Dhillon told the jury Wednesday morning that the family's dog began to bark and run through the house and then she heard a noise. Thinking her husband had come home from work, Mrs. Dhillon looked in the garage but her husband had not come home yet.

She and her daughter then walked down the hall and noticed the guest bedroom window open and the screen had been pulled out.

"I grabbed her (the daughter) hand, picked up my cell phone and ran out the front door and called 9-1-1," she told the jury, adding that she told law enforcement that she thought someone was in her home.

Mrs. Dhillon said her daughter was "literally shivering and crying."

She went on to tell the jury that although she had seen Covello in her subdivision, she had never given him permission to enter her home. Covello, she said, worked for a lawn maintenance company that took care of the lawns in her subdivision.

Her husband, Pankaj Dhillon, testified under direct examination that he, too, had seen Covello working in the yard around his home. And like his wife, he had never given Covello permission to enter his home.

Through testimony it was learned that Covello gained entrance into the home through a master bedroom window, then left the home through a guest bedroom window.

As the intruder removed the screen from the master bedroom window, he left a partial fingerprint on the frame of the screen, testified Crime Scene Technician Jacqueline Moore of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO).

During her testimony, Mrs. Moore said she also found a palm print on the window frame as well as on the foot board of the bed in the master bedroom. She testified that she compared the prints lifted from the crime scene to known prints from Covello.

She went on to say there were 14 points of comparison between the print found on the screen's frame and Covello's known print.

"Those two prints were made by the same person," she told the jury.

Of the first palm print, Mrs. Moore testified that she found 28 points of comparison between that print and a known print from Covello.

points) because it would have been too confusing," she told Mr. Richardson under direct examination.



Jonathan J. Covello

"I collected them but they ended up being too smeared to identify," she told the prosecutor.

Before the jury returned from lunch defense attorney John Cook made a motion for acquittal due to a lack of identification. Even though Judge Belanger said the state's case was circumstantial, he still described it as strong. "I do find sufficient evidence for the case to go to the jury and deny the motion for acquittal," Judge Belanger responded.

Judge Belanger will decide Covello's fate next month when he sentences him on his conviction and his probation violations. Those sentences could be further enhanced if Covello is declared a prison releasee re-offender.

On Oct. 2, 2008, Covello was sentenced to serve two years in prison after he was found guilty on 11 counts of burglary of a structure. Department of Corrections (DOC) records show that his prison sentence was to be followed by three years of probation. However,

he was arrested for breaking into the Dhillon's home before his probation had ended.

DOC records show that Covello was released from the Indian River Correctional Institution on May 14, 2010.

Mr. Richardson also pointed out Wednesday afternoon that Covello is awaiting trial in St. Lucie County where he is charged with grand theft and burglary of a dwelling with an assault or battery while armed and masked.

Detective James Grecco, of the Fort Pierce Police Department, stated in his arrest report that Covello entered the home of a 59-year-old woman while armed with a 9 mm handgun. He woke the woman and demanded she take him to her safe, continued the report. When she convinced him she didn't have a safe Covello reportedly took a set of keys, a cell phone and a video game console and fled out the back door of the home. According to the St. Lucie County Clerk of Courts web site, a trial date for that case has not been set. If found guilty as charged, that burglary charge carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

Two other suspects in that case—Bret N. Sizemore, 19, and Dalton C. Thomas, 17—have yet to have their cases decided. Sizemore is scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 22 at 9 a.m., while Thomas is scheduled for an Oct. 4 docket call in front of Circuit Court Judge Lawrence Mirman.

Mr. Richardson said Covello could receive a mandatory/minimum sentence of 15 years on his burglary conviction if he is classified as a prison releasee re-offender. On the VOPs, Mr. Richardson said Covello could face a maximum sentence of five years on each of the 11 counts.

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Community Events

VFW announces weekend plans

Join the good folks at VFW Post 4423 on Friday where the kitchen will be open 5-9 p.m. with Karaoke 7-10 p.m. On Saturday, there will be burgers on the grill for a \$2 donation 12-2 p.m. and be sure to join us for Seafood Saturday Dinner for a donation of \$6 (5-7 p.m.). We will be having Karaoke 7-10pm. Sunday, Lori will be serving a Pork Chop Dinner 2-4 p.m. for a donation of \$6.50 and there will be karaoke 6-9 p.m.

VFW Post plans district picnic

VFW Post 10539, 3912 US Hwy 441 SE will host the district picnic on **Sept. 17**, at 1 p.m. Okeechobee High School JROTC will present the colors.

4-H starts up Cooking Club

The Kick-Off meeting of the new 4-H Cooking Club for boys and girls ages 8-18 is scheduled for Wednesday, **Sept. 21**. The club will meet in the Extension Office Kitchen at 7 p.m. Regular meetings will be the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m., same location. This club will focus on basic cooking skills, sanitation, nutrition, and FUN. Parents are encouraged to participate, and volunteers are welcome. Please contact Diane Conway 863.634.7840, email Dianzmail@yahoo.com or the Okeechobee Extension Office 863.763.6469 for more information. Hope to see you there!

Moose holding dinner Saturday

The Okeechobee Moose, #1753, at 159 N.W. 36th Street, will serve dinner on Saturday, **Sept. 17**, from 5:30-7 p.m. Port chop dinner is \$7. Music will follow featuring Carl Cable from 7-10 p.m. Queen of Hearts drawing will take place at 7 p.m.

Health Fair seeking vendors

Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility is sponsoring a Health Fair on Saturday, **Sept. 17**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. I am 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 have them call me at 863-697-0211 or e-mail me at bill.casian@vnaflorida.org.

Church offers special classes

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, at 901 S.W. 6th St, will offer religious education classes for children and youngsters, beginning Sunday, **Sept. 18**. Registrations for C.C.D. are now being accepted. Classes for all grades kindergarten through ninth grade will be held every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. until 12:35 p.m. Call the parish office, 863-763-3727, for information.

Back to Church Sunday

Grace Brethren Church, 701 S. Parrott Ave., is celebrating "Back to Church" Sunday, **Sept. 18**. Come rediscover the joy of being a part of group praise and worship. Join us for morning service at 10:30 a.m. At 6 p.m. there will be a praise music team. Come and enjoy God's presence in music. If you sing or play an instrument and would like to participate call Elaine at 863-763-7800.

4-H photo, video club forms

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. Club projects will include taking pictures and recording videos at other Okeechobee County 4-H events. 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 kelsken@newszap.com or call 863-634-9751.

Chamber host weapons class

The Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee is hosting a Concealed Weapons Permit Class on Thursday, **Sept. 22**, at the Hampton Inn from 7 to 9 p.m. Range training will be conducted on the following Saturday morning. The cost of the class is \$30, and a concealed weapon permit package will be provided to each participant. You do not need to own a gun to attend. Preregistration is required. Register online at: www.OkeechobeeBusiness.com. Go to calendar of events and click on the Sept. 22, Concealed Weapons Permit Class. For information, call the chamber at 863-467-6246.

Historical Society to meet

The Okeechobee Historical Society will be meet on Monday, **Sept. 19**, at noon at the Historical Society Museum on U.S. 98 N. Anyone who would like to join the organization is encouraged to attend this covered dish luncheon. Dues for the year of \$10 will be due at this time.

Real Life Ranch opens yard sale

Real Life Children's Ranch yard sale will be open starting on Tuesday, **Sept. 20**, at 9 a.m. We will be open on Tuesday thru Friday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Come on out for great bargains.

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 S.E. Fourth Street and S.E. Third Ave. For information call 863-467-2321 or see our web page www.hospiceofokeechobee.org and click on Events tab.

4H hosting Rabbit Clinic

Feathers and Furs 4-H club is having a Rabbit Clinic on Saturday, **Sept. 24**, at Jones Supply, 801 S.W. Park Street, Okeechobee. Contact Cathy Arthur at 863-763-1512 or Cathy Corby at 772-216-8669 for more information.

Teen Dance Party planned

The B.R.A.T. (Building Relationships Among Teens) Club of Okeechobee will host the September edition of the Teen Dance Party on Saturday, **Sept. 24**, at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus from 7 until 10 p.m. Admission of \$7 includes pizza, soda and chips along with entertainment, music, games and lots of great music to dance to. The party is open for teens and 'tweens ages 12-16. Proceeds from the dance party will benefit a local non-profit.

5k walk planned for Sept. 25

The Okeechobee Seventh-day Adventist Church will be hosting a 5K walk on Sept. 25, to help raise awareness of childhood obesity. It will begin at 9 a.m., at pier 7. (the fishing pier) Bring non-perishable food for Big Lake Mission.

Obituaries

Esther Lee (McVey) Patterson

OKEECHOBEE — Esther Lee (McVey) Patterson, of Okeechobee, went to be with her Lord on Sept. 7, 2011.

Born in New Marshfield, Athens County, Ohio on Aug. 3, 1926, she was the daughter of Luster and Winifred McVey. She came to Florida from Findlay, Ohio in 1979, living in North Palm Beach for 13 years prior to moving to Okeechobee in 1992 in retirement with her husband, Walter.

She was a member of the First Christian Church, a homemaker, and the kind of mother, grandmother and great grandmother only God can make.

She married Walter L. (Pat) Patterson in Athens, Ohio, on Feb. 6, 1947, and God blessed their marriage for 64 years before taking her for his own.

Predeceasing her were her parents; daughter, Julie Ellen Cummings; grandson, Gene Richard Crates; three sisters; and three brothers.

Surviving in addition to her husband are her daughters, Connie (Bob) Nungester of Findlay, Terese (Charles) Crates and Patricia Lee of Okeechobee; grandsons, Cody Cummings and Trevor Crates of Okeechobee, Joshua Walton, Shawn and Steven Nungester of Findlay, Shawn Lee of Arizona; granddaughters, Shannon Griffith of Palm Beach Gardens, and Stacy Nungester of Findlay; two great-granddaughters; and two great-grandsons. Her remaining sister, Nelle (McVey) Restifo resides in Charlestown, W.Va.

Her passing after a valiant four year battle to overcome the effects of a devastating stroke leaves a sorrowful void in the hearts of her family and all who knew her. She had unlimited and unconditional love for her family which will remain in our hearts forever and, surely, Heaven is a brighter place with her presence. God seems to make a precious few with all her magnificent qualities and He must be overjoyed to have her in his loving arms.

There will be no service at this time. However, a memorial and celebration of her life is being planned and will be announced at the appropriate time.

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



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

Bessie Mae Touchton, 82

OKEECHOBEE — Bessie Mae Touchton, 82, died Monday, Sept. 12, 2011, in Pensacola at Sacred Heart Hospital. Bessie Mae was born in Okeechobee and was a lifetime resident.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Alice Prescott.

Survivors include a son, Frank Prescott; daughter, Emellia Wilson, both of Brewton, Ala.; 14 grandchildren and numerous great and great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held at Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011, at 10 a.m. with services following at 11 a.m. Private interment will take place at Evergreen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, friends may make memorial donations to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

Friends may send online condolences at 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.

Louie L. Douglas

INDIANTOWN — Louie L. Douglas, born in Tifton, Ga., resident of Indiantown for more than 42 years, passed away Sept. 10, 2011.

He is survived by his mother, Ruby Douglas; son, Michael Douglas (Margaret); daughter, Lisa Phipps (Freddie); sisters, Mary Douglas, Shirley Mauldin (Bob), and Elaine Taylor (Ben); brother, Ronald Douglas; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Louie was preceded in death by his father, Carl Douglas; sister, Carol Douglas; and brother, Ray Douglas.

Services to be held in Tifton, Ga., at a later date.

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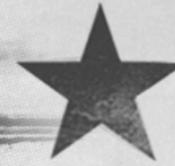
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Okeechobee Arrest Report

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).

- Ashley Casselton, 24, Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 13 by Deputy Greg Popovich on a Hillsborough County warrant charging her with failure to appear - grand theft. Her bond was set at \$5,000.

- James David Tyson, 24, N.W. 53rd Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 14 by the OCSO Street Crimes Unit on a Highlands County warrant charging him with violation of probation - sale of drugs within 1,000 feet of a school. He is being held without bond.

- Justin Howard Little, 19, W. Monroe St., Inverness, was arrested Sept. 14 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on a DOC warrant charging him with violation of probation - sale or delivery of a controlled substance (two counts). He is being held without bond.

- Tonnelle Marie Learn, 48, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 14 by Deputy Mark Margerum on a felony charge of uttering a forged check and a misdemeanor charge of theft. Her bond on those charges was set at \$2,750.

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.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The City of Okeechobee has tentatively adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.
A public hearing to make a FINAL DECISION on the budget AND TAXES will be held on:

Tuesday, September 20, 2011
6:00. p.m.

City Hall, Council Chambers, Room 200
55 SE 3rd Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34974

BUDGET SUMMARY

City of Okeechobee - Fiscal Year 2011-2012

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE ARE 1.5% LESS THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Millage Per \$1,000

General Fund 7.7432

	GENERAL FUND	PUBLIC FACILITY FUND	CDBG FUND	CAPITAL PROJECT IMPROVEMENT FUND	APITAL PROJECT IMPACT FUND	LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL FUND	TOTAL BUDGET
ESTIMATED REVENUES:							
Taxes:	Millage Per \$1000						
Ad Valorum Taxes	7.7432						\$ 1,747,753
OTHER TAXES (INS.PREM. UTILITY, ETC)	\$ 602,926	\$ 552,330	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,155,256.00
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	1,216,819	63,791	-	-	50	-	1,280,660
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	919,945	-	-	-	-	-	919,945
FINE, FORFEITURES AND PENALTIES	30,242	-	-	-	-	2,000	32,242
USES OF MONEY AND PROPERTY	1,000	1,000	-	5,500	-	1	7,501
OTHER REVENUE	44,905	-	700,000	288,000	-	-	1,032,905
TOTAL SOURCES	\$ 4,563,590	\$ 617,121	\$ 700,000	\$ 293,500	\$ 50	\$ 2,001	\$ 6,176,262
Transfers-In	715,248	-	-	-	-	-	715,248
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets	3,030,447	590,244	32	6,974,068	76,750	2,608	10,674,149
TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS & BALANCES	\$ 8,309,285	\$ 1,207,365	\$ 700,032	\$ 7,267,568	\$ 76,800	\$ 4,609	\$ 17,565,659
EXPENDITURES							
LEGISLATIVE	\$ 111,136	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 111,136
EXECUTIVE	171,526	-	-	1,000	-	-	172,526
CITY CLERK	179,244	-	-	6,000	-	-	185,244
FINANCIAL SERVICES	223,561	-	-	1,200	-	-	224,761
LEGAL COUNSEL	70,642	-	-	-	-	-	70,642
GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES	314,609	-	-	310,000	-	-	624,609
LAW ENFORCEMENT	1,902,714	-	-	50,522	31,003	1,000	1,985,239
FIRE PROTECTION	1,273,993	-	-	15,160	18,750	-	1,307,903
TRANSPORTATION	1,031,413	706,823	-	9,021	16,950	-	1,764,207
CAPITAL PROJECTS-VEHICLES LEASE PURCHASE	-	-	-	403,000	-	-	403,000
DEBT SERVICE	-	-	-	44,386	-	-	44,386
LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL FUND	-	-	-	-	-	2,608	2,608
CDBG GRANT FUND	-	-	700,000	-	-	-	700,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 5,278,838	\$ 706,823	\$ 700,000	\$ 840,289	\$ 66,703	\$ 3,608	\$ 7,596,261
OPERATING TRANSFER-OUT	-	317,700	-	397,498	50	-	715,248
FUND BALANCE/AND TRANSFER/RESERVES	3,030,447	182,842	32	6,029,781	10,047	1,001	9,254,150
TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES							
TRANSFERS, RESERVES & BALANCES	\$ 8,309,285	\$ 1,207,365	\$ 700,032	\$ 7,267,568	\$ 76,800	\$ 4,609	\$ 17,565,659

THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED, AND / OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.

Oliver is found guilty; gets two life sentences

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Just minutes before the jury left the courtroom to begin their deliberations, the prosecutor left them with one last thought: "She's 8 years old. You got to see her today, did she look strong enough to walk up to her mother and tell her that he has been raping her?"

Twenty-six minutes after leaving the courtroom Thursday afternoon, the six-member jury returned with their verdict and found Robert F. Oliver, 47, guilty on two counts of lewd and lascivious molestation victim under 12 (counts one and two) and two counts of sexual battery victim under 12 (counts three and four).

Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger then sentenced Oliver to life in prison on all counts. He ordered that counts one and two were to run concurrently and that counts three and four would also run concurrently, but consecutively with counts one and two.

In short, Oliver will serve two life sentences.

Assistant State Attorney Stephanie Tew also asked that Oliver be classified as a sexual predator.

"These are horrible facts and circumstances," said Judge Belanger of the case, adding that the fact Oliver has a prior conviction of lewd and lascivious acts on a child under 16 only made the case worse.

On March 20, 1995, Oliver was convicted of lewd and lascivious acts on a child and sentenced to nine years in prison. That sentence was to be followed by six years probation. He was released from the Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry on Dec. 16, 1999.

Oliver, who was arrested on the recent charges on Feb. 11, was convicted Sept. 15 of molesting the child on different occasions.

Detective Rosemary Farless, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), said her office learned about the case after the victim told a young friend. That friend,



Robert F. Oliver

said the detective, just happened to be the daughter of an OCSO deputy.

The detective explained to the jury that although Oliver was arrested by OCSO Detective William Suggs, she was called in to talk to the child.

Detective Farless said when she initially spoke with the child she did not want to talk about what had happened to her.

"She was very hurt and upset," the detective told Ms. Tew under direct examination.

And even though she could not remember specific dates and times, the victim took the stand Thursday morning and told in graphic detail what was done to her. She told the jury of five men and one woman that some of the things she was forced to do were painful.

She also said she did not tell her mom. "I didn't tell mom because I thought she would get mad at me," the child testified.

When cross examined by defense attorney Stanley Glenn, of the public defender's office, the girl said she couldn't remember when the molestations started or how many times she had been molested by Oliver.

Probably the most damning evidence against Oliver, however, was a phone call he made from the Okeechobee County Jail in which he admitted to his parents that he had molested the child. In that taped call, Oliver told his mom and dad that he was sorry and that he understood their distress over what he had done.

"Did you do any of it?" asked his father. "Yes, sir," replied Oliver.

Just before the call ended, the father reminded his son of the family bond.

"This doesn't stop us from loving you, son," said Oliver's dad.

As Oliver walked out of the courtroom in shackles Thursday afternoon, he told his parents that he loved them when he turned toward the audience and smiled to them as his mother wept.

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Okeechobee Toddlers- Aftercare Lic # C190K0017

Stepping Stones II 2205 Hwy 98 North 863-357-1400
Okeechobee Infants - Aftercare Lic # C190K0018

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CCC plans to meet on Sept. 27

The Community Collaborative Council of the Okeechobee County Shared Services Network will conduct their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 10 a.m., in the board room of the Okeechobee School Board Office. Spotlight Speaker: Lenora, Treasure Coast Food Bank and Angela Lowe, Mary's Shelter. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the community to identify issues, collaborate, and share information regarding services for children and their families. The meeting is open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please call Sharon Vinson at 863-462-5000, Ext. 257.

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.

Available 24/7

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

County Code board makes non-compliance determinations

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Because Janet Doster acted in good faith to clean up an inherited property, the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board, at their Tuesday, Sept. 13 meeting forgave the \$1,275 fine on her S.E. Tenth Avenue property.

"Ms. Doster made a very good faith effort in keeping up the property," said board chairman Jamie Gamiotea. "Don't come in front of us again," Mr. Gamiotea admonished Ms. Doster. "We won't be nice the second time."

According to building inspector Ray Schaub, the Church of God of Prophecy, 102 N.W. 10th St., had rebuilt a sign without obtaining a building permit. The church was fined \$25 a day for every day of noncompliance beginning upon mailing of a certified letter of notification.

According to code enforcement officer Fred Sterling, tenants at the S.E. Eighth Drive property of Ronnie and Charlene Jacobs are parking cars on bare ground in front of the house, causing the dirt to wash into the storm drain. The owners were fined \$25 a day for every day of noncompliance effective Sept. 20.

In another case involving rental property

on N.W. 12th St., the board felt there was insufficient evidence to make a determination and postponed the case until next month. The property in the 1000 block of S.R. 70 E. belonging to Williams R. Grigsby, Jr. was found to be in noncompliance because of overgrowth. The owner was fined \$25 a day for every day of noncompliance effective Sept. 20.

Mr. Sterling said the vacant duplex on S.E. 8th Ave. belonging to Robert and Melody Jennings was not secure. He said neighbors complained of people sleeping in the building. The board found the property to be a public nuisance and recommended the city take further action. The owners were fined \$25 a day for every day of noncompliance beginning Sept. 30.

The board decreed the S.E. 8th Avenue property of Matthew Williams to be a public nuisance and in need of general cleaning and beautification. The owner was fined \$50 a day for every day of noncompliance beginning Sept. 21.

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

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The South Florida Water Management District has tentatively adopted a budget for FY2011-2012.

This notice is applicable to Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk and St. Lucie Counties

A public hearing to make a FINAL DECISION on the budget AND TAXES will be held on:

Tuesday, September 20, 2011
at 5:15 p.m.

at the South Florida Water Management District Headquarters Building, B-1 Auditorium
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

PUBLISH: 9/16/2011 Okeechobee News

BUDGET SUMMARY SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2011 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

	GENERAL FUND	TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS	INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS	TRUST & AGENCY FUND	TOTAL TENTATIVE BUDGET
PROJECTED REVENUE						
	Millages per \$1,000					
Ad Valorem- District	0.1785	\$112,871,629				\$112,871,629
Ad Valorem- Okeechobee Basin	0.1954		112,702,774			112,702,774
Ad Valorem- Big Cypress Basin	0.1633		9,119,757			9,119,757
Ad Valorem - Everglades Restoration	0.0624		10,727,482	25,263,578		35,991,060
Agricultural Privilege Taxes		2,840,000	8,460,000			11,300,000
Intergovernmental	127,000	12,346,114	44,799,343			57,272,457
Licenses, Permits & Fees	2,400,000	78,000				2,478,000
Investment Income	1,455,889	1,098,779	2,604,343		115,159	5,274,170
Miscellaneous	150,000	1,867,550				2,017,550
Health Insurance				25,868,182		25,868,182
Self Insurance				2,886,535		2,886,535
TOTAL REVENUES	117,004,518	150,780,456	81,127,264	28,754,717	115,159	377,782,114
Fund Balance: Designated	47,283,881	83,825,604	67,037,960	178,632		198,326,077
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES AND BALANCES	164,288,399	234,606,060	148,165,224	28,933,349	115,159	576,108,191
Operating Transfers (Net)	-29,968,629	-14,054,166	44,137,954		-115,159	0
TOTAL	134,319,770	220,551,894	192,303,178	28,933,349	0	576,108,191
Encumbrances Funded by Fund Balance	10,865,867	21,340,862	58,848,844	148,144		91,203,717
Encumbrances Funded by Future Revenue		1,675,383	22,583,777			24,259,160
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES, BALANCES AND TRANSFERS	\$145,185,637	\$243,568,139	\$273,735,799	\$29,081,493	\$0	\$691,571,068
BUDGETED EXPENDITURES						
Administrative Svcs & Executive Ofcs						
Land Stewardship		410,182				410,182
Mission Support	56,305,357	3,645,962				59,951,319
Modeling & Scientific Support	177,037					177,037
Operations & Maintenance	445,097	1,516,103				1,961,200
Regulation	1,092,134	18,774				1,110,908
Restoration	1,910,345	5,817,174	8,508,391			16,235,910
Water Supply	2,570,592	2,014,566				4,585,158
Internal Service Funds				28,741,908		28,741,908
Administrative Svcs & Executive Ofcs Total	62,500,562	13,422,761	8,508,391	28,741,908		113,173,622
Operations, Maintenance & Capital Projects						
Land Stewardship	61,636	13,956,147	184,230			14,202,013
Mission Support	591,208	183,718				774,926
Modeling & Scientific Support	406,440		530,585			937,025
Operations & Maintenance	8,678,514	77,840,915	30,724,205			117,243,634
Regulation	61,792					61,792
Restoration	12,794,083	35,016,656	87,843,528			135,654,267
Water Supply	864,988	27,492				892,480
Internal Service Funds				191,441		191,441
Operations, Maintenance & Capital Projects Total	23,458,661	127,024,928	119,282,548	191,441		269,957,578
Regulation						
Mission Support	117,176	112,121				229,297
Operations & Maintenance	25,100	1,000				26,100
Regulation	14,707,172					14,707,172
Restoration	634,156	5,052,198	2,299,499			7,985,853
Water Supply	74,373					74,373
Regulation Total	15,557,977	5,165,319	2,299,499			23,022,795
Water Resources						
Land Stewardship		49,186				49,186
Mission Support	367,423					367,423
Modeling & Scientific Support	10,206,115					10,206,115
Operations & Maintenance	29,170	76,040				105,210
Restoration	2,197,084	11,067,428	15,232,187			28,496,699
Water Supply	3,843,641	703,472	1,805,665			6,352,778
Water Resources Total	16,643,433	11,896,126	17,037,852			45,577,411
CERP - Central Service Indirect Costs						
Mission Support	-7,230,000					-7,230,000
Restoration			7,230,000			7,230,000
CERP - Central Service Indirect Costs Total	-7,230,000		7,230,000			0
Res/Debt/Fees/Charges						
Land Stewardship		11,959,025				11,959,025
Mission Support	6,553,902					6,553,902
Operations & Maintenance	15,742,735	46,482,402				62,225,137
Restoration	1,092,500	4,601,333	37,944,888			43,638,721
Res/Debt/Fees/Charges Total	23,389,137	63,042,760	37,944,888			124,376,785
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	134,319,770	220,551,894	192,303,178	28,933,349	0	576,108,191
Encumbrances	10,865,867	23,016,245	81,432,621	148,144		115,462,877
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES	\$145,185,637	\$243,568,139	\$273,735,799	\$29,081,493	\$0	\$691,571,068

The tentative adopted and final budgets are on file in the office of the above referenced taxing authority as a public record.

Publish: 09/16/2011, Okeechobee News, Okeechobee FL



Special to the Okeechobee News/SEM

Students of the Week

Seminole Elementary would like to congratulate their Students of the Week for the week of Sept. 9: Osvaldo Salgado, Adamaris Fernandez, Michael Cruz, Carol Marker, Jonathan Mederos, Adolfo Lopez-Chavez, Briana Pelayo, Maggie Glassburn, Lia Nieto, Cody Mangold, Malek Alvarado, Lauren Hill, Veronica Santiago, Kevin Garcia, Ramiro Arellano, Kyle Barrett, Shane Pettit, Victor Bucio, Cruz Ponce, Adriana Betancourt, China Garcia, Dakota Powers, Luis Ramos, Isis Lopez, Rylee Kirkey, AJ Sanchez, Kalysta Fowler, Michael Edwards, Cody Deloney and Bryan Rosas.

Senior/Parent Informational Workshop at OHS

A special night has been scheduled for the graduating class of 2012 and their parents. All parents of seniors are urged to attend on Tuesday, **Sept. 22**, at 6:30 p.m., in the Lecture Hall at Okeechobee High School. Parents will be given information about senior expenses, graduation requirements, FCAT retakes, discussion of the college admissions process, details about visiting colleges, work programs, information about Florida Bright Futures Program, SAT/ACT information, scholarship information, questions you should ask when visiting different post-secondary institutions, and important tips that parents and seniors need to know to have a successful senior year and a successful first year at a post-secondary institution. This is an excellent opportunity for parents to ask questions that are pertinent for all seniors. We are looking forward to having seniors and their parents attend.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Track and Field honors

Raeley Matthews, a fifth grader at Osceola Middle School, was honored at the school board meeting Thursday, Sept. 8. Matthews finished second in the nation in her age group, 9-10, at the Hershey's Track and Field North American Championships in July.

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Changes possible for Glades community centers

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Glades County could change the way they handle management of community association buildings across the county and make the rules and regulations standard and perhaps lower the legal liability the county faces.

At the Tuesday Glades County Commission meeting, County Attorney Richard Pringle suggested the county look at ways to manage these facilities in the future. He said right now the associations are using these county properties any way they want to without rules or regulation.

The development of a Community Center for Washington Park on the outskirts of Moore Haven continues. There is approximately \$145,000 in an account to build a community center. This situation brought forward the management issues. County Attorney Richard Pringle objected to a proposed management agreement for this facility. He said, under terms of this agreement, the county would have all the liability on the property while another group, the Washington Park Community Improvement Association, would control the use of the property.

"This is a county asset. There is not an entitlement for any community group for uncontrolled use of the property," he added.

He said tax dollars were used to make all the improvements on the property and the county has the responsibility to manage, protect, and maintain the property.

He said a management agreement should be developed for all of the community centers in the county. There could be a management agreement for the Community Association to handle the facility or an arrangement where the County maintains

operation and control.

He said there should be a standard group of regulations for use of the property and for the application process for the individual community associations to decide which agreement they would prefer.

"The time may have come to deal with each of these community associations and put them into some kind of arrangement, be it county managed or another management agreement," Mr. Pringle told the Board.

A standard management agreement could be available for the Oct. 11, commission meeting.

Chairman Russell Echols said it is hard to make one size fit all. He said there must be some format to choose a path of management. He admitted anytime you start something new there will be some problems.

"There's a lot of devil in the details. At the same time everybody should have an opportunity to be treated fairly," he added.

Commissioner Donna Storter Long said this issue never came up when the commission spent \$60,000 to improve the Lakeport Community Center. She said the county should move ahead with building a community center in Washington Park without further delay.

Mr. Pringle said the county can build any structure that they want on any county property. He said the county management proposal would include rules and regulations that the commission would set.

"Apply those rules equitably across the board. Many counties have a parks and recreation department to oversee these facilities. It is a responsibility the County Manager assigns to another employee. Whoever does it needs to do it under standardized provisions," he added.

Ms. Storter-Long said no county buildings should be built until this issue is resolved.

In other actions, the board voted to approve a small scale amendment on behalf of Timothy James for 1.96 acres at 3342 County Road 721 Loop in Lakeport that was the former home of South Florida Venture Tours. The zoning and the future land use map would change from commercial to residential on this property if approved by the Florida Department of Community Affairs. Mr. James apologized to the board for his decision to place fill dirt on right of way owned by South Florida Water Management. He entered into a contract with the district to resolve that violation.

Commissioners approved an asphalt bid with C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc., for \$152,644. Commissioners said this was a reduced rate from their average asphalt bid so they decided to resurface more roads this year.

Commissioners also agreed to provide flu shots for all County employees. The shots will be administered by Glades EMS crews.

Commissioners also renewed a lease for the 40 acre landfill and Sheriffs Gun Range with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The terms of the lease are \$300 per year for the next 50 years.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Recognizing a librarian

At the Thursday, Sept. 8, meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission, Chairperson Margaret Helton, left, honored Marcia DiStefano, right, for 5 years service to the county. Mrs. DeStefano was born in Bangor, Maine. She obtained her first degree at the University of Maine in Fashion Merchandising. She moved to Ft. Lauderdale in 1993. In 1997, she went back to school to obtain a second degree in English Literature at Florida Atlantic University. She came to Okeechobee County in June, 2006 as librarian.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Fifteen years service

At the Thursday, Sept. 8 meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission, Chairperson Margaret Helton presented Russell Rowland with a plaque for fifteen years service to the county. Mr. Rowland was born in Ft. Lauderdale and moved to Okeechobee in 1974. He worked for a number of years on the family ranch, then began his county service as a corrections officer at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Fifteen years' service

At the Tuesday, Sept. 13 meeting of the Okeechobee Utility Authority Board of Directors chairman Steve Nelson, right, honored Rodney Arnold, left, meter reader/backflow technician, for 15 years service to the utility.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Tiffany Murray

'The Last Night Of Ballyhoo'

The Okeechobee High School Drama Club will present, "The Last Night of Ballyhoo," by Alfred Uhry on Thursday, Sept. 29 at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 1, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. All tickets are \$5. For tickets please call Miss Raulerson at 462-5025 ext 8011. Tickets will also be sold at the door each performance. In the back row from left to right are: Claresha Blair, Alyson Chaisson, Veronica Ingram, Deion Hayes, Cody Cooper, Erika Klingler, Ryan Reister, Emilie Lege'. In the front row from left to right: Nicole Perdomo, Kylie Shirley, Maria Zapata.



Okeechobee news/Pete Gawda

Extension office director honored

Okeechobee County Commission Chairperson Margaret Helton, left, presents Pat Hogue, right, with a plaque for ten years service to the county. The presentation took place during the Thursday, Sept. 8, meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission.

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Love bugs are back

By Katrina Elsen
Okeechobee News

The love bugs are back. Some Okeechobee County area residents reported seeing swarms of love bugs this week.

Actually, the pesky insects never really left. Love bugs (whose scientific name is *Plecia nearctica* Hardy) have a six month life cycle. Most of their lives are spent as larva, eating decaying vegetative matter in cow pastures, along roadsides and in other grassy areas. According to University of Florida research, pupa stage (or cocoon) stage lasts 7 to 9 days and the winged adult love bugs only live about three days to four days. The adult love bugs mate in flight, which is the origin of their nickname.

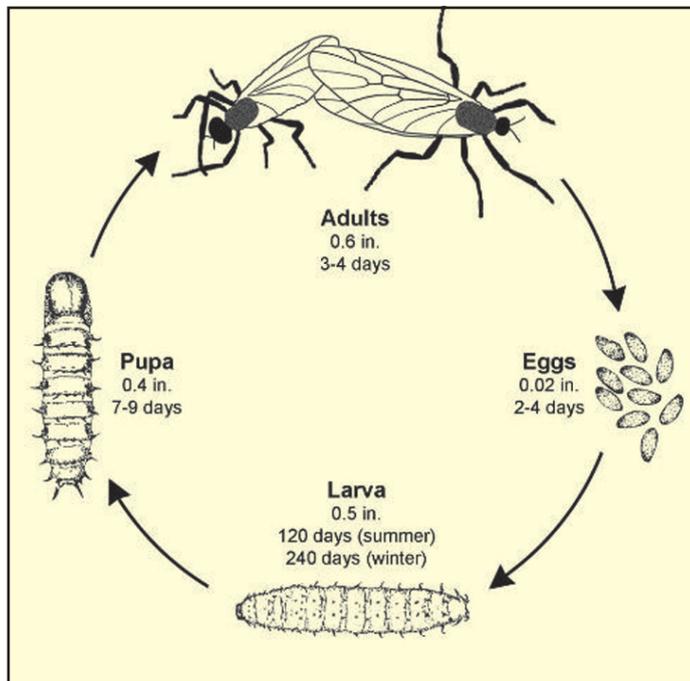
Love bug seasons usually lasts about three weeks, with the majority of adult love bugs hatching in May and September, although small numbers of the insects have been documented throughout the summer. The adults are most active between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and when temperatures are above 84 degrees Fahrenheit.

The bugs are native to Central America. Due to environmental factors, over the course of the 20th Century, the love bugs migrated from Central America, through Texas and Louisiana and then into Florida, according to the UF researchers. The bugs were first documented in Florida in 1949 in Escambia County.

Love bugs do not pose any environmental problems and in fact are beneficial to the environment, since they help break down thatch and other decaying vegetative matter. They are harmless to humans. The main problem with love bugs has to do with potential damage to automobiles. "Large numbers of lovebugs can reduce visibility, etch automobile paint, and cause liquid-cooled engines to overheat," states the UF web site.

The insects are apparently attracted to diesel and gasoline exhaust fumes and the heat from pavement. They tend to swarm over highways and their bodies are splattered on passing motor vehicles.

A number of commercial products are on the market to help reduce the love bug damage to cars. A hood air deflector or screen can reduce the number of bugs that land on



Special to the Okeechobee News/UF
The love bug life cycle is illustrated in this chart provided by the University of Florida. Adult love bugs only live three to four days.

the front of the car. Screens can also used to keep love bugs out of the engine. Regularly waxing a car can make it easier to remove the love bug bodies. The fluids from love bug bodies can etch automobile paint, so it is important to remove the bugs as soon as possible. Soaking them with water will make them easier to remove.

The UF web site recommends, "Within about 20 minutes after a lovebug-filled drive, wash your car with water for about five minutes and then scrub it to remove most of the lovebugs without harm to automobile paint."



Special to the Okeechobee News/UF
Love bugs are not native to Florida, but they have been in the state since the 1940s, migrating here from Central America.

Local Wendy's helps support OHS Band

On Monday Sept. 19, from 6-9 p.m. Wendy's at 502 N.E. Park St. will host a Spirit Night to help the Okeechobee High School Marching band raise the money they need for their trip to Washington D.C. for the Memorial Day Parade. Wendy's will donate 10 percent of the sales that night and every Monday night to try and help them achieve their goal. As a local business, Wendy's will also participate in other fund raisers for the school, such as donating food for home football games.

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

OCRA plans football jamboree on Saturday

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee Citizens Recreation Association opens the football season with a day-long jamboree on Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Okeechobee Sports Complex. The games begin at 9 a.m. and continue all day long.

OCRA continues to look for sponsors to assist their efforts this fall. If interested please call 634-0515. Sponsors this year include the One Stop Party Shop, Quail Creek Plantation, All Around Lawn Care, Riverside Land Maintenance, Quality Tees, Shenanigans Restau-

rant, Big Lake Eye Care, Walpole, Inc., and Pine Creek.

For more information about OCRA go to their new website at ocrasports.com

The league has both flag and tackle football teams this year. Coaches who have volunteered their time this year include Moe Madrigal, Jeff Whitlock, Fred Bradley, Scott Boyer, Neal Jewell, John Rhoden, Anthony Ortiz, Chuck Powell, Chaka Smith, Bobby Wright, Leon Edouards, Bobby Steiert, Brian Hanson, Paul Belangia, Rex Alan, Brad Gibson, Brian Sell, Jason Rhoden, and Preston Wiggins.

Big O Hike: Walk around Lake Okeechobee

It's never too early to plan for the 2011 'Hike Around the Dike.' During Thanksgiving week of November 2011, the Florida Trail Association will celebrate it's 20th annual Big "O" Hike, a 9-day, 110 mile walk around Lake Okeechobee. This is South Florida's biggest (non-fundraising) walking event and participants come from many areas of the United States and Canada. On opening day this year (Nov. 19) walkers will begin at the Pahokee Marina and head North on the Herbert Hoover Dike. There will be some variations this year due to Corps of Engineer construction projects. Nine days later the walkers will somehow return to the starting point. The purpose of the walk is threefold:

1. To draw attention to Lake Okeechobee and the communities around the lake,
2. To highlight the Lake Okeechobee section of the Florida National Scenic Trail, and
3. To introduce people to walking as an enjoyable and healthful pastime.

The walkers support the local economies by spending thousands of dollars each year in campgrounds, restaurants, gas stations, and retail outlets. This year the event is being sponsored by the members of the Loxahatchee Chapter of the Florida Trail Association.



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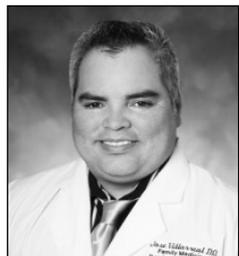
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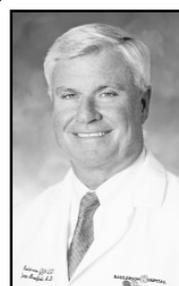
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OHS swim team competes in Blackman Invitational

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School boys swim team finished fourth and the girls squad finished in third place at a 10 team field at the Blackman Invitational in Highlands County on Saturday.

For the girls the 400 free relay team finished sixth overall. Swimmers included Sage Douglas, Heather Hotmire, D.J. Nunez and Emilie Lege.

Other highlights included personal best times in the 50 fly for D.J. Nunez, Maddie Bean in the 50 backstroke and Lege in the 50 breaststroke.

The boys 400 free relay of Dustin Houston, Dalton Hodges, Jason Rucks and Ryan Reister finished in third place overall with a time strikingly similar to the time they recorded in last year's district meet.

Coach Brian Turner said the team used the day to improve their individual times and didn't worry about the other schools. He said the more experienced swimmers got the opportunity to race their events two or three

times which really helps them improve.

"As the meet went on we made some small adjustments and the results were very good because our times improved," he added.

He said his mature team can often be too business-like in the pool but they know it is a long season and the goal is to continue to improve.

"They really learned from last season and they are focused and understand about long term growth," he said.

Turner said swimming can be like the stock market and Wall Street because you either get better or you get worse.

Turner said the teams are also looking forward to future meets with these teams to see how much they have improved.

I will never forget how good these teams looked three years ago. The good finishes we enjoyed in this meet really do prove how far we have come.

The Brahmans host Lincoln Park and Port St. Lucie on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee Sports Complex.

OHS Brahmans to play St. Lucie West Centennial

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School (0-2) hopes to change their season around tonight when they take their first road trip of the season to St. Lucie West Centennial in Port St. Lucie.

Centennial (1-1) has lost to Merritt Island 26-9 and defeated Sebastian River 31-24 while Okeechobee has lost to Gulliver Prep 23-12 and Desoto 34-21.

Centennial lost their starting QB Tim Caffey to an injury last week and his status for the game tonight is questionable. He was extremely accurate in the passing game in the first two games as he completed 15 of 17 passes. Mike Nesmith is the Eagles best running back. He has averaged 6.2 yards per carry in the first two games. Ty Jackson, who replaced Caffey at QB last week, is their leading receiver with six receptions. Dustin Saxon and Edwin Thomas will have to pick up the slack if Jackson starts at QB tonight.

The Brahmans hope to improve from last week when they turned the ball over three times and committed six team penalties. Ty'Ronte Files rushed for 110 yards and three touchdowns last week.

The Brahmans will have Daniel Nunez back in the lineup tonight. He missed last week due to an ankle injury. Eddie Neal and Cade Stokes have earned playing time against at wide receiver.

Brahman Coach Myron Jackson said his team played a great first half but seemed to be flat in the second half against Desoto. He said they must become more consistent on



Scouting Report

offense and do a better job scoring touchdowns when they reach an opponents red zone.

"I'd like to see us show some power and dominance near the goal line. That is why we lift weights all year, to be stronger physically," he said.

Jackson said the main problem has been missed assignments and not effort. He blamed last week's loss on two early turnovers.

"We practice all these things during the week but it seems they leave us when we play a game on Friday night," he added.

Jackson said Centennial has had two different offenses in the first two games so he's unsure if they'll use a triple option attack or more of a pro set against the Brahmans tonight.

"The key for us is to be disciplined and focused. A team can run the ball all night and the defensive backfield can fall asleep and all of a sudden they make a big play," he said.

Jackson has also emphasized improved play on special teams. Last week the Brahmans gave up a huge kick return that gave Desoto the momentum in the third quarter.

Jackson also praised young freshmen G.W. Jarriel and Ricardo Garza and defensive linemen Jose Garcia who played strong games last week. "Our goal is to continue to progress from week to week and show improvement," he added.

The kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight at South County Stadium in St. Lucie West.

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OHS girls golf team wins match

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School girls golf team won their third match in a row as they defeated Martin County by 15 strokes and South Fork by 31 strokes in a match Tuesday at the Martin County Club in Stuart.

Okeechobee shot 209 led by Raychel Rabon who shot 46, Emily Raulerson, who shot 49, Sam Harrell who shot 56, and Kailey Hoover who shot 58.

Martin County shot 224 and South Fork shot 240. Lady Tiger Kailey Blair tied Rabon for the low score on the afternoon.

Brahman Golf Coach Brent Stuart said it was near perfect conditions despite some stiff ocean winds through the Australian Pines that affected wood and iron shots.

"Some drives were pushed out of bounds by the breeze, and the winds even slowed some putts but the three teams kept battling," Stuart said.

Stuart said he was very pleased with the start to the season as the girl's continue to improve and work hard on their individual games.

The Lady Brahmans travelled to Lake Placid on Thursday to face the Green Dragons.

OHS swim team loses meet

Okeechobee High School's swim team fell in a tri-meet with Vero Beach and Jensen Beach in high school boys and girls swimming action on Monday in Jensen Beach.

The boys team lost to Vero Beach 72-22 and to Jensen Beach 73-21. The girls team lost to Vero Beach 73-28 and to Jensen Beach 67-34.

Nick Methner led the boys team with a third place finish in the 200-yard freestyle. Timmy Farrell won the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 54.55.

The girls team was led by senior Jessica Wackler who finished third in the 200 freestyle and third in the 500 freestyle. Hunter Bosworth finished in second place in the 100 butterfly. Katie Van Beek finished second in the 100 freestyle and Peyton Byrd finished third in the 100 breaststroke.

Okeechobee finished third in the 200 freestyle relay. Van Beek, Savannah Whitlock, and Wackler, were key swimmers in the relay for OHS.

OHS boys golf team loses match

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee had a tough combination on Tuesday, a tough golf course and some very tough opponents, Vero Beach and Martin County.

The boy's golf team fell by 21 shots to Vero Beach and 11 shots to Martin County in a match played at the Indian River Country Club.

"It was a tough course. If you don't hit the ball straight you will get penalized," Golf Coach Kenny Buckner said, "I do see some progress and most of the guys did play well."

Richard Donegan led the Brahmans with a 2-over 38, Kodi Stephen was solid at 4-over 40. Tyler Finney shot a 41. Billy Childers shot a 51 to fill out the team's score of 170.

Buckner said Kutter Crawford had a solid afternoon and was on track to score 40 but had two very rough holes. He noted Stephen avoided any major mistakes as he improved his scores from the Okeechobee Invitational.

"We're not discouraged. Vero Beach is probably the best team in our district. I feel our kids can play with Martin County," Buckner added.

He said this week the team will get a lot of practice time in if the weather report is accurate. He said having a week off should also help the kids prepare mentally for the rest of the season.

Payton Taylor of Vero Beach and Dominic Vennari of Martin County both shot even par 36 at the match on Tuesday.

Friends of Lake to meet

Friends of Lake Okeechobee will meet on Sept. 22, at 7 p.m., at the Holiday Inn of Okeechobee (3101 US Hwy. 441 S., Okeechobee) All local businesses are affected by the lack of tourism in the area due to low water, from motels and gas stations, to restaurant and fishing guides. All are welcome and encouraged to come to make a change in how this great lake is managed. Please come with your concerns and ideas to help. Everyone is welcome, please come and support your lake! Call 937-728-1344 for questions or details.

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2004 Blue Dodge Ram 1500
1D7HA18N94J168232

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" with no guarantees. 397739 ON 9/16/2011

FINAL BUDGET HEARING AND REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will conduct the Final Budget Public Hearing and Regular Session on **Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 6:00 p.m.**, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noted herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website www.cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance.

by: James E. Kirk, Mayor
Lane Gammona, CMC, City Clerk
397841 ON 9/16/2011

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold its Regular Session on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the **"Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom" at the Historic Courthouse, 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.**

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

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

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

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Paula Poskon/ Deputy Clerk
397900 ON 9/16/2011

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application(s) for permit have been received for project(s) in Okeechobee County:

Okeechobee Utility Authority, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974-4221, has submitted a Petition for Variance (Application 110902-1, Permit 47-00004-W) seeking relief from provisions in Chapter 120.542 Section 3.2.1.G(4) F.A.C., pertaining to requirements of the Restricted Allocation Area rule, specifically Incompatible Use Type. The project is located in Sections 4-10, 13-36, Townships 37, 38 South, Ranges 34-36 East.

Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a copy of the staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the South Florida Water Management District, Attn: Regulation Division, PO Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680, but such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 21 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Application status and associated documents can also be obtained by accessing the District's website (www.sfwmd.gov) and selecting the Application/Permit Search on the ePermitting page. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.
397591 ON 9/16/2011

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on the Final Budget, Final Millage Rate and Final Assessments on **Tuesday, September 27, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.** in the "Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom" at the **Historic Courthouse, 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.**

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

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

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

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Paula Poskon/ Deputy Clerk
397901 ON 9/16/2011

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2011TD077

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1946** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **BASSWOOD UNIT 1 LOT 10 BLOCK 11**
1-05-37-35-0010-00110-0100
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
JANICE CHAPMAN

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396861 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2011TD078

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2007** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **BASSWOOD UNIT 3 LOT 20 BLOCK 42**
1-05-37-35-0030-00420-0200
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
DOMINICK A BELLINO

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396866 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2011TD088

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2534** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **TREASURE ISLAND UNIT 1 LOT 19**
1-25-37-35-0020-00010-0190
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
CONSTANCE SHIRLEY AMIDON
LISA H SARCINELLO

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396878 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2011TD089

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **3078** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LAR-KEE LAKES 2ND ADDITION FOR MOBILE HOMES LOTS 18, 19 & 20, BLOCK 5, LAR-KEE LAKES 2ND ADDITION FOR MOBILE HOMES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 6 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.**
1-04-38-36-0040-00050-0180
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
CHRISTA REAGAN
DOUGLAS WHITTEN

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396883 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

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

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

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

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

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2011TD083

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2500** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONNERS GABLES REVISED LOT 5 LESS THE NORTH 60.00 FEET THEREOF & THE NORTH 63.00 FEET OF LOT 6 BLOCK 6**
1-24-37-35-0010-00060-0060
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
D & B MANAGEMENT INC
DANIELLE BRADSHAW
GARFIELD BRADSHAW
PHYLLIS BRADSHAW

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396873 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2011TD082

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2499** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONNERS GABLES REVISED LOT 4 LESS THE NORTH 57.00 FEET THEREOF & THE NORTH 60.00 FEET OF LOT 5 BLOCK 6**
1-24-37-35-0010-00060-0050
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
D & B MANAGEMENT INC
DANIELLE BRADSHAW
GARFIELD BRADSHAW
PHYLLIS BRADSHAW

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396872 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2011TD091

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **3078** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LAR-KEE LAKES 2ND ADDITION FOR MOBILE HOMES LOTS 18, 19 & 20, BLOCK 5, LAR-KEE LAKES 2ND ADDITION FOR MOBILE HOMES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 6 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.**
1-04-38-36-0040-00050-0180
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
CHRISTA REAGAN
DOUGLAS WHITTEN

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396883 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2011TD081

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2498** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONNERS GABLES REVISED LOT 13 LESS THE NORTH 57.00 FEET THEREOF & THE NORTH 60.00 FEET OF LOT 12 BLOCK 3**
1-24-37-35-0010-00030-0120
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
D & B MANAGEMENT INC
DANIELLE BRADSHAW
GARFIELD BRADSHAW
PHYLLIS BRADSHAW

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396871 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2011TD079

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2496** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONNERS GABLES REVISED LOT 11 LESS THE NORTH 63.00 FEET THEREOF & THE NORTH 66.00 FEET OF LOT 10 BLOCK 3**
1-24-37-35-0010-00030-0100
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
D & B MANAGEMENT INC
DANIELLE BRADSHAW
GARFIELD BRADSHAW
PHYLLIS BRADSHAW

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396869 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2011TD080

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2497** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONNERS GABLES REVISED LOT 12 LESS THE NORTH 60.00 FEET THEREOF & THE NORTH 63.00 FEET OF LOT 11 BLOCK 3**
1-24-37-35-0010-00030-0110
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
D & B MANAGEMENT INC
DANIELLE BRADSHAW
GARFIELD BRADSHAW
PHYLLIS BRADSHAW

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396870 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2011TD081

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2498** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONNERS GABLES REVISED LOT 13 LESS THE NORTH 57.00 FEET THEREOF & THE NORTH 60.00 FEET OF LOT 12 BLOCK 3**
1-24-37-35-0010-00030-0120
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
D & B MANAGEMENT INC
DANIELLE BRADSHAW
GARFIELD BRADSHAW
PHYLLIS BRADSHAW

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396871 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2011TD081

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2498** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONNERS GABLES REVISED LOT 13 LESS THE NORTH 57.00 FEET THEREOF & THE NORTH 60.00 FEET OF LOT 12 BLOCK 3**
1-24-37-35-0010-00030-0120
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
D & B MANAGEMENT INC
DANIELLE BRADSHAW
GARFIELD BRADSHAW
PHYLLIS BRADSHAW

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396871 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

MEDICAL

Need to Find a Doctor?

MEDICAL

Check out our Medical Directory in Wednesday and Friday's Okeechobee News

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2011TD087

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2505** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONNERS GABLES REVISED LOT 13 LESS THE NORTH 57.00 FEET THEREOF & THE NORTH 60.00 FEET OF LOT 12 BLOCK 6**

1-24-37-35-0010-00060-0120
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**D & B MANAGEMENT INC
DANIELLE BRADSHAW
GARFIELD BRADSHAW
PHYLLIS BRADSHAW**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396877 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2011TD084

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2501** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONNERS GABLES REVISED LOT 6 LESS THE NORTH 63.00 FEET THEREOF & THE NORTH 66.00 FEET OF LOT 7 BLOCK 6**

1-24-37-35-0010-00060-0070
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**D & B MANAGEMENT INC
DANIELLE BRADSHAW
GARFIELD BRADSHAW
PHYLLIS BRADSHAW**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396874 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

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

ANSWER

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2011TD085

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2503** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONNERS GABLES REVISED LOT 11 LESS THE NORTH 63.00 FEET THEREOF & THE NORTH 66.00 FEET OF LOT 10 BLOCK 6**

1-24-37-35-0010-00060-0100
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**D & B MANAGEMENT INC
DANIELLE BRADSHAW
GARFIELD BRADSHAW
PHYLLIS BRADSHAW**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396875 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2011TD090

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **3058** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONSOLIDATED LAND COMPANY THAT PART OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION LYING & BEING IN SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 38 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST; THE NORTH 1050 FEET OF THE SOUTH 1457 FEET OF LOT 15 AND 16, BLOCK 5, CONSOLIDATED LAND COMPANY, LYING WEST OF STATE ROAD 15-A ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 5, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. 1.34 ACRES**

1-04-38-36-0A00-00022-0000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
JAMES J ROLOW

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396881 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2011TD093

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **3129** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONSOLIDATED LAND COMPANY THAT PART OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION LYING & BEING IN SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 38 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST; THE NORTH 1050 FEET OF THE SOUTH 1457 FEET OF LOT 15 AND 16, BLOCK 5, CONSOLIDATED LAND COMPANY, LYING WEST OF STATE ROAD 15-A ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 5, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. 4.28 ACRES**

1-09-38-36-0A00-00018-0000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
JAMES J ROLOW

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396894 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2011TD092

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **3081** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LAR-KEE LAKES 2ND ADDITION FOR MOBILE HOMES LOT 9, BLOCK 6, LAR-KEE LAKES 2ND ADDITION FOR MOBILE HOMES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 6 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

1-04-38-36-0040-00060-0090
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**CAROL BENEDICT
GREGORY A THOMPSON
NORMAN ALLAN THOMPSON
ROSELLA LOUISE THOMPSON**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396891 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2011TD089

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2915** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **COM AT THE 1/4 SEC COR OF THE W BDRY LINE OF SEC 17 THENCE S 89 DEG 24 MIN 08 SEC E, A DIST OF 180 FT; THENCE N 00 DEG 04 MIN 22 SEC E, A DIST OF 662 FT; THENCE S 89 DEG 24 MIN 08 SEC E, A DIST OF 600 FT; THENCE N 00 DEG 04 MIN 22 SEC E, A DIST OF 100 FT TO THE POB THENCE S 89 DEG 24 MIN 08 SEC E, A DIST OF 200 FT; THENCE S 00 DEG 24 MIN 08 SEC W, A DIST OF 100 FT; THENCE N 89 DEG 24 MIN 08 SEC W, A DIST OF 200 FT TO THE POB.**

1-17-37-36-0A00-00003-102D
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**CATHY PEERY
JAMES PEERY**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396880 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2011TD086

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2504** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **CONNERS GABLES REVISED LOT 12 LESS THE NORTH 60.00 FEET THEREOF & THE NORTH 63.00 FEET OF LOT 11 BLOCK 6**

1-24-37-35-0010-00060-0110
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**D & B MANAGEMENT INC
DANIELLE BRADSHAW
GARFIELD BRADSHAW
PHYLLIS BRADSHAW**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **20th day of October, 2011**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 396876 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2011

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2010 CA 236

SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BIG LAKE NATIONAL BANK,
Plaintiff,
vs.
AMY STEPHAN, et. al.,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated September 2, 2011, entered in Case No. 2010-CA-236 in the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida wherein Seacoast National Bank is Plaintiff and Amy Stephan, Rick Stephan, Roxanne McElroy, The Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Lienors, Creditors, Trustees, or any Unknown Claimant by, through, under, or against Georgene M. Potter a/k/a Georgene Marie Potter, deceased, are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 at 11:00 am on the 28th day of Sept, 2011, the following described property in Okeechobee County, Florida:

Lot 13, Seminole Cove Condominium, according to declaration of Condominium of Seminole Cove Condominium as recorded in O.R. Book 289, Page 1590, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

Together with a portion of Lot 12, of said Seminole Cove Condominium, being more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Lot 13, thence South 00 degrees 30'11" East along the West line of said Lot 13, a distance of 90.00 feet to the Southwest corner of said Lot 13, thence South 89 degrees 29'49" West along the South line of said Lot 12, a distance of 0.92 feet; thence North 00 degrees 04'50" East, a distance of 90.01 feet to the point of beginning.

Also including (1) 1987 Homes of Merit Mobile Home ID #CF24023540A & CF24023540B

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 6th day of September, 2011.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: Linda F. Young
DEPUTY CLERK

397174 ON 9/9,16/2011

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YMS opens home volleyball season with win



Rachel Bryan had a great home opener to begin her career at YMS with several kills at the net. She also showed off some impressive serves for the Lady Bulls as they defeated Gifford.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

It was more of the same for the Yearling Middle School volleyball team Monday as they opened their home schedule with a rather convincing performance against Gifford Middle School.

Despite some early mistakes, Yearling defeated the Dolphins 25-13 and 25-15 and was never really threatened by the shorter, but scrappy Gifford squad.

After spotting the Dolphins a (2-0) lead in the first game, Okeechobee responded with six straight points and built leads of 15-6, and 20-13 as they won the first game.

Yearling controlled points at the net while each team got some points on unforced errors and mistakes.

Gifford only trailed 10-9 in the second game before Yearling went on an (8-0) run keyed by some tough serves from Trista Osceola. She had eight service points in the game.

Coach Bruce Conrad said he felt real good about the team's effort in this match as his team had to earn most of their points.

"Gifford has been down for a couple of



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Coach Bruce Conrad has a younger team but still has a lot of talent on the YMS volleyball team this year.

years. They seem to be getting their program back together which is good for all of us," he explained.

Yearling kept eight players who are in the sixth grade this year and many of them will play considerable minutes this year. Conrad said they have earned the playing time.

"I was proud of some of the younger girls because they played hard and played well. They are learning and this will be their year to play a lot," he added.

Cheyenne Nunez played a steady game along with setter Jacie Harvey and Baylee Farless. Rachel Bryan also had several kills at the net for the Bulls, (2-0).

Conrad joked he has something he can't coach this year, height. "I'm blessed. The tallest girls are mostly sixth and seventh graders so we'll be tall again next year."

OMS volleyballers fall to Sebastian

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Lady Warriors of Osceola Middle School continued to show vast improvement over last year as they opened their home schedule with a tight battle with Sebastian Middle School on Wednesday in volleyball action in Okeechobee.

Sebastian won 28-26 and 25-22 in two very exciting and competitive games.

Osceola Coach Kati Lawson said she felt the girls continue to show improvement over last year, "The girls are really improving. We are working on playing the entire court on offense and defense. They get back, they cover tips, they get up and hit the ball and they aren't scared of it."

Lawson is in her first year as coach of the volleyball team and in her second year as a teacher at the school. She said she has emphasized the basics and fundamentals and noted the girls work hard in practice on their foot work.

The team started the year with a win at Oslo Middle School on Monday but Coach Lawson said she was actually more impressed with the team's performance on Wednesday.

"We didn't play with as much passion Monday. I'd rather have the loss today because the girls played with heart and they really tried. I'm really proud of them," she noted.

There was a nice home crowd on hand to cheer on the girls who used that emotion and support to keep the scores close throughout.

Osceola had a few game points in the first game but still fell by two points. They fell behind (8-0) in the second game but still battled and came back. Coach Lawson said that shows the girls are maturing as a unit.

"I'm really proud of their comeback because they have trouble when they get down on themselves. The girls really came back and they didn't let anything stop them," she added.

Lawson said a few service faults came back to haunt her girls but pointed out those kind of mistakes are easily corrected. She predicted Osceola could surprise some other teams this year.

"I would put my girls up against any team. As long as they play a good match I'm happy with them. A win is always nice but I'm still really proud of what they did today."

The Osceola volleyball team travels to Gifford Middle School on Sept. 21 and hosts the Brighton Charter School on Thursday, Sept. 22.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Riylee Norton and the Lady Warriors of Osceola played a strong match Wednesday against Sebastian Middle School

Bassmaster fishing tournament this weekend

The Toyota Tundra Bassmaster Weekend Series divisional two-day event set for this Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17 and 18, will be a true divisional championship that anglers have been required to meet minimum qualifications to compete in the event. Each divisional point champion both boater and co-angler can earn a secured slot for the 2011 National Championship providing they meet requirements. The top 40 Boaters and Co-anglers from each division by points advance to one of the four Regional Championships. "This series offers the most exciting and the most challenging tournament format for weekend

anglers. The 2011 Series Champion earns a slot in the prestigious 2012 Bassmaster Classic® to compete against the world's best bass pros and a place in history," said ABA President Morris Sheehan.

Hosted by the Okeechobee County Tourist Development Council, the Florida Division of the Toyota Tundra Bassmaster Weekend Series Divisional Championship will take place in Okeechobee County at C. Scott Driver Park. Approximately 100 Anglers will compete in this exciting tournament. Weigh-ins will begin at 3 p.m. each day. For further information call Kathy Scott, Tourism Coordinator at 863-763-3959.



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