



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 122

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

50¢ Plus tax

**Two accused of trying to smuggle drugs into jail ... Page 7**

**Commission to discuss land uses ... Page 5**

**OHS Brahmans shut out by Tigers... Page 18**

**Committee to help plan city parks ... Page 3**

## Lake Levels

**11.24 feet**

Last Year: 13.90 feet



**Pogey's Family Restaurant**  
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Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level



See page 4 for information about how to contact this newspaper.

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

**Alex Boswell watches how a firefighter does his work with water during the Fire Prevention Week presentation from local firefighters Monday for the Okeechobee Christian Academy and local day care centers.**

## Students learn fire safety

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Fire Prevention Week began Monday at local schools and this year the theme is education of families on what causes house fires, how to prevent them, and what to do in an emergency situation.

Okeechobee County Fire Rescue will visit each elementary school in the county while the Okeechobee City Fire Department visited with day care centers, Grace Christian Academy and Central Elementary this week.

City Fire Department Battalion Chief Bill Douglas said he has done these presentations for 25 years. He emphasizes the kids to not play with matches, crawl low in smoke and learn how to dial 911 to get help.

His number one piece of advice is to have smoke detectors with working batteries in your home.

"I can't stress that enough. I've gone to so many house fires where there were no alarms. That is your early warning to get out of your home before the smoke gets too bad."

He also stressed that kids remain calm, stay on the floor where the fresh air is, and to get out of their home and stay out during a fire.

"These kids hang on to this information. Our puppet show really helps them remember all this," he added.

County Firefighter Keith Bourgault said he enjoys this event every year. He said the kids love to see the fire trucks and ambulance. His goal is to make kids feel more comfortable with firemen

See FIRE— Page 5

## OUA may settle lawsuit

**By Pete Gawda**  
Okeechobee News

Engineering projects and court settlements dominated the Tuesday, Oct. 11, meeting of the Okeechobee Utility Authority board of directors.

A few years ago OUA began to plan what is called the eastside forcemain that would provide sewer service to several proposed new subdivisions, as well as Treasure Island. Original plans called for the forcemain to go through the proposed subdivision of Northshore Village. One of the two lift stations required for the forcemain was to be in Northshore Village. It now appears that Northshore Village will not be built in the near future.

According to Jeff Sumner, engineer with AECOM, negotiations with the owners of Northshore Village for forcemain easement and a lift station site have hit a brick wall. Therefore the utility decided to change the route of the forcemain to avoid Northshore Village property. The new route would require only one lift station to be built on property donated by the county at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center.

The board voted to amend its contract with AECOM for an additional \$88,000 to do the engineering on the new route. Tommy Clay cast the lone dissenting vote because he did not think there was sufficient funding for the project.

In a related matter the board voted to pay invoices totaling \$700 to AECOM for engineering work

See OUA — Page 5



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# Low water levels provide chance to replant native vegetation around lake

By taking advantage of low water levels that extended into the summer wet season, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) was able to complete several successful environmental enhancement projects, such as planting native trees and bulrush and stocking apple snail eggs.

"At the same time we coped with the negative effects of a drought, we also seized the opportunity to do critical environmental work that provides long-term benefits," said SFWMD Executive Director Melissa Meeker. "Planting vegetation when nature provides the chance improves the overall ecosystem as it recovers from low water levels."

Much of the work was completed in the spring and early summer when water levels were extremely low around Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee Estuary. After the initial work, the projects continue to be maintained as the plantings now are taking root and flourishing.

Among the efforts:

- Trees were planted around Lake Okeechobee, including 2,000 pond apples on the Rita Island berm, 660 cypress trees along the rim canal and 70 new cypress trees at Jaycee Park in Okeechobee.

- Bulrush planting was started on approximately 12 acres at the Harney Pond Canal marsh and the Clewiston Cut marsh to protect areas where muck was previously removed.

- Apple snail eggs were produced at a newly constructed hatchery at Lemkin Creek in Okeechobee County as part of a joint effort with Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. The eggs were subsequently transplanted to Lake Okeechobee as the preferred food source for the endangered snail kite.

- Vallisneria, a type of aquatic plant, was installed in cages along the Caloosahatchee Estuary, to re-establish the tape grass, which is critical to the food web in the sensitive estuary environment.

- Surveying was conducted in Lake Okeechobee's littoral zone and marsh to identify locations for future muck removal or tilling.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SFWMD  
Apple snail eggs were transplanted from this hatchery to Lake Okeechobee.

## Okeechobee Forecast

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### Local Forecast

**Wednesday:** Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the upper 80s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20 percent.

**Wednesday night:** Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. Southwest winds around 5 mph.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s. West winds 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday night:** Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 60s.

**Friday:** Partly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s.



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# March of Dimes offers grants for birth health needs

The March of Dimes Florida Chapter is seeking applications for grants in Florida that will address unmet maternal and child health needs. These grants are one way the

March of Dimes pursues its mission of preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.

“Our current grant priorities are to help

women become as healthy as possible before making the decision to have a baby,” said Julie Samples, March of Dimes Florida Chapter Program Services Committee Chair. “The key focus for the March of Dimes is improving the health and well-being of women both before and after they have a baby.”

Information on the grant process, including the request for proposal and grant guidelines, can be found on our website at [www.marchofdimes.com/florida](http://www.marchofdimes.com/florida). The closing date for applications is October 15, 2011, for a funding cycle that will begin in early 2012.

For additional questions about the grant process, please contact Lori Reeves, State Program Director, at [lreeves@marchofdimes.com](mailto:lreeves@marchofdimes.com).

The March of Dimes is the leading non-profit organization for pregnancy and baby health. With chapters nationwide and its premier event, March for Babies®, the March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. For the latest resources and information, visit [www.marchofdimes.com/florida](http://www.marchofdimes.com/florida) or [nacersano.org](http://nacersano.org). Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

## Parent guide to be sent home with every student

“The Successful Student” a parent guide, will be sent home with every student in the Okeechobee County School System on Friday, Oct. 14.

This book, mandated by the state, is designed to provide students and parents in Okeechobee with the most current information on a variety of educational topics, explained Superintendent of Schools, Ken Kenworthy.

The parent guide includes FCAT and other testing information, report card schedule, school calendar, bus safety rules and information on what your child should be learning at each grade level.

In addition, there is information on tuto-

rial services, extended day and after-school programs for elementary, middle and high school students. Information on the Migrant, ESE and Federal Programs as well as opportunities for parent participation, attendance, rules for school bus riders and homework helps are also included.

“As our partners in education, parents are valuable team members with educators throughout our district. One of our goals is to increase and improve communication both to you and from you. This parent guide is one of the ways we are attempting to share as much vital information as possible for your use now and in the future,” Mr. Kenworthy stated.

## City forming new park committee

The City of Okeechobee is seeking interested citizens to serve on the newly formed “Park Committee.” Applicants may be city or county residents but they cannot be city employees. County or State employees would need to refer to their employee handbook to determine whether they may apply. The committee will serve in an advisory capacity only to make recommendations to the City Council on identifying trends and opportunities for providing a variety of active and passive recreation areas for persons of all ages and abilities; to provide concepts of quality

and visually appealing of parks, buildings, athletic facilities and maintenance of such facilities; and to identify open space opportunities.

Anyone interested in being appointed to this committee must submit a completed Citizen Board Application to the Office of the City Clerk by Wednesday, Oct. 12. Applications may be printed from the City’s web site, [www.cityofokeechobee.com](http://www.cityofokeechobee.com) or contact the Clerk’s Office directly, 863-763-3372 x 215, City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974.

### Cast your vote for the County Fair theme

Plans are under way for the 2012 Okeechobee County Fair, March 9-18, at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. The fair board has narrowed down the possible themes to four and they want the community’s help to choose among the following themes:

- It’s a Family A-Fair
- Love A-Fair
- There’s Magic in the F-Air
- Fair Time is Fun Time.

Cast your vote by visiting [www.OkeechobeeCountyFair.com](http://www.OkeechobeeCountyFair.com) and clicking on your favorite theme. Results will be announced Nov. 4.

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The City of Okeechobee is pleased to announce the opening of the 2011 CDBG Application Cycle for Housing Rehabilitation Assistance. To qualify, your income, based on household size, must not exceed the following limits:

1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People
\$25,400	\$29,000	\$32,650	\$36,250	\$39,150	\$42,050	\$44,950	\$47,850

You must own your home in order to qualify and your home must be within the City limits of the City of Okeechobee. If you feel you qualify, please pick up an application at:

General Services Department  
Okeechobee City Hall  
55 S.E. Third Avenue  
Okeechobee, Florida

Applications are also available online at [www.cityofokeechobee.com](http://www.cityofokeechobee.com) For further information on obtaining an application, please contact the General Service Department at 863-763-3372, extension 217.

Applications will be taken until November 12, 2011. Applications received after this date will be considered only if funding is available.

City of Okeechobee is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

PUBLISH: 10/12, 10/14, 10/17/2011, Okeechobee News



### Hampton Inn hosts book signing

Deborah Sharp, author of “Mama Sees Stars,” will be at the Hampton Inn, 1200 State Road 70 E. on Saturday, Oct. 22, from 2 to 5 p.m. for a book preview and signing. For more information call 863-824-0003.

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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!*

### Minimal regatta

- The minimal regatta was an outstanding event. The organizers deserve a big round of thanks from the community.

- What a great time and good to see the community support the event. Our vessel didn't fair so well but what a blast it was!

- The minimal regatta was a really well-planned event and it was a lot of fun. They had tents to protect the spectators from the sun and from the rain. They had a bounce house and bounce slide and free face painting for the kids. Many of the booths were giving away free snacks and there were also more substantial food items for sale. They had plenty of security both on and off the water, with FWC and OCSO boats in the water and city police officers in the park area. It was just a great day of family fun. Some of the contestants went all out with their designs and costumes.

- I think the turn out for both the Labor Day Festival and the Adam Bryant Minimal Regatta shows that Okeechobee residents want these local events and will support them. We just need community organizations to take the lead. For Labor Day, it was Okeechobee Main Street, the BRAT Club and the Cattlemen. For the Minimal Regatta, it was the Kiwanis Club. If the local organizations step up and start planning more festivals and special events, I think the community will support them. And by hosting such events, these organizations will become more well known and their membership will grow.

- I noticed several candidates for local office in the 2012 elections had boats. For next year, which will be right before the election, they could play that up with challenge races. Of course the candidates would have to row their own boats. That could be quite a draw for the crowds too.

### City park

- Do we actually need another park? But they will find some way to keep pushing

and pushing it until it happens. There could be other ways to spend money—such as pay down debt, pay top dollar for common sense, etc.—more efficiently than a park by a creek that's unfit for swimming or any other water activity you can think of.

- They'll come up with more events there until they push the park deal through.

- This issue should really be up to the city voters since the city tax payers are the ones who will pay for anything they do there. If the city residents think it is a good idea and something they want, go for it. Although I am sure some people who do not live in the city limits would use such a park, the city tax payers would be footing the bill, so the decision should be theirs. I think neighborhood parks are a good idea. I wish we had more of them in the county. As for debt, the city does not have any debt. They got the OUA to take the water system debt when the OUA was formed.

- Whenever there's a kid arrested for stealing cars or robbing houses the first thing everyone says is "well, there's nothing for the kids to do around here!" This is why something as well-intentioned as a new park is met with fierce opposition by members of our City Council, not to mention a former councilman who is concerned about the traffic? Maybe that's why all of the other city parks are located right along the busiest highway in town. And speaking of that and liability, who would be liable if a child wandered into traffic at any of the other parks? What if a kid falls off a ramp and dies at the skate park? There's liability in everything but you can't let it trump common sense.

- Nothing to do? Give me a break. There is bowling, movie theater, skate park, tennis, playgrounds, ball fields, fishing, boating, race cars, high school activities, clubs, etc. Making excuses for kids behavior is simply not taking responsibility. You can't stop every kid from doing something wrong. The kids walking around saying there is nothing to do don't want anything to do. They are too close minded, or just looking for trouble. Of course there are also chores which many (not all) kids feel they shouldn't have to do.

- Personally, I think it's crazy to venture into something costly right now without any cost figures to keep this park up. Shouldn't there be some public hearings first so everyone can get a full picture of what's going on?

## Letters to the editor

### The Mission continues

I would like to take this opportunity to update our community about our current services and operations in our Mission, Big Lake Missions Outreach, Okeechobee County. As most of you know, Bruce was in and out of the hospital for almost eight months, but our mission continued on a smaller basis. Our church leadership continued feeding the homeless and needy and needs were met when they were able to help. Since May of this year, we are back to our regular services reaching out to the community as the need arises. Bruce is doing very well, thanks be to God and the faithful prayers of our friends.

We have been in operation for 16 years reaching out to the homeless and needy in our city. We have and will continue to keep on without any reservations or respects-of-persons. As directors, Bruce or I or anyone connected with our Mission receives no pay for the services offered, but by the grace of God and help and donations from various churches, businesses and private people, we are able to do this.

Having said all that, since the summer months began, monthly support and cooked trays of food for the meal site has been down to half, but the need is even greater. There are not many actual homeless like there used to be, but we are helping more families with services as well as eating hot meals at the site.

Do not throw away food when someone else needs it—food from parties, banquets, weddings, etc. that could be used to feed the hungry. If you would just call us, we would be glad to pick it up. We have lots of frozen and cold storage.

We also have a good pantry that constantly needs to be restocked.

The holidays are before us sooner than we would like to think about. We will have a hot Thanksgiving Dinner served at our meal site for the homeless and needy. Also volunteers will deliver take-outs to the ones they know have no transportation. Help and funds would be greatly appreciated for both holidays. We also have a toy drive for the needy kids in OUR community.

We would greatly appreciate your considering helping our mission throughout the year to continue to reach out to those who need it. To those of you who have been faithful and continue to do so, many thanks to all of you. Without the monetary help each month and donations of all types, we could not do what we do.

Please call 863-763-5725 or (cell 863-697-6433) for more information.

Happy Harvest & God Bless,  
**Bruce & MaryAnne Swinford**  
Big Lake Missions Directors

### Park proposed

In response to the proposed park - Here's my two cents worth. Can we please be more descriptive of where it will be? The Taylor Creek is a pretty big piece. So, as a layman, and many of the city/county citizens are, I'd like to know where, exactly, are we talking about?

I, for one, would also like to see a huge fundraiser for the already existing county park Wooden Jungle since that one is in such disrepair. Surely all the folks that have children, swim in the pool, attend the ball fields can put their heads together to come up with a plan. If we cannot take care of the one we have, well, why get another one?

While on the subject of needing repair, the old Cattlemen's arena could really use a little help as well.

I am all for a new park, under the conditions it looks like a park, with grass, trees, water fountains, butterfly gardens. Not a concrete jungle with concrete sidewalks, concrete parking etc. We already have that, it is called the Agri-Civic Center.

Let's put our positive heads together, asking what is the true benefit of a park? Would it seriously be attended? What is the long-term goal of it? Who is going to maintain it? Are we going to plan events there? With vendors making it fun for everyone? Will day permits be extended for the general public to sell things? Like a hotdog? YES, then let's do this! But, if it is going to look like the concrete jungle of the Agri-Center, the falling down wooden jungle, the non-attended Butterfly garden and the very valuable piece of history we have, "the rodeo arena," which are all of no beauty to this town. Then my answer is no.

**Concerned citizen,  
Bobbi Poole**

**Editor's note: As stated in the article in the Friday, Oct. 7 Okeechobee News: "Preliminary plans for the proposed park, to be located on city-owned property on Taylor Creek at S.E. Sixth Avenue and S.E. Seventh Street, include a beach volleyball court, chickens, picnic tables, a children's wading pool and other playground features and docks."**

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

### To Reach Us

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### To Submit News

The Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

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Additional copies of the newspaper are available for 50 cents Wednesday and Friday and 75 cents for Sunday at the office. Home delivery subscriptions are available at \$18.00 for three months.

### Okeechobee News

**USPS 406-160**

Published 3 times a week: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday by Independent Newspapers, Inc.

107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D • Okeechobee, FL 34974  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Okeechobee News  
Circulation Administration  
PO Box 7011 • Dover, DE 19903

### Staff

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**Circulation Manager:** Janet Madray  
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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



# Commission to consider land uses

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

It looks like Okeechobee County Commissioners will put in a long day tomorrow with much of it spent discussing various land uses.

Charlie Pelizza, of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will be presenting an update on the proposed Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. This 150,000 acre refuge is primarily a conservation easement program. Plans call for leasing conservation easements on 100,000 acres and purchasing 50,000 acres to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat.

Much of the property under consideration for purchase or lease is in Okeechobee County.

Commissioners will also consider recommendations for Okeechobee County made by the Department of Defense's Joint Land Use Study of the Avon Park Air Force Range. The range is a 106,000 acre training facility in Polk and Highland counties. The Highland County section is just across the Kissimmee River from Okeechobee County. The recommendations affect the use of land, such as limiting land uses for areas nearest the range, and requiring disclosure notices and establishing height limits and lightning criteria for other areas near the range.

In another land-use item commissioners will be looking at the section of county code that deals with land application of treated septage. The county's regulations are more stringent than those imposed by the state.

The board retained Jordan Peccia, Ph.D. P.E., from Yale University, Department of Chemical Engineering to review the county's code and make recommendations. Commissioners will discuss Dr. Peccia's report and consider appropriate action.

Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina, which has been under utilized for several years due to unrepaired hurricane damage, will also be a topic of discussion. Commissioners will be looking at five master plans that were developed by Applied Technology & Management, Inc. There is a potential investor interested in developing the park and the investor is interested in which direction



Okeechobee News./Charles Murphy  
**County firefighter/paramedic Keith Bourgault gave students a tour of an Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue ambulance along with his colleague Matt Vinson on Monday outside the Okeechobee Freshman Campus.**

**If you go ...**  
**WHAT: Okeechobee County Commission meeting**  
**WHEN: 9 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 13**  
**WHERE: Commission Chambers, Okeechobee County Courthouse**

commissioners want to go.

In other action, the board is expected to:

- receive Work Force Solutions' two-year plan;
- receive the Florida Department of Transportation five-year work plan;
- appoint one member to the construction industry licensing board with a term to end March 21, 2012;
- appoint two members to the affordable housing committee with terms to expire Sept. 15, 2013; and
- discuss an ordinance on placing tobacco products behind the counter and out of the hands of youth.

## FIRE

Continued From Page 1

so they aren't scared and nervous in a real emergency.

"It is very stressful for them. We don't want them to be afraid. We show them the instruments and things we use in our job and make them feel comfortable with us," he added.

Mr. Bourgault said he feels the kids retain this information for later in life. While there are reports once in awhile of kids starting fires with matches and lighters, those reports are few and far between.

"We do think it works. I see the kids over the years. They remember us and what we've told them so I hope it gets through," he added.

Mr. Bourgault said residents should check the batteries on their smoke detectors each year, have a good evacuation plan, and keep their homes and roof tops clear of debris and flammable materials. He also urged residents to educate themselves on local burn laws.

Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record as it began in 1922.

Visit the Fire Prevention Week website to get safety tips and other information on how to make your home and family safe.

**PAID CONTENT**  
**Keith Bass & The Florida Bluegrass Express Performing Live**

Keith Bass & The Florida Bluegrass Express Performing Live - October 15, 2011 @ 5:30 at the KOA Campground. \$10 per person at the door. Children 12 and under free with a paid adult. Concessions will be available. For additional information contact Keith or Darlene Bass at 863-781-2376 or 863-634-5815

## Kissimmee River closed to navigation due to currents

Navigation on the Kissimmee River has been closed to boaters following the weekend's rainfall events, which dumped more than a foot of water on the upper Kissimmee River Valley. The flood control structures have been opened to let the water flow south in Lake Okeechobee, causing swift and potentially dangerous currents in the river.

## OUA

Continued From Page 1

previously done on the eastside force main project.

"I believe we have settlement of the Royal Professional Builders bankruptcy case," announced board attorney Tom Conley. He said that as part of the settlement Royal agreed to pay the utility \$141,000 to satisfy payments on their developer's agreement. In return, the developer's agreement would be cancelled and the utility would relinquish any tax certificates it holds on their property. However, Mr. Conley said there was a technicality holding up the judge's ruling that did not involve OUA. Royal Professional Builders still has not paid 2010 taxes. Even though that matter must be resolved between the company and the tax collector and approved by the bankruptcy judge, Mr. Conley

was confident it would be settled.

In another ongoing case involving unpaid developer's agreements, Mr. Conley announced that even though it went to trial in May there are still no results from the litigation with Land Ventures of America.

Turning to other business, in accordance with OUA policy, accounts with an outstanding balance of \$50 or less that are older than one year will not be pursued for payment. As a result of this policy the board voted to write off a total of \$1,724.15 from 78 customers.

The board also received without comment the preliminary fiscal year 2011 year-end balance report.

Chairman Steve Nelson urged the utility to support the proposed city park on Taylor Creek.

**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).**

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## Community Events

### Healthy Start board meets

The Board of Directors of the Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition will meet on Wednesday, **Oct. 12**, at 11:30 a.m., in their office, located at 575 S.W. 28th Street within the New Endeavor High School Building. This meeting is open to the public. The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition is part of a statewide network of coalitions responsible for planning and implementing services for pregnant women and infants. The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition is made up of citizens interested in promoting healthy families and healthy outcomes for babies in Okeechobee. For more information about the Coalition, please contact Executive Director, Kay Begin, at the Coalition office, 863-462-5877.

### Learning Coalition to meet

The Okeechobee County Provider/Advisory Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, **Oct. 12**, at 12:00 noon. The meeting location is Church of Our Savior, 200 N.W. 3rd Street, in Okeechobee. Contact Loretta Toth at 772-223-3832 with any questions.

### Euchre tournament resumes

The Euchre tournament will resume for the season on Mondays and Wednesdays. The next tournament will take place on Wednesday, **Oct. 12**, at the Village Square Restaurant, at 301 W. South Park St. Play starts at 6:30 p.m. but plan to arrive at 6:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome, even beginners. Call John Munger for information at 863-357-0803.

### Farm Bureau to hold membership meeting

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.

### VNA to offer diabetes seminar

Are you, "Living with Diabetes?" Come and find out more about how you can better live with it. The Visiting Nurses Association will offer a seminar - presented by Wanda Haas, RN CDE on **Oct. 13** at 1:30 p.m. at Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility, 203 SE Second Street (In the dining room).

### Main Street Mixer slated

Okeechobee Main Street's October Mixer will be sponsored by the Florida Blood Center on Thursday, **Oct. 13**, from 5 until 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites, located at 3101 U.S. 441 S. The public is invited and current members are asked to bring a friend! Okeechobee Main Street is a non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization of Okeechobee County and the preservation of our County's heritage. Please join us for networking, refreshments, door prizes, and a chance to win our 2011 Mega 50-50. For information call Cindy Birdashaw at 863-357-6246 or stop in the Main Street office at 111 N.E. Second St.

### KOA to host Annual Boots and Pearls Gala on Oct. 14

Okeechobee KOA will host the 6th Annual Boots and Pearls charity gala on Friday, **Oct. 14**, beginning at 6 p.m., with a social hour. Dinner will be at 7 p.m. with music and dancing by Chris MacArthur and The Florida Cracker boys. Tickets are available at Eli's Western Wear. For more information, please call 863-763-2984.

## Obituaries

*Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing [obits@newszap.com](mailto:obits@newszap.com). Customers may also request photos and links to online guest books. A link to the obituaries is available at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com).*

### Georgiann J. Wentz, 66

OKEECHOBEE — Georgiann J. Wentz, age 66, of Okeechobee passed away Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011, in the Hamrick Home Hospice in Okeechobee.

She was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Okeechobee in 2005 coming from Mentor, Ohio, and Thomason, Ga. She was a member of the More to Life Ministries Church in Okeechobee.

She is survived by her husband, Roger L. Wentz; mother, Julia Majerchik of Baden, Pa.; daughter, Lisa A. Scott (Kelly) of Ohio; son, Mark Wentz (Tessa) of Ohio; and five grandchildren. In addition she is survived by her special friends, Mary Wilburn and Nancy Phelps.

Georgiann's family would like to thank the staff and nurses of the Hamrick Home for their wonderful and loving care of their loved one. Also, special thanks to Pastor Carrie McKee for his visits, prayers and caring friendship to Georgiann.

In keeping with Georgiann's wishes, there will be no services at this time.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

All arrangements are under the care of the Buxton Funeral Home, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee. On-line condolences may be made at [www.buxtonfuneralhome.com](http://www.buxtonfuneralhome.com).



### Waylon Purvis benefit to be held Oct. 15 in Lakeport

A barbecue benefit will be held for Waylon Purvis on Saturday, **Oct. 15**, at the Duck Pub, 1031 Lakeport Plaza, at 2 p.m. until. The dinner consists of ribs or chicken with lots of sides to choose from and dessert. An Indian taco plate will also be available for \$8. Entertainment is played by Wayne Purvis. A 50/50 drawing will be held with tickets available in advance. Contacts are: Frankie at 863-261-2001; Amanda at 863-532-2111; and, Joni at 863-697-8395.

### Dinner benefits

#### Animal Adventures

Cypress Hut Eagles will host a chicken dinner to benefit Animal Adventures wildlife sanctuary on Saturday, **Oct. 15**. Food will be served at 3 p.m. Plates are \$6. Music will be by The Harpers. Some of the animals will be on site.

### Inarleen 'Dee' Bresslar,

OKEECHOBEE — Inarleen "Dee" Bresslar, age 76, died at the Hamrick Home on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2011.

A native of Delta, Ala., she was born May 19, 1935, to J.B. and Florarene Ingram. Dee had resided in Okeechobee for 27 years before moving to Lake City, Fla. In 2008, to be closer to family, she returned to Okeechobee.

She was preceded in death by her true love and companion, Bill Snyder; and sons, Curtis Demedecis and Tony Higgins. Survivors include sons, Pete (Gail) Johnson of Okeechobee, Ray Bressler of Burbank, Calif., Marvin (Chrissy) Bressler of Okeechobee; daughter, Elizabeth Higgins of Rosamond, Calif.; grandsons, Jeremiah Johnson, Curtis and Ronald Demedecis; granddaughters, Victoria Johnson, Shelly Demedecis; and four great-grandchildren, all of Okeechobee.

Dee enjoyed knitting or crocheting and watching wrestling (which she knew was "real").

The family would like to extend a special thank-you to Hospice of Okeechobee for the outstanding care they provided to their loving mother and grandmother.

A memorial service for friends and family will be held tomorrow, Oct. 13, 2011, at Laurel Oaks Senior Apartments, 1800 N.W. 3rd Lane, Okeechobee, beginning at 2 p.m. Pastor Jimmy Gibbs will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

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

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

Sign guestbooks at  
<http://www.legacy.com>

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# Couple accused of smuggling pills into jail

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

A man and woman are being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on felony charges after the woman reportedly tried to smuggle prescription pills into the jail.

Peter Brege, 26, N.W. Fourth St., Okeechobee, and Tara K. Spence, 33, of the same address, were both arrested Monday, Oct. 10, on felony charges of attempted delivery of oxycodone, conspiracy to deliver oxycodone

and introduction of contraband into a correction facility.

Both are being held on bonds of \$15,000 each.

An arrest report by a detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force stated that Spence brought four oxycodone pills into the county jail and hid them under a trash can. The pills were reportedly wrapped in a ball of tin foil and were found by Detention Deputy Iris Marrero.

Records indicate that Brege was initially arrested on a felony charge of burglary and a misdemeanor charge of petit theft. On Aug. 9 he entered into a plea agreement by which he was sentenced to one day in jail on the misdemeanor charge and two years probation on the felony charge. As part of that probation, he was ordered to spend six months in the county jail.

Jail records show that Brege was to be released from jail on Nov. 28 to begin his probation.

According to the detective's report, Spence has a prescription for oxycodone pills but the pills she reportedly left for Brege were not part of that prescription.

## 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).**

- Daniel Patrick Murphy, 19, S.W. 21st Parkway, Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 7 by Deputy Howard Pickering on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - shooting/throwing a deadly missile into a building/vehicle. He is being held without bond.

- James Everett Fraser III, 51, W. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, was arrested Oct. 8 by Deputy Howard Pickering on a charge of

grand theft (three counts). His bond was set at \$7,500.

- Jesus Musical, 24, was arrested Oct. 9 by Deputy Yamil Astacio on charges of driving under the influence and resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. His bond was set at \$1,000.

- Harrison John Flanery, 41, S.E. 14th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 9 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with obtaining or attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud (14 counts). His bond was set at \$35,000.

- Fermin Arriaga, 40, S.W. Third Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 9 by Officer Charles Green on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Tanya Henderson, 37, S.E. 57th Drive, Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 10 by Depu-

ty Marcus Collier on a charge of grand theft. Her bond was set at \$1,000.

- Joseph Martin Miller, 25, S.E. 25th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 10 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with felony petit theft. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Colton Matthew Smith, 12, S.W. Third Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Oct. 6 by Deputy Donnie Holmes on a charge of battery on a school board employee (two counts). He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

*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.*

### Operation Safe Medicine Cabinet II to be held

No questions asked! Turn in your outdated and unused medications. Keep prescription medications out of the wrong hands, off the streets and out of the hands of our youth. Join the Okeechobee City Police Department, the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office and your local pharmacies to make your medicine cabinet and home a safer place. Meds will be collected on Saturday, **Nov. 12**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. across from Okeechobee Skate Park at 307 N.W. Sixth Ave.

### ARC Thrift Store in need of donations

The ARC of Okeechobee Thrift Store is currently requesting donations of household items, dishes, kitchen appliances, furniture and clothing. Your tax deductible donation will be used to help further the mission. The store is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All items can be dropped off at the thrift store location, 403 N.W. Second Ave. in Okeechobee. For information, call 863-763-2419.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee, Florida will on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave., Okeechobee, FL conduct a PUBLIC HEARING to consider amending the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

The purpose of this PUBLIC HEARING is to consider and receive input concerning Textual Amendments which must be addressed in order to coordinate the Comprehensive Plan with the South Florida Water Management District's Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plan Update as required by F.S. 163.3177(6)(c):

- Potable Water Sub-Element of the Sanitary Sewer, Solid Waste, Drainage, Potable Water and Natural Groundwater Aquifer Recharge (Infrastructure) Element
- Conservation Element
- Intergovernmental Coordination Element
- Capital Improvements Element

The City will forward the adopted changes to the Department of Community Affairs.

All members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate in said hearing. The adopted amendments may be inspected in its entirety by members of the public in the Office of the City Clerk during regular business hours, Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm, except for holidays.

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

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

BY: James E. Kirk, MAYOR  
Lane Gamiotea, CMC, CITY CLERK

# Local churches plan speakers, sales and special events

**Believers Fellowship Church** will hold its Friday night gospel sing on **Oct. 14**, at 7 p.m. at 300 S.W. 6th Ave. Everyone is invited to attend. Refreshments are served immediately following the sing. Come on out and sing a song or sit and listen and enjoy a great time of music, fellowship and food.

The **Okeechobee Church of God Ladies Ministry** will host a community yard Sale on **Oct. 15**, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the church, 301 NE 4th Avenue. There is inside and outside booths being set up. They also have a concession stand. Have you wanted to have a yard sale, not enough room, or in bad location. Reserve a space with a table for a \$10 donation. Reserve a space and bring your own table for a \$5 donation. To reserve your spot call Sue at 863-634-2930.

**Freedom Outreach Ministry** will hold a yard sale on Sunday, **Oct. 16**, at 912 N.W. 2nd Street (2 blocks west of Meat Shoppe) from 9 a.m. until. Anything and everything for sale.



## 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.

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.

The pumpkin on Hunter Road continues. Come hear the greatest story ever told on Saturday, **Oct. 29**, from 3-6 p.m. at the **Buckhead Ridge Baptist Church**, 1731 Hunter Road. There will be games, hay ride, cake walk, music and lots of fun.

**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.

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

**Church of God of Prophecy**-Open Arms Ministry, 102 NW 10TH Street-Hurting Women's Ministry meet every second and fourth Friday of each month at 7 p.m.-A ministry for women for all ages who are going through or have been through crisis in their lives. For more information please call 863-254-8304.

**Oakview Baptist Church** will host Xtreme Missions, Saturday, **Nov. 5**, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This event is for children in grades 1-6 and their church leaders. The children will meet with missionaries

and learn about their country and culture. The cost of the event is \$16 which includes a t-shirt and lunch. For more information, please contact Oakview Baptist Church at 863-763-1699.

Registration for Upward Basketball and Cheerleading has begun at **First Baptist Church** of Okeechobee. Deadline is **Nov. 30**. The program is for girls and boys in K-5 through 6th grades. For more information or to register, please call 863-467-7625 or go by the church or ROC office. Registration forms are also available at your child's school.

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

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Anton Silva III

## Prayer walk

The Okeechobee Ministerial Association has been hosting a series of prayer walks. At a recent walk, from left to right in the front row: Kristin Higgins-First United Methodist Church (FUMC), Vanessa Watt-FUMC, Audrey Metcalf-FUMC (holding the school's sign which reads Never, Never, Never Give Up!), Pat Hall-FUMC, OMA member Rev. Nancy Vaughan-FUMC Christian Education Director & Judy Simpson-FUMC. In the back row are: Savannah Simpson-FUMC, Kayla Harrison-FUMC, OMA President Rev. Jim Dawson-FUMC Youth/Assistant Pastor, OMA member Rev. Bruce Simpson-FUMC Senior Pastor, Karen Van Beek-FUMC Pianist & Handbell Choir Director, CW Simpson-FUMC and OMA Secretary Sandy Perry-Northside Baptist/Okeechobee Community Choir Director. Not pictured: Katie Van Beek and Jessica Suits, both of FUMC.

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# Hampton Inn welcomes Okeechobee Main Street

Hampton Inn, located at 1200 E. SR 70, hosted the September, 2011 Okeechobee Main Street Mixer on Thursday, Sept. 8. Main Street members and guests were welcomed by Donna Huth, Director of Sales, sporting a cowboy hat and western attire, befitting of the event's theme. Over 80 OKMS members and visitors attended the mixer and enjoyed "a taste of Okeechobee"- wonderful hors d'ouerves and snacks prepared by Cowboys BBQ and Steak Company, the Golden Coral and Lunkers Sports Grill. Members used this opportunity to network with business partners and were informed of upcoming community events. Keith Kite, of Kite Enter-

prises, LLC, who own the Hampton Inn, presented a brief overview of the hotel, which won a prestigious 2011 "Connie" award for customer service. Executive Director, Cindy Birdashaw assisted in distributing exciting door prizes provided by Main Street member organizations and President Kathleen Shatto thanked those in attendance for their support of the organization. Main Street's MEGA 50-50 drawing will continue at each mixer throughout the year, with a winner being announced during the December event.

The October Mixer will be sponsored by the Florida Blood Center on Thursday, Oct. 13, at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel and

Suites, located at 3101 Highway 441 South. The public is welcome to attend and current members are asked to bring a friend! Okeechobee Main Street is a non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization of Okeechobee County and the preservation of our County's heritage. Please join us for networking, refreshments, door prizes, and a chance to win our 2011 Mega 50-50. For more information contact the Okeechobee Main Street Executive Director Cindy Birdashaw at 863-357-6246 or stop in the Main Street office at 111 N.E. 2nd St.



President Kathleen Shatto and Executive Director Cindy Birdashaw enjoy a Main Street moment before guests arrive.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Hampton Inn Paul Mitchell, left and Carl Shumate discuss the news of the day.

## Verwey returns temporarily

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County has a new building official with a familiar face. Arnold Verwey, who served as building official from August of 2000 until his retirement in June of 2008, recently came back to his old job temporarily.

Interim county administrator Robbie Chartier announced that interim building official Tim English resigned effective Sept. 30. She said that Mr. Verwey was the logical choice to come back for three months to evaluate the department and see what direction it should go.

Mr. Verwey said he agreed to come out of retirement for three months to help out until somebody could be found to hold the position permanently. "I love it extremely well," he said of his retirement. "We're not planning to rock the boat," Mr. Verwey said. Any changes made will be made gradually. He plans to do a lot of listening. He said he will be examining plans, performing inspections and seeing how things are operating. He also plans to check out any concerns and address them.

"It's nice he's back here, said planning official Bill Royce who worked with Mr. Verwey previously. He was looking forward to working with Mr. Verwey again.



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# Regatta raises \$10,000 for fire/EMT scholarships

The inaugural Adam Bryant Minimal Regatta, held Saturday on Taylor Creek, raised more than \$10,000 for local scholarships. The event, which drew 58 entries and approximately 700 spectators, was such a success that plans are already under way for next year's regatta.

Adam Bryant was a talented musician and charming young man whose life was shortened by a devastating spinal cord injury in November 2002. He survived the initial accident and worked to recover until his passing in June 2004. At the time of his accident, Adam was a volunteer fireman and attending Fire/EMT school to become a professional firefighter/EMT. The Minimal Regatta exemplifies Adam's creativity and fun-loving spirit.

The goal of this event is awarding a scholarship to a graduating Okeechobee High School Senior and furthering a young person's ambitions of living a life of public service through being a professional firefighter/EMT in dedication to Adam's personal goal of being a firefighter that was cut short. They will be able to complete what Adam tragically could not.

Race entrants built their own boats using one 4' by 8' sheet of plywood, 24 feet of 2" by 4" lumber, one pound of fasteners and a roll of duct tape. Paint was allowed for decoration only.

The boats raced on a course of 750 feet. Paddles were provided.

In addition to the races, spectators en-

joyed a number of free family-friendly attractions include bounce houses, inflatable slides, face painters, a magician, a balloon man, and paintable plaster items for the kids.

Winners were as follows:

- Fastest in Adult Division: Jesse Bodden sponsored by Fast Break Marathon.
- Fastest in Youth Division: Johnny Cromwell sponsored by Commissioner Bryant Culpepper.
- Best Theme: Todd Hackett, Heath



Special to the Okeechobee News  
J.D. Mixon (left) presents the award for fastest adult to Jesse Bodden (center). At right is Blake Marsocci.

Whipple, and Eric Kendall. Their boat was modeled after Adam's personal guitar.

- "Titanic Award" (Fastest to Sink): Allen Leitner sponsored by Waste Management.
- "Life Saver Award" (Sportsmanship): Jacob Gresseth, sponsored by Charlie's Tree Service. He heroically dove in to help a fellow boat captain, Jennifer Ramfite, pull her boat across the finish line.

The event was hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee and organized by J.D. Mixon.



Special to the Okeechobee News.  
Johnny Cromwell (center), sponsored by Bryant Culpepper (right) won the youth division. At left is J.D. Mixon.

Participants are already planning their boats for next year. For more information, contact J.D. Mixon at 863-634-1778 or go online to [www.MinimalRegatta.com](http://www.MinimalRegatta.com).

For more photos of the boat races, see the Okeechobee News Facebook page. Race videos can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/user/jmixon12>.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The prize for Best Theme, went to Todd Hackett (left), Eric Kendall (second from left) and Heath Whipple (right) for their guitar-shaped boat.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/OMS

## Students of the Week

Here are our awesome OOOOOO- M- S students of the week for Sept. 29. Congratulations to: Joanna Nunez, Simran Merchant, Emily Minton, Brianna Jewell, Reniel Rodriguez, Cody Louthan (not pictured), Jacob Emmick, Marjon Librando, Montana Margeson and Kade Smith.



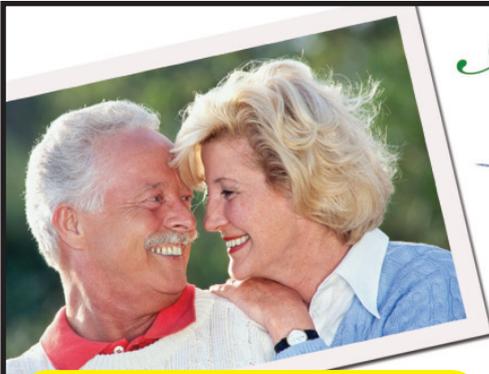
Special to the Okeechobee News/YMS

## Students of the Week

Yearling Middle School students of the week for the week of Sept. 26 include: Wyatt Todd, Jacqueline Phares, Faith Strong, Michael Shablom, Harry Todd, Austin Campbell; sitting, from left to right are: Mr. Brewer, principal, Mrs. Markham, assistant principal.

## Okeechobee Golf and Country Club Gold Tee Winners

The Okeechobee Golf and Country Club Gold Tee winners for the week of Oct. 7 were: first - D. Thomas; second - R. Carbia; and, third place tie - H. White and D. Burdshaw.



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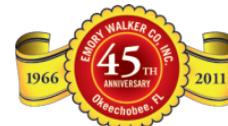
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Special to the Okeechobee News/Lyle Fried

## Rotary Club welcomes guest

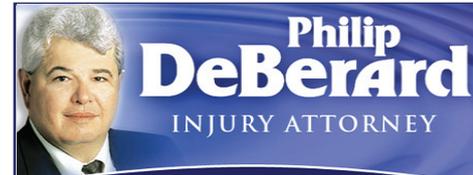
On Sept. 27, Kristy Crawford (right) gave a big Rotarian welcome to John Smith partner (with Joseph Charles) of the OK Corral Gun Club and Michele Ritter (center) also with the OK Corral Gun Club. Native Floridian, John Smith (left) gave a brief history of his partnership with Joseph Charles and how they brought the gun club to Okeechobee. John went on to talk about their Shotgun Area with 15 shooting stations, 3D Archery and Cowboy Action. The Cowboy Action uses period accurate gunnery and wears authentic clothing. They have a 4000 sq. ft. Ranch House, Barn & Corral and Picnic Shelters with Restrooms. Future plans include a 25-pad RV parking, a 10,000 sq. ft. banquet facility and small lodge cabins. He said they are here to stay and look forward to being part of our community.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Lyle Fried

## Rotary honors September Student of the Month

Also at the Sept. 27 Okeechobee Rotary Club meeting, Toni Wiersma (right), Principal of Okeechobee High School introduced the Student of the Month, Judd Harris (center). She told the club what an inspiring young man he is. She said she can always count on him for anything needing to be done at the school. Judd said he had three people to thank for who he is: Jesus Christ, his mother and his father. He is proud to be a Christian and wants to go to IRSC after graduation and then on to a Christian College. His plans are for the Ministry. He wants his graduating class to be remembered as "different." Pictured with Mrs. Wiersma and Judd Harris is his mother Kathy Harris (left).



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**REGISTRATION FORM**

*Taylor Creek Bass Club, Inc.*  
**26th Annual Kids' Day Fishing Festival**  
**October 30, 2011 - Okeechobee AG Center**

**CONTESTANTS:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*A Responsible Adult must accompany the participants!*

**General Release:**

The contestants, parents or guardians hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless all members, officers and officials of Taylor Creek Bass Club and Okeechobee Ag Center for any liabilities and/or damages arising from the contestants participation in the Kids' Day Fishing Festival.

**Kids Day Fishing Festival**

The 26th Annual Lee McAllister Memorial Kids Day Fishing Tournament will be held Sunday, Oct. 30, at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center pond. The tournament is open to children ages 4 to 14. The Casting Kids Contest will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fishing contest will be from 1 to 3 p.m. The event is free, but preregistration is necessary so the club will know how many children to plan for. The Bass Club provides everything for the kids including poles, bait and a snack. There will be prizes for those with the biggest catch and drawings for prizes.

**OHS volleyball team beats Fort Pierce Central**

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
 Okeechobee News

Okeechobee dispatched Fort Pierce in three straight lopsided games 25-2, 25-10 and 25-4 on Oct. 4 in Fort Pierce.

Darby Jones had four aces, four kills, and three assists, Sarah Davis had three aces and

12 assists, and Rebekah Bryan had 10 kills for Okeechobee.

Fort Pierce Central was shutout in the JV contest 25-0.

Coach Todd Jones said Fort Pierce Central has been challenged to field a competitive volleyball team in recent years.

**Cross country team competes in Disney Classic**

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
 Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Boy's Cross Country team finished 19th out of 26 teams and the girl's squad took 20th out of 24 squads at the Disney Cross Country Classic held Friday and Saturday at Lake Beuna Vista. Hernan Baltazar led the Brahman boys with a 59th place finish with a time of 18:11.70. Phillip Suarez and Mariano Alvarez also finished in the top 100, Suarez at 19:05 and Alvarez at 19:25.70.

Erick Garcia broke 20 minutes with a time of 19:54 to finish in 115th place. Frank

Adamo finished 126th with a time of 20:12.

Fort Walton Beach won the boy's division. Okeechobee was the only Treasure Coast School to compete.

Tabatha Henry continued a torrid start to her cross country season with a 12th place finish with a time of 20:08.10. Carissa Licata finished 135th and Ana Huerta as both came home in under 25 minutes. Charleigh Heater finished 151st and Marilu Rodriguez in 160th place while Sandra Luviano finished in 166th place for the Lady Brahmans.

Estero won the girl's division and Lake-wood Ranch finished in second place.

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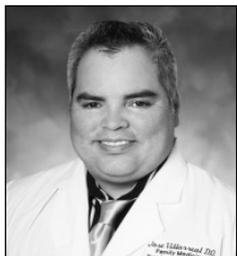
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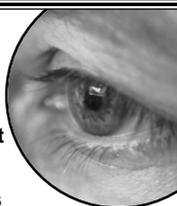
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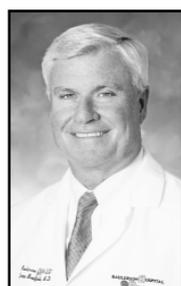
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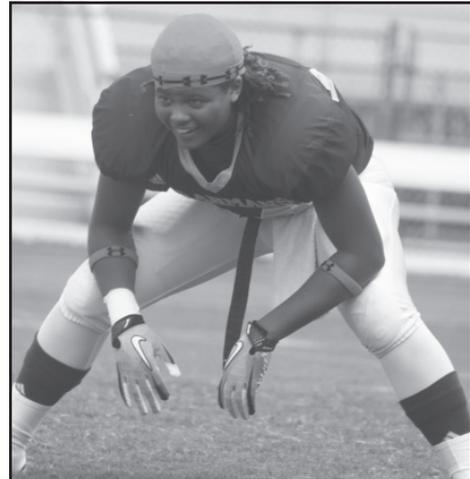
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# Brahman gridgers blanked 45-0 by Tigers



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Khalil Smith got 12 touches for the Brahman offense in a tough game Monday against Martin County.**

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Herschel Hester had three touchdown runs and Martin County dominated Okeechobee on both sides of the ball as they defeated the Brahmans (1-4), 45-0 on Monday night at Brahman Stadium.

The game was completed from a suspended game played on Sept. 30 in Stuart that was halted near the end of the first quarter due to a power outage.

Nolan Mullen riddled the Brahman secondary with nine completions for 150 yards and the Tigers had several short scoring drives in the second half. Jeremy Patterson caught four passes for 57 yards. Jermohn Queen rushed for a 14-yard touchdown. Treyvon Johnson intercepted a Brahman pass and returned it 30 yards for a score.

For Okeechobee the Brahman offense was held to 102 total yards with two turnovers.

Brahman Coach Myron Jackson said his team has had rough Monday practices this year and didn't play well on a Monday. He said the team must heal up and get things going in a positive direction.

"Were going to work and we won't take any time off. We will do the work we need to do to get better. We will take some time to focus on South Fork and focus on ourselves and get ourselves ready," he added.

Okeechobee was only 1 for 11 on third downs. The defense was also hurt by two short punts of six and nine yards. Martin County also had two long punt returns that put them in a good position to score.

Hester had only 61 yards but was able to break free for a 46-yard touchdown run that put the Tigers (4-2) up 17-0 in the second quarter.

He said his offensive line had great blocking all night, "Everybody in my way was blocked and I only had one man to beat. We all played great and the great blocking up front led us to a great victory."

Eduardo Sandoval had a 41-yard field goal and most of his kickoffs reached the Brahman end zone. Washington did return one kickoff 37 yards in the second half.

Okeechobee trailed 24-0 at the half and

didn't get much better luck in the third quarter. Johnson stepped in front of a Washington pass for an interception on the first Brahman series of the second half and returned it untouched to give the Tigers a 31-0 lead.

## Game notes

Cade Stokes knocked down a pass for the Brahman defense. Will Jackson and Jose Garcia combined for a QB sack. Austin Mobley recovered a fumble for the Tigers.

D.J. Washington left the field with a head injury in the fourth quarter after a violent helmet on helmet hit.

## OHS vs. Martin County

How they scored.

### First Quarter

Martin County: Hester 1-yard run. (Sandoval kick) 7-0. 6:59.

### Second Quarter

Martin County: Sandoval 41-yard field goal. 10-0. 6:23.

Martin County: Hester 46-yard run. (Sandoval kick) 17-0. 3:35.

Martin County: Hester 6-yard run. (Sandoval kick) 24-0. 1:25.

### Third Quarter

Martin County: Johnson 30-yard interception return (Sandoval kick) 31-0. 11:02.

Martin County: Mullen 12-yard run. (Sandoval kick) 38-0. 7:23.

### Fourth Quarter

Martin County: Queen 19-yard run. (Sandoval kick) 45-0. 8:02.

### Team Statistics

	Okeechobee	Martin County
First Downs	6	8
Third Downs	1-11	4-9
Penalties	1-10	7-40
Rushing yards	93	132
Passing yards	9	150
Punts	6-139	1-40
Punt returns	0-0	3-62
Kick returns	6-120	1-35
Interception	0-0	1-30
Fumbles/lost	2-1	0-0



**Cody Walker and the offensive linemen had a tough time opening holes against the Tigers' physical defense.**

## Individual Statistics

Okeechobee

Passing	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	INT
D.J. Washington	14	2	9	0	0
Rushing	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Washington	11	20	1.9	12	0
Jack Radebaugh	1	0	0.0	0	0
Eliowan Williams	7	36	5.2	15	0

Daniel Nunez	4	13	3.2	9	0
Khalil Smith	11	24	2.2	9	0
Totals	34	93	2.8	15	0
Receiving	No.	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Will Jackson	1	5	5.0	5	0
Khalil Smith	1	4	4.0	4	0
Totals	2	9	4.5	5	0

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## Students of the Week

Everglades Elementary students achieving excellence in the classroom for the week of Oct. 3-7 include: kindergarten students, Angelina Rosa, Cornelio Benitez-Torrez, Melinda Cherenfant, Justin Gatliff, Eli Barber; first graders, Nicolas Hernandez, Reed Mattson, Ruben Castaneda, Briana Moore; second grade students, Gavin Murphy, Princessa Orteaga, Zane Hicks, Kanani Sims, Hailey Derry; third graders, Justin Calder, Jacob Pummell, Haisley Kessler, Race Bickle, Ashton Harper, Dalton Durand; fourth grade, Jonathan Dutcher, Kaylee Hurley, Ernesto Delira, Kaiya Long, Jennifer Hernandez-Cancino; fifth grade, Enrique Velazquez, Tyler Underhill, Erika Serrano, Julia O'Bannon and Licett Castaneda. Congratulations to our many outstanding students.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Seminole Elementary

## National Custodians Day

In recognition of National Custodians Day, Seminole Elementary students in Mrs. Sickels' and Ms. Marquis' classes honored their school's custodians. The students presented the staff with a huge "Thank You" banner and a cake in appreciation for all the custodians do to keep the school clean and safe.

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