



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 112

Sunday, September 18, 2011

75¢ Plus tax

**Man accused of threatening to shoot children over missing pills ... Page 9**

**Can you help save this dog's life? ... Page 5**



**Coquina sets new budget ... Page 3**

**City plans budget hearing ... Page 3**

## Lake Levels

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## Florida's 'Spice' law hard to enforce

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

Local law enforcement officers are learning the hard way that it's much easier to arrest someone for being in possession of or selling K-2 or Spice than actually getting them before a judge.

A law went into effect in Florida on July 1 that banned the sale of synthetic marijuana, or cannabinoid. These 'legal' substances are

commonly referred to as K-2, Spice, Mr. Nice Guy, Genie, Yucatan Fire, Skunk and many other names.

These substances, sold many times as intense, contain chemicals that mimic THC—the active ingredient in marijuana—and produce a marijuana-like high. In recent years these substances have become increasingly popular with teens and young adults.

In this article we will simply refer to these

different substances by one name -- Spice.

Prior to July 1, Spice was legally sold over the counter at many different retail outlets including convenience stores and head shops.

Since Governor Rick Scott signed a bill making it illegal to sell, manufacture, distribute or possess these synthetic cannabinoids, members of the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force

See SPICE— Page 7



**Ready for some football?**

Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Okeechobee showed a physical defense for much of the first half as the Okeechobee High School Brahman's Junior Varsity Team played the Treasure Coast Titans on Thursday at Brahman Stadium. #24 Eric Evans, #21 Connor Clements and #56 Devon Wigfall proved that point with this tackle. For more about the JV team, see page 19. For the story on the Friday OHS varsity football game, see page 15.

## Many lack medical insurance

**By Pete Gawda**  
Okeechobee News

Unfortunately the quality of medical care given today may be dependent on the type of insurance a person has or doesn't have. The present state of medical insurance is complicated and there is no quick, easy fix. That is the opinion of Dr. Armando Santelices, clinic coordinator for Lakeshore Medical Center.

Statistics from 2007 show that 31.5 percent of Okeechobee residents have no medical insurance. No doubt that number has gone up with increasing unemployment. Dr. Santelices said he sees new patients every day who have lost their jobs and have no insurance and other doctors will not see them.

He said he had a patient tell him that other doctors told her they were not taking any new patients after they learned she had no insurance. Another patient with no insurance told Dr. Santelices that another doctor agreed to see him only if he paid \$250 up front.

Like the Okeechobee County Health Department, Lakeshore Medical Center

See INSURANCE — Page 7



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Special to the Okeechobee News/Raye Duesinger

## Check presentation

For the fifth straight year, Waste Management/Okeechobee Landfill has donated to the Okeechobee Blood Roundup to help with the community-wide drive which will be held Nov. 19 and 20, with a goal of 600 blood donations for the two days. Teresa Chandler (right) presents the check to drive chairman Raye Deusinger (left).

## Local forecast

**Today:** Partly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated afternoon thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph increasing to 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of rain 30 percent.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy. Isolated evening showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s. Chance of rain 20 percent.

## Extended forecast

**Monday:** Partly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs around 90. Chance of rain 40 percent.

**Monday night:** Partly cloudy. Isolated evening showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s. Chance of rain 20 percent.

**Tuesday:** Partly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Highs around 90. Chance of rain 40 percent.

**Tuesday night:** Partly cloudy. Isolated evening showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s. Chance of rain 20 percent.

**Wednesday:** Partly sunny with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. Chance of rain 40 percent.

**Wednesday night:** Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s. Chance of rain 20 percent.

**Thursday:** Partly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. Chance of rain 40 percent.



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# Coquina approves \$935,000 budget

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Residents of Viking will see no change in their assessment to Coquina Water Control District.

The Coquina Water Control District Board of Supervisors held their regular meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 14. One of the agenda items was approval of the annual budget. Since one of the board members, Kenneth

Childs, said he had only received his copy of the proposed budget the day before, the board conducted routine business on Wednesday, then adjourned until Friday, Sept. 16 to adopt the budget.

As a matter of housekeeping the board voted to transfer funds from the canal maintenance account of the current year's budget to several other accounts to balance the current budget. They also adopted new accounting procedures for documenting the

fund balance in next years' budget.

Board attorney Tony Young reported that the easement dispute with Carlin Galvin has been settled. Mrs. Galvin owns property on N.W. 254th Street and had put up fences and gates on the easement accessing her property. It was her position that she had a right to do so since she owns the property on both sides of the easement and no other property owners needed the easement for access. Coquina's position was that the easement should remain open. The board unanimously voted to remove the fences and gates if they were still standing on Sept. 8. Mrs. Carlin wanted to see this action settled in court, but stated that if there was no court action by the deadline she would take the fences and gates down herself. Since there was no court action by the prescribed deadline the property owner kept her word and took down the fences and gates across Coquina easements.

Chairman Melvin Byars reported that the board had purchased 28 acres of land for fill dirt.

The \$935,000 budget is funded primarily from assessments of Viking property owners. The assessment rate will remain at \$62.64 an acre, the same as it has been for the past several years. The largest line item in the budget, \$340,000, is allocated to maintenance of the Coquina drainage and road system.

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

## City council to approve budget

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

If any city resident wishes to express their opinions on the proposed city budget, Tuesday evening would be the time to do so. The Okeechobee City Council will hold the final public hearing before adopting a millage rate and budget for fiscal year 2011/12.

The council will consider approval of a millage rate of 7.7432. This millage rate, taking into consideration declining property values and new construction, is designed to bring in 2.03 per cent less money to the city than last year's millage rate. One mil equals \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. The proposed budget contains a three percent longevity pay increase for city employees. Total expenditures under the proposed budget are \$5,238,924. The proposed millage rate will generate \$1,747,752. The difference between that amount and the budget total will be made up from other revenue sources such as permit fees, fines and forfeitures, and the city's share of various state taxes plus \$400,000 transferred from reserves.

Turning to other items, the council will hold the first reading on a proposed ordi-

**If you go ...**  
**What: Okeechobee City Council meeting and final public hearing on city budget and millage rate**  
**When: 6 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 20**  
**Where: City Council chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.**

nance to abandon N.W. Third Avenue from the right of way of the Seaboard Airline Railway northward to N.W. Ninth Street.

City planner Bill Brisson will be on hand to discuss 13 planning and zoning issues that he feels should be addressed. These issues range from allowing a dwelling unit in certain commercial zoning districts to regulating peddlers operating on private property who use temporary structures.

The council will also consider a resolution encouraging citizens to practice water conservation, appropriate landscaping and efficient, minimal use of fertilizers and pesticides.

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

## Florida Master Naturalist Program offered at Riverwoods Field Lab

CORNWELL - Riverwoods Field Lab, located on the Kissimmee River, is offering the Florida Master Naturalist's Uplands Class for residents and visitors interested in learning more about Florida's native upland habitats.

The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) is a statewide adult education program developed by the University of Florida/IFAS. It is a fun and educational program that is perfect for anyone interested in learning more about Florida's natural environment and conservation issues.

The class consists of morning presentations by Riverwoods staff and environmental experts, and afternoon field trips to explore local upland habitats. Field trips include the Kissimmee Prairie State Preserve, local cattle ranch and Archbold Biological Station. This year, the student project will be a volunteer day helping with uplands restoration at the Royce Ranch.

The course will be offered for six weeks from 8:30-5:00 on Wednesdays starting Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 & Dec. 7. The last day to register online is Oct. 19. Register online:

[www.MasterNaturalist.org](http://www.MasterNaturalist.org).

Questions? Check Riverwoods' website: <http://riverwoods.ces.fau.edu> or contact Loisa Kerwin, Director at [lkerwin@fau.edu](mailto:lkerwin@fau.edu) or 863-462-0025.

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How are we doing?

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## Public Forum/Speak Out

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

### Lake level

- The fear is the dike may breach if the lake level gets up over 14 or 15 feet. Back in the early 1980s, they would let the lake get up to 17 or 18 feet and it caused damage to the dike and also just about destroyed the fisheries. The fish need the low lake level to provide the spawning areas. If the lake is kept too high, the vegetation along the shoreline dies off and then the fish have nowhere safe to spawn and the fish start disappearing.

- From the photos in the paper, it looks like the fishing is great in the big lake. The low lake levels have been good for the fisheries. If they put the lake level schedule back up too high, it will kill off the fish and that would be worse for tourism than the low lake levels have been. People come here to fish, not to look at the water.

### Love bugs

- I can't complain too much about the love bugs this year. I remember back in the mid 1980s they were so thick that you couldn't drive from here to Sebring without stopping to clean your windshield. There were so many love bugs that you had to stop every 10 to 15 miles to clean the windshield because you couldn't see out well enough to drive. The windshield wipers would be caked with the bugs and you would run out of windshield cleaner fluid. People would carry gallons of cleaner fluid and plastic scrapers.

- The bugs stink and stain clothes. I did note that rubbing the front of the car with a dryer sheet did keep them from sticking quite so much. Simple Green helps dissolve their stinking guts once they smash on your car.

### Government pay

- I see that some of the city and OUA employees are probably going to get a raise or at least a bonus this year. While they probably do deserve it, I find it a little hard to stomach when I as a taxpayer had to take a pay cut.

- How's that Rick Scott tax reform working for you?

- Gov. Scott controls the pay for Okeechobee City, County and OUA?

- Gov. Scott proposed to lower the property taxes (county) that pay the wages of city and county employees. Now you know.

- I have never worked for the city, county or OUA but it seems like they haven't had a raise or even a COLA for several years. Now the state wants to take away another 3 percent of their pay. I think it is very fair to at least bring them back up to where they were.

- Can't anybody understand that this country (USA) is broke?

- You think we should just fire all the police, fire fighters, EMTs, infrastructure maintenance crews, judges, and everyone else drawing a government paycheck?

- It is a contribution to their own defined benefit pension plan, which have pretty much disappeared. The very structure of the plan provides for it. Scott is simply doing what a good manager should.

- I sure feel well spending my \$25 tax savings while Rick Scott costs over 100 people their jobs in that fiasco. I'm sure the unemployed and their families will not cause any additional cost to the taxpayers in the form of unemployment or food stamps. Scott's actions have caused the SFWMD to lose their AAA credit rating, costing the people of Florida additional money by increased interest rates on their debt.

- Scott required water management cut back to the core mission and cut out all the frills. That really does make sense because they were spending millions on things that were not really needed. As far as the city employees, they were not affected by the state retirement changes. The city employees are on the city retirement plan, not the state system.

### Gun owners

- As gun owners we should all be members of NRA—they are protecting our rights. Did you know they are trying to pass a law that will require makers of firearms to make guns that micro stamp the bullets casing with the serial number of the weapon that fires it. When gun control supporters have failed to get severe restrictions on guns through Congress and state legislatures, they have tried instead to restrict ammunition in one way or another.

## Reflections from the pulpit

### The Thick Darkness

**By Rev. Calvin H. Fryar**

Pastor, Brighton Baptist Church

"And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was." (Exodus 20:31)

"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:45-46)

"I must work the word of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:4-5)

At ten o'clock in the morning of May 19, 1780, people in the Eastern Seaboard noticed a strange haze spreading across the sky. Then a thick darkness settled over the eastern part of the U.S. By noon schools were dismissed, candles lit, and torches set in the streets. Birds went to roost. By one o'clock in the afternoon, fear had turned into panic as the "premature nightfall" continued. Thousands crowded into churches to hear ministers expound on the Day of Judgement.

In Hartford, Conn., both houses of the legislature were meeting, but one of them quickly dismissed since its members thought the world would end at any moment. The other body continued, although greatly distressed. One man finally made a motion to disband, since the day of reckoning was thought to have come. Immediately, Mr. Davenport, a Christian, objected, saying "Mr. Speaker, this is either the Day of Judgement or it is not. If it is not, there is no need for adjourning. If it is, I desire to be found doing my work. I move that candles be brought in and that we proceed in business." The meeting went on. - Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations.

Our world is often filled with darkness. Our text says, "Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was." This may sound strange at first because "God is Light." (1 John 1:5). Even though our world is filled with darkness which we must pass through, we would do good to remember that is where God is and He is light!

Man-made darkness covers our planet. The darkness of terrorism has covered the entire globe but everybody seems to be blind to it. Instead of calling it evil, they are trying to blame it on everything but the evil itself. After 9/11 men were asking where was God? They seemed to think that God was asleep or off somewhere when the planes flew into the buildings. However, during the terrible ordeal of 9/11, a young boy had an understanding of where God was. When New York experienced their dark hour and the people were asking where God was during this evil time, a very young boy drew a picture of the Twin Towers. In his picture, which showed the towers smoldering and burning, he drew a picture of Jesus above the smoke which rose above the towers. He was gathering the souls of those who were rising into the air above the darkness. He realized that Jesus was there in the darkness of that awful day.

One evening at dusk, Robert Louis Stevenson stood as a boy at the window of his home and watched the darkness envelope the city. "Robert," his nurse said to him, "come and sit down. You can't see anything out there." But young Stevenson insisted, "I can see something wonderful. There is a man coming up the street making holes in the darkness." It was the lamplighter. In the truest sense, Jesus Christ was the Divine Lamplighter. - Knight's Treasury

In fact, our Lord entered the world to make holes in the darkness. In John 8:12, Jesus stood in the darkness of this world and cried, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." On Calvary, Jesus passed through the thickest of darkness for us. When He rose on the first resurrection day, He lit a lamp that will never burn out. This lamp still shines in the thick darkness of our midnight world - and soon He will banish this darkness forever.

A father took his son into an art shop to buy a picture of Christ for him. The boy didn't like any of the pictures he was shown. The father thinking that the boy didn't want a picture after all, asked, "What kind of picture of Christ do you want?" Promptly the boy replied, "I want a Christ who shines in the darkness." - Knight's Treasury.

# KEECHOBEE NEWS

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## Okeechobee News

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## Our Purpose...

The Okeechobee News is published by Independent Newspapers of Florida. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.

## We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.

- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

## MEMBER





## Community Events

### Sacred Heart offers religious education 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 and video club planned

A new 4-H club is forming for those interested in digital photograph and making videos. The club is open to 4-Hers ages 12 to 18, and will meet on the third Monday of each month at the Okeechobee News office, 107 S.W. 17th Street (in the plaza next to the Brahman Movie Theater) at 7 p.m. Members should have access to a digital camera or video recorder to use for club projects. 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.

### Historical Society to meet

The Okeechobee Historical Society will be meet on Monday, **Sept. 19**, at noon at the Historical Society Museum on Highway 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 and we are encouraging everyone to bring school supplies to be donated to the Okeechobee County Schools.

### Food Stamp Assistance

Treasure Coast Food Bank will be at Welcome House Drop-in Center, 1925 Hwy 441 SE, on Monday, **Sept. 19**, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., helping with food stamp applications and recertification. This service is open to the public and no appointment is necessary. For more information please call 772-971-3316.

### Real Life Ranch to open 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.

### 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.

### Hospice to host Yard Sale

Hospice of Okeechobee's next yard sale will be on Wednesday Sept. 21 and Thursday, **Sept. 22**, from 8 a.m. until noon. The yard sale is located at the corner of SE 4th Street and SE 3rd Ave. For information call 863-467-2321 or see our web page: www.hospiceofokeechobee.org and click on Events tab.

### 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.

### Chamber to host Concealed Weapons Permit 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 class. Preregistration is Required. Register online at: www.OkeechobeeBusiness.com. Go to calendar of events and click on the Sept. 22, Concealed Weapons Permit Class. You may also contact the Chamber at info@OkeechobeeBusiness.com or 863-467-6246.

### Feathers & Furs 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) We ask that you come prepared to make a donation to Big Lake Mission. (money or non-perishable foods).

### CCC plans meeting

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.

### Dine with the Doctor

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

### Legislative delegation to meet

The Okeechobee County Legislative Delegation will host a public hearing on Wednesday, **Oct. 12**, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in the commission chambers of the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 N.W. Second Street, second floor. For more information please call State Representative Mike Horner's office at 407-943-3077

### Farm Bureau to hold Annual Membership meeting

Okeechobee County Farm Bureau Annual Membership Meeting set for Oct. 13, Okeechobee County Farm Bureau Annual Membership meeting is being held Thursday, **Oct. 13**, from 6-8 p.m., at the Civic Center on Hwy. 98N. Members are being asked to bring a covered dish of salad, vegetable or dessert. Steaks, drinks and rolls are being provided by the Okeechobee County Farm Bureau. Please RSVP by Oct. 5, to the Farm Bureau Office by calling 863-763-3101.

### Main Street plans

#### Halloween celebration

Okeechobee Main Street is in the process of gathering candy for the 2011 Halloween Celebration! Anyone who would be willing to put a Candy Collection Box at your business, please contact Cindy at the Main Street Office, (863) 357-6246 and I will drop one off; anyone interested in putting up a booth with a childrens' game or volunteering, also please contact Cindy. The 2011 Halloween Celebration is scheduled for Monday, **Oct. 31** at the Agri-Civic Center.

### Croppin' Crew to meet

The Croppin' Crew now meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Okeechobee County Library, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. All levels of scrapbookers are welcome. Check out what other local scrapbookers and cardmakers are doing and share your ideas too. Bring your pictures, scrapbook pages and/or projects that you are working on.

### Give blood - Save lives!

Okeechobee Blood Drives in September are planned for

- Thursday, **Sept. 29** - Okeechobee Correctional Institute, 12-6 p.m. This drive serves all those in the north county.

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## SPICE

Continued From Page 1

have made at least four arrests. Not only have none of these cases gone before a judge, three cases have since been dropped.

All four of those arrested on a felony possession charge were released on their own recognizance (ROR) by the first appearance judge.

One problem is judges are asking law enforcement to name the illegal substance in their probable cause statements. But because manufacturers keep changing the chemical composition of these substances, it's next to impossible for law enforcement to know what the illegal substance actually is.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) manufacturers commonly use five chemicals to manufacture Spice—JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-200, CP-47 (497) and cannabicyclohexanol. And as states enact laws to ban the sale and possession of fake pot the manufacturers simply change the compounds of these chemicals to make them legal.

These chemicals have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for human consumption. The synthetic substances used in Spice can produce hallucinations, severe paranoia, seizures, aggression, nosebleeds, increased blood pressure and, eventually, kidney failure.

At least 16 states have taken action to control the sale and possession of fake pot.

Because of the problems in getting these suspects in front of a judge, a local task force detective said it has been suggested that they seize the suspected substance and send it to the Indian River Crime Lab in Fort Pierce. Then, if an illegal substance is found, the officer can get a warrant and arrest the suspect.

"To me, it's just a knee-jerk reaction due

to public outcry—the law is too broad," said the detective. "As far as the law, it has good intentions but there are so many variables to get around it that it's ineffective."

However, Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger feels that because the chemical make-up of these synthetic cannabinoids keep changing the can't be specific.

"The chemists keep coming up with new and inventive ways to get around the law," said Judge Belanger. "So, the law kind of has to be broad and flexible."

Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright agreed that the Florida law has problems, and has suggested to task force detectives that they send the suspected fake pot to the lab before making an arrest.

"The current version of the statute is for the chemicals, but the companies are changing the chemicals. So when you buy one of these substances you're basically playing Russian roulette," said Mr. Albright. "There's no test kit for the various chemicals and that's why they have to be ROR'd. They (the suspects) basically have to be ROR'd until the results come back from the lab."

The test kits Mr. Albright was referring to are field kits used by law enforcement that can detect illegal substances such as marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine. There are also kits that help identify prescription pills. By using these kits, a law enforcement officer on the street can determine if an illegal substance is present and then use that test result for probable cause to make an arrest.

However, as pointed out by Mr. Albright, there are currently no test kits available for synthetic cannabinoids.

But Judge Belanger doesn't think that seizing these substances and sending them to the crime lab for analysis is the answer and that this is "unduly cumbersome."

When contacted, officials in other states pointed out that they, too, had problems when they first enacted laws against these chemicals.

ance companies frequently and without warning quit authorizing certain drugs. He said it is possible to get preauthorization for drugs not on the insurance company's list, but it is a difficult process.

"I have patients that have to decide between medication and food," the doctor said. He has some definite ideas that would be a step in the right direction to solve the problem. "We need the government, (both Democrats and Republicans) to stop running the Medicare system as a political tool."

"We need the government to regulate less, rather than more." In the light of the present economic situation he added, "We all need to make more sacrifices."

"I want to know why I can buy medication much cheaper in Canada than in the U.S.," Dr. Santelices said.

"We need the public to be responsible for their lives." He said people should be proactive in taking care of their health rather than freely indulging in practices that are known to be unhealthy like smoking, drinking and overeating then expect government medical care.

"It is easier to blame the doctor than other factors that impact the cost of medical care." He said the doctor gets about 11 cents out of every dollar spent for health care. About 30 cents of the dollar goes to the bureaucracy, the rest goes for other things such as pharmaceuticals, hospitals and care for the elderly.

"The first time we passed the law we named the chemicals in the statutes. Then, companies just altered the make-up. You have to specify the substances," said Matthew Derbis, the assistant attorney general for Louisiana. "We then passed another law that included that chemical and all of its derivatives. The way we've structured the law, we've closed the loophole."

That also holds true for the State of Arkansas.

John M. Snyder, a staff attorney for the Office of the Prosecutor Coordinator in Little Rock, said he's not heard of problems with the law in Arkansas as being faced in Florida.

"Our statute may be worded with terms like 'derivatives,' 'isomers' and 'similar chemical structure' so as to avoid issues like you're facing in Florida," he said in an e-mail.

He went on to add that he's also not heard of judges wanting to know the chemical make-up of the substance.

While their laws seem to be working at this point in Arkansas and Louisiana, Georgia officials have encountered problems similar to those in Florida.

According to John Bankhead, the director of public affairs for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), law enforcement there is battling the same issue in that manufacturers keep changing the make-up of their product.

"We've looked at a way to rewrite it (state law) but we can't find a way to do it," he said. "So what undercover officers do is they buy a number of packets and send them to a crime lab. The lab will test it until it gets a positive hit that matches our controlled substance law. The officers will then get a war-

rant and make an arrest."

Under Georgia law, the substance found must fall under the its controlled substance law.

Mississippi officials did not return phone calls seeking information on their law, and Alabama has yet to enact a law against these substances.

When contacted about the issues local law enforcement is facing with the current law Representative Mike Horner, whose district includes Okeechobee County, said he wasn't aware of the problem.

"Clearly, we need to adjust our laws to prevent criminals from escaping through this loophole," he said in an e-mail. "I am reaching out to Gail Harrell, chairperson of the Criminal Justice Committee, to look into this."

And like what's being done in Georgia, Mr. Albright said local detectives have seized some substances still being sold at local stores and sent them to the crime lab.

"They've gone around and put stores on notice," he said of task force detectives.

The task force detective said they are still waiting to hear back from the crime lab to see if any of those substances collected are illegal.

And despite the issues he and his fellow detectives are facing, that detective said he will continue to enforce the new law.

"I'm sure it (the law) will get broader and broader as years go by," he said. "But, it always comes back to these manufacturers know what they're doing—they're willing to profit from someone's ignorance and immaturity."

"They know what these kids are doing but they don't care. All they care about is that almighty dollar."

## INSURANCE

Continued From Page 1

has a sliding scale for payments based on a patient's income.

Dr. Santelices said no one knows the full extent of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act commonly known as Obamacare. He said that if the politicians who wrote it didn't know everything that is in it, there are no doctors who fully understand it either.

He fears Medicare will go bankrupt because the money being paid into it right now is being used to pay current expenses. "The medical condition in the U.S.A. is in critical condition," he said. Over the years expenses and the amount of paperwork required have increased.

In 1983 Dr. Santelices' malpractice insurance was \$7,000 and he had two employees. Medicare paid \$4,000 for a gall bladder removal. In 2003 Medicare paid \$864 for gall bladder removal, his malpractice insurance was \$107,000 and he had five employees to handle increased paperwork.

The doctor said that one of the things that complicate the medical situation is litigation. Doctors are afraid not to order additional tests. They sometimes err on the side of unnecessary caution in order to escape possible litigation.

Another problem is the fact that insur-



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# Man reportedly threatened kids over missing pills

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man is being held in the county jail on felony charges after he allegedly threatened to shoot seven people, including six children, because he reportedly couldn't find his prescription pills.



**James Howling**

James Howling, 40, S.E. 66th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Wednesday, Sept. 14, on seven counts of aggravated assault with a firearm and one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

He is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond.

An arrest report by Deputy Steven Pollock, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that Howling reportedly went to a home where a friend

lives and fell asleep on a couch. When he awoke some 90 minutes later he became upset and accused those in the home of stealing his prescription medications from his pants pocket, continued the report.

Deputy Pollock went on to state that Howling left the home and returned about 15 minutes later brandishing a black .38 special handgun with a 4-inch barrel and wooden grips. According to the report, Howling threatened to shoot and kill a woman and six children who were in the home over the missing pills. Two men who were apparently outside the home heard Howling yelling at the woman, so they entered the home and told Howling to leave.

Both men reportedly told the deputy that Howling left the home and got into a car occupied by a man and woman and left. Howling reportedly told the deputy he had a prescription for xanax, oxycodone and roxycodone. The deputy's report does not state if Howling does have a valid script for the pills.

## 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).

- Nikki Hawkins, 26, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 15 by Deputy Robbie Lamb on a charge of child abuse. Her bond was set at \$1,500.

- Stephen Ray Ward, 51, N.E. 11th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 16 by Deputy Joe Gracie on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$250.

- Jesse J. King, 47, N.E. 13th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 15 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of tampering with physical evidence. He was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting a law enforcement

officer without violence. His bond was set at \$3,500.

- Erduin Morfa Alonso, 38, N.E. 56th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 15 by Deputy Bryan Holden on felony charges of false imprisonment and aggravated assault. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery. His bond was set at \$8,500.

- Timothy Deshon Williams, 22, S.E. 36th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 16 by Deputy Justin Akins on a charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Jeremy Urbina, 21, N.W. Fifth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 16 by Deputy Steven McKinley on a charge of battery (domestic violence) by strangulation. His bond had not been set as of newspaper deadline.

*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.*



Johnathan M. Royal, DMD, T.A. Aliapoulis, DDS; Wade B. Harrouff, DDS; Salvatore V. Melita, DDS; Edward Spector, DDS.

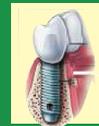
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# Raulerson among top performing hospitals

Raulerson Hospital was named one of the nation's top performers on key quality measures by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of healthcare organizations in America. On Wednesday, Raulerson Hospital was recognized by The Joint Commission based on data reported about evidence-based clinical processes that are shown to improve care for certain conditions, including heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care.

Raulerson Hospital is one of only 405 U.S. hospitals and critical access hospitals (14 percent of the nation's total) earning the distinction of top performer on key quality measures for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance. Inclusion in the list is based on an aggregation of accountability measure data reported to The Joint Commission during the previous calendar year. For example, this first recognition program is based on data that were reported for 2010.

To be recognized as a top performer on

key quality measures an organization must meet two 95 percent performance thresholds. First they must achieve a composite performance of 95 percent or above, after the results of all the accountability measures for which they reported data to The Joint Commission were factored into a single score, including measures that had less than 30 eligible cases or patients. Second, they must meet or exceed a 95 percent performance target for every single accountability measure for which they report data, excluding any measures with less than 30 eligible cases or patients.

Raulerson Hospital was recognized for achieving these thresholds for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care.

"We are extremely proud that eleven HCA facilities in South Florida, including Raulerson Hospital, Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and St. Lucie Medical Center, were named among The Joint Commission's top hospitals. This distinction is a direct result of our physicians' and employees' dedication in each area of its Key Quality Measures program," said Michael Joseph, CEO and President of HCA East Florida. "We continue our commitment to quality care for our patients and excellence in the communities we serve," Mr. Joseph added.

"Today, the public expects transparency in the reporting of performance at the hospitals where they receive care, and The Joint Commission is shining a light on the top performing hospitals, such as Raulerson Hospital, that have achieved excellence on a number of vital measures of quality of care," said Mark R. Chassin, M.D., FACP, M.P.P., M.P.H., president, The Joint Commission.

In addition to being included in the release of The Joint Commission's "Improving America's Hospitals" annual report: <http://www.jointcommission.org/annualreport.aspx>, Raulerson Hospital will be recognized on The Joint Commission's Quality Check website ([www.qualitycheck.org](http://www.qualitycheck.org)).



Special to the Okeechobee News/OCHD

## Employee award

Winifred Holland, Administrator, Okeechobee County Health Department presents the Employee of the Quarter award to Betsy Sheffield.

### ANNIVERSARY

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**If you have not been to Raulerson Hospital recently for your medical needs, come and experience the quality patient care we provide everyday; because We are Raulerson!**

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

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Special to the Okeechobee News/OMS

### In the groove

Osceola Middle School Students of the Week for Sept. 8. We are getting in the Groove! Congratulations to Amber Marquette, Jenna McClanahan, Julia DuPree, Jarret Emmick, Carolyn Major, Kailey McCain, Madyson Casier, Judy Soriano, Daniel Fullea and Jessica Cason.

### 4-H starts up kids Cooking Club - First meeting Wednesday

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!

### ANNIVERSARY

### JOHN HARTZOG & IRENE HARTZOG

John and Irene Hartzog of Okeechobee, Florida celebrated their 70th anniversary on September 7th. A celebration in their honor will be held today, September 18th at the home of their daughter, Shelly Hartzog Walker, in Blue Heron.

The Hartzogs were married in Loughman, Florida and have lived in Okeechobee since moving from Orlando to Fort Lauderdale in 1955 and from Fort Lauderdale to West Palm Beach in 1974.

Mr. Hartzog retired in 1981 after 15 years as supervisor of the mechanical shop at Dixie Asphalt in West Palm Beach. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army in the European and Pacific theaters. He enjoys repairing automobiles as a hobby.

Mrs. Hartzog retired in 1995 after 15 years as secretary and receptionist at Pride Integrated Services in West Palm Beach. She was also a preschool teacher in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm



Beach. Mr. and Mrs. Hartzog are active at First Baptist Church, Okeechobee.

The Hartzogs are the parents of Shelly Hartzog Walker of Okeechobee.

They have three grandchildren; Ben Wilkes, Dan Wilkes and Amy Wilkes.

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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. 16: Jordan Bobrowski, Mikey Bobrowski, Chrishia McK-inney, Hadley Haggard, Antonio Zamora, Aundre Baker, Anai Bustos, Isabella Cruz, Rachel Cruz-Bahena, Reyes Rodriguez, Sabin Griffis, Leslie Gomez, Jayda Carrera, Fili Gomez, Miguel Nunez, Justin Bennett, Mya Gomes, Jo'Niya Sewell, Merlina Ruiz, Daniela Vargas, Guadalupe Lara, Layla Gaucin, Fabian Tagle, Shanitra Warner, Anabella Cardoso and Yesenia Castillo.

## Okeechobee Hair Salon plans Locks of Love event

Colour Me Crazy Salon (next to Dominos Pizza and the Okeechobee News) is the location of the next hair donation event for "Locks of Love," a public, non-profit organization that provides vacuum fitted hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term, illness-caused hair loss. Hair cuts will be done on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 12-3 p.m. Local resident, Lonnie Yates, lost his daughter to cancer a year ago this October. In honor of her life, we ask you to donate your cut hair to benefit children. Free lunch for those that donate hair. This haircut is tax deductible—women \$14, men \$10. Call 863-467-3031 for information.

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# Local bank makes donation to band trip

Seacoast National Bank has donated \$2,500 to the Okeechobee High School Band to sponsor their Memorial Day trip to Washington, D.C. where they will march in the National Memorial Day Parade. The Okeechobee High School Blazing Brahman Marching Band is the only band selected to represent high schools across Florida and was nominated by Congressman Tom Rooney.

"It was at Governor Scott's Inaugural Parade where Representative Rooney recognized the caliber of our band while watching our performance and then nominated us to go to Washington D.C.," said Band Director Clint LaFlam. "But without the support of local community businesses like Seacoast National Bank, we would not be able to make this trip a reality for our 90 band members. We are very grateful for their donation."

Jon Geitner, SVP/Regional Manager, Seacoast National Bank said, "We are happy to sponsor our local High School in this wonderful endeavor. Supporting education, music and our community exemplify the core values of Seacoast."

In addition to the participation in the parade on May 28, 2012, the high school students will also attend a concert of the National Symphony Orchestra at the Capitol building. The band is on their way to raising the \$60,000 needed for the trip. To make a

donation contact Clint LaFlam at [LaFlamc@okee.k12.fl.us](mailto:LaFlamc@okee.k12.fl.us) or call the high school directly.

Seacoast National bank has two locations

serving Okeechobee. One at 1409 S. Parrott Avenue and the other located at 500 N. Parrott Avenue.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce  
Seacoast National Bank recently donated \$2,500 to the Okeechobee High School Band toward their efforts to raise enough money to travel to Washington D.C. and appear in the Memorial Day parade there. The band needs to raise \$60,000 -- about \$600 per band member -- in order to make the trip. Left to right are Kathleen Shatto, Jon Geitner, Andrea Stark, Clint La Flam, Mark Smith, Elizabeth Hans and Brenda Hans.

## 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. Come on out Okeechobee and make us all proud to live here.

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## Foster parents needed

Hibiscus Children's Center Foster Care Program recruits, trains and licenses all the traditional Foster Parents in St. Lucie, Martin and Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. The required 30 hour (MAPP) classes are held one evening a week or on Saturdays and are free. There is a tremendous need for loving and nurturing Foster Parents in all four counties on the Treasure Coast. For additional information about becoming a Foster Parent or to register for a class please call: 1-800-403-9311 ext. 415.

## Electric bill assistance for seniors

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



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**OKEECHOBEE NEWS**

# OHS rodeo team members compete in Fort Pierce

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Several members of the Okeechobee High School rodeo team had strong performances at the Florida High School Rodeo Association's second rodeo of the year on Sept. 10 and 11.

Tyler Mills finished second in the bull riding and first in bareback riding. Nat Stratton finished first in the saddle bronc, fifth in tie down roping and tied for second with Jerrod Sparks in the team roping competition.

Josh Keese finished fourth in steer wrestling and ninth in tie down roping while Sparks finished seventh in tie down roping. Josie Stratton placed third in barrel racing, and Josh Lea finished 10th in tie down roping.

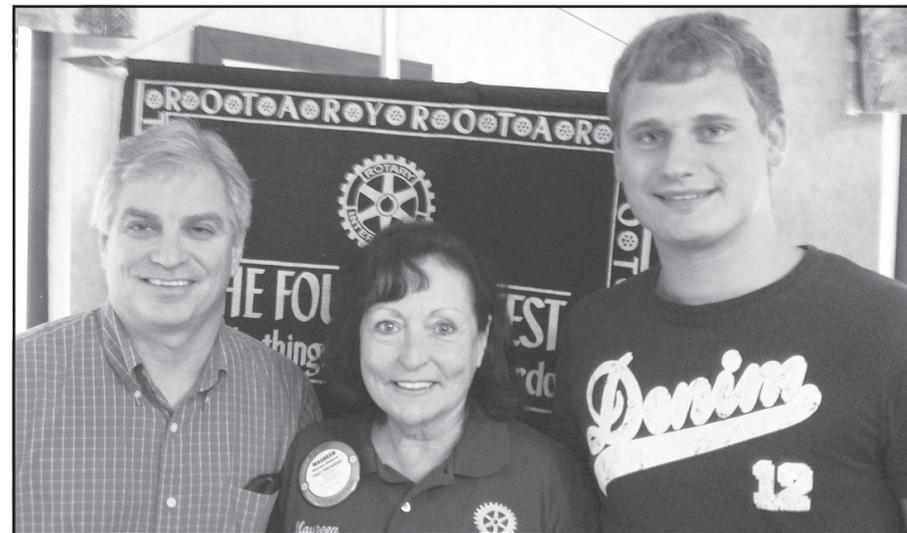
The contestants also held a reverse rodeo on Saturday evening where the boys got to

compete in girls events and the girls got to compete in some boys events. The boys competed in barrel racing, police bend and goat tying. The girls got to perform in double mugging and steer wrestling.

The 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks were remembered as all of the contestants wore red white and blue and took part in a special ceremony.

Rodeo Coach Julie Rogers said approximately 90 riders rode into the arena and those without a horse walked into the arena with their hats over their hearts. The FHSRA queen rode in on horseback leading a riderless horse draped with a wreath of flowers around its neck. The riderless horse is a show of respect and a tribute to those who are unable to ride here on earth.

The next high school rodeo is planned for Oct. 1 and 2, in Fellsmere.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Rotary Club

## Guest speaker at Rotary

Rotarian Maureen Budjinski extended a warm Rotary welcome to guest speaker John Capece, a visiting Rotarian from the LaBelle Club, District 6960. In an interesting presentation, Mr. Capece briefed the club on his work as a Water Research Consultant with the Rotary International Sustainable Water Project. In addition, he shared information on Rotary's Rail and Water Tour program, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Future Vision Program, whose common goals are to ensure benefits of clean, safe potable water to recipients, as well as maximize these benefits through precise, technical design of water supply and treatment systems. He cited work his club has done by sponsoring well projects in Africa and how he instituted a trainee program in which a local graduate student would be trained on sustainable water projects to ensure project sustainability. From coast to coast the United States is blessed with abundant clear water for its people. Rotarians celebrate America's blessing by sharing the gift of clean, healthy water with others around the world. (left to right) John Capece, Maureen Budjinski and Lutz Walten, Rotary Intern Student from Germany.

## Raulerson Hospital presents 2011 Women's Health Luncheon

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month, Raulerson Hospital will be hosting a Women's Health Luncheon on Friday, Oct. 7. The 2011 Women's Health Luncheon will be held at IRSC's Williamson Conference Center located at 2229 N.W. 9th Ave. in Okeechobee. Guest speakers will include local physicians as well as remarks from a two-time breast cancer survivor. Gynecology-Board Certified Doctor, James Bradfield will address the group, as well as Dr. Philip Moyer. Seating will begin at 11:30 a.m. inside IRSC's Raulerson Hospital Auditorium. The presentation will begin at noon and end at 1 p.m.

Registration is free, space is limited.

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

# OHS Brahmans fall to St. Lucie West Centennial

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee suffered through four turnovers and lost one of the team's best players to injury in a painful 43-0 loss Friday night to the St. Lucie West Centennial Eagles at South County Stadium in Port St. Lucie.

Al Morris was carted off the field on a stretcher after the second play from scrimmage with a leg injury after a short pass completion, and it appeared Okeechobee could not recover.

"The injury may have something to do with it. It is something you don't ever to have happen," Brahman Coach Myron Jackson said afterward, "You want both teams to leave the field happy and healthy."

Eagles quarterback Tim Caffey returned from injury to spark his team's offense which had 12 first downs, and were six of nine on third down conversions. When you add in four Brahman turnovers that gave the Eagles great field position, it added up to a long night for Okeechobee, (0-3).

Caffey completed (8-12) passes for 198 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for a third. Ty Jackson caught five passes for 117 yards and two touchdowns. Mike Nesmith ran for a pair of touchdowns and Ricky Rodriguez hauled in a 32 yard touchdown pass for Centennial (2-1).

Eagles Coach Ron Parker said his team did a good job controlling the football and rushed the ball well.

The Eagles scored 22 points in the first quarter. After an exchange of punts disaster hit Okeechobee on special teams. The Eagles punt hit one of the Brahman blockers and the Eagles recovered at the Brahman 23 yard line. The scored five plays later on a two yard run by Nesmith.

The Eagles drove 72 yards in seven plays on their next drive to score. Key plays included a 24 yard run by Jon Poma and a 31 yard touchdown pass from Caffey to Jackson. That score made it 14-0.

Okeechobee misplayed the ensuing kick-off and started a drive at their one-yard line. Ty'Ronte Files fumbled on the next play to give the Eagles a first down at the Brahman 13. Jackson scored on a 13 yard sweep on the next play to make it 22-0.

Jackson's 23 yard punt return in the second quarter gave the Eagles a first down on the Brahman 35 and the Eagles scored

thanks to two pass completions to Jackson that put the ball at the Brahman two yard line. Nesmith scored for the second time in the half on the next play to make it 29-0.

Rodriguez caught a 32 yard pass in the final three minutes of the half to make it 36-0.

The second half was played with a running clock. Okeechobee had one drive reach the Eagles seven yard line but a fourth and one play was stopped for a four yard loss.

Coach Jackson said he felt the Brahmans didn't show enough discipline or effort to be successful in the game. "It was like we just put on some uniforms and came over here. We've got to make up our minds. Do we want to play or not?"

Jackson said he'll go back to work on Monday and try and get the team back on track. The thing he was most disappointed in was the team's lack of fight, heart, and effort in the game.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**D.J. Washington rushed for 81 yards in a losing cause as the Brahmans were shut out by Centennial on Friday night.**

"We were flat before the injury and playing in the mud. We look for things to happen and don't make things happen. We don't take our futures into our own hands," he added.

## Game notes

Okeechobee had 168 yards rushing and eight first downs in the game. Zachary Wingfield made an excellent sliding catch for a 17 yard reception in the first half. Bobby Jo Garza had two tackles for loss and Thor Harden added a tackle in the backfield. Alex Guido had a QB sack for the Brahmans.

The Brahmans open their district schedule on Friday when they host Sebastian River.

Okeechobee	0	0	0	0	----0
Centennial	22	14	7	0	----43

First Quarter  
St. Lucie West: Nesmith two yard run. (Clements PAT) 7-0 7:13.

St. Lucie West: Jackson 31 yard pass from Caffey (Clements PAT) 14-0 at 1:32.

St. Lucie West: Jackson 13 yard run (Leo pass to Trahan) 22-0. 1:10.

Second Quarter  
St. Lucie West: Nesmith two yard run (Clements PAT) 29-0. 8:27.

St. Lucie West: Rodriguez 32 yard pass from Caffey (Clements PAT) 36-0 2:28.

Third Quarter  
St. Lucie West: Caffey one yard run. (Clements PAT) 43-0. 4:53.

Fourth Quarter

No scoring.		
<b>Team Statistics</b>	<b>Okeechobee</b>	<b>St. Lucie West</b>
First Downs	8	12
Third Downs	3-9	6-9
Penalties	4-30	8-60
Rushing yards	168	133
Passing yards	24	198

Punts	5-150	3-89
Punt returns	0-0	3-40
Kick returns	6-86	0-0
Interceptions	0-0	0-0
Fumbles/lost	7-4	1-1

Individual Statistics Okeechobee					
Passing	Atts	Comp	YDS	TD	INT
D.J. Washington	5	2	24	0	0
Rushing	No.	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Washington	14	81	5.8	15	0
Ty'Ronte Files	10	53	5.3	16	0
E. Williams	6	17	2.9	5	0
Daniel Nunez	5	17	3.4	8	0
Totals	35	168	4.8	16	0
Receiving	No.	Yds	Avg	Lg	Td
Al Morris	1	7	7.0	7	0
Zachary Wingfield	1	17	17.0	17	0
Totals	2	24	12.0	17	0

*Brahman Theatres III*

**September 16<sup>TH</sup> - September 22<sup>ND</sup>**

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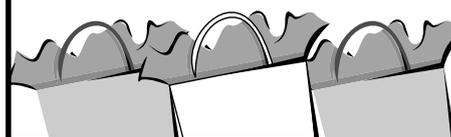
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# OHS volleyball team beats Sebastian River

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Lady Brahms improved to (3-0) with an impressive

sweep of Sebastian River Tuesday night in Indian River County, 25-18, 25-16, and 25-14.

Coach Todd Jones said the team has worked on their passing and have fine-tuned

some of their skills in recent practice.

Rebekah Bryan continued a strong senior year with 13 kills at the net and nine digs. Sarah Davis had 24 assists. Maranda Serrano added nine kills, nine digs and four service aces for Okeechobee. Maci Thomas had 13 digs on defense to lead the team.

The Lady Brahms hosted John Carroll on Thursday night.

The Brahman Junior Varsity was also impressive with a 25-10 and 25-21 victory over the Lady Sharks.

# YMS soccer defeats Storm Grove

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Wilson Barahona had three goals as Yearling Middle School soccer team defeated Storm Grove 3-0 in middle school soccer action on Wednesday in Indian River County.

Yearling's defense was the story of the match as the Bulls continued an over two-season unbeaten streak against Storm Grove.

Coach Erick Rios said while his team scored three goals they actually had several other golden opportunities to put the ball in the net.

"The final score could have been bigger sine Ricky Perez, Brandon Leal and Erik Santibanez had clear opportunities to score but

missed," he noted.

Yearling was nearly flawless on defense and that is what meant the difference between a win and loss. The match was scoreless for the first 15 minutes of the match before Barahona scored twice in the later stages of the first half.

Rios said his team lost control of the ball in the early part of the second half and that Storm Grove was a much improved team this year.

"It was a little more difficult for YMS to keep the advantage during the game," he added.

Yearling will host Oslo Middle School on Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 4:30 p.m.

# OMS soccer plays Sebastian

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Amer Elhindi had three goals but it wasn't enough as the Osceola Warriors fell to the Sebastian Sharks, 7-3, in Middle School soccer action on Wednesday in Okeechobee.

The season opener for the Warriors did not disappoint head coach Jorje Botello who said he felt it would have been an upset for Osceola to defeat Sebastian this year.

"I told my team that I didn't look to win against a team like Sebastian and we were simply going to use the first game as a learning experience," he said.

Botello said the game will show his kids what they need to work on. He noted he

has only five returning players from last year.

Jose Perez had an assist for Osceola (0-1). Goal keeper Logan Lipscomb had 24 saves in the Warrior net. Coach Botello said Lipscomb really kept the Warriors in the match.

"He did a fantastic job of stepping up to the plate in goal and stopped four corner kicks that would have been goals if not for his efforts," he added.

Botello said he is anxious to see how his goal keeper will fare against powerful Yearling, the school's arch rival.

The Warriors travel to play Gifford next Wednesday. The Warriors' game last Monday against Storm Grove was cancelled due to inclement weather.

## 2012 OHS Yearbook orders taken

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# OHS JV Football team plays Treasure Coast Titans

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Treasure Coast size and skill wore down the Okeechobee High School Brahman Junior Varsity football team Thursday night as the Titans prevailed 34-0 at Brahman Stadium.

The Titans showcased a physical defense and rushing game and also scored with a long-pass play, and a blocked punt on special teams.

Brahman Coach Daron Washington said he felt his team must do a better job taking what they learn in practice onto game night.

"We had a lack of discipline. Missed assignments are what got us where we are tonight. The players must do what they were taught when they were taught to do it. I take total (responsibility) it is my fault. I didn't have them prepared," he said.

It was a close game in the first half. Treasure Coast led 6-0 after the first quarter and

12-0 at the half. Dylan Barrett opened the scoring with a 22-yard touchdown run. The play capped off a 54 yard drive by the Titans. Okeechobee's defense had a couple of nice stands in the second quarter and had three consecutive tackles in the backfield on the Titans next scoring drive.

On a 4th down and 20 Jarrod Rivera found Austin Whitehead behind the secondary for a 25-yard touchdown pass to make it 12-0.

The Brahman offense was held to only four first downs and Treasure Coast dominated in the time of possession. Coach Washington said he felt his defense simply got tired in the second half.

"We couldn't get the offense moving and the defense stayed on the field too long. When your defense is on the field that long the score is bound to jump up," he added.

Treasure Coast Coach John Causby said he felt the size of his team wore Okeechobee down. "Some of our big boys wore them down but

they were a great team. They came at us and had some pretty decent runs."

Causby said both his offensive and defensive lines did a great job at the line of scrimmage. He said the kid's last game was cancelled and they were fired up and ready to play this game.

"Defense is what it's all about at Treasure Coast. Defense is what we're known for," he said.

Chris Moore added a touchdown in the second quarter. Dominic Jackson scored a touchdown on a blocked punt early in the third quarter.

For Okeechobee, George Tillman had an interception and a tackle for loss. Myrick Puente added an interception late in the first half. Deveon Jones had two tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

On offense Tyrell Taylor caught two passes for 30 yards and had 15 yards rushing. Connor Clements had 18 yards rushing. Tyrone Joseph caught one pass for 22 yards. QB Brandon Shockley had 52 yards passing and 30 yards rushing.

Washington said with most of his players having to play both offense and defense it was only a matter of time before they got tired. He said he would emphasize focus, commitment and concentration in future practices.

"Some of the kids don't know what is going on so it's up to me and the coach staff to make sure we get it all figured out," he added.

The JV is scheduled to visit Fort Pierce Westwood on Sept. 21.



#41 Deveon Jones and the rest of the Brahman running backs found it tough to find holes against the Titans defense Thursday. Okeechobee was shut out for their second loss of the season.



Deveon Jones #41 and Devon Wigfall #56 chase after Dylan Barrett of Treasure Coast during the second quarter of the JV football game held Thursday at Brahman Stadium.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Tyrell Taylor rushes up field during the first quarter of the JV football game between Okeechobee and Treasure Coast held on Thursday night. Okeechobee fell 34-0.

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