



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 8

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

50¢ Plus tax



**American Legion pageant winners**  
... Page 10

**Creative contestants sought for county fair**  
... Page 4

## Lake Levels

13.43 feet

Last Year: 12.38 feet



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## Task force raids suspected grow houses

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

Detectives with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force were busy last week as they shut down two suspected marijuana grow houses and arrested two men on felony pot charges.

In the first case, Luis Farinas, 46, N.E. 304th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 11 on felony charges of cultivation of marijuana and possession of marijuana with intent to sell. He was also charged with

the misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia.

On the felony charges, his bond was set at \$100,000. He is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail without bond on the paraphernalia charge.

A task force detective said a total of 86 suspected pot plants were seized on Farinas' property that had an estimated street value of \$344,000.

Thursday, Jan. 12, task force detectives raided a home on N.E. Third Drive and arrested Luis Alberto

See GROW — Page 13



Luis Farinas



Luis Alberto Abreu



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day March and Parade

The Okeechobee community honored the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, with a march from Douglas Brown School to Flagler Park, a parade in downtown Okeechobee and festivities at the Douglas Brown School. At top left, a child waves from the Little People Daycare float in the parade. Top, the Okeechobee Steelers performed as they rode in the parade. At bottom left, a banner was carried both in the parade and in the march. For more on the story, see page 9. More photos can also be found online on the Okeechobee News page on Facebook.



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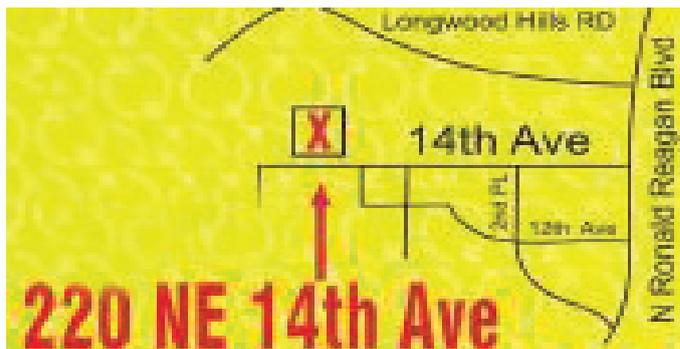
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Special to the Okeechobee News/Historical Society

## Students visit museum

(above) On Jan. 12, the Okeechobee Historical Society played host to Seminole Elementary Students of Mrs. Sickels and Ms. Marquis. The students toured the main museum getting information about the history of Okeechobee and seeing some of the displays. (below right) They were also the first to see the latest acquisition, a saddle that was donated to the museum by Gary Sain. Sonny Williamson and Gary Sain explain the many parts of a saddle. Mr. Sain also provided a demonstration of how to use a cow whip.

## Re-enactment planned

At the January Okeechobee Historical Society Meeting, Dowling Watford spoke to the membership about the upcoming Okeechobee Battlefield Re-enactment. (below) Pictured here, Mr. Watford is holding an 1816 Springfield Musket which was the type of gun used by the Federal Troops during the Battle of Okeechobee. The Okeechobee Historical Society will have a booth at the re-enactment on February 4 where they will have many of their items, such as coffee mugs and the Third Edition of Strolling Down Country Roads available for purchase.



## Okeechobee Forecast

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### Extended Forecast

Weather forecast for Okeechobee County from the National Weather Service

### Local Forecast



Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 80. Calm wind becoming west southwest between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday night: A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north northwest.

### Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 73. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. East northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

## Health and Safety Expo planned

The Fifth Annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo is looking for vendors. Vendors can choose booth space inside the Agri Civic Center or set-up outside to share their health and/or safety related service with the community. Booth space is free, but you must register! 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.

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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!*

### Sex education

• How would we go about getting the school system to do away with the abstinence only plan? I remember talking about it when I was in school and the administration just laughed and said we had no idea what was in the student body's best interest. When they scoff at ideas, what's the point in trying? Now, the undercover drug operation was successful but it was too short sighted. It may have put a dent in the drug usage but the majority of the students caught that were "dealers" were actually just pushers who resold what was handed to them by the dealers outside the school. It's there that the focus needs to be applied. Also where are the parents in all of this?

### Drugs at school

• I think a start for the drug problem would be simply to take one day and have the dogs do a search, as the kids roll up in the parking lot, park and search it. If they would do that, it would stop some of it. And have another dog at the buses checking them as they got off the bus.

• The ongoing war against drugs is nothing new. Thirty-five years ago, pot and pills were at the high school and some junior high schools. Today kids in the sixth grade have been caught with drugs. The war on drugs has not been successful. Many have made and are still making money in the war on drugs. Some are making money on drugs sold. Others are looking the other way. They blame everything on drug users, the big scapegoat. All of the world's problems can be blamed on drug users.

### Thoughts to ponder

• Law of the Theater and Hockey Arena - At any event, the people whose seats are farthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies, and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

### The next president

• Nobody should suffer under any president whether Republican or Democrat. I'm a Moderate Republican with Libertarian leanings. I like Ron Paul on domestic Issues but think he is too far out when it comes to international Issues. I also do not think he has enough support to seriously challenge for the GOP nomination. I am supporting Mitt Romney. I believe he is the man to turn this country around. It is time for a businessman instead of a career politician to run this country. Romney understands how the economy works and can get us back on track. He also supports a strong military, which is a plus. He seems to be a more moderate Republican than people like Perry, Santorum, etc.

• I would actually support Ron Paul. There are things I disagree with, but I believe he is one of the most honest politicians out there. We will always have a strong military, no matter who the president is. I think Romney, being a business man, will end up hurting him in the long run. He would do a lot better if he didn't come off as "smug" or trying to be part of the "middle class." Romney was a better Democrat. He saw where the money was and he turned Republican.

• There is no way the 'establishment' will let Paul get the GOP nomination. He doesn't 'play ball.'

• The problem with Ron Paul's view of foreign affairs, that we should leave other countries alone and stay out of their affairs, is this: they won't stay out of our country or our affairs, even though 9/11 demonstrated it very clearly.

• A country did not attack us on 9/11. The U.S.A. has not been attacked by another country since WWII. How is another country affecting our affairs? What other country is in the U.S.?

• I really hate that politics in this country has become the new professional sport. Everyone has their team, and instead of really learning about "the game" or "the players" people just go around yelling about how great their team is and how much the other team sucks. I don't see how it's really possible for any voter to have the same exact values and beliefs as any one political party let alone one individual candidate. Why can't we really look at each issue, make an informed personal decision about it, and then choose the candidate that best aligns with that regardless of their party instead of just choosing sides and kowtowing to the party line in order to fit into the mold of being a good Democrat or a good Republican?

## Letters to the editor

### Calling all creative competitors!

### Okeechobee County Fair adds new competitive events for 2012

It's time to prepare for the thrill of competition at the 2012 Okeechobee County Fair. From afghans to art, canned goods to cake decorating, sewing to scrapbooking – there is something for everyone.

This year's fair will host the largest number of competitive events yet. With almost two dozen different competitions the tent should be full of blue ribbon displays. Details of all of the categories can be found in the 2012 premium book which may be downloaded from the Okeechobee County Fair's web site - [www.okeechobeeountyfair.com](http://www.okeechobeeountyfair.com) Premium books may also be picked up at the Okeechobee County Extension Office at 458 Highway 98 North.

New to the fair this year will be a scrapbooking category. Creative contestants are invited to submit their best double page layout for judging. Additional new to the fair is

cake decorating, heirloom quilts and jewelry crafts divisions.

In the photography division this year, in addition to the popular People's Choice Award, there will be a Best of Show in both the Youth and Adult divisions. Last year over nine hundred fair visitors voted for their favorite in the People's Choice. The photography contest is an exciting event for the contestants and many have been competing since the first year of the fair.

One of the most popular categories at the fair, with both the judges and contestants, is the Baked Goods. There is truly a smorgasbord of delectable delights. The baking category is an opportunity for local cooks to share their great recipes that have often been handed down in their families. New for this division will be a judge's Best of Show winner as well. This will also be the first year for the cake decorating division. All of you budding "Cake Bosses" need to check out the competition!

All of the categories at the fair feature both youth and adult divisions. In addition to ribbons and prize money there will be plaques for the Best of Show winners and the People's Choice Winner.

**Dianne Spann**

### Upcoming Blood Drives

The Big Red Bus will be in Okeechobee nine more times during January. If you donated at the Blood Roundup in November, you are eligible to donate anytime after the 14th of the month. Make your choice from any of these opportunities and know you are, once again, saving Okeechobee lives.

Wednesday, Jan. 18 - KOA, 8:30 to 2:30

Thursday, Jan. 19 - Ancient Oaks 9:30 to 2:30

Friday, Jan. 20 - Seacoast Bank, south, 11 to 4

Friday, Jan. 20 - Walgreen's, 1 to 6

Sunday, Jan. 22 - St. Theresa Church BHR, 10 - 3

Tuesday, Jan. 24 - Okee High School, 7:30 to 3:30

Saturday, Jan. 28 - Health and Safety Expo, Ag Center 10 to 3

Saturday, Jan. 28 - Winterfest, Catfish Fest., BHR Fire Dept.,

Saturday, Jan. 28 - WalMart, 11 to 4 p.m.

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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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.

### Okeechobee News

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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.
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- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
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- 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.



# Food bank helps needy families

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

In these hard economic times there is an organization that helps Okeechobee churches and other charitable organizations feed the hungry.

"Our goal is to provide as much food as we can to alleviate hunger," said Judy Cruz, CEO of Treasure Coast Food Bank. The food bank is part of nationwide network of 203 food banks. Through the network they receive donated food from retailers and agriculture producers and distribute it to partners who, in turn, give the food to the needy. A partner must be either a 501 (c)3 or affiliated with a church. Some of the food is distributed free to the partners. For some items there is an 18 cents per pound handling fee.

The Treasure Coast Food Bank serves 250 partners in Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. There are about 20 partners in Okeechobee County and the county receives about 21 percent of the food distributed. Last year 570,376 pounds of food were distributed in the county. This is

equivalent to 438,750 meals and is valued at approximately \$728,325.

Two of the largest Okeechobee partners are the First Baptist Church and the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church.

First Baptist Church, 306 S.W. Fourth St., 863-763-2171, operates a Mission House that distributes food and clothing to needy families on Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. until noon. While they do receive donations from other sources, Treasure Coast Food Bank is the largest source of food for First Baptist Church's food pantry. Some food they purchase, and some they get for free. In the past 40 percent of the food from the food bank was donated and 60 percent was purchased. However, director Shirley Lewis said that recently they have been getting more donated food. She said the food bank has been a tremendous help.

Last year the Presbyterian Church food pantry served 14,017 people. Like First Baptist, most of their food comes from the food bank. They average getting 300 to 400 pounds of food a week from the food bank.

Some of the other larger Okeechobee

partners include Basinger Christian Church, 16090 N.W. 176th Lane, 863-763-3475, whose food pantry is open from 9 until noon on Saturday; Oakview Baptist Church, 677 S.W. 32nd St. 863-763-1699, which provides food on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. by appointment; Church of God of Prophecy, 102 N.W. 10th St., 863-763-4654, which supplies food on the second and fourth Friday from noon until 2 p.m. (except during the months of November and December); Okeechobee Church of God, 301 N.E. Fourth Ave, 863-763-4127 which offers food the first Monday of each month from 8 to 10 a.m.; Lamb of God Ministries Outreach, 1012 S. Parrott Ave., 863-467-2677, whose pantry is open on Thursday from noon to 4 p.m.; Okeechobee Church of the Nazarene, 425 S.W. 28th St., 863-763-1511, whose pantry is open on Friday from 9 a.m. until noon; Living World of Faith Fellowship, 1902 Parrott Ave, 863-763-6869, whose pantry is open on Thursday at noon, and Samaritan Outreach Center/Hope Ministries, 1465 N.E. 14th Ave, 863-467-1500 distributes food Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Being overweight or obese can complicate pregnancy

Being overweight or obese during pregnancy can cause complications for you and your baby. The more overweight you are, the greater the chances for pregnancy complications. But there are things you can do before and during pregnancy to help you have a healthy baby.

To know if you're overweight or obese, find out your body mass index (BMI) before you get pregnant. BMI is a calculation based on your weight and height.

- If you're overweight, your BMI is 25.0 to 29.9 before pregnancy. Two in 3 women (66 percent) of reproductive age (15 to 44 years) in the United States is overweight.

- If you're obese, your BMI is 30.0 or higher before pregnancy. About 1 in 4 women (25 percent) is obese.

What kinds of pregnancy complications can overweight and obesity cause?

If you're overweight or obese, you're more likely than pregnant women at a healthy weight to have certain medical problems during pregnancy. The more overweight you are, the higher your risk for problems. These problems include:

- Infertility, not being able to get pregnant;
- Miscarriage, when a baby dies in the womb before 20 weeks of pregnancy;
- Stillbirth, when a baby dies in the womb before birth but after 20 weeks of pregnancy;
- High blood pressure and preeclampsia, a form of high blood pressure that only pregnant women get. It can cause serious problems for mom and baby;
- Gestational diabetes, diabetes that some women get during pregnancy;
- Complications during labor and birth, including having a really big baby (called large-for-gestational-age) or needing a cesarean section (c-section). Some of these problems, like preeclampsia, can increase your chances of preterm birth. Preterm birth is birth before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy. This is too soon and can cause

serious health problems for your baby.

*Can overweight and obesity during pregnancy cause problems for your baby?*

Most babies of overweight and obese women are born healthy. But overweight and obesity during pregnancy can cause health problems for your baby. These include:

- Birth defects, including neural tube defects (NTDs). NTDs are birth defects of the brain and spine;
- Preterm birth;
- Injury, like shoulder dystocia, during birth because the baby is large;
- Death after birth; and
- Being obese during childhood.

*What can you do before pregnancy to improve your chances of having a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby?*

Get a preconception checkup. This is a medical checkup you get before pregnancy. Your health care provider can help you with ways to eat healthy and exercise. This can help you lose weight before you get pregnant.

Check out choosemyplate.gov, an online tool from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It can help you with a healthy eating plan based on your age, weight, height and physical activity.

*What can you do during pregnancy to improve your chances of having a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby?*

Here's what you can do:

- Get early and regular prenatal care. Go to every checkup, even if you're feeling fine.

- Talk to your provider about how much weight to gain during pregnancy. Overweight women should gain about 15 to 25 pounds during pregnancy. Obese women should gain about 11 to 20 pounds during pregnancy. Don't try to lose weight during pregnancy.

- Don't diet during pregnancy. Some diets can reduce the nutrients your baby needs for growth and health. Visit the spe-

cial section of choosemyplate.gov that's just for pregnant women and breastfeeding moms. Or see a nutritionist to help you plan your meals.

- Exercise on most days. But talk to your provider before you start any exercise program. Walking, swimming, riding a stationary bike or taking pregnancy aerobic or yoga classes are safe forms of exercise for pregnant women.

Does weight-loss surgery reduce your chances of pregnancy complications?

Yes. More than 50,000 women each year in the United States have weight-loss surgery. Women who lose weight after weight-loss surgery are less likely than obese women who haven't had surgery to have fertility problems. They're also less likely to have pregnancy complications, like gestational diabetes and high blood pressure. And their babies are less likely to be born too early or with birth defects.

If you have weight-loss surgery, your provider may recommend that you wait at least 1 year after surgery before you try to get pregnant. You may lose a lot of weight really quickly during that year after surgery. If you're pregnant, this rapid weight loss could cause problems for your baby.

It's not common, but weight-loss surgery can cause pregnancy complications for some women. If you've had weight-loss surgery, tell your surgeon right away if you have pain in your belly during pregnancy. You may need to be checked for blocked intestines or similar problems.

Remember that you don't have to have weight-loss surgery to lose weight. Healthy eating, exercise and other lifestyle changes can help you lose weight without surgery. Talk to your provider about your pregnancy plans and how weight-loss surgery may affect them.

*This information was provided by the March of Dimes.*

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**OKEECHOBEE NEWS**

## Community Events

### Library presents Broadway programs

Ian R. B. Nairnsey is presenting a series of talks in January and February on "Broadway Musicals Decade by Decade." The programs are held on Wednesdays at noon at the Okeechobee County Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. Admission is free. Those attending are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. The programs last about 75 minutes and are illustrated with slides and musical selections. The **Jan. 18**, program covers the 1940s and 1950s.

### Cypress Hut Eagles host dinner

Thursday, **Jan. 19** at 5:30 p.m. the Cypress Hut Eagles will be having a Shrimp Scampi dinner. \$6 per dinner. Public Welcome. All proceeds go to Community Charity Fund.

## Obituaries

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

### James 'Brad' Bradley Garris, 75

OKEECHOBEE — James "Brad" Bradley Garris, age 75, died peacefully at home with family on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012.

Born in Rock Hill, S.C., Brad had been a resident of Okeechobee since 1977.

During this time, he enjoyed a membership at the local Moose Lodge and periodic hunting and fishing trips. He owned and operated the Hickory House Restaurant, which was later named Brewski's; American Roofing; Hoss' Discount Aluminum & Builders; American Discount Aluminum, Taylor Creek Motors; and was the original owner and builder of the Brahma Bull Restaurant & Lounge.

He is survived by Charolette Garris, his wife of 40 years; sons, Christopher Garris of West Palm Beach, Dirk (Andrea) Garris of Tallahassee; daughter, Patti Sue Garris of West Palm Beach; step-son, Bill (Genene) Newman of Tallahassee; step-daughter, Bobette (Jesse) Stubblefield of Alaska; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brother, William (June) Garris of Leesburg; and a sister, Juanita (Johnny) Griffis of West Palm Beach.

A life celebration will be 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012, at the Brahma Bull Restaurant, 2405 Hwy. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, Fla.

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

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

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



### Seacoast sponsors annual bass tourney

Register today for the tenth annual Seacoast National Bank Big Lake Bass Fishing Tournament. Proceeds will benefit the March of Dimes. Advance registration closes at 5 p.m. on Jan. 23. Checks can be made payable to March of Dimes until Jan. 23. Tournament Day will be cash only. First prize is \$1,000. For more information, please call Kathleen Shatto at 863-467-4663.

### Democratic Executive Council to meet

The Okeechobee Democratic Executive Council will be having their regular meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19, beginning at 6 p.m. in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's. Any interested Democrats are invited to attend.

### Harry C. 'H.C.' Hoffner, 84

STUART — Harry C. "H.C." Hoffner, 84, died Jan. 13, 2012, at Treasure Coast Hospice in Stuart.

Born in Salisbury, N.C., Mr. Hoffner was a lifelong resident of Florida, residing in Okeechobee.

He worked for the City of Stuart for twenty-five years. Mr. Hoffner was a member of Alcoholics Anonymous in both Martin and Okeechobee counties, as well as both counties' Garden and Orchid Clubs. He was a member of the Church in the Woods in Okeechobee.

Mr. Hoffner is lovingly survived by his son, Jesse of Okeechobee; son, Josh (Victoria) of Palm City; sister, Edna Mahalia of Gainesville; and two grandchildren, Valerie and Peter.

He was predeceased by his wife of 53 years, Rosalie.

A Visitation will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012, from 1 to 3 p.m. with a funeral service to begin at 3 p.m. at the Aycock Funeral Home in Stuart.

Condolences may be offered at [www.aycockfuneralhome.net](http://www.aycockfuneralhome.net)

Arrangements are entrusted to Aycock Funeral Home, Stuart.

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For a complete list of Obituary Notices, click on your community, then click on "Obituaries".

**newszap.com**

### FLW EverStart Fishing Tournaments

The FLW EverStart and College Fishing Team Tournaments will be held **Jan. 19-21**, in Okeechobee. Take offs and weigh-ins are free and open to the public. Anglers will take off from C. Scott Driver Recreation Area located at 10100 W. Highway 78 at 7:30 am each morning. Weigh-ins will be held at C. Scott Driver Recreation Area beginning at 3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 19 and 20th and Final Tournament Weigh-In will be at the WalMart Store located at 2101 S. Parrot Ave. in Okeechobee at 4 p.m. The College Fishing Team Tournament will be held at C. Scott Driver Park on Saturday, Jan. 21 at 1:30 p.m. The Lake Okeechobee EverStart Series Tournament is hosted by the Okeechobee County Tourist Development Council. For further information call 863-763-3959.

### Chamber Concealed Weapons Permit Class

The Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee will host a Concealed Weapons Permit Class on Thursday, Jan. 19, at the Hampton Inn from 7 to 9 p.m. Range training will be conducted on the following Saturday morning. The cost of the class is \$30, and a concealed weapon permit package will be provided to each participant. You do not need to own a gun to attend class. **PREREQUISITION IS REQUIRED.** Register online at [www.OkeechobeeBusiness.com](http://www.OkeechobeeBusiness.com). Go to calendar of events and click on the Jan. 19 Concealed Weapons Permit Class. Then follow instructions to register online. You may also pickup a registration form at the Hampton Inn. If you should have additional questions, please contact the Chamber at [info@OkeechobeeBusiness.com](mailto:info@OkeechobeeBusiness.com) or 863-467-6246.

### Eagles North to host steak night

Eagles North will host Friday steak night on Friday, Jan. 20, from 5:30-9 p.m. Music by Al Jones. Put on your dancing shoes. All proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund, 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee

### Cypress Hut Eagles to host steak night

Friday, Jan. 20, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., the Cypress Hut Eagles, will be serving steak for \$12, fish for \$8 or shrimp for \$12. Music will be by Phil Eddings. All proceed go to Community Charity Fund. The public is welcome.

### Women's business group to meet

The Okeechobee Business Women's Referral Network will meet Friday, Jan. 20, at 11:30 a.m. at The Lodge at the Lake Restaurant, 1111 S. Parrott Ave. The group's purpose is to allow women to meet, exchange ideas and learn new concepts in a relaxed, friendly gathering. Further information available at 863-610-2176.

### B.R.A.T. Club plans January Teen Dance

Come and start off the new year with friends at the January Teen Dance Party set for Saturday, **Jan. 21**, at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus from 7 until 10 p.m. Tickets are just \$7 each and includes pizza, soda, chips and entertainment. Ages 12-16 are welcome. Music by DJ "Dunk" games and more. For more information, call Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996.

### Eagles to host Card Bingo

Eagles North will have Card Bingo on Saturday, **Jan. 21**, starting at 4 p.m. Come play and have fun with us. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 Community Benefit fund, 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee.

### Gilbert Chevrolet to host child safety seat check

Gilbert Chevrolet & Safety Kids Palm Beach County proudly present the Child Passenger Safety Seat Check-Up Event on **Jan. 21**, at Gilbert Chevrolet. The event will begin at 11 a.m. and conclude at 2 p.m. The event is free. There will be free food, kid activities, hands on demonstrations to keep kids safe in and around vehicles and there will be car seats available to purchase for \$25.

### Available 24/7



**Community Guide:** <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=65039&pagenum=1>

**Medical Directory:** <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=59786&pagenum=1>

**Meet Your Merchant:** <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=56360&pagenum=1>

**School Information Guide:** <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=68371&pagenum=1>

# Most taxpayers can file immediately

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service opened the 2012 electronic tax return filing season with a reminder to taxpayers that e-file remains the best way to get fast refunds and ensure accurate tax returns.

"Last year, 188,000 Floridians used Free File but a lot more people are eligible—about 70 percent of filers. Because Florida doesn't have a state income tax, Free File is really the only tax product Floridians need. So if you want to file your return for free and get your refund quickly, Free File and choose Direct Deposit." Michael Dobzinski, Florida media relations specialist stated.

IRS e-file has surpassed the milestone of 1 billion returns processed. The electronic transmission system revolutionized the way the IRS processes tax returns and made speedy refunds possible. More than 112 million income tax returns were e-filed last year, or 77 percent of all individual returns filed.

"E-file is the best option for taxpayers. E-file enables taxpayers to file more accurate returns and receive their refunds quickly and safely," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman.

In general, for people concerned about secu-

ity, e-file has proven itself year in and year out as a safe and secure method of filing a tax return. E-file has a proven track record. Software vendors and paid tax return preparers use the latest encryption technology. Plus, within 48 hours, an electronic acknowledgement is issued that the return has been received by the IRS and either accepted or rejected.

With most people receiving a refund, the fastest way to get a refund is by e-filing and using direct deposit. Taxpayers can get their money automatically in as few as 10 days. Last year, more than 79 million refunds were electronically deposited into taxpayers' accounts, saving them a trip to the bank.

For people who owe taxes, e-file offers payment alternatives such as filing now and scheduling payment on the April tax deadline. Taxpayers who still want to pay by check can do so by e-filing and then mailing a payment voucher.

Taxpayers can e-file their tax returns one of three ways: through a tax return preparer, through self-preparation software or through IRS Free File. The IRS does not charge for e-file. Many tax return preparers and software products also offer free e-filing with their services.

Free File offers free tax preparation and free electronic filing.

Starting this filing season, any paid preparer who prepares and files more than 10 returns for clients generally must file the returns electronically. Taxpayers are encouraged to use tax return preparers who offer IRS e-file.

Taxpayers should also only use paid preparers who sign the returns they prepare and enter their Preparer Tax Identification Numbers (PTINs). Preparers are required to sign the returns they prepare and include their PTINs. Although paid preparers sign returns, taxpayers are legally responsible for the accuracy of every item on their return. Preparers are also required to give taxpayers a copy of their returns.

When using e-file, you also use an e-signature and an electronic filing PIN. If you prepare your own return using software you must use the self-select PIN method on the return. When using a paid preparer, you can still use the self-select PIN method or the practitioner PIN method. The Electronic Filing PIN is a temporary PIN used by the IRS to verify your identity when you e-file.

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## Okeechobee Arrest Report

The following individuals were arrested on felony or driving under the influence (DUI) charges by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the Department of Corrections (DOC).

- Dennis William Cruz-Ferrer, 28, Park St., Norwalk, Conn., was arrested Jan. 13 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on an amended DOC warrant charging him with the felony of violation of probation - child abuse. He is being held without bond on that charge. He was also arrested on Okeechobee County warrants charging him with the misdemeanors of failure to appear - battery, failure to appear - contempt/failure to appear at arraignment and failure to appear - violation of injunction (six counts). His total bond on these charges was set at \$35,000.

- Richard M. Hunter, 50, N.E. 122nd Drive, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 14 by Deputy Steven Pollock on a charge of grand theft. He was released on his own recognizance.

- Daniel Martin Juarbe, 26, The Pointe Drive, West Palm Beach, was arrested Jan. 14 by Deputy Justin Akins on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Antonio Yanez, 53, N.W. Seventh St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 14 by Deputy Yamil Astacio on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$750.

- Jose Ivan Hernandez, 53, S.E. 33rd Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 15 by Deputy Yamil Astacio on a charge of aggravated assault. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Christofer Player, 20, Copenhaver Road, Fort Pierce, was arrested Jan. 15 by FWC Officer James Payne on a charge of trespass on property with a firearm. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Jed Keith Burke, 18, Peterson Road, Fort Pierce, was arrested Jan. 15 by FWC Of-

ficer James Payne on a charge of trespass on property with a firearm. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Michael Daniel McCann, 28, Palm Court, Buckhead Ridge, was arrested Jan. 16 by Deputy John Ashby on a charge of driving while license suspended/revoked - habitual

offender. His bond was set at \$500.

*This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.*

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# Literacy happenings at Okeechobee Achievement Academy

Students at Okeechobee Achievement Academy have been enjoying their new library. The Media Center has a variety of fiction and non-fiction books for students, as well as videos/dvds, reference/research materials, and magazines. The Media Center

also hosts many teacher resources for the staff. Several students (grades 3-12) visit the media center regularly to check-out books.

On Friday, Jan. 6, elementary students were able to choose a free book provided by RIF (Reading is Fundamental), which is

the nation's largest nonprofit children's literacy organization. The academy also held its first ever "Scholastic Book Fair" in December following Literacy night. Literacy Night was hosted by NBA. Several students participated in brief skits under the supervision of Pat Murray (NBA Counselor). Parents and students were then treated to light refreshments and were able to visit classrooms and the Media Center. The first ever book fair totaled over \$550.

The media center is just a small portion of many literacy happenings occurring at Okeechobee Achievement Academy. A "kick-off" celebration will be hosted on Monday, Jan. 23, during the school's nine-

weeks awards ceremony. Literacy week will include guest readers, school-wide silent reading, book challenge, and more. The community is invited to donate books during this period through the school's website, which is hosted by Florida Department of Education. A special thank you goes out to Pat O'Conner for volunteering her time to help organize the Media Center. Also, thank you to Mr. Watts (My Aunts House) for donating a handful of children's books. Please visit <http://www.okee.k12.fl.us/nen/index.html> to donate a book, or contact Media Specialist @ 462-5125 Ext. 119.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OAA (Reading is Fundamental). Left to Right: Carlos Tovar, Rebecca Francis, Juan Torres and Pablo Martinez.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SEM

## Students of the Week

Seminole Elementary would like to congratulate their Students of the Week for the week of Jan. 13: Gage Floyd, Rance Pendrey, Anthony Jimenez, Moises Fernandez, Ashley Boyd, Scott Major, Alex Lima, Jenaya Cason, Briseida Medina, Dalia Martinez, Luiz Reynoso, Yovani Garcia-Elias, Luis Toj, Daisey Campos, Jonathan Thomas, Jonathan Mederos, Ramiro Arellano, Tyrone Thomas, Yesica Olvera-Zepeda, Manuel Martinez, Adrianna Beltron, James Hallett, Jalon Wiles, Jasmin Garcia, Piper Watts and Carlos Flores.

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Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day observances in Okeechobee County began Monday morning with a march at 9 a.m. from the Douglas Brown School to Flagler Park in downtown Okeechobee.



At left, The Okeechobee High School JROTC Color Guard led the Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade in downtown Okeechobee at 10 a.m. on Monday. Above, representatives of Men Against Violence rode in the parade.



Parade watchers gathered in Flagler Park to watch the Martin Luther King Day Parade in downtown Okeechobee on Monday. For more photos online, see the Okeechobee News page on Facebook.

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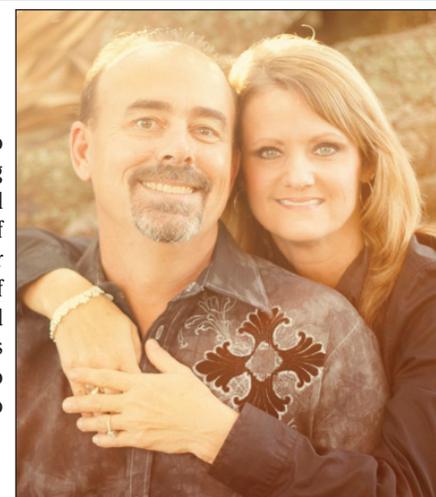
Just visit [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com), click on your community, and then on the link for Publish Your News.

#### ENGAGEMENT

### JENNIFER STOKES & PAUL SMITH

Paul Smith and Jennifer Stokes would like to announce their engagement and upcoming February wedding. Paul is the son of Mildred Kirkland and the late John Smith, and the father of Alexis and Kade. He is the owner of Smith Tractor and Equipment Repair. Jennifer is the daughter of Bobby and Earlane Johns, and the mother of Chad and Dustin. She is employed at Family Dentistry as a dental assistant supervisor. They look forward to uniting their families. After a honeymoon trip to Colorado, the couple will reside in Okeechobee.

Photo courtesy of Janelle's Photography



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Special to the Okeechobee News/Bobbi Poole

### Pageant winners

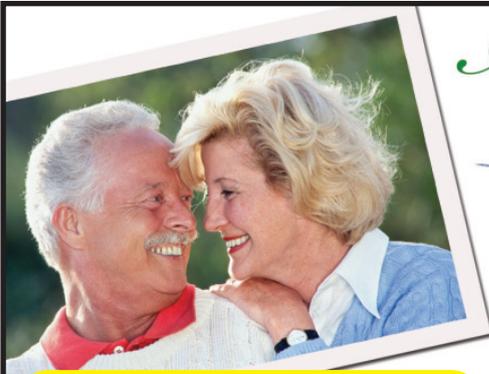
American Legion Post 64 held their annual beauty pageant on Jan. 12. Left to right are second runner up Natasha Bayless, winner Melanie Alayon and first runner up Ana Merconchini. The American Legion Free Fair is under way this week in downtown Okeechobee, in the American Legion field off State Road 70 behind City Hall.



Okeechobee News/D. Whitehall

### Kiwanis guest

The Thursday, Jan. 12, Kiwanis meeting was held at noon at The Lodge at the Lake Family Restaurant. In the photo left to right are J.D. Mixon, vice president of the Kiwanis Club; Scott Proctor, the speaker and Bert Culbreth. Bert introduced his speaker, Scott Proctor, graduate of Martin County High School and professional baseball player who pitched for the Yankees, Dodgers and Braves. Mr. Proctor talked to the Kiwanis members about his personal experience with the M.E.'s Team (Medical Equipment Specialties), Changing lives through teamwork and how they helped his daughter tremendously after being diagnosed with a Heart Murmur. The M.E.'s Team # 1 goal is to make a positive impact in the lives of children and families in need in this community and you may visit their website at: [www.mesteam.com](http://www.mesteam.com).



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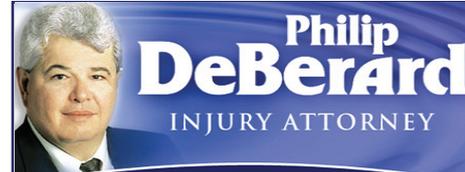
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# Churches plan special programs and concerts

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

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

**Cowboys for Christ** of Basinger will meet Thursday, **Jan. 19**, at the Basinger Community Center. A pot luck supper will begin at 6 p.m. followed by services at 7 p.m. For more information, call Dora McDuffie at 863-763-2285.

Thomas Shelton will be in concert at the **Okeechobee Christian Church, Jan. 22**, at 6 p.m. Thomas has been sharing the Gospel through his music for over 30 years. He has traveled throughout the states and is coming to Okeechobee once again.

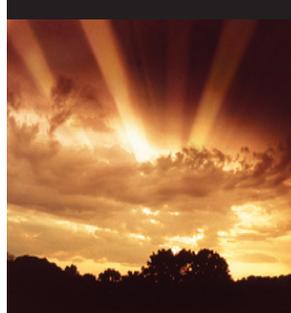
The Knights of Columbus of **St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church** in Buckhead Ridge will host an Italian dinner on Saturday, **Jan. 28**, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the church hall, State Road 78 West at Chobee Loop. The menu will include lasagna, baked ziti, spaghetti, garlic bread, salad

and desserts, along with coffee, iced tea and lemonade. Take out dinners are available. Requested donation is \$7 per adult meal, \$3 per child.

Southern Gospel Concert featuring **The Lesters** from St. Louis, Mo. will be performed on Saturday, **Jan. 28** at 6 p.m. at **Church of the Nazarene**, 425 SW 28th Street, Okeechobee. A love offering will be received. For more information, please call 863-763-7113.

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

New **St. Stephen AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church** is in the process of building a new sanctuary at 1050 N.E. 16th Avenue. The church is seeking both monetary donations and donations of equipment and supplies. Items sought include a sound system, landscaping, folding tables, office chairs, a fax machine, a refrigerator, com-



## Places of Worship

puters, file cabinets, industrial cleaning supplies, tents and a copying machine. The mailing address is P.O. Box 836, Okeechobee, FL. 34973. For more information, contact Rev. Pauline Livatt at 305-389-1280, Tony Delagall of the Building Committee at 863-801-1716 or treasurer Willie Welch at 863-697-697-8924.

Trust Promotions presents the annual Anniversary concert for **Okeechobee's Trust Quartet**. Everyone is invited to join Trust Quartet in celebrating their 18th

anniversary in concert with special guests, Simple Faith Trio from St. Petersburg and Gulf State Quartet from Wauchula, for a full evening of fun and enjoyment as three groups perform their first ever "popcorn" style concert in Okeechobee. All groups on stage popping up in a one-song rotation, along with other surprises continuing for 2-1/2 hours, followed by fellowship and refreshments provided by Trust Quartet. A \$6 donation is requested at the door and a love offering will be received. Mark your calendars for Saturday, **Feb. 4**, at 6 p.m. at the **Okeechobee Church of God**, 301 NE 4th



Courtesy photo  
**The Lesters from St. Louis, Mo. will be performing on Saturday, Jan. 28 at 6 p.m. at the Church of the Nazarene.**

Ave., Okeechobee (Behind McDonalds on Hwy. 70 For more information, please call 863-634-8793 or 863-610-1581.

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

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Special to the Okeechobee News/OCHD

## OCHD Employee of the Quarter

Erin Hess, (right) Administrator, Okeechobee County Health Department presents the Employee of the Quarter award to Karen Cooper, ARNP. (left).

## GROW

Continued From Page 1

Abreu, 42, Biscayne Blvd., Miami. He was charged with cultivation of marijuana, a felony; and, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana less than 20 grams which are both misdemeanors.

He, too, is being held in the county jail on \$50,000 bond in connection with the felony charge. Bond on the possession less than 20 grams charge was set at \$1,000, and he is being held without bond on the paraphernalia charge.

Arrest reports do not indicate a connection between the two men, other than their arrests.

Farinas, stated an arrest report, refused to let detectives search his home on N.E. 304th St. However, since he is currently on felony probation out of Highlands County he is subject to warrantless searches. Because of that, detectives could legally search the premises without his permission.

According to the arrest report the detectives found 61 suspected pot plants growing in a barn on the property and another 25 suspected plants growing in the man's home. Also found in both locations were air conditioners, plant pots, soil, extension cords, ballasts, thermostats, hoses, vent hoses and irrigation systems.

The suspected pot was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana, added the arrest report.

All of the plants had active root systems, the report added.

The report went on to state that the plants in the barn weighed 1.95 pounds, while the plants in the home weighed 4.20 pounds.

Farinas reportedly told the detectives that

after harvesting the marijuana he was going to sell it in Miami.

It was also learned that Farinas has several different addresses in Miami, pointed out the arrest report.

When the detectives raided Abreu's mobile home the next day they found a "... fully functional grow room ..." inside the home, but they only found 14.4 grams of suspected marijuana. Although no growing plants were found, the arrest report stated that what marijuana they found was hanging on a string that ran from one side of a room to another.

However, continued the report, a search of the home did turn up numerous 1,000-watt light bulbs, ballasts, thermostats, mylar on the walls and ceiling of the room, zip lock bags, PVC pipes, plant buckets, vent hoses and a large charcoal air filter for eliminating the odor of marijuana.

Abreu, added the report, has a case pending against him in Texas that involves 25 pounds of marijuana.

As for Farinas, Department of Corrections (DOC) records show that he was placed on two years community control to be followed by three years probation after he entered a plea of no contest in 2009 to felony charges of grand theft and attempted trafficking in cannabis.

The Okeechobee County Property Appraiser's web site shows that Marlen and Luis Farina are the property owners, and their listed mailing address is S.W. 146th Court in Miami. The single family home and two outbuildings sits on a 5-acre site.

For Abreu, that web site indicates that Leon Zeida, who has a mailing address of S.W. 131st Place in Miami, is the registered owner of the 1979 mobile home that sits on the 5.060-acre site on N.E. Third Drive.

# Code magistrate fines owners of two properties

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

At a hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 17, Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Lois Nichols imposed fines in two code violation cases.

At the November hearing John K. and Deborah E. Davies were ordered to clean up their S.E. 23rd Street property by removing overgrowth and weeds and mowing and trimming. The deadline for coming into compliance was Jan. 12. Code enforcement officer Mike Gehring stated that

compliance was not achieved by that date. Therefore the special magistrate imposed a fine of \$25 a day for every day of noncompliance beginning Jan. 18.

Angela Cunningham had also been ordered to remove overgrowth and mow her S.E. 35th Lane property by Jan. 12. Code enforcement officer Rollo Ridley stated that compliance had not been achieved by the deadline. Ms. Cunningham was fined \$25 a day for every day of noncompliance beginning Jan. 18.

## Presidential candidate to visit Okeechobee on Tuesday, Jan. 24

Rick Santorum, Republican candidate for president, will be in Okeechobee on Tuesday morning, Jan. 24. Members of the public may meet him at the ROC (Recreation Outreach Center), 310 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee.

He will be here at 9 a.m., doors will open at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact the Republican Party of Okeechobee at 863-532-9623.

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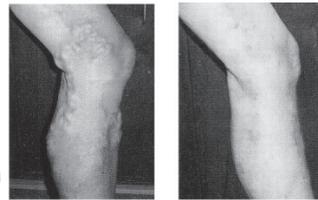
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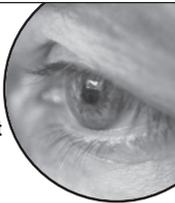
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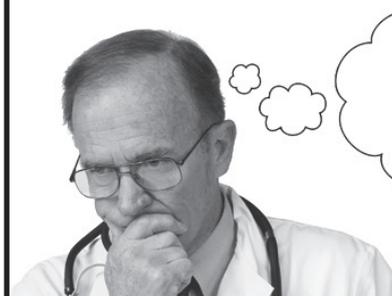


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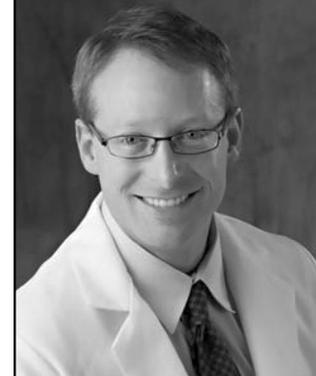
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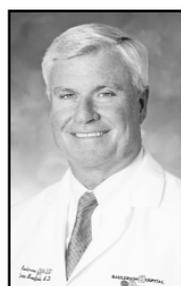


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## Okeechobee Sports News in Brief

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

• Ami Edwards had 23 points but it wasn't enough as the Okeechobee High School Lady Brahms fell on the road last Friday to Sebastian River 77-42. Miranda Wilt led the Lady Eagles with 22 points in their easy victory over Okeechobee.

• The OHS girls weight lifting team continues to improve this year as six of their lifters qualified for the sectional meet during the Quad County Invitational at Fort Pierce Central this past weekend.

Khrysta Herndon, Kathy Simmon, Lauren Hazelief, Taylor Boyett, Elisia Garcia and Sarah Davis will all compete at the sectional on Saturday, January 28th at Fort Pierce Central. The top three athletes in each weight division will qualify for the state meet in February. Davis finished in third place in the 154 pound weight class with two lifts that totaled 240 pounds. Boyett lifted 205 pounds in the 169 weight division. The team is coached by Tyrone Smith.

• Walkers, runners and bikers be aware that certain sections of the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail have been closed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Maintenance and rehabilitation work is being done on sections of the Herbert Hoover Dike between Uncle Joe's Fish Camp in Glades County and the Alvin Ward Park in Moore Haven. Two culverts are being replaced in that area.

• The Brahman boys hoops teams were pushed to overtime before they prevailed over Sebastian River 84-76 at home on Friday night. Trewiston Pierce led Okeechobee with 25 points and 11 rebounds.

• Two-time All State Softball Pitcher Samantha Harrell will make her college choice known Wednesday during a signing party at a local restaurant.

• The OHS wrestling team won three matches at the Destito Memorial Tour-

namment Saturday at Martin County High School. Fort Pierce Central won the seventh annual event with an undefeated day. For Okeechobee, Ryan Hagan at 145 pounds and Allen Leitner at 170 pounds were undefeated on the day. Johnathon Kemp (182) and Larry Tabor (138) lost only one match apiece. Greg Hernandez won two matches to eclipse 20 wins on the season in the 220 pound weight division. Todd Lanning won two of five matches in the first varsity matches of his career at 126 pounds. Coach Robert Olive said he felt the team had the potential to finish as high as second at the tournament but fell a little short, "The things we need to work on are easily correctable. We need to be in better condition, we need to put on some more muscle, and most importantly we need to gain more confidence in ourselves."

Okeechobee lost to Port St. Lucie 43-34 and St. Lucie West Centennial 42-36 but responded to defeat Bayside 47-27, Vero Beach 48-26, and Sebastian River 48-33 at the dual tournament.

• The OHS Rodeo Team had several fine performances on Jan. 7 and 8 at the Leesburg High School Rodeo. Justin Mills finished in first place on both days in the bareback riding. Nat Stratton came in first place in the saddlebronc riding competition on both go rounds. Other fine performances included a ninth place finish for Raylee Holmes in goat tying on Saturday. Allyson Trimble came in 10th place in goat tying Saturday. Stratton finished in sixth place in tie down roping on Saturday and Dalton Boney came in ninth place Saturday. Acealyn Youngblood finished in ninth place in barrel racing on Saturday.

On Sunday Joshua Lea came in 10th place in Tie Down Roping, Allyson Trimble came in sixth place in breakaway roping, and Josie Stratton came in fifth place in barrel racing. The rodeo team travels to Bunnell on Jan. 28 and 29.

## 3 Florida panthers die in early 2012

Florida panthers are off to a rough start in 2012, with three deaths documented by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Already, in just the first week of 2012, there were two documented deaths of panthers hit by vehicles on highways in Collier County, where the greatest concentration of panthers in the state is found. The third fatality was caused by a fight with another panther.

Last year, 24 Florida panther deaths were recorded, but FWC biologists also observed 11 radio-collared females giving birth to 32 panther kittens. Overall, the known number of newborn panthers in 2011 appears to have offset the known number of panther deaths. Among the 24 documented panther deaths in 2011, nine deaths, or more than a third, were due to collisions with vehicles.

Today, an estimated 100 to 160 adults of this federally endangered species live in Florida. Panthers almost disappeared from the wild in this state when their numbers fell to fewer than 30 in the 1970s. Since then, their population has been increasing.

Collisions with vehicles continues to be the greatest source of human-caused mortality to this long-tailed cat that can weigh up to 160 pounds and grow to 6 feet or longer.

"Florida panther deaths are most often the result of one of two things: collisions with vehicles or aggression from other panthers," said Kipp Frohlich, head of the Imperiled Species Management Section at the FWC. "We can't control panthers fighting when they are defending their territory; that

"People who slow down and drive carefully in rural areas, especially where panther crossing are identified can make a difference in conservation of this endangered species." Kipp Frohlich, FWC

is a part of nature. But we can do something about human-caused panther mortalities."

"People who slow down and drive carefully in rural areas, especially where panther crossings are identified, can make a difference in conservation of this endangered species. It is especially important to slow down and keep a careful lookout at dawn or dusk, when panthers are most likely to be on the move," Frohlich said.

The FWC continues to work with many partners to conserve and increase habitat available to panthers on both public and private lands. This is a critical step to ensuring the survival of panthers, the official state animal of Florida.

People are encouraged to report sightings of an injured or dead panther by calling the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or #FWC or \*FWC on a cell phone. Another option is texting Tip@MyFWC.com (standard usage fees may apply).

## Upcoming benefit polo matches open to the public

PORT MAYACA—Molly's House and the Samaritan Center for Young Boys & Families invite the community to come out for a fun-filled day of horse polo on Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Port Mayaca Polo Club, 12499 S.W. Conners Highway, as a thank you for supporting the organizations throughout the years. Bring a picnic and enjoy a family-friendly, free event featuring an exciting match of polo, best hat contest, business networking, team building and the stomping of the divots with complimentary Champagne. Gates open at 10 a.m. and the match begins at 11 a.m. To verify match times the day of the event, call the Port Mayaca Polo Club hotline at 772-228-0115.

Although this is a free event, Molly's House and the Samaritan Center for Young Boys and Families will accept donations throughout the day. For more information about the polo event, visit <http://www.MollysHouse.org>

House.org or call 772-223-6659.

What polo event would be complete without a hat contest? Be innovative and fun when designing your hat. There is no particular theme, just creativity! Awards will be given out during the champagne divot stomp.

Make sure you stop by the pavilion for your complimentary glass of champagne during the traditional stomping of the divots! Join fellow stompers out on the greens to prep the field for the next half of the polo match and sip some bubbly for some added fun. Champagne will be available for those 21 years and older and is on a first come, first serve basis for the first 100 people.

For more information about Molly's House, call 772.223.6659 or visit <http://www.MollysHouse.org>.

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For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

**Houses - Sale**

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

## Houses - Sale

**Two Story CBS house** on Canal, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, living room w/fire place. 2 frigs, washer/dryer, 40 ft Carport, Very Clean. \$125,000  
Call 863-610-0329

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

## Lots - Sale

**FOR SALE - RESIDENTIAL BUILDING LOT** CLOSE TO BLUE HERON IN BRENTWOOD ESTATES. LOT SIZE IS 0.65 ACRES HAS HOUSE PAD IN PLACE TO ACCOMADATE A 3500 SQ. FT. HOME WATER DEPOSIT PAID READY TO BUILD ON. \$45,000 OR O.B.O. CALL CARL @ 863-634-8617

**RV Lot #130** Located at Big O RV Park 39x42 Large Enough For 40ft MotorHome, Truck and Boat. Great Park, Heated Pools, Activities and More. \$16,550.00 423-914-2931

**Mobile Homes**  
For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

## Mobile Home Rent

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

**3/2 Furnished, Mint,** Built in 05, Great Neighborhood, City Water. \$750 a month. 1st and Last No Dogs Call 863-801-1739

### Mobile Home Rent

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

**BUCKHEAD RIDGE 4/2** w/fenced yard and fire place. Move in now \$700 includes lawn service Call 863-634-0663

### Mobile Home

2 Bedroom  
Central Air, Washer & Dryer, Ref., Stove.  
Mostly Furnished, Nice Park \$500 Monthly  
Call 812-989-3022

**OKEECHOBEE** - Large 3BR, 2BA Double wide, with screened pool, on the water, lake access. Many upgrades. \$1200/mo, \$2900 to move in. Yearly lease. (863)634-9119

**TREASURE ISLAND** - 2BR, 2BA w/guest house. New carpet. Large Florida Room. Lawn included. \$700 mo. 1st month FREE w/security deposit. No pets. Call (863)634-0663

### Mobile Home Sale

**2005 FRANKLIN UNIT BIG O RV PARK**  
8x33 w/slide out. Lot size 38ft 10 inches Wide and 45ft Long. 7950 Hwy 78 West Lot#131.  
**GREAT LOCATION, HEATED POOLS, VERY NICE ATMOSPHERE AND MORE.**

\*Living Rm. Has Couch That Makes Full Bed  
\*Bedroom Has Queen Bed w/Underneath Storage, Wall to Wall Closet.  
\*Bathroom w/Tub And Shower Also Washer And Dryer.  
\*Sunroom 12x25  
\*Outside Storage Shed \$41,500  
Call 423-914-2931

**\$25,000 Deal**  
Buckhead Ridge 2/2 Remodeled  
Double wide, Needs Nothing, City Water, Great Neighborhood  
Call 863-801-1739

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

**\$25,000 Deal**  
Buckhead Ridge 2/2 Remodeled  
Double wide, Needs Nothing, City Water, Great Neighborhood  
Call 863-801-1739

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

**OKEECHOBEE** - Lg. 3br/2ba DW, w/14x40 addition, metal roof, FP, 11x20 shop, on Canal. Covered dock & slip. Sprinklers, \$70K O.B.O. 772-321-1835 or 772-664-6799.

### Mobile Home Sale

Palm Harbor Homes  
Red Tag Sale  
Over 10 Stock Units  
Must Go  
Save Up To 35K  
800-622-2832 ext 210



### Recreation

For more listings, go to  
[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

### Boats

**2001-18ft Javelin**  
Bass Boat with a Johnson 115 HP Motor asking \$6,500  
Call 954-629-7306

### RV Space Rent

**Seasonal/Annual Lot**  
Lease Big O RV Resort  
\* Double Concrete Pad c/w Paved Full Patio.  
\* Great Location Beside Clubhouse.  
\* Fully Landscaped Lot  
\* Heated Pool  
\* Activities, Fun Park & Great People.  
Seasonal \$475 mo. includes electric.  
Annual \$250 mo. plus electric.  
Call Dale 330-472-5691 or 330-635-9548



### Automotive

For more listings, go to  
[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

### Utility Trailers

**5x8 Covered**  
Cargo Trailer  
Call for more information  
863-824-8712



### Public Notices

For more listings, go to  
[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

### Public Notice

#### LEGAL NOTICE

Public Auction will be held at Johns Towing Service storage lot located at 704 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 on FEBRUARY 3, 2012 at 9:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage charges. Year, make, model and VIN are as follows.  
**1992 CHEVY LUMINA**  
VIN #2G1WL54T8N9276208  
Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right of final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL! NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE! Said automobiles will be sold in "As Is" condition with no guarantees.  
407837 ON 1/18/2012

Your next job could be in today's classifieds. Did you look for it?

### Public Notice

### Public Notice

**NOTICE**  
The Value Adjustment Board of Okeechobee County will convene on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse in the "Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom" 304 N.W. 2nd Street, in Okeechobee, Florida.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of such proceedings is made, which record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Commissioner Joey Hoover, Chairman  
Value Adjustment Board  
Okeechobee County, Florida

Sharon Robertson, Clerk  
Value Adjustment Board  
Okeechobee County, Florida  
/s/ Paula Poskon/ Deputy Clerk  
407525 ON 1/25/2012

### OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY ADOPTION

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Okeechobee County School Board will consider adoption of the School Board policy listed below at their meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in Room 303 of the School Board Administrative Office at 700 S.W. Second Avenue, Okeechobee. A copy of the proposed amendments/policies are available in the Superintendent's office, Room 307, located at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue.

**ADOPTION OF BOARD POLICY 6.65 Nursing Mothers**  
1. This policy provides guidelines for employees who are nursing mothers.  
2. The proposed policy is recommended to comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act.  
3. The legal authority for this policy is F.S. 1001.41, 1012.22, and 1012.23. Laws implemented are F.S. 385.015, 1001.43, 1012.23, 1012.796, and Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 USC 207, Section 7).  
4. This policy amendment will not affect individuals from an economic standpoint.

Ken Kenworthy  
Superintendent of Schools  
407365 ON 1/18/2012

### SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application(s) for permit have been received for project(s) in Okeechobee County:

Okeechobee VWS Ventures, LLC, 2665 S Bayshore Drive, Suite 701, Miami, FL 33133, has submitted Application 111212-7 for a Water Use Permit to irrigate 57 acres of agricultural lands. The water will be withdrawn from the groundwater and the project is located in Sections 5, 6, Township 36 South, Range 36 East.

Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a copy of the staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the South Florida Water Management District, Attn: Regulation Division, PO Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680, but such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 21 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Application status and associated documents can also be obtained by accessing the District's website ([www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)) and selecting the Application/Permit Search on the ePermitting page. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.  
407750 ON 1/19/2012

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold its Regular Session on **Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.** in the "Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom" at the Historic Courthouse, 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of such proceedings is made, which record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Administrator's Office not later than four (4) working days prior to the proceeding at 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Room 123 Okeechobee, Florida 34972, or call 863-763-6441. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-222-3448 (voice) or 1-888-447-5620 (TTY).

Margaret Garrard Helton, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners  
Okeechobee County, Florida

Sharon Robertson, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners  
Okeechobee County, Florida  
/s/ Paula Poskon/ Deputy Clerk  
407526 ON 1/18/2012

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

CASE NUMBER: 2011-CA-279

#### JEFFERY E. KRALL and BROOKE L. KRALL, Plaintiff,

VS.  
**MUJIB ABDUL a/k/a ABDUL MUJIB, SHERIN SULTANA, any and all unknown parties claiming by, through, under and against the herein named individual defendants, UNKNOWN TENANT #1 and UNKNOWN TENANT #2, the name being fictitious to account for parties in possession, Defendants.**

#### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 6, 2012, and entered in Case No. 2011-CA-279, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit, in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein JEFFERY E. KRALL and BROOKE L. KRALL are the Plaintiffs and MUJIB ABDUL a/k/a ABDUL MUJIB; SHERIN SULTANA;

UNKNOWN TENANT #1; and UNKNOWN TENANT #2; and any and all unknown parties claiming by, through, under and against the herein named individual defendant, are Defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3RD STREET, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, at 11:00 a.m. on the 1st day of February, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

Lot 16, Unit 4, Brindaban Plot, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 6, Pages 2 and 3, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida. Along with that certain 1988 mobile home ID# FL1FL4337A & FL1FL4337B.

Property address: 2711 SE 44th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974  
ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE

### Public Notice

### Public Notice

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

CASE NO.: 2011CA-429 Division: Circuit Civil

**CHESTER WOODALL,**  
Plaintiff,  
VS.

**DELLA F. FINCHUM**, a deceased person, and as to each of the foregoing persons, if alive or deceased, their unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, under or against these Defendants, Defendant.

#### NOTICE OF SUIT-REAL PROPERTY

**TO DEFENDANTS: DELLA F. FINCHUM**, a deceased person, and as to each of the foregoing persons, if alive or deceased, their unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, under or against these Defendants,

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that an action for quiet title of the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida:

**Commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 11, Township 37 South, Range 34 East, run thence North 89 degrees 40'00" West and along the North boundary line of said Section 11 for a distance of 3630.00 feet; thence run South 0 degrees 32'00" East for a distance of 175.00 feet to the point of beginning. Lying in and comprising a part of Lot 56 of the unrecorded plat of Tropical Acres, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.**

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Plaintiffs attorney whose name is JEFFREY A. FADLEY, ESQUIRE, 807 SW Second Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida, 34974, and file the original with the Clerk of the above styled Court on or before the 27th day of January, 2012, otherwise a judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded the Complaint.

WITNESS the hand and seal of said Court on the 22nd day of December, 2011.

SHARON ROBERTSON  
Clerk of Court

BY: Arlene Nealis, D.C.  
406165 ON 12/28/11, 1/4/11, 18/2012

OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986 (772) 807-7370 within 2 working days of your receipt of this Notice if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated the 10th day of January, 2012.

SHARON ROBERTSON  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
By: Sandra L. Crech  
Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff:  
Devin R. Maxwell, Esq.  
MAXWELL & MAXWELL, P.A.  
Florida Bar No.: 172693  
405 NW 3rd Street  
Okeechobee, Florida 34972  
(863) 763-1119 - Telephone  
407510 ON 1/18,25/2012

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

CIVIL DIVISION:  
CASE NO.: 47-2009-CA-000548

**BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING LP,**  
Plaintiff,

VS.  
**WESLEY ROSS; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED, AS NOMINEE FOR AFS FINANCIAL, INC.; VANESSA ROSS; UNKNOWN TENANT (S); IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY,**  
Defendants.

#### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to: Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 10th day, and entered in Case No. 47-2009-CA-000548, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING LP is the Plaintiff and WESLEY ROSS, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED, AS NOMINEE FOR AFS FINANCIAL, INC. VANESSA ROSS and UNKNOWN TENANT (S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. The Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3RD STREET, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, 11:00 AM on the 8th day of February, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

**LOTS 26 AND 27, BLOCK 6, ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES,**

### ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEO RECORDS IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 9 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

Dated this 11th day of January, 2012.

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

Law Offices of Marshall C. Watson,  
P.A. 1800 NW 49th Street, Suite 120  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309  
Telephone: (954) 453-0365  
Facsimile: (954) 771-6052  
Toll Free: 1-800-441-2438  
407521 ON 1/18,25/2012

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

CASE NUMBER: 2011-CA-196

### SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BIG LAKE NATIONAL BANK,

Plaintiff,

VS.  
**GERALD A. STELLA; DEBORAH E. STELLA; and all unknown parties claiming interests by, through, under or against a named defendant to this action, or having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property herein described.**  
Defendants.

#### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 6, 2012, and entered in Case No. 2011-CA-196, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, is the Plaintiff and GERALD A. STELLA; DEBORAH E. STELLA; and any and all unknown parties claiming by, through, under and against the herein named individual defendant, are Defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3rd Street, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, at 11:00 a.m. on the 1st day of February, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

**Lot 28 of Block 2, REVISED PLAT OF WILCOX SHORES, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 5 of the public records of Okeechobee County, Florida.**  
Property address:  
513 S.E. 8th Avenue,  
Okeechobee, FL 34974

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE

### Public Notice

### Public Notice

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE WILL MEET TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012 IN ROOM 302 OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT 3209 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34981-5596.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE - 2:00 P.M.  
CLARK ADVANCED LEARNING CENTER COMMITTEE - 2:30 P.M.  
BOARD POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE - 2:45 P.M.

ANY PERSONS SEEKING TO APPEAL THE DECISIONS OF THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE.  
407864 ON 1/18/2012

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

CASE NUMBER: 11-CA-162

**RUTH P. McELROY,**  
Plaintiff,

VS.  
**SAMUEL TROY SALISBURY aka TROY SALISBURY; BRITTANY NELSON; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SAMUEL TROY SALISBURY; and THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BRITTANY NELSON,**  
Defendants.

#### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 10, 2012, and entered in Case No. 2011-CA-162, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein RUTH P. McELROY is the Plaintiff and SAMUEL TROY SALISBURY aka TROY SALISBURY; BRITTANY NELSON; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SAMUEL TROY SALISBURY; and THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BRITTANY NELSON are Defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3rd Street, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, at 11:00 a.m. on the 8th day of February, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

**THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA LESS THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCELS: THE NORTH 1370 FEET (MEASURED PERPENDICULAR TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE PROPERTY) OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. THE SOUTH 665.72 FEET (MEASURED PERPENDICULAR TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE PROPERTY) OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

**BEING SUBJECT TO A 20 FOOT EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS PURPOSES BEING LOCATED ALONG THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY, ALONG WITH THE RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS AS SET FORTH IN THAT CERTAIN GRANT OF EASEMENT RECORDED IN O.R. BOOK 233, PAGE 1147, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

Property address: 11400 NE 120th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972  
ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986 (772) 807-7370 within 2 working days of your receipt of this Notice if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated the 11th day of January, 2012.

SHARON ROBERTSON  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
By: Sandra L. Crech  
Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff:  
Devin R. Maxwell, Esq.  
MAXWELL & MAXWELL, P.A.  
Florida Bar No.: 172693  
405 NW 3rd Street  
Okeechobee, Florida 34972  
(863) 763-1119 - Telephone  
407515 ON 1/18,25/2012

OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986 (772) 807-7370 within 2 working days of your receipt of this Notice if you are hearing or

voice impaired, call 711.  
Dated the 10th day of January, 2012.

SHARON ROBERTSON  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
By: Sandra L. Crech  
Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff:  
Devin R. Maxwell, Esq.  
MAXWELL & MAXWELL, P.A.  
Florida Bar No.: 172693  
405 NW 3rd Street  
Okeechobee, Florida 34972  
(863) 763-1119 - Telephone  
407511 ON 1/18,25/2012

## Reading a newspaper helps you plan your time wisely.

No wonder newspaper readers enjoy life more!



**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
 CASE NUMBER: 2011-CA-201

SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BIG LAKE NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff,  
 VS.  
 WILLIE R. BRYANT, deceased; SYBLE BRYANT, individually; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES AND CREDITORS OF WILLIE R. BRYANT; BLUE CYPRESS GOLF & RV RESORT CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.,

**Public Notice**

a Florida Non-Profit Corporation, and all other parties claiming by, through, under or against them, and the several and respective unknown assigns, successors in interest, trustees, or any other person or parties natural or corporate, or whose exact legal status is unknown, claiming under the above named defendants or parties claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property hereafter described, **UNKNOWN TENANT #1**; the name being fictitious to account for parties in possession, Defendants.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 10, 2012, and entered in Case No. 2011-CA-201, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, is the Plaintiff and WILLIE R. BRYANT, deceased; SYBLE BRYANT, individually; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES AND CREDITORS OF WILLIE R. BRYANT; BLUE CYPRESS GOLF & RV RESORT CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida Non-Profit Corporation, and all other parties claiming by, through, under or against them, and the several and respective unknown assigns, successors in interest, trustees, or

**Public Notice**

any other person or parties natural or corporate, or whose exact legal status is unknown, claiming under the above named defendants or parties claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property hereafter described, **UNKNOWN TENANT #1**; the name being fictitious to account for parties in possession, are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3rd Street, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, at 11:00 a.m. on the 8th day of February, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

**Public Notice**

any other person or parties natural or corporate, or whose exact legal status is unknown, claiming under the above named defendants or parties claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property hereafter described, **UNKNOWN TENANT #1**; the name being fictitious to account for parties in possession, are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3rd Street, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, at 11:00 a.m. on the 8th day of February, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

**Public Notice**

**Unit No. 225, BLUE CYPRESS GOLF & RV RESORT, AN RV CONDOMINIUM, according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof, recorded on January 22, 1991 in Official Records Book 320, Pages 741 thru 811, (Condominium Plat Book 1, Pages 45 thru 51 and Pages 54 thru 56); and Amendment to Declaration thereof recorded December 30, 1993 in Official Records Book 351, Page 545 of the public records of Okeechobee County, Florida; together with all appurtenances of such unit according to the Declaration of**

**Public Notice**

**Condominium. (PHASE II) Along with that certain 1995 Homes of Merit Mobile Home ID# FLHMBP623-38066**  
 Property address: 13801 Hwy 441 SE, #225, Okeechobee, FL 34974

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

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the

**Public Notice**

provision of certain assistance. Please contact Carrie Johnson, ADA coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986 (772) 807-7370 within 2 working days of your receipt of this Notice if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated the 11th day of January, 2012.

SHARON ROBERTSON  
 Clerk of Circuit Court  
 By: Sandra L. Creach  
 Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff:  
 Devin R. Maxwell, Esq.  
 MAXWELL & MAXWELL, P.A.  
 Florida Bar No.: 172693

**Public Notice**

405 NW 3rd Street  
 Okeechobee, Florida 34972  
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**CASTLE announces holiday toy drive was successful**

Thanks to the generosity of so many individuals, companies and organizations in the St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties, CASTLE had a very successful Holiday Toy Drive. This year's toy drive collected thousands of presents and numerous financial donations.

For more information on how you can get involved in future holiday Toy Drives and other special events which benefit CASTLE, or to learn more about the many programs available to parents and children of the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee, contact the administrative office at 772-465-6011 or visit www.castleto.org.

"This started out as a way to help our parents and children, and has become an annual tradition for CASTLE," said Theresa Garbarino-May, CASTLE's Executive Director. "Giving parents the opportunity to provide something for their children at Christmas is a great way to help families bond and enjoy some of the simple pleasures of the holiday. If we can shine a light on the season for the children, the parents can feel less stress. So many of our families have multiple issues that they are dealing with. This is a small way that we can ask for the community support to relieve some of that stress. So, our yearly drive is another step in helping to reduce child abuse and neglect in the communities we serve. And we are truly grateful for the outpouring of gifts and support that we receive each and every year."



Special to the Okeechobee News/CASTLE A 1 Roof Truss Inc., stands with their donated bikes, making a difference one wheel at a time.

"This year was the most successful toy drive we have ever had thanks to the kind-hearted individuals, businesses, civic clubs, schools and of course the local media who shared our need with the public," continued Garbarino-May. "The overwhelming appreciation from the families that are helped is heartwarming. Thanks to all of the donors. It is a tradition that we definitely want to continue."



High Point Women's Club III presents to the Annual CASTLE Toy Drive.

# Fludd's 11 leads YMS to 32-26 hoop win over OMS

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Osceola Middle School basketball fans have waited 10 years to celebrate a victory over Yearling Middle School. They will have to wait at least another year as the Warriors couldn't hold a fourth-quarter lead for the second time this season against Yearling, and fell 32-26 Thursday night.

Antawyn Fludd had 11 points and Lamar Williams added nine points for Yearling. Osceola was led by Jajuan Cherry and Edrick Neal who scored six points apiece.

The teams traded baskets in the first quarter with Yearling holding a slight advantage 6-5 at the end of the quarter. The teams were tied at 13 at the halftime break.

Osceola took a small lead in the third quarter and held a 20-17 lead at the buzzer. Yearling outscored Osceola 12-5 in the final three minutes to get the victory.

Yearling coach Efrain Ochoa said Osceola had a lot of experience this year and really took this game seriously, "I think we're more athletic and better but they came to play and had something to prove. They were a heck of a team and they showed it tonight."

Ochoa said Osceola might have gotten a little nervous when they had the lead and a legitimate chance to pull the upset. He said the long losing streak to Yearling might have helped his team.

"I think once we get a little lead on them they do feel the pressure a little. If it weren't for that we wouldn't have won this game. Our kids have a lot of pride and they could win every game but if they lose to Osceola, that would really hurt," he added.

Abdiel Zamora earned the praise of coach Ochoa for contributions off the bench on defense and offense. He also helped handle the ball at times in the physical game that featured a ton of fouls and travelling calls.

Zamora said he is a little under the radar and that helped him, "They don't know me that well but I can play. I've been proving that to everyone. It felt good to win this game because their a pretty good team."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Antawyn Fludd eyes a free throw during the first quarter of the Jan. 12 rivalry game between Osceola and Yearling Middle Schools. Fludd led all scorers with 11 points.



Chris Epps (left) and Francisco Compton battled throughout the Jan. 12 game as Yearling defeated Osceola by six points, Thursday.

## Okeechobee Golf and Country Club Gold Tee Winners

Gold tee golf scores for the week of Jan. 13 were: first place - J. North; second place - C. Hendren; third place - R. Carbia; fourth tie - W. Hall and L. Birdashaw.

## Speckled Perch vendor applications available

Okeechobee Main Street is currently taking applications for the Annual Speckled Perch Festival, to be held in Flagler Park on March 10 and 11, and the Speckled Perch Parade on March 10 at 11 a.m. Applications for booth space or parade participants are available at the Main Street office, 111 N.E. Second St., directly behind C.V.S., and can also be found on the Main Street website at [www.mainstreetokeechobee.com](http://www.mainstreetokeechobee.com). Main Street is gearing up for this very exciting event, to be held in conjunction with the Spring Rodeo. For further information, please contact Cindy Birdashaw at 863-357-6246.

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