



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 140

Wednesday, November 23, 2011

50¢ Plus tax



Happy Thanksgiving

Blood roundup update .. Page 14

CES kids celebrate the holiday ... Page 12

Lake Levels

13.85 feet

Last Year: 13.11 feet



Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level



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

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Irby sworn in to fill District 3 seat

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

After serving with only four members for over seven months, the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners now have five members.

At the Tuesday, Nov. 22, commission meeting retired Circuit Judge William Hendry administered the oath of office to retired Raulerson Hospital administrator Frank Irby.

"Frank (Irby) brings a lot to the table," the judge said.

Commissioner Joey Hoover pointed out that with Mr. Irby's appointment, it is the first time in the county's history that the board is made up entirely of Republicans.

Judge Hendry noted that Mr. Irby has served on the board of directors of the Okeechobee Utility Authority as well as on the hospital board. He also mentioned Mr. Irby's service to Hospice and the Kiwanis Club.

Before swearing in Mr. Irby the judge, who is a noted historian, gave his usual history lesson.

"We are now approaching 100 years in the history of this county," the judge said.

On Oct. 4 of 1911, he said, the name Okeechobee was made public for the first



Frank Irby, left, was sworn in as an Okeechobee County commissioner by retired Circuit Judge Bill Hendry, right. The event took place during the Tuesday, Nov. 22, commission meeting.

time. From 1902 until 1911 the area was known as Tantie. The city was chartered in 1915 and the county was formed in 1917.

"I think it is important to know a little bit about the key factors that made this county grow,"

See IRBY — Page 9

Woman's 'concern' saved her from scam

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

When Mary opened her e-mail to find an official-looking message from Bank of America stating that her account was frozen because someone was trying to get into her account she was, for good reason, concerned.

"It scared me. I was, like, what's going on?" she said in a Nov. 12 phone interview. "Then, the more I thought about it the madder I got. I don't like someone trying to rip me off."

Mary, whose last name is being withheld to protect her identity, said she then checked her accounts.

"I wanted to make sure they were all right, and they were," she added.

As it turned out, the e-mail was a scam. Luckily, Mary didn't fall for it even though the

e-mail looked official and had the Bank of America logo on it.

"The e-mail had the bank's logo on it trying to make it look legitimate," explained Detective Susan Morrison, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), adding that this is what's known as a phishing scam.

The term 'phishing'—as in fishing for confidential information—refers to a scam that encompasses fraudulently obtaining and using an individual's financial information.

Detective Morrison went on to say that with today's technology, anyone can obtain a company's logo and attach it to an e-mail

After checking her accounts, Mary then went to the local Bank of America where she spoke with Nancy Raddatz, the assistant branch manager. Ms. Raddatz confirmed that the e-mail was a scam.

"We don't send notifications like that," said Ms. Raddatz. "We never notify by e-mail asking for personal information."

She said Bank of America contacts its customers by regular mail.

Mary, who does all her banking online, said the e-mail told her that her account had been frozen because someone was trying to access her account by using false information. The e-mail then instructed her to click on a link to "let them know it was me."

But she didn't follow the instructions and, said Detective Morrison, it was a good thing she didn't.

"If you get these types of e-mails, do not open them," cautioned the OCSO investigator, who is now working on Mary's case. "They

See SCAM — Page 9



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Weather forecast for Okeechobee County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast



Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming west between 5 and 8 mph.

Wednesday night: Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around

62. West northwest wind around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Extended Forecast

Thanksgiving Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. North northwest wind between 6 and 9 mph.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. Northeast wind around 8 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. East northeast wind between 7 and 13 mph.

Friday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. East northeast wind around 8 mph.



Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

Gardening is fun

Mrs. Moore's Kindergarten class is growing a fall garden of cabbages, onions, tomatoes, oca and broccoli. Our class has been learning how plants grow. We are enjoying working in our garden and watching it grow. We would like to thank Walpole Feed for donating the seedlings we used to start our garden. We would also like to thank Mr. Moore for coming to help us plant our seedlings at the beginning of October. Stop by Everglades Elementary at see our garden grow! Behind the fence standing are: Nathaly Brandt, Dyson Nichols, Emma Meeks, Adolfo Villegas, Destyn Katz, Miguel Tapia, Rae'Shawn Collins and Janeesha Cooper.

in front of the garden sitting are:

Justin Gatliff, Yazmin Urvina, Walter Shockley, Paige Bolen, Sindy Moncada-Menjivar, Thomas Alvarez, Jose Sonanez-Jaimes, Angelina Rodriguez, Ari-anna Cook and Samantha Tillotson.

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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!

Welcome back

• At church on Sunday, I was surprised to see how much the congregation had grown in one week. This means our winter residents are returning. Welcome back! It's good to see you, especially when you get involved in the community.

College

• Not all of our kids out here are geared to go to college no matter what we do. Why does the school board and state keep pushing for college education for the students of our county when many are 1) not going to college or 2) not interested in college, and 3) can and will learn a technical skill that will put food on the table and pay bills. Why is there no VoTech? We are in the same boat with Highlands and Glades counties. The tri-county consortium could put a VoTech center in a central area and every student enrolled could learn a trade that would pay bills and give them a way of life away from minimum wage. Have you paid for a plumber or electrician, or a mechanic lately? Ask the owners of these businesses and they will tell you they are looking for QUALIFIED people daily. Are we providing it?

Rain

• It was so good to hear the rain on the roof last night. The lake is finally coming up at least close to where it should be as we enter the dry season. But folks, we still have to conserve water. It's a long time until the next rainy season. The lake loses water every day to evaporation and if there is no rain, that water level is going to come down. So don't waste water. Plant native grass and let it grow. Turn off the sprinklers. Watering the lawn too often actually causes the grass to have a shallow root system. It's better for the grass if you don't water it so much.

Sexual harassment

• The liberals have succeeded in taking the focus off the issues and now the media is so worried about whether or not a woman was sexually harassed 15 years ago—and didn't tell anyone until now—that they aren't keeping the pressure on all of the candidates -- Democrat and Republican -- to answer the hard questions about the economy. I have lost any respect I ever had for the television news programs.

OHS football

• I was talking to a former OHS graduate who went on to play college football and then professional football. He was of the opinion that the OHS football program started going downhill when Yearling Middle School switched from football to soccer. For years, the OHS football coaches and YMS football coaches worked together and the middle school was a feeder program for the high school. The kids had to train hard but they knew what to expect. He said with Pop Warner and OCRA leagues where "everyone gets a trophy," it just isn't the same. Do you think he is right? Is there a way to fix this?

• I remember that Yearling turned over many championship teams to the high school only to fall apart against the same teams that we had beat soundly the year or so before. But I do know that high school team was more competitive in those years as they had discipline and pride in what they had accomplished. Call it coaching or feed in to the high school. We are missing what it takes to be a winner here. ie, dedication from the town and the players. Change coaches all you want and you will get the same results with what's going on with the town, players, and parents of Okeechobee. It takes a total commitment from the whole community to get this going again. For all those who complain, "If you're not part of the solution you ARE part of the problem."

• We have great athletes here and we as a whole need to encourage them to participate and back them and the coach up to the max.

Education

• I know so many recent college graduates who cannot find work, I can understand why teenagers are confused what to do. There are no jobs waiting for most college degrees. There are so many experienced workers who are competing for the same jobs as the recent graduates.

Letters to the editor

Love, tragedy, intrigue, horror....

When I read the article about the murder of Angelica Cruz, only 36 years old and mother of 3, by the father of those children, in Wednesday Nov. 16 Okeechobee News, I was moved. It was like reading a page of a horror novel, but only worse. It was a true story of horror in my own town.

But the article was only the final page, the conclusion: Review of the crime and the punishment. That was impassioned enough.... "The 12 inch blade plunged 7 inches into her left breast severing her heart"; "he took her into his arms and watched her life slip quickly away." I wonder what the rest of the story, the preceding chapters, read like. What were the 20 years like that Angelica suffered through with Enrique. How did it begin? When did things become abusive? How did each page read, each chapter? A mixture of Danielle Steele, Shakespeare, Ken Follet, and John Saul: Love, Tragedy, Intrigue, and Horror.

In this story the end was death for Angelica, life for Enrique, deep loss and burdensome hurt for children, parents, cousins, friends, and deep scars, vivid images for life, and emotional wounds for those immediate witnesses.

As this particular story concludes with a certain kind of closure, a type of justice, (at least he is in prison for life,) there is no restitution, no erasure, and no real finality. You just can't turn the back cover of the book and put it on the shelf. That's the reality of Domestic Violence.

I know of 454 stories, books full of chapters, in Okeechobee. They came to Martha's House for help last year. (How many more didn't come?) Those books are still being written: The final chapters yet to be penned. Heck, some of them were only on chapter one, stories still developing. Regrettably, like a pulp novel, so many of them are so similar. Love, tragedy, intrigue, horror. Living it daily.

How many will end with their own newspaper article....a 12-inch blade plunged....

None of them have to. The stories aren't finished. There could be a new character intertwined, a radical intervention, a slow but meaningful rebirth, blossoming empowerment. New pages, chapters; a book with a happy ending?

There could be a community which won't tolerate relationship violence: a neighbor, friend, relative, spouse, who is willing to stand up and say no, not in my town, not in my neighborhood, not on my street, not in my family, never in my home.

Can we write a community story together about our town? One where individuals made self-sacrificing choices of personal responsibility, thinking first of what is best for someone else before they decide what is best for themselves. Where families refuse to tolerate the destructive behaviors of some of their members, where community groups stand up for the cause of peace at home, and a town rejoices in the fruit of healthy relationships. Can we write this book, this story of our town, and it not be a work of fiction?

To all who have been wounded by the tragic non-fiction saga of Angelica Delacruz, my deepest sympathies and condolences. May your stories be of recovery and hope, and happier endings. If you need some help writing them you can call us: Martha's House hot line 863-763-0202.

Jonathan Bean, E.D.
Martha's House

Blood Round up

Two items were found at the Blood Roundup, a pair of Polar Blue sunglasses and a small key labeled Yamaha. Either item can be picked up, upon identification, at the Main Street office, 111 NE 2nd St.

Thanks to all who attended the Roundup. We'll see you again next year.

Raye Deusinger

VFW needs vendors for Christmas Bazaar

VFW Post 10539, at 3912 Hwy. 441 S.E., will hold a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, **Dec. 3**, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 863-610-0867 to reserve your table.

KEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D
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The Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

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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.



Report: woman left child alone in car

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee woman was arrested in Martin County on a felony child abuse charge after she allegedly left an 8-month-old child unattended in her vehicle.

Christine Marie Herring, 19, was arrested Saturday, Nov. 19, and was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of leaving a child unattended in a motor vehicle over 15 minutes.

She was booked into the Martin County Jail where her total bond was set at \$25,000. Rhonda Irons, public information officer for the Martin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), said Herring was released on bond the next day.



Christine M. Herring

An arrest report by MCSO Deputy James H. Holloran stated that Herring left the child while she went into the Treasure Coast Mall on N.W. Federal Highway in Jensen Beach to use the bathroom and see her roommate. She reportedly left her red 1996 Chevrolet running and the rear passenger-side window rolled down while she was gone.

According to the deputy's report, she left the child unsupervised for 21 to 25 minutes.

However, the deputy went on to state that he believed she was gone longer than that because the child was sweating profusely and the child's diaper was "overflowing."

"Even with the vehicle running, I found it to be very warm inside and filled with mosquitoes," stated Deputy Holloran in his arrest report.

Deputy Holloran went on to state that: "At no time did Herring show any affection toward the child or inquire about the child's well being. Herring just wanted me to turn the car keys (over) to her roommate."

The child was treated by medical personnel from the Martin County Fire Department and taken to the emergency room at Martin County North Hospital where he was treated. The baby was then turned over to a case worker from the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

The arrest report did not list Herring's address.

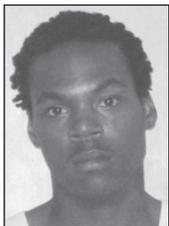
Detectives allegedly find pot in search; arrest two

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Two men were arrested on felony drug charges after a search warrant was served on a N.W. 12th St. apartment and almost 100 grams of suspected marijuana was found.

Arrested were David Lee Thomas Jr., 20, and Jonathan Randall Jenkins, 18. Both men were arrested on a felony charge of possession of marijuana with intent to sell, and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Both men are being held in the Okeechobee County Jail. Their bonds have been set at \$6,000 each.



David Lee Thomas, Jr.



Jonathan R. Jenkins

An arrest report by an Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force detective stated that the search warrant was executed on the apartment Sunday evening, Nov. 20. The report also indicated that Thomas lives in the apartment, while Jenkins lives at a N.W. Ninth Ave. address.

During a search of the apartment, task force detectives found:

- 13 grams of suspected marijuana in small plastic baggies, that were all contained in one large plastic sandwich bag;
- a gallon-size plastic bag that contained 76 grams of suspected marijuana along with two, \$20 bills;

- an open box of plastic sandwich bags;
- a digital scale with suspected marijuana residue; and,
- numerous plastic bags with suspected marijuana residue inside them.

While searching Jenkins, detectives reportedly found plastic baggies that contained a total of 10 grams of suspected marijuana and two, \$10 bills.

The task force detective stated that the small plastic baggies are commonly used to package marijuana for the purpose of selling it. These small baggies are commonly referred to as 'nickel' bags and sell for \$5 each, added the investigator.

The suspected marijuana was field tested and indicated a positive response for the presence of marijuana.

Suicide prevention message remains crucial

211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast reported a 52 percent increase in suicide calls for its service area of Palm Beach and Treasure Coast Counties comparing the first six months of 2010 with 2011. Nationally, as well as internationally, suicide is recognized as a major public health concern. Sept. 6-12, marks National Suicide Prevention Week, with Sept. 10, acknowledged as a day of global awareness. In the State of Florida, suicide is the 9th leading cause of death. Each year it is estimated that over two thousand Floridians take their own lives. This is more than twice the number of homicides and significantly higher than the number of HIV related deaths.

One reason for the increase in suicide calls, said Susan Buza, 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast Executive Director, is the continuing economic struggle. "We've gotten many calls this year from people who are thinking about suicide because of financial problems," Buza said. She noted that during this same six-month comparison period, callers requesting assistance with problems involving Abuse, Neglect, or Crime rose 42 percent.

"When we get a call from someone contemplating suicide," said Buza, "our main task is to de-escalate the situation and help the caller find a reason to go on living. We will stay on the line for as long as that takes."

"We connect callers with available resources," she continued, "or, if they want to hang up, we try to get a commitment from them to call us back if they start feeling despondent again." Buza adds: "If you are concerned about yourself, a loved one, or someone you know, dial 2-1-1 any time of day or night."

211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast is a nationally accredited agency with highly trained Resource Specialists providing crisis intervention, information, assessment and referral to community services. All calls are free, confidential and 24/7. Programs and services are available for people of all ages. Interpreters are also available for non-English speaking callers. For more information dial 2-1-1, (866) 882-2991 or visit www.211palmbeach.org or www.211treasurecoast.org. Teens can also visit www.teen211pbtc1.org.

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 hot-dog 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. **Come give a dog a hug. 863-3357-1104.**

Your news is our news.



Some newspapers seem to take pleasure in the bad news. Not us.

We do print "bad" news. (It IS newsworthy when things go wrong, and citizens need to know about problems.)

Still, we give most of our attention to good news - the kind you clip and tape to your refrigerator door. (This isn't difficult. The vast majority of what happens in our community IS good.)

How are we doing?

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Obituaries

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.

Bettie A. Bass, 89

OKEECHOBEE — Bettie A. Bass, age 89, of Okeechobee, passed away Nov. 20, 2011, at her home.

She was born Nov. 15, 1922, in Tulsa, Okla. She came to Okeechobee from Kenansville twenty years ago. She was a member of First Missionary Baptist Church of Yeehaw. She married Claud Bass Dec. 11, 1940.

Mrs. Bass was preceded in death by her husband, Claud Bass; and two great-great-grandchildren.

She is survived by two sons, Larry Wayne Bass and Timothy Joe Bass (Phyllis); two daughters, Claudia Arnold (Monroe) and Cheryl Parrott (Boyd), all of Okeechobee; five grandchildren, Alysia, Arinda, Anthony, Stephanie and Roger; 11 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; sister, Lucille Coats of Owassa, Okla.; many nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation will be Friday, November 25, 2011 10 a.m. until services at 11 a.m. at First Missionary Baptist Church of Yeehaw with Brother Rex Turman officiating. Interment will follow at Kenansville Cemetery.

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

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

Bridgette Breaux Sheffield, 47

OKEECHOBEE — On Monday, Nov. 21, 2011, Bridgette Breaux Sheffield, age 47, lost a courageous battle to cancer at her home surrounded by her loving family.

Born in West Palm Beach, Bridgette resided in Okeechobee for the past 27 years.

She will be remembered by many not only as a friend but as the owner-operator of Executive Hair Design. She was a member of Everglades Baptist Church.

Bridgette is survived by her husband of 16 years, Jeff Sheffield; son, Klancey (Samantha) Breaux of Jupiter; daughter, Kelci Breaux of Okeechobee; step-daughter, Amanda Sheffield of Okeechobee; parents, Buddy and DeDe Platt of Okeechobee; sister, Paige (Jack) Cofield of Okeechobee; aunts, Bunny Woods (Jack Cofield, Sr.) of Okeechobee, Peggy Stevens of West Palm Beach, Mary (Arlie) Lee of Texas, and Jackie McCloskey of Ft. Pierce; uncle, Mark (Sandy) Stevens of Alabama; niece and nephew, Jessie and Trey Cofield of Okeechobee; and an endless list of loving friends and extended family. She also leaves behind her beloved, loving dog, Doxee.

The family will receive friends at the Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home on Friday, Nov. 25, 2011, from 2 until 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in memory of Bridgette be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973 or to Everglades Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1953, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

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

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

Joseph Leo Lechner, 75

OKEECHOBEE — Joseph Leo Lechner, age 75, of Okeechobee, died Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011, in the Hamrick Home Hospice.

He was born April 23, 1936, in Long Island, N.Y. He came to Okeechobee from Lake Worth in 1998 and was a retired contractor. He enjoyed selling his merchandise at the Trading Post Flea Market.

He is survived by his lifelong companion, Judy Straight.

There will be no public services.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, Fl. On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.



Community Events

Moose to serve

Thanksgiving meal

Happy Thanksgiving! The Okeechobee Moose, #1753, at 159 N.W. 36th Street, will serve a free meal at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 24. Bring a covered dish. Come spend the day.

Cypress Hut Eagles will host Thanksgiving dinner

Thursday, Nov. 24, the Cypress Hut Eagles will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Side dishes or desserts would be appreciated.

Cypress Hut Eagles to host dinner night

Friday, Nov. 25, is steak or fish night at Cypress Hut Eagles on U.S. 141 S.E. Music by Phil Eddings. Starts at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

Car wash/yard sale to benefit Pet Rescue

Come and get your car washed and help the animals of the Humane Society Pet Rescue. Cars will sparkle when washed by members of the 4-H Club for a donation and you can shop the bargains at the Yard Sale while you are here. The event will be held at the Tractor Supply on Saturday, Nov. 26.

Conkerr Cancer

to host benefit yard sale

ConKerr Cancer has extended its yard sale to Friday and Saturday, Nov. 25 and 26. It will be held at 2704 S.E. 34th Lane in Taylor Creek Isles from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on both days. There is still lots of Christmas decorations and gifts, scrapbooking and miscellaneous household items. We received a huge donation of stuffed animals, many still have the original price tags attached. If you came to the sale last weekend please come back as we have added many items. Contact Joan at 863-467-0290 for more information.

Eagles Post announces plans for special nights

Eagles North will host steak night on Friday, Nov. 25, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Music by Steven until 9 p.m. Come, eat and enjoy the music. On Saturday, Nov. 26, Eagles North at 9985 U.S. 441 North will have card bingo starting at 4 p.m. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund.

Cypress Hut Eagles hosting dinner night

Sunday Nov. 27, is fried chicken dinner day at the Cypress Hut Eagles from noon-4 p.m. for only \$6. The public is welcome.

*James (Jimbo)
Smith*

6/12/65 - 11/22/10

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broken and nothing
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God calls us one by one,
the chain will link again.**

*We love and
miss you!*

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Evening of Remembrance

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

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Funeral Home & Crematory

Children's program needs Christmas gifts and volunteers

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A court sponsored program gives people a chance to play Santa Claus to needy children as well as allowing them to help these children year round.

When a child becomes a victim of abuse or neglect and is involved with the court system, that is where the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program comes into play. The child is assigned a guardian to look out for their best interest. While the child might change foster homes or schools while they are in the legal system, they will keep the same guardian throughout the process. For that reason guardians serve as a stabilizing influence in the child's life. According to Gina Rossi-Sheiman, the GAL program provides "an extra set of eyes" to look after the child and keep the child from getting lost in the system and ensure the child gets any special school or counseling programs necessary.

This Christmas the GAL program is seeking to provide Christmas presents for the 107 Okeechobee children under the protection of the program. If someone wishes to sponsor a child they can call 772-807-3868 or go to www.gfnf4kids.org and receive a particular child's "wish list." Also individual unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the UPS Store, 1414 S. Parrott Ave. through Dec. 16. Gifts for girls or boys ages zero through 10 will be accepted. "A lot of these kids have never seen wrapped gifts," said Ms. Rossi-Sheiman. "There is no gift too big, there is no gift too small," she added.

Those who wish to become more involved in the program are also welcome. "We are always recruiting in Okeechobee," said Ms. Rossi-Sheiman. The only requirements for a guardian are to be at least 21 years old and undergo a background check. A training program of about 30 hours is provided. There are currently 20 active guard-

ians in Okeechobee and some have as many as 10 children.

"What we look for is someone really dedicated to children," said Ms. Rossi-Sheiman. "They really see themselves as making a difference in the life of the child." The pro-

gram requires about 10 hours a month and guardians have to visit the child at least once a month.

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



Special to the Okeechobee News/FUMC

Donated tree

The children of First United Methodist Church assisted by Audrey and Anthony Metcalf (pictured), created an "Okeechobee Kind Of Christmas Tree," donated to the Hospice Festival of Trees. The tree features ornaments made from fishing bobbers, lures, toys, household items and other "Okeechobee" kind of supplies. Be careful if you touch! The fish hooks are real!

Holiday Happenings

The City of Okeechobee will present upcoming holiday events for all to enjoy including: Annual tree lighting - Nov. 29

Pictures with Santa from 6-8 p.m. in City Park - Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 6, 7, 8, 12 and 13.

Santa on the Fire Truck - NW and NE Section - Dec. 15; SW Section Dec. 16 and SE Section - Dec. 17. For more information, please call Kim Barnes at 863-763-3372 ext. 222.

Craft & Christmas Bazaar in BHR

The Annual Craft and Christmas Bazaar will be held at Buckhead Ridge Christian

Church, at 1167 Linda Rd. in BHR, on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Ladies invite you to a day filled with crafts, baked goods and a craft center available for children to make their own gifts. Plan on staying for lunch. Proceeds go to the Ladies Fellowship Ministry.

VFW hosts Christmas Bazaar

VFW Post 10539, at 3912 Hwy. 441 S.E., will hold a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Avoid Thanksgiving traffic with FDOT'S 511 system

Know before you go: Call 511, Visit FL511.com, Download the 511 App

Avoid holiday traffic this Thanksgiving by using the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) 511 Traveler Information System. By calling 511, visiting FL511.com or downloading the 511 app on iTunes, travelers can get free traffic information on all of Florida's interstates, toll roads and major metropolitan roadways. Florida 511 is updated with crashes, congestion, travel times and more, including free phone transfers to Florida's airports, seaports and neighboring 511 systems.

"One fatality is one too many," said FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad. "Many times, if there is a crash on an interstate, there can be secondary crashes as a result. The 511 system alerts travelers that there's congestion or a crash ahead so they can pay more attention and avoid secondary crashes."

The Florida 511 app is the newest addition to FDOT's suite of resources for traffic information. The app features the same traf-

fic and travel time information as the phone system and FL511.com website. The free 511 app uses the iPhone's GPS tracking to provide users with traffic information within miles of their location. Users can even view traffic cameras associated with crashes on their iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch with the 511 app.

The time-saving 511 system is a resource from FDOT that helps manage congestion, reduce emissions and increase safety. According to the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), knowing of congestion or delays helps prevent accidents.

"Traffic congestion can lead to crashes, which can lead to even more congestion," said FHP Lt. Col. Ernesto Duarte. "If drivers can use 511 to plan a better route, everyone wins."

Safety Tips:

- Call 511 before driving, at a rest area or have a passenger call to avoid talking while driving.

- Customize your trip at FL511.com be-

fore leaving to minimize time spent on the phone.

- Always wear a safety belt.

- Don't drink and drive.

Florida 511 Features:

- Traffic information on all interstate highways, toll roads and many other metropolitan roadways

- Commuter travel times and reports on crashes, lane closures, construction and severe weather affecting travel

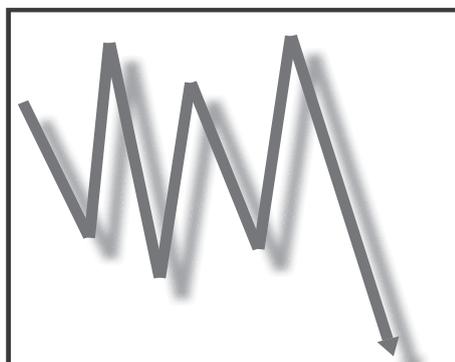
- Public transit, airport and seaport information

- AMBER, Silver and LEO alerts (Silver Alerts notify the public when law enforcement agencies are searching for missing adults or citizens with cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Alerts notify the public when law enforcement officers are searching for an offender(s) who has seriously injured or killed a law enforcement officer.)

- FL511.com provides travel information, traffic camera views and free personalized services, including customized travel routes and e-mail, text and phone call alerts

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AVB-003-FL



Special to the Okeechobee News/Farm Bureau

Young farmers and ranchers award

The Okeechobee County Farm Bureau, Young Farmers and Ranchers presented James Sharpe, Area VI State Vice President, Florida FFA Association with a \$1,000 Scholarship to help with his trip to Beijing, China. He will travel with other state officers to attend the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers. Pictured left to right is Will Butler, Young Farmers and Ranchers Chairman; James Sharpe, Area VI State Vice President, Florida FFA Association, Jacob Larson, Okeechobee County Farm Bureau, President.

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IRBY

Continued From Page 1

Judge Hendry added.

The Florida East Coast Railroad came in 1912. "From that point on big things began to happen," Judge Hendry said.

The Okeechobee Company was formed and laid out the town site. The surrounding area was subdivided into 10-acre parcels for agricultural purposes.

"Agriculture was one of the basic forms of income and industry in this area," said Judge Hendry, adding that commercial fishing, cattle raising, timber and citrus also played in big part in the county's economic picture.

Since the county came into existence in the middle of a fiscal year, commissioners received only a prorated portion of taxes that year. The first budget in 1918 was slightly over \$50,000.

The judge said in 1918, as a result of World War I, 80 citizens petitioned the commissioners to form a home guard which was an actual

military unit and not a militia group. During the course of the war Okeechobee's home guard was not called to active duty.

The organization drilled in Flagler Park across from the present location of the Okeechobee Utility Authority building.

Commissioners supplied their uniforms, equipment and rifles. At the end of the war, the home guard was deactivated. The members were allowed to keep their uniforms and equipment, but had to turn in their rifles and ammunition which the commissioners sold.

In the early days of the county Judge Hendry said that there was a great need for roads. One of the first roads the county approved was from the end of Parrott Avenue eastward to the Palm Beach County line. Martin County had not been formed at that time.

Taylor Creek proved to be a large obstacle, so the county built a ferry to cross the creek.

At that time there were two privately owned steel bridges across the Kissimmee River in the Basinger area. The county eventually bought both of those bridges and moved one of them to Taylor Creek. This road, along Lake Okeecho-

bee, became Conner's Highway—Florida's first toll road.

In 1924 Conner's Highway was completed with a big celebration on July 4 that drew a crowd of 15,000 people.

"There have been so many changes since 1917," Judge Hendry offered.

He then told Mr. Irby: "Your duties and your job have not changed. You are to make informed decisions. It is important that you be a good listener. You listen to what is said, as well as what is not said."

Then, the judge added, it would be time to make an informed decision using common sense.

"You can disagree without being disagreeable," he admonished.

SCAM

Continued From Page 1

can contain a virus and sometimes they are set up to get your personal information."

Phishing scams are nearly all the same.

Basically, a person will receive an e-mail that appears to originate from a financial institution, government agency or some other reputable entity. The message will then describe an urgent reason why you must 'verify' or 're-submit' personal or confidential information by clicking on a link embedded in the message, which appears to be the web site of the financial institution or other reputable agency.

But that official-looking web site actually belongs to a scammer.

Once inside the bogus site the consumer may be asked to provide Social Security numbers, account numbers, passwords or other information that can be used to identify the consumer—such as the maiden name of the consumer's mother or the consumer's place of birth.

When the consumer gives out that information, the scammer can then assume the consumer's identity and access their accounts.

"This is the time of year when people are doing a lot online, such as buying gifts," said the OCSO detective. "People are looking for a quick way to make money. Don't give your personal information out over the computer.

And if you get a call wanting your personal information, don't give it out."

She went on to say that because of the struggling economy and high unemployment rate, she's expecting to see a lot of scam complaints.

"I think we're really going to get hit with a lot of these right now," the detective added.

Detective Morrison also urged people to be careful with their personal mail—both that which is sent and that which is received.

"Don't let mail sit in your mailbox overnight," she cautioned. "People are stealing the mail and getting personal information from it—such as Social Security numbers, account numbers and more."

Fortunately, Mary was cautious which protected from identity theft. She said this e-mail was the first time she's ever knowingly been contacted by a scammer. And so far, she's hasn't received any more.

According to Ms. Raddatz, if you receive this type of e-mail call your bank immediately.

"Call to verify, that would be the best thing to do—always," she offered.

And if you think you have fallen prey to a scammer, contact your bank at once. You may also want to close your accounts and open new ones.

Then, contact law enforcement.

If you live in the city, call the Okeechobee City Police Department at 863-763-5521. If you live in the county, call the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 863-763-3117.

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OHS girls soccer has new coach and direction

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

A graduate of the Okeechobee High School class of 2006 has returned to coach the girls soccer program in 2011-12.

Sonya Smith is a math teacher at Osceola Middle School and a graduate of Indian River State College. She received a degree in mathematics education from IRSC.

She played soccer for OHS under coaches Matt Buxton and Brian King and really has a love for the game.

Smith said she has played soccer for many years and enjoys working with young people.

"I've always enjoyed the game and I always wanted to be involved with it," she said. "I had the opportunity to take over the coaching position and I signed up."

Smith is assisted by two other former Brahman soccer players -- Jose Nunez and Dawn Fox. All of them were known for their effort and intensity on the field and they hope to bring a positive vibe to the Lady Brahman.

Smith said she likes what she sees from the young Brahman squad so far this year.

"We have a young team but I have a feeling that in the future we are going to do great," she pointed out. "The thing is getting to that point. We are all learning together

and it's a new experience for most of us."

Smith said building a program is her main goal. She also wants to develop consistency. Last week, for example, the girls dominated Boynton Beach 4-0 but then fell at home to Jensen Beach.

"I definitely want to stick around and do everything I can to help this team. I want us to become strong competition for these other schools," she said.

Another emphasis from the coaching staff is passing skills and communication on the field. They have also worked hard on conditioning in the first three weeks of practice.

"Jensen Beach had skill but the biggest reason they won is because they communicated and they passed the ball well. I felt, skill-wise, the two teams were about even. If we communicate and pass better we can win matches," she noted.

Among the key players on the soccer squad this year will include goal keeper Kaley Hoover and fullback Brittney Ball.

The Lady Brahman's hosted Port St. Lucie on Tuesday at 5 p.m. The Lady Brahman's will host South Fork on Monday, **Nov. 28**, at 5 p.m. at Brahman Stadium.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

In the photo on the left, Sophomore Ivette Vega tries to clear the ball against Jensen Beach during a match last week at OHS. In the photo in the right, Brittney Ball #4 and Alex Perkins #11 will be counted on to lead the Lady Brahman defense this year.

Okeechobee Golf County Club

Gold Tees for Nov. 18 - First place - J. North; second place - G. Guydosh; third place - C. Hendren; and fourth place tie - H. White and W. Hall.

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McQueen fares well against Weber

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Erick McQueen finished a solid freshman year with 285 yards rushing for the Weber

OHS ladies get 56-36 hoops win

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Ami Edwards had a game high 14 points and 11 rebounds as Okeechobee used a hustling and aggressive defense and balanced scoring to defeat Lake Placid, 56-36, in girls basketball action.

The Lady Brahmans got 11 points and seven steals from Thadd Sanders and 11 points from Jakderria Edwards as they won their first game of the year Friday, Nov. 18, on their home boards.

Okeechobee led after each quarter of play and held a double-digit lead at the half. While the pace of the game was somewhat fast and the play sloppy at times, Okeechobee was able to get points off turnovers and fast breaks.

Jakderria Edwards had five points in a 7-second stretch late in the first half to allow Okeechobee to put the game under control.

Okeechobee also got steady play again from freshman Carly McCoin and veteran Shamarah Shanks. Bethany Stuart had several blocked shots near the basket.

Coach Morrow said one of the main strengths of this year's Brahman squad is depth. She said she felt confident that whenever she puts a player in they will work hard on the court.

"We still have a lot of work to do and a lot of practice. I have stressed the little things because, without them, it is a struggle to do the bigger and better things," she added.

Ami Edwards said she felt the team had better attitudes this year and were more willing to listen and use what they learn on the court.

"Last year was bad because we had really horrible attitudes. I feel if we calm down and listen to our coach we can get it together for the rest of the season," she said.

One of the big things the team will have to work on is ball handling. While McCoin and Sanders have exceptional ball handling skills, the other players have some work to do.

Edwards said she was impressed to see her teammates work hard considering they played two games in back-to-back nights. She said the defensive intensity was impressive and she hopes the team keeps it up all season.

The Lady Brahmans next home game will be Friday night, Dec. 2, against Fort Pierce Central.

Okeechobee also won the junior varsity contest 35-14 behind strong play from freshman Delaney Osceola and her teammates.

International Warriors as he got to play football at the college level.

McQueen also got to travel to Montgomery, Ala., as the Warriors won four of their final five games this year to finish (4-6).

McQueen took over for an injured player in the fifth game of the season and was one of the reasons the Warriors improved their play down the stretch.

McQueen also ran for five touchdowns, including two against Edward Waters to lead Weber to a 24-14 victory.

McQueen also found the end zone against Ave Maria of Florida, Southern Virginia and the Apprentice School of Newport News, Va.

McQueen suffered an injury before the start of the season but was ready to go when his opportunity came in the fourth week of the season.

"The starter got hurt and I got my opportunity. I was able to score two touchdowns and rush for 98 yards and win the game for us," he said. "After that, I started to get more reps and got to show the coach what I can do."

McQueen played his sophomore and senior years for the Brahman football team. He was a leader on the defensive side of the ball last year and won defensive MVP.

As a sophomore he was a nice compliment to Lonnie Pryor, now a running back for the Florida State University Seminoles in Tallahassee.

McQueen was also a big play maker



Erick McQueen

when he played for the Okeechobee Bulls football program.

He also played basketball at Yearling Middle School and while raw offensively, he could dominate many games with his speed, energy and athleticism on defense.

McQueen said his former coach Chris Branham, along with coach and friend Mike Radebaugh, were instrumental in getting him a scholarship to play at Weber.

"I felt I did well this year. I came in and worked hard and played more games than the other freshmen," he added.

Most importantly, McQueen is doing well academically and has stayed focused off the field.

His immediate plan is to continue his football career and perhaps transfer to a larger school should the opportunity present itself.

"I thank everybody that stuck behind me and believed in me -- including my parents, my coaches and Okeechobee High School," he added.



Registration for Upward Basketball and Cheerleading

Registration for Upward Basketball and Cheerleading has begun at the First Baptist Church of Okeechobee. The deadline to register is Wednesday, **Nov. 30**. K5 - 6th grade, boys and girls. For more information or to register, please call 863-467-7625 or go by the church or ROC office. Registration forms are also available at your child's school.

ANNIVERSARY

LAWRENCE & BETTY SWEATT

Lawrence and Betty Nix Sweatt celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 22, 2011.

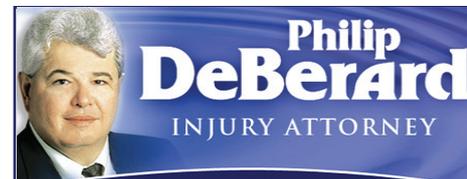
Both are graduates of Okeechobee High School. They spent 34 years in Hallandale, Fla., and then moved back home to Okeechobee.

Lawrence retired after 30 years with Florida D.O.T and 15 years with Consulting Firms.

They have three chil-



dren, sons, Larry (Karen), Ronnie (Karen) and daughter, Lynn, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



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CES kids celebrate Thanksgiving holiday



Central Elementary School students celebrated Thanksgiving last week. Mr. Paulson is enjoying a Thanksgiving feast with a Kindergarten class.

Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

At the top, Mrs. Medrano and Mrs. Schad with their students Daviana Miller, Dylan Cosme, Terrell Fludd, Milagros Santibanez, Gariesha Johnson, Karen Godinez, Felipe Rodriguez, Zoyee Ramirez at Central Elementary School's Thanksgiving celebration. At the bottom, Mrs. Tillis is also sharing with her kids Harley Goulette, Santos Garcia, Thomas Wigfall, Korbin Hyslope, Alondra Godinez, Olivia Campbell, Lilly Maxwell at Central Elementary School's Thanksgiving celebration.

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Local Blood Round up collects over 500 units

Okeechobeeans saving Okeechobee was certainly the theme as more than 500 people entered the Freshman Campus Auditorium to donate blood which saves local lives. Not quite reaching their goal of 600, the Okeechobee Blood Roundup drew a commendable 532 units of blood.

Though the drive was not officially open until 9 a.m., the first donor, Pat, arrived at 8:15 and by 10:30, more than 100 people had signed in. Florida's Blood Centers (FBC) sent about 45 employees, skilled in registration, health check and drawing blood and the volunteers numbered more than 100. Roundup

Chairman, Raye Deusinger, thanked all for helping the drive to run so smoothly.

In the competition between first responders, the Okeechobee Sheriff's Office will be awarded the traveling trophy for this year, but will have to work to keep it from moving after the 2012 Roundup. In the competition between groups for earning the 1st and 2nd place trophies, Okeechobee High School took 1st Place and the 1st United Methodist Church took 2nd place.

The CEO of FBC, Mike Pratt came down from Orlando to witness the participation of Okeechobee in the Roundup. The 2011 tee shirt featured the cowboy blood drop, complete with boots and lasso, alongside the "Big Red Coach," which, for Okeechobee's sake, replaced the "Big Red Bus" which comes throughout the year.

Russ Colwell, the Donor Director Coordinator for Florida's

Blood Centers said, "Okeechobee is awesome. They are like no other region in their desire to help others. They not only support the Roundup, they continue to give throughout the year. That is why they have made the Roundup the largest volunteer independent community drive in Florida."



Blood donor Donnie Hayes with the grill he won at the Roundup.

Special to the Okeechobee News/Raye Duesinger



Kay McCool was the 500th person to sign in at the Roundup.

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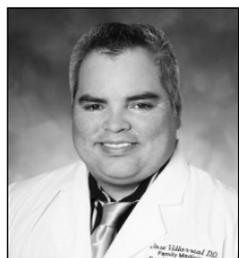
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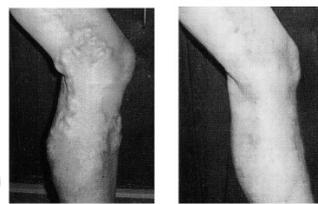
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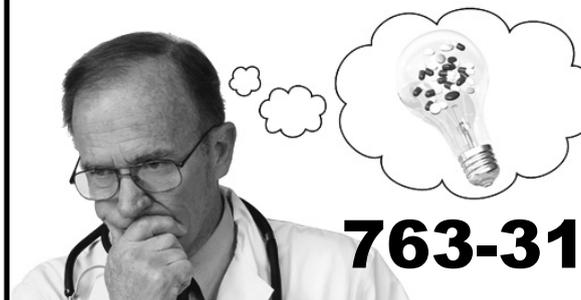
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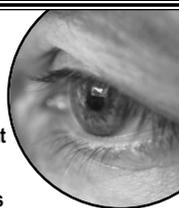
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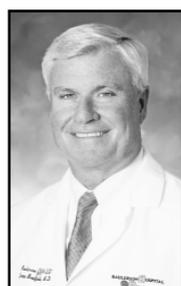
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Churches plan yard sale, speakers, gospel sings, revival

Ministers of other churches and ministries are invited to join the Okeechobee Ministerial Association on the second Wednesday of every month at noon at The Lodge Restaurant.

Church of God of Prophecy has an Open Arms Ministry, 102 N.W. 10TH Street. The Hurting Women's Ministry meets on the second and fourth Friday of each month at 7 p.m. This is ministry for women for all ages who are going through or have been through crisis in their lives. For more information, please call 863-254-8304.

First Indian Baptist Church at Brighton Reservation, 20060 Reservation Road (on south SR 721, 7 miles south of State Road 70, 16 miles west of Okeechobee), will hold their annual Fall Revival, Nov. 23-27. The nightly services will coincide with the

Annual Indian Baptist Weekend Assembly with meetings during the day. Brother Love, a Creek Indian from Oklahoma, will preach. The public is invited to attend the nightly revival services at 7 p.m. Congregational songs will include both English and Creek singing. Music will be led by Jonas Cypress.

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

LIFE Community Church (formerly Grace Brethren Church) 701 S. Parrott Ave. will have their FREE family movie night, Fri-

Mastermind Group Study: Leadership classes to become available locally

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A new activity is coming to Okeechobee, Mastermind Group Study. According to Paul A. Rieck, the sponsor of the group, "It is a group of like-minded individuals who discuss a subject." The subject in this particular case is a discussion of the book "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership" by John C. Maxwell.

Mr. Rieck said these discussions are for anyone in leadership but not necessarily management. They are for anyone in a leadership position in government, church or school, or as Mr. Rieck puts it, "Anyone who calls people to action." The discussion group is for current leaders or those who want to lead.

"Leadership has been a passion of mine," said Mr. Rieck, who has been in the insurance business for 20 years. He said that college does not teach leadership. In order to

be a successful leader a person must learn people skills and leadership skills. "It is a skill not taught that needs to be taught," according to Mr. Rieck.

He said that Dr. Maxwell, who has been a mentor to him, was the pastor of the third largest church in the county. Dr. Maxwell found that his seminary studies taught him theology but did not teach him the leadership skills necessary to build a church. So he began to speak and write about developing leadership skills and certify others to teach. Mr. Rieck became certified through extensive online study and a four-day seminar with Dr. Maxwell.

The group study meets an hour a week for a period of eight weeks beginning on Nov. 29. For more information please call Mr. Rieck at 863-697-9663.

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



Special to the Okeechobee News/FBLA

FBLA cooked for Martha's House

On Tuesday, Nov. 15, nearly 20 members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) volunteered to cook an entire Thanksgiving meal for the residents of Martha's House. Pictured (l to r) are Executive Director of Martha's House, Jonathan Bean, FBLA President Cynthia Leon, FBLA Secretary Alma Garcia, FBLA Treasurer Alexis Torres, FBLA Vice President Maribel Santamaria, and FBLA Advisor Daryl Roehm. Ms. Leon spearheaded the event and was very pleased that all of the members contributed so generously.



Places of Worship

Share your news and photos for this column by email to pgawda@newszap.com

day, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. The movie "Christmas With a Capital C" stars Ted McGinley, Nancy Stafford and Daniel Baldwin. It is the triumph of a small town battling political correctness when their Nativity scene is challenged and Merry Christmas is to be replaced with Happy Holidays. The public is invited.

The **Mark Trammell Quartet** will be in concert on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. at the Church of the Nazarene, at 425 S.W. 28th St. A love offering will be taken. For information, call 863-763-7113.

The **Proclaimers Quartet** is coming to Okeechobee on Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. and Dec. 4, at 10 a.m. They are a unique Southern Gospel Quartet out of Georgia, who have travelled with the Gaithers! They will be at Victory Baptist Church, 500 S.W. 9th St. No admission will be charged, but a love offering will be taken. Contact info: 863-763-0669.

There is a **Community Gospel Sing at the Seventh Day Christian Church**, at 912 N.W. Park St. (Hwy. 70) every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Anyone can participate in singing or playing guitar, banjo, mandolin, fiddle, dobro, and harmonica—come and enjoy!

Fr. Hugh Duffy will give a series of talks on the parables every Thursday night from 7 to 8 p.m. in the pavilion at the **Sacred Heart Catholic Church** at 901 S.W. 6th Street. The talks are ongoing until Thursday, Dec. 15. Everybody is welcome and there is no charge to attend. For more information, call 863-763-3727.

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

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863-697-3207

Dixie Ranch Acres area 3 br house, clean, quiet \$700/mo, \$500 security. Includes water & lawn maintenance. NO DOGS.
Call 863-610-0001

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

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

OKEECHOBEE - GORGEOUS! 4/3/3, New Executive home. Private community. Beautiful new appliances. MUST SEE! 910 SE 11th St. (786)800-6545 or (863)763-6735

Houses - Rent

OKEECHOBEE - 3BR/1BA Duplex, W/D hook-up, central a/c & heat. \$600 mo. + \$500 sec. (863)763-4414.

OKEECHOBEE HAMMOCK - 2br, 2ba, \$800/mo, furnished or unfurn., 1st, last and Sec. Utils 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, Located at 1137 4th Street. Call 561-968-4018

Office Space Rent

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
(863)763-8565

Rental Needed

CLEWISTON - Single retiree, financially secure, looking to rent a room north of Hwy 27 in Clewiston. (863) 228-3909



For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Rent

BUCKHEAD RIDGE - Dbl. Wide 2 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$495 mo. Large 3 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$600 mo. No pets. Yearly lease plus sec. (863)763-4031

RIVER ACRES
2BR/1.5BA, Single, on Kissimmee River, \$600/mo. + sec. & electric. Yearly lease. (863)634-8885

Mobile Home Sale

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

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
Factory Direct Sale
15K-25K Off Models
800-622-2832 ext 210



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

Automobiles



2006 CHEVROLET
CORVETTE Z06 - Rare Black on Black two-tone leather interior. 7.0L V8 RWD 6-spd. 505hp, with a 6 speed manual. Only 23,500 Miles. \$38,900 /neg (813)468-5128



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

Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE

A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on Friday the 9th day of Dec. 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:

2002 PONTIAC SUNFIRE
1G2JB524927339365

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.
403673 ON 11/23/2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 472011CA000021XXXX

COTTAGES AT THE LAKE, CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, Plaintiff,

VS. DARRIN LINCOLN, JENNIFER LINCOLN, "UNKNOWN TENANT #1" and "UNKNOWN TENANT #2" as occupants, real names unknown, and

Public Notice

REQUEST FOR RFQ/RFP

The Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) will receive proposals for the purpose of securing Engineering Services for professional wastewater engineering services for the following:

*Vacuum Station No.1 Rehabilitation

Detailed RFQ/RFP documents are available upon request from the office of the Executive Director, 100 S.W. 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974 (Tel.) 863-763-9460. The OUA intends to review the submittals and reserves the right to reject any or all submittals. The OUA selection committee will rank the submittals and submit them to the OUA Board for consideration. The OUA Board may elect for presentations or select a qualified firm from the submittals presented.

The RFQ/RFP's must be delivered to the Executive Director's office, on or before 4:00 P.M., December 15, 2011. The submittal must be in a sealed envelope with the project description clearly marked on the outside.

John F. Hayward
Executive Director
402749 ON 11/20,23/2011

NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

Okeechobee County, Florida (the "County") hereby provides notice, pursuant to Section 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem special assessments to be levied within the unincorporated area of the County, for the cost of providing any or all of the following services: drainage, road improvements, including, but not limited to roadside ditches, swales, and sidewalks, street lighting, street resurfacing, canal cleaning and canal maintenance, enhanced or substitute solid waste collection and disposal, stormwater treatment and mosquito control, commencing for the fiscal year beginning on October 01, 2012. The County will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting such assessments authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, at a public hearing to be held on **Thursday, December 8, 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, 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida. Such resolution will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property subject to the levy. Copies of the proposed form of resolution, which contains the legal description of the real property subject to the levy, are on file at the Office of the County Clerk of Okeechobee County, Florida. All interested persons are invited to attend.

In the event any person decides to appeal any decision by the Board with respect to any matter relating to the consideration of the resolution at the above-referenced public hearing, a record of the proceeding may be needed and in such an event, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the public hearing is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disability Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to proceeding or call 1-772-807-4370. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1-800-955-8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1-800-955-8770.

Dated this 27th day of October, 2011.

MARGARET GARRARD HELTON, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
401697 ON 11/2,9,16,23/2011

JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in Case No. 472011CA00021XXXX on November 10, 2011, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida in favor of Plaintiff, COTTAGES AT THE LAKE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, and against Defendants, DARRIN LINCOLN and JENNIFER LINCOLN (OWNERS). The clerk will sell the property situated in Okeechobee County, Florida, described as:

That certain Condominium parcel composed of Unit 10, COTTAGES AT THE LAKE, a Condominium, and an undivided interest or share in the common elements appurtenant thereto in accordance with and subject to the covenants, restrictions, limitations, conditions and uses, terms and other provisions of the Declaration of Condominium for COTTAGES AT THE LAKE, a Condominium, recorded in Official Records Book 605, Page 228, Okeechobee County, Florida public Records, together with all the appurtenances to that unit, subject, however, to the provisions of the Declaration of Condominium.

at a public sale, to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, after having first given notice as required by Section 45.031, Florida Statutes, at 11 o'clock a.m., on the 14th day of December, 2011.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

DATED in Okeechobee, Okeechobee County, Florida, this 15th day of November, 2011.

Sharon Robertson
Clerk of Court
By: Sandra L. Crech
Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff
Brennan Grogan, Esquire,
Jay Steven Levine Law Group,
3300 PGA Boulevard, Suite 570,
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.
561-627-3585
403076 ON 11/23/2011

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in the classifieds

Public Notice

Public Notice

CITY PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Okeechobee Park Committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, November 29, 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.cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.

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

By: James E. Kirk, Mayor
Lane Gamliotes, CMC, City Clerk
4030190 ON 11/23/2011

PUBLIC NOTICE CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A CITY ORDINANCE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee, Florida will on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave., Okeechobee, FL conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on and thereafter to consider final reading of the following Ordinance into law: **1077: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, ORDINANCE NO. 635 AS AMENDED, BY REVISING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP ON A CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN FROM SINGLE FAMILY TO MULTI-FAMILY, PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION OF ORDINANCE AND REVISED FUTURE LAND USE MAP IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The Ordinance is regarding Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment Application No. 11-001-SSA, submitted by Lisa Sherman, on behalf of property owner, Good Care Home, Inc., to change the Future Land Use designation from SF to MF, for approximately 0.843 acres, located at 204 SE 7th Street. The proposed use is for a two-family dwelling.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: PARCEL ONE: LOTS 1 TO 5, INCLUSIVE, AND THAT PART OF LOT 6 LYING EAST OF SOUTHEAST 2ND AVENUE AND THE NORTH ONE-HALF OF THE ALLEY ADJACENT TO SAID LOTS 1 TO 5 AND THAT PART OF LOT 6 AND THE WEST ONE-HALF OF THAT PART OF CHEROKEE STREET LYING ADJACENT TO LOT 1 (CLOSED BY ACTION OF CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA, IN ORDINANCE NO. 332 AND BY OKEECHOBEE COUNTY COMMISSION BY RESOLUTION RECORDED IN O.R. BOOK 128, PAGE 358, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA) ALL IN BLOCK M, IN THE SUBDIVISION OF CENTRAL PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 39, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. PARCEL TWO: LOTS 7 LYING EAST OF SOUTHEAST 2ND AVENUE AND ALL OF LOT 8, AND THE SOUTH ONE-HALF OF THE ALLEY ADJACENT TO SAID PORTION OF LOT 7 AND ALL OF LOT 8 AND THE WEST ONE-HALF OF THE PART OF CHEROKEE STREET LYING ADJACENT TO LOT 8 (CLOSED BY ACTION OF CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA, IN ORDINANCE NO. 332 AND BY OKEECHOBEE COUNTY COMMISSION BY RESOLUTION RECORDED IN O.R. BOOK 128, PAGE 358, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA) ALL IN BLOCK M, IN THE SUBDIVISION OF CENTRAL PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 39, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained from the City website www.cityofokeechobee.com, or contact Administration, (863) 763-3372 x 212. A copy of the entire application(s) is available at the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website www.cityofokeechobee.com, 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 Gamliotes, CMC, City Clerk
403666 ON 11/23/2011

The personal property also includes a 2022 Dodge Truck, Vehicle Identification Number 3B6MF36C02M296354, a 2001 Dodge Vehicle Identification Number 1B7K2F3691J612910, and a 2006 Chevrolet Truck, Vehicle Identification Number 1GB4C3206F420683. (the "Personal Property")

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of a written defense, if any, to Joey E. Schlosberg, Esquire, Adams and Reese LLP, 150 Second Avenue North, 17th Floor, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701, within 30 days from the date of this Notice, and file the original with the Clerk of 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 Plaintiff's Complaint.

Dated this day of October 2011.

SHARON ROBERTSON,
CLERK OF COURT
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY,
FLORIDA

By: DEPUTY CLERK

Joey E. Schlosberg, Esquire
Florida Bar No. 79685
Adams and Reese LLP
150 Second Avenue North,
17th Floor
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
Telephone: (727) 502-8255
Facsimile: (727) 502-8955
Attorneys for Plaintiff

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
403477 ON 11/23/2011

Public Notice

Public Notice

Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Sandra L. Crech
Deputy Clerk

Florida Default Law Group, P.L.
P.O. Box 25018
Tampa, Florida 33622-5018
F0040998-GMAC CONW-Team 3
See 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 Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
402225 ON 11/16,23/2011

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. CASE NO. 2011-CA-200

RAYMOND M. REYER, JR., and JUDITH R. REYER, his wife, Plaintiffs,
VS.
DAWN COLLINS, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, and FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE, and the unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors and all other parties claiming by through under or against EUGENE JR COLLINS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment dated November 10, 2011, and entered in Case No. 2011-CA-200 of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein RAYMOND M. REYER, JR., and JUDITH R. REYER, his wife, are the Plaintiffs, and DAWN COLLINS, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE, and the unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors and all other parties claiming by through under or against EUGENE JR COLLINS, deceased, are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at

Public Notice

the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 N.W. 3rd STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, (Second Floor- Jury Assembly Room) (863-763-2131) at 11:00 A.M. on the 14th day of December 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

Lot 38, PLATTS BLUFF RANCHES, as per survey thereof recorded in Official Records Book 171, Page 877 and also recorded in Book 172, page 343, public records of Okeechobee County, Florida, and a 2005 double wide GEMA mobile home ID # GNMHG10460239A and GMMHG10460239B, Florida Title Nos. 95047558 and 95047607
Parcel ID No. 1-25-36-33-0010-000038-0000

Property Address:
6490 NW 151st Terrace,
Okeechobee, Florida 34972

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
Dated November 15, 2011.

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
SHARON ROBERTSON
By: Sandra L. Crech
Deputy Clerk
403084 ON 11/23,20/2011

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LOWNDOS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF
BABY BOY THOMAS,
a male MINOR CHILD
DOB: October 10, 2011

Public Notice

POB: Valdosta, GA
LEGAL MOTHER:
VERONICA ANNIS THOMAS
CIVIL ACTION FILE NO.: 2011A29

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

FLORIDA, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

TO: DUSTIN LEE ORVIS, NAMED BIRTH FATHER OF BABY BOY THOMAS, whose whereabouts are unknown.

You are hereby advised that a petition for adoption has been filed and commenced in this Court. Said petition seeks to terminate your rights and obligations in respect to the child, and of the child arising to him from the potential parental relationship, including the right to inheritance, and that the child be placed for purposes of adoption with petitioners.

You will lose all rights to the child and will neither receive notice or be entitled to object to the adoption of the child, unless, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice, you file: (1) a petition to legitimize the child pursuant to Code Section 19-7-22 in the Superior Court of Lowndes County; (2) notice of the filing of the petition to legitimize with the Superior Court of Lowndes County, Georgia, at 327 North Ashley Street, Valdosta, Georgia 31601; and (3) provide notice of the filing to Patricia McCorvey Karras, Attorney at Law, 701 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, Georgia 31601.

You are further advised that, if the child is legitimated and in the subsequent adoption proceeding, the petition for adoption is either withdrawn with prejudice or denied by the court, then a surrender of parental rights final release for adoption executed by the mother pursuant to the provision of subsection (a) of Code Section 19-8-4, 19-8-5, or 19-8-7 shall be dissolved by operation of law, and her parental rights shall be restored to her. The fact that the legal mother executed a surrender of parental rights final release for adoption, now dissolved, shall not be admissible evidence in any proceeding against the legal mother.

PATRICIA MCCORVEY KARRAS
DOVER MILLER STONE
KARRAS & LANGDALE, P.C.
P.O. Box 729
Valdosta, GA 31603-0729
402477 ON 11/9,16,23/2011

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Witness My Hand and the seal of this Court on November 3, 2011.
Sharon Robertson

Community Events

Annual Hamfest in the Woods planned

The Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club will hold their annual "Hamfest in the Woods" on Saturday, Nov. 26, at Freedom Ranch, 11655 U.S. 441 S.E., beginning at 8 a.m. Entry to the hamfest is \$5 per person and includes free parking. Tailgating (selling from your car or truck) is an additional \$5. per space. If you have radios, electronics, computers or antennas to sell in the Okeechobee area, this is the place to be and the day to be there. There will be a 50/50 drawing and several prizes given away during the event, food is available for sale, along with lots of things to see. If you have an interest in amateur radio, a hamfest is a great way to learn more about it. For more information, contact Tom Timmons (N3RHV) at timmons@dtimmons.com

Small Business Saturday announced

The Second Small Business Saturday® is a day dedicated to supporting small businesses on one of the busiest shopping week-ends of the year. On **Nov. 26**, we're asking millions of Americans to shop small at their favorite local stores and help fuel the economy. When we all shop small, it will be huge. The following website (<http://smallbusiness-saturday.com/>) provides access to all types of marketing material for your usage.

Orchid Club plans to meet

The Orchid Club will meet on Monday, **Nov. 28**, at 7 p.m. at the Extension Office, 451 U.S. 98 N. The Garden Club will begin at 6 p.m. Please bring your favorite orchid or a problem orchid to discuss. For more information call 863-763-6469

Dine with the Doctor lecture set for Nov. 29

On Tuesday, Nov. 29, Raulerson Hospital will host its monthly physician lecture series, Dine with the Doctor. During Dine with the Doctor, local physicians speak to the community regarding various health topics. These informative sessions are open to the public. The physicians usually have a question and answer session following their topics. Dine with the Doctor is held in Raulerson Hospital's Cafeteria. Each Dine with the Doctor begins with Raulerson Hospital serving a dinner for \$5 per person at 4:30 p.m. At 5 p.m., the physician begins his/her medical lecture. The physician lecture is free. This month's Dine with the Doctor speaker is Dr. Manual Garcia, MD. Dr. Garcia is a general surgeon, he will speak about many of the surgical services available at Raulerson Hospital and more. To RSVP for Dine with the Doctor, contact 800-449-8642.

Shrine Club plans dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club will offer a delicious spaghetti dinner Tuesday, **Nov. 29** beginning at 4 p.m. The Shrine now offers SMOKE FREE dining. Music is provided from 5 to 8 p.m., for your listening and dancing pleasure. All proceeds go to Shrine benefits. For more information, contact the Shrine Club at 863-763-3378.

'Think Tank' group will host meeting

Free Mastermind Group Study on "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership" by John C. Maxwell, facilitated by: Paul A. Rieck. This is for individuals who are focused on taking results in every area of their lives to a new level. The group study is for an hour a week for a period of eight weeks beginning on **Nov. 29**. Please call Paul at 863-697-9663 for more information.

VNA hosts diabetes program

Living With Diabetes will be presented by Wanda Haas, RN CDE at Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility, 203 S.E. Second St. on Wednesday, **Nov. 30**, located in the dining room at 1:30 p.m. Offered by the Visiting Nurses Association.

Martha's House huge yard sale Dec. 1 and 2

Due to Thanksgiving, Martha's House Monthly huge yard sale will be held on Thursday/Friday, **Dec. 1 and 2**, from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at 4134 U.S. 441 N. For more information, contact 863-763-2893.

OCA to host annual 'spaghetti' fundraiser

Okeechobee Christian Academy will be having our 16th annual spaghetti lunch and dinner **Dec. 2 and 3**. On Friday you may pick up your lunch from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Deliveries are available for 5 or more lunch orders. On Saturday, please join us for dinner and a bake sale from 3 to 7 p.m. During dinner our silent auction will be taking place from 3-6 p.m. Tickets are available for a \$7 donation. Please come and support our school, we look forward to seeing you.

Seminole Elementary to host Family Fun Night on Dec. 2

Family Fun Night at Seminole Elementary is planned for Friday, **Dec. 2**, from 6-8 p.m. Come to have your picture taken with Santa. There will be games, prizes, food, and more.

Library plans reading and book signing night Dec. 3

Come share a slice of your ORIGINAL fiction (short story or section of a novel), poetry, play or memoir. Material must be suitable for all ages. 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3 in the library meeting room. Each person is allotted five minutes to read. This is about 500 words or two pages typed and double spaced. Readers will be in order of registration which begins at 1:40 p.m., in the library meeting room. At the end of the event a book signing for published authors will be held. Authors are responsible for their own book sales. Everyone is invited to come read or just listen to Okeechobee authors. If you have questions please call Jan Day Fehrman at 863-357-9980.

4-H to host annual yard sale

The Annual 4-H yard sale will take place on Saturday, **Dec. 3**, from 8 a.m. until noon. The sale will be held in the parking lot of the Mims Veterinary Hospital at 275 S.W. 32nd St, Okeechobee. Household items, books, toys, and clothes will be among the many items for sale. All proceeds will benefit the Okeechobee County 4-H program.

Thrift Store needs donations

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

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CAC014022
CAC057129

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CITY CUTS LLC

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863-467-0418

105 SW 3rd Ave.



Cheri Stevens

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Glades Health Care Center

Skilled Long & Short Term Care Facility

Jody Carter, Assistant, C.E.O.

230 South Barfield Hwy. • Pahokee

Other facilities in Gainesville & Bradenton

PHONE: 561-924-5561

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Local donations helping Local people

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Facebook page unites families of veterans

By Katrina Elskan
Okeechobee News

As more Okeechobee area residents learn how to navigate the online social network, new groups are forming to share common interests. One local Facebook Page, Okeechobee Blue Stars, is for those who have family members serving in the United States military.

The members post photos of their loved ones, share stories and offer support to those whose family members are in harm's way.

Melanie Heaton is the page administrator.

"From a thought to an idea... to a facebook group... This is a place for Okeechobee folks and others who wish to participate. We are not excluding people, just the opposite! If you have a family member, close friend or loved one serving or having served this country, you are welcome to this group. Here we can say what we think about, brag a little, lean on each other when times are tough," explained Ms. Heaton.

Many of the posts are personal. "My son is a 1990 graduate of Okeechobee High School and has been serving in the USAF ever since. His beautiful wife Richele is in the USAF. They are the best of the best. I couldn't be prouder of my son," wrote Carol Wood-Koob.

"It has been 11 years since my son entered the army! He has been deployed four times and he met his lovely wife in the service and now they have two beautiful kids. He has fought very hard for his country and we are very proud of him," wrote Lynn Wilson.

Some posts are a call for action. "Here's a number that is NOT a game ... 5825. This is the number of service personnel KILLED in Iraq and Afghanistan protecting YOU! Now this is a status I'd like to see on everyone's page!" wrote Belinda Pedretti.

Inspirational videos are popular on the site. A video of the Air National Guard of the Central States Rock Band had plenty of "likes." Also getting attention is a video of Red Skelton's Pledge of Allegiance. "Homecoming" videos are popular. Blue Star page fans agreed they love to watch the homecomings, even though the videos make them cry.

Photos shared include pictures of local service members, and links to online photos with military themes such as a dog lying by the casket at his Navy SEALs owner's funeral and the guard standing watch at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier despite the high winds and rain of Hurricane Irene.

In the Military ...

Shockley completes training

Pfc. Justin Shockley graduated from basic training with the U.S. Marine Corps on Nov. 18 at Paris Island, S.C. He will go on to Marine Combat Training at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.



Pfc. Justin Shockley

Pfc. Shockley is a 2011 graduate of Okeechobee High School. He is the son of Lisa Abner and Michael Shockley.

The page also recently included posts asking everyone to vote for J.R. Martinez on "Dancing with the Stars." Their favorite dancing star is a military veteran who was burned on 40 percent of his body when the humvee he was riding in hit a landmine and

exploded. Mr. Martinez, who had 33 surgeries to rebuild his face, is now a motivational speaker and an actor. As it turns out, he can also dance.

"He is truly inspiring," wrote Mrs. Heaton.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Seminole Veterans help Indiantown VFW

The Florida Seminole Veterans recently made a donation to the Raymond E. Darling VFW Post 6023 -Indiantown, Fla. Building Fund during their Veteran's Day Celebration on Nov. 7, 2011 on the Brighton Reservation. The VFW Post 6023 located in Indiantown had been recently hit and destroyed by a tornado. Pictured left to right is John W. Huff, Sr., Sammie Gopher, Billy F. Blake (VFW Post 6023), Jack Smith, Jr., David Nunez, Jr., David S. Shelton (VFW Post 6023), Stanlo Johns, Eddie Shore, Moses B. Osceola and Ted Nelson, Sr.

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

AAA helps protect roadways over holidays

Free Ride Home for Drunk Drivers and their Cars is Nov. 24 through Jan. 2

AAA and Budweiser will help protect roadways during the Thanksgiving weekend and throughout the holiday season with the Tow to Go program. Tow to Go has safely removed more than 16,000 drunk drivers off roadways since the program began in 1998. Anyone, AAA member or not, can call for a Tow to Go ride, Thursday, Nov. 24 through Monday, Jan. 2.

Tow to Go provides a confidential ride and tow home from any bar or restaurant – FREE of charge – to anyone who may have had too much to drink by calling 1-800-AAA-HELP (4357). Services are offered throughout Florida, Georgia, and West and Middle Tennessee.

“The busiest time for the Tow to Go program is during the upcoming holiday season when more than 70 percent of the call volume is received,” said Joanna Newton, Tow to Go program manager, The Auto Club Group. “We have decided once again to offer the Tow to Go services from Thanksgiving weekend through New Year’s Day to anyone who may need it. This holiday season, we encourage everyone to give the gift of a safe ride home by being a designated driver or telling a friend about Tow to Go, if they may have had too much to drink.”

“The Tow to Go program is a simple and effective way to promote the use of designated drivers and help prevent drunk driving,” said Kathy Casso, vice president of Corporate Social Responsibility for Anheuser-Busch. AAA and Budweiser encourage individuals to plan for a safe celebration, before they go out, by being or choosing a designated driver, or calling Tow to Go for a safe ride home.

If you are hosting a holiday party, the following tips will help you and your guests enjoy the festivities responsibly:

- Plan ahead to accommodate guests: Encourage your guests to designate a driver before the party, whether it’s a taxi or a ride from a friend. If they don’t have a ride and had too much to drink, call them a taxi or ask them to spend the night.

- Offer something for everyone: Whether it’s soda, tea or water, offer your guests non-alcohol options. Provide food throughout the night, so no one is drinking on an empty stomach.

- Serve one drink at a time: Refreshing unfinished glasses may feel like you’re being an attentive host, but people can easily lose track of how much alcohol they’ve consumed.

- The Auto Club Group (ACG) is the second largest AAA club in North America. ACG and its affiliates provide membership, travel, insurance and financial services offerings to approximately 8.5 million members across 11 states and two U.S. territories including Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; most of Illinois, Minnesota and Tennessee; and a portion of Indiana. ACG belongs to the national AAA federation with nearly 53 million members in the United States and Canada and whose mission includes protecting and advancing freedom of mobility and improving traffic safety.



Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Bringing it home

Okeechobee County School District Schools have gotten the job done in the Community Food Drive. Local students brought in and donated food to help feed those less fortunate. Central Elementary students topped the list with the most food in weight brought in with 2,545 lbs. South Elementary had a total weight of 1,678 lbs. Seminole Elementary had 1,384 lbs., Everglades Elementary brought in 1,357 lbs., Okeechobee High School tallied 1,223 lbs. in food donations and Okeechobee Achievement Academy came in with 735 lbs. The total was—8,922 lbs! Congratulations and thank you to all who participated.

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