



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 135

Friday, November 11, 2011

50¢ Plus tax



Veterans' Day services today in Flagler Park

American Legion Post 64 will sponsor a Veterans' Day Program at 10 a.m. today at Veterans' Park. The featured speaker will be Russ Pappy, Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10539. The program will also include the JROTC Rifle Squad and Color Guard from Okeechobee High School.

Local man convicted of molestation of 7-year-old... Page 8

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Irby appointed to county commission



Frank Irby

Irby to fill vacancy created by death of Commissioner Clif Betts

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

After being vacant for over 7 months due to the death of long-time Okeechobee County Commissioner Clif Betts, the district 3 county commission seat has been filled.

On Thursday, Nov. 10, Governor Rick Scott announced the appointment of Frank Irby to that position.

"I think I can make a positive contribution to the county commission," Mr. Irby said when he first ap-

plied for the position. He referred to his experience on the city code enforcement board and as chairman and board member of the Okeechobee Utility Authority Board of Directors.

Mr. Irby has lived in Okeechobee since 1994. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and a retired hospital administrator who has extensive civic involvement.

In 2004, Mr. Irby unsuccessfully ran against Mr. Betts for the district 3 seat.

He will be sworn in as commissioner at the Nov. 22 county commission meeting. He will serve until Nov. 19, 2012.

Mr. Irby was chosen over five other applicants,

See IRBY — Page 5



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Donegan is state golf champ

Richard Donegan poses in front of the Okeechobee High School billboard which congratulates him on the State Golf Title. For more on the story, see page 3.

Robbie Chartier named county administrator

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County has a new county administrator. At their meeting on Thursday, Nov. 10, Okeechobee County Commissioners approved a contract with Robbie Chartier. According to her own request the contract contains a clause that states her salary will be increased or decreased by the same percentage as other county employees might be increased or decreased. The term of the contract is for three years with one year annual renewals thereafter.

While commissioners may have been in favor of Mrs. Chartier becoming administrator, they spent several hours debating details of the contract. Surprisingly salary was not an issue. They honored her



Robbie Chartier

See CHARTIER — Page 5

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Donegan relishes state golf championship

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School Senior Richard Donegan expects his performance last week in the Class 2A State Golf Championships to get him a college scholarship with a major Division I program.

Donegan shot 144 to win the Class 2A Finals at Mission Inn Resort and Club in Howey in the Hills. He shot 75 on the first day, and then a 3-under par 69 on the second day to rally from a seven shot deficit.

"It's a great feeling. It has just started to sink in a week later," Donegan said, "I hope to build on this and go into my next tournament with a lot more confidence."

Lakewood Ranch won the team title but Donegan stole the show as he overcame Purrean Kim of Gainesville, who had shot 68 on the first day of the tournament.

"I hope to keep the train rolling and move onto more victories. I hope this is a sign of success in the future," he added.

Donegan said recruiters from colleges like the University of Florida, Florida State, the University of Central Florida, and Florida

Atlantic watched him play many holes in the back nine. While he can't be contacted this week by recruiters, he admitted a state title should help him attract interest from major colleges.

Donegan went into the tournament with the goal of no three putts on the green, and no double bogeys. He said he felt an even par score could win the state title.

"They had a college tournament two weeks before and only one guy broke into the 60s and that was Division I college players. I knew par would be a hard score to match," he suggested.

Donegan also didn't get rattled when he fell behind by seven shots after the first round. He said he has held leads in the final round of tournaments before and knew what it takes to win and lose tournaments.

"I knew I couldn't make up seven shots in one or two holes. I knew I had to play solid and play the round of my life," he added. "I put myself in position to win after the first round."

Donegan took the lead on the 11th hole as his playing partner made bogey and he made par. After that he shot back-to-back

birdies and held a four-shot lead with four holes to play. That is when he said he knew the state title was his to get.

"I keep thinking keep my head together, ride this thing out until the 18th hole. The next thing I knew I was tapping in for par on the 18th hole and I thought I had the state championship," he added.

Donegan said the wind and course conditions were making it harder by the minute to play the course that is why he was glad to hold a lead in the clubhouse and make other golfers catch him.

"I played that course just about as well as anyone could play that course. Par was a hard number to match and I was sitting pretty comfortable but a little nervous."

Austen Truslow, a sophomore, and Ethan Wagner of Spruce Creek finished second and third respectively. Truslow shot 147 and Wagner 148.

Donegan said he was super excited to get this state title for the town because of all the support it has shown him over the years. "Just about everyone in town supports you. You don't just play for yourself. I played for the high school and the two and I was glad I got it done."

OHS Golf Coach Kenny Buckner said he was extremely proud of the way Donegan won the state title. He said he really worked hard and was very deserving of all the accolades he's received.

"His goal was to finish in the top 10 this year and he worked hard to do that. To do what he did for the school and the community is just tremendous," he added.

Buckner said he is working on several ways to congratulate Donegan, who will likely appear in the lighted Christmas Parade in December.

**5th Annual
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Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011
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'Heart Gallery' opens today at IRSC - Dixon Hendry Campus

The Heart Gallery of Okeechobee & the Treasure Coast, a unique and stirring traveling photographic exhibit featuring children in foster care hoping to be adopted, will be on display from Nov. 10 through Dec. 12, at Indian River State College, Dixon Hendry Campus, Building B, located at 2229 NW 9th Ave.

The gallery features children who have been removed from home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. They are "difficult to place" children who are older (7-17 years old), sibling groups, minority or biracial or may have physical, emotional or behavioral issues. The local Heart Gallery is displayed in high-traffic locations across Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Indian River and Martin counties in an effort to raise awareness of the need for adoptive homes in our communities.

Since it began in 2006, more than 55 children featured on the Heart Gallery of Okeechobee & the Treasure Coast have been adopted, including eight from Okeechobee County in the past two years. The local gallery, which is partially funded by both the Children's Services Council of Okeechobee County and the United Way of Okeechobee County, was founded by Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers and Children's Home Society of Florida, Treasure Coast Division. Other funders include Department of Children & Families, United for Families, United Way of Indian River County, United Way of Martin County and Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers.

For more information, contact Frank Avilla at 772-429-2009.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Veterans Day: Sunny, with a high near 69. North wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 78. East northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57. East wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. East wind around 5 mph.

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THEATRE II: "PUSS 'N' BOOTS"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG**

THEATRE III: "TOWER HEIST"
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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, 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!

Veterans' Day

• What is a veteran? A veteran, whether active duty, discharged, retired or reserve, is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check payable to "the United States of America, for an amount up to and including his life."

Sexual harassment

• Seems that the news has nothing on it this week but Herman Cain and sexual harassment. I am wondering what any of you ladies here think would be considered sexual harassment. Would you ever file suit against someone? Have any of you men ever said or done anything that a woman might consider sexual harassment. Remember now that almost anything can be considered sexual harassment, including the telling of an off color joke that can be overheard by a woman.

• Women have faced sexual harassment in the workplace as well. There have been many complaints filed by men.

• In my work place there have been several sexual harassment complaints to surface. One of the most, I think unusual, was a complaint by a female, who overheard a couple friends joking in their office. She was in the hall. She complained that it offended her even though she had eavesdropped the conversation. These type of complaints seem to cause more tension in the office. They IMO make everyone on guard and nervous to do anything fearing someone will be offended.

Safety

• Help prevent holiday crime. Put a blanket in your car. Cover gifts (out of sight, out of mind). LOCK YOUR DOORS. We still get cases at local businesses where people go in to shop leaving the windows down or doors unlocked and wonder why someone would be so mean as to steal their laptop off

the seat. I met someone yesterday who still leaves the front door unlocked. PLEASE do not do this. Also, please write or photograph the serial numbers on your most expensive items.

Christmas traditions

• As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods—merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands. Yes, there is! It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper? Everyone—yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local American hair salon or barber? Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement. Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates. Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plunking down the Benjamins on a Chinese-made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course. There are owner-run restaurants—all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains—this is about supporting your home town Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

• This really is a good idea to give practical gifts that people will actually use, instead of something else to wind up in the landfill. As tight as money is these days, giving a gift certificate to wash the car, babysit or do lawn work would probably be appreciated and it is something that you don't have to buy. Give the gift of your time and energy. Older relatives especially would be delighted to have someone help with the chores they can no longer manage by themselves. Most older folks don't need or want any more "things" to gather dust.

Letters to the editor

Blood donation helped veteran

Sam and Joyce Robinson are winter residents who live at the Big O RV Resort on Highway 78. Sam is a lifetime member of the VFW at Buckhead Ridge. In commemoration of Veteran's Day, I want to share Sam's remarkable story with you.

Sam has four brothers and all five men served in the military for a combined service record of 64 years. Sam served in Viet Nam with the Seabees unit attached to the Third Marine Division. On Sept. 2, 1967, Sam was wounded in battle and was flown by helicopter to a hospital ship in the South China Sea. He was still there when their first child was born.

Like many veterans in the Okeechobee area, Sam goes to the VA Hospital in Riviera Beach for checkups and exams. On Monday, Oct. 24, he went in for a routine colonoscopy and had a polyp removed during the procedure. Sam felt great after he got home and still felt fine when he woke up the next morning. Around noontime, Sam noticed he was bleeding and told Joyce. She contacted the VA Hospital staff and was told to get Sam to the nearest emergency room immediately so she drove him to Raulerson Hospital.

Sam was bleeding profusely; the polyp that was removed had a blood vessel imbedded in it that was severed and had not been detected during the procedure. At first, Sam received saline IVs and then began receiving blood transfusions; he received 8 to 9 units of blood and 2 to 3 bags of plasma. By 5 p.m. Raulerson's ER staff could not stop the bleeding. There was not enough time to send Sam by ambulance to the VA Hospital so – once again – Sam was airlifted by helicopter to a hospital. He was flown to Lawnwood Hospital in Ft. Pierce where he spent several days in the trauma center and intensive care unit before returning home on Nov. 2. While at Lawnwood, Sam received additional blood transfusions before the bleeding was stopped.

After Joyce recounted this story to me, she mentioned that she is the recipient of donated blood; she had back surgery that required her to receive three units of blood.

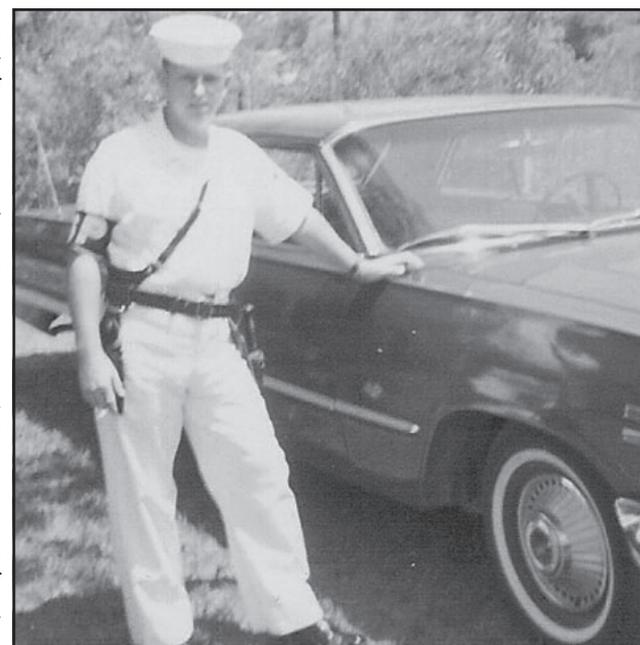


Special to the Okeechobee News
Pictured above, Sam Robinson with his two grandsons.

Joyce and Sam's permanent address is in Clarksville, Ga., but Okeechobee is their favorite place to be in the whole world. They and their family – two daughters, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren – are very appreciative of the people who donated the blood that saved Sam's life; without it he would have bled to death in a very short time.

Sam and Joyce cannot give blood due to health issues – but they would gladly donate if they could. If you want to donate blood and help save a life, you can very soon at The Sixth Annual Okeechobee Blood Roundup to be held at the Freshman Campus on Nov. 19 and 20, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

I hope to see you at the Roundup,
Susan Williams



This is Sam Robinson when he was in the Navy.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge...

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

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

MEMBER



CHARTIER

Continued From Page 1

salary request of \$110,000. Her predecessor's starting salary was \$125,000.

At one point in the discussion, in an attempt at humor, county attorney John Casels asked if commissioners had any problem with the signature line.

Even after consensus was reached on the points of discussion, commissioners were undecided on taking action. Commissioner Bryant Culpepper was in favor of approving the contract with the changes agreed upon and authorizing the chair to sign a rewritten contract at a later date. Commissioner Ray Domer wanted to delay the vote until they had the rewritten contract before them at the next meeting.

At that point Mrs. Chartier asked if the vote were delayed if her salary would be retroactive back to Nov. 10. She said she had been working as administrator for eight months without additional compensation and if the commissioners were dealing with an outside candidate they would settle the issue that day.

Commissioners then voted to approve the contract with the agreed-upon changes. The vote was 3-1 with Commissioner Joey Hoover casting the lone dissenting vote. He said he was philosophically opposed to the

administrator being treated the same as other county employees.

In spite of the request from local contractor Phil Baughman that the project be advertised for bids and a local contractor be used, the board voted to award the contract for demolition and asbestos abatement for the county annex building to an out-of-county contractor. The contract in the amount of \$107,201.54 was awarded to LEB Demolition and Consulting Contractors. Facilities manager Tony Ard stated that he could not find a local contractor qualified for asbestos abatement. He said this particular contractor has been used by the county before with good results. Mr. Ard added that this particular price was less per square foot than the last time this contractor was used. He went on to say that anything in the building that could be reused had been removed.

Mrs. Chartier stated that the contract was awarded without advertising for bids in accordance with county policy of using a contractor that won a competitive bid from another local government. The contract was awarded on the basis of a current contract between LEB Demolition and Consulting and the City of Fort Pierce.

Mr. Baughman stated later that he believed that a local contractor could do the demolition only and save the county money. In the annual reorganization Commissioner Margaret Garrard Helton retained her position as chair. Commissioner Ray Domer was also retained as first vice

chair with Commissioner Joey Hoover remaining second vice chair. In addition to serving together on the board, individual commissioners represent the county on various regional boards and committees. Most of those assignments remained the same.

Gary Ritter, director of the south Florida Water Management District's Okeechobee Service Center, reported the good news that Lake Okeechobee is currently at 13.7 feet and has leveled off. He added that no water is being released to the estuaries at this time. Mr. Ritter went on to say that a contract has been awarded to refurbish the Taylor Creek lock. That lock will be shut down from April 1 until around the first of September. He added that in the very near future a floating dock will be placed on Henry Creek.

In other action the board:

- approved a contract with CML Communications to provide radio maintenance services for fire/rescue in the amount of \$7,200 per year;

- approved two State Homeland Security Grants for fire/rescue for training;

- approved a one-year extension of a contract with Curren Electric for maintenance of traffic signals and street lights;

- released two county-owned drainage easements on S.R. 70 E to the Florida Department of Transportation in connection with the S.R. 70 E widening project; and

- executed a letter of commitment on behalf of Okeechobee County to join the Heartland Brownfields Revitalization Coalition team in applying for a 2012 U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition grant.

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

IRBY

Continued From Page 1

including businessman Brad Goodbread, former county commissioner Noel Chan-

Community Events

Operation Safe Medicine Cabinet II set for Nov. 12

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. 6th Avenue.

Barbecue pork dinner to benefit Buddy Mills

A Barbecue Pork Dinner benefit will be held for Buddy Mills to help offset medical expenses related to cancer treatment. This benefit will be held on **Nov. 12** at the ROC (First Baptist Church), 401 SW 4th Street. Take-out dinners may be purchased for \$10 from noon until 3 p.m. and a sit-down dinner will begin at 5 p.m. A silent auction will be held from Noon until 7 p.m. with a live auction beginning at 7 p.m. Advance dinner ticket may be purchased at Eli's Western Wear. For further information or donations please call 863-634-2810.

adler, Reverend Pauline Livatt, Pastor of St. Stephens A.M.E. Church, real estate salesman J. D. Mixon and business owner Tara Boshell.

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

Craft Fair in the Woods planned at Freedom Ranch

Craftsmen and artists will have just the right thing for you or someone on your Christmas list at the 5th annual Craft Fair in the Woods at Freedom Ranch, 11655 Hwy. 441 S.E., on Saturday, **Nov. 12**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everything from jewelry to yard decor.

Benefit helps Indiantown VFW

On Sunday, **Nov. 13**, at 2 p.m. Big Lake VFW Post 10539, 3912 Hwy. 441 South, will be having a benefit for the Indiantown VFW that was totally destroyed by a tornado last month. All proceeds to be donated to their building fund. Come join us for food, music and raffles. The public is welcome. Come out and meet your veterans.

OREA meeting scheduled

The Okeechobee Retired Educators will be meeting on Monday, **Nov. 14**, beginning at 11 a.m., in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's to celebrate Florida's Retired Educators Day. Any retired educator is encouraged to attend.



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10:30am

~ ~ ~

Wednesday Bible Study

6:30pm

~ ~ ~

Sunday Evening Service

6:00pm

1167 Linda Rd. BHR

863-357-6500

www.bhrchristianchurch.org

Obituaries

Jimmie 'Jim' H. Reeves, 80

OKEECHOBEE — Jimmie "Jim" H. Reeves, age 80, died Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011, at Raulerson Hospital.

Born April 13, 1931, in Denver, Tenn., he had lived in West Palm Beach from 1954 until moving to Okeechobee in 2003. Many will remember Jim as a barber for 49 years in West Palm Beach. During the Korean Conflict he served his country as a member of the U.S. Air Force.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ollie Reeves and Mary Catherine Morris Reeves and two brothers. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Suzanne Rawlings Reeves, who was the love of his life. Additional survivors include his son, James Gregory Reeves of Moore Haven; and a sister, Margaret (Leroy) Booth of Hobe Sound; and host of other relatives in Florida and Tennessee.

No services are planned at this time. Friends may send online condolences at www.buxtonseawinds.com.

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

Barbara Ann Wolfe Riser, 81

LAKEPORT — Barbara Ann Wolfe Riser, age 81, of Lakeport, died Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011, at the Okeechobee Health Care Facility.

Formerly of Marlinton/Oak Hill, W.Va., she had resided in Lakeport for the past 30 years.

She always had a smile and words of encouragement for those she knew and loved. Barbara was a dedicated member of Lakeport Christian Church serving there many years as church treasurer and as a member of the Women's Missionary Service.

She was preceded in death by husbands, Rodney "Doodle" T. Riser and Virgil W. Wolfe; infant son, Perry Thomas Riser; and grandson, Richard Lee Riser.

Survivors include her son, Rodney Thomas (Gayle) Riser, Jr. of Lakeport; daughter, Judy (Roger) McVey of Coaltin, W.Va.; step-daughter, Mindy Wolfe of Fairfield, Ohio; and her best friend of 71 years, Joyce Treadway of Winston-Salem, N.C. She also leaves behind many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives.

Services will be held on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, at 1 p.m. at Lakeport Christian Church with family friend Pastor Larry Frogge officiating. A dinner will be held immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Barbara's name may be made to the Women's Missionary Service, Lakeport Christian Church, 10947 E. State Road 78, Moore Haven, FL 33471.

The family would like to thank Okeechobee Health Care Facility for the loving care and kindness they gave to their mother and Granny.

Friends may send online condolences at www.buxtonseawinds.com.

All arrangements are under the care of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home, 3833 SE 18th Terrace, Okeechobee, Florida, 863-357-7283.



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

Eugene Raymond Mehrer, 83

OKEECHOBEE — Eugene Raymond Mehrer, known by his family and friends as "Puge," passed away on November 9, after a lengthy struggle with cancer at his home surrounded by his loved ones.

He was preceded in death by daughter, Stephanie; and his loving wife of 62 years, Alice.

Born Aug. 13, 1928, in Chester, Ill., he was the oldest of seven siblings. As a World War II Veteran stationed at Jacksonville Florida's Naval Base he met his wife, Alice Hancock, daughter of Martin and Annie Hancock both of Okeechobee. He was employed at the Okeechobee Hardware Store where he worked for 21 years. He then pursued a career with the Okeechobee County School System until his retirement in 2001.

Puge is survived by his sister, Flora Mae; his three children, Ronnie, Debbie and Jeff; three grandchildren, Clint, Weston and Garrett; and four great-grandchildren, Hunter, Conner, Emily and Austin.

Graveside Services will be 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, at the Evergreen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in his memory to the Hospice of Okeechobee & the Hamrick Home. www.Hospiceofokeechobee.org.

Friends may sign the guest book at www.Bas-sokeechobeeFH.com

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 N.E. Second Street, (863) 763-2111.

In loving memory of father:

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon you face. May the rains fall soft upon your cow pasture. Until we meet again.

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Community Events

OHS to observe Veterans Day

Okeechobee High School will honor all Veterans in a ceremony to be held in the High School Gym at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11. Everyone is invited. Veterans are asked to sign in at the doors so that they can be recognized during the ceremony.

Masonic Lodge to host annual Turkey Dinner

The Okeechobee Masonic Lodge No. 237 will host their annual turkey dinner on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 4 until 7 p.m. Traditional turkey dinner will be served for a suggested donation of \$8 adults and \$4 children under 10. Take-outs for adult plates only. For ticket information, please call 863-467-0038.

Guardian ad Litem Training

Our Volunteer Certification Training will be held at Seacoast National Bank Operations Center located at 1835 Hwy 441 SE, Okeechobee 34974 on Saturday, Nov. 12 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. or Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information on Guardian ad Litem please contact Keri Hughes, 772.785.5804.

VFW to host karaoke

VFW Post 4423 300 NW 34th St. invites you to join them on Friday, Saturday & Sunday for karaoke. Friday will be hosted by Just-Us (7-10 p.m.), Saturday by D & K (7-10 p.m.) and Sunday by Miss Lisa (6-9 p.m.).

Family Fun Fall Fest planned

Come to Okee-Tantie Campgrounds on Saturday, Nov. 12, for a full day of family fun at the Fall Fest for everyone! The fun gets started at 10 a.m. Lots of food, fun, a bounce house, games. Plenty of contests including Corn Hole Competition, barbecue contest, chili cook off, a battle of the bands and more!

The event is hosted by Butch's Redneck Yacht Club. Cost for the event is just \$5 per carload. Contests have individual entry fees. For more information, please call 863-634-0577. Come one - Come all!

Fundraiser to benefit Early

Lynn Early is the person responsible for bringing the Art Show featuring the "Highwaymen" to Okeechobee each year. Now she needs your help with a serious health issue and no insurance. The fundraiser will be held at Eagles North, 9985 Hwy. 441 N., on Nov. 12, from 1-7 p.m. Great food (chicken/ribs), \$7 donation. Auction, both silent and called. A 3-ball tournament at 5 p.m. and Lotto Tree, Gift Basket drawing, and more. Please call Melissa at 863-634-3957 for advance sales, donations, or information.

Eagles to host Sunday dinner

Sunday, Nov. 13, the Cypress Hut Eagles will have a Fried Chicken Dinner from noon-4 p.m. \$6 plate. Public is welcome.

Evening of Remembrance

The Buxton Family invites you to an evening filled with Praise & Thanksgiving to prepare for the upcoming Holiday Season.

Saturday, November 26th
at 7 p.m.

Light refreshments to follow

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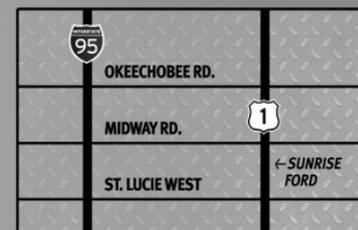
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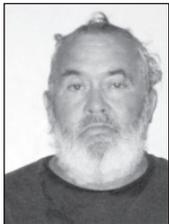
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Local man found guilty of molestation of 7-year-old

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



Calvin Lewis Overholt

A man thrice arrested on charges of molesting a child and once convicted was again found guilty Wednesday of sexually molesting a young boy.

Calvin Lewis Overholt, 57, went on trial Nov. 9 on felony charges of sexual battery on a child under 12 years of age and lewd and lascivious molestation of a child under the age of 12. After 45-minutes of deliberation the six-member jury found Overholt guilty of misdemeanor battery, as a lesser included crime under count one, and guilty of molestation. There is no lesser included crime for lewd and lascivious molestation.

If he had been convicted on the sexual battery charge, Overholt would have received an automatic life sentence, said Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright, who prosecuted the case. While Overholt could still face a life sentence on the molestation conviction, that sentence is not mandatory.

Overholt will be sentenced Nov. 30 at 9 a.m. by Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger.

The jury had no knowledge of Overholt's prior arrests and conviction because it's not admissible, said Mr. Albright.

"It's propensity evidence and not admissible," he said.

Overholt was arrested Feb. 28 after the victim's family came forward and filed a complaint that he had molested their 7-year-old son in December 2010.

The boy's mother told the court Wednesday morning that prior to their reporting the incident, her son was acting differently "showing out" at home and at school.

"His grades went down and the changes in him were dramatic," she told the jury.

She went on to say that she and her husband finally sat the boy down in late February and asked him what was wrong.

"He broke down and told us what had

happened. He was crying and shaking," she told the jury.

Under direct examination by Mr. Albright, the mother of four said there is nothing in the home that her son could have read or watched that is sexual in nature and could have influenced him.

"I have DVDs, but they're Disney DVDs," she told the prosecutor.

Under cross examination by defense attorney John Cook, the victim's mother said she and her husband aren't even intimate when the children are home.

"We don't do anything unless the kids are at their grandparents," she said, adding that it isn't unusual for her kids to "bust in" to her bedroom.

According to records, Overholt was arrested March 25, 1972, in Wyoming County, N.Y., on a charge of second degree sodomy. The victim in that case was under the age of 12. Michele Bell, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office sexual offender unit, said the disposition of that case is unknown.

Overholt was arrested again on Nov. 16, 1985, in Okeechobee County. He was charged with lewd and lascivious molestation on a child under the age of 12. He was convicted and served 42 months in a Florida prison. His prison term was followed by three years on probation.

Mrs. Bell said the man was not a registered sex offender because his conviction, prison term and time on probation ended before the sexual offender registration law went into effect.

She went on to explain that there are several ways a person can be qualified and designated as a sexual offender in Florida, and then required to comply with the state's offender registration law. The person must be convicted of a specific crime and be in the custody, control of or under the supervision of the Florida Department of Corrections; or, in the custody of a private correctional facility on or after Oct. 1, 1997, as a result of that conviction.

Program helps Hardest Hit homeowners

Are you unemployed or underemployed and having trouble making your mortgage payments? There's good news for homeowners. If you've experienced a financial hardship due to job loss or reduced hurs, resulting in a reduction in your income, the federal government has allocated funding to the State of Florida to help people in your situation. It's free to apply and those who qualify may be eligible for up to six months of mortgage payments. You can get the help you need when you need it and it's absolutely free to apply. To find out if you are eligible or for more information, visit www.FLHardestHitHelp.org or call 877-863-5244 or contact Okeechobee Non Profit Housing Inc., 115 S.W. 5th Avenue, 863-467-5525.

Local Red Cross seeks disaster volunteers

The American Red Cross is looking for Disaster Services Volunteers for this Hurricane Season! There are 4 main areas where volunteers are needed: Shelter Operations, Mass Care Feeding, Damage Assessment, Administrative Functions.

All necessary training is free of charge, and a background check will be required. If you would like to give of your time and talents to help your local community residents in times of disaster, please call your Okeechobee Branch office at 863-763-2488.

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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

In addition to barbecue, the management and staff of Backyard Barbecue are ready to serve you their specialty side dish, sweet potato puffs. They are, left to right, front row, Danny Parker and Jeff Mason, second row, co-owner Steve Hargraves, Stephanie Weeks, Donna Ramsey, Lauren Throop, Layla Wife, Ciara Egerton, Katlyn Lawrence, Brian Morgan and general manager Brian Duenas.

New barbecue restaurant opens

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A new barbecue restaurant in town is owned and operated by people who really know what they are doing.

"I've always loved to cook," said Steve Hargraves, co-owner of Backyard Barbecue. He and his partner, Jim Morgan, who is also his uncle, talked it over and thought it was the right time to go into the restaurant business.

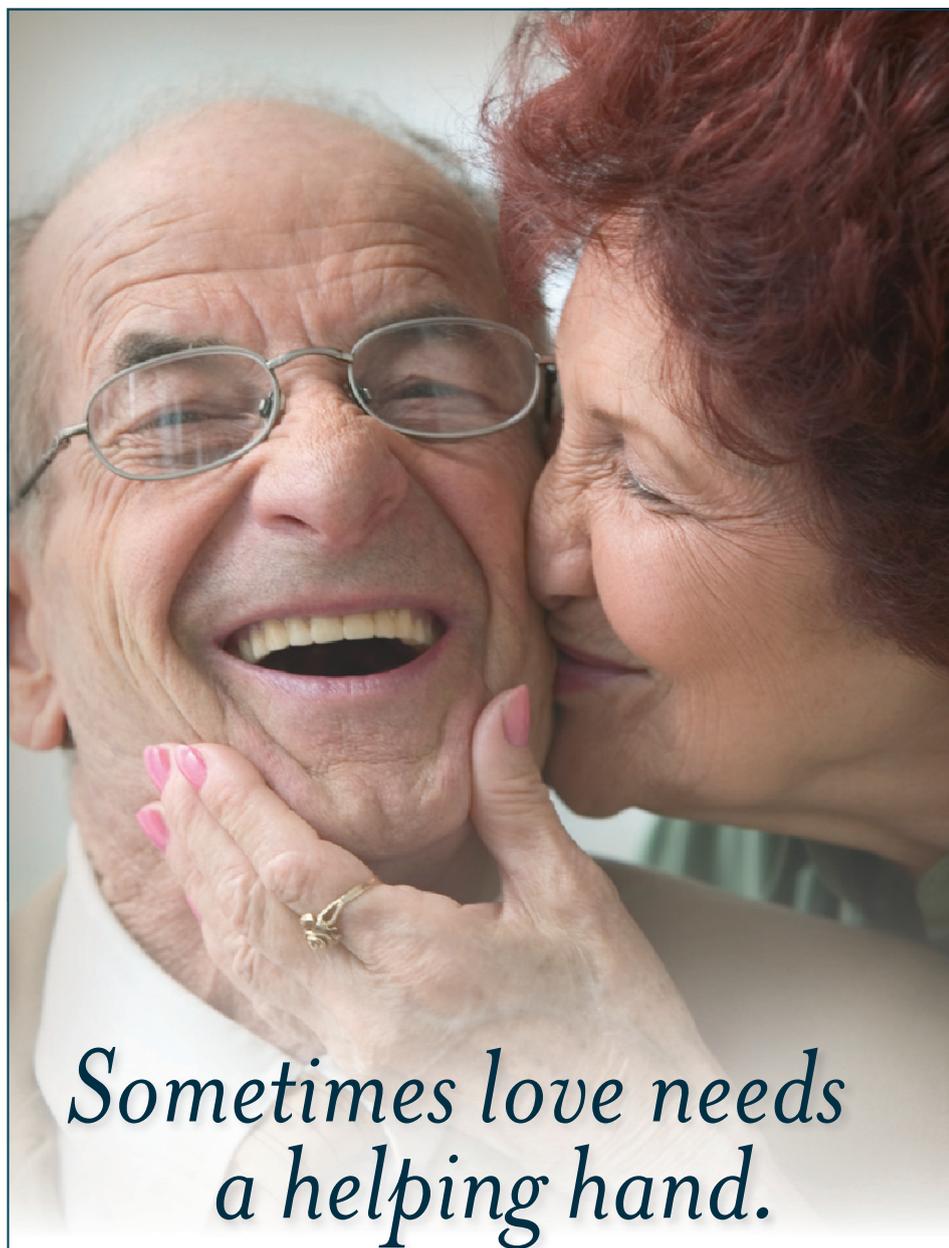
Mr. Hargraves said he has always loved to barbecue and has been in the catering business for several years. General manager Brian Duenas was manager at Speckled Perch

for three and a half years.

The restaurant serves barbecue chicken, pork, brisket and ribs. For side dishes they serve baked beans, cole slaw, pasta salad, French fries and, their specialty, sweet potato puffs. These are deep fried sweet potatoes that are cut to look like tater tots.

The address is 106 S.E. Sixth St. The hours are Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 a.m. and on Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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



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Special to the Okeechobee News/Courtney Moyett

Halloween fest

Philip DeBerard, Injury Attorney and Courtney Moyett hand out candy and glow necklaces to the children at the Halloween Festival Monday night at the Ag Center.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandy Perry

Best rehab

A rehab patient, Russell Norrie, 81, was joined by family members for Trick-or-Treat at OHCF. The pirate in the front right was voted, "best face" of the more than 50 children who shared a special night with the residents at OHCF. From left to right are: Daughter Ginny Gatliff, great-grandson Justin (5), Russell, great-grandson William (22 months), and granddaughter, Kayla Gatliff.



Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Students of the Week

Central Elementary students achieving excellence in the classroom for the week of Oct. 31-Nov. 4 include: kindergarten, Acea Austin, Giovanni Jaimes, Jennifer Sandoval, Emma Meeks, Caleb Lowery, Tucker Myers; Jon Homan, Landyn Jones, Manal Yasmin, Amanda Nash; second graders, Joann Hickman, Daniel Nyerges, Bellana Schlosser, Julianna Sontai-Perez, Ivy Lawson; third graders, Audrey Johnson, Alaina Hines, Aubrie McWhorter, Jonathan Hernandez, Carlos DeLaCruz, Alex Younglove; fourth graders, Emily Barnes, Jacquelyn Adcock, Desiree Daniel, Gloria Seca and fifth grade students, Elizabeth Berry, Morgan Roberts, Devin Phillips. Congratulations to our many outstanding students.

Volunteer support needed for Humane Society Pet Rescue

Community support and volunteers are the backbone of our local Okeechobee Pet Rescue. They are always in short supply but always appreciated. Volunteers are needed to help the Pet Rescue with the upcoming Christmas in the Park event. A float for the parade is planned and creative helpers are invited to make this year's float a big success. Greeters are needed for the Pet Rescue's information and pet supplies table. Other upcoming events and daily operations also require volunteers. Dogs need daily care and it takes a team to keep them healthy and happy.

Speaking of "dogs" - Are you hungry for a hot dog? Come to George's Hot Dogs, 3603 Hwy. 441 S. (next to Mid-Florida Hardware) through Dec. 22 and support, "Dogs for Dogs." Make a donation of food or funds to benefit the dogs at the shelter and George will have a hotdog and a drink ready for you! This is the second year for the fundraiser. It was a great success last year with many donations for the pets. We hope to see a better year this time around and encourage everyone to tell family and friends.

Do you have some extra time to donate to help a homeless pet? Call the shelter and come give a dog a hug. 863-3357-1104.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SEM

Students of the Week

Seminole Elementary would like to congratulate their Students of the Week for the week of Oct. 28: Brisely Garcia, Daniel Estrada, Antonio Yanez, Alie Hogan, Seberiano Espinoza, Roselyn Sanchez, Ariana Hernandez, Juan Tijerina, Natalie Torres, Willow Mellette, Dalia Martinez, Justin Ray, Monique Cooper, Patricia Dunn, Jack Santamarina, Bianca Bernal, Francisco Valdez, Maria Jaimes, Jayce Bigford, Fernando Hernandez, Karina Maldonado, Abraham Benitez, Angel Nettles, Karla Lima, Miguel Badillo, Berenise Garcia, Hai-ley Salazar, Elliioth Olvera, Derek Banister and Alexander Ezell.



Special to the Okeechobee News/RSCA

Bobbysoxers

Students at RSCA celebrated the 50th day of school by dressing in 50s style clothing, having a sock hop, playing with toys invented in the 50s, and drinking root beer floats. The children, (above) Phillip Schoonmaker, JW Bass, Mallory Collier, Emmy Sizemore, Emma Raulerson, Arrie Chandler, and Sage Allen also learned the hand jive and practiced their hula hooping skills. In the photo to the left are "Bobbysoxers," Skyler Varnadore and Jenna Larson.



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Seventh Annual Halloween Festival winners announced

Over 100 youth lined up to participate in the costume contest at the Agri-Civic Center on Halloween! Winners included zombies, an astronaut, a roller derby queen and even an old man! The following were named winners in the contest:

- 0-2 years of age: Kaleb Davis, Landon Staton, and Nellie Summerford;
- 3-5 years of age: Hannah Williams, Lane Davis, and Kael Vaughn;
- 6-10 years of age: Cole Verano, Logan Newman, and Victoria Cline; and,
- 11-14 years of age: William Zabata, Kaylee Whidden, and Sierra Weaver.

Ten-year old Nathan Pippin took top prize in the Pumpkin decorating contest.

All winners received age-related prizes for their efforts and abilities! All participants received glow necklaces and candy.

Okeechobee Main Street also awarded one business with the coveted "Best Dressed Booth" trophy. The 2011 Trophy was awarded to Okeechobee Correctional



Special to the Okeechobee News/OKMS Voted, "Best Dressed Booth" was the Okeechobee Correctional Institution. The group is shown with 2011 award trophy.

Institution for their haunted tunnel. Creatures lurked in the darkness while participants warily made their way through only to be scared when something jumped out near them. Two additional Honorable Mention awards were given to Flower Petals and Advance America for their outstanding efforts.

Congratulations to all and let's hope for a spooky 2012 Halloween!



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Twenty years with Senior Services

Patricia Williams, right, has worked for Okeechobee County Senior Services (OSS) for twenty years. At the Thursday, Oct. 27, meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission, Chairperson Margaret Garrard Helton, left, recognized her service. Mrs. Williams was born in Pahokee. She and her husband, Lester Williams, moved from Canal Point to Okeechobee in 1982 where she was employed as Bookkeeper for R & D Sod Farms. She worked as a Case Manager and Fiscal Officer for the Council on Aging. In July 1991, she began working at OSS as the Information and Referral Specialist. In 2004 she moved to the position of Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant which involved fiscal duties regarding grants and funds for OSS. Mrs. Williams will retire on Dec. 27. She and her husband will be traveling and enjoying her family.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

Red Ribbon visit

Everglades Elementary school Student Council would like to thank all the students and staff for participating in the Red Ribbon Week events. A special thank you to the Okeechobee Sheriff department's Sergeant Keith Stripling and McGruff for Judging our school contest and presenting awards to our winners.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OCEA

City honors retired educators

Pictured above is Gay Carlton, president of Okeechobee Retired Educators Association and the City of Okeechobee's Mayor and former educator, Jim Kirk. The City Council issued a proclamation in honor of "Florida Retired Educator's Day" on Nov. 20. The County Commission will honor Retired Educators at the Nov. 10, 9 a.m. Commission meeting. All retired educators are encouraged to attend this meeting in the Historical Court House meeting room. The School Board will also issue a proclamation at a later date. On Monday, Nov. 14, O.R.E.A. will be observing "Florida Retired Educators Day" with a meeting on Monday, Nov. 14, beginning at 11 a.m. in the Beef O'Brady's meeting room. Again, we encourage any retired educator to attend this event.

Salvation Army needs bell ringers for annual Bell Campaign

Your local Salvation Army helps families who are experiencing a financial crisis with their basic needs. The main source of income is the annual "Bell Campaign." Help us help others by "Ringing the Bells." If you, your business or employer can spare some time to ring the bells, please call Kip Gardner at 863-357-0427 or his cell at 863-610-6659.

OHS Band wraps up marching season, fundraising continues

The OHS Brahman Band is wrapping up its marching season this Friday evening at the home football game here in Okeechobee, which is also Senior Night. Under the direction of Clint LaFlam, the marching band has been working hard this season on their show, Unstoppable.

Last weekend the band travelled to Jensen Beach High School to their District Marching Music Performing Assessment, where they were awarded a Superior rating for a third straight year.

Earlier this year, the band was nominated by Congressman Tom Rooney to march in the Memorial Day parade in May 2012, in Washington, D.C. The Band Boosters have been actively fundraising and to date approximately half of the needed money for the trip has been raised.

The OHS Marching band and its boosters have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our friends, family members and the community to make this trip a reality for our deserving band. The band is still in need of at least \$30,000.00 to be able to attend this trip. They will be holding various fundraisers in the coming months in order to raise the remaining funds. Look for band members at the Family Fun Day Fall Festival at Okeechobee on November 12, 2011, where they will be selling food and drinks. Also, look for them at the Christmas festival in the park the



Special to the Okeechobee News
The OHS Brahman Band will wrap up marching season tonight at the OHS home football game.

day of the Christmas Parade where we will be face painting and selling baked goods to support the band.

If you are interested in helping the band meet their fundraising goal, please contact Director Clint LaFlam at Okeechobee High School 863-462-5025.

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Woman facing theft, forgery charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local woman is being held on bond in the Okeechobee County Jail following her arrest for her alleged connection with the theft and use of someone else's debit card.

Stefenie Marie Morgan, 26, Okeechobee, was arrested Friday, Nov. 4, on felony charges of grand theft, forgery and uttering a forged check. She is being held in lieu of \$7,500 bond.



Stefenie M. Morgan

Detective Susan Morrison, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated in her arrest report that Morgan allegedly stole a debit card and one personal check from the victim. She then used the card and check to conduct monetary transactions that totaled

\$1,764.75, continued the report.

According to the detective's report, video surveillance from local businesses "... clearly show Stefenie Morgan entering the stores, going to the ATM machines, conducting transactions and leaving after getting the money."

As for the forged check, Detective Morrison stated that a handwriting sample was taken from Morgan then compared to the writing on the check by OCSO question document examiners Kathleen Watson and Jackie Moore.

The detective went on to say that both of the examiners agreed that Morgan wrote the check and signed the victim's name to it.

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).

- Cirinna Marie Bormuth, 28, N.E. 106th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 5 by Deputy Joe Gracie on a charge of grand theft. Her bond was set at \$2,500.

- Matthew Ryan Stevens, 20, N.E. Third Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 5 by Deputy Yamil Astacio on a charge of tampering with a victim/witness. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Corey Daniel Koch, 16, S.W. Third Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 5 by Officer Scott Morgan on a charge of grand theft. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then released into the custody of a family member.

- Melkis Riarc Hernandez Carias, 25, S.R. 70 W., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 5 by Deputy Adrian Rogers on a charge of possession of cocaine. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Ira Matthew Douglas Jr., 30, N.E. 112th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 6 by Deputy Joe Gracie on a felony charge of child abuse and a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery. His bond was set at \$1,500.

- Nicole Renee Douglas, 27, N.E. 112th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 6 by Deputy Joe Gracie on a felony charge of child abuse and a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery. Her bond was set at \$1,500.

- James Johnson, 47, N.E. Fourth Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 6 by Officer Jack Boon on a Palm Beach County warrant charging him with domestic battery by strangulation. He is being held without bond.

- Daniel W. Jacobs, 34, N.W. 36th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 7 by Deputy Matthew Hurst on a warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- James Allen Thompson, 29, N.W. 290th Trail, Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 7 by Deputy Paul Jackson on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with felony criminal mischief. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Heather Nicole Mullin, 34, N.W. 35th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 7 by Deputy Paul Jackson on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with violation of probation - giving false information to a pawnbroker. She is being held without bond.

- Dante Perez, 21, N.E. 70th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 7 by Trooper T.D. Burk on a felony charge of hit and run - failing to stop/remain at crash involving injury, and a misdemeanor charge of giving false information to a law enforcement officer. His bond was set at \$500.

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

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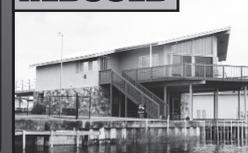
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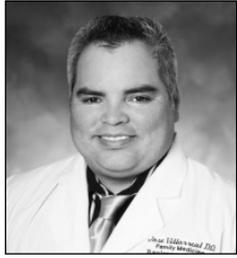
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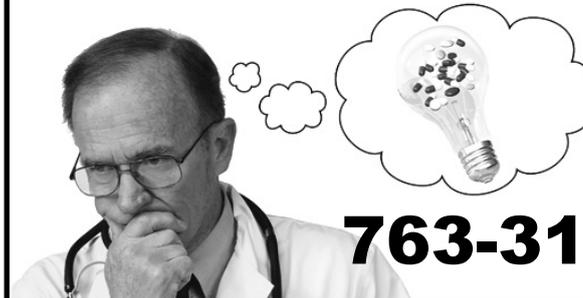
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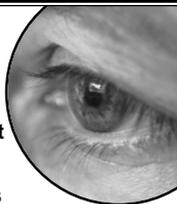
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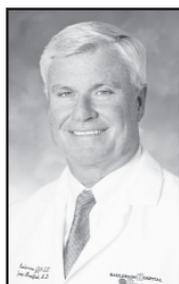
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lent condition, new
paint, good tires.
\$1800.00 Can be seen
at Eli's or call Tony
(561)202-7213

Apartments

NW OKEE: 2 Bedroom
Apartments available on
quiet street. Pets wel-
come. Ranging from
\$650mo., \$700mo. and
\$750mo. 1st, last & \$500
sec. 561-346-1642

Commercial Property

FOR SALE OR LEASE
1574 Sq. Ft. office bldg.
@ 210 NE 3rd Ave.
Call 863-763-0295

Condos/Townhouses Rent

FOR RENT
WATERFRONT CONDO.
FULLY FURNISHED,
ONE BEDROOM/ONE
BATH. LONG OR SHORT
TERM, NO PETS
(863)610-0512 OR
(863)357-7520

Houses - Rent

2/2 Very Clean and
Beautiful Home in
Kings Bay.
1st and Security
\$750 mo.
Ask for Vicki
561-255-4377

3Bd/1Ba CBS House
In SW Section
2200 SW 3rd Ave. Okee.
Close to Wal-Mart, Tile
Floors. \$850 Monthly.
\$2,000 to move in
(863)634-0512

Dixie Ranch - 3 Bdrm/1
bath \$700.00 a month.
Also 2 Bdrm/1 bath
\$675.00 a month - FLS.
No Pets 863-634-2820

For Rent
2br/1ba \$700.00 mo.
3br/1ba \$750.00 mo.
1st months and security
Single Family
Non Smoker
Call 863-801-3700

FT. Drum 33692 NE 9th
Ave. 4 acre pasture,
1bdrm CBS home, old
barn, Pet Fee. \$500 de-
posit \$500 monthly Call
912-224-4658

Houses - Rent

House For Rent
4 BR \$675.00 mo.
New Everything, Mint
Condition. 1st & Last.
Call 863-801-1739

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

OKEECHOBEE - 3 BR, 1
BA Duplex, DW, W/D
connector, C/A & heat,
\$625 mo. + \$500 sec.
(863) 763-4414

OKEECHOBEE- 2br,
2ba, one car garage,
Den, screen room, FP,
fenced yard, close to
town. \$825/mo, 1st, last
and sec.

HOME REALTY
SERVICES, LLC
Diane Dangremond,
Lic Real Estate Broker
863-801-4498

OKEECHOBEE 4br, 2ba,
tile throughout, \$1000
mo. & up. 1st & sec.
moves you in.
(561)248-3888 or
(863)599-0156

**OKEECHOBEE HAM-
MOCK-** 2br, 2ba,
\$800/mo, furnished or
unfurn., 1st, last and
Sec. Utis not included
(561)735-6050 or
(561)254-0478.

Waterfront Bargain in
Buckhead, 3bd/1ba
CBS, all Tile, Carport,
Utility Room and Large
Florida Room \$725.00
mo. plus Security, Locat-
ed at 1137 4th Street.
Call 561-968-4018

Get a quick response to
any item you may be sell-
ing with a classified ad.

Office Space Rent

**Professional office
space for rent.**
Park Street Office Suites
Down Town Okeechobee
Starting@ \$250.00
per month
863-634-7622

Rental Needed

WANTED TO RENT - Refined Senior couple wishes to rent a clean furnished 2br, 2ba trailer or house. No pets, Refs available (908)453-3819

When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.

Real Estate
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Houses - Sale

Owner Financing - 3 bdrm 2 bath house on 1 acre \$3,500.00 down \$931.42 a month. 2bdrm/1bath house \$2,500.00 down \$731.83 a month. Call Beverly 863-634-2820

Land - Sale

OKEECHOBEE 5 Acres \$2,000 down. Park your own trailer or house, owner financing \$49,000. 863-763-6358

Lots - Sale

Recently Foreclosed, Special Financing Available, Any Credit, Any Income, Vacant Land, located at, 20 NE 363rd Ct., Okeechobee, \$59,900. Visit www.roselandco.com/82H Drive by then call (866) 249-0680.

Mobile Homes
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Rent

2/2 Furnished M/H Includes Water, Garbage, Lawn care. No Pets Requires References on Rim Canal \$595 mo. Plus \$300 Security. Call 863-697-6412

LAKEPORT: 3 BR, 2 BA, Bonus Room, Washer & Dryer. Screen Porch. \$600 mo. + Security deposit. (573)686-6145 or (573)718-8074

M/H Rentals 2/1 & 3/1 Country Living \$450.00 monthly & \$450.00 Security Call 863-697-2486

OKEECHOBEE - 2/1 single quiet Treasure Island, wide street, dead end, sea wall, boat slip, lake access, \$495/mo (423)237-8948

Mobile Home Rent

TREASURE ISLAND - 4/2, tile, fenced yard, lrg. Shed. Move in \$850. 1/1, unfurnished Condo with utilities. Move in \$750. Call: 863-634-0663.

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

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

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

OKEECHOBEE - 2br & 2ba, 1400 sq. ft. Furnished, ceramic tile throughout, new counter tops, new flat top stove, large shed and parking for 3 vehicles. Park Rent \$305. \$14,900.00. Call - (772) 597-1130.

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

Palm Harbor Homes Has 3 Modular Homes Avail. at HUGH Savings Over 40K Off 800-622-2832

Recreation
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

RV Space Rent

- * Limited Time Only
- * Water Front RV Lots \$400.00/mo. Incl. Utilities
- * Covered Dockage Incl. W/Lot Rent
- * Cabin \$500.00/mo. Incl. Utilities
- * Call 863-763-4417

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.

Fifth Wheels

2001 33 Foot Sandpiper 1 push out, Queen Size Bed, excellent condition, Never had pets or smoked in. Call for more information 863-357-2311

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.

Automotive
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Automobiles

2005 FORD TARURS SE - Air bags, air conditioning, alarm system, anti-lock brakes, automatic transmission, CD, cruise control, power locks, power wheels, rear defrost, tinted windows, V-6 \$3,500 /or best offer (863)634-3500 or (863)634-3138

Pickup Trucks

2002 Franklin 36 Ft. Camping Trailer Good Shape.
1997 GMC Box Truck 24 Ft. New Clutch, Good Shape, Cat Motor Runs Good. Call 772-215-2089

Public Notices
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Public Notice

CITY PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Okeechobee Park Committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, November 15, 2011** at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter, City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters 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 the City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372, or website www.city-okeechobee.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 Gamioeta, CMC, City Clerk
402659 ON 11/11/11

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF A COUNTY ORDINANCE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Okeechobee County, Florida, will hold a public hearing on **November 22, 2011 at 9:00 A.M.**, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room (the Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom), at the Okeechobee County Courthouse located at 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, for the purpose of receiving comments and suggestions in consideration of the adoption of a proposed Ordinance. The title of said proposed Ordinance is:
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 52 - IMPACT FEES OF THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE THE ABILITY TO IMPOSE MORATORIA BY RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
A copy of this Notice of Intent will be available for public inspection at the County Administration office, Okeechobee County Courthouse at 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida each week day, Monday through Friday, except holidays between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., beginning on **November 11, 2011.**
If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at such hearing, that person will 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.
MARGARET GARRARD HELTON, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
402609 ON 11/11/2011

newszap.com

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2011TD094
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **PLYMOUTH PARK TAX SERVICES LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **2205** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**
Description of Property: **FIRST ADDITION TO PINWOOD HEIGHTS LOTS 1 & 2 15 & 16 & THE VACATED ALLEY BETWEEN SAME BLOCK 33 LOTS 8 & 9 & VACATED ALLEY BETWEEN SAME BLOCK 34 THAT PORTION OF VACATED BISHOP STREET BETWEEN BLOCKS 34 & 33 NORTH OF MYRTLE AVENUE & SOUTH OF DOGWOOD AVENUE THAT PART OF DOGWOOD AVENUE VACATED IN ORB 438 PAGE 110**
1-14-37-35-0030-00330-0010
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **JENNIFER L DUNSON SHELBY R DUNSON**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Court, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **22nd day of December, 2011.** SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
1/5 Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW County Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 402198 ON 11/11,18,25;12/2/2011

Change in School Board Meeting Date

The regular meeting of the Okeechobee County School Board for November will take place on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is the annual reorganization of the School Board and consideration of regular School Board business. The meeting will be held in Room 303 of the School Board Administrative Office located at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue. The meeting is open to the public.
Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools
400760 ON 11/11,18/2011

Public Notice

SPECIAL NOTICE - FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
Pursuant to Florida Statute 590.125(5), be advised that the Florida Forest Service will be performing prescribed burning and/or other treatments to create fuel breaks in selected parcels within the townships, taxing districts, or subdivisions of Okeechobee County Florida including but not limited to: Dixie Ranch Acres, Vicksing, Okeechobee Little Farms, Lazy Seven, Four Seasons, Fort Drum, Pineland Estates, Basswood Estates, and Basinger. These projects are to occur during the period of November 1, 2011 through November 1, 2012. These efforts are to reduce fuel loads and wildfire occurrence.
This service is provided at no cost to the landowner. If you should have any objections or questions contact:
Florida Forest Service
5200 Hwy 441 North
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863)462-5376
402167 ON 11/6, 9, 11/2011

NOTICE OF SALE To Satisfy Owners Lien

70 West Self Storage
2190 SR 70 West
Okeechobee, FL 34972
11-26-2011 at 10:00 AM
Unit #126 Kimberly A. Farag
Unit #210 Jo Ann C. Nicoll
Unit #240 Mashara Y. Summers
Unit #251 William F. Morgan
Unit #255 Eric M. Collins
Unit #432 Alphonso C. Nixon
402102 ON 11/11,18/2011

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

HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR MERRILL LYNCH MORTGAGE INVESTORS, INC., MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2002-HE 1 TRUST
Plaintiff,
vs.
LAURA SULLIVAN; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF LAURA SULLIVAN; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;
Defendants.
NOTICE OF ACTION
To the following Defendant(s):
LAURA SULLIVAN (RESIDENCE UNKNOWN)
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF LAURA SULLIVAN (RESIDENCE UNKNOWN)
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:
A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 35 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 1, THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 1, A DISTANCE OF 50.01 FEET TO THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF S.R. #724 (100 FEET IN WIDTH); THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 04 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 400.00 FEET FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 89 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 04 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 400.00 FEET; THENCE S 01 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST PARALLEL WITH THE AFORESAID WEST LINE OF SECTION 1, A DISTANCE OF 1089.295 FEET; THENCE S 01 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 04 SECONDS WEST PARALLEL WITH THE SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF S.R. #724, A DISTANCE OF 400.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST PARALLEL WITH SAID WEST LINE OF SECTION 1, A DISTANCE OF 1089.295 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
TOGETHER WITH:
1) 1997 HOMES OF MERITT DOUBLEWIDE MOBILE HOME TITLE NUMBER 72663306 & AND VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER FLHMLCP39715001A
2) 1997 HOMES OF MERITT DOUBLEWIDE MOBILE HOME TITLE NUMBER 72663305 & AND VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER FLHMLCP39715001B
a/k/a 6320 N.W. 240TH STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972- has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to, on Kahane & Associates, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 8201 Peters Road, Ste. 3000, Plantation, FLORIDA 33324 within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the THE OKEECHOBEE NEWS and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540
Notices to Persons With Disabilities
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 County Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 no later than 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 County 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 6 de habla, llame al 711.
KREYOL: Si ou se yon moun ki kokobe ki bezwen asistans ou aparey pou ou ka patipise nan prosedu sa-a, ou gen dwa san ou pa bezwen peye anyen pou ou jwen on seri de ed. Tanpri kontakte Corrie Johnson, Co-ordinator ADA, 250 NW County Club Drive, suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 O'mwen 7 jou avan ke ou gen pou-ou par&n nan tribunal, ou imediatman ke ou resewa avis sa-a ou si le ke ou gen pou-ou ale nan tribunal-na mwens ka 7 jou; Si ou pa ka tande ou pale byen, rele 711.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 8 day of November, 2011.
SHARON ROBERTSON
As Clerk of the Court
By: Linda F. Young
As Deputy Clerk

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
The Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast/ DBA, Workforce Solutions - Region 20 and the Treasure Coast Workforce Consortium announces a meeting of the Executive Committee to which all persons are invited:
Date & Time: Friday, November 18, 2011 - 8:00 a.m.
Place: Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast DBA, Workforce Solutions 584 NW University Blvd., Suite 100 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986
PURPOSE: To discuss matters concerning the Workforce Investment Act, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA, Federal Stimulus Funding), Workforce Employment Opportunities, the Welfare Transition Program, One-Stop Career Centers, and the Workforce Development Board - DBA, Workforce Solutions. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting:
Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast 584 NW University Blvd., Suite 100 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986
Should any person wish to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above referenced meeting, they will need to ensure a verbatim recording of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based, in order to provide a record for judicial review.
402585 ON 11/11/2011

LEGAL NOTICE

A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on Friday the 25th day of Nov. 2011 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows:
1985 Mercedes 300 Series WDBAB33CFA239758
Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" with no guarantees.
402580 ON 11/11/2011

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Penny Lucille Wood, deceased, whose date of death was May 17, 2011, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd 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 PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is November 4th, 2011.
Personal Representative:
Karinne A. Budinski
210 2nd Street
Wilburton, Pennsylvania 17888
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Howard M. Rosenblatt, Esq.
Attorney for Penny L. Wood
Florida Bar Number: 349011
HOWARD M ROSENBLATT, PA
2830 NW 41 Street, Suite 1
Gainesville, Florida 32606
Telephone: (352) 373-7100
Fax: (352) 373-7320
401921 ON 11/4,11,2011

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

MAURICIO A. COREAS-FUENTES A/K/A MAURICE A. COREAS-FUENTES; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MAURICIO A. COREAS-FUENTES A/K/A MAURICE A. COREAS-FUENTES
Last Known Address: 1755 NW 5th St Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Current Address: Unknown
ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAME UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS
Last Known Address: Unknown
Current Address: Unknown
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida:
LOT 15 & 16, BLOCK 3, OKEECHOBEE PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 28, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
This property is located at the Street address of: **1755 NW 5th St., Okeechobee, Florida 34972** has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 350 Jim Moran Blvd., Suite 100, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney, or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.
This Notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in *The Okeechobee News*.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on 11/01/2011.
SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK
OF THE COURT
By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk
Gail Sparks, Esq.
Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A.
350 Jim Moran Blvd, Suite 100,
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
Telephone: (954) 354-3544
Facsimile: (954) 354-3545
***IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 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 Court Administration at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986, Telephone (772) 807-4370 at least 7 working 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.**
402135 ON 11/4,11/2011

NOTICE OF ACTION

Mauricio A. Coreas-Fuentes A/K/A Maurice A. Coreas-Fuentes; Unknown Spouse of Mauricio A. Coreas-Fuentes A/K/A Maurice A. Coreas-Fuentes
Last Known Address: 1755 NW 5th St Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Current Address: Unknown
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida:
LOT 15 & 16, BLOCK 3, OKEECHOBEE PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 28, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
This property is located at the Street address of: **1755 NW 5th St., Okeechobee, Florida 34972** has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 350 Jim Moran Blvd., Suite 100, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney, or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.
This Notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in *The Okeechobee News*.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on 11/01/2011.
SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK
OF THE COURT
By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk
Gail Sparks, Esq.
Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A.
350 Jim Moran Blvd, Suite 100,
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
Telephone: (954) 354-3544
Facsimile: (954) 354-3545
***IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 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 Court Administration at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986, Telephone (772) 807-4370 at least 7 working 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.**
402135 ON 11/4,11/2011

LEGAL NOTICE

A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on Friday the 25th day of Nov. 2011 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows:
1985 Mercedes 300 Series WDBAB33CFA239758
Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" with no guarantees.
402580 ON 11/11/2011

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2011-CP-162

IN RE: ESTATE OF PENNY LUCILLE WOOD Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Penny Lucille Wood, deceased, whose date of death was May 17, 2011, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd 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 PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is November 4th, 2011.
Personal Representative:
Karinne A. Budinski
210 2nd Street
Wilburton, Pennsylvania 17888
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Howard M. Rosenblatt, Esq.
Attorney for Penny L. Wood
Florida Bar Number: 349011
HOWARD M ROSENBLATT, PA
2830 NW 41 Street, Suite 1
Gainesville, Florida 32606
Telephone: (352) 373-7100
Fax: (352) 373-7320
401921 ON 11/4,11,2011

NOTICE OF ACTION

Mauricio A. Coreas-Fuentes A/K/A Maurice A. Coreas-Fuentes; Unknown Spouse of Mauricio A. Coreas-Fuentes A/K/A Maurice A. Coreas-Fuentes
Last Known Address: 1755 NW 5th St Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Current Address: Unknown
ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAME UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS
Last Known Address: Unknown
Current Address: Unknown
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida:
LOT 15 & 16, BLOCK 3, OKEECHOBEE PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 28, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
This property is located at the Street address of: **1755 NW 5th St., Okeechobee, Florida 34972** has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 350 Jim Moran Blvd., Suite 100, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney, or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.
This Notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in *The Okeechobee News*.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on 11/01/2011.
SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK
OF THE COURT
By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk
Gail Sparks, Esq.
Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A.
350 Jim Moran Blvd, Suite 100,
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
Telephone: (954) 354-3544
Facsimile: (954) 354-3545
***IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 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 Court Administration at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986, Telephone (772) 807-4370 at least 7 working 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.**
402135 ON 11/4,11/2011

LEGAL NOTICE

A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on Friday the 25th day of Nov. 2011 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows:
1985 Mercedes 300 Series WDBAB33CFA239758
Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" with no guarantees.
402580 ON 11/11/2011

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Penny Lucille Wood, deceased, whose date of death was May 17, 2011, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd 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

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2011 CA 000243
CIVIL DIVISION

GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC,
Plaintiff,

v. RUSSELL D. WAYTOVICH; DEBORAH D. WAYTOVICH; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR GMAC MORTGAGE CORPORATION DBA DI-TECH.COM; BLUE HERON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS. BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAME UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEE(S), OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

Russell D. Waytovich

Last Known Address:
1285 SE 23rd Street
Okeechobee, FL 34974
Current Address: Unknown
Previous Address:
9652 SW 35th CT, #31
Okeechobee, FL 34974

ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAME UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEE(S), OR OTHER CLAIMANTS

Last Known Address:
1285 SE 23rd Street
Okeechobee, FL 34974
Current Address: Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida:

LOT 55, BLUE HERON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, PHASE I, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 50 AND 51, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
This property is located at the Street address of 1285 SE 23rd CT, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34957

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A., Plaintiffs attorney, whose address is 350 Jim Moran Blvd., Suite 100, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney, or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

This Notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in The Okeechobee News.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on November 1, 2011.

SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE COURT
By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff:
Misty A. Barnes, Esq.
Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A.
350 Jim Moran Blvd., Suite 100,
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
Telephone: (954) 354-3544
Facsimile: (954) 354-3545

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 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 Court Administration at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986, Telephone (772) 807-4370 at least 7 working 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.
402137 ON 11/4/11/2011

READING A NEWSPAPER MAKES YOU A MORE INFORMED AND INTERESTING PERSON.
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OHS Brahmans to play Clewiston Tigers

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School wants to end their problems in the red zone and defeat a long-time rival at the same time when they host the Clewiston Tigers in the season finale tonight at Brahman stadium.

Okeechobee (2-7) faces a revitalized Tiger squad (6-3) that has qualified for the state playoffs.

The Brahmans struggled against a power I formation produced by Olympic Heights last week as they gave up 21 points and over 300 yards rushing.

Okeechobee will again play without top offensive linemen Bobby Jo Garza, and Thor Harden, but should have DJ Washington at 100 percent.

Washington missed most of the second half due to a hand injury last week. In his place Ty'Ronte Files, 51 yards and Elijawon Williams, 75 yards, did a nice job running the football.

Brahman Coach Myron Jackson said every time Okeechobee plays Clewiston it ends up a physical game, "We have nothing to hold back and nothing to lose. They will run right at us so we have to be ready."

Jackson said it is possible that Clewiston will rest certain starters because of their playoff game next week. He said it's also possible that Clewiston will look past this game.

"Our problem hasn't been from Monday through Thursday. Friday is our problem. One or two things will

go wrong and we lose our focus," he added.

Jackson said he continues to work hard to get the team prepared and insisted the team is on the way to respectability. There are only four seniors who start on the squad this year and he hopes to increase the number of upper classmen in future seasons.

"We are not retaining ball players from year to year—we need kids to stick with us and grow with the program. We have too many young players filling holes for us this year. When you are older, you are more mature, both emotionally and physically," he admitted.

Jackson praised the young players who have played this year because they accepted the challenge and have

improved from week to week. He mentioned Ricardo Garza and GW Jarrell as players who have stepped in as freshmen and shown a lot of improvement.

Jackson said his team will have to be physical tonight in order to stop an impressive Tiger running game which is fueled by two large tackles. They also get good blocks from their wide receivers. He said the Tigers like to hold a pancake party every game which means they like to block.

"I feel we will have our opportunities. If we play hard this week and finish the game and be strong for four quarters, we'll have an opportunity to win," he concluded.

Tim Hirst to lead Brahman basketball team



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Tim Hirst, above, will lead the very young Brahman basketball team and is the third member of his family to play for the Brahmans.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Tim Hirst is one of the few Brahman hoopsters with varsity experience this year. For many kids having to lead such a young team would be a daunting task but for Tim it's just another day at the office.

The 6'5" senior center is the third member of his family to play for the Brahmans in the past decade. He has felt at home on the basketball court for most of his life.

His oldest brother John, J.J., still holds school records in basketball. He had a wonderful high school career as a three-year varsity starter and went on to play for Stetson University on scholarship. He is now a physician in Orlando.

His other brother Stephen is in his senior season at the University of Central Florida and will receive a degree in aeronautical engineering in a few months.

Tim is also an excellent student and will likely receive many academic scholarships this year.

He is also known for his hard work on the basketball court. He leads by example and always has an encouraging word for his teammates.

"We just have to get our team together. We'll keep pushing hard and we'll be alright if we stick together and work hard," he suggested.

Hirst said a lot of seniors graduated from a team that went (8-11) last year. In reality, the team is in a similar spot as they were a year ago, with just one or two players with extensive experience at the varsity level.

"We lost a lot of good guys but if we put in the work we'll be where we were last year at least," he added.

Hirst played a lot of basketball in the off season and continued to work out at his home. He also has a good mentor in J.J., a modest but confident 6'9" basketball star, who always kept his priorities straight, and carried him-

self well on and off the court.

"We have a mutual respect for sure. He showed me what I had to do and I have tried to do it to the best of my ability," he added.

While some might have worried about reaching the standard his older brother set, Tim said it doesn't bother him. He said he is very proud of his brother and all he's accomplished on the basketball court and in the classroom.

"It motivates me. It gives me some pride in what I have to look forward to. He accomplished a lot and it doesn't really bother me. It gives me more motivation," he added.

Hirst said he is very impressed with the new coach, Shawn Hayes, because he is a student of the game, knows the kids, and is well qualified. He admitted the team will play a tougher schedule this year and must push as hard as they can to get some wins.

"We'll have our work cut out for us in our new district," he added.

Hernan Baltazar leads cross country to regional

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Sophomore Hernan Baltazar might be the Brahman mystery man this year. The cross country runner was deep in the pack in most of his races early this year. Then something changed.

"I just like to run. I try to stay out of trouble," he said, days after the Brahmans surprised some by qualifying for the regional meet at South Fork High School that is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 12.

Baltazar was a big reason as he finished 10th overall at the district meet as Okeechobee finished in fourth

place. It was a far cry from his early season performances.

Baltazar also improved his times to less than 18 minutes at the district meet.

"I was pretty tired but I saw a dude in front of me and I thought to myself I'm going to pass him. It did it by about a foot," he said proudly.

Baltazar was encouraged to run for cross country by his sister Maria Baltazar, who ran for the Lady Brahmans in past seasons. He said he took to the sport and has really tried to get better.

"I feel pretty good about what I've been doing. I'm been running for awhile and I hope to do well at the

regional," he added.

Baltazar plans to try a winter sport and said his main goal is to stay in shape so he can accomplish even greater things next year.

"I'm going to try to run a lot this year. I run after each practice and I want to keep in shape and beat my times," he added.

It was thought the girls cross country team had also qualified but the school learned only the top three schools will compete in the regional this year. The Brahman girls finished fourth at the districts last week.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Hernan Baltazar before a recent Brahman cross country practice.

Tabatha Henry proud of her district title race

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Tabatha Henry won the District 14-3A cross country championship last week with a time of 20:43. Still, she is not totally satisfied about her season and has two distinct goals when she runs Saturday at the regional meet at South Fork High School.

Her goal is to reduce her time into the 19 minute mark and to reach the state finals.

"I really want to make it to states and this year I'm going to make it," she said after practice Wednesday.

Tabatha knew her plan for the district race was to run early with the fastest runners and then outlast them to the finish line.

"I stayed in front for the entire race and stuck with the faster runners. I pushed myself to get in front of all of them and I told myself I could do it. I wanted to stay in front," she noted.

Tabatha was disappointed that the entire team didn't make it. Originally the Brahman thought the top four teams would advance to regional but FHSAA decided to take only the top three teams.

Still, Henry isn't discouraged. She pushes herself really hard, and uses her nerves to make her legs go faster.

Henry's success is the best a Brahman girl runner has done in a long time.

"We are really excited to see Tabatha compete. She has been solid all year," Cross Country Coach Julie Bohannon said, "She should finish in the top three at minimum and the top 15 qualify for state. We're pretty sure she'll qualify for state. We



Okeechobee News/C. Murphy
Tabatha Henry poses with Cross Country Coach Julie Bohannon (right) at a recent practice.

are proud she is our district champion."

Henry's dad David ran cross country in high school in Ohio. Her mom was also athletic as a child. Mrs. Henry is a native of Panama. Henry said they have helped her in her quest to become a top runner.

Henry practices six days per week and runs with the boys to improve her times. She said she might be a little nervous Saturday but she still feels she can finish in the top five. Still nothing will compare to the feeling she had after winning the district championship.

"I was really excited. There are no words to describe what I felt that day," she said.

Coach Bohannon said she felt the boys team would fare well at the regional. The top eight teams qualify for states this year.

"We weren't sure about the boys going into district but they ran strong times and strong races and put in the work this year," she added.

Bohannon said the kids really put in a lot of effort because in cross country you can't just show up one day and say I can do this.

"It takes some times for the kids to get in shape and build up endurance. We saw a lot of improvement this year and this sport is all about the training," she suggested.

Local men win amateur MMA fights

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Donny Bush and Nellie Ruiz won mixed martial arts fights Saturday in Okeechobee as they strive to become professionals in one of the fastest growing sports in the nation.

Bush defeated Craig Dallas of Palm City by a knockout at 2:53 of the second round. Bush, a former OHS wrestler, controlled the fight by being aggressive. He hit Dallas with an overhand right that dropped him to the mat. "I woke up to a beautiful day and I couldn't ask for a better day," Bush said, "I've been looking forward to this day for two months."

Bush said he has gotten a lot of help from local coach Coleman Ray who gave him a lot of good advice for the fight. He said his main goal was to have a knockout. "It pretty much went according to plan. I stayed up and worked my angles and got him with a right hook," he added.

Bush also used his wrestling skills when he had to. He has been a wrestler through the Big Lake Wrestling Club for 15 years. He said he also appreciated the crowd support. "I like a big crowd because when the crowd is pumped up I'm pumped up. Everybody in Okeechobee was out here to show support so I have to thank the fans," he said.

Ruiz defeated Bobby Rowaller of Jupiter in a unanimous decision. The match was also named fight of the night at the event. Ruiz was gracious in victory as he stated Rowaller gave him a great fight and had some impressive wrestling skills.

"I came to fight tonight and it took me awhile to defend his wrestling skills, but I finally got the heart, came back and said I've got to run it," Ruiz said.

It was an evenly fought match until late in the second round when Ruiz nailed Rowaller with a spinning kick to the face. Rowaller was saved by the bell in the second round. Ruiz dominated the third round with a series of knee kicks to the ribs.

The three fight judges scored the fight, 30-28, 29-28, and 30-27.

Ruiz thanked his trainer for improving his conditioning and also thanked the Okeechobee fans for supporting him.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Nellie Ruiz won a trophy for competing in the fight of the night at an MMA event in Okeechobee on Saturday.

Brahman Sports Briefs

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee swim teams competed well in the Region 4 Class 2A swim meet at Estero High School Saturday. Jessica Wackler finished 18th overall in the 200 and 21st in the 500 yard medley. Dustin Houston finished 24th overall in the 50-yard free. The girls relay team also finished 14th in the 200 free relay and 14th in the 400 free relay. There were 25 girl's teams and 28 boy's teams in the event.

The Brahman girls varsity basketball team opened their season with a 47-45 vic-

tory over Sebring in overtime in a preseason tournament in Sebring on Tuesday night. Okeechobee led 11-4 at the end of the first quarter, 25-18 at the half, and 35-24 at the end of the third quarter. Sebring outscored Okeechobee 17-6 in the final quarter to force the overtime period. Coach Erin Morrow said it was a good first game to get the nerves out for the regular season, "We weren't able to execute as well as I would have like but that is something we can work on."

Okeechobee will play Bartow on Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Sebring Tournament.

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Festivals, fairs and special events...

Family Fun Festival at Okee-Tantie on Nov. 12

OKEECHOBEE—Butch's Redneck Yacht Club will host a day-long Family Fun Festival on Saturday, **Nov. 12**, starting at 10 a.m. at the Okee-Tantie Recreation Area off State Road 78 on the northern shore of Lake Okeechobee.

The festival will include a battle of the bands, from noon to 6 p.m., an amateur barbecue cooking contest and chili cook off contest. Admission fee is \$5 per car. Proceeds from the event will go to My Aunt's Closet, the Humane Society and other local charities. For more information, call 863-634-0577.

Campers staying at the Okee-Tantie Campground will receive a discounted group rate. For more information about the campgrounds at 863-763-2622.

Craft Fair in the Woods planned at Freedom Ranch

OKEECHOBEE—Craftsmen and artists will have just the right thing for you or someone on your Christmas list at the 5th annual Craft Fair in the Woods at Freedom Ranch, 11655 Hwy. 441 S.E. in Okeechobee, on Saturday, **Nov. 12**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Glades County hosts Salute to Veterans in Moore Haven

MOORE HAVEN—A Salute to Glades County Veterans, hosted by the Glades County Republican Executive Committee and Rep. Denise Grimsley will be held on Saturday, **Nov. 12**, at 6 p.m. at the Doyle Conner Building, 900 US 27, in Moore Haven. The program will include a Veterans Recognition Ceremony with Maj. Gen. James L. Dozier, US Army (Rtd). The Showtime Cloggers will perform to a patriotic medley. Firehouse Cultural Theater Group will perform a comedy skit. A buffet dinner will be provided by Cracker Cookin' & Caterin'. The event is free to Glades County veterans, but they must R.S.V.P. in advance. Other guests will be asked to make a \$10 donation to help cover expenses. To R.S.V.P. or for more information, call 863-673-2661.

Flea Market at Hendry County Fairgrounds

CLEWISTON—Treat yourself to a small town flea market atmosphere on Saturday, **Dec. 3**, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Hendry County Fairgrounds, on West Sugarland Highway and South Francisco Street, in Clewiston. Parking and admission are free. For more information, please call Yvonne at 863-983-4453 or Sherry at 863-228-2958 after 7 p.m.

Ducks Unlimited hopes to start a local chapter

OKEECHOBEE—A Ducks Unlimited event will be held at the Okeechobee Shrine Club on Hwy. 78 West, on Wednesday, **Nov. 16**, at 6 p.m. This is an event to judge interest in starting a local Ducks Unlimited chapter here! Evening features steak dinner, raffle and auctions. For tickets: contact Bill at 863-357-1554 or David at 863-227-0659.

Seminole Casino Brighton hosts Holiday Craft Fair

BRIGHTON SEMINOLE RESERVATION—Artists and business from around Lake Okeechobee are signing up to participate in the first Holiday Craft Fair at the Seminole Casino Brighton on Monday, **Dec. 5**. The indoor event is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The one-day event will feature a wide variety of crafts, from quilting, jewelry, woodworking, pottery, and clothing, to stained glass, collectibles, fabric items, and much more. Only handmade or new items will be sold.

The deadline for submitting vendor applications along with the \$50 refundable booth reservation fee is Nov. 22. Vendors who apply will be awarded space on a first-come basis. Two eight ft. tables set up in an "L" shape will be provided. Each vendor will also receive one \$25 free play coupon for the slot machines at the Seminole Casino Brighton. The Casino will not retain a commission on any sales. The craft fair will be held in the casino's spacious, smoke-free bingo hall. For more information, call Wendy Gray at 863-467-9998, ext. 166, or email at wendy.gray@stofgaming.com. The Seminole Casino Brighton is located on the Brighton Seminole Reservation, 17735 Reservation Road.

Holiday mixer in Belle Glade

BELLE GLADE—A Chamber of Commerce Holiday mixer will be on Thursday, **Dec. 8** at 5:30 p.m. at the Bank of Belle Glade, 108 W.E. Avenue D in Belle Glade. The event will be hosted by the Bank of Belle Glade and Pahokee Chambers of Commerce. There will be music, food and prizes. To RSVP or for more information, call 561-996-2745 or 561-924-5579.

Register for Art in the Park

MOORE HAVEN—Area artists and craftsmen are cordially invited to exhibit and sell their work at "Art in the Park" in downtown Moore Haven on Saturday, **Jan. 28**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information and to reserve a place, call Mary Booher, Director of Libraries, at 863-946-0744.

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March 2 at 7:30pm

The Allan Harris Quartet
March 15 at 7:30pm

Palm Beach State College
Music Department
March 22 at 7:30pm

Celtic Fire: Irish Music &
Dance with Riverdance's
Michael Londra
March 23 at 7:30pm

30th Anniversary
Celebration Buffalo Rome
and Larry Gatlin
April 17 at 7:00pm

Missoula Children's
Theatre
May 5 at 11:00am & 7:00pm

Street Beat, Inc.
May 11 at 7:00pm

American Spirit
The New Patriotic
Musical
Nov. 14 at 7:30pm

The 23rd Annual
Living Christmas Tree
Dec. 3 at 7:30pm
Dec. 4 at 3:00pm

Miracle on 34th Street
Dec. 15 at 7:30pm

Jay Johnson in
"The Two & Only"
Jan. 12 at 7:30pm

Guy Penrod
Jan. 26 at 7:30pm

The Improvised
Shakespeare Company
Feb. 14 at 7:30pm

Brigadoon
Feb. 16 at 7:30pm

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Free bus Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Free lunch for seniors every Tuesday, and free breakfast for seniors every Wednesday!

OKEECHOBEE – A free bus trip from Okeechobee comes with \$20 in free play at the Seminole Casino Brighton every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. And on Tuesday, it even comes with a free lunch for anyone age 55 and older. The free lunch is first come, first served, and available while supplies last.

The free bus trip departs from the parking lot at the Hampton Inn, 1200 State Road 70 in Okeechobee. Departure is at 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday, with a return departure from the Seminole Casino Brighton at 5:30 p.m. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, the bus departs the Hampton Inn at 2:15 p.m. The return bus departs the Seminole Casino Brighton at 7:30 p.m.

All bus passengers who are existing members of the Casino's Players Club, or who sign up at the Players Club desk when they arrive at the casino, receive \$20 in free play. Bus seating is first come, first served, with no reservations. For more bus information, please call Jackie at the Seminole Casino Brighton, 863/467-9998, ext. 167.

The casino is giving away free lunch from 10:30 a.m. to noon every Tuesday to persons age 55 and over, as long as they are current or new members of the Casino's Players Club. The free lunches include a variety of sandwiches, as well as chips, fruit and cookies. The free



Courtesy photo/ Seminole Casino Brighton

Seminole Casino Brighton is located on Reservation Road in Glades County.

lunch is available to all seniors, regardless of whether they arrive by bus or by car. The free lunch is first come, first served, and available while supplies last.

The Seminole Casino Brighton is also offering free breakfast every Wednesday from 8 to 11 a.m. to persons age 55 and over, as long as they are current or new members of the Casino's Players Club. The free breakfast includes scrambled eggs, bacon or sausage, plus biscuits and gravy. The free breakfast is first come, first served, and available while supplies last.

About Seminole Casino Brighton: Seminole Casino Brighton is a 27,000-square-foot casino with 371-

slot and gaming machines, a seven-table poker room, high-stakes bingo seats, a full-service restaurant and lounge. Its warm and friendly staff, ultra-modern air conditioning system, clean atmosphere, and rewarding casino promotions are a welcome alternative to big city gaming.

The Seminole Casino Brighton is located on the Brighton Seminole Reservation, 17735 Reservation Road, off SR 710 in Glades County. For more information, call toll-free 800-360-9875 or 863-467-9998. Or visit www.seminolebrightoncasino.com.



BRIGHTON
It's Your Thing!

2012 Ford Fusion SEL Giveaway!

Saturday, November 26



Earn 2X Entries Every Saturday in November!

Details at Seminole Player's Club. Management reserves the right to change or cancel promotion at any time. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1.888.ADMIT.IT.

* May not accurately represent vehicle won.

NEW MEMBERS GET \$50 FREE PLAY AND \$10 FOOD CREDIT WHEN YOU SIGN UP FOR A PLAYER'S CLUB WILD CARD!

THIS OFFER IS VALID FOR YOU AND UP TO 5 OF YOUR FRIENDS! Bring this offer to the Player's Club to sign up and PLAY AND EAT FOR FREE today!

Code: BNM1110N

Valid 7 days a week 9am - 11pm through 11/30/11

*Must bring coupon.

Limit one coupon per person. Must be a NEW Player's Club Member (must not be a member in any Seminole or Hard Rock Casino in Florida Player's Club), membership is free to all 21 or over. No purchase necessary. Approved ID will be required for redemption. All offers are subject to availability. Non-negotiable, non-transferable, cannot be combined with any other offer and must be redeemed in person at Seminole Casino Brighton. No cash value. No un-used credit will be returned. Only valid for food service in the Josiah Restaurant. Alcohol not included. Dine-in only, may not be used towards To-Go items. Seminole Casino Brighton is not responsible for lost or stolen coupons and reserves the right to change or cancel this offer without notice. Seminole Casino Brighton employees are not eligible. Alteration or unauthorized use voids this offer. No reproductions allowed. Player's Club members who have been trespassed or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or who have opted into the self exclusion program are not eligible. Management reserves the right to cancel or change the offer at any time based on operational and/or business concern. Other restrictions may apply. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1.888.ADMIT.IT.



Highway 721 west of Lake Okeechobee on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation

**17735 Reservation Road
Okeechobee, FL 34974
1.800.360.9875**

seminolebrightoncasino.com



Take a walk on the wild side: Animal Adventures

Those who live in the Lake Okeechobee area don't have to go far to see wild animals.

Animal Adventures, in rural Glades County on SW Rucks Dairy Road, is home to 13 tigers, four lions, one African jungle cat, one black leopard, three cougars, four bob cats, a serval and a Tigon (cross between a tiger and lioness), as well as numerous other wild creatures including snakes, coatamundi and land tortoises. Animal Adventures is also the temporary home for a black bear who is waiting for his permanent habitat to be constructed at another facility.

All of the animals are rescues from other facilities and private owners. In many cases they started out as someone's "pet" and the owner could no longer control—or afford to feed—the wild creature.

Sue Pearce, who calls the big cats, "my babies," explained that the fenced portion of the facility currently encloses five acres. She has dreams of expansion. The ranch is 1,100 acres, she continued. "There's plenty of room."

These animals must live in captivity in part because they were born and raised in captivity and don't know how to fend for themselves in the wild. And for some, there simply is no "wild" left.

"We, as rescuers, did not choose for them to be in

captivity, but only to give them a good life and lots of love since they can't ever be released into the wild," she explained.

"There has been a lot of controversy over the captive big cats. People are saying they should be left in the wild and be allowed to roam free. I totally agree with this, but if there is no wild, then where are they supposed to run wild? Man continues to destroy the natural habitat of the wild animals, and continue to poach and leaves no choice but to take care of the ones that are already in captivity. This is the only way to preserve the species."

Sue logged thousands of hours as a volunteer at another animal facility to earn the wild animal care certifications required under Florida law. "I volunteered six days a week for two and a half years," she recalled.

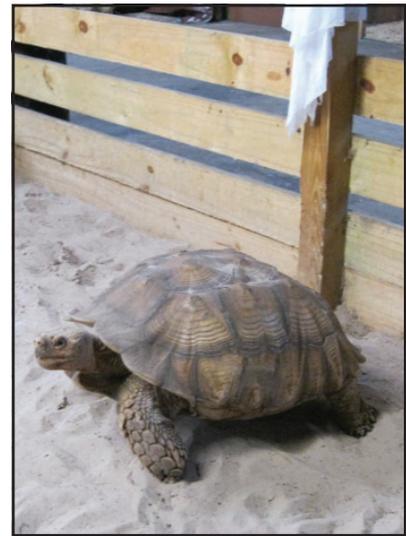
In 2006, Sue Pearce and Jody Crum brainstormed about constructing sustainable sanctuaries on a large scale to bring awareness concerning animals that have been removed from their natural environment. Having spent time with sanctuary owners and displaced animals they realized that an opportunity existed to construct habitats that were not only stronger and healthier, but had more impact on educating the public about the animals and their natural environments. Their primary

objectives are to provide a refuge for injured, displaced and confiscated animals and educate the public by allowing them to experience the animals and their natural environment on an intimate level. Their long term objective is to bring awareness to the public all over the United States and educate children as well as adults concerning environmental health through the preservation of natural habitats and overall animal conservation.

They started construction on the facility in July 2009, and received their first cats in February 2010.

In 2011, the non-profit facility opened to the public on a limited basis, to help offset the cost of maintaining the animals. It costs \$280 to \$300 a day just to feed the big cats, who each consume 10-20 pounds of meat a day. The grocery bill for the herbivores comes to about \$400 a week.

During the summer, Animal Adventures was closed to the public, due to the heat. On Nov. 5, they reopened on weekends. They take weekday appointments for groups of 10 or more. The requested donation is \$10 for adults; \$5 for children ages 3 to 12 (children under the age of 3 are admitted free.) They also offer parties at the facility or transport animals to your party. For more information, call 863-447-6050.



INI Florida/K. Elskén

Henry, a giant land tortoise, was once a little girl's pet. When the child grew up, and Henry grew large, he found a new home at Animal Adventures.



INI Florida/K. Elskén



INI Florida/K. Elskén

This lioness and tiger have been together since they were cubs. When they arrived at Animal Adventures, Sue Pearce tried to separate them and introduce them to other big cats of their own species, but the lioness was so distressed she injured herself by throwing herself against the cage, trying to get to her friend. So the two are housed together for the time being.

Other animal attractions in the area:

Arnold's Wildlife

OKEECHOBEE—Arnold's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc., (AWRC) is a non-profit 501(c) educational-based wildlife care facility. They are dedicated to bringing people and wildlife together to develop a community awareness of the value of our Florida wildlife.



INI/D. Hamilton

This Fennec Fox is one of the animals at Arnold's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

The ultimate goal is to rescue, rehabilitate, and return recovered animals to their natural habitat.

AWRC currently rehabilitates over 1,000 animals each year. Visitors can see more than 32 different species of animals. Special events include star gazing, the annual open house and the annual butterfly count.

Arnold's Wildlife Center, 14895 N.W. 30th Terrace in Okeechobee, offers special programs for students and also hosts camps in the spring and summer.

For more information online go to www.arnoldswildlife.org.

Billie Swamp Safari

HENDRY COUNTY—Glide effortlessly along the Airboat Trail through cypress domes, see alligators, turtles, fish, birds, raccoons and other animals in their natural environment.

Splash through the swamp and view native and exotic wildlife such as bison, water buffalo, wild pigs, and ostriches up close while riding through the wetlands on a Swamp Buggy Eco-Tour, or sit back in the shade at Herpetarium Alligator and Snake Show, or Critter and Bird of Prey Show held daily. Catch an educational alligator feeding at the gator pit with stadium seating.

Billie Swamp Safari is located on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation at 30000 Gator Tail Trail, Clewiston.

The 2,200 acres of untamed Florida Everglades is preserved in its pristine condition by the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

For more information, call 800-GO-SAFARI or 863-983-6101. Online go to safari@semtribe.com

For parties of 20 or more reservations are required. For reservations: 800-949-6101, ext. 12115.

Gatorama

GLADES COUNTY—Steeped in old Florida charm, Gatorama is one of the few remaining original Florida roadside attractions. Thousands of alligators and crocodiles call Gatorama home along with Allen and Patty Register and their son Benjamin. The Register's are fifth and sixth generation Florida Crackers who love sharing their piece of the Everglades with the thousands of visitors that make the trek down to their corner of the Glades.

A visit to Gatorama includes an exciting walk along bridges and boardwalks teeming with alligators, crocodiles, bobcats, panthers, birds, and other Florida wildlife, all set in a natural hammock.

Gatorama, 6180 U.S. Highway 27 in Palmdale in Glades County, is open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The facility is closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. For more information, call 863-675-0623.



Courtesy photo/Gatorama

Gatorama is home to alligators, crocodiles and other Florida wildlife.

Talkin' Monkey Project

HENDRY COUNTY—The world is a dangerous place - for animals as well as humans. Fortunately, Dr. Debbi Misotti has a heart for our fellow primates and has reached out to endangered monkeys, offering a comfortable and loving environment for those that need it most. White handed gibbons, white face capuchins, cinnamon capuchins and black spider monkeys are all neighbors at the compound. The unique primate rescue center has a strong public educational element. The facility is located in the heart of Hendry County, in Pioneer Plantation, about 13 miles east of LaBelle. Volunteers and donations are always welcome.

For more information, call 863-983-2335 or e-mail Debbie Misotti at debbe@talkinmonkeysproject.org.



Courtesy photo

This white handed gibbon is among the residents of the Talkin' Monkey Project.



Courtesy photo

The 20th annual hike around the Lake Okeechobee dike will start on Nov. 19 from the Pahokee Marina.

Hikers to circle big lake

LAKE OKEECHOBEE—The 20th annual hike around Lake Okeechobee will begin Saturday, Nov. 19, promptly at 8 a.m. from the Pahokee Marina and will finish up back in Pahokee nine days later on Sunday, Nov. 27.

One hundred and ten miles in 9 days; just one-step-at-a-time, one-day-at-a-time. Daily hikes range from 9.5 to 15 miles and are done at the individual hiker's pace.

Each day's segment starts at sunrise, except for day one, and finishes by noon at one of the eight trail-heads around the lake. A shorter introductory hike, affectionately named the "Wimp Walk," of only 3.5 miles from Pahokee to Canal Point is available on opening day.

Everyone is invited to join in for a day, a weekend or more. There are no fees and you do not have to be a member of the Florida Trail Association to join in.

This hike is not a backpacking ordeal. Only day packs are needed. Gear is left behind in campgrounds, motels or your vehicles. Daily hikes are held in the early part of the day and afternoons are for relaxing or sightseeing. Dinners are usually enjoyed at a variety of local restaurants.

This yearly event is always held during Thanksgiving Week and hikers, friends and family traditionally celebrate Thanksgiving dinner at the Clewiston Inn. There have been as many as 90 people from the group there during dinner.

Days are spent hiking the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail, which is a major segment of the 1,400 mile Florida National Scenic Trail. Few people have experienced the panorama that the dike affords, a 360-degree view of the lake and lake shore.

How many people, even residents of the Glades, have seen the vistas all around the Big Lake? Riding in a car is not the same as walking 35 feet, on average, above the surrounding terrain. The views are spectacular. Farm, cattle and urban areas pass by slowly and hikers have a chance to take it all in at a leisurely pace.

From a modest start, with eight hikers in 1992, each year has seen the number of participants increase to more than several hundred hikers and well wishers on opening day.

This hike is the longest-running scheduled activity in the history of the statewide Florida Trail Association, the volunteer organization that builds and maintains our National Scenic Trail in Florida, The Florida Trail.

The Big "O" Hike was started by the Loxahatchee Chapter of the Florida Trail Association With headquarters in Gainesville. The Florida Trail Association has 18 chapters statewide and approximately 6,000 members in the United State and Canada.

For information about the 19th annual Big "O" Hike, please contact: Paul Cummings in Lake Worth: cummingsps@att.net or call him at 561-963-9906.

NOW APPEARING



Look for your next edition of GO December 8th-9th

MONTHLY IN YOUR NEWSPAPER & ONLINE

Your Guide to local entertainment and attractions

To advertise your entertainment or attraction, or to send press releases and photos of area events, please email GO@newszap.com



Plays, concerts, dance programs and more ...

Smoke on the Mountain

OKEECHOBEE—The Okeechobee Community Theatre (OCT) presents the bluegrass-flavored gospel music comedy, "Smoke on the Mountain," **Nov. 11 and 12**, at 8 p.m. each evening, at the theatre on S.W. Second Avenue at Seventh Street, one block west of Golden Corral restaurant in Okeechobee.

The setting of "Smoke on the Mountain" is 1938. Mount Pleasant Baptist Church's pastor, Mervin Oglethorpe is presiding over his first-ever Saturday night gospel sing. The evening's special guests are the Sanders Family Singers, who arrive a bit flustered and out of breath. Their tour bus overturned in a ditch next to the local pickle factory. Some local residents kindly came to their rescue, and now they're ready to sing, testify, and generally entertain for the next two hours (allowing for a 15-minute intermission.)

The music, mostly bluegrass-flavored gospel, is full of four-part harmonies, and features guitar, banjo, mandolin, autoharp, piano, and numerous homemade percussion instruments.

For more information, call Ron or Jacque Hayes at 863-763-1307, or visit the theatre web site, okeecommunitytheatre.com.

American Spirit

BELLE GLADE—The Dolly Hand Performing Arts Center, 1977 College Drive in Belle Glade, will present Matt Davenport Productions & Dow Artists, Inc.'s "American Spirit: The New Patriotic Musical," on Monday, **Nov. 14**, at 7:30 p.m. This world premier is a multi-media production that celebrates the true spirit of our great land. This powerful song, dance and storytelling journey takes you through parade routes and battlefields, town halls and concert halls, will remind us why we are proud to be Americans!

Join the multi-talented cast of 10 as they take you on a powerful journey through the events—and introduce you to the people—that define the American Spirit! From the birth of our nation to a spectacular Fourth of July celebration, you don't have to look far to see, hear and feel the true spirit of our great land.

As seen through the eyes of the well-meaning, but slightly befuddled mayor of Your Hometown, U.S.A., the show is a powerful 90-minute song, dance and storytelling journey through parade routes and battlefields, town halls and concert halls. Witness moments of the American Revolution mixed with the Industrial Revolution.

For more information, contact the Dolly Hand Performing Arts Center, 561-993-1160, or see their web site at www.dollyhand.org.



Just Dance

FORT PIERCE—The Indian River State College Theatre Program presents professional quality, affordable, family entertainment. Located on the IRSC Ft. Pierce campus, the Theatre Program serves as a valuable cultural resource to the Treasure Coast by presenting a full production season of musicals, comedies, murder mystery dinner theatres, and serious dramas. IRSC will present "Just Dance" on **Nov. 17, 18, 19** at McAlpin Theatre. Join the IRSC Dance Program for this enjoyable evening of dance. For information, call the McAlpin Fine Arts Center Box Office at 1-800-220-9915.

Duke Ellington Orchestra

FORT PIERCE—The Lifelong Learning Institute at Indian River State College proudly continues the College's tradition in 2011-2012 with carefully selected shows. All shows are held in the McAlpin Fine Arts Center on Main Campus and begin at 7:30 p.m. On Monday, **Nov. 28**, Duke Ellington Orchestra will perform.

The Orchestra recaptures the music of one of the most influential figures in jazz, if not in all American music. As both a composer and a band leader, Ellington's reputation has increased since his death, with thematic repackaging of his signature music.

For information, call the McAlpin Fine Arts Center Box Office at 1-800-220-9915.

Christmas On the Air

OKEECHOBEE—Okeechobee Community Theatre will present "Christmas On the Air," a holiday music and comedy variety show which features a cast of 25.

Patterned after a Bing Crosby-style Christmas special, it includes some big production numbers, comedy, and drama, along with a host of favorite Christmas carols and songs. The presentation is done in a warm-hearted vintage style that is sure to evoke pleasant memories of Christmas past.

"Christmas On the Air" will be performed three times only, on Friday and Saturday evenings, **Dec. 2 & 3** at 8 p.m., with a 2 p.m., matinee on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 3.

The Okeechobee Community Theatre, a member of the American Association of Community Theatre and the Florida Theatre Conference, is now in its 33rd season of presenting Broadway-style musicals, comedies and dramas for local audiences. For more information, call Ron or Jacque Hayes at 863-763-1307, or visit the theatre website, okeecommunitytheatre.com.

The Christmas Toy Shop

LABELLE—The Firehouse Community Theatre, located three blocks north from the intersection of State Road 29 and State Road 80 in LaBelle, will present "The Christmas Toyshop" by Michele L. Vacca, on **Dec. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10** and **11**. The play will be directed by Mike Shough and produced by special arrangement with CLAS-SICS ON STAGE! of Chicago.

This original fantasy will appeal to the entire family with the enchantment and excitement of Christmas. Christmas musical selections will be

performed by the Firehouse Singers under the direction of Nick Fidanza.

Productions are Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

For information call 863-675-3066, or visit their web site at www.firehouseculturalcenter.com.



Courtesy photo/Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center

Festival of Trees and the Living Christmas Tree

Beginning Nov.14, the Grand Hall of the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center, 1977 College Drive in Belle Glade, will be filled with Christmas trees decorated by local citizens, organizations, groups and businesses. Bidders can support the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center's fundraising efforts by bidding on a tree in a silent auction. The auction closes at 5 p.m. after the Sunday performance of "The Living Christmas Tree" on **Dec. 4**. The 23rd Annual Living Christmas Tree will be presented at the Dolly Hand Center on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. "The Living Christmas Tree," the kick off for the Center's holiday season, will have a whole new look this year. Come and see the new Christmas village and hear favorite holiday songs performed by the many talented children and adults of the Glades. Come early Sunday afternoon for photos with Santa! For information online go to www.dollyhand.org or call the box office at 561-993-1160.

Miracle on 34th Street

BELLE GLADE—The Dolly Hand Performing Arts Center, 1977 College Drive in Belle Glade, will present Barter Theatre's "Miracle on 34th Street" on Thursday, **Dec. 15**, 7:30 p.m.

A favorite holiday tale by Valentine Davies, made famous by the movie of the same name, it's the story of the year as Kris Kringle—aka Santa Claus—goes on trial, Macy's becomes the friendly store to shop, two lost souls find each other and a little girl discovers her childhood through her belief in miracles.

"Delectable Delights," a Dessert Buffet will be available prior to "Miracle on 34th Street" from 6 to 7 p.m. Sample many wonderful desserts at this buffet of sugary, low sugar and sugar-free treats.

For more information, contact the Dolly Hand Performing Arts Center, 561-993-1160, or see their web site at www.dollyhand.org.

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