



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 150

Friday, December 16, 2011

50¢ Plus tax

**Obstructed tag leads to felony drug arrest**

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**School board honors longtime educators**

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**Toys for Tots distribution**

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**OHS girls golf team honored**

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**Lake Levels**

**13.78 feet**

Last Year: 12.54 feet

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Submitted photo

## Tough Mudders!

Deputy Lieutenant Gary Bell (center, gray T-shirt), from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, looks down as other Tough Mudder participants struggle to scale a 45-foot-high mountain of hay. Lt. Bell was a member of a team made up of other OCSO deputies, officers from the Seminole Police Department, and deputies from the Broward and Martin county sheriff's offices that took part in the Dec. 3 & 4 Tough Mudder event in Tampa. The course, which takes the average 'Mudder' about three hours to complete, was 12 miles in length and was made up of 28 different obstacles. For the story, see page 18.



Okeechobee News/file photo

In 2010, (left to right) Brandon Smith, Travis Mauldin and Cody Beasley were given awards for bravery from the Fort Pierce Chief of Police. On Wednesday they were named among this year's winners of the Carnegie Medal.

## Okeechobee teens honored as heroes

### Mauldin, Beasley and Smith to receive Carnegie Medal

PITTSBURGH, PA—In its fourth and final award announcement of 2011, on Dec. 14 the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission named 18 individuals as recipients of the Carnegie Medal. The medal is given throughout the United States and Canada to those who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others.

The heroes announced Wednesday bring to 83 the number of awards made in 2011 and to 9,495 the total number of awards since the Pittsburgh-based Fund's inception in 1904.

Commission President Mark Laskow stated that each of the

awardees will also receive a financial grant. Throughout the 107 years since the Fund was established by industrialist-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, \$33.9 million has been given in one-time grants, scholarship aid, death benefits, and continuing assistance.

Youngest of the awardees named Wednesday are three teenage boys from Okeechobee, Travis James Mauldin, Cody Alan Beasley, and Brandon M. Smith, who saved a woman from drowning, in Fort Pierce on August 17, 2010.

At night, a 41-year-old woman jumped 75 feet from off the Seaway Drive Bridge into the Indian River Lagoon and was swept away by a strong tidal current. Travis, 17; Cody, 17; and Brandon, 16, all high school students, were fishing from a catwalk below the bridge

See HEROES — Page 18

# Steve Hoskins

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Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

### Teacher and Employee of the Year

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, South Elementary held a school-wide assembly to honor our Teacher of the Year and Non-Instructional Employee of the year for 2011-12. The school selected Tammy Thomas (right photo) - First Grade Teacher and Teresa McCloskey (left photo) - Computer Lab Manager to represent our school. They are both individuals who excel in their assigned duties. We are very proud of them. Congratulations!

### Okeechobee Forecast

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**Today:** Patchy fog before 7 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 79. Calm wind becoming east southeast between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Patchy fog after 4am. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 61. East northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.



#### Extended Forecast

**Saturday:** Patchy fog before 7 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 80. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

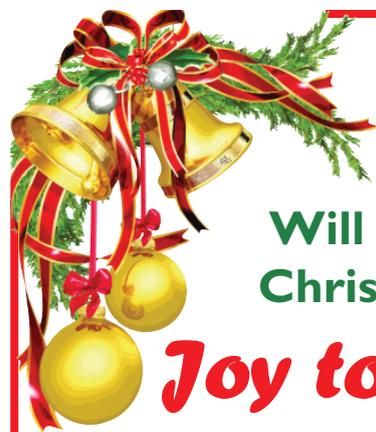
**Saturday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Sunday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

#### Health and Safety Expo

The Fifth Annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo is looking for vendors. Vendors can choose booth space inside or outside the Agri Civic Center. Please call 763-462-5000 ext. 257.



### The Okeechobee Community Choir

Under the Direction of Sandy Perry,  
Will Present Its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Christmas Cantata Concert

## Joy to All the World

Dec. 16 & 17 • 7PM ♦ Dec. 18 • 3PM

First United Methodist Church • 200 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> ST • Okeechobee  
(Northwest of Walgreen's at the Intersection of US 441 & SR 70)

The beautiful blend of 48 voices comprising this season's choir represents singers from fifteen local churches.

Frank Carter, a very talented concert pianist, arranger, composer & Director of Arts & Music at Good Shepherd United Methodist of West Palm Beach has once again composed the Christmas cantata as he did for Easter. In addition to accompanying, Frank will sing and play some of his Christmas arrangements.

Nicolle Wood will again share her unique talents as our inspiring narrator. Singers from the audience will be invited to join the choir in singing the final selection, Handel's *Hallelujah! Chorus*.

A love offering will be taken to cover advertising costs.  
For more information, call Sandy at 634-7714



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# School board honored retiring educators

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board honored six long-time educators with close to 200 years of service to the district, honored a state golf champion, and named a new Director of Student Services when they held their monthly meeting Tuesday night at the school board offices.

Among the educators honored were Director of Exceptional Student Education, Cathleen Blair who served the district for 39 years, Virginia Bryant, Guidance Counselor at OHS who served the district for 35 years, Sharon Flynn, Reading Coach at South Elementary School who served for 38 years, Letta Jordan, a kindergarten teacher at Seminole Elementary who taught for 35, Natalie Moody, Teacher of Pre-K Handicapped and ESE for 22 years, and David Robertson, who served 20 years, most recently as a social studies teacher at Okeechobee High.

The educators admitted they will miss their careers and the service they gave to children. Many of them stated they are excited about new adventures in their life.

Ms. Flynn said she will remember the journey she had here in Okeechobee. She actually taught for 45 years. She said she will remember all the children and all of the districts great leaders.

"South Elementary will do just fine. I think I'm really happy to be able to retire and leave it in good hands," she said.

Mrs. Bryant said it will be different to not get up early every morning, coming to work, and talking to her students. She said she was proud she was able to help nine graduating

classes receive scholarship and gain entry into college.

"I will look back with fond memories and look forward to moving into some new areas. Helping these young people have really made my life. It has been a good career," she added.

Superintendent Ken Kenworthy said the kids will miss the experience of these educators. He applauded Ms. Blair for her work with the ESE Department.

Richard Donegan was honored for his recent state golf championship in Class 2A, the first golfer to ever win state at OHS. He is being highly recruited by Stetson, Louisiana-Monroe, Maryland and other universities. He will also be named Treasure Coast Golfer of the Year later this week. He said he really enjoyed the recognition from Okeechobee community leaders.

"It was really nice and I'm glad to be honored by a committee such as this. There is no higher honor," he added.

Renee Geeting was named the new Director of Student Services to replace Joni Ard who was promoted to Assistant Superintendent. The appointment opens up the position of principal at South Elementary School.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity. It's a new adventure and I get to work with students of all ages which are something I really enjoy," she stated.

Ms. Geeting started her career as a teacher for Martin County School and then became a migrant advocate before taking a job at South Elementary as assistant principal. She has been the principal there for the past six years. "It was a very difficult decision to leave South because it is a fantastic school. We have a saying there that great students, great staff, and great parents equal a great school and I really believe that," she added.

Mr. Kenworthy said the principal position will only be available to in-house applicants. He said the position is currently being advertised.

"We are pleased with local applicants. They know the community and are established here. Having knowledge of the school district is a real plus because Florida has a lot of different rules than other states," he added.

The annual employee recognition banquet will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11, at Osceola Middle School.

Parents of local students can keep track of their student's spending habits in the lunchroom thanks to the approval of an agreement between the school board and PAMS Lunchroom, LLC. This will allow parents to prepay for the meals their students receive at school online. The web-based prepayment options allows parents to replenish payment to student meal accounts and allows them to track the history of their children's meals and a la carte purchases. It also will reduce substantially the time used by school staff to receive post and track student account cash and check payments. Mr. Kenworthy said it would also reduce the amount of time on the lunch line. Chairperson Kelly Owens said many parents will be interested to see how their money is being spent and suggested they might be surprised how much is spent on snacks.

The board voted to expel a ninth grade student at Okeechobee Achievement Academy until next November for assault and battery on a school board employee and another freshman until the end of the semester for defiance of authority.

Riverside Land Maintenance won a \$28,000 bid to provide lawn care services for Okeechobee High School for the next three years. The board received five bids and the low bid was \$800 less than their current contract.

The board also honored All State Elementary Chorus members Ada Cobo-Alfonso and Molly Spearow, fourth graders at Central Elementary School, and their teacher Karen VanBeek.

The board also will give certificates to senior volleyball players Rebekah Bryan, Paige McCrary and Maranda Serrano who were members of the District Runners Up squad this year.

In business actions, the school board scheduled a budget workshop for Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 5 p.m. They hold their regular monthly meeting on Jan. 17, at 6 pm.

The board also approved an amendment to their interlocal agreement with Okeechobee County and the City of Okeechobee that suspends the imposition and collection of impact fees for public education facilities.

The board also extended the suspension without pay of bus driver Judith Austin through Jan. 17.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Tabatha Henry (right) was honored for winning the District Cross Country Championship by School Superintendent Ken Kenworthy.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
David Robertson (right) was honored for 20 years of service to Okeechobee Schools by Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy. He has 31 years of service to education.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Letta Jordan (right), kindergarten teacher at Seminole Elementary School, retired after 35 years in teaching. She is honored by Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy.

**Brahman Theatres III**  
**Dec. 16<sup>TH</sup> - Dec. 22<sup>ND</sup>**  
**For Info, Call 763-7202** **MOVIE LISTINGS**

**THEATRE I: "SHERLOCK HOLMES"**  
 Fri. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.  
 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG-13**

**THEATRE II: "ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS"**  
 Fri. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.  
 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **G**

**THEATRE III: "NEW YEARS EVE"**  
 Fri. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.  
 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG-13**

**"MISSION IMPOSSIBLE"**  
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## Public Forum/Speak Out

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

### Christmas lights

• Thank you to everyone else who can and does decorate, I know my family appreciates it more than you will ever know!

### Letters to Santa

• Dear Santa, I do not need anything. However, I do have plenty of wants. Please give a present to someone that needs it.

• Dear Santa, All I want for Christmas is a fat wallet and a thin body, and please don't mix them up again like you did last year.

### First Christmas

• Isn't that the former stomping grounds of the Three Wise Men where all the fighting is going on?

• It's hard to believe that the part of the world where algebra was invented is a place that is now mired in tribal warfare. There must have been some type of peace there centuries ago. Otherwise, people would not have cared that X cannot equal Y if all they had to think about was not getting killed. Just staying alive would have been top priority.

### New businesses

• Until the state builds the infrastructure, there won't be any major companies coming in here. Anywhere along the coast they have I-95, the Turnpike, ports and major airports. Nobody is going to put a fleet of trucks bringing in material or hauling out finished goods over a bunch of secondary, two-lane roads, except milk, sod or citrus.

• There was good news at the county commission meeting yesterday. The college wants to expand and offer more degrees at the Okeechobee campus. That would be a big help for the people here who want to further their education, and could help provide a more skilled workforce for new employers. Plus the people who work at the college would probably buy homes here and live in Okeechobee.

### Jobs

• Are commissioners doing anything to attract new businesses to Okeechobee? How many business owners are on the city and county commissions? Why would they want to attract any good businesses—jobs with good pay and employee benefits—to this area? All that would mean is that the commissioners would have to pay their current and future employees more in pay and benefits to remain competitive. That would be money out of their pockets. Even if none of the commissioners own businesses, they still get input from current business owners.

• A good businessman would encourage new business and new industry because those well-paid employees could spend some of that money in his business. Eventually he might have to pay his employees more to compete, BUT he should be making enough in increased business to pay them more. Also, the industries with higher paying jobs require employees with specific education and training, so it's not like everyone in town would be qualified to apply for the new jobs. Some would be willing to go back to school to get the necessary training, but not everyone would be willing or able to do that. So I don't think there would be a shortage of potential employees for all of the available jobs.

### Adultery, character & politics

• Newt has more character deficiencies than cheating on/divorcing two wives. There are better choices in the GOP field than him for president.

• What about making excuses for being immoral. Of course ole Newt will make out anyway.

• What about blaming one's predecessors for everything you have done to ruin the country. Many Democrats do just that, and isn't it immoral to not accept responsibility and to lie, as our current leader does every time he draws a breath?

• Considering the infamous history of adultery among Democrats such as JFK and Clinton, I don't think the Democrats should be throwing any mud regarding infidelity. I really don't think you can judge a person's ability to do a job by their person's personal life.

• Then why is Cain no longer in the running?

• So two wrongs make it right?

## Letters to the editor

### New train station

I know this is not an Okeechobee issue and I will contact the proper authority, but why in the world doesn't our new beautiful train station have cigarette butt disposal containers and why is there not one single chair or bench? The answer to the last question is: to keep transients from sleeping there but - when I get to the station, and it has to be early of course, after rushing and carrying suitcases, it sure would be nice to have a place to sit down. How ridiculous! Okee residents. If you haven't been by to see the new facility, go by, pick up any litter you see, and appreciate what Amtrak has done. It was so very much needed and so very much appreciated. P.S. I don't pick up anybody's cigarette butts, but there is no place to discard them except on the ground, duh.

Subject number two: I just can't believe what I saw today: a person at an automatic coin counter unwrapping the rolled, putting them in the machine to count and cash them in. If they are already rolled, they don't need counting! Don't people know that the machine is taking a percentage of the money for that convenience, and that you can take it to your bank and they will do the same for you with no cost or charges. I have even seen parents cashing in their children's piggy banks at the same machine. My goodness, one could count the money with the children for a fun and educating thing to do or in the evening in front of the television instead of taking the hard saved coins and letting the machine take their commission. Stupid is as stupid does, or something like that.

**Joyce Bussell**  
Okeechobee



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

### 20 years service

Andrew Silvas was honored for 20 years of service to the Okeechobee Utility Authority by board chairman Steve Nelson on Tuesday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

### Seven years service

OUA chairman Steve Nelson honored Frank Irby for over seven years of service to the utility board during a brief ceremony on Dec. 13 at the OUA meeting.

### Rylee's Hope

President Lyle Fried (right) extended a warm Rotary welcome to guest speaker Lee Jolicoeur, founder and director of Rylee's Hope, a 501(c)3 non-profit ministry formed to help with the basic, financial, emotional, and spiritual needs of families who currently have or have had babies in the neo-natal intensive care unit (NICU), and families who have experienced the unexpected birth and/or death of a baby. Please feel free to contact Lee or Shana Jolicoeur by phone 863-634-6887.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Tabitha Trent

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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**Website:** [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

#### To Submit News

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

**E-Mail:** [okeenews@newszap.com](mailto:okeenews@newszap.com)

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The Okeechobee News is available three times a week via home delivery and is on sale at rack and store locations throughout Okeechobee County. Call the office to find out if your home is within our present home-distribution boundaries.

Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.

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

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#### Staff

**Editor:** Katrina Elsen  
**Circulation Manager:** Janet Madray  
**Publisher:** Tom Byrd

#### Our Purpose...

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

#### We Pledge...

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

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



# Holiday Happenings...

## Santa to visit Flagler Park

The Kiwanis will sponsor **Santa** in Flagler Park! Santa will be available for children and pictures on Dec. 17 and Dec. 19-23 from 6 to 8 p.m.

## Toys for Tots distribution Saturday

Toys for Tots distribution will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Okeechobee Agri Civic Center off S.R. 710 from 11 -3. Children must be present and proof of Okeechobee residency is required. For more information please call 863-634-5852.

## Big Lake Missions sponsors toy drive

Big Lake Mission Outreach is sponsoring their 16th annual toy drive for the needy children in our community.

We screen our families for needs and the gifts are to be placed under the tree for Christmas Day. We need new gift for ages infant to teen.

Donations can be toys, gift cards, gifts suitable for teens or checks should be made out to: Big Lake Missions Outreach. Donations of toys, gifts and food will be accepted through Dec. 20.

For more information, you may call 863-763-5725. Pick up and receipts are available upon request.

## Community Choir presents Christmas Cantata

A cantata that was recently composed by Frank & Brooke Carter especially for the Okeechobee Community Choir will be presented at the First United Methodist Church of Okeechobee on Friday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. and, Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. Tickets will NOT be required for admission. For more information, call Sandy Perry at 863-634-7714.

## Christmas boat parade set for Dec. 17

The annual Okeechobee lighted boat parade, sponsored by the Yatchette Club, will be held this year on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m., on Taylor Creek, beginning at S.R. 70 behind Burger King. The parade will travel up Taylor Creek ending at the VFW. Boats should be decorated with a holiday theme. For questions or further information please call Susie at 352-209-9582.

## Help a child for Christmas

If you would like to help a foster or needy child for Christmas, please consider making a toy or gift donation to My Aunt's House (501c3). Approximately 300 children receive Christmas through My Aunt's House each year. For information, call 863-634-2306.

## Library hosting Storytime with Santa

**Santa Claus** is coming to the Library for Storytime on Wednesday, **Dec. 21**, at 3:30 p.m. Kids of all ages welcome!

## Christmas Around the World event planned

Children and families are invited to the multi-cultural celebration of **'Christmas Around the World'** on the grounds of Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 5 through 7 p.m. The evening begins with a charming live nativity pageant. The pageant is followed by a variety show of delightful performances by American, Colombian, Mexican, Bolivian, Irish and Filipino entertainers.

The evening will conclude with Santa Claus delivering gifts to the children 12 and under and everybody joining in a lively version of Feliz Navidad and Joy the World.

## Candlelight Service planned

**Okeechobee Christian Church** will have a special candlelight service on Dec. 24. An inspirational message will be given by pastor Jim McCutchen; as well as a special music service. Communion will be served at that time. Then Christmas day after you have opened your gifts at home, come join us to share the true gift of Christmas, the good news of our Savior. Service begins at 10:30 a.m.

## Historic ornaments on sale

The Okeechobee Retired Teacher's Annual Historic Christmas Ornament is now in and available for your Christmas Tree! This year's numbered and limited edition orna-

ment honors the 1914 Florida East Coast Railroad Station. This station was the reason "Tantie" became "Okeechobee." The cost of the ornament is \$15 and previous year ornaments are also available. You may also purchase an ornament from any OREA member or its President, Gay Carlton at 863-763-5755.

## Bell ringers needed

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



### PENTECOSTAL

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**Okeechobee Church of God**  
Sunday Services 8:30 & 10:45 AM  
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Pastors Mark and Madonna Smith  
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**Special Christmas Worship Service**  
Friday, Dec. 23 at 7 p.m.

**NO Service Christmas Day**  
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### EPISCOPAL

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### NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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*Life Community Church*  
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Pastor Jim Waters

### CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Bible Study 6:30pm  
Sunday Evening Service 6:00pm  
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www.bhrchristianchurch.org

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Welcome  
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Come and share in the word of God  
**Trinity Free Will Baptist Church**  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Sunday Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Bible Study 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 pm  
Pastor : Thomas Dees  
1840 N.E. 39th Blvd (Cemetery Rd)  
Okeechobee, Florida 34972  
Telephone: 863-763-4962

## Community Events

### Businesswomen's network meets

The Okeechobee Businesswomen's Referral Network will hold their Christmas meeting Friday, **Dec. 16**, at The Lodge. Networking time begins at 11:30 a.m. Each woman is asked to bring an unwrapped gift for a child from infant to teen which will be donated to Guardian ad Litem for distribution to area children. The meeting usually lasts until 1 p.m. This is your opportunity to let others know about your business and your promotions. For further information, call Raye at 863-610-2176.

### Conkerr Cancer plans yard sale

ConKerr Cancer will have its final yard sale of the year on Friday, **Dec. 16**, at 2704 S.E. 34th Lane in Taylor Creek Isles from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. There are many nice items remaining from the previous sale in November and everything will be marked down 50 percent. For more information, call Joan at 863-467-0290.

### Eagles to host steak night

Friday, Dec. 16, Eagles North will host their weekly Friday night Steak Night on Dec. 16. Music and fun. Come join us from 6 until 9 p.m., steaks, then music. Proceeds go to buy more food for the next steak night.

### Community yard sale to benefit Relay for Life

Relay for Life will host a community yard sale on Saturday, **Dec. 17**, from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. The table fee is \$15 (bring own table and/or tent) with all proceeds going to ACS - American Cancer Society. All monies made at your table is yours to keep or you may donate it to ACS. Please call Missy at 863-634-8674 or contact Stafford's Salon at 863-763-3933 to sign-up for your table. So get all your yard sale items together and come join a fun day. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Express parking lot on U.S. 441 South. All donations of items accepted before 7 a.m., the morning of yard sale or contact the numbers above if need to schedule to pick up your donated items. Remember one man's junk is another man's treasure. So please come join us for a fun filled morning for a great cause.

### Moose Lodge serves spaghetti

The Okeechobee Moose, #1753, at 159 N.W. 36th St., will serve a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, **Dec. 17**, for a \$5 donation. Music by Lisa, will be from 5-9 p.m. for your listening or dancing pleasure. Please come. All welcome.

### Library to host book signing

Deborah Sharp, former USA Today reporter, will be the guest of honor Saturday, **Dec. 17**, at 2 p.m. for an author's tea at the Okeechobee Public Library. The event is free and open to the public.

Light refreshments will be served, and she'll discuss her new book, "Mama Sees Stars." (Midnight Ink, 2011, \$14.95).

### Teen Dance party planned

Come and enjoy the holidays and join us at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus, 610 SW 2nd Avenue on Saturday, **Dec. 17**, from 7-10 p.m. for the December Teen Dance Party. Admission of just \$7 includes pizza, soda and chips. Entertainment by DJ Dr. "S." Lots of fun, games and more. For more information, call Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996.

### Past Okeechobee rodeo queens & their photos sought

The Okeechobee County Cattlewomen's Association is looking for past rodeo queens and their pageant photos for their website. Please call Audrey 863-801-5258 or email: Audrey@missrodeookeechobee.org with your name, title, year and photo.

### Financial management seminar planned for Dec. 17

Learn to manage your own financial future with a seminar set for Saturday, **Dec. 17**, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee Public Library, 206 S.W. 16th St, hosted by Pat Shepherd. For reservations and more information, call 772-713-1837.

### Eagles host Sunday breakfast

On **Dec. 18**, Eagles North at 9985 U.S. 441 N. will host their famous breakfast. Donation is \$5. Proceeds go to the Ladies Auxiliary for their community benefit fund.

### Help feed needy children

Body By VI will host a fundraising event on **Dec. 17**. The team is trying to provide 50,000 meals for needy children this month. There will be free barbecue pork sandwiches, baked beans, slaw and sweet tea. All donations will go to help the cause. The event will be at W&W Lumber, 1601 S.R. 70 E, on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come out and help feed the children of Florida. A donation of \$24 will provide 60 meals, but any donation will be appreciated.

### Health and Safety Expo set

The Fifth Annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo is looking for vendors. The Expo will be held Saturday, **Jan. 28**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. For more information or to pick up a registration form, please call 763-462-5000 ext. 257.

### BHR Ladies Auxiliary plans monthly Sunday breakfast

Buckhead Ridge Ladies Auxiliary 9528 will hold their monthly breakfast on Sunday **Dec. 18**, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., for a donation of \$5. We will have eggs, sausage, biscuits, potatoes, coffee, juice. Everyone is welcome to join us. The event is open to the public. If you have any questions please call our post at 863-467-2882.

### Shrine Club plans dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club will offer a delicious spaghetti dinner Tuesday, **Dec. 20**. The Shrine now offers SMOKE FREE dining. Dinner is served beginning at 4 p.m. 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.

### Eagles to host turkey shoot

The Cypress Hut Eagles, 4509, will host a turkey shoot at 4701 U.S. 441 S.E. on **Dec. 17-18**. All shoots start at 9 a.m. for \$2 per shot. Proceeds go to Christmas for Kids. Gun to be raffled at Dec. 18 shoot: Winner gets choice of Winchester Model 1400 12 gauge auto and Marlin Model 90 12 gauge over/under.

### Apply now for '12 Miss Rodeo Okeechobee Pageant

Applications are being accepted for the 2012 Miss Rodeo Okeechobee Pageant. Queens will be chosen in four age categories: Miss, Miss Teen, Princess and Sweetheart. For an application, stop by Eli's Western Wear or Southern Style. For information, e-mail Audrey@missrodeookeechobee.org, call 863-801-5258, or visit www.missrodeookeechobee.org. The deadline is Dec. 30

### Historical Society will hold monthly meeting on Dec. 19

Okeechobee Historical Society members will have their regular monthly meeting, Monday, **Dec. 19**, beginning at noon in the Okeechobee Historical Society Museum on U.S. 98. Anyone interested in joining the society is urged to attend. Dues for the year are \$10. The only other requirement is to bring a covered dish to share and for this meeting, please bring a children's book to be donated to deserving children.

### Coffee with a commissioner

Coffee with the Commissioner will be hosted by Commissioner Margaret Helton on Tuesday, **Jan. 10**, 2012 from 10 a.m. to noon in Commissioner Helton's office at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 N.W. Second St., Room 261. Citizens wishing to participate are encouraged to call 863-763-6441 to schedule an appointment.

*Celebrate A Life*



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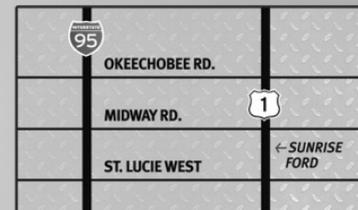
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## Public Notice

### Adoption of Okeechobee County Resolution 2011-67

The Board of County Commissioners of Okeechobee County, Florida has adopted a resolution establishing new boundaries for each of the five county commission districts following the 2010 decennial US Census of Population as required by Article VIII, Section 1(e) of the Constitution of the State of Florida and by Section 124.01(3), Florida Statutes. The boundaries for the county commission districts as adopted by Resolution 2011-67 on November 22, 2011 are as described below.

**Commission District No. 1** shall consist of the following area located within Okeechobee County, Florida:

Beginning at a point where the Old Peavine Trail intersects the County line between Osceola County and Okeechobee County, also being a point a little to the west of the Northeast corner of Section 4, Township 33 South, Range 33 East, then run South along the Old Peavine Trail to the intersection of the Old Peavine Trail (NW 192nd Avenue) and NW 240th Street (Eagle Island Road), also being the Southwest corner of Section 34, Township 34 South, Range 33 East, then run East along NW 240th Street to NW 176th Avenue (CR 700A), then run Southerly along NW 176th Avenue to US Highway 98, then run Southeasterly along US Highway 98 to the canal north of Lot 55, Block 64 in Basswood Unit 6 subdivision, then run East along said canal to NW 26th Avenue, then run South along NW 26th Avenue past the south boundary of Basswood Unit 2 subdivision, to an east-west ditch just to the south of the North section line of Section 8, Township 37 South, Range 35 East, then run West along said ditch to a point where the ditch turns to the south, being just to the east of the West section line of Section 8, Township 37 South, Range 35 East, then run South along said ditch to NW 20th Trail, then run Southwesterly along NW 20th Trail to US Highway 98, then run Southeasterly along US Highway 98 to NW 6th Street, then run East along NW 6th Street to NW 12th Avenue, which is also the city limit boundary; then run South along NW 12th Avenue and the southerly extension of NW 12th Avenue, which is also following the city limit boundary, until it intersects with State Road 70, then run East along State Road 70 to Taylor Creek, then run Northerly along Taylor Creek to NE 39th Boulevard, then run Northeasterly along NE 39th Boulevard and continue Northeasterly along an extension of NE 39th Boulevard until said extension of NE 39th Boulevard intersects with the East section line of Section 24, Township 36 South, Range 35 East, then run North along said section line and continue North along the East section lines of Sections 13, 12 and 1 to the intersection of NE 144th Street, which is also the Northeast corner of Section 1, Township 36 South, Range 35 East; then run West along NE 144th Street to US Highway 441, then run North along US Highway 441 to NW 240th Street (Eagle Island Road/CR 724), then run West along NW 240th Street to NW 72nd Avenue, then run North along NW 72nd Avenue to NW 288th Street, then continue Northerly approximately bisecting Sections 14, 11 and 2 in Township 34 South, Range 34 East and continuing Northerly approximately bisecting Sections 35, 26, 23, 14, 11 and 2 in Township 33 South, Range 34 East, to the County line between Osceola County and Okeechobee County, this also running along the common boundary between Block 1022 and Blocks 1047 and 1084 in Census Tract 9101.02 and running along the common boundary between Block 1017 and Block 1016 in Census Tract 9101.02, then run West along

said County line between Osceola County and Okeechobee County to the Point of Beginning.

**Commission District No. 2** shall consist of the following area located within Okeechobee County, Florida:

Beginning at a point where the Old Peavine Trail intersects the County line between Osceola County and Okeechobee County, also being a point a little to the west of the Northeast corner of Section 4, Township 33 South, Range 33 East, run West along said County line to the Kissimmee River, being the common boundary between Highlands County and Okeechobee County, then run Southerly along the Kissimmee River to State Road 70, then run East along State Road 70 to SW 24th Avenue, then run South along SW 24th Avenue to SW 8th Street, then run East along SW 8th Street to SW 12th Avenue, which is also the city limit boundary line, then run South along the city limit boundary line, also being SW 12th Avenue and an extension of SW 12th Avenue, also being the West section line of Section 21, Township 37 South, Range 35 East, to SW 15th Street, also being the Southwest corner of Section 21, Township 37 South, Range 35 East, then run East along SW 15th Street to SW 5th Avenue, then jog to the South then continue East along SW 15th Street to SW 3rd Avenue, then run South along SW 3rd Avenue to SW 16th Street, then run East along SW 16th Street to US Highway 441, then run North along US Highway 441 to State Road 70, then run West along State Road 70 to the city limit boundary also being the point where the southerly extension of NW 12th Avenue would intersect with State Road 70, then run North along the city limit boundary, which is also NW 12th Avenue and the southerly extension of SW 12th Avenue, to NW 6th Street, then run West along NW 6th Street to US Highway 98, then run Northwesterly along US Highway 98 to NW 20th Trail, then run Northeasterly along NW 20th Trail to a north-south ditch just to the east of the West section line of Section 8, Township 37 South, Range 35 East, then run North along said ditch to a point where the ditch turns to the east, just to the south of the North section line of Section 8, Township 37 South, Range 35 East, then run East along said ditch to a point where a southerly extension of NW 26th Avenue would intersect with said ditch, then run North along NW 26th Avenue to an east-west canal just to the north of Basswood Unit 2 subdivision, then run West along said canal to US Highway 98, then run Northwesterly along US Highway 98 to NW 176th Avenue (CR 700A), then run Northerly along NW 176th Avenue to NW 240th Street (Eagle Island Road), then run West along NW 240th Street to NW 192nd Avenue (Old Peavine Trail), then run North along NW 192nd Avenue then continue North along the Old Peavine Trail to the Point of Beginning.

**Commission District No. 3** shall consist of the following area located within Okeechobee County, Florida:

Beginning at a point on the North section line of Section 2, Township 33 South, Range 34 East, also being a point where a Northerly extension of NW 72nd Avenue intersects with the common boundary between Osceola County and Okeechobee County, also being that point at the north end of the common boundary between Block 1017 and Block 1016 in Census Tract 9101.02, run Southerly, approximately bisecting Sections 2, 11, 14, 23, 26 and 35 in Township 33 South, Range 34 East and Sections 2, 11 and 14 in Township 34 South, Range 34 East, this also running along the common boundary between Block 1017 and Block 1016 in Census Tract 9101.02 and running along the common boundary between Block 1022 and Blocks 1047 and 1084 in Census Tract 9101.02, to the intersection of NW 288th

Street and NW 72nd Avenue, then run South along NW 72nd Avenue to NW 240th Street (Eagle Island Road/CR 724), then run East along NW 240th Street to US Highway 441, then run South along US Highway 441 to NE 144th Street, then East run along NE 144th Street to the Northeast corner of Section 1, Township 36 South, Range 35 East, then run South along the East section line of Section 1, Township 36 South, Range 35 East, and continue South along the East section line of Sections 12 and 13, Township 36 South, Range 35 East, then continue South along the East section line of Section 24, Township 36 South, Range 35 East to a point on the East section line of said Section 24 that intersects with the northeasterly extension of NE 39th Boulevard, then run Southwesterly along the extension of NW 39th Boulevard then continue Southwesterly along NW 39th Boulevard to Taylor Creek, then run Southerly along Taylor Creek to a canal north of Lot 1, Block 9 of A Revised and Addition to Plat of Taylor Creek Development, Revised Plat No. 2 subdivision, then run Easterly along said canal north of Lots 1 and 2 Block 9 of A Revised and Addition to Plat of Taylor Creek Development, Revised Plat No. 2 subdivision to SE 28th Street, then run East along SE 28th Street to SE 43rd Avenue, then run North along SE 43rd Avenue to SE 26th Street, then run West along SE 26th Street to SE 40th Avenue, then run North along SE 40th Avenue to SE 23rd Court, then run East along SE 23rd Court to the southeast corner of Lot 81, Treasure Island Unit 11A subdivision, then run North along the common boundary between Lot 81 and Lot 80 in Treasure Island Unit 11A subdivision and continue North along the common boundary between Lot 114 and Lot 115 in Treasure Island Unit 12 subdivision, then run North across SE 22nd Court and continue North along the common boundary between Lot 117 and 116 in Treasure Island Unit 12 subdivision, then run East along the common boundary between Lot 116 in Treasure Island Unit 12 subdivision and Lot 151 in Treasure Island Unit 13 subdivision, then run North along the common boundary between Lot 151 and Lot 152 in Treasure Island Unit 13 subdivision, then run North across SE 21st Court and continue North along the common boundary between Lot 154 and Lot 153 in Treasure Island Unit 13 subdivision, then run North-Northeasterly to the westerly boundary of the Nubbin Slough canal, then run Northerly along Nubbin Slough canal to State Road 710, then run Westerly along State Road 710 to State Road 70, then run Northeasterly along State Road 70 to the common boundary between St. Lucie County and Okeechobee County, then run North along said County boundary to the Northeast corner of Section 1, Township 34 South, Range 36 East, also being the point where the County boundary lines of St. Lucie County, Indian River County and Okeechobee County meet, then run West along the common boundary between Indian River County and Okeechobee County to the Northwest corner of Section 6, Township 34 South, Range 36 East, then run North along the common boundary between Indian River County and Okeechobee County to the Northeast corner of Section 1, Township 33 South, Range 35 East, then run West along the common boundary between Indian River County and Okeechobee County, then continue West along the common boundary between Osceola County and Okeechobee County to the Point of Beginning.

**Commission District No. 4** shall consist of the following area located within Okeechobee County, Florida:

Beginning at a point where State Road 70 intersects the Kissimmee River, run Southerly along the Kissimmee River, being the common boundary between Okeechobee County and Highlands County, then continue Southerly

along the Kissimmee River, now being the common boundary between Okeechobee County and Glades County, to the mouth of the Kissimmee River, then run South to a point in Lake Okeechobee which forms the common boundary of Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, Palm Beach and Martin Counties, then run Northeasterly from said point to the Mouth of Taylor Creek at Lake Okeechobee, then meander Northerly along Taylor Creek to State Road 70, then run West along State Road 70 to US Highway 441, then run South along US Highway 441 to SW 16th Street, then run West along SW 16th Street to SW 3rd Avenue, then run North along SW 3rd Avenue to SW 15th Street, then run West along SW 15th Street to SW 5th Avenue, then jog to the North then continue West along SW 15th Street to the southerly extension of SW 12th Avenue, that also being the city limit boundary and also being the Southwest corner of Section 21, Township 37 South, Range 35 East, then run North along the city limit boundary line, also being the extension of SW 12th Avenue then being SW 12th Avenue, also being the West section line of Section 21, Township 37 South, Range 35 East, to SW 8th Street, then run West along SW 8th Street to SW 24th Avenue, then run North along SW 24th Avenue to State Road 70, then run West along State Road 70 to the Point of Beginning.

**Commission District No. 5** shall consist of the following area located within Okeechobee County, Florida:

Beginning at a point where State Road 70 intersects the County line between St. Lucie County and Okeechobee County, run South along said County line then continue South then Southwesterly along the County line between Martin County and Okeechobee County to a point in Lake Okeechobee which forms the common boundary between Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, Palm Beach and Martin Counties, then run Northeasterly to the Mouth of Taylor Creek at Lake Okeechobee, then run Northerly along Taylor Creek to a canal north of Lot 1, Block 9 of A Revised and Addition to Plat of Taylor Creek Development, Revised Plat No. 2 subdivision, then run Easterly along said canal north of Lots 1 and 2 Block 9 of A Revised and Addition to Plat of Taylor Creek Development, Revised Plat No. 2 subdivision to SE 28th Street, then run East along SE 28th Street to SE 43rd Avenue, then run North along SE 43rd Avenue to SE 26th Street, then run West along SE 26th Street to SE 40th Avenue, then run North along SE 40th Avenue to SE 23rd Court, then run East along SE 23rd Court to the southeast corner of Lot 81, Treasure Island Unit 11A subdivision, then run North along the common boundary between Lot 81 and Lot 80 in Treasure Island Unit 11A subdivision and continue North along the common boundary between Lot 114 and Lot 115 in Treasure Island Unit 12 subdivision, then run North across SE 22nd Court and continue North along the common boundary between Lot 117 and 116 in Treasure Island Unit 12 subdivision, then run East along the common boundary between Lot 116 in Treasure Island Unit 12 subdivision and Lot 151 in Treasure Island Unit 13 subdivision, then run North along the common boundary between Lot 151 and Lot 152 in Treasure Island Unit 13 subdivision, then run North across SE 21st Court and continue North along the common boundary between Lot 154 and Lot 153 in Treasure Island Unit 13 subdivision, then run North Northeasterly to the westerly boundary of the Nubbin Slough canal, then run Northerly along Nubbin Slough canal to State Road 710, then run Westerly along State Road 710 to State Road 70, then run Northeasterly along State Road 70 to the Point of Beginning.

**Publish: 12/16/2011 & 12/23/2011  
Okeechobee News.**



Special to the Okeechobee News/OAA

## OAA's Food For Families Food Drive

The Okeechobee Achievement Academy has spent several weeks in a healthy competition between classes to collect food for their Food For Families Food Drive. Over 1,300 food items were collected for the needy in our community. Students and staff worked together and learned so much about the importance of helping those less fortunate than themselves. When the final count was made, one class came out in the lead. Mr. Dyer's class, with the help of their teacher Mr. Dyer, Mrs. Deleagall (OAA's School Related Employee of the year), Deputy Fisher (class sponsor for the drive) came in first place to win a class pizza party for most cans per student collected. Congratulations! We are really proud of how the students are responding to the needs of others this year. In the left photo, Mr. Weigum (Principal), Deputy Fisher (School Resource Officer), Cesar Badillo, Drew Jackson, and Joseph Johnson. In the right photo, Celina Norman and Cheyenne Rudd.

## Pet of the Week

Holly has learned to be the perfect companion dog. She is just fantastic! Quite the clown at times, this dog is in the SPIN prison training program. To read more about the program go [www.animalrescueokeechobee.org](http://www.animalrescueokeechobee.org). Holly has been obedience trained. She was too energetic for her former working family. She is NOT a couch potato dog! She loves to play and does well with other dogs. Adoption fee is \$175, this includes, spay, vaccinations. She is available for adoption at Okeechobee Humane Society/Pet Rescue on Highway 98, next door to the Livestock Market. For more information, contact Humane Society Pet Rescue Florida, at 863-357-1104. To see more available animals, go to [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com). Homes are also needed to "foster" animals who are waiting for a permanent adoptive home.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Jennifer Baker

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Tabitha Trent/Rotary Club

## Rotary Student of the Month

Congratulations to OHS Senior Jessica Jimenez for being selected as Rotary's Student of the Month. During her presentation to Rotary members Jessica spoke of her family commitment and sincere desire to serve others, especially the elderly as she spends countless hours volunteering at the local nursing home. In addition to being recognized for her 500+ hours of community service Jessica serves on a number of school committees and advisory councils. She shared with the club her love for the medical field and her aspirations to be an optometrist. Pictured in photo (left to right) are Mr. and Mrs. Jimenez; Jessica Jimenez and OHS principal Toni Weirsma. The Rotary Club of Okeechobee meets every Tuesday at noon at the Golden Corral Restaurant. Please feel free to come join us for a wonderful time of fellowship and experience "Service Above Self" in action!

The Okeechobee News will be  
closed on Monday, Dec. 26



# HOLIDAY DEADLINES

## Display Advertising

Friday, December 23 @ 3 pm For Wednesday, December 28

*The Staff Of The Okeechobee News  
Wishes Everyone A  
Merry Christmas*

# OHS girls golf team honored at season end banquet

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Brahman girls golf has come a long way in a very short time.

The girls golf team finished their season with a 7-1 record and qualified for the first time ever to play in the regional golf championships.

Four years ago it was considered a coin flip to decide if there would actually be a girl's golf squad.

Seniors Emily Raulerson and Raychel Rabon stuck it out for the past four years to lead a talented group of girls to success this year.

Both earned awards at the Brahman girl's golf banquet held Friday at Okeechobee High School. They shared the Most Valuable Golfer awards while Katlyn Haymond and Kristin Higgins shared the Brahman Award.

Bethany Stuart and Danyelle Sheffield won the Most Improved Golfer Award.

The team also won the prestigious Hawks Crutchfield Tournament in Sebring this year.

Coach Brent Stuart said parents deserve a lot of credit because they got their child interested in the game of golf. He said he was fortunate to get the chance to walk into a good situation.

"The seniors were a group that was the fuel for the growth of the team. The more girls you have the better the team you can field," he said.

Stuart said he feels the program can sustain success because a lot of the younger players have a lot of talent.

Raulerson said she was really excited to win the MVP award. She said it meant a lot to be a leader of the team and to be recognized.

She said the trip to the regional tournament this year really made all of her efforts worth while.

"It was really overwhelming and amazing. Nobody thought anything of our golf program when I started. It meant a lot to



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Most Improved Lady Brahman Golfers this year included (left) Bethany Stuart and Danyelle Sheffield (right).**

the seniors to go to the regional as a team. It is everything we had hoped for and more," she added.

Rabon, who intends to attend the University of Florida next fall and pursue a degree in public relations, said she didn't love the game of golf originally. She stuck with golf though and improved, and when she got good at it, she started to love the game.

"A friend kind of dragged me out when I was a freshman. I had a few lessons when I was little and my dad liked the game. My mom also played in high school. Now we can play the game for the rest of our lives," she added.

Haymond said the Brahman Award was a great award. She said she is really trying to get a college scholarship.

"It will take a lot of hard work to get that scholarship, but I felt really great to win the Brahman Award this year," she added.

Higgins said she was also happy to win the Brahman Award and that it was nice to hear good things from her coach about her work habits and attitude.

"We did really well as a team this year and I'm proud of everybody. We have a lot



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Katlyn Haymond and Kristin Higgins took home the Brahman Awards for Lady Brahman Golf.**

of really good freshmen and I think we'll have a good team next year," she added.

Stuart thanked all the parents and volunteers who assisted the squad this year. He also thanked Okeechobee Dodge Chrysler for use of a van to travel to matches, the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club for allowing the team to use their facility free of charge, and Tree Locators for various donations and assistance this year.

Assistant coach Hank Raulerson also received a special award. He said the senior girls have left a legacy at OHS and he hopes to see the success continue in the future.

"We had a group of girls who really started something big, we now have a strong



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Emily Raulerson and Raychel Rabon won the Most Valuable Player Awards for Lady Brahman Golf for 2011.**

junior class, solid sophomores and a huge freshman class. We have come a long way," he said.

Freshmen honored were Cameron White, C.J. Sheffield, Hannah Raulerson, Meredith Hilliard, and Hunter Boshell.

Sophomores on the squad were Jessica Wisener, Stormy Stokes, Kirsten Doney, Bethany Stuart, Danyelle Sheffield, and Kristin Higgins.

Juniors included Paige Rivero, Kailey Hoover, and Katlyn Haymond.

Seniors honored were Carley Lowe, Emily Raulerson, Raychel Rabon, Shyanne Prescott, Samantha Harrell and Taylor Fulford.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Five seniors were honored for four years of service to the OHS Lady Brahman golf team (L-R) Samantha Harrell, Raychel Rabon, Emily Raulerson, Taylor Fulford and Karlie Rowell.**

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# Battle of Okeechobee Monument to be rededicated

The Battle of Okeechobee Monument has been placed in the Historic Battle of Okeechobee State Park thanks to all the help from the Okeechobee community. The move on Nov. 17, 2011 became a goal when the land was purchased for the Park in 2006 and preliminary plans were started in 2007. Okeechobee D.A.R. passed a resolution to work toward placing the 72-year-old monument in the state park as the first thing to be installed leading to further development. Okeechobee will have a learning center and recreational use when this occurs as funds become available.

The relocation of the monument from along the right-of-way of US 441 SE to the State Park could not have happened without the combined efforts of Rick's Cranes and Matt Buxton (Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home) to lift the coquina rock incased in concrete from where it had become imbedded in three feet of shell rock. Mark Nelson, of the State Park Service, provided the heavy-duty trailer to transport it. Our Sheriff's Department provided traffic control and work-release men to do the manual digging. F.D.O.T. granted the D.A.R. a permit without fee.

Dowling Watford and Gary Ritter were involved in the removal and the placement of the monument. Gratitude is such a small word to express our thanks to these wonderful people.

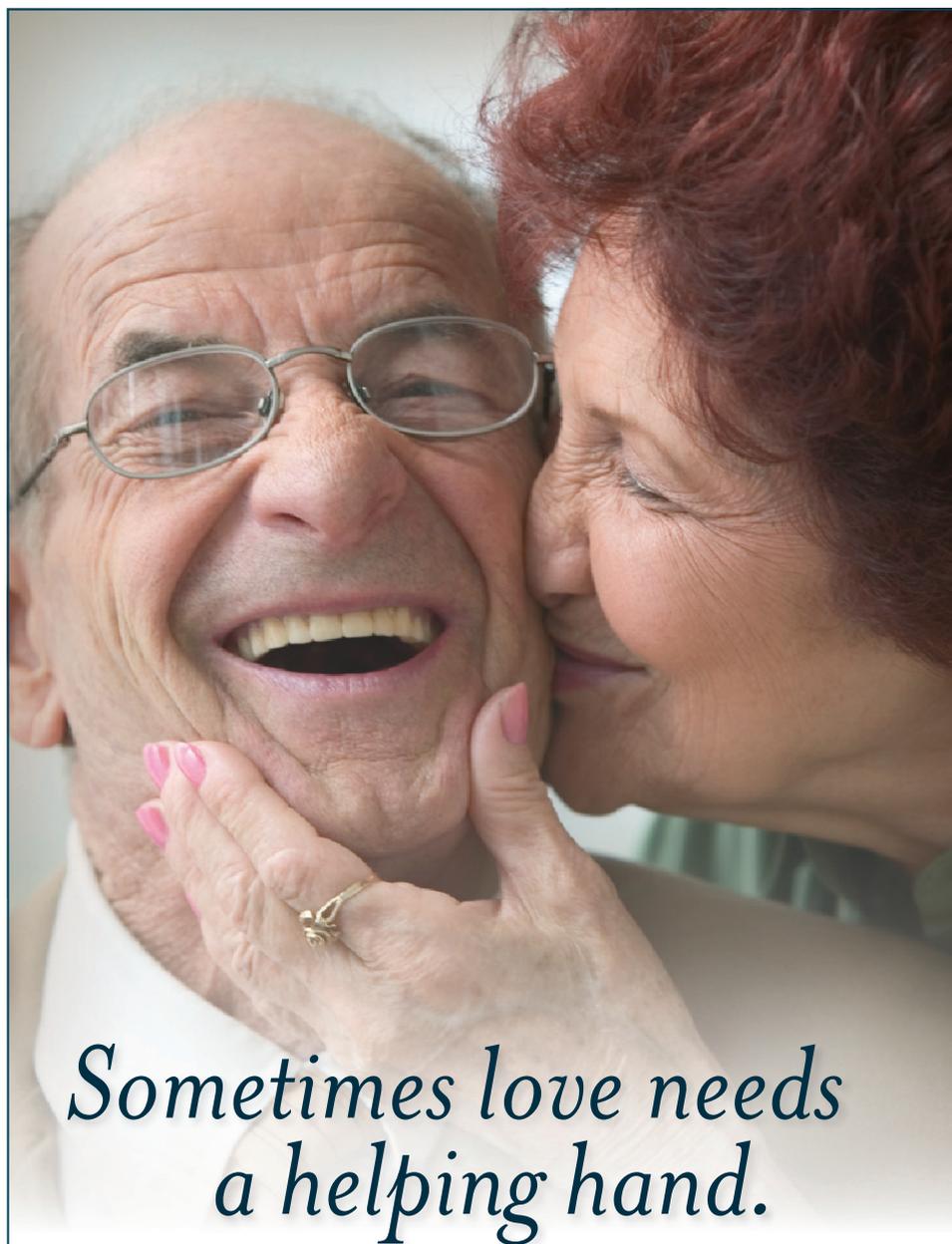
The monument was given by the family of Col. Richard Gentry in 1937. It was placed and dedicated by D.A.R. Chapters: Cora Stickney Harper (Ft. Pierce) and Seminole (West Palm Beach). The Okeechobee Chapter was formed in 1995. The re-dedication



Special to the Okeechobee News  
**The monument to the Historic Battle of Okeechobee has been recently relocated to the State Park where it will be part of future development plans.**

ceremony will be Feb. 4, 2012. Elizabeth Gentry Sayad, great, great granddaughter of Col. Gentry unveiled the monument in 1937. She will be here from St. Louis, Mo. to speak. Her granddaughters will continue the Gentry family tradition as they unveil the monument.

At the present time, the state park is only open to the public the first weekend in February when the Friends of the Battlefield hold an annual reenactment. They have graciously invited the D.A.R. to hold this celebration of our history during their event. State and local dignitaries have been invited and will speak during the ceremony.



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## Community theatre presents 'Christmas on the Air'

By Diane Timmons  
Okeechobee News

"Christmas on the Air," performed by the Okeechobee Community Theatre on Dec. 2 and 3 was delightful. The program was conceived and compiled by Ron Hayes and directed by Ron and JacQue Hays. The theme was the Christmas season at a radio station in the early sixties with a collection of segments gathered from actual broadcasts of the period. All skits were performed with great enthusiasm and by talented players. Especially amusing and well done was the skit "12 Days of Christmas" performed by Reuben Law, John Garner, Joanie Moffatt and David Womble, which was taken from a more recent broadcast heard on the Garrison Keillor program. The various skits were even interspersed with commercial announcements that were also recreations of actual advertisements of the period. It was a fun evening and the theatre performers are to be congratulated on another fine performance.



Okeechobee News  
**This nativity scene, observed in a yard in the southwest part of Okeechobee, reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas.**

Watch for their spring presentation, "The Diary of Anne Frank," which will be presented on Mar. 2, 3, 9 & 10, 2012, with auditions being held Jan. 3 & 5 at 7 p.m. in the theatre. Call 863-763-1307, for more information.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

## Students of the Week

Central Elementary School congratulates its Students of the Week including: Landon Arrants, William Schneider, Emilio Gonzalez, Julio Leal, George Seca, Jessie Hutchison, Jeremiah Johnson, Jayda Cabrera, Jairo Castillo, Pinky Melear, Emery Soto, Yesell Tinajero, Araiana Web, Tikyra Franklin, Kyler Pasley, Alyssa Brooks, Tifani Gutierrez, Alicia Pacheco, Jerome Stewart, Benjamin Pineda, Juan Seca, Maria Perez, Alayla Barrett, Melissa Apointe, Stephanie Alvarado, Clayton Culligan, Jillian Kennedy, Halle McDuffe, Lindsey Majors, Anashia Rochelle and Kelsey Paulus.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SEM

## Great student

Third grader, Jose Ascencio, was rewarded for great behavior by helping first graders in Mrs. Fulwider's class create a "turkey treat." He takes great pride in assisting the younger children with difficult tasks and assignments.

## Boy Scouts help with food drive

The Big Lake District of the Boy Scouts of America has had a successful Food For Families drive for the year 2011. Each year the Scouts collect non-perishable food from individual locations within the various cities around the lake and then it's delivered to food banks to be distributed to families in need.

The Big Lake District is part of the Gulf Stream Council and includes the communities around Lake Okeechobee. Units that participated in this year's Scouting For Food came from Belle Glade, Clewiston and Okeechobee.

This year the Gulf Stream Council collected food totaling 109,328 pounds, with 150 Units being involved. This tremendous effort was made possible by the participation of 2,068 Cub and Boy Scouts and 1,453 adults and siblings. For more information concerning the Boy Scouting activities around Lake Okeechobee, please contact John Wilson at 863-532-8397 or the Gulf Stream Council office at 561-694-8585.

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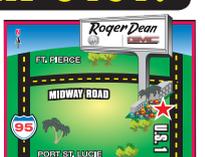
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# Report: inmate batters officer

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

An inmate at the Okeechobee Correctional Institute (OCI) was arrested Wednesday after he allegedly threw urine on a female corrections officer.



David C. Mann

David C. Mann, 29, was arrested Dec. 14 on a felony charge of battery on a law enforcement officer. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then released on his own recognizance and returned to OCI.

An arrest report by Deputy Bart Potter, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that when the officer passed by Mann's cell around 1:10 p.m. he began yelling vulgarities at her. Then, as she reached his partially opened cell door, he allegedly threw the urine on her.

The officer stated in her report that the liquid hit her from the face to her lower leg.

According to Deputy Potter's arrest report, Mann was angry at the female officer because she had filed a disciplinary report against him a day or two prior to the alleged battery.

A check of Mann's record shows that he was sentenced to prison in 2007 following his conviction in Lee County on a number of charges—including possession of cocaine (two counts), sale of cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school (two counts), possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, aggravated assault with a weapon and grand theft firearm.

Mann was sentenced to a term of 15 years on the sale of cocaine charges. His remaining convictions have prison terms ranging from one to five years.

He began his stint in prison July 3, 2008.

Department of Corrections records also indicate that Mann had previously served time in prison after he was found guilty in 2002 of escape, resisting a law enforcement officer with violence and battery on a law enforcement officer.

# Blocked tag leads to pot arrest

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

A routine traffic stop led to the arrest of an Okeechobee man on a felony marijuana possession charge.

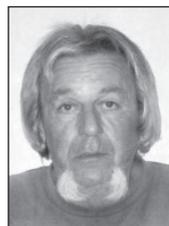
Lewis Richard Going, 53, N.W. 151st Terrace, was arrested Wednesday, Dec. 14, on a felony charge of possession of marijuana over 20 grams and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$3,000. He has since been released on bond.

An arrest report by Deputy Matthew Crawford, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that he stopped Going because the license tag on his vehicle was obstructed by a large trailer hitch.

The deputy stated that he asked Going for permission to search both him and his vehicle but the requests were denied.

According to Deputy Crawford he then brought out his K-9, Nero, to do an exterior search of Going's sports utility vehicle. Nero allegedly gave a positive alert to the driver's-



Lewis R. Going

side door.

When Deputy Crawford opened the SUV's door, Nero "... immediately went to the driver's seat..."

The deputy stated that he found approximately 31 ounces of suspected marijuana under the seat. His report went on to indicate that he next found a box on the floor of the vehicle that contained a small baggy of suspected pot, a scale, rolling papers, two suspected marijuana cigarettes and a grinder that contained several small pieces of suspected marijuana.

Deputy Crawford said all of the suspected pot was field tested. Each of those tests indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana, he added.

The deputy reportedly found a total of 36 grams of pot in Going's SUV.

The deputy went on to state that he gave Going a written warning for the obstructed license plate.

# Electrical outlet cause of office fire

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

A small fire in the office of the Okeechobee Livestock Market was caused by a problem in an electrical outlet and did an estimated \$11,000 in damages to an office and its contents.

According to a report by Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue (OCF/R) Lieutenant Terry Parrish, when firefighters arrived on scene at 1:07 p.m. a small amount of flame was seen in the corner of the room. The fire was

extinguished with a garden hose, added Lt. Parrish.

Firefighters then removed some filing cabinets and checked the office at 1055 U.S. 98 N. for additional fire but none was found.

Lt. Parrish said an officer from the Fire Marshal's Office arrived on the scene and determined the cause of the fire to be an electrical outlet below an air conditioning unit.

OCF/R units cleared the scene about an hour after their arrival.

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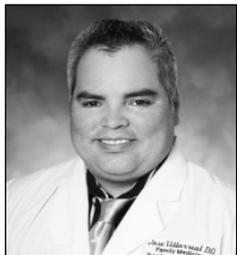
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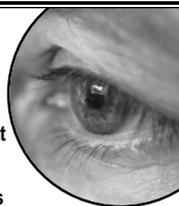
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# Area cops prove they are 'Tough Mudders'

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

With their completion of the 12-mile course and its 28 different obstacles, Gary Bell and his teammates proved that they are a bunch of Tough Mudders.

"It was rough. I was in the military a long time and, as far as demanding, it ranks right up there," he said. "It was definitely challenging."

The "it" the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) lieutenant spoke of was the Dec. 3 and 4 Tough Mudder event in Tampa.

These events are held all across the U.S. and feature British Special Forces-designed courses that are made up of different types of obstacles including mud, ice, water, 12-foot walls, ladders and a 45-foot stack of hay. The main purpose of these events is not to simply test the mental and physical endurance and strength of those taking part, but to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project.

"These are people who don't have arms and legs but have prosthetics, and they were out there doing that course. People were cheering them on—it was great," said Lt.

Bell, who is a supervisor with the OCSO Road Patrol division.

According to the Tough Mudder web site, they have raised over \$2.4 million so far for the Wounded Warrior Project, which is a non-profit organization that helps American servicemen and servicewomen who have been severely injured.

The money is raised through entry fees, donations and pledges.

Tough Mudder spokesperson Ashley Fallick said 17,000 men and women took part in the Tampa event. So far this year, 150,000 people have taken part in events across the U.S.

Teams can be made up of any number of men and women.

The average 'mudder' will complete the course in about three hours.

The area team was made up of OCSO deputies Lt. Bell, Sgt. Robert Coleman, Deputy Matt Hurst and Deputy Jon Hazy who are all members of the OCSO Special Response Team (SRT). Also on the team were officers from the Seminole Police Department (Jack Nash, Jim Polan and Sal Gebbia), Martin County Sheriff's Office, Broward County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Highway Patrol. Jason Egger, a member of the OCSO

auxiliary, was also a team member.

Actually, said Lt. Bell, it was Officer Nash who first contacted him about taking part in the Tampa event.

Besides raising money for wounded servicemen and servicewomen, Lt. Bell said the Tough Mudder course gave him some good ideas that he plans on incorporating into training SRT members.

"It gave us a lot of good ideas, especially in setting up an obstacle course," he said.

When asked, the OCSO lieutenant said this was his first Tough Mudder event and most likely his last.

"About mile six my right knee started giving me problems. After that, it was six miles of torture," he said.

Adding to that "torture" is the fact that Lt. Bell is now 50 and that "there weren't a whole lot of old fellas out there."

Probably one of the most important parts of these events is that it builds camaraderie among team members. Teammates help push each other and pick each other up when they get tired "so no one gets left behind," states the Tough Mudder web site.

"We started as one and finished as one," offered Officer Nash, when speaking of his team.

The first Tough Mudder event for the 2012 season will be held Jan. 14 and 15 in Phoenix, Ariz.



Submitted photo

Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Lieutenant Gary Bell (left) makes his way down one of the obstacles at the Dec. 3 & 4 Tough Mudder event held in Tampa.



Submitted photo

Deputy Matt Hurst (left) and Deputy Sergeant Robert Coleman (right), from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team, raise their arms triumphantly as they make their way through a mud hole.

## HEROES

Continued From Page 1

with friends when they heard the woman hit the water and then saw her being carried into the darkness. They jumped from the catwalk into the river and swam about 350 feet to the woman, who was floating on her back at a point about 385 feet from the closer bank. They grasped the woman and together swam with difficulty against the current toward the bank. Reaching wadable water, they pulled the woman toward an accessible point on the bank, where emergency personnel had responded. The rescuers removed the woman from the river. She was hospitalized for treatment of broken ribs and other injuries, and she recovered. Travis, Cody, and Brandon sustained minor lacerations and were tired after the rescue, but they recovered.

In September 2010, Fort Pierce Police Chief Sean Baldwin gave Chief's Awards for Bravery to the three boys. "We expect our officers to respond to life threatening emergencies," he said. "It is absolutely incredible and inspiring for young men to save somebody's life."

In a 2010 interview, Brandon said he saw the lights reflect off something in the water and they knew they had to do something.

"We just had to get her. When we first went in the water we couldn't see her because she drifted off in the dark. I saw her reflection in the water and I knew if she was out there we had to go out there and get her," he said.

Established in 1904 by Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was created to recognize outstanding acts of selfless heroism performed in the United States and Canada. The Commission awards the Carnegie Medal to those who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or

attempting to save the lives of others.

The single event that stimulated Mr. Carnegie to organize the Fund was the Harwick mine disaster near Pittsburgh in January 1904, which claimed 181 lives. The victims included an engineer and a miner who went into the stricken mine in a valiant attempt to rescue others. The tragedy and the sacrifices so moved Mr. Carnegie that he promptly took action on his then-novel idea of honoring and helping "heroes of civilization."

"I do not expect to stimulate or create heroism by this Fund," Mr. Carnegie wrote, "knowing well that heroic action is impulsive. But I do believe that, if the hero is injured in his bold attempt to serve or save his fellows, he and those dependent upon him should not suffer pecuniarily."

The Commission's Deed of Trust established a \$5 million fund to recognize persons "in peaceful vocations" who act to "preserve or rescue their fellows." Mr. Carnegie specified that each hero to be recognized, or the next of kin, was to receive a medal, reciting the heroic deed it commemorated and carrying the Biblical quotation: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). The Commission was empowered to make monetary grants, as well. Given to the heroes or the next of kin in cases of death, the grants include continuing support, scholarship assistance, and death benefits.

More than \$32 million has been given to the awardees or their survivors over the life of the Fund.

Rescue acts brought to the Commission's attention are carefully evaluated, and those that appear to have award potential are then investigated and reported to the Commission for decision. To bring an act of heroism to the attention of the Commission, write Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, 436 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1101, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219-1841, or call 412-281-1302 or toll-free 1-800-447-8900.

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# Balloon releases can endanger Florida wildlife

As people gather together for occasions that make the holidays bright, remember that releasing balloons may be harmful to wildlife.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) wants event and meeting organizers and other Floridians to be aware of a law prohibiting the release

of more than nine lighter-than-air balloons within a 24-hour period.

Instead of releasing balloons this holiday season, the FWC suggests groups use more environmentally friendly ways to celebrate events such as New Year's Eve and football bowl games.

The release into the atmosphere of large

numbers of balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases poses a danger and nuisance to the environment, particularly to wildlife and marine animals. Balloons released in Florida almost inevitably end up in the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean or other water bodies. Wildlife, especially sea turtles, mistake balloons for food, and strings attached

to balloons can entangle birds and other animals.

There are exceptions for balloons released indoors, scientific or meteorological balloons released by a government agency or under government contract, or hot air balloons recovered after launching.

## Okeechobee Sports News in Brief

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

• Augustin Leon scored a goal 37 minutes into the second half as Okeechobee High School's soccer team defeated Vero Beach 2-1 Wednesday night to remain undefeated (6-0-1). Leon took a pass from Erick Garcia and put the ball past the Indians goal keeper to keep the Brahms rolling. Diego Rodriguez had a goal and Brian Guerrero had an assist for the Brahms. Brent Simmons and Serafin Espinoza combined for five saves in the Brahman net. Thiago Sampaio scored an unassisted goal for Vero Beach (6-2).

• The Brahman wrestling team finished second in a 12-team dual tournament at Sebastian River High School last Saturday. Okeechobee defeated Titusville, Rockledge, Sebastian River and Hagerty High School. Seth Crum, Cody Griffith, Jonathan Kemp, and Trey Howard were praised for strong efforts.

• Martin County remained unbeaten with a 59-45 victory over Okeechobee in a district 12-7A game Monday in high school girls basketball action. Carley McCain and Ami Edwards led Okeechobee with 18 points apiece. Yasmine Queen led the Tigers, (7-0) with 18 points.

• Okeechobee boy's soccer team remained unbeaten with a 3-2 win at Fort Pierce Westwood on Friday and a 3-1 victory at Suncoast on Monday. Okeechobee (8-0-1) will host a Christmas Tournament again this year on Dec. 19-20 at OHS. Hunter Pritchard

had two goals as the Brahms defeated Suncoast. Brian Guerrero added the third goal. Serafin Espinoza played solid in the Brahman net.

• The Lady Brahman soccer team fell to (1-6-1) as they battled Fort Pierce Westwood to a scoreless tie last Friday on the road, and fell 8-0 at Suncoast on Monday. Suncoast (5-7) won by mercy rule 25 minutes into the second half. Okeechobee fell to (0-2) in their district 15-3A.

• The Yearling boys basketball team surprised Gifford 35-24 behind Lamar Williams 15 points on Monday in Okeechobee. Francisco Compton added 12 points and Juanyae Ford added eight points. Antawyn Fludd enjoyed a great floor game with six steals and 15 assists. Yearling led 13-4 after the first quarter and 18-13 at half time. Gifford had defeated Yearling 43-10 in the season opener on Nov. 29. Yearling Coach Efrain Ochoa said his team is getting better because their defensive effort and execution is better. "This was a key win for us and hopefully will be a building block to more wins," he added.

• The Lady Brahman weight lifting team fell in their first meet of the season 46-30 to Fort Pierce Central last week. Taylor Boyett and Erin Hudson placed first in their weight class and Hudson is ranked first in the district. Sarah Davis had a career best effort in the clean and jerk with 125 pounds and is ranked third in the district. OHS will compete in a five-team match on Wednesday at Martin County with South Fork, Jensen

Beach and Port St. Lucie.

• The Brahman wrestling squad finished third in the Big Lake Classic held Saturday in Okeechobee. Southwest Miami earned 42 points to claim the championship and Lakeland finished with 25 points to finish second.

• Jonathon Kemp won an individual championship for Okeechobee in the 195 pound weight division. He pinned Joseph Campbell of South Fork in the championship. Delfino Garcia at 106 pounds, Michael Thomas at 132 pounds, and Marcus Garcia at heavyweight all finished in third place in their divisions. Ryan Hagan took second place at 138 pounds. Bryan Levins took fourth place at 152 pounds.

• The Brahman boys soccer squad (9-0-1) dominated Lincoln Park Academy, 8-0, on Wednesday night at Brahman Stadium. Hunter Pritchard scored three goals and Erick Garcia added a pair of goals for the Brahms. The Brahman defense was strong all night despite the absence of some

key players. Saul Rios and Jose Ponce De Leon also had goals for Okeechobee.

• The Treasure Coast Lady Titans held Okeechobee to 30-percent shooting as they defeated the Lady Brahms 58-30 in Port St. Lucie Tuesday Night. Treasure Coast (7-2) built a big first half lead led by Rose Marie Julien who had 18 points and 10 rebounds. The Lady Brahms hosted Port St. Lucie on Thursday.

• Storm Grove Middle School remained unbeaten with an impressive 46-13 victory over Yearling Middle School on Wednesday in Vero Beach. Sheldon Thomas led the Stingrays with 14 points. Tyler Washington and Jarvis Jelks combined for 20 points inside. Yearling was led by Francisco Compton who scored six points. Gabe Greseth had three points for the Bulls.

Coach Efrain Ochoa said a number of younger players got to play considerable minutes in this game due to foul trouble from some of his key starters.

### Youth Basketball League signups start

Okeechobee County Parks & Recreation will be conducting sign-ups for the 2012 Youth Basketball League Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. now through Jan. 6. Registration is \$40 per child and is being held at 640 N.W. 27th Lane (in the Sports Complex). The league will consist of boys and girls in three divisions: 10 & under, 12 & under, and 14 & under. Birth certificates must be presented when registering. The age determination date is March 15, 2012. For more information, call 763-6950. Coaches, sponsors and volunteers are encouraged to inquire.

### Coast Guard Auxiliary to do vessel exams

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### Alligator trappers sought for Martin, Palm Beach counties

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program is accepting applications for contracted nuisance alligator trappers in Martin and Palm Beach counties.

Applicants must have a clean criminal history, no fish or wildlife law violations and a valid, working email address. Also, they must reside in the county in which they intend to work. To learn about the requirements for becoming a nuisance alligator trapper or to apply online, visit MyFWC.com/Alligator and click on "Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program." For more information, email FWCGator@MyFWC.com.

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**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 47-2011-CA-000297**

SUNTRUST BANK, Plaintiff,  
FITZROY EDWARDS A/K/A FITZROY L. EDWARDS, et al, Defendant(s).

**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
TO: LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:  
**DUNBAR WRIGHT**  
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MOUNT VERNON, NY 10552  
UNKNOWN  
CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HERETOFOR NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN  
CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

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

**PARCEL 7, SUNCREEK RANCH, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 15, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Florida Default Law Group, P.L., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 4919 Memorial Highway, Suite 200, Tampa, Florida 33634, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court on this 5th day of Dec, 2011.

Florida Default Law Group, P.L.  
P.O. Box 25018  
Tampa, Florida 33622-5018  
SUNTRUST-CONV-R-UNASSIGNED-Team 4-F11004274

\*See Americans with Disabilities Act Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540 Notices to Persons With Disabilities - If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW 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.  
404683 ON 12/9/16/2011

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**

The Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast (DBA, Workforce Solutions) - Region 20 and the Treasure Coast Job Training Consortium announce a meeting of the Workforce Development Board to which all persons are invited:

**Date & Time: Wednesday, December 21, 2011 - 8:00 a.m.**  
Place: Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast  
584 NW University Blvd., Suite 100  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

**PURPOSE:** To discuss matters concerning the Workforce Investment Act, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA - Workforce Stimulus projects and budgets), Workforce Employment Opportunities, the Welfare Transition Program, One-Stop Career Centers and the Workforce Development Board (DBA, Workforce Solutions). A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting:

Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast  
DBA, Workforce Solutions  
584 NW University Blvd., Suite 100  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

Should any person wish to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above referenced meeting, they will need to ensure a verbatim recording of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based, in order to provide a record for judicial review.  
405565 ON 12/16/2011

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**RD Instruction 1924-A Guide 1, Attachment 1**

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Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of (briefly describe nature, scope, and major elements of the work) Installation of a complete High Volume Low Speed (HVLS) Ceiling Fan System, including but not limited to, Bid Bond, Payment and Performance Bonds, permits and fees, all materials, equipment, labor, electrical system, control system and all appurtenances for a complete operating system at the Agri-Civic Center Covered Arena. Okeechobee County Project Number: 2011-25.

All materials furnished and all work performed shall be in accordance with the drawings, specifications and Contract Documents pertaining thereto.

Any questions pertaining to the project specifications or scope of work will be addressed to the Okeechobee County Capital Improvements in writing no later than eleven (11) calendar days prior to the bid of project, which is January 16, 2012.

A Prebid Conference will be held on site at the Agri-Civic Center Facility located at 4601 Highway 710, Okeechobee, Florida on January 4, 2012 @ 2:00 p.m. Bidder's attendance is mandatory.

Bids will be received by Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners at the office of 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 222, Okeechobee, FL 34972 until 2:00 p.m., (Local Time) January 27, 2012, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:  
1700 NW 9th Avenue, Suite C  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
Okeechobee County Capital Improvements 863-763-0805

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of Okeechobee County Capital Improvements located at 1700 NW 9th Avenue, Suite C, Okeechobee, FL 34972; [sselvey@co.okeechobee.fl.us](mailto:sselvey@co.okeechobee.fl.us) upon payment of \$0.00 for each set. No partial sets of Drawings and Specifications will be issued. Bidders may pick up Plans and Specifications from the Okeechobee County Capital Improvements office or Documents can be obtained by express mail upon receipt of vendor's express mail account number.

Any BIDDER, upon returning the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS promptly and in good condition, will be refunded the payment, and any non-bidder upon so returning the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS will be refunded \$0.00.

All contracts exceeding \$10,000 shall contain a provision requiring compliance with Executive Order 11246, entitled, "Equal Employment Opportunity," as amended by Executive Order 11375 and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations (41 CFR Part 60).

DATE: December 16, 2011  
405562 ON 12/16/2011

**OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER, TAX COLLECTOR AND DRIVER LICENSE BUILDING COUNTY PROJECT # 2011-23**

Notice is hereby given that Okeechobee County, Florida, pursuant to Section 287.055, Florida Statutes, hereby issues this request for qualifications to provide Architectural Services for the design and construction of a proposed "Property Appraiser, Tax Collector and Driver License Building." Services shall include but not be limited to, space needs assessment, Schematic Design, providing services for structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering, drawings, preparation of preliminary and final construction drawings with complete specifications and contract documents suitable for solicitation of bids and permit issuance for this project and Construction Administration Services.

Complete requirements, background and other information relating to this RFQ is available at Okeechobee County Capital Improvements, 1700 NW 9th Avenue, Suite C, Okeechobee, FL 34972. Related inquiries shall be directed to Donnie Oden, Capital Improvement Projects Manager, at 863-763-0805.

Proposals to provide the services described herein shall include: a letter of transmittal requesting that the firm be certified as qualified to provide the required professional services, organizational profile and qualifications, scope of services proposed, public entity crimes affidavit, SF 330, projected time line and related data as outlined in the RFQ and any state and federal requirements.

Interested firms shall submit an original proposal and eight (8) copies thereof in a sealed enclosure bearing the name and address of the proposer and the words "PROPERTY APPRAISER, TAX COLLECTOR AND DRIVER LICENSE BUILDING" by 4:00 p.m. local time on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd St, Room 222, Okeechobee, FL 34972. Proposals received after the time and date specified will not be considered.

Okeechobee County accepts no responsibility for any expense related to preparation or delivery of proposals, reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive technical errors and informalities not inconsistent with Florida Statutes, and to accept the proposal, which, in its sole judgment, best serves the public interest.

Okeechobee County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Sharon Robertson, Clerk Board of County Commissioners  
Margaret G. Helton, Chair Board of County Commissioners  
Okeechobee County, Florida  
Okeechobee County, Florida  
405448 ON 12/16/2011

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# Tigers cruise to 80-45 win over Brahmans

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Tytrel Williams led a trio of players in double figures as Martin County (6-2) jumped out to an early 23-3 lead and went on to blow out Okeechobee, 80-45, on the Brahmans home floor in high school boys basketball action Tuesday night.

Justin Simmons, a Division I recruit headed for Boston College to play football, had 11 points and 13 rebounds, and Jermohn Queen added 12 points and eight assists for the Tigers.

Phillip Jones and Eddie Neal scored nine points apiece for Okeechobee (4-4).

Things started rough for the Brahmans as the Tigers used their athleticism to dominate on both ends of the court. Martin County scored 17 points in a row in the first quarter as they took command.

A dunk by Fito Andre put a cap on the Tigers aggressiveness and execution in the

first half.

Brahman Coach Shawn Hays said the first quarter got the Brahmans behind the eight ball early and they couldn't recover. "We knew they would be quick and athletic and we had to take care of the ball. In the entire first quarter we did not take care of the ball."

On the positive side, Hays said his team played hard and didn't give up despite the early deficit.

He noted his team was very competitive with the Tigers in the second and third quarters. Okeechobee outscored the Tigers 20-19 in the second quarter and 12-11 in the third quarter.

"They do a good job of taking away what you want to do. We like to get out and run and get the ball on the wing. They took that away from us and we must find a new way to win when teams do that," he added.

Queen said the Tigers had no scouting report on Okeechobee and felt they just need-

ed to be aggressive and play good defense. "We practice defense all the time. Coach makes sure everyone can play. When our starters come out the second group matches our intensity."

Hays said his team still has a chance to be a good team and that there is still a lot of games left to play. "We hit it hard at practice tomorrow and work on the stuff that was wrong. We did some good things and I felt we were competitive in the middle part of the game."

The Brahman junior varsity lost 48-35. Myrick Puentes scored 31 points as the Brahman freshmen defeated the Tigers 71-51.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Felton Johnson of Okeechobee loses control of the ball on a fast break Tuesday night. It was a common sight for the Brahmans (4-4) as they were blown out at home by Martin County.

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**5005-H:** Lakeport Waterfront on a large corner lot. Concrete Seawall, workshop, porch, ceramic tile floors. Needs some TLC. ~~\$432,000~~ NOW \$99,900 MLS #205347

**REDUCED**



**1008-M:** River Run Resort 2 Bedroom 2 Bath Mobile Home. Seller is ready to sell. Make an offer! ~~\$39,999~~ NOW \$29,900 MLS #204194

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**1011-H** In Town 3 bedroom 2 bath CBS home has been remodeled, new windows, new floors, fenced yard. Must take a look inside. **\$107,000** MLS #203354



**3000-M:** Treasure Island 3 bedroom 2 bath DWMH. All double pane windows and sliding glass door. Two carport, 2 sheds, screened rm, back porch. **\$58,900** MLS #205163



**3003-H:** King's Bay 2 Bedroom 2 bath, screened porch, concrete driveway. Easy to show. HOA includes pool, clubhouse, tennis court, and lawn. **\$54,000** MLS #205169

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Special to the Okeechobee News/J.O'Mallon  
**Chaka's Stars Soccer team for 2011 includes: (back row) Coach Jorge Zuniga, Abraham Benitez, Carlos Herrera, Adrian and Xavier Guerrero, Antonio Hernandez, April Vega, Coach Francisco Guerrero, (front row) Cristina Torres, Mary Reyez, Alex Soriano, Alexis Figueroa, Zamir Duran, Daniela Caballero, Bryan Leal and Jason Zuniga.**

## Soccer teams end fall season

Battling teams go head to head for final games

By J. O'Mallon

Okeechobee Parks and Recreation

Okeechobee County Parks & Rec's youth soccer league had another exciting season this year. For two teams in the 10 & under division, a world cup match was played between Chaka's Stars and 441 North Drive Thru on Dec. 10.

Both teams had lost to each other once early on and were ready to settle the score. Xavier Guerrero and Alex Soriano scored for Chaka's Stars while Irvin Luviano and Alexis Raya scored for 441 N. Drive Thru. At the end of regulation time, the score was tied at 2-2. Playing past overtime and in to penalty shoot-out is what soccer fans live and die for. As parents crossed their fingers and coaches held their breath, 5 players from each team stepped up to the penalty marker. The shot count was tied once again at 3-3 and another player from each team was chosen to break the tie.

After Chaka's Stars made the next goal, 441 N. Drive Thru could not respond. Con-

gratulations to Chaka's Stars and a round of applause to both teams for showing great sportsmanship on and off the field.

Congratulations to Mom's Kitchen (9-2-1) for winning in the 12 & under division and also Kassella Construction (9-1), 14 & under champions. Both teams demonstrated skill and confidence early in the season to help seal their victory.



Special to the Okeechobee News/J. O'Mallon  
**Chaka's Stars cheer after a goal during shoot-out.**

## Sheriff's office offers safety tips

The holiday season is a special time of year. It's also a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other crimes. The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office wants everyone to have a secure and happy holiday season by taking a minute from the rush to apply some holiday safety measures.

### Strangers at Your Door...

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes. Check your alarm and outdoor lighting to make sure all are in good working order.

- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.

- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.

- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.

- It is not uncommon for criminals to take advantage of the generosity of people during the holiday season by soliciting donations door-to-door for charitable causes although no charity is involved. Ask for identification and find out how the donated funds will be used. Donate to recognized charitable organizations.

### Shopping...

- Stay alert to your surroundings.
- Minimize shopping after dark or when alone. Take a family member or friend

with you. If you must shop at night, park in a well-lit, high-traffic area.

- Don't tempt a thief by leaving your purse or wallet unattended. Never leave them in a shopping cart, sitting on the floor in a dressing room, or within reach of the public at restaurants.

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check or credit/debit card when possible and notify the credit/debit card issuer immediately if your card is lost, stolen, or misused. Carry only those cards that you intend to use.

- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important you have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

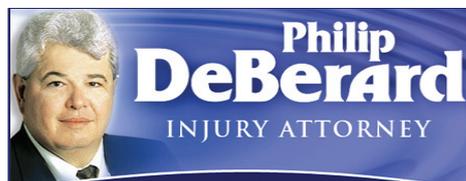
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car and don't leave personal valuables in your car.

- Do not leave packages on the seat of your car.

- When approaching and leaving your car, be aware of your surroundings. Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people standing by it. Ask mall or store security for an escort.

### Internet...

Social networking is a popular way to pass along information to your friends. During the holiday season, it becomes even more popular to let your "friends" know about holiday parties and activities away from home. You can never be sure who sees these posts, so it's recommended to not advertise when you are leaving for festivities.



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