

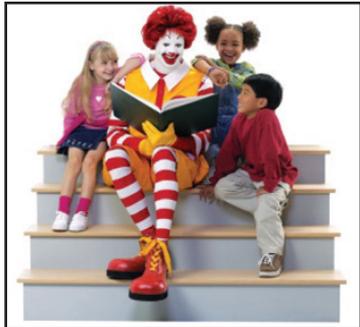


OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 119

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

50¢ Plus tax



Ronald McDonald to visit ...Page 12

Football game rescheduled

... Page 10

Grant to help sheriff's office

...Page 3

Lake Levels

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Child abuse rate is state's highest

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County has the highest per capita rate of child abuse in the state, according to a report released last week by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF).

The report tracked abuse reports and verified cases for fiscal year 2010-2011, starting July 1, 2010. In that time, Okeechobee County had 258 verified cases of child abuse or neglect. For that period, there were 9,880 children between the ages of 0 and 17 years old in the county, making the per capita child maltreatment rate 31.34 per 1,000 children, the highest in Florida.

The state average rate was 12.55 per 1,000.

"The abuse rate is a rough indicator of the incidence of child maltreatment," explained Cheri Sheffer, Community Development Administrator with the Department of Children and Families Circuit 19. "It is not precise because it includes only child maltreatment that is known or suspected and reported to and accepted by the hotline for investigation, and substantiated by an investigator."

"Higher reporting and verification rates increase the child maltreatment rate, and lower

Child maltreatment rates

	2009/10	2010/11
Indian River	12.09	12.01
Martin	10.56	8.33
Okeechobee	21.82	31.34
Saint Lucie	17.02	16.11
Circuit 19	15.04	14.89
Statewide	12.06	12.55

SOURCE: DCF. Rates are per 1,000 children.

See ABUSE — Page 7



Special to the Okeechobee News/Seminole Elementary School

Johnny Appleseed Day

Students in Mrs. Sickels' class at Seminole Elementary celebrated Johnny Appleseed Day by learning "core" curriculum, dressing up like the larger than life pioneer character and planting apple seeds all over the school. The celebration included a taste testing of spiced apple cider, homemade applesauce, turnovers, caramel delights, apple spice muffins, and caramel apples. For more photos, see page 9.

World War II veteran honored

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

"I found it hard to believe that many people remembered World War II." That's what 86-year-old World War II veteran Kent Price said of the recognition he received as part of a recent Honor Flight to Washington, DC. "I had written it off that no one cared about World War II," he said.

See VETERAN — Page 9



Special to the News
Kent Price was 21 when he served as part of the 33rd Infantry Division.



News/Pete Gawda
Kent Price, 86, was flown by Southeast Florida Honor Flight to Washington D.C.



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Sheriff's Office awarded \$96,197 federal grant

The U.S. Department of Justice announced the Federal Fiscal Year 2011 State Criminal Alien Assistance grant award of \$96,197 to Okeechobee County to reimburse local costs of incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens who have committed serious crimes.

The goal of this federal program is to enhance public safety in communities throughout the nation. Okeechobee County was one of only 929 (out of 3,140) eligible local entities across the U.S. that was granted these funds.

This grant opportunity originated from federally mandated incarceration programs that the County is required to provide. The federal government has required local government to assume more responsibility for the administration and delivery of services. Many times, unfortunately, these services are funded with local dollars.

However, in some cases there are federal funding opportunities available, if the proper application is made.

"Identifying federal funding opportunities and then properly applying for them are not simple or easy tasks. The interaction between federal, state, and local political entities is very complex," said Sheriff May.

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office has an aggressive program of researching and applying for federal grant programs to supplement the local costs of law enforcement and corrections operations.

Sheriff Paul May commented, "We look at all available opportunities for federal and state grant assistance. We are, however, very careful and make sure that any grant we consider for application for does not incur any additional program costs to the taxpayers of Okeechobee County."

"The Sheriff's Office has always been very successful in obtaining federal and state assistance. Since late 1999, we have been able to successfully apply for and receive almost \$5 million to offset the costs of providing law enforcement services to our citizens. We have successfully averaged over \$500,000 a year for the last 10 years in obtaining grant funding", said Sheriff May.

Currently the Sheriff's Office receives federal and/or state funding for the Narcotics Task Force (Byrne JAG), federal equipment and operating expenses (JAGD), bullet-proof vests (BVP), State Criminal Alien Assistance (SCAAP), and a local CSCOC grant for the Sheriff's summer youth camp.

"This upcoming year we will be receiving almost \$200,000 in federal and state level grants. I wish we could find more federal dollars, but as we know the state of the economy has affected everyone from the highest levels down to our own County's operations", said the Sheriff

In addition, the Sheriff's Office has received over \$500,000 in federal property grants including weapons for the deputies, and boats and vehicles for the Marine Unit.

"We will continue to seek out funding opportunities as they remain available. Every dollar we spend is extremely important, and every chance we can find to obtain some of our tax dollars back from the federal government we will aggressively apply for and use. Fortunately, our Commissioners fully support our efforts in identifying all the potential grants that apply to law enforcement," said Sheriff May.

Administrative costs in local schools higher than average

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

A Florida Department of Education report shows Okeechobee spends \$807.43 per student for administrative costs. This average cost would rank Okeechobee 17th among 67 school systems in the state.

The annual Educational Funding Accountability Act Summary of Administrative Expenditures for 2009-2010 showed Okeechobee had 6,890 full time students and received \$5.56 million from the state general fund and state fiscal stabilization fund.

The average spent per student in the state was \$511.45.

Glades County Schools spent \$1,091.63 per student which was the fifth highest in the state.

Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy said Okeechobee Schools have very few administrators at the schools and district office and said it would be hard to find a

school system with fewer administrators.

He noted that state mandates affect all school systems no matter how many students they have and that small districts do face challenges, "It doesn't make any difference how many students you have because the mandate is still there and is still the same amount of paper work."

Kenworthy pointed out the administrative costs are more than just the salaries that are paid to administrators.

"There are a lot of other expenses included in that area which make it appear our costs per student for administrative expenses are extremely high. We'll continue to review all of the expenses. It's a numbers game. We believe we are reporting things accurately but other districts might not report them the same way."

Franklin County had the highest administrative costs at \$1,607.94. Hernando had the lowest costs at \$404.46.

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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!

Buy American

• I buy American produce to support the American farmers and because I think that even with occasional problems, it is much safer than imported food. As for Halloween candy, read the labels and you can find candy made in this country. As long as people continue to buy the imports, the American jobs will continue to decline. Don't complain about how hard it is to find a job if you spend all your money on imports. At least try to buy American when you can.

Ethanol

• The problem with ethanol is that it is also sold on the commodities market, like oil, which is why corn and soy prices can go through the roof, like oil, and we all pay a lot more for a serving of corn for dinner. Plus if the growers are getting paid more to sell it to the refineries, then what will we eat?

• Corn ethanol subsidies totaled \$7.0 billion in 2006 for 4.9 billion gallons of ethanol. That's \$1.45 per gallon of ethanol (and \$2.21 per gal of gas replaced).

Even with high gas prices in 2006, producing a gallon of ethanol cost 38¢ more than making gasoline with the same energy, so ethanol did need part of that subsidy. But what about the other \$1.12. Not needed! So all of that became, \$5.4 billion windfall of profits paid to real farmers, corporate farmers, and ethanol makers like multinational ADM. Why is it the farm states put up with this? Where did those subsidies come from:

1. 51¢ per gallon federal blenders credit for \$2.5 billion = your tax dollars.
2. \$0.9 billion in corn subsidies for ethanol corn = your tax dollars.
3. \$3.6 billion extra paid at the pump.

That's quite a bit when you figure it only made us 1.1 percent more energy independent and only reduced U.S. greenhouse gases by 1/19 of 1 percent.

Debit card fees

• In addition to announcing they will charge a \$5 per month fee to use your debit card, a large bank also recently laid off a bunch of employees. Of course none were big money players.

• Bank of America states they won't charge the fee if you just use the ATM so I'm going back to good old cash. This will of course slow down or eradicate those "impulse" purchases.

• Banks are charging 3.5 to 6 percent for consumer loans on autos, homes, etc. and paying 0.5 - 1.5 percent on savings and CDs. They are already making money and more fees is just more greed for profit.

• We can all thank the Durbin amendment to the Dodd-Frank Act for this bit of joy.

• And did the Durbin amendment force them to make bad loans and did it force them to outsource their phone centers and did it force them to accept \$45 billion from the government? No. I don't like the amendment either but give me a break. Credit unions are much safer, pay more and are more trustworthy.

• The Durbin amendment was designed to essentially limit the amount of money banks collect from merchants, each time you use your debit card there. Economics 101 says if a company loses money (somewhere in the vicinity of \$400 million) they're going to make it up somewhere else. So the Durbin amendment lets the banks win and the retailers win. Just shift back to using cash and YOU can win.

• Yes, I can hear the bankers now... "I'm so sorry I found another way to take your money, but the government made me do it." Maybe those "job creators" will use this to give themselves a big bonus or pad their expense accounts. Or even better - hire more lobbyists and give more campaign donations.

• We moved our checking and savings accounts to a credit union 30 years ago and haven't paid a bank fee, since.

Letters to the editor

Domestic Violence Month - Numbers don't lie!

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Four hundred and fifty-four women and children in Okeechobee county became painfully aware of Domestic Violence in the past 12 months. Were you aware of that?

Numbers tell us a lot—454 is a lot of people! 454 in Okeechobee. That's 11 wonderful, unique, beautiful people, just like you and me, in every 1,000 of us in Okeechobee. Four or five in Walmart the same time you are. Maybe those little eyes looking up at you in the order line in McDonald's are telling a sad story of how miserable it is at home with a father who insults, and threatens mom all the time. Is that dad standing in line in front of them? At work, at school, daycare, in church, shopping, wherever you are, so are those surviving Domestic Violence. Perhaps you know someone who is a victim; neighbor, cousin, sister, in-law.

How do we know the number? Because we, at Martha's House, met each one, face to face. Numbers don't lie, but they also don't tell stories like people do. That brings me to their names. 454 names. But I won't tell them to you. They all come privately and confidentially for help. It's too dangerous for them to have their names spoken in public.

Since I can't personalize this letter with names, you can. I'm sure if you give it some thought, you know someone. Someone who has been physically abused, punched, pushed, slapped, cut, fell down the stairs, ran into the corner of the kitchen cabinet accidentally several times this year. Someone who has been consistently belittled, insulted, blamed, told they're an idiot until they come to believe it about themselves. Someone who has no, or limited, access to friends, family, a car, money of their own, a phone, maybe live way out with no access to services. Come up with some names yet? Perhaps your teacher, nurse, bank teller, you?

It is Domestic Violence Awareness month. Do you want to become aware? Look around; look with eyes that want to see. Learn from those who know. Call Martha's House for a chat, or attend our next workshop on Oct. 28. Call 863-763-0202 (24 hrs). We are here 24/7/365 just for you.

**Jonathan Bean, executive director
Martha's House**

How do you view Columbus?

Which end of the telescope do you use when you "look" at Christopher Columbus? He has gone from the honored discoverer

of the Americas and has a National Holiday named for him to having a huge bronze statue turned down by Columbus, Ohio, New York City, Fort Lauderdale and Miami. The 350 ft. statue by Russian artist Zurab Tsereteli will be erected in Puerto Rico near where he landed.

High School students are writing essays for the DAR Contest about how our perception of Columbus has changed over time and how we view his history.

Students in Grades 5-8 are writing about what it would be like to have a young friend during the War of 1812 who helped our cause in some way. It was during this War that Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner.

Essay deadline is Dec. 15, 2011. Entry forms may be had from their Susan H. George at 863-763-0266

**Susan H. George
American History Chairperson
Okeechobee Chapter NSDAR**

Correction to Friday letter

My spouse Dale Jacobs has had bleeding on the brain which caused systems like a stroke. He will not be able to work when he comes home cause he still has to heal before they start the treatment. My co-workers at the Pier 2 started the donation process so if you would like to donate you can do it at the Pier 2.

**Thank you,
Tracy Fowler**

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 86. East northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

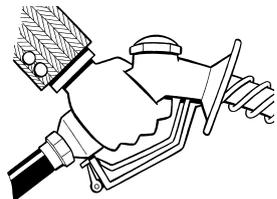
Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. East northeast wind around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 86. East northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: Scattered showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 86. East northeast wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.



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

**MEMBER
OF:**



Raccoon blamed for power outage

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Glades Electric Cooperative members in Okeechobee County, about 1,185, were without power for more than four hours Monday after an outage apparently caused by a raccoon, Glades Electric Chief Executive Officer Tommy Todd said.

The power was out for approximately four hours and 24 minutes and was restored at 1:11 a.m. Tuesday, Todd added.

"I am extremely concerned about the length of the outage," he told the Okeechobee News.

Mr. Todd said a second substation was built in Okeechobee in the past year to improve service to customers here. The problem occurred near that new facility.

Crews were called out about 8:30 p.m., to repair the damage. The two man crew had quite the job reaching the scene, which

was an extremely wet and rural area about a mile west of US 441 and two miles east of US 98.

Mr. Todd said lightning and wild animals are the biggest challenge for power companies, "Raccoons, buzzards, mice, even frogs can cause problems.

There was no road access to the site where the raccoon was found and the crew had to carry their equipment and were waist deep in water when they found the problem.

Mr. Todd said members did have a hard time getting to reach Glades Electric by phone Monday night. For about one hour and 45 minutes members could not get in touch with the power company.

"That was an employee mistake. I personally apologize for that. That infuriates people and is extremely unfortunate," he added.

A second employee took over the switch-

board at 10:30 p.m., and handled phone calls and questions until power was restored.

The raccoon was killed in the incident.

PAID CONTENT

Craft Fair

Third Annual event at Buckhead Ridge Moose on Saturday, December 10. Fastest growing venue in the area. Reservations being taken now for crafters and anyone who makes handmade goodies. Call Bonnie 863-357-1556.

IRSC among US News & World Report's Best Colleges

Indian River State College (IRSC) has been ranked as the 12th top public regional college in the Southern United States by the U.S. News and World Report's 2012 rankings of Best Colleges. Over 1,600 colleges and universities are ranked annually based on 16 measures of quality, including student/faculty ratio, average class size, faculty credentials and student success.

With more than 150 instructional programs, IRSC continues to make a significant and positive regional impact by providing a

well-qualified workforce directly aligned to the employment needs of business and industry. During the 2010/2011 academic year, 2,337 students earned a Bachelor's or Associate Degree from IRSC, and another 1,126 students achieved a Technical Certificate. During the past 10 years, every IRSC graduating class has been larger than the previous one, with consistent double-digit increases in the number of students earning degrees and certificates.

Yearling volleyball team beats Storm Grove



By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jacie Harvey had 13 service points and helped Yearling Middle School score 17 consecutive points as the Lady Bulls walloped Storm Grove 25-1, and 25-11 in middle school volleyball action on Monday in Okeechobee.

The Lady Sting Rays were no match for either the first or second team that Yearling put on the

floor Monday. fortably with my game. I love the sport, get to travel and meet interesting people," she noted.

Both girls said Brighton Charter School should provide another tough test on Wednesday in Okeechobee. Match time is 4:30 p.m. Pemayetv Emahakv swept the Lady Bulls earlier this year.

"Those girls know how to play. They are really our only competition all year," Farless added.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Aubrie Reister (left) and Cheyenne Nunez (right) had little to do on the court as Yearling servers hit a number of aces against the Sting Rays on Monday.

floor Monday.

Rachel Bryan served the first seven points of the match for YMS before Harvey hit the service line and finished off the first game.

The second game was much more competitive as the Sting Rays trailed only 10-8 midway through the action.

Raylee Coleman had two assists. Carrie Wharin had three assists and one kill. Trista Osceola had four service points while Josie Griffin and Abigail Ericson also had service points for the Lady Bulls.

Harvey said the squad has worked hard on their serve this year and it showed. Thirteen of her serves were aces in the first game. She has played volleyball for six years with Big Lake Juniors.

"That has really helped my game. We travel to tournaments every weekend and play a lot of matches against good teams."

Baylee Farless said the Lady Bulls played well but still have to work on their receipt of serve and communication on the court. She has played volleyball for seven years and said Big Lake Juniors really improved her skills.

"I've pretty much given up other sports for volleyball. I feel more and more com-

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 she 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.

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Community events

Honk today!

Domestic Violence Awareness day is Wednesday, **Oct. 5**. Today, at noon, at the intersection of Hwy. 441 and SR 70, honk if you support Martha's House efforts for all victims.

Hospice plans yard sale

Hospice of Okeechobee's yard sales in October will be Wednesday, Oct. 5 and Thursday, Oct. 6 and Wednesday Oct. 19, and Thursday, Oct. 20, from 8am until noon. The yard sale is located at the corner of SE 4th Street and SE 3rd Ave. Donations are accepted Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to noon. For information call 467-2321 or see our web page www.hospiceofokeechobee.org and click on Events tab.

Democratic council to meet

The Okeechobee Democratic Executive Council will be meeting in a workshop session on Thursday, **Oct. 6**, at 6 p.m., in the Beef O'Brady's meeting room. Anyone interested in joining our group is welcome.

North Elementary holds 'walk to school' event

On Wednesday, **Oct. 5**, students from North Elementary will walk to promote the benefits of exercise along with learning about walking safety. Students who live within a mile of school should make plans with his/her parents to walk to school with an adult. Students who ride a bus to school will be allowed to exit his/her bus at the end of N.W. 10th Terrace and be escorted by school personnel on the sidewalk to school creating "walking busses." Students can make a poster or banner to carry with them on the walk and then display them at school. Parents can volunteer to help.

Lodge holds breakfast

The Masonic Lodge at 107 N.W. 5th Ave., will hold a breakfast for \$6 per person on Sunday, **Oct. 9**. Public is welcome and carryouts are available. Masonic Lodge holds this breakfast every other Sunday. Proceeds go to OCRA baseball scholarships and Grad Night.

Kiwanis to host Adam Bryant Minimal Regatta

The Inaugural Adam Bryant Minimal Regatta will be held Saturday, **Oct. 8**, at 701 SE 6th Ave, Okeechobee. Boat check-in will be from 8 to 9 a.m. Races are expected to start around 9:30 a.m. This is a homemade boat race for which boats are constructed of a 4'x8' sheet of 1/4" luan plywood, 24' of 2"x4"s, one roll of duct tape, one pound of screws, and all the paint you want! No caulking or adhesive of any kind may be used. Feel free to get there early to look at all the boats! Parking will be at Grace Brethren Church. Bring the kids, as there will be bounce houses, face painting, and more! We still have room for more boats, so call J.D. Mixon at 863-634-1778 or visit www.MinimalRegatta.com for more information.

Shrine Club plans dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club will offer a delicious spaghetti dinner **Tuesday, Oct. 11**. Proceeds go to Shrine benefits. For information, contact the Shrine Club at 863-763-3378.

We report, but YOU decide



Many newspaper aggressively push the opinions of their publishers or corporate owners.

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Obituaries

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Gaston 'Gus' Laurier Girard, 72

OKEECHOBEE — Gaston "Gus" Laurier Girard, age 72, of Okeechobee, passed away Monday, Oct. 3, 2011, at his residence with his loving wife Louise at his side.

He owned and operated a construction company in Broward County before retiring and moving to Okeechobee in 2006. His favorite pastime was fishing in Canada and playing cards with his buddies.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Rose Anna and Dorilla Girard; and sisters, Edna Laplante and Jeannine Theriault.

Gus is survived by his wife, Louise; sons, Jimmy (Denise), Gary; daughter, Jennifer; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brothers, Ronald (Claudette) Girard, Gilles (Michelle) Girard, Ghislain (Lise) Girard all of New Brunswick, Canada; sisters, Claudette Levesques of New Brunswick, Canada, Gaetune (Wilfrid) DeBlois of Lewiston, Maine.

The family will have a gathering at the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, on Friday, Oct. 7, 2011, from 5 to 7 p.m.

On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee.

James 'Jim' Richard Burns, 84

OKEECHOBEE — Jim Burns, 84, of Okeechobee passed away Oct. 1, 2011 at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center, Fort Pierce, Fla.

He was born May 7, 1927 in Sanford, N.C., to Linard Nathan and Fannie High Burns. Mr. Burns proudly served our country in the U.S. Navy for 20 years, having served during World War II and the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was a member of the Fleet Reserve Association and the Florida Sheriff's Association. He owned Burns Paint Company.

Mr. Burns was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Ruth Reed Burns; sons, Michael Burns and Barry W. Burns; brothers, Leonard Burns, Jr. and Willie Gray Burns; sister, Sarah B. Holder; grandchildren, Barry Lee Burns and James R. Burns; and nephew, Danny Burns.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Bonnie Gayle Coggins Burns; sons, James R. Burns, Jr., Thomas E. Burns (Pamela) and David A. Burns; daughter-in-law, Patricia Burns; grandchildren, Adam Burns, Mark Burns, Michelle Burns Tomlinson, Catherine Burns Schrader; great grandchildren, Janet, Crystal, Jeradia, Corey, Anastasia, Avery, Agatha; niece, Phyllis Setzer; nephews, Curtis Burns, Chris Burns, Michael Holder and Steve Holder and many cousins.

Services will be held Miller Funeral Home in Sanford, North Carolina.

Friends may sign the guest book at www.BassOkeechobeeFH.com

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



Bernice Bemis, 77

OKEECHOBEE — Bernice Bemis, 77, of Okeechobee, passed away Oct. 1, 2011, at Raulerson Hospital.

She was born May 29, 1934, in Belleville, Mich., to Robert and Amanda Pelton. She came to Okeechobee from Michigan in 1999. She was a homemaker and active member of the Moose Lodge.

Mrs. Bemis was preceded in death by her husband, Carleton; and her son, James.

She is survived by her children, Robert Bemis (Ann) of Georgia, Carol Raymor (Charles) of Michigan, Paul Bemis (Barbara) of Georgia, Jerry Bemis (Lori), Eric Bemis (Jean), John Bemis and Roy Bemis, all of Michigan; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held in Michigan at a later date.

Friends may sign the guest book at www.BassOkeechobeeFH.com

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

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ABUSE

Continued From Page 1

reporting and substantiation rates decrease the child maltreatment rate. Okeechobee consistently has had both a higher reporting rate and a higher substantiation rate compared to other counties," she continued.

She said one reason for the higher reporting rates could be that community members are more aware of the importance of reporting suspected child abuse. When a community has a high profile case—such as the Lillianna Harden case—it draws attention to issue. In the Harden case, the mother's boyfriend was sentenced to life in prison due to the severity of the abuse.

"When a community does experience a high profile case, it is not uncommon to see the reporting rates go up," she said.

"Higher rates of reporting in a community is actually a strength as it demonstrates a great level of concern in the community for the well-being of its children. It shows that community members view reporting suspected abuse as a way to ensure families that they are concerned may be struggling are able to receive intervention, assistance and support. In counties with lower reporting rates, the risk is greater that children who are victims of abuse are not being identified," she stated.

Detective Rosemary Farless, with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), said law enforcement and education officials in Okeechobee have tried to make it easier to report suspected abuse.

"We teach a lot of DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and 'good touch, bad touch.' Our schools are big on encouraging kids to tell," she said. "Our teachers take the time to really listen to the kids."

If suspected abuse is reported, the OCSO follows up on it, she continued. "We stay busy on child abuse cases."

Lt. Brad Stark agreed. "For years, we used to say anytime you're 'on call,' you're going to get at least one abuse case," he said. Of course, not all abuse allegations turn out to be substantiated, he added.

Some child abuse or neglect charges stem from other types of investigations. "You can go out on a domestic violence call or a trespass case and end up with an abuse case," he explained.

"On a drug case, if the parents have been using drugs in front of the children, it is considered abuse," said OCSO Detective Ted Van Deman.

Detective Farless said the most common physical abuse cases have been instances where a child has been left with the stepfather or the mother's boyfriend.

Many of those who abused children were abused themselves, she said. "But that doesn't excuse it," she added.

In some cases, the mothers of these children were abused as children as well, Detective Farless said. "I've had umpteen mothers tell me, 'I was a victim myself. I can't believe I never saw the signs,'"

Detective Van Deman said the increase in abuse reporting is due to a combination of factors. He said people are becoming better educated about what is legally considered abuse.

"It's OK to spank your child for a legitimate discipline problem," he said. "But there's a line where it can become abuse."

Detective Farless said the prescription pill epidemic is one factor in the increase in child abuse and neglect. "When parents stay messed up on pills, they neglect their children. Kids may go without food because the parents spent the money on pills."

She said the breakdown of the nuclear family has hurt children.

"Years ago parents got married and then had children. If one parent went off to do drugs, the other parent was there to take care of the child," she said.

Now, it is common for single women to have children. "If a single parent leaves the kids and goes off, the person they left the child with is more likely to call DCF if the parent doesn't come back right away," she said. "People are tolerable in feeding other people's children for a few days. But when it stretches into a week and there is no sign of the parent, they are more likely to call DCF."

"Or they leave the kids home alone and the neighbors see the kids playing outside and ask where the parent is, and the kids tell them the mom hasn't been home in a few days, and the neighbors call," Detective Farless said.

"The economy and high unemployment certainly play a role in rising rates," stated Ms. Sheffer. "When people are frustrated and anxious about a lack of employment and it's impact on their ability to provide for their families, we see an increase in mental health concerns, substance abuse and family violence. The challenges families may face in providing basic needs for their children sometimes are viewed as potential neglect, resulting in abuse hotline reports. The prescription drug epidemic being experienced in our state has contributed as well."

"Family violence, inadequate supervision and substance misuse are three of our maltreatment categories that consistently see the highest numbers of verified abuse reports," she said.

Detective Farless said the increase in teenage mothers also contributes to the problem. "When females abuse, it's usually young, single moms who can't cope," she said.

Poverty also contributes to child neglect, she said. "A young, single mom flipping hamburgers may not be able to afford daycare. She may be choosing between paying the rent and daycare for the kids."

She said in some cases, reporting suspected child neglect to DCF can be the best thing not only for the children, but also for the parents. For example, the young mom may not be aware of the programs that are available to help her, such as subsidized daycare programs.

"Just because someone reports a person to the abuse registry, the outcome is not always bad," she said.

Anyone who suspects abuse or neglect should call the DCF hotline, said Detective Farless. She said callers can remain anonymous.

"A lot of people are afraid to get involved. But when the choices are getting involved or risking the life of a child, the choice should be simple," she said.

"Law enforcement can't do it alone," said Detective Van Deman. "We're just an arm of the community. We need the community's support."

If you suspect child abuse, the toll free hotline is 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Five Year Work Program

The Florida Department of Transportation and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise announce a public hearing to which all interested persons are invited. Specific notice is provided to the Lee County, Sarasota/Manatee, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda and Collier Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Polk Transportation Planning Organization, Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Alliance, West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations Chairs Coordinating Committee, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority and the county commission chairpersons of Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Polk and Sarasota Counties.

PUBLIC HEARING

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, October 26, 2011, 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: **Main Location**
Florida Department of Transportation
District One Headquarters
Mike Rippe Auditorium
801 North Broadway Avenue
Bartow, Florida

Remote Location
Florida Department of Transportation
Southwest Area Office
Swift SunGuide Center
10041 Daniels Parkway
Fort Myers, Florida

The hearing is also conducted as a webinar, which is a live presentation over the Internet. Registration is required prior to joining the webinar. Please visit the following Web site to register: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/707661682>.

The public hearing will consist of a video presentation by the department on the FDOT District One and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Tentative Five Year Work Programs for fiscal years 2012/13 – 2016/17, followed by a public testimony period. Department staff will be available for informal discussion and assistance. Written comments from all interested parties will be accepted by the department at the public hearing sites, through the webinar, or if received by November 15, 2011. Comments should be mailed to District One Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation, P.O. Office Box 1249, Bartow, FL 33831 or by e-mail to Jennifer Stults, Intermodal Systems Development Manager, at jennifer.stults@dot.state.fl.us.

A copy of the hearing agenda may be obtained from Cindy Clemmons, Florida Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, FL 33831, (863) 519-2362, or by e-mail to cindy.clemmons@dot.state.fl.us or Debbie Tower, Public Information Director, Florida Department of Transportation, Southwest Area Office, Swift SunGuide Center, 10041 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33913, by phone at (239) 461-4300, or by e-mail to debbie.tower@dot.state.fl.us.

Persons with disabilities who may require special accommodations at the public hearing in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Robin Parrish, District One Title VI Coordinator, by phone at (863) 519-2675 or by e-mail at robin.parrish@dot.state.fl.us.

The hearing will be conducted pursuant to Section 339.135(4)(c), Florida Statutes, as amended, and is developed in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or family status may file a written complaint to the FDOT District One Title VI Coordinator or the FDOT Equal Opportunity Office as shown below:

DISTRICT ONE
Robin Parrish
District Title VI Coordinator
Florida Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1249
Bartow, FL 33831

CENTRAL OFFICE
Charlotte Thomas
State Title VI Coordinator
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

For information about additional public meetings in your area, please contact:

Cindy Clemmons
Public Information Director
Florida Department of Transportation
801 N. Broadway
P.O. Box 1249
Bartow, FL 33831
(863) 519-2362



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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).

- **Devin Scott Bailey**, 28, N.W. 38th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 27 by Officer Ryan Holroyd on a charge of possession of a controlled substance (methadone) without a prescription. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- **Thomas Fralix**, 23, S.W. Sixth Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 27 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - child neglect. His bond was set at \$1,000.

- **William Brcka**, 40, of Okeechobee at large, was arrested Sept. 30 by OCSO Deputy Arlene Durbin on a felony charge of battery/domestic and a misdemeanor violation of a protection order.

- **Jeremy Lloyd Jordan**, 33, of Buckhead Ridge, was arrested Sept. 29, on a felony charge of driving on a suspended license with knowledge. OCSO Detective Ted VanDeman was the arresting officer.

- **Staton Demontrail**, 16, of Coco Beach, was arrested Sept. 29 on a Veberd County warrant on charges of burglary of an unoccupied dwelling and grand theft. Bond was set at \$7,000.

- **Kyle Ramone McBride**, 24, of Detroit, Mich., was arrested Sept. 29, on a Minnesota warrant on a charge of felony credit card fraud. No bond was set.

- **Brandon William Tansley**, 23, of Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 29 on a charge of battery on a person over the age of 65.

- **Marshall Comfort**, 25, of S.E. 21st Street, was arrested Oct. 2, on a charge of battery with bodily harm, by Okeechobee City Police Officer R. Holyroyd.

- **Jessie James King**, 47, of N.E. 14th Ave., was arrested Oct. 3 on an Okeechobee County warrant on charges of possession of cocaine with intent to sell and sale of cocaine. Bond was set at \$25,000.

- **Roger Mitchell Bryner**, 40, of N.W. 96th Ct., was arrested Oct. 3 on an Okeechobee County warrant on a charge of DUI. Bond was set at \$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.

Charges dropped

Janet Lynn Chivari, who was arrested Sept. 10 on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, has been cleared of the charge. According to the State Attorney's Office, the case has been dropped.

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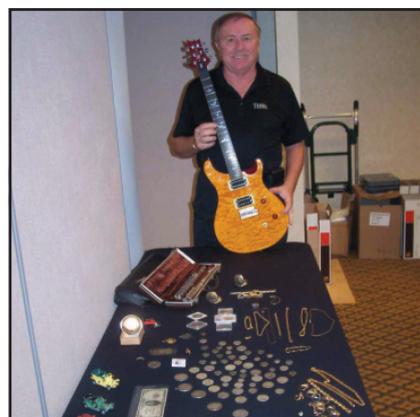
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CLASSIFIEDS



Special to the Okeechobee News

Johnny Appleseed Day

Students in Mrs. Sickels' class at Seminole Elementary recently celebrated Johnny Appleseed Day. Below, Carol Marker topped off her Johnny Appleseed outfit with a sauce pot hat, apple seed sachel and a hobo sack. At right, Johnathan Burns dug holes with a metal spoon to create his apple orchard.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Buying unwanted jewelry and coins

Bob DeFebbo, an employee of International Gold, Silver & Diamond Buyers, poses with a display of the type items his company is buying. They will be at the Holiday Inn Express, 3101 U.S. 441 S. through Saturday, Oct. 8.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Blessing of the Animals

Fr. Hugh Duffy (holding a fennec fox from Arnold's Wildlife Center) officiated at the Blessing of the Animals at Sacred Heart Church on Oct. 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

VETERAN

Continued From Page 1

Honor Flight is a volunteer organization that provides trips for World War II veterans to Washington, DC to see the World War II Memorial... their memorial. Since 2005 the nonprofit Honor flight program has flown more than 30,000 World War II veterans from across the country at no cost to honor them for their service.

On Sept. 24 Southeast Florida Honor Flight flew 85 World War II veterans to Washington. Each one had a volunteer escort and wore a blue T shirt and red cap supplied by Honor Flight. It was a long day for Mr. Price, beginning with reveille at 2:35 a.m. at his Okeechobee home. Breakfast was served from 4:45 to 5:45 a.m. at the VA Medical Center in West Palm Beach before the group boarded buses for the trip to the airport. In spite of the early hour, Mr. Price was amazed at the people who lined up to see them off at the airport, including a Scottish bagpipe band. When they arrived in Washington, he said there were hundreds of people there to meet them including Congressman Alan West.

As they entered the World War II Memorial, Mr. Price spotted the Florida state emblem to the left of the entrance. Senator Bob Dole, also a World War II veteran, was there to greet them.

The group went to Arlington National Cemetery to see the changing of the guard. This was Mr. Price's second trip to Arlington.

He had been there 46 years earlier chaperoning a 4-H group on a trip to Washington.

At the Iowa Jima Memorial a group picture was taken. There was a high school band waiting at the Washington airport to see them off on their return flight.

"You cannot believe the reception we got and the feeling you get at those places," Mr. Price said.

During the drive home from the airport he had time to reflect on the events of the day. It seemed almost unbelievable that volunteers, like his escort Roger Walker, an engineer from Vero Beach, could carry out such an undertaking. "It was a wonderful experience which, thanks to the efforts of hundred of volunteers, U.S. Airways and even some of our congressman, will be remembered for years to come," Mr. Price said.

During World War II, Mr. Price was sent to the Philippines as part of the 33rd Infantry Division. From there he expected to take part in an invasion of Japan. However, the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the subsequent surrender of Japan made an invasion unnecessary. Mr. Price arrived in Japan as part of the Army of Occupation about nine days after the bombs were dropped and about a month later he saw the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. No one warned him of the danger of radiation and he suffered no apparent harm from it. Mr. Price served about one year in Japan before being sent back to the United States and being discharged. He returned home to a quiet family reception nothing like the reception he received 65 years later.

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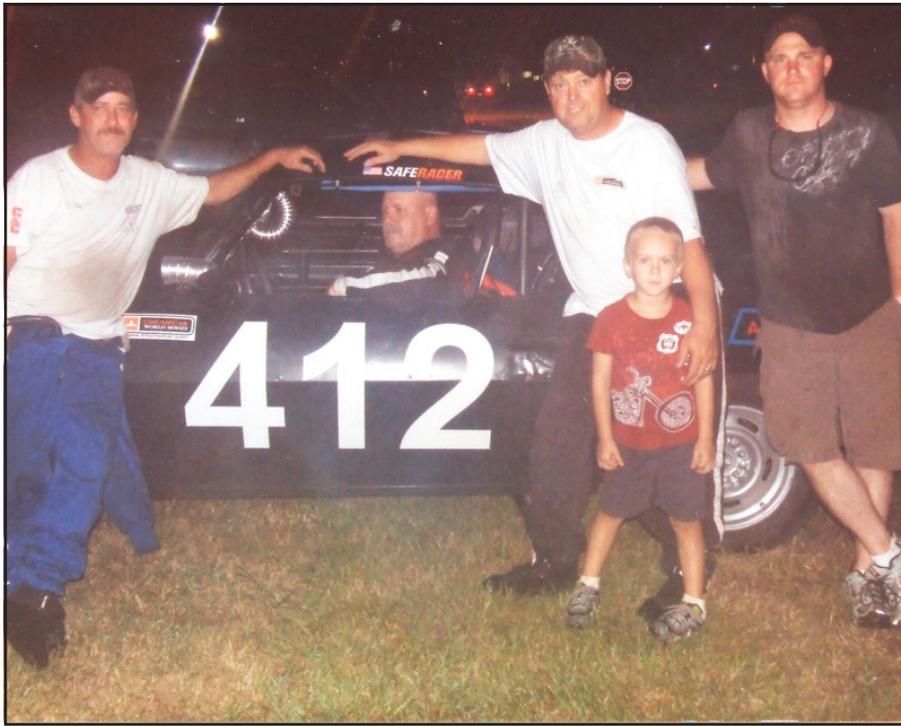
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Special to the Okeechobee News/Cheryl Hinkle

Drivers race in memory of Eddie Keith

On Saturday Sept. 25, local boys Bret McCammon and Tim Arnold along with two Sebring racers Kenny Hinkle and Scott Thieme participated in the ChumpCar Series 14-hour endurance race at Sebring International Raceway. The race car was numbered in memory of another local race car driver, Eddie Keith, who passed away earlier this year. His car was #12. They drove for 12— their car was #412. In spite of blowing a motor one hour into the race, they replaced that motor and went back out to complete the 14 hours.

Volleyball club needs new members

Big Lake Juniors, Okeechobee's very own travel volleyball club, is set to go for another exciting season beginning in January 2012. Since its 1998 inception, Big Lake's tradition of developing highly competitive volleyball players at the secondary and post secondary levels has become the norm. This is evidenced in our middle and high school teams with such undeniable records.

As they begin their 14th season, team members are excited to see this pattern continue with the opportunity of young players joining the Big Lake family. Big Lake's teams from last year were comprised of ten and under to 18 and under players.

Participating in Big Lake requires travel on weekends for up to seven out of town tournaments, and practices two nights a

week. Girls who take part in this great club not only learn the basics of volleyball, they also understand what it means to be a team player and how to contribute to the whole of a larger group. This club and its play time offer great opportunities for future athletes as they network and grow individually as well as collectively.

If you would like to become part of the Big Lake season and possibly wear the unmistakable black and pink uniform, join the group for a parent meeting on Monday, Oct. 10, at the Osceola Middle School's Media Center at 6:30 p.m. (right after the Osceola and Yearling Volleyball game) for information on costs, schedules and logistics. Also you can check them out at <http://biglakejuniors.com> for more information.

Brahmans football game rescheduled

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The football game between Okeechobee and Martin County was officially rescheduled for Monday night, Oct. 10, at 5 p.m. at Brahman Stadium.

The game will pick up where it left off last Friday, with about 1:35 left in the first quarter with Martin County in front 7-0.

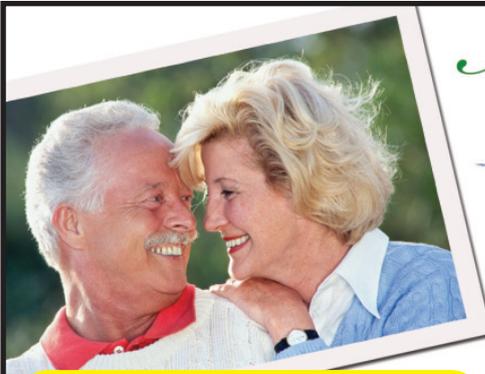
Ticket prices for the game were reduced to \$5 for adults and \$2 for students.

In other sports news, the OHS girl's volleyball team defeated Canterbury and Barron Collier at the Riverdale High School

Tournament on Saturday. Okeechobee defeated Canterbury 25-15 and 25-12 and Barron Collier 23-25, 25-22, 25-11, and 25-19.

Rebekah Bryan was named to the All Tournament team.

The Brahman girls golf team won the Crutchfield Hawkins Invitational on Monday. Okeechobee shot 407 as a team on the 18 hole course. Emily Raulerson tied for eighth place as she shot 96. The Lady Brahmans had two teams compete. The B team finished in fifth place in the 12 team field.



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OHS boys bowling team sweeps Ft. Pierce Westwood

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School boy's bowling team swept Westwood in three games on Tuesday to win their first match of the season at Lucky Lanes in Okeechobee.

The Brahmans (1-2) got strong performances from senior Angel Garcia who had the high game of 151. Marco Raya bowled a high game of 150. George Marshall and Sam-

uel Rogers bowled 147 to help the team.

"I feel the boys team continues to make strides and the scores are beginning to become more consistent," Coach Josh Stoddard said, "The boys are a work in progress but they are getting better from match to match."

The Brahmans will be home on Oct. 5. Both the boys and girls bowling teams will be in action at 3:30 p.m.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Samuel Rogers is an up and coming sophomore for the Brahman boy's bowling team.



OHS Cross Country team competes in invitational

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Tabatha Henry finished 11th overall to lead the Lady Brahmans to a 20th place finish at the Flrunners.com Invitational in Titusville on Saturday.

Henry finished the race with a time of 20:38 and was the best time of any girl from the Treasure Coast in the event.

Hernan Baltazar had a strong event for the Brahman boys as he finished in 33rd

place overall with a time of 17:54. No other Brahman finished in the top 100. The boys finished in 19th place overall.

Hillsborough Plant High School won the boys meet and St. Cloud won the girl's team event.

Mariano Alvarez finished 127th, Erick Garcia 140th, and Hector Torres 181st for the Brahman boys. Ana Huerta finished 122nd, Carissa Licata 126th, and Charleigh Hester in 161st place for Okeechobee.

Swim team beats Hardee and Avon Park

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Brahman swim teams both enjoyed victories over Hardee and Avon Park in a swim meet in Highlands County last Thursday. The Brahman boys had 131 points while Avon Park had 107 points and Hardee County had 83 points. The Brahman girl's squad earned 152 points, Hardee 88, and Avon Park 61.

Highlights included victories by all of the girl's relay teams, Jessica Wackler who won both the 200 and the 500 free, and Katie Van Beek who won the 50 and 100 free.

On the boys side Dustin Houston won the 200 Individual Medley, and the 200 free relay ran their fastest time at 1:44.29. Members include Ryan Reister, Dalton Hodges, Brandon Ball and Dustin Houston.

"We had a good week of practice and it showed in the pool tonight," Swim Coach Brian Turner said, "This is the first year since I have been here that we have been able to get the swim practice schedule so we don't miss any practice due to inclement weather."

The girls improved to (5-4) and the boys overall record is (4-5). The swim team returns to Avon Park on Thursday.

Josh Stoddard takes over Brahman bowling program

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News



Josh Stoddard

Josh Stoddard was recently named to take over the OHS bowling program.

The Osceola Middle School Inclusion teacher has lived in Okeechobee for nearly 10 years and joined the OMS staff this fall. He had worked since 2002 at the Okeechobee Boys School as Director of their Halfway House.

He went to school at Wayne State in Nebraska. He grew up in Massachusetts but moved to Nebraska at the age of 14. He is an avid bowler who plays in the mixed league at Lucky Lanes on Tuesday night. He will also be the girl's basketball coach for OMS this year.

Stoddard stepped forward when OHS needed a bowling coach and were in danger of scrapping the team this year.

"It has been a good experience so far as I learn a new sport to coach. The kids have been great and I look forward to a good season," he added.

Stoddard said he likes the material he has to work with. There are two freshmen and two sophomores on the girl's bowling team and the team has won their first two meets.

He said as bowling coach his job is to enhance what the kids already know.

"My biggest thing is motivating the kids to do their best. I give some pointers here and there but a lot of them have their own coaches and have bowled for a long time," he noted.

Key bowlers on the girl's squad include Kirsten Doney, Ashley Bird, Emily Worth, Jessica Olney and Mary Simmons.

The boy's team is led by George Marshall, Angel Garcia and Dylan Resendiz.

Coach Stoddard said he feels the girl's team can really grow into a contender while the boy's team has shown improvement and should be ready to compete at the district tournament.

"A lot of the girls and boys have good form. The lanes sometime are not very friendly based on oil and other conditions so you have to be willing to make adjustments," he added.

Stoddard thanked Lucky Lanes for their support of the bowling team. They allow the players to use the lanes as much as they want for free during the bowling season. He also thanked Mama Flego's restaurant which will hold a spaghetti fundraiser for the team. The restaurant will provide 100 free dinners for \$5.00 apiece and all of the proceeds will go to the bowling team.

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Churches plan special events



Places of Worship

Church of God of Prophecy of Okeechobee, 102 N.W. 10th Street, is having a pastor appreciation celebration for the month of October. Everyone is invited to come and show the pastor, Brother Mike Bevis and his wife, Sister Deb Bevis how much they are appreciated.

Operation Christmas Child spokesperson Livia Satterfield will speak at **Oakview Baptist Church**, 677 S.W. 32nd st., at 10 a.m. on Saturday, **Oct. 8**. She will be speaking about her experience receiving a shoebox as a child living in an orphanage in Galati, Romania. Operation Christmas Child is a project of the international relief organization, Samaritan's Purse and will hand deliver more than 8.5 million shoe box gifts to hurting children in some 100 countries this year. This event will inform the community about Operation Christmas Child and how to participate in the program.

Okeechobee Church of God, 301 N.E. Fourth Ave, will host a concert by American Idol Season Six Top 10 Finalist Chris Sligh on Saturday, **Oct. 29**, at 7 p.m. For more information call 863-763-4127.

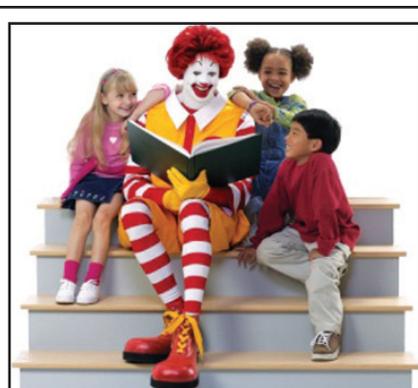
On Thursday, **Oct. 20**, Evangelist Gary Pollard will be at **Haven of Rest Church** in Cedar Plaza in Okeechobee at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

First Baptist Church has received word from Angel Food Ministries that the food program has been discontinued.

Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Ave, will host a Water Conservation Day in conjunction with South Florida Water Management District as part of the morning worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday, **Oct. 9**. In addition to local issues, particular emphasis will be given to areas of the world such as Haiti, that have recently faced water challenges.

Open Arms Ministry, at 102 N.W. 10th Street in Okeechobee, sponsors the **Hurting Women's Ministry** every second and fourth Friday of each month at 7 p.m. This is a ministry for women of all ages who are going through or have been through crisis in their lives. For more information, call 863-254-8304.

The Okeechobee News welcomes news from area churches for this column. E-mail okeeneews@newszap.com.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Ronald McDonald Show at the Library!

Reading is its own reward, but Ronald McDonald makes it fun! Join the fun at the Okeechobee Public Library for Ronald's magic show and juggling act with lots of audience participation stressing the importance of reading! The free event is open to everyone. Ronald will be at the Library on Wednesday, Oct. 5th, at 3:30 p.m.

Bible questions

Pocket Lady aka Doris Entry, shows off her apron of many pockets used recently to provide prizes to children who could answer Bible questions. Mrs. Entry, a retired Okeechobee County school teacher, manages the church library at the First United Methodist Church. The library houses, among many other works, a large children's library and resources for those who home school. Home schoolers are welcomed to register and use the materials. Library hours are Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m., Sundays, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information call the church office 863-763-4021.



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Couple caught with drugs in restroom

By Katrina Elskan
Okeechobee News



Samuel B. Hendrix

When Okeechobee County Sheriff's Deputy B. Potter entered a restaurant men's room on Oct. 1, he was surprised to hear the conversation coming from a restroom stall. He heard two voices, one male and one female.

"They sounded to me like they were doing drugs together," Deputy Potter wrote in his report.

A man opened the stall door, but when he saw the deputy, "his facial expression changed and he backed back into the stall," the deputy explained.

The deputy exited the restroom and called for a female officer. When a female exited the men's room, she was detained and the deputy went back into the restroom to get the man.

A search revealed the man had five and one-half Zanex tabs, a syringe, arm bands (used to help cut circulation for better vein protrusion) and cotton used to strain water.

According to the deputy's report both the man and the woman appeared to be intoxicated and slurred their speech.

No drugs were found on the woman, according to the report.

Samuel James Hendrix, 22, of Elm Street, was charged with felony possession of a controlled substance and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond was set at \$3,000.

Woman gets probation for 'naked' driving

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee woman pled no contest to charges of DUI, possession of cannabis over 20 grams and use or possession of drug paraphernalia and received 18 months probation for allegedly driving intoxicated and naked last March 30 near Indiantown.

Martin County Court records show Charlene Johnson, 46, of N.E. 60th Drive, entered the plea on Sept. 23 before Circuit Court Judge William Roby. She was adjudicated guilty of the three charges.

Johnson was also ordered to undergo a substance abuse evaluation and treatment, DUI school, and had her vehicle impounded for 10 days. She had also served two days in the county jail after her arrest. She also will pay court costs and fees.

The arrest report from Martin County Sheriff Deputies stated that Johnson nearly caused several crashes on Route 710 west of Indiantown. Deputies said they found 46 grams of marijuana in the vehicle. The report stated Johnson's blood alcohol level was .182.

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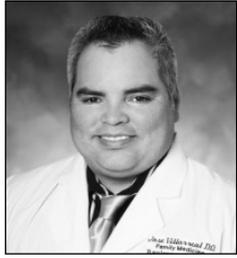
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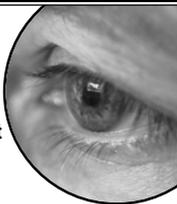
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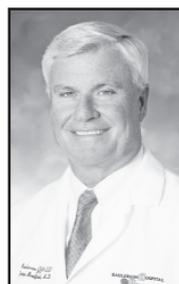
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Effective October 25, 2011, the following change will occur to your channel lineup: •BBC America will move from Digital Preferred channel 114 to Digital Starter channel 114.

Please call 800-COMCAST (800-266-2278) with any questions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

After a notice of a re-tiering of a video service, you may change your level of service at no additional charge for a period of 30 days from the effective date of the change. Otherwise, changes in the services you receive at your request may be subject to the upgrade or downgrade grade listed on the annual rate card. Prices are exclusive of applicable franchise fees and related costs, FCC user fees and taxes. For customers with commercial accounts or bulk rate arrangements, some product, pricing and other information may not apply. Upon proper notice, all pricing, programming, channel locations and packaging are subject to change. 399054 ON 10/5 CGS 10/6/2011

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED SPECIAL EXCEPTION

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the City of Okeechobee Board of Adjustment and Appeals on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Council Chambers, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The agenda is available on the City website www.cityofokeechobee.com, or contact the General Services Department, bclment@cityofokeechobee.com, 863-763-3372 x 218.

Under consideration is Special Exception Petition No. 11-002-SE, submitted by property owner Gustavo Martinez, to allow a car wash within a CHV Zoning District (Ref. Code Book Section 90-283(2)). Property is located at 507 NE Park Street. Legal: Lots 11 and 12 of Block 150, Okeechobee, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 5, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

All members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate in said hearing. The entire petition may be inspected during regular business hours, Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm, except for holidays.

The Board of Adjustment and Appeals serves as the decision making body (quasi-judicial), on behalf of the City, to approve or deny Special Exceptions.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the Board of Adjustment and Appeals with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, or hearing will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. General Services media are used for the sole purpose of back-up for the department. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the General Services Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance.

by: Brian Whitehall, Zoning Administrator Petition No. 11-002-SE 397899 ON 10/5,14/2011

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Public Notice

Public Notice

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF OUA MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 8:30 A.M., at the Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

The needs of hearing or visually impaired persons shall be met by contacting the Executive Director's Office at 863-763-9460 at least 48 hours prior to the Public Hearing by any person wishing assistance.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Authority with respect to such meetings, he or she will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made; which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Such person may provide a court reporter, stenographer, or tape recorder for such verbatim record.

BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford Executive Director 399503 ON 10/5/2011

Mobile Home Sale

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

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF OUA MEETING

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BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford Executive Director 399503 ON 10/5/2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No.: 201 1-CP-93

IN RE: ESTATE OF LORRAINE M. MANNING Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of LORRAINE M. MANNING, deceased, whose date of death was October 20, 2010; File Number 2011-CP-93 is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N. W. Third Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is: September 29, 2011.

Derek B. Alvarez, Esquire - FBN: 114278 dba@endersalvarez.com Anthony F. Diecidue, Esquire - FBN: 146528 afid@endersalvarez.com GENDERS ALVAREZ DIECIDUE, P.A. 2307 West Clearwater Street Tampa, Florida 33609 Phone: (813) 254-4744 Fax: (813) 254-5222 BETH ANNE RICHARDSON Personal Representative 3004 Pin Oak Drive Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 398508 ON 9/28;10/5/2011

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute," will register with Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations the fictitious name, to wit:

Cerferino Espinoza Under which we expect to engage in business at:

Express Wireless & Style 416 N.E. Park Street Okeechobee, FL 34972

In the City of Okeechobee/County of Okeechobee, Florida.

That the parties interested in said Business enterprise are:

Cerferino Espinoza 416 NE Park Street Okeechobee, FL 34972

Dated at Okeechobee, Okeechobee County, Florida this the 30th day of Sept. 2011. 399402 ON 10/5/2011

Public Notice

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

NOTICE OF OUA MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 8:30 A.M., at the Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

The needs of hearing or visually impaired persons shall be met by contacting the Executive Director's Office at 863-763-9460 at least 48 hours prior to the Public Hearing by any person wishing assistance.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Authority with respect to such meetings, he or she will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made; which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Such person may provide a court reporter, stenographer, or tape recorder for such verbatim record.

BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford Executive Director 399503 ON 10/5/2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

Case No.: 2010-CA-281

SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, f/k/a FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF THE TREASURE COAST, Plaintiff,

v. JOHN J. BERTOLINI, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 17, 2011, entered in Civil Case No.: 2010-CA-281 of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK is the Plaintiff and JOHN J. BERTOLINI is the Defendant.

I will sell to the highest bidder for cash, at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 2nd Floor, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, at 11:00 o'clock a.m. on the 19th day of October, 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

Lot 2, Block 6, COUNTRY HILLS ESTATES, according to the Plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 97, of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida

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. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

DATED this 29th day of September, 2011. Sharon Robertson, Clerk of Court By: Sandra L. Crech Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff: Sally Still, Esquire Ward, Damon Posner, Pheterson & Bleau, P.L. 4420 Beacon Circle West Palm Beach, FL 33407 (561) 842-3000 399155 ON 10/5,12/2011

Okeechobee County School Board Negotiations - Race To The Top and Senate Bill 736

The School Board and the Okeechobee County Education Association #1604 will resume negotiations regarding Race To The Top and Senate Bill 736 at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, and will continue as needed. Collective bargaining sessions are open to the public and will be held in Room 303 of the School Board Administration Building at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee.

Ken Kenworthy Superintendent 398500 ON 10/5/2011

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2011-CP-104

IN RE: Estate of EVERETT HARPER CAMPBELL, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Formal Administration

The administration of the Estate of EVERETT HARPER CAMPBELL, deceased, whose date of death was September 30, 2010, and whose social security number is xxx-xx-4009, Case Number 2011-CP-104 is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Suite 125 Okeechobee, FL 34972. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is: October 5th, 2011.

Law Office OF CASSELS & McCALL JOHN D. CASSELS, JR. Attorney for Personal Representative 400 NW 2nd Street/P.O. Box 968 Okeechobee, Florida 34973 (863) 763-3131 Fla Bar No: 0261521

Randall Douglas Campbell Personal Representative 23424 SW 53rd Avenue, Bldg F Boca Raton, FL 33433 398751 ON 10/5,12/2011

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold its Regular Session on Thursday, October 13, 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 399493 ON 10/5/2011

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Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION Case No. 2009-CA-000481

Central Mortgage Company Plaintiff, v. F. Earl Griffin, Jr. Defendant.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure Including Award of Attorneys' Fees and Costs dated September 16, 2011, entered in Case No. 2009-CA-000481 of the Circuit Court of the NINETEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein Central Mortgage Company is the Plaintiff and F. Earl Griffin, Jr. are the Defendants. That I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 at 11:00 am on October 19, 2011, the following described property, as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure including Award of Attorneys' Fees and Costs, to-wit:

LOTS 21 AND 22, BLOCK 100, OKEECHOBEE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 5, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Dated this 19th day of September, 2011.

SHARON ROBERTSON, Okeechobee County Clerk of Court By: Sandra L. Crech Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptacion para poder participar de este procedimiento o evento; usted tiene derecho, sin costo alguno a que se le provea cierta ayuda. Favor de comunicarse con Corrie Johnson, Coordinadora de A.D.A., 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 por lo menos 7 dias antes de que tenga que comparecer en corte o inmediatamente despues de haber recibido esta notificacion si es que falta menos de 7 dias para su comparecencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva o de habla, llame al 711.

KREYOL: Si ou es you moun ki kobe ki bezven asistans ou aparye pou ou ka patisipe nan prosedu sa-a, ou gen dwa san ou pa bezven peye anyen pou ou jwen on sen te ed. Tanpri kontakte Corrie Johnson, Coordinador ADA, 250 NW Country Club Drive, suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370. Ou mwen 7 jou avan ke ou gen pou ou parè nan tribinal, ou mediatman ke ou resevwa avis sa-a ou si le ke ou gen pou ale nan tribinal-la mwens ke 7 jou; Si ou pa ka tanè ou pale byen, reld 711.

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 SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE SALE. 398312 ON 9/28;10/5,12/2011

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

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Auction will be held at Johns Towing Service storage lot located at 704 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 on October 21, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage charges. Year, make, model and VIN are as follows.

1997 SATURN S-SERIES VIN # 1G8ZE1281V2274970

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right of final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL! NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE! Said automobiles will be sold in "As Is" condition with no guarantees. 399482 ON 10/5/2011

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2011-CA-161

RUDOLFO J. UNCEIN, Plaintiff, vs. YESSINA MIRABAL; ARNALDO MIRABAL; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ARNALDO MIRABAL n/k/a OLGA MIRABAL, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated September 15, 2011, and entered in Case No. 2011-CA-161, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein RUDOLFO J. UNCEIN, is the Plaintiff and YESSINA MIRABAL; ARNALDO MIRABAL; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ARNALDO MIRABAL n/k/a OLGA MIRABAL, and any unknown tenants in possession, are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3rd Street, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, at 11:00 a.m. on the 19th day of October, 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 35, RANGE 35 EAST, RANGE 35 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 33, THENCE S 01°27'24" W ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 33, A DISTANCE OF 50.00 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE R/W LINE OF N.W. 160TH STREET (100 R/W); THENCE N 89°34'54" E ALONG SAID SOUTH R/W LINE, A DISTANCE OF 1166.86 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE EAST R/W LINE OF N.W. 12TH TERRACE (50' R/W); THENCE S 01°36'26" W ALONG SAID EAST R/W LINE, A DISTANCE OF

Pop Warner football team beats Port St. Lucie

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Robert Futch exploded for 168 yards rushing and two long touchdowns in the second half to lead the Chobee 'Lil Brahms Junior Pee Wee team to their sixth consecutive victory, 19-0, over Port St. Lucie on Saturday.

Futch opened the third quarter with a 70-yard burst up the middle to give the Brahms the momentum they needed after a sluggish first half.

Futch also recovered a fumble and had seven tackles to lead the defense to the shut-out victory.

Rayquan Futch added a three-yard touch-down run in the first half for Okeechobee. He had 25 yards rushing in the game. Jermaine Moore had 21 yards and Devante Luellman had 36 yards rushing for Okeechobee.

Jafabian Smith had another strong game on defense with a sack and three tackles behind the line of scrimmage. Moore had five tackles and a sack in the game. The defense had seven tackles behind the line of scrimmage and three sacks in the second half.

Coach Marcel Richardson said the team overcame a slow start in the first half and really underestimated how good Port St. Lucie was, "When we figured out they were pretty good we turned it up. I thought our defense played outstanding."

PSL had just three first downs in the game.

The Junior Pee Wee team will meet Jupiter Black on the road on Saturday.

In the Midget Division game the Lil Brahms shutout the Jensen Beach Cowboys 20-0. Damian Deck and Demetrius Clark had several tackles on defense and Brendan Barcia played well at QB.

Albion Crowell atoned for a fumble in the first quarter with a one-yard touchdown run. Simeon Washington added a 70-yard touchdown reception and Janavise Futch added an 80-yard kick return for a touchdown for Okeechobee, (4-2).

Coach Eric Williams said he felt his team gave a great effort in this game. "Our defense was very disciplined and we had a great surge on the front line. We are in a pretty good position for playoffs."

Dylan Kinder was tough in the trenches for the Brahms who will receive a boost this week with the return of Lamar Williams to the linebacker position. Williams has been sidelined all year with a back injury.



Roshell Thomas makes a tackle for the Okeechobee Pop Warner Midget Division team on Saturday. The defense tossed a shutout against the Cowboys.



Albion Crowell runs for a nine-yard gain the first quarter of the Midget Division battle between Okeechobee and Jensen Beach on Saturday.



Devante Luellman runs for big yardage while QB Rayquan Futch looks on during the Pop Warner Junior Pee Wee contest between Okeechobee and Port St. Lucie on Saturday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Robert Futch looks for room to run during Saturday's Pop Warner game in Okeechobee. The locals prevailed 19-0 over Port St. Lucie.

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Sat. - 9am to 5pm

OMS soccer team plays Storm Grove



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Emmanuel Ramirez (middle) tries to clear the soccer ball near the Osceola net on Wednesday as Nilo Martinez looks on.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Sweeper Adoniel Martinez scored a goal and goal keeper Mackenzie Delacruz made a wonderful save on a penalty kick but it wasn't enough as Osceola Middle School fell

to Storm Grove 4-1 in a middle school soccer match held Wednesday in Okeechobee.

The young Warriors continue to improve and showed a lot of heart and hustle against Storm Grove. They gave up two early goals in the first half and were unable to recover.

"Sometimes that will help you as it wakes you up and gets you going," Coach Jorje Botello said afterward, "This year we don't have a lot of strong returners."

Osceola was hurt as their striker Amer Elhindi was given a yellow card in the first half.

Coach Botello said he has a lot of sixth and seventh graders on the team this year that are learning the game. He said a lot of the players have had to adjust from recreational ball because middle school soccer is a big change in talent and skill.

"This is a game with a different gear. You have to have speed and knowledge of the game. Right now I have a team of brand 'newies'," he explained.

Botello said the team has continued to practice hard and learn. He said they learned some hard lessons in this game about clear-

ing the ball from around their own net.

"I'm not going to ride my team into the ground for losing. I tell them look at how we fixed some things during the match," he added.

He said the players have started to communicate with each other on the field and have learned to kick the ball to the outside when the defense is flooded with opponents.

"We didn't win this game but we did win over some fundamentals that have been killing us," he added.

Osceola will travel to Sebastian Middle School next Monday to play the Cowboys. Match time is 4:30 p.m.



Midfielder Niki White (Left) and Emmanuel Ramirez (right) chase after a Storm Grove player during the first half of the soccer match between Osceola and Storm Grove on Wednesday.

OMS Volleyball team sweeps Storm Grove

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Brittani Mellette had 14 service aces, one kill, and eight more service points to lead Osceola to an impressive sweep of Storm Grove 25-15 and 25-22 in a Middle School volleyball match Wednesday at the Warriors Gym.

MaKayla Root had five aces, five service points and four kills for the Warriors. Andy Garcia had three assists.

Osceola dominated the first game and built a lead of 22-10 before getting the win. The second game was a comeback as Storm Grove built leads of 8-4 and 15-12. Their last lead was 20-18.

Mellette's service run got the Warriors in front to stay down the stretch.

Coach Kati Lawson said the girls are coming together as a team and are playing as a single unit instead of just playing for themselves, "They are playing smart and making good decisions on the court. They are becoming very smart volleyball players."

Lawson said her Warriors had to work for every point because Storm Grove refused to quit and really hustled after every ball. He said their work ethic was very impressive.

"You can always count on



Brittani Mellette had a huge day at the service line for the Lady Warriors in their victory over Storm Grove.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
#5 Judy Soriano celebrates a point for Osceola with teammates Andy Garcia #9 and MaKayla Root #8 Wednesday.

them getting the ball back over the net. They will run their hearts out to try and get the ball over. It is an asset that every team should have," she noted.

Coach Lawson said her team is in a good position but still have a lot of work to do to compete with teams like Yearling and Brighton. Most of the focus will be on improvement in the team's short game and playing balls off the net.

"I'd also like the girls to call the ball better and communicate. If you don't talk on the court you can't win," she added.

Osceola travels to play Sebastian on Monday, Oct. 3, and will host Yearling Middle School on Monday, Oct. 10. Both matches are scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

Students of the Week

Everglades Elementary School who are achieving excellence in the classroom include the Students of the Week for Sept. 19-23: Kindergarten; Lindsey Hamilton, Destyn Katz, Ernesto Flores, Jr. Addy Croy; first grade: Emily Hilderbrand, Caysen Jarriel, Toby Leslie, Yaneli Lopez, Daniel Smith; second grade: Diana Ruiz, Enrique Gomez, Raymond Elliott, Dallee Grover; third grade: Carlos Garcia, Christian Flores; fourth grade: Jehosafat Tapia, Esrat Jahan, Taylor Lacertosa, Viana Camasura, Brianna Hight; fifth grade: Raquel Alvarez, Jennifer Aguilar, Danny Hays and Damon Thomas. (Some not pictured.)



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