



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 11

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

50¢ Plus tax

County may revitalize Okee-Tantie

... Page 5

IRSC team wins ... Page 10



Who will be crowned the 2012 Miss Okeechobee?



... Page 3

Lake Levels

13.37 feet

Last Year: 12.36 feet

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Rob Newell

FLW tournament on Lake Okeechobee

Brandon Medlock won the EverStart Series Southeast event on Lake Okeechobee Jan. 19-21 with a three-day total weight of 68-lbs., 2 ozs. The win earned him a \$35,300 payday. For more on the tournament, see page 22.

Robbers testify in home invasion trial

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The trial of a man accused of breaking into an elderly man's home and burglarizing it while armed got under way Tuesday with two of his co-conspirators taking the stand.

Francisco Aguilar Hunt, 25, could only sit at the defense table and listen as Ashley Nicole Garland, 21, and Gilberto Lucio Tagle

See TRIAL — Page 5

Santorum visits Okeechobee

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

For about an hour on Tuesday, Jan. 24, Senator Rick Santorum's Faith, Family and Freedom Tour stopped in Okeechobee. About 175 people, including elementary students from Solid Rock Academy, filled the bleachers at First Baptist Church's ROC.

"How did we do in the debate last night?" he asked, referring to the previous night's debate of Republican candidates. The question received a round of cheers. Playing on

his Florida connections, the senator said his sister lives in Gainesville and his mother lives in St. Augustine.

The senator said there was a stark contrast between his vision for America and the president's vision.

"We don't need candidates with serious problems and flaws," he said. "We need a candidate who will go to Washington and do what he says."

"We bailed out people who made bad decisions and should suffer the consequences," he said of the government's bail-

out program.

"Obamacare is the biggest issue in this election," Mr. Santorum asserted. He feels the best way to solve the insurance problem is through the free market solution.

"Romneycare in Massachusetts drove up health care costs," he asserted.

He said that with Obamacare, people would pay the fine rather than getting insurance. Then, on the way to the hospital, they would buy insurance.

See VOTE — Page 5



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Presidential hopeful Rick Santorum answered questions from the press during his stop in Okeechobee on Tuesday.



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Miss Okeechobee County Fair pageant entry deadline announced

Okeechobee County Fair is looking for the next "Miss Teen Okeechobee County Fair" and "Little Miss Okeechobee County Fair."

Applications are now being taken for the 2012 Miss Teen Okeechobee County Fair and Little Miss Okeechobee County Fair. Both will begin a yearlong reign representing her community.

The pageantry takes place on Saturday, March 10, at Okeechobee High School auditorium, where 2011 Little Miss Okeechobee County Fair Missy Wisener will crown the 2012 Little Miss Okeechobee County Fair. This pageant is open to girls ages 10-13. Contestants will be judged during the runway competition for overall natural appearance, character (sweetness), confidence, personality, (spirit and individuality). This is not a "Glitz" pageant.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Raphael Pacheco
The Miss Okeechobee pageant is coming up in March. The deadline for entry is Feb. 7. Applications are available online at www.okeechobeeountyfair.com. The 2011 winner, Christina Close, placed in the top 15 of the State pageant in October. From left to right are: 2011 Little Miss Okeechobee Hope Wisener and 2011 Miss Okeechobee County Fair Queen Christina Close.

The contestants will also perform a group dance choreographed by Leslie's Dance Studio. The newly selected Little Miss Okeechobee County Fair will be the "little sister" to the 2012 Miss Teen Okeechobee County Fair and help in serving as hostesses to the Okeechobee County Fair following their crowning.

The excitement will continue as the 2012 Miss Teen Okeechobee County Fair Pageant will follow and the new queen will be crowned by 2011 Miss Teen Okeechobee County Fair Christina Close. Ending her busy reign representing Okeechobee at the Miss Teen Florida USA pageant (placing in the top 15), traveling and making special appearances around Florida and Okeechobee throughout the year, Christina will take her final walk and crown the new queen.

The Miss Teen pageant is open to girls ages 14-18. The 2012 Miss Teen Okeechobee County Fair Queen will be the official hostess to the 2012 Okeechobee County Fair. The winner shall elect to enter the 2013 Miss Teen Florida USA pageant in October or receive a \$1000 scholarship. During her reign, she will be very active in many community events as well as out of town events.

The 2012 Miss Teen Okeechobee County Fair Pageant competition includes individual interviews with a team of well-qualified judges from out of the area. On-stage judging will include evening gown and swimwear competitions. The young ladies will be questioned on stage as a part of the final determination of who will have the honor of becoming the 2012 Miss Teen Okeechobee County Fair.

All contestants in both pageants will also compete in the Business Achievement award. The young ladies will go out into the business community and sell ads for the official pageant program.

The winner and finalists of both pageants will receive a number of prizes and awards, including the Business Achievement award, "Miss Photogenic" and "Miss Congeniality."

Donny Arnold is pageant director. Bridgette Waldau is assistant pageant director. Leslie Stokes is the pageant coordinator, training all the girls to put on an exciting show. Felicia Maxwell of FM Portraits and Sharon Cannon are the pageant's official photographers.

"This is more than just a beauty pageant," Donny Arnold says. "We are looking for girls who are proud of their accomplish-

ments and their community." Donny and his committee all work very hard to make the pageant a rewarding and learning experience for all the girls who participate.

The Okeechobee County Fair Assoc. is delighted with the success of the pageant. All participants, queens and little misses have been wonderful young ladies representing the community. Donny Arnold states, "It has been exciting to see two of the four past queens make it into the top 15 at the State pageant. This is a testimony to all the hard work of the committee, the participants and their families. This is a wonderful opportunity for two young ladies in our community."

The application deadline is Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Please contact Donny Arnold at 863-634-6464 for any questions. Applications and rules may be obtained on line www.okeechobeeountyfair.com, request an application through email at okeefairpageant@gmail.com or pick up an application at Bridgette Waldau Studio of Graphic Design - 111 NE 2nd Street.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Weather forecast for Okeechobee County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. East southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Wednesday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. East southeast wind around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. South southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. South southeast wind around 10 mph.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 80. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.



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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

The next president

• I wonder how it would work to have a committee of presidents. Then perhaps we could get the best of them all. But likely we would get the worst of them all as well.

• Ron Paul is on the record that as a doctor who has delivered many babies, he personally believes that life begins at conception and abortion is taking a life. However, he has also stated that abortion laws should be left up to the states. He opposes federal funding for abortion just as he opposes federal funding for anything not specifically listed as a function of the federal government in the Constitution. Regarding unions, he has stated that the federal government should not be involved in unions and any laws about unions should be handled by the states. He really is a candidate who wants to limit federal government to what was originally intended by the framers of the Constitution. I like him, but I don't think he will get the nomination.

• The media from the beginning has either ignored Paul, or stated he cannot win. They must be psychic, how would they know early on in the primaries that he lacked support? The main stream media doesn't elect candidates, but they do try to steer the voters to the candidate they prefer. If Ron Paul gets the votes he will win period.

• Just how many of these ideas do you think you'd pass through both houses of Congress? They are the ones that need to be voted out. Any and all incumbents must be voted out and we must continue to do that. It's our responsibility to do that. We can cry about this or that, but it's us who put them in office to begin with.

• No one in the political establishment on either side wants Dr. Paul to ascend to the presidency. They know for certain that if he was elected it would not be business as usual. They know that he alone among the candidates is the only one that will rigidly adhere to Constitutional government; that he will not be influenced by money, but by Constitutional principle.

• Have you considered Ron Paul's income tax reform? He would like to do away with income tax because he says it is not Constitutional. He says government should be cut back to what it can afford without income tax. Many people don't realize that something like 60 percent of the federal budget comes from sources other than income tax. He says we should cut it back to what can be funded without income tax, and leave the choice of funding other services up to the states. The states, he says, can have state income tax if it is allowed by THEIR constitutions.

• The fighting, name calling, argumentative types are appreciated and encouraged by politicians and power brokers because the intellectual energy is then expended elsewhere rather than on the specifics goals of the manipulators.

Drugs at school

• Even if a child is hiding the drugs and not bringing them into the house, a parent should learn to recognize the signs that someone is on drugs. Maybe the schools or the sheriff's office or both should host some more informational sessions for parents, to teach them what to watch for.

OHS athletics

• Does our administration not see that sports keep some of our children out of trouble? They rely on athletics to keep their free time occupied and our administrators DO NOT SEE that they have "qualified" coaches who are having ego issues and power struggles.

• I go to high school games. From football to basketball, softball, soccer, baseball I'm there for both boys and girls games, not all of them, but most. I support the high school teams This is where it ALL begins, it's grass root and kids play for the love of it. It's a shame that Okeechobee doesn't support it on a regular basis. Oh, if they start winning now, people will come.

• The parents who think they have scholarship potential from their kids are way over rating their kids. The "big fish in a small pond" comes to mind. You don't play for the coach, you play for your team and your school and yourself last. Go back and see how many players were given scholarships over the years for sports in 'Chobee. You will find very few and they were the cream of the crop nationwide. The coaches that are hired will put the best players on the field in their opinion as they do not like to lose either.

Letters to the editor

Kiwanis Club welcomes special guest

The Okeechobee Kiwanis Club welcomed Kiwanis State Governor Eddie Lee for his Official District 16 visit. Prior to the Governor's message several events took place. First, J.D. Mixon, President Elect presented a \$15,000 check to Clint LaFlam, Okeechobee High Band Director for their award winning trip to Washington, D.C. in May to participate in the Memorial Day Parade. Then the fun began with Dowling Watford with his great sense of humor recognized several members for their outstanding work; Teresa Chandler for the successful organization of the Radio Auction. Jay Zeller was recognized for his continued efforts year after year for the organization of Guest Speakers. Needless to say Dowling had the members rolling in laughter with the gag gifts not only for the members, but the Governor as well. The Governor's message was simple. One, membership growth is essential to the life blood of any organization and he was complementary to our club for the continued growth over the past years, last year being a banner year of 20 plus new members. What is most exciting are the young adults we are attracting and right out of the box their commitment

to participate as Chair Persons in our fundraising events. The Governor expressed the importance of having a full calendar of events throughout the year because young people want to achieve.

The most important message not only for us, but for the entire state is that all clubs continue our efforts in serving our youth and that is what Kiwanis is all about "Serving Our Youth." Upon conclusion of his message the Governor was presented a basket filled with memorabilia of Okeechobee—hats, mugs, tee shirts, a history book of Okeechobee, frogs and gators. Prior to the luncheon, the Governor met with the Presidents of District 16, Secretaries and Treasurers. We thank Ft. Pierce Sunrise Club, and Stuart for their participation.

One final note! What makes our club so unique is that it's not about one person/individual. It is about a team of members who truly care about the youth of our community in serving their needs today and in the future, and in doing so we have great fun and fellowship. So, if you want to join a great organization that has fun and serves a worthy cause, our "Children," then join us on Thursdays at noon at The Lodge By the Lake Restaurant.

**Jim Vensel, Lt. Governor
Kiwanis Club**



Okeechobee News/Diana Whitehall
The Thursday, Jan. 19, Kiwanis meeting held at The Lodge at the Lake Family Restaurant welcomed Lt. Governor, District 16; Eddie Lee, Kiwanis Governor and Nancy Johnson, president of the Stuart Kiwanis. Additionally, In the photo left to right, are Jim Vensel, Mr. Lee, Ms. Johnson and Greg Thogersen, president of the Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee.

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.

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

We Pledge...

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

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



County considers revitalization of Okee-Tantie

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

At Thursday's meeting, one of Commissioner Bryant Culpepper's pet projects will be discussed, the revitalization of Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina. The board will consider either securing the consulting services of Kimley-Horn or proceed in some other direction for the development of the park.

A good portion of the park was damaged by the 2004 hurricanes. That damage has

gone unrepaired, limiting the use of the park. Commissioner Culpepper has been pushing for Okee Tantie revitalization, stating that it could be a source of revenue for the county. Turning to other items, commissioners will be asked to consider a five-year capital projects plan for all county departments. Projects on the plan will be evaluated and prioritized annually by staff and submitted to the commission for final approval.

The topic of impact fees will come up once again. Commissioners will consider entering a contract with a consultant to

If you go ...

WHAT: Meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission

WHERE: Commission Chambers, Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 N.W. Second St.

WHEN: 9 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 26.

evaluate the system and suggest a new fee schedule.

TRIAL

Continued From Page 1

III, 18, told the jury about what happened in the late afternoon on Dec. 10, 2010.

Those three, along with Brian Robertson, 19, are accused of breaking into the home of now 82-year-old Noah Cooper to steal his guns, medications and whatever else they could find.

Hunt is charged with one count of home invasion robbery with a firearm while masked.

Garland, Tagle and Robertson have already entered into plea deals with the state in exchange for their testimony against Hunt.

Tagle was found guilty of home invasion robbery with a firearm while masked and is currently serving an 8-year prison sentence.

Garland is to be sentenced Feb. 13 and could get up to 10 years in prison. She was found guilty of home invasion robbery, burglary, conspiracy to commit burglary, tampering with a witness, grand theft and grand theft firearm.

Circuit Judge Robert Belanger will decide on how much prison time she will receive.

According to testimony Tuesday morning, Jan. 24, Garland and Robertson first broke into Mr. Cooper's singlewide mobile home and took Christmas presents from around the tree and some clothes belonging to Kristy Duarte, who lived with Mr. Cooper and helped take care of him.

Garland said she and Ms. Duarte were once friends, but she was now angry with the woman.

Later, testified Garland, she called Tagle to see if he wanted to go with her and her boyfriend, Robertson, to burglarize Mr. Co-

oper's home. She told the jury they were going to take the man's pills, guns and "whatever else we could find."

On the way to the man's home the trio picked up Hunt, who is Tagle's cousin.

When queried by Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright, Garland admitted they didn't have a plan because they "figured no one else was going to be there."

But, they were wrong.

In his testimony, Mr. Cooper said he had been remodeling another mobile home but had grown tired so he decided to go home and rest. When he reached his home he saw Garland, who told him her car was out of gas and that she had left a jacket in the home, said Mr. Cooper.

He knew Garland because of her relationship with Ms. Duarte.

During his direct examination, Mr. Cooper said as he and Garland entered his mobile home three men came in and one pulled a gun and told him to lay down on the kitchen floor.

"He said: 'Don't look at me!'" testified Mr. Cooper, adding that the man threatened to shoot him.

Garland, who was in Ms. Duarte's room, got down on the floor "... to look like I didn't know what was going on," she told Mr. Albright.

She then told the jury that sometime later she "... heard Noah say he was going to have a heart attack so I stood up and motioned for everyone to go."

Garland then went to the Dodge Durango she was driving and backed it under the carport so Robertson, Hunt and Tagle could load it. Besides cash in Mr. Cooper's wallet the men took a number of items, including: a laptop computer, a Remington Model 1100 shotgun, an HP computer and monitor, an

I-Pod, jewelry, cameras and a 19-inch flat screen television.

"They had trash bags full of stuff," testified Garland.

The quartet then went to an abandoned mobile home on S.E. 25th St. to divvy up the stolen items, said Garland. She went on to testify that she and Robertson were to get the shotgun, but she asked Hunt to hold on to it because she didn't want to drive through town with the stolen gun.

After taking Hunt home, where he took the gun and some of the other stolen items, they next dropped Tagle off at his home where "... he took everything else."

Garland and Robertson then went to the convenience store/gas station at the intersection of S.R. 70 and U.S. 98 where they threw some of the now-unwrapped Christmas presents into a dumpster.

Detective Mark Shireman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, testified that he found some of the stolen Christmas items in Tagle's bedroom closet when he searched the home. He also found a blue bandanna worn by Tagle to conceal his face.

Tagle told Mr. Albright that he wore the bandanna, while Robertson had a shirt over his face and Hunt wore a sweatshirt hoodie with the hood pulled down around his face.

At one point during his stint on the stand, Tagle was reluctant to answer Mr. Albright's questions. When asked why, Tagle replied: "It's not easy to have to take the stand on someone, sir."

When he finished testifying, the shackled Tagle walked past the defense table without looking at his cousin.

Hunt is being represented by Fort Pierce attorneys Jordi Zaragoza and Beth Allen. Testimony will resume Wednesday at 9 a.m.

said changes should be made from the bottom up.

Senator Santorum said it was important to realize how central the family is to America. He said if the family breaks down the government gets bigger. As an example he said that 40 percent of single families are living in poverty as compared to 8 percent of two-parent families. While he said he had nothing against single parent families, he said they are one of the causes of larger government.

He said the 30 years ago 71 percent of the people were married today only 51 percent are married.

"Marriage does not mean what it used to," he asserted.

He said he had programs to cut taxes and get the deficit down. However, he conceded, "if families don't get healthier, none of it will work in the long run."

VOTE

Continued From Page 1

He said that Speaker Gingrich supported required insurance for 20 years until the pending lawsuit against Obamacare brought by Florida's attorney general.

The senator said that former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was never able to accomplish as much in reforms as President Reagan did. He said that was because of the British system of health care.

"Obama believes in equality of results, not hard work," Mr. Santorum asserted. He went on to say that the president favored redistribution of wealth.

"I think America is a great country because it was born great," he said.

Gesturing to a bound copy of the U. S.

Constitution he said, "It is the owner's documents for America.

"Our constitution was given to us to protect the rights given to us by God.

"One of the reasons this country is divided is that the people are divided," he asserted. "Barrack Obama is the divider in chief not the Commander in Chief. He'll condemn anybody he disagrees with."

Mr. Santorum said that today's definition of happiness is to enjoy pleasure as contrasted to the founding father's view of "Do the morally right thing." He said happiness is "doing what you ought to do, not what you want to do."

He said that as president he would be a friend to Israel.

"I am looking to run for president to return the power to you," he told the crowd.

He said there is a need to change the education system but not at the federal level. He

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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. 25 program covers the 1960s and 1970s.

OKMS to hold general membership meeting

Quarterly General Membership meeting for Okeechobee Main Street will be held on January 25, 2012 at noon at the Golden Coral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Ave. Please plan to attend to network with fellow citizens and business owners, greet new members and welcome our guest speaker Ms. Alta Mosley, Director of the Agri-Civic Center.

Cypress Eagles to host dinner night

Thursday, Jan. 26 at 5:30 p.m., the Cypress Hut Eagles will be having a Ravioli Dinner. \$6 per dinner. Public Welcome. All proceeds go to Community Charity Fund.

Hospice to host yard sale

Hospice of Okeechobee's next yard sale will be Wednesday Jan. 25 and Thursday, Jan. 26, from 8 a.m. until noon. The yard sale is located at the corner of S.E. Fourth St. and S.E. Thirdrd Ave. Donations are accepted Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to noon. For information call 863-467-2321 or see our web page www.hospiceofokeechobee.org and click on Events tab.

Considering adoption?

Anyone interested in learning more about adoption is encouraged to join the Children's Home Society of Florida, Treasure Coast Division at our monthly Adoption Orientation session. The next meeting is scheduled to take place at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, **Jan. 26**, at the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County office, located at 804 S. Sixth St. in Fort Pierce. This informative, casual and free open house-style orientation will provide an overview of foster care adoption and answer all questions related to adoption and CHS' adoption process. Please help us raise adoption awareness in our community as we try to find additional permanent "Forever Families" for local children in foster care. To RSVP or for more information, contact Children's Home Society's Adoption Information Line at 772-429-2001.

Eagles North to host card bingo

Eagles North will host card bingo on Saturday, **Jan. 28**, beginning at 4 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the F.O.E. community benefit fund. 9985 U.S. 441 N., Okeechobee.

GAL needs local volunteers

Join a local volunteer of the Guardian ad Litem program. Find out how a few hours a month can provide the safety and oversight our abused, neglected, and abandoned children need. Join a volunteer Guardian ad Litem (GAL) at 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 26, at Mom's Kitchen, U.S. 441 S., over a cup of coffee and learn how you can become part of the solution."

Mystery dessert theatre planned

The Okeechobee Educational Foundation is hosting a mystery dessert theatre, "Bidding for Murder," presented by Indian River State College. The theatre presentation will be held Friday, **Feb. 3**, 2012, 7-9 p.m., Freshman Campus Auditorium. Tickets are \$20 each and include "Death by Chocolate" dessert intermission. For more information, please call 863-462-5000 ext. 257.

Early Learning Coalition to meet

Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee Counties, Inc. Finance Committee will meet Thursday, Jan. 26, at 11:30 a.m. at the ELC Office, 10 SE Central Parkway, Suite 400, Stuart, The Program/Quality Committee will meet at 12:15 p.m. at the same location. The board will meet at 1:30 p.m.

Eagles North Post to host Steak Night

Eagles North will have Friday Steak Night on Jan. 27. Starting at 5:30 until 9 p.m. Music by Steven. Put your dancing shoes on and bring an appetite! Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund. 9985 U.S. 441 N., Okeechobee.

Cypress Eagles to host dinner night

Friday, Jan. 27, from 5:30- 8:30 p.m., the Cypress Hut Eagles, will be serving steak \$12, fish \$8 or shrimp \$12 dinners. Music provided by Jimmy & Debra Harper. All proceed go to Community Charity Fund. The public is welcome.

Health and Safety Expo planned

The Fifth Annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety 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.

A Walk for Children

In celebration of Children's Week, The Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties will sponsor a "Walk for Children" in conjunction with the Okeechobee Health & Safety Fair at the Agri Center, 4601 S.R. 70 E.

Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The "walk" will promote good health and make more people aware of Children's Week in Tallahassee. Help us celebrate Children's Week and "Walk for Children." Those who sign up at the ELCIRMO booth will receive a free pe-

dometer (while supplies last) to document their steps. The participant with the most recorded steps will receive a prize. For more information, visit the ELC website at www.elcirmo.org or call toll free 1-877-220-1223.

Obituaries

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

Lorinda A. Howell, 39

OKEECHOBEE — Lorinda A. Howell, age 39, died peacefully at home on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012.

Lorinda was born in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. and resident of Okeechobee for the past eight years.

She enjoyed the outdoors and had a special love of dolphins and for all animals in general.

She is survived by her daughter, Jessica (Tray) Ross of Gainesville, Ga.; grandson, Cooper; brother, Frank (Laurie) Howell, Jr. of Gainesville, Fla.; niece, Hunter; nephew, Heath; father, Frank (Peggy) Howell, Sr. of Gainesville, Fla.; mother, Linda (David) Huddleston; grandmother, Merle Timmons; and uncle, Robert (Connie) Timmons, all of Gainesville, Ga.

There are no services planned at this time.

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

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

Henry Tullos, 88

OKEECHOBEE — Henry Tullos, age 88, died Monday, Jan. 23, 2012, at home ending a year-long fight with cancer.

Born in Detroit, Mich., Henry had lived in West Palm Beach for a number of years before relocating to Okeechobee over 10 years ago.

He was a member of the local VFW. Henry enjoyed the outdoors with hunting and boating.

He is survived by his daughter, Laura M. Tullos of Okeechobee; granddaughter, Cathryn Lasky of Atlanta, Ga.; great-granddaughter, Tiffany Lasky of New York; brother, Raymond Tullos of Ormond Beach, Fla.; and a sister, Dorothy Ford of Michigan.

No services are planned at this time.

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

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

Zona W. Padgett, 101

LAKE PLACID — Zona W. Padgett, 101, of Lake Placid and formerly of Pahokee, Leesburg and Okeechobee, passed away Jan. 22, 2012, at Good Shepherd Hospice in Sebring.

She was born Nov. 7, 1910, in Lyons, Ga., to the late Thomas and Gertrude Jenkins. She was a longtime charter member of First United Methodist Church of Pahokee. She was also a member of Morrison United Methodist Church of Leesburg and the Gathering Church of Okeechobee.

Mrs. Padgett was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Leggett Burns; husband, Claude R. Padgett; and son, Dennis C. Padgett.

She is survived by her daughter, Ann Rita Crews of Fort Myers; son, Keith Padgett (Patty) of Leesburg; daughter-in-law, Liz Padgett Bradley of Franklin, N.C.; nine grandchildren, Rhonda Hatton (Henry) of Lake Placid, Andrea Maynor (Ricky) of Okeechobee, Claudia Perkins (Stacey) of Belle Glade, Stacey Padgett of Franklin, N.C., Dax Padgett (Brandy) of Franklin, N.C., Kristin Padgett of New York, Stephanie Padgett of Brussels, Belgium, Preston Padgett of Leesburg and Tommy Robinson (Beth) of Fitzgerald, Ga.; 13 great-grandchildren, and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. until services at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012, at the Gathering with Pastor Mike Brown officiating. Interment will follow at Port Mayaca Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Gathering, 1735 SW 24th AVE, Okeechobee, FL 34974, Good Shepherd Hospice in Sebring or First United Methodist Church of Pahokee.

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

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 205 NE 2nd Street, Okeechobee, FL, 34972.



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

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Churches plan Gospel sings, movies and dinner

The community is invited to the Fifth Sunday Community Wide Gospel Sing sponsored by the **Okeechobee Ministerial Association** on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 6 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. 2nd Street. Choirs, groups and soloists are encouraged to email Sandy Perry at sw_perry@yahoo.com or call 863-634-7714 with names of participants and title information for one selection by Thursday, Jan. 26. The Okeechobee Community Choir, under the direction of Sandy Perry, will sing, accompanied by Frank Carter. Members of the Okeechobee Ministerial Association will also participate in this unique community service. Donations will be accepted for Lighthouse Refuge.

The **Okeechobee Church of God** will have a Community Yard Sale on Jan. 28, at the church, 301 NE 4th Avenue from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. It is off Hwy 70 E behind McDonald's. Have you wanted to have a yard sale, not enough room or do not like it by yourself. Come join with us it is a \$10 donation for a space with table or a \$5. for a space you bring your own table. The money you make is yours. To reserve your space call Norma Sue at 863-634-2930.

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.

The Knights of Columbus of **St. Theresa**



Places of Worship

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

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 Cho-bee 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 S.W. 28th Street, Okeechobee. A love offering will be received. For more information, please call 863-763-7113.

Life Community Church, 701 S. Parrott Ave., will have their FREE family movie night, Friday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. The movie "COURAGEOUS" by the creators of "Fireproof" is a heartfelt, story of four men with the calling to serve and protect. As law enforcement officers they will face the challenges of fatherhood with hope and courage in a God-honoring way. The public is invited.

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.

There will be 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, dobro, 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, computers, 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 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 okeenews@newszap.com.

Pregnancy Center offers free services

Free Pregnancy tests are available at the Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee. Office located at 500 N.W. Sixth St. and you may call the office at 863-467-8748. Free Parenting Classes available for mothers (and fathers) to be or those already with babies on Tuesday nights at 6 p.m. Call the office at 863-467-8748. Come find out about the Baby Boutique!

ARC Thrift Store requests donations

The ARC of Okeechobee Thrift Store is currently requesting donations of household items, dishes, kitchen appliances, furniture and clothing. Your tax deductible donation will be used to help further the mission of the agency to provide social, educational and vocational opportunities to the developmentally disabled. The store is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All items can be dropped off at the thrift store location, 403 N.W. 2nd Ave. in Okeechobee. For further information, call 863-763-2419.

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Fifth Annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo

Promoting Health and Safety

Saturday, January 28, 2012 • 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Okeechobee Agri Civic Center



COME OUT AND SEE:

Police officers, sheriff's deputies, fire trucks, ambulances and other first responder vehicles, demonstrations, equipment and staff; helicopters and boats; blood mobile; emergency management equipment; health department staff and displays; free health screenings; banks and many, many other service providers, vendors and giveaways!

FREE ADMISSION

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A fun-filled educational day for everyone from young children to senior citizens!

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Woman arrested on drug charges after crash

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A traffic accident led to the arrest of a woman on felony drug charges after several prescription medications were allegedly found in her possession.

Kendra Mae Root, 24, S.E. Eighth St., Okeecho-



Kendra Mae Root

bee, was arrested Thursday, Jan. 19, on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (morphine) and possession of a controlled substance (oxycontin). She was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance outside of a properly marked container.

She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$12,000. Jail records indicate she has since been released on bond.

An arrest report by a detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force stated that Root was involved in a traffic accident around 9:30 a.m. in the 400 block of U.S. 441 S. During the investigation of the crash Deputy Tammy Serafini, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), asked Root for permission to search her car and person.

Root reportedly gave the deputy permission to conduct the search.

During that search a number of different prescription medications were found for which Root had prescriptions.

She did not, however, have prescriptions for the five morphine pills or two 40mg oxycontin tablets found in her possession, stated the detective.

According to the detective two cut straws were also found in a pill bottle inside the woman's purse. The straws, added the detective, are commonly used to snort crushed prescription pills and both of the straws had a residue inside them.

The arrest report does not indicate the severity of the accident, or if anyone else was involved.

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Truck, AC unit theft tied together

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A man reportedly caught stealing an air conditioner only saw his problems worsen when the arresting deputy found out the truck being used by the man was also stolen.

Miguel Jesus Flores, 26, N.W. 46th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Thursday, Jan. 19, on felony charges of grand theft



Miguel Jesus Flores

auto, burglary of a structure and attempted grand theft.

Flores is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail in lieu of \$12,500 bond.

An arrest report by Deputy Bryan Holden, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that the owner of a mobile home park saw a gray GMC pickup enter the park then drive to the back of the property. When the man drove to the back of the property he reportedly saw the GMC pickup backed up to the side of his barn and a man trying to put an air conditioner into the back of the truck.

When the victim approached the man, later identified as Flores, he got into the GMC truck in an attempt to flee, stated the deputy. However, he allegedly ran into the back of the victim's truck.

At this point, stated Deputy Holden, Flores jumped out of the GMC truck and fled on foot.

He was later caught by OCSO K-9s Barco and Nero, and their handlers Deputy Brian Cross and Deputy Matt Crawford.

According to Deputy Holden he learned the truck was stolen when the owner went to the sheriff's office and reported it missing, while the deputy was working the alleged burglary. The truck was apparently taken sometime after midnight and before 8 a.m. Thursday.

Teens charged in burglary of car

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Two area teenagers have been arrested by a local detective for breaking into an automobile and stealing stereo equipment.

Jesus Ildelfonso Alvarado, 14, U.S. 441 S.E. and Francisco Roblero Mejia, 15, Center Street, were both arrested on felony burglary and grand theft charges Friday, Jan. 20.

Both of the teens were booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then released into the custody of their parents.

An arrest report by Detective William Suggs, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), said the teens broke into a car and stole a \$200 stereo amplifier and the removable face from a Pioneer stereo that was valued at \$100.

Latent fingerprints taken from the car were later determined to belong to Alvarado by OCSO Crime Scene Investigator Jackie Moore.

According to the detective CSI Moore lifted the prints from the victim's car then entered them into an SPEX Forensics Print-Quest AFIS/AFIS system, which then gave her some candidates. After comparing the prints found on the car to those of the candidates', CSI Moore was able to confirm that the prints on the car belonged to Alvarado.

The detective went on to state in his report that when he questioned Alvarado about the items, the teen said that he had already given the amplifier back to the victim.

The stereo face has not been recovered, added the report.

Investigations

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office is investigating the following complaints for the week of Jan. 13-20.

THEFT

- 4-wheeler in the 6800 block of S.E. 86th Blvd.
- trailer in the 3300 block of S.E. Fourth St.
- truck in the 3101 block of U.S. 441 S.
- theft in the 3500 block of S.E. 25th Terrace
- theft in the 800 block of S.E. Third St.
- theft in the 2600 block of N.W. 53rd Terrace
- theft in the 3400 block of N.W. 12th Ave.
- theft in the 3900 block of N.W. 31st Ave.
- theft in the 13000 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- scrap metal in the 1100 block of N.E. 24th Ave.

- theft in the 4200 block of U.S. 441 S.
 - auto parts in the 7000 block of S.W. Ninth St.
 - construction material in the 3100 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
 - clothing in the 5200 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
 - purse in the 2300 block of U.S. 441 S.
- ### BURGLARY
- 7600 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
 - 1500 block of N.E. 15th St.
 - 3500 block of S.E. 25th Terrace
- ### VANDALISM
- 600 block of N.E. 14th Ave.
 - 3700 block of S.E. 27th St.
 - 1400 block of S.W. 86th Ave.

Recliner Sale

Buy 1 Get 1 FREE!

2 For Only \$399



Rambler Available in Sage & Mocha

Start a New In-Store Financing Account and Receive an Additional Discount

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Ashley Furniture Homestore
804 E. North Park Street
Okeechobee
863-763-6293

E-Z In-Store Financing Available

Local agency seeks senior volunteers

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

If you are 55 or older and want to volunteer your time to help the community, there is an organization just for you. Contact Jim Vensel with RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) a service of the Area Agency on Aging. His goal is to recruit 150 volunteers for food distribution, care giving and elementary tutoring. The organization is at the end of the first year of a three-year contract and they have secured 32 volunteers thus far.

Most of the volunteer work to date is with food distribution. In the other two areas, volunteers have to wait on a background check. Mr. Vensel works with several food distribution centers including Samaritan's Outreach, Lamb of God, and Fort Drum Community Church. In the first six months of the food

distribution program at Samaritan's Outreach, they served 4,000 people. He said the city itself is taken care of by food distribution centers. Mr. Vensel is concerned about the outlying areas and was glad to partner with the Fort Drum Community Church. He is currently trying to reach out to the Hispanic community for food distribution.

Some volunteers are tutoring with Samaritan's Outreach. However, Mr. Vensel hopes to soon be able to offer tutoring in the public schools. There are also a few volunteers who make telephone calls to check on the elderly. Volunteers must serve a minimum of 10 hours a month. Mr. Vensel hopes that the minimum age of 55 might be relaxed.

Mr. Vensel works in office space donated by Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory along with Adam Homer, RSVP Customer Care Specialist. The office can be reached by calling 863-450-9402.

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).

- Jorge Martinez Osornio, 30, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 20 by Officer Phillip Edings on a felony charge of leaving the scene of a crash involving injury and a misdemeanor charge of no valid driver's license. His bond was set at \$3,000.

- Adam Brantley Osceola, 24, N.E. 10th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 20 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone) and possession of cocaine. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$11,000.

- George Charles Smith, 41, N.W. 33rd Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 20 by Trooper T.B. White on a charge of driving under the influence with property damage. His bond was set at \$500.

- Angela M. Gehle, 26, S.E. 57th Drive, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 20 by Deputy Cari Arnold on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with violation of probation - battery on a detainee. Her bond was set at \$1,000.

- Robert Eugene Foster Jr., 52, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 21 by Deputy Fred Bradley on a fugitive warrant from Baldwin County, Ga., charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence and violation of probation - driving while license suspended - habitual offender. He is being held without bond.

- Carley John Treadway Jr., 42, S.E. 33rd Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 21 by Deputy John Ashby on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Robin Stoner Fairbanks, 36, N.W. Sixth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 21 by Officer Ryan Holroyd on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with violation of probation - purchase of cocaine, violation of probation - purchase of marijuana, violation of probation - obstructing a criminal investigation and violation of probation - resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. She is being held without bond.

- Micah Timothy-Wynter Ellsworth, 34,

N.W. 50th Ave., Bell, Fla., was arrested Jan. 22 by Deputy Sergeant Shannon Peterson on a felony charge of driving while license suspended - habitual offender and a misdemeanor charge of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. His bond was set at \$5,750.

- Sabrina Jean Snyder, 22, S.E. 28th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 23 by Deputy Tammy Serafini on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with dealing in stolen property and giving false information to a pawnbroker. Her bond was set at \$7,500.

- Angie Lee Chinnors, 30, S.W. Wade Drive, Port St. Lucie, was arrested Jan. 23 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with obtaining or attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud (three counts). Her bond was set at \$15,000.

- Blake Montanna Rice, 20, Goldenrod Lane, Alva, was arrested Jan. 23 by Deputy Cpl. Aric Majere on a DOC warrant charging him with violation of probation - possession of alprazolam. He is being held without bond.

- Jason Daniel Miller, 37, Ferne Lane, Lake Worth, was arrested Jan. 23 by Deputy Cpl. Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with obtaining or attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud (three counts). Her bond was set at \$15,000.

- John C. Morgan, 58, N.E. 96th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 23 by Deputy Justin Akins on a St. Lucie County warrant charging him with grand theft. His bond was set at \$7,500.

- Adam Brantley Osceola, 24, N.W. 268th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 23 by Officer Chad Troutman on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$30,000.

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.

Editor's Note: Shaun Anthony Tedford was arrested Jan. 9, 2011, on charges of battery on a law enforcement officer, resisting a law enforcement officer with violence, assault on a law enforcement officer, disorderly intoxication and felony battery. According to Assistant State Attorney Don Richardson the charges against Tedford were officially dropped Jan. 17, 2012.

NOTICE OF VACANCIES OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CITIZEN BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Board of County Commissioners of Okeechobee County, Florida is seeking interested residents of Okeechobee County for appointment to the following Citizen Boards and Committees:

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee

1 vacant term. If possible, the vacant position should be filled with a citizen representing labor. For more information, contact Housing/SHIP Coordinator Stephany Dupree at (863) 763-2105.

Agri-Civic Center Advisory Committee

3 terms expire March 1, 2012. New applicants and members requesting reappointment are welcome to apply. For more information, contact Agri-Civic Center Director Alta Mosley at (863) 763-1666.

Children's Services Council

4 terms have expired and 1 additional term expires August 2012. New applicants and members requesting reappointment are welcome to apply. Members are appointed by the Governor after being nominated by the Board of County Commissioners. For more information, contact Cheryl Sutton at (863) 462-5000 x 255.

Construction Industry Licensing Board

3 terms expire March 1, 2012. New applicants and members requesting reappointment are welcome to apply. If possible, member positions should be filled with 2 active certified or registered contractors and 1 lay person. For more information, contact Faye Huffman at (863) 763-5548.

Library Advisory Committee

1 term expires March 1, 2012. New applicants and members requesting reappointment are welcome to apply. For more information, contact Library Director Kresta King at (863) 763-3536.

Okeechobee Utility Authority

1 term appointed by the Board of County Commissioners is vacant (the alternate position term that expires March 1, 2013). For more information, contact OUA Executive Director John Hayford at (863) 763-9460.

Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals

2 terms expire March 1, 2012. New applicants and members requesting reappointment are welcome to apply. For more information, contact the Planning Department at (863) 763-5548.

Tourist Development Council

2 terms have expired and are currently vacant. 1 additional term expires July 2012. If possible, member positions should be filled with a citizen owning or operating a tourist accommodation business subject to the tourist tax and a citizen representing the tourist industry in a business or enterprise not subject to the tourist tax. New applicants and members requesting reappointment are welcome to apply. For more information, contact Kathy Scott at (863) 763-3959.

Board and Committee descriptions, eligibility requirements and other information about the Citizen Boards and Committees may be viewed at www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/committees.

Applications for appointment to a Citizen Board or Committee may be obtained from the County Administrator's Office at 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 123, Okeechobee, Florida, or downloaded from www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/committees.

To be considered for terms that have expired or that expire March 1, 2012, a completed application, along with proof of residency in Okeechobee County and evidence of eligibility where applicable, must be submitted to the County Administrator's Office no later than 12:00 noon on Tuesday, February 7, 2012. The County Administrator's office may be contacted at (863) 763-6441.

The Board of County Commissioners appreciates the time and assistance members of the Citizen Boards and Committees give to the Board of County Commissioners and to the citizens of Okeechobee County.

Margaret Garrard Helton, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

IRSC anglers win college tourney on 'Big O'

The Indian River State College (IRSC) team of Mike Cornell and Kyle Monti, both of Okeechobee, won the National Guard FLW College Fishing Southeast Division event on Lake Okeechobee Saturday with five bass weighing 15 pounds, 7 ounces. The victory earned the team \$5,000. The win also helped them advance to the Southeast Division Regional Championship. Forty-one College Teams from across the Southeastern United

States participated in this event.

"We did a lot of running and gunning and didn't put the flipping stick down," said Kyle Monti, a marketing major. "It was slow and tough, we lost one 4-4 1/2-pounder, but that is to be expected. A lot of teams lost fish today, that's just the way Okeechobee fishes. It can be really hard to land fish once they bite.

"The weather got cold a couple of weeks

ago and it has really slowed down the bite," Monti continued. "Mike and I are both from Okeechobee City and I think that really gave us the confidence we needed to win. Knowledge of the lake really played a big part in today's win.

Indian River State College teammates Kyle Monti and Mike Cornell (right) took home first-place honors during the FLW College Fishing Southeast Division qualifying event at Lake Okeechobee. The duo, who recorded a total weight of 15 pounds, 7 ounces, earned a top award of \$5,000. "We fished all the way from the north shore to King's Bar, we covered a lot of water targeting pencil grass and bulrush. We were flipping jigs with Gambler baits, mostly the BB Cricket and Ugly Otter in about 2 to 4 feet of water."

Under sunny skies with highs in the mid 70s the team from IRSC won by nearly three pounds over their closest competitor.

"It was another great day on Lake Okeechobee," said Mike Cornell, a junior from IRSC. "We couldn't have asked for better weather. The lake was slick and calm all day, which is unusual for Okeechobee being the size that it is.

"Truthfully I was a little surprised by the low weights," Cornell went on to say. "It got brutally cold here a couple of weeks ago but with the weather warming up I thought the bite would be better than it was. Okeechobee is a lake that Kyle and I fish every day, we are comfortable with our style and prob-

ably couldn't do this same thing anywhere else. It can take a while to figure the lake out and I think being from here really made a difference for us today."

Rounding out the top five teams and also advancing to the Southeast Regional Championship:

The Auburn University team of Jordan Lee and Shane Powell (left) finished the FLW College Fishing Southeast Division qualifying event at Lake Okeechobee in second place. Auburn landed a total catch of 12 pounds, 15 ounces to walk away with \$1,500 in prize money. Second: Auburn University – Jordan Lee, Vinemont, Ala., and Shane Powell, Midland City, Ala., (five bass, 12-15, \$1,500)

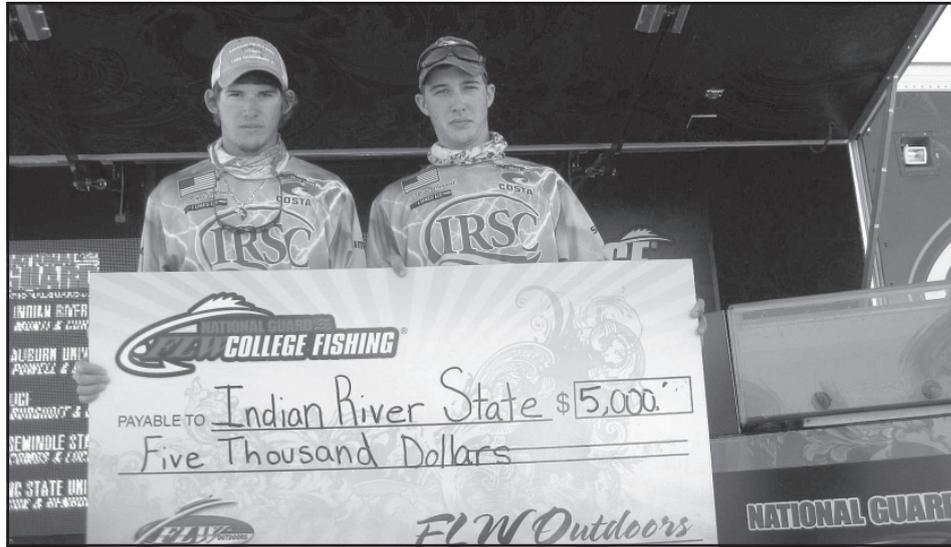
Third: University of Central Florida – Miles Burghoff, Orlando, Fla., and Casey O'Donnell, Bradenton, Fla. (five bass, 12-0, \$1,000)

Fourth: Seminole State College – Neal Combs, Osteen, Fla., and Kevin Lucas, Orlando, Fla. (five bass, 11-15, \$1,000)

Fifth: North Carolina State University – Clint Benbow, Statesville, N.C., and Ethan Cox, West End, N.C. (five bass, 11-8, \$1,000)

For full results visit <http://collegefishing.com/tournament.cfm?tid=6913&t=results>.

For regular updates, photos, tournament news and more, follow College Fishing on Facebook at [Facebook.com/FLWFishing](https://www.facebook.com/FLWFishing) and on Twitter at [Twitter.com/FLWFishing](https://twitter.com/FLWFishing). Visit CollegeFishing.com to sign up or to start a club at your school.



Indian River State College teammates Kyle Monti and Mike Cornell (right) took home first-place honors during the FLW College Fishing Southeast Division qualifying event at Lake Okeechobee. The duo, who recorded a total weight of 15 pounds, 7 ounces, earned a top award of \$5,000.

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Lady Brahmans JV betters hoop mark to 10-5

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School junior varsity girls basketball team improved to (10-5) this week with a home win over Sebring, 34-25, and have enjoyed a strong season overall. Coach Morgan Benion said she felt her team has really made vast improvements since the first day of practice in November. She praised all of the players for coming out, learning the game, and working together as a team.

"It took them awhile to get used to the system but they have always hustled and worked hard," she said.

Benion said she could go to any one of her players and know they would give a 100-percent effort for the entire 32-minute game. She said they have also supported each other's effort.

"I really couldn't ask for much more from this team, they have really been great to coach this year," she added.

Key players for the JV Brahmans included Emily Worth, Delany Osceola, Shadasia Williams and Lexi Manson. Others who played key roles include Jenni Eagle, Hailey Greeson and Harliee Haggard.

Worth provided some toughness inside with rebounds, interior defense and scoring.

Osceola continued to improve as the team's point guard, while Williams was praised for strong effort and defensive skills.

Coach Benion said the top memory of

the year was a buzzer beater win over Treasure Coast, 46-45. She said the players have had to work hard because they've only had six players for certain games, and ended the season with seven players on the roster.

"I was always confident that they could get the job done. I expect a lot of out of this team effort wise and I was never disappointed," she said.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Delaney Osceola continues to improve her skills on the basketball court as her freshman season comes to a close.

Benion said some of the girls have the potential to become solid varsity players in the future but warned they must continue to work because there are a lot of talented basketball players at other schools.

"My hope is they really work hard in the off season. I think the amount of work they put in will determine their level of success in the future," she added.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
JV girls coach Morgan Benion has created a solid group of mostly young players this year. The team had five freshmen, one sophomore and one junior on the roster.



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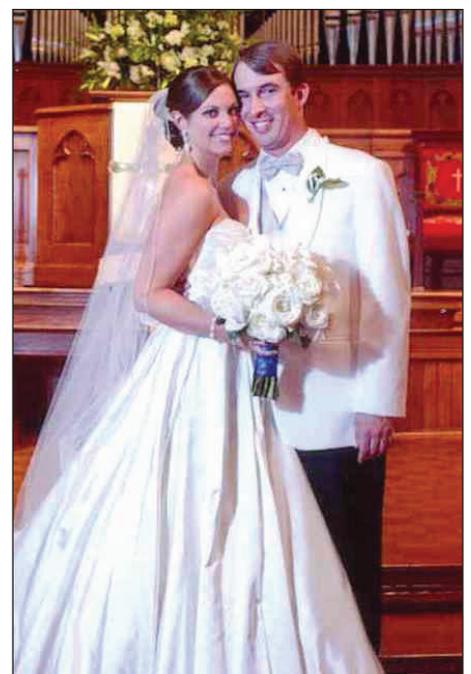
KRISTIN ANNETTE LARSON & JAMES ALEXANDER HAMILTON III

Kristin Annette Larson and James Alexander Hamilton III (Alex) were married July 9, 2011, at First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, S.C. The Rev. Brian Stewart officiated the ceremony. A reception followed at the historic Westin Poinsett Hotel in downtown Greenville.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Karen Williamson Cook and Mr. John M. Larson of Okeechobee. She is the maternal granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank "Sonny" Williamson Jr., and the paternal granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis "Red" Larson, all of Okeechobee. She is a 2003 graduate of Okeechobee High School, and is a 2006 and 2009 graduate of the University of Florida with a Masters in Advertising. She is employed by Erwin Penland Advertising in Greenville, S.C.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Hamilton Jr., of Aiken, S.C. He is the maternal grandson of Mr. and Mrs. WR Hunt of Aiken, S.C. and the paternal grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. James A. Hamilton Sr. of Graniteville, S.C. He is a 2001 graduate of South Aiken High School and a 2005 graduate of the University of South Carolina, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Economics and Real Estate. He currently plays golf professionally.

The Matron of Honor was Mrs. Lesley Schreier, and the Maid of Honor was



Miss Lindsey Stevens, both of Gainesville. Bridesmaids were Mrs. Ashlee Moore of Mt. Vernon, Mo., and Mrs. April Hickman of Greenville, S.C.

The Best Man was the groom's father, Mr. Jimmy Hamilton of Aiken, S.C. Groomsmen were Mr. John Louis Larson of Okeechobee, Mr. Franklin Buchanan of Columbia, S.C., and Mr. Gavin Donaghy of Marco Island.

Following the wedding, the couple honeymooned in Jamaica. They reside in Greer, S.C.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Betty Smith

At the lock

Winter resident Betty Smith saw this cat walking behind her before 8 a.m. on Saturday morning on the rim near the lock here at Taylor Creek. "I enjoy walking to the lake to see the sunrise and was there near the lock Saturday," she explained. "While taking a video of the work with the crane and barge and the bass boats that were going through the lock, I turned to look behind me for some reason and saw the large cat. I must have come up the hill from the rim canal and was walking across the path and then, I saw it down toward the lake. I got so excited that I almost forgot how to work my camera! My husband and I are here in Okeechobee for two months from Gettysburg, Pa."



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Doing what he does best

Derek Tremain of D4 Power Sports, 1460 S.R. 78 W., is shown working on a small engine. He does all types of motorcycle and ATV repairs. While his inventory of parts is low, Mr. Tremain says he can order a part and receive it in a few days. He tries to match online prices for parts. For several years Mr. Tremain was manager of the parts and service department of an ATV dealer. He was also part of Yamaha's ATV off-road racing team.



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Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Students of the Week

Central Elementary Students of the Week for the week of Jan. 2 included: Harmoni Randolph, Alyna Kane, Aiden Scalf, Thomas Wigfall, Alexis Brown, Jaylyn Martinez, Makayla Stokes, Miguel Medrano, Milagros Santinbanez, Erik Tate, Zachary Perdue, Fiona Jenkins, Omar Abuegab, Albert Schwendeman, Katelyn Terry, Miranda Watson, Jose Pineda, Marysa Farmer, Cody Smith, Nicki Schwendeman, Jasmine Lewis, Angel Garcia, LaDarian Jones, Lillian Smith, Brighton Bauman, Cristian Campos, Norberto Juarez, Diego Reyna and Chase Arnold.

Local student selected to represent Okeechobee

A local student was selected to represent her hometown of Okeechobee throughout Florida for 2012.

Shelby Kirton was selected in the middle school division. She is in the sixth grade and is the daughter of Cheryl and Dudley Kirton of Okeechobee. Shelby enjoys dancing and showing livestock. Her ambition is to be a veterinarian.

Six students, kindergarten through college, were selected to represent their hometown throughout Florida. The students are being recognized for their volunteer and community service work. They will visit and entertain at nursing homes, children's hospitals, the Veteran's hospitals, charity events, and other scheduled activities throughout the state.

Florida's Hometown USA stresses the



Shelby Kirton

importance of youth volunteers in each hometown of Florida. This non-profit educational youth program encourages and works with students who have a desire to volunteer and to promote pride in their community by active involvement.

Florida's Hometown USA Program, Inc., has received Disney's VolunteEAR of the Year, the Governor's Points of Light Award and the national President's Daily Points of Light Award for volunteer work with youth.

Okeechobee Blood drives scheduled

The Big Red Bus will be in Okeechobee this month on the following dates:

- Saturday, Jan. 28 - Health and Safety Expo, Ag Center 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.;
- Saturday, Jan. 28 Catfish Festival at the Buckhead Ridge Fire Department; and,
- Saturday, Jan. 28 - Okeechobee Wal-Mart, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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OHS rodeo team shows up big in Leesburg event



Special to the Okeechobee News/Mike Rastelli
Ashton Rogers on "Dancer" competed in Pole Bending in the recent high school rodeo event.

The Okeechobee High School rodeo team traveled to compete in Leesburg on Jan. 7 and 8.

The stands were full of spectators and there were also some in lawn chairs to watch the youth of Florida compete. What great support the town of Leesburg showed! The competitors also showed their respect for each other by helping out in events other than their own. These events could not run as smoothly as they do without all of the volunteers that work inside and outside the arena. And it needs to be mentioned that the Florida High School Rodeo Association has the best volunteer bull fighters and pick up men that put themselves in harms way to help keep our youth safe.

The Okeechobee Team placed as follows.

Saturday, Jan. 7:

- Bareback Riding - Justin Mills came in 1st place.
- Goat Tying - Raylee Holmes came in 9th place and Allyson Trimble came in 10th place.
- Tie Down Roping - Nat Stratton came in 6th place and Dalton Boney came in 9th place.

- Saddlebronc Riding - Nat Stratton came in 1st place.

- Barrel Racing - Acealyn Youngblood came in 9th place.

Sunday, Jan. 8

- Bareback Riding - Justin Mills came in 1st place.

- Tie Down Roping - Joshua Lea came in 10th place.

- Breakaway Roping - Allyson Trimble came in 6th place.

- Saddlebronc Riding - Nat Stratton came in 1st place.

- Barrel Racing - Josie Stratton came in 5th place.

The Okeechobee High School rodeo team will be traveling to Bunnell for their next rodeo on Jan. 28 and 29.

Okeechobee Sports in Brief ...

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

- Ami Edwards scored 16 points but it wasn't enough as Okeechobee High School fell to Treasure Coast, 49-34, in girls varsity basketball action Friday at Okeechobee High School. It was quite an improvement for the Lady Brahms who fell by 35 points when they played the Lady Titans in Port St. Lucie in December. The Lady Brahms celebrated their senior night on Monday night against Sebring.

- The Brahman boys soccer team begin their quest for another district title on Wednesday when they compete in the District 15-3A Tournament at Jensen Beach High School. The top seeded Brahms will face the winner of Suncoast and Jensen

Beach on Wednesday at 7 p.m. If victorious the Brahms would play in the District Title game on Friday at 7 p.m., in Jensen Beach. Aukeemian Mills was ranked number 26 on the Orlando Sentinel Top 100 high school football prospects this month. Mills transferred to John Carroll High School for his senior year.

- The Brahman boys basketball team fell to Harmony and to Fort Pierce in back to back games Friday and Saturday on the road.

Okeechobee traveled the 90 miles to St. Cloud to meet Harmony Friday and fell 59-46. Phillip Jones led the Brahms with 17 points. Saturday, the boys fell to Fort Pierce Central 74-35. Sylvester Butler led Okeechobee with nine points.

OCRA baseball/softball signups start

OCRA signups will be held the first three Saturdays in February, on Feb. 4, 11 and 18, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the score tower at the sports complex. Boys ages 4 thru 14 and girls ages 4 thru 15 are eligible to sign up. You will need to bring a **COPY** of the child's birth certificate and a \$60 registration fee. Please sign up early as OCRA is expecting a larger number of children than last year. The enrollment will be closed after the last sign up day. Any child signing up after that last Saturday, will be placed on a waiting list. For questions, call 863-634-0515.

O.G. & C.C. Golf Results

OGCC Gold Tee winners

Okeechobee Golf and Country Club Gold Tee winners for last week are: tie for first place, R. Foss, G. Guydosh, C. Hendren, V. Johson and L. Birdashaw.

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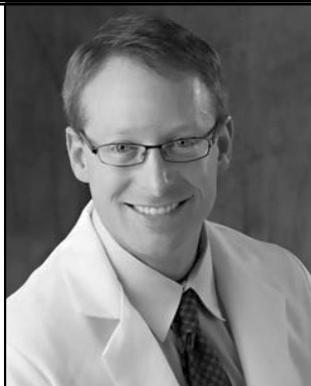


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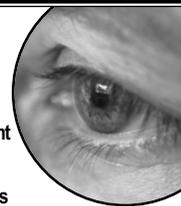
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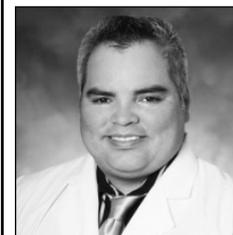
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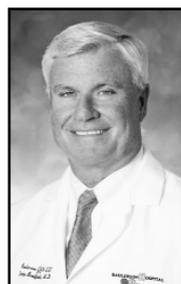
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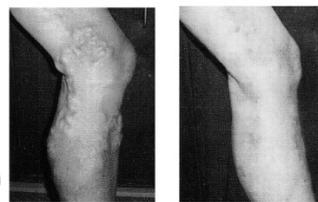
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 symmetrylaservein.com



Advertising is the key to a successful business!

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The 2011 – 2012 Medical Information Guide is available online at <http://specialsections.newszap.com>
 Use this interactive site to browse through articles and advertisements on our updated Newszap website

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Speech

newszap.com

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Post your ads in any of these newspapers for as little as \$8 each:

Okeechobee News • Caloosa Belle • Clewiston News • Glades County Democrat • Immokalee Bulletin • The Sun

FREE!
Absolutely
FREE!

• Online for 4 weeks - 400 words + 4 photos

• Absolutely FREE!

• Post your ads in our papers for as little as \$8 each

www.newszap.com

click on classifieds

Announcements

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Lost

Lost Female
Siberian Husky
answers to Jade.
Last seen behind Eli's
Western Wear.
Reward Offered
when returned
Call 863-801-1164

Garage/ Yard Sales

OKEECHOBEE - 1012
NW 2nd St, January 27
& 28, 8 AM till. BIG
YARD SALE guitars, music
equipment, tools,
electronics, rifle, and
much more.

OKEECHOBEE - 10580
Hwy 441 SE. 1/27 Fri.
& 1/28 Sat. 8 a.m. till 2
p.m. Garden Stuff, Exercise
Items, Furn.,
Fishing Stuff, Office &
Computer Stuff.

Garage/ Yard Sales

OKEECHOBEE - 2910 SE
23rd St. - Treasure Island,
Fri., Jan 27th Only, 8 to 4.
Cleaning out last of an Estate
and our own stuff, too. 100's
of items. Huge dollar table of
vintage & antique items. Also
books, shotgun, clothes, knives.
Man stuff - Women stuff -
Lots of Stuff! Come see!

Need a few more bucks
to purchase something deer?
Pick up some extra bucks when
you sell your used items in the
classifieds.

Employment

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

Barber/Hair Cutters
Needed Immediately
Apply in Person at
A Barber's Barbershop

**GRAND OAKS
ASSISTED LIVING
COMMUNITY**
EXPERIENCED COOK
WANTED AND
CAREGIVERS (LEVEL 2
BACKGROUND CHECK
REQUIRED).
APPLY IN PERSON M-F
9:00AM - 4:00PM
203 SE 2ND STREET

The Glades County
School District is currently
seeking a full-time Payroll
Clerk. For additional
information, Call 863-946-0055

Time to clean out the
attic, basement and/or
garage? Advertise your
yard sale in the classifieds
and make your clean up a
breeze!

Employment Full Time

**CIVIL EARTHWORK
CONSTRUCTION
SUPERINTENDENT
NEEDED**
Civil Engineering
Contractor is seeking an
experienced and qualified
individual to supervise a
construction project on the
Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding
Lake Okeechobee. Must have
10+ years experience in
supervising site construction
with heavy equipment earthwork
activities. Candidates must
have valid Florida driver's
license, reliable transportation
and be willing to travel to
various project sites around
the lake. Salary is contingent
on experience. We offer a
Drug Free Workplace, Health
and 401K plan. Please email
a resume complete with
work history and references to:
pwalker@optsvc.com
or Fax to 863-467-8067.
No phone calls please.

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

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

How do you find a job
in today's competitive
market? In the employment
section of the classifieds

One man's trash is
another man's treasure.
Turn your trash to treasure
with an ad in the classifieds.

Reading a newspaper
helps you understand the
world around you. No
wonder newspaper readers
are more successful people!

Financial

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

Independent Newspapers
will never accept any
advertisement that is
illegal or considered
fraudulent. In all cases
of questionable value,
such as promises of
guaranteed income from
work-at-home programs -
if it sounds too good to
be true, chances are that
it is. If you have questions
or doubts about any ad
on these pages, we advise
that before responding
or sending money ahead
of time, you check with
the Better Business Bureau
at 772-878-2010 for
previous complaints.

Some 800 and 900 telephone
numbers may require an
extra charge, as well as
long distance toll costs.
We will do our best to
alert our reader of these
charges in the ads, but
occasionally we may not
be aware of the charges.
Therefore, if you call a
number out of your area,
use caution.

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

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

Money Lenders

**GET CASH TODAY FOR
ANY CAR**, running or
not, no title needed.
(863)268-5865

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

Services

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Automotive

**We pay cash for cars
in ANY condition. No
title needed.**
863-268-JUNK.
(863)268-5865

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

Merchandise

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Antiques

CO-OP ANTIQUES
Antiques make great
Valentines gifts, one of
a kind, that last a life
time. Many Primitives
Just Arrived!
1214 SW 2nd AVE
(BEHIND DAIRY QUEEN)
Tue-Sat 10am-4pm

The classifieds are the
most successful salesperson
in town.

Pets/Supplies

CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES
- CKC 10wks F blue tan
tri \$400. 863-801-6144

Your new home could be
in today's paper. Have
you looked for it?

Wanted To Buy

380 AMT Stainless
Steel automatic, 6 to 8
hundred dollar in value.
32 Smith&Wesson short
I. Johnson short barrel,
break back, nickel
plated 32 Caliber.
863-697-9616

Agriculture

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Farm Miscellaneous

**COW HAY
ROUND BALES
FOR SALE**
\$40 Each. 863-634-9111

It's never too late to find
the perfect gift. Look for
it in the classifieds.

Rentals

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Apartments

FEMALE STUDIO APT
Furnished, Heat, & AC,
cable and HS Internet
incl. Private entrance.
Wild country setting.
\$395/mo or \$100/wk
863-763-0675

IN TOWN STUDIO APT
nice area. Utilities included.
\$625/mo 1st & sec.
Non smoking environment.
No pets.
863-610-0861

OKEE - Huge, Clean,
2BR, 2BA, Nice area.
Inside laundry. \$650.
month. First & Sec. End
Unit. Call 772-215-0098

VIKING/PRAIRIE Efficiency.
Very clean! \$550/mo.
Incl. utils. No pets.
Call 561-329-8205

Condos/Townhouses Rent

OKEECHOBEE - 2br,
2ba, Townhouse, Newly
renovated, W/D, near
shopping, \$725/mo.
Yearly lease. Avail 2/1.
(772)579-7562

Houses - Rent

3/1 CBS Home Located
behind the Post Office,
Carport, 2 Storage
Sheds. 1st, last & Sec.
neg., \$900 a month.
Call 863-697-1339

BASSWOOD - 3br/2ba,
1 car garage, tile & carpet,
split plan, dishwasher,
W/D. \$1000/mo. (561) 307-2502

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

OKEE 3/1 Updated
Home, central a/c,
wood flooring, Tiled
Bathroom, w/d, Well
Water. \$725 mo.
plus security
Located by 15-B.
Call 786-201-0306

OKEECHOBEE 4br, 2ba,
tile throughout, \$800
mo. & up. 1st & sec.
moves you in.
(561)248-3888 or
(863)599-0156

On Rim Canal- DBWD
Mobile Home. 3
br./2ba. Lrg. Lot. \$800
plus Elec. \$500 sec. 1
small pet allowed.
Lawn care, Water, &
garbage 863-697-0214.

TREASURE ISLAND -
3/2 CBS, on the water,
dock, patio, tile
throughout & boat
house. \$1100
(561)262-1390.

Office Space Rent

**OFFICE SPACE
FOR RENT**
(863)763-8565

Shop here first!
The classified ads

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

Rooms To Rent

OKEECHOBEE - Looking
for 2 roommates to
share 4 br house. All
appliances including
Washer & Dryer. Located
at Four Seasons. \$300/mo
Call
(863)634-4771

Real Estate

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Houses - Sale

FOR LEASE OR SALE: 2
BR, 2 BA on 5 Fenced
Acres. 5 miles from
Okeechobee. Call
(863) 467-1950.

Earn some extra cash.
Sell your used items
in the classifieds

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

Land - Sale

OKEECHOBEE 5 Acres
\$1,000 down. Park your
own trailer or house,
owner financing
\$49,000. 863-763-6358

Lots - Sale

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

Earn some extra cash.
Sell your used items
in the classifieds



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

Mobile Home Rent
3/2 Furnished, BHR Mint, Built in 05, Great Neighborhood, City Water. \$695 a month. 1st and Last No Dogs Call 863-801-1739

3/2 Mobile home for rent on 1.25 acre, outside pet welcome. 1st & Security, \$750.00 a month (863)763-3631

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

Country Living
2/1 MH
\$450.00 monthly & \$400.00 Security
Call 863-697-2486

For Rent
1 Bedroom Trailer
\$125 A Week
Call 863-610-4625

OKEE Little Farms - Like new 3/2. 2 acres, pond, & fenced. \$950 month. Rent to own possible. 863-226-3436 or 423-237-8948.

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

Mobile Home Sale
24x38 DWMH on Rim Canal. 1BR, large living room w/sleeper sofa, large kitchen, 2bath, attached storage building, carport, boat dock. On double lot, furnished. \$16,000.00 negotiable 727-422-1893

Back on the Market \$25,000
Buckhead Ridge 2/2 Remodeled Double wide, City Water, Sewer and Great Neighborhood
Call 863-801-1739

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



FOR SALE
3 Bedroom Mobile Home with 2 lots & access to river.
44 Boondock Rd. \$40,000
Call 863-763-2346 or 863-610-4625

Mobile Home Sale
DOUBLE WIDE MOBILE HOME WITH VAULTED CEILING FLORIDA ROOM. 2 BEDROOMS-2 FULL BATHS. SLEEPS EIGHT, TOO MANY UPGRADES TO LIST WATERFRONT WITH DOCK, MINUTES TO LOCKS AND ACCESS TO LAKE. A FISHERMAN'S PARADISE. MOMMA WILL BE HAPPY IN THIS LUXURIOUS HOME CALL 863-467-5310

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.

Palm Harbor Homes New Home Stimulus 5K For Your Used Mobile Home - Any Condition 800-622-2832 ext 210



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

Campers/RVs
1998 Coachman 35 foot 5th wheel, 3 slides, Washer/Dryer, 8x14 Storage Building, Big O RV Park, lake lot, Cement/pavers \$47,900. Camper only \$8,900. Call 828-734-0961

36.6' Coachmen San Tara, 49K miles, 1 slide, Dual Air, Tag Axle. Will Consider Trade for Buildable Lot. \$18,500 Call 863-467-2550

Fifth Wheels
2001 33 ft Sandpiper 1 slide out, queen size bed, laydown dinette, 2 chairs, laydown couch, plenty of closets, excellent condition like new.
Can be seen at BHR Marina \$9,000 Call 863-623-4171

Travel Trailers
For Sale By Owner 2005 32FT. WildWood Travel Trailer. Fully Self Contained, Super Slide Out, Bunk Beds, Sleeps 8 People. Will Deliver New Condition, Fully Loaded. \$10,500 OBO Call 302-218-1818



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

Public 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

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Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION
Case #: 2009 CA 000830
The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York, as Trustee, for the Certificateholders CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-21 Plaintiff
-vs-
Jeffrey A. Butzin and Jillian M. Butzin, Husband and Wife; Unknown Parties in Possession #1; Unknown Parties in Possession #2; If living, and all Unknown Parties claiming through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants.
Defendant(s).
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 13, 2012, entered in Civil Case No. 2009 CA 000830 of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York, as Trustee, for the Certificateholders CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-21, Plaintiff and Jeffrey A. Butzin and Jillian M. Butzin, Husband and Wife are defendant(s). I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Jury Assembly Room, on the Second Floor, of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 N.W. Third Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 beginning at 11:00 A.M. on February 22, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:
THE WEST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE TRACT 21, SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGES 3A THROUGH D, INCLUSIVE, OF THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORDS.
ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540 Notices to Persons With Disabilities
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptación para poder participar de este procedimiento o evento; usted tiene derecho, sin costo alguno a que se le provea cierta ayuda. Favor de comunicarse con Corrie Johnson, Coordinadora de A.D.A., 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 por lo menos 7 días antes de que tenga que comparecer en corte o inmediatamente después de haber recibido esta notificación si es que falta menos de 7 días para su comparecencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva o de habla, llame al 711.
KREYOL: Si ou se yon moun ki kokobe ki bezwen asistans ou aparey pou ou ka patipise nan prosedy sa-a, ou gen dwa san ou pa bezwen peye anyen pou ou jwen ou sèvi ed. Tante kontakte Corrie Johnson, Co-ordinatò, ADA, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 O'mwen 7 jou avan ke ou gen pou-ou pare nan tribinal, ou imediatman ke ou resevwa aviz sa-a ou si le ke ou gen pou-ou ale nan tribinal-la mwens ke 7 jou; Si ou pa ka tande ou pale byen, lye 711.
SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
Lynn Shain
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

Public Notice
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 1372.42 (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

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2012CP01
IN RE: ESTATE OF MELVIN A. TEETERS
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Melvin A. Teeters, deceased, whose date of death was December 26, 2011, and whose last four digits of whose social security number are 1873, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL, 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is January 25, 2012.
Personal Representative:
Joseph L. Miller
8196-B Old Route 12
Marion, IL 62959
Attorney for Person Giving Notice
ELIZABETH A. MAXWELL
Attorney for Joseph L. Miller
Florida Bar No. 0720895
Maxwell & Maxwell, P.A.
405 NW Third Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: (863) 763-1119
Fax: (863) 763-1179
408388 ON 1/25/21/2012

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2012CP01
IN RE: ESTATE OF MELVIN A. TEETERS
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Melvin A. Teeters, deceased, whose date of death was December 26, 2011, and whose last four digits of whose social security number are 1873, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL, 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is January 25, 2012.
Personal Representative:
Joseph L. Miller
8196-B Old Route 12
Marion, IL 62959
Attorney for Person Giving Notice
ELIZABETH A. MAXWELL
Attorney for Joseph L. Miller
Florida Bar No. 0720895
Maxwell & Maxwell, P.A.
405 NW Third Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: (863) 763-1119
Fax: (863) 763-1179
408388 ON 1/25/21/2012

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2012CP01
IN RE: ESTATE OF MELVIN A. TEETERS
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Melvin A. Teeters, deceased, whose date of death was December 26, 2011, and whose last four digits of whose social security number are 1873, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL, 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is January 25, 2012.
Personal Representative:
Joseph L. Miller
8196-B Old Route 12
Marion, IL 62959
Attorney for Person Giving Notice
ELIZABETH A. MAXWELL
Attorney for Joseph L. Miller
Florida Bar No. 0720895
Maxwell & Maxwell, P.A.
405 NW Third Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: (863) 763-1119
Fax: (863) 763-1179
408388 ON 1/25/21/2012

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2012CP01
IN RE: ESTATE OF MELVIN A. TEETERS
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Melvin A. Teeters, deceased, whose date of death was December 26, 2011, and whose last four digits of whose social security number are 1873, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL, 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is January 25, 2012.
Personal Representative:
Joseph L. Miller
8196-B Old Route 12
Marion, IL 62959
Attorney for Person Giving Notice
ELIZABETH A. MAXWELL
Attorney for Joseph L. Miller
Florida Bar No. 0720895
Maxwell & Maxwell, P.A.
405 NW Third Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: (863) 763-1119
Fax: (863) 763-1179
408388 ON 1/25/21/2012

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2012CP01
IN RE: ESTATE OF MELVIN A. TEETERS
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Melvin A. Teeters, deceased, whose date of death was December 26, 2011, and whose last four digits of whose social security number are 1873, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL, 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is January 25, 2012.
Personal Representative:
Joseph L. Miller
8196-B Old Route 12
Marion, IL 62959
Attorney for Person Giving Notice
ELIZABETH A. MAXWELL
Attorney for Joseph L. Miller
Florida Bar No. 0720895
Maxwell & Maxwell, P.A.
405 NW Third Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: (863) 763-1119
Fax: (863) 763-1179
408388 ON 1/25/21/2012

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2012CP01
IN RE: ESTATE OF MELVIN A. TEETERS
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Melvin A. Teeters, deceased, whose date of death was December 26, 2011, and whose last four digits of whose social security number are 1873, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL, 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is January 25, 2012.
Personal Representative:
Joseph L. Miller
8196-B Old Route 12
Marion, IL 62959
Attorney for Person Giving Notice
ELIZABETH A. MAXWELL
Attorney for Joseph L. Miller
Florida Bar No. 0720895
Maxwell & Maxwell, P.A.
405 NW Third Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: (863) 763-1119
Fax: (863) 763-1179
408388 ON 1/25/21/2012

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2012CP01
IN RE: ESTATE OF MELVIN A. TEETERS
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Melvin A. Teeters, deceased, whose date of death was December 26, 2011, and whose last four digits of whose social security number are 1873, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL, 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having

Public Notice

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

BIG O RV PARK ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida not for profit corporation Plaintiff

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 17, 2012, and entered in Case No. 2010-CA-234 of the CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein BIG O RV PARK ASSOCIATION, INC. is Plaintiff, and WALTER ROMANOWSKI and UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF WALTER ROMANOWSKI are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 beginning at 11:00am on the 29th day of February, 2012 the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

Lot 270, BIG "O" R.V. PARK, a Condominium, according to the Declaration of Condominium dated July 25, 1986, and recorded in Official Record Book 279, Page 1844, as amended by Amendments to Condominium dated September 22, 1986 and recorded in Official Record Book 281, Page 1207, dated October 6, 1988 and recorded in Official Record Book 299, Page 253, dated January 12, 1989 and recorded in Official Record Book 301, Page 575, dated April 6, 1994 and recorded in Official Record Book 359, Page 271, all of Okeechobee County, Florida public records, and as filed in Condominium Plat book 1, Pages 20 through 33, of the Okeechobee County, Florida public records, together with all of the appurtenances to the units (lots), including, but not limited to, all of the undivided shares in the common elements.

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 SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

DATED this 19th day of January, 2012. Sharon Robertson, Clerk of Circuit Court, Okeechobee County, Florida. BY: Lynn Shain DEPUTY CLERK

BECKER & POLIAKOFF, P.A. Attorneys for Plaintiff K. Joy Mattingly, Esq. Florida Bar #17391

Huntington Centre Corporate Park 2901 SW 149 Avenue, Suite 140 Miramar, FL 33027 (954) 985-4102 (954) 987-3948 FAX 408109 ON 1/25/2/1/2012

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 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, together with all appurtenances to the units (lots), including, but not limited to, all of the undivided shares in the common elements.

Public Notice

chobee 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 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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 2011-CA-279

JEFFREY 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 7, 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 JEFFREY 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 defendants, 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 Forest, 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 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

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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., 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 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:

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 Condominium. (PHASE II) Along with that certain 1995 Homes of Merit Mobile Home ID# FLHMBP623-38066

Property address: 13801 Highway 44 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 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 407513 ON 1/18,25/2012

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Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION Case #: 2009 CA 000751

BAC Home Loans Servicing, L.P. f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing L.P. Plaintiff

VS. Andrew James Galletto and Sandra Elaine Galletto, Husband and Wife; Unknown Parties in Possession #1; Unknown Parties in Possession #2; If living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 13, 2012, entered in Civil Case No. 2009 CA 000751 of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein BAC Home Loans Servicing, L.P. f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing L.P., Plaintiff and Andrew James Galletto and Sandra Elaine Galletto, Husband and Wife are defendant(s), I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Jury Assembly Room, on the Second Floor, of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 N.W. Third Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 beginning at 11:00 AM on February 22, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 8, OF BLOCK 2, DIXIE RANCH ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 33, 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.

Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540 Notice to Persons With Disabilities

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptacion para poder participar de este procedimiento o evento; usted tiene derecho, sin costo alguno a que se le provea cierta ayuda. Favor de comunicarse con Corrie Johnson, Coordinadora de A.D.A., 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 por lo menos 7 dias antes de que tenga que comparecer en corte o inmediatamente despues de haber recibido esta notificacion si es que falta menos de 7 dias para su comparecencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva 6 de habla, llame al 711. KREYOL: Si ou se yon moun ki ka-oke ki bezwen asistans ou aparey pou ou ka patipise nan prosedu sa-a, ou gen dwa san ou pa bezwen yon kost pou ou jwen on seri de id. Tanpri kontakte Corrie Johnson, Co-ordinator ADA, 250 NW Country Club Drive, suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 O'mwen 7 jou avan ke ou gen pou ou pareit nan tribinal, ou imediatman ke ou resewva avisa sa-a ou si se ke ou gen pou-ou ale nan tribinal-la mwens ke 7 jou. Si ou pa ka sante ou pale byen, file 711.

SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida Lynn Shain DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: SHAPIRO, FISHMAN & GACHE, LLP 2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360 Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (561) 998-6700 (561) 998-6707 408153 ON 1/25/2/1/2012

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Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS 1 The Renault 5, in North America 6 One-named New Ager 10 Lake plant 14 Street of San José 15 Ending with play or party 16 Rosemary, for one 17 When some suits don't wear suits 20 Sound from Simba 21 Frat "T" 22 Frods with racing stripes 23 The Pawtucket Red Sox, e.g. 28 Nuclear org. created under HST 29 ___ Grey tea 30 Deep Throat's org. 31 Bamboozle 33 Christian surname? 35 How oaths are taken 39 ___ de espera: waiting room 40 She played Buffy 42 River to the North Sea 43 Derby town 45 Trig ratio 46 "Sonic the Hedgehog" developer 47 Shad delicacy 49 Schoolyard claim 51 Frame for Roger Rabbit 52 Sandals in Jamaica, e.g. 57 Sinatra's Gardner 58 Mideast "son of" 59 Cheese or its town 60 Assume a defensive position (and what we did to highlight this puzzle's theme) 66 Hard downpour 67 Music biz sensation, perhaps 68 "If I Were a Rich Man" singer 69 Feminine suffix

- 70 Mex. miss 71 Clear 37 Madison's foil 38 Passed out in Vegas? 41 Sharon's language 44 Company that uses Pegasus as a symbol 48 Brooklyn's ___ Field 50 Get under control, in a way 52 Buried supply 53 Like most cardinals 54 ___ to go 55 Pencil maze word 56 More wise 61 Cavs, on scoreboards 62 Worked (up) 63 Bambi's aunt 64 Where Rockefeller was gov. 65 Match, as a raise

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

Grid of crossword puzzle answers: PEST RISKY TAME, ILKA ONINE EVIL, PAIN SCROLL LOCK, ENL BEASTLY WES, LAMB ORB, FELT TO POWER NAP, ELEM WALK IOTA, VIVA LBARS SCAB, EDEN LIAM TARS, RELAPSED OILLIT, CEE OPEL, ELF ELGRECO LBJ, YOU LLAUGH EIRE, ELMO TINGE LSAT, SLEW OTTOS STYE

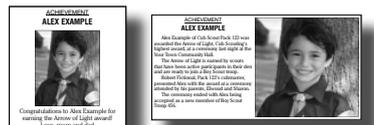
xwordeditor@aol.com

13x13 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for clues.

By Ken Besette (c)2011 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

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Okeechobee schools ranked 54th in the state

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee was better than Desoto, Hendry and Hardee County Schools but were behind 53 other districts in the 2011 rankings released by the Florida Department of Education on Monday.

Okeechobee earned a C grade for the second straight year. The rankings took into account FCAT scores, drop out rates, graduation rates and other factors.

The state intends to rank every school in the state in future years, all elementary, middle, and high school as a way to give parents a better idea of how their school is performing.

Okeechobee School Board member Joe Arnold admitted he was disappointed that Okeechobee ranked near the bottom of school systems.

"Anytime you go from an A to a C your ranking will drop. It is time for us to analyze some things, decide what changes need to be made and move forward," he noted.

Mr. Arnold expressed confidence that Superintendent Ken Kenworthy will come up with good ideas to improve the school system. He admitted the tight budget will make it tough on small, rural districts to move up in the rankings.

Glades County seemed to defy the trend of rural districts performing poorly. Glades earned an A grade as a district and ranked 20th in the state.

Mr. Arnold said funding is a big part of the reason smaller districts don't fare as well. He added that with tougher FCAT tests in the future, smaller districts could have an even tougher time on the ranking scale. "We will have to make some changes but we will analyze the data, and I'm sure we will do

the best we can to improve our scores," he added.

The numerical ranking is based on each school's total points derived from FCAT scores. The total is the sum of scores for reading, math, science and writing; learning gains in reading and math; and scores for learning gains in reading and math among the lowest 25 percent of students in each school. The school district ranking is determined by the school grade points they earned based on the assessment scores of all students in the district that were enrolled for the full year.

Okeechobee County saw more students at grade level in writing, but fewer in math in 2011. Science scores continued to lag behind with only 42 percent of students at grade level. 65-percent of students made learning gains in math last year.

Florida Governor Rick Scott said the rankings are a great guide for parents to follow along with their child's education.

"I applaud Commissioner Robinson on these rankings. We all wish to ensure students have the opportunity to get a good education that will prepare them for a good job," said Governor Rick Scott. "Ranking school districts by performance allows taxpayers to see their investment in education at work."

"Florida is considered a national leader when it comes to measuring the success of our schools," said Florida Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson. "The Florida Department of Education developed the first-ever school grading program in 1999, and since then we have provided our model to other states that wish to replicate our exceptional accountability system."

Commissioner Robinson added that us-

ing education performance data is essential for measuring student progress and school effectiveness to ensure that Florida's educational system continues to move in the right direction.

"Ranking districts and schools based on data-driven results demonstrates Florida's

focus on ensuring students receive a high quality education and provides another helpful tool for parents, educators and taxpayers," he said.

The department expects to publish a listing of schools throughout the state ranked by number in the near future.

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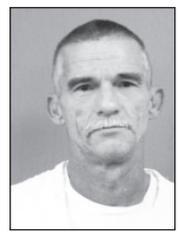
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State charges area man with insurance fraud

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



David D. Thomas

A man being held in the Okeechobee County Jail was arrested by a state investigator for allegedly staging an auto accident in order to collect money from an insurance company.

David Dewilton Thomas, 56, Old Lakeport Road, Moore Haven, was arrested Wednesday, Jan. 18, on a charge of filing a false and fraudulent insurance claim. He is being held without bond in the county jail.

An arrest report by Detective Ralph Guarniero, of the state's Division of Insurance Fraud (DOI), stated that Thomas rented a truck from an Okeechobee vehicle rental company on June 24, 2011. He was then involved in a vehicle crash on State Road 714 in Martin County.

According to the detective's report, Thomas ran into the back of a 1995 Lexus being operated by Robert Brodon.

On July 21, 2011, Mr. Brodon was issued an insurance check for \$4,551.11.

Detective Guarniero said it was later learned that the accident was staged and that Thomas drove into the back of the Lexus at a slow speed so Mr. Brodon, or the two other passengers in the Lexus with him, wouldn't be injured.

However, continued the detective, Mr. Brodon submitted an insurance claim for medical treatment between June 24 and Aug. 16 of that year for a total of \$8,635. But he only received a total of \$2,000 because that was the maximum amount allowed under his policy, added Detective Guarniero.

The report does not state if anyone else has been charged in connection with this case.

When Detective Guarniero arrested Thomas, he was already being held without bond in the Okeechobee County Jail for failing to appear in an Okeechobee court on felony charges of dealing in stolen property and giving false information to a pawnbroker.

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Double-guard jig pulls double duty in FLW tourney

By Rob Newell
FLW

OKEECHOBEE – Win a major bass tournament once on a particular lure or technique and it gets a little attention. But win the same tournament two years in a row on the same lure and technique and suddenly you have garnered a lot of attention.

Such is the case with 29-year-old Brandon Medlock of Lake Placid who has now won the EverStart Series Southeast event two years in a row with the same lure.

In last year's January event, Medlock posted weights of 28-01, 16-05 and 19-02 for a three-day total of 63-08.

This year's tournament, held Jan 19-21, he outdid himself with weights of 17-8, 35-7 and 15-3 for a three-day total of 68-2.

The win earned him yet another \$35,300 payday. Brandon Medlock's trophy will look good sitting right next to the one he won last year.

"The first time I won, I was in shock," Medlock said. "And to win again, now I'm even more in shock. I just don't know what to say."

Medlock's main lure is the same lure he used last year – the Double-Guard Jig – a big 1-ounce jig made by his dad, which features a large 6/0-hook defended by a double weedguard for extra balance and weedlessness. Medlock accentuates the big profile of the bait with a huge hunk of plastic.



Special to the Okeechobee News
The Double-Guard claimed another EverStart win for Brandon Medlock.

Last year he used a big salty chunk; this year he favored a Gambler Ugly Otter. He ties the jig to 65-pound test Suffix braided line on a Carrot Stix extra heavy flipping stick. When the package is complete, it constitutes a bait that is built for one thing: giant bass.

Medlock's winning secret lies, not so much in the bait itself, but in his absolute confidence to throw it all day.

It's a confidence rooted in fishing many team tournaments on Lake Isokpoga with his dad who convinced the younger Medlock to focus solely on big fish in tournaments.

"Istokpoga is a big fish lake," Medlock said. "In order to win tournaments there you have to fish for big bass all the time. And this lake is very similar. I could go out here and throw worms, topwaters, buzzing plastics and catch a bunch of bass, but only two or three of them might be big ones. With that jig I fish for eight bites a day – that's my target. If I get eight bites on that jig, five are going to be big ones. When I come to these tournaments, you won't find those other lures out on my deck. I know from many years of fishing with my dad that if we could get eight bites on that jig, we would probably win the tournament because they're going to be big ones that bite it."

The Double-Guard does double duty,

claiming another EverStart win for Brandon Medlock on Lake Okeechobee. Medlock's arsenal for the week included his dad's jig and a Gambler Cricket, which he used to punch mats.

And here is where a clarification needs to be made: Medlock does not use the big jig to punch through mats. Instead he uses the jig to pitch into holes and gaps around grass.

However, knowing when to punch the Cricket and when to pitch the jig is a critical part of the game.

Medlock is fishing the upcoming FLW Tour Open in a couple of weeks and understandably does not want to say exactly where or what he is pitching to.

But he did say that knowing when the conditions get just right for the jig is imperative.

"The first day I actually punched mats with the cricket – that's how I caught the 17 pounds," he explained. "But yesterday and today I used the jig. A lot of it has to do with the water temperature. When it's cold, punching is the way to go. But once it warms up, the jig is the better option for me. And this event kind of landed right on a transition period. The water was still cold in practice and punching was better. But with the warming water on the first day, more fish started to move onto beds and that's when the jig became better."

Tharp second

EverStart pro Randall Tharp of Gardendale, Ala., made a hard charge at Medlock with the second biggest limit of the event, 28 pounds, 14 ounces, moving him up from fifth to second with a three-day total of 62 pounds worth \$12,300.

This is now the fourth time Tharp has been runner-up in major tournaments in a 12-month period.

This finish also marked his sixth top-10 in a row in events held on Lake Okeechobee.

Tharp relied on his favorite game, flipping and pitching, to produce the monstrous bag.

He used a variety of plastics under a 1-1/2-ounce tungsten weight tied to 70-pound test Samurai braid to do the damage.

"Everyone found the best place on the lake with the biggest fish in it," he said. "The last two days there have been 30 boats milling around in there punching those mats. There have been so many boats in there cutting up the vegetation it doesn't even look the same as it did five days ago. And these fish are not stupid – they're not going to come in there with an armada of boats around. Today, there were far fewer boats in there and some new big ones moved up."

Amazingly Tharp caught the three biggest bass in his limit in about five minutes.

"I caught all my big ones in less than an hour and three of them came within a span of about 50 feet," Tharp explained. "And that's the way this place is – when they move up like that you can hurt them in a hurry. Okeechobee is just a magical place and that's why I love this lake so much."

Fels third

Keith Fels of Ocala caught a closing round limit of 17 pounds, 15 ounces to finish third with a three-day total of 55 pounds, 10 ounces worth \$10,000.

While others punched and flipped, Fels made the casting game work for him.

"Flipping is just not my style, so I stayed with the moving baits most of the week," Fels said. "Mostly casting a Gambler Big E-Z and a 1/4-ounce swimming jig. I basically burned a lot of gas and covered a lot of water."

Holder fourth

Brian Holder of Gastonia, N.C., finished in fourth place with a three-day total of 48 pounds, 14 ounces worth \$9,000.

Holder caught most of his fish punching "blown-in" mats of mixed vegetation consisting of reeds, eel grass and hyacinths.

His primary bait for the week was Lake Fork Craw Tube on a Trokar hook under a 1-ounce tungsten weight fished on 65-pound test Spiderwire braid.

Honnerlaw fifth

Bryan Honnerlaw of Moore Haven rounded out the top five with a three-day total of 47 pounds, 6 ounces worth \$8,000.

Honnerlaw spent the week flipping mats and reeds with a Sweet Beaver teamed with a Punch Skirt and topped with a 1-ounce weight.

Rest of the best

Rounding out the top-10 pros in the EverStart Series event on Lake Okeechobee:

6th: Kent Ware of Wadmalaw Island, S.C., three-day total of 42-9;

7th: Clent Davis of Montevallo, Ala., three-day total of 41-14;

8th: George Kapiton of Inverness, Fla., three-day total of 41-6;

9th: Brandon McMillan of Clewiston, Fla., three-day total of 40-12;

10th: Jeff Fitts of Keystone Heights, Fla., three-day total of 39-12.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Rob Newell
Bryan Honnerlaw of Moore Haven rounded out the top five with a three-day total of 47 pounds, 6 ounces worth \$8,000.

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Big O Teen Anglers announce award winners

The Big "O" Teen Angler's Inc. annual awards banquet was held Dec. 2, at the Okeechobee County Civic Center. Poge's Family Restaurant catered the event and served dinner to all the boat captains, sponsors, anglers and their families.

Luke Farmer was angler of the year in the 11 - 14 year olds. He had a total weight of 115.18 lbs. 2nd - Ty Riva 111.86 lbs., 3rd - Keith Chamberland 107.75 lbs., 4th - Kenny Brewer 94.72 lbs., 5th - Jose Hernandez 92.67 lbs., 6th - Robby Hays 88.48 lbs., and Big Fish - Keith Chamberland 7.64 lbs.

Matthew Robbinson was angler of the year for the 15-18 year olds. He had a total weight of 135.66 lbs., 2nd- Ryan Edwards

120.15 lbs., 3rd - Dakota Dietrich 109.53 lbs., 4th - Logan Bohannon 97.48 lbs., 5th - James Stafford 75.88 lbs., 6th - Melissa Floyd 66.88 lbs., and Big Fish - Matthew Robbins 8.45 lbs.

Mike Zubricky was the boat captain of the year with a total weight of 129.45 lbs.

Our smallest fish went to Danny Hays with a single catch of 0.41 lbs.

We'd like to thank our sponsors for all their support this past year. Publix of Okeechobee, Stitchin' Post, Advanced Engraving, Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters, Gardard's Bait and Tackle Shop, Rut N' Strut N' Taxidermy, George's Hotdogs located at Mid Florida Hardware, Okeechobee News, The

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We'd also like to thank all of our boat captains and parents for their endless efforts. You are the best.



Matthew Robbinson was angler of the year for the 15-18 year olds.



The smallest fish trophy went to Danny Hays with a single catch of 0.41 lbs.



Luke Farmer was angler of the year in the 11 - 14-year-olds division.



Mike Zubricky was the boat captain of the year.

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