



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 15

Friday, February 3, 2012

50¢ Plus tax



**Battlefield monument re-dedication planned ...Page 3**

**Two accused of generator theft ... Page 10**

## Lake Levels

**13.25 feet**

Last Year: 12.47 feet

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## Schools respond to low rankings

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Three of Okeechobee schools were ranked in the upper echelon of the state but most schools were ranked in the lower third in individual school rankings released for the first time ever this week by the Florida Department of Education.

Central and South Elementary were ranked in the top 40 percent of Florida Elementary

Schools. Central was 513 and South 656 out of 1,795 ranked in their category. Seminole Elementary trailed in 857th place, North Elementary at 1,330 and Everglades at 1,338.

Yearling Middle School finished in the top 50-percent in the state with a ranking of 287 out of 583. Osceola Middle though was near the bottom at 487.

Okeechobee high school was ranked 325 among 441 high schools in their category.

Okeechobee's freshman campus did not

receive a ranking of an FCAT school grade in 2011 as they used end of course exams.

According to the Florida Department of Education rankings took into account FCAT scores, and schools minority, poverty, and at risk for graduation rates. It also put stock in the improvement of students who historically performed in the lower 25 percent of their class.

School Superintendent Ken Kenworthy said

See **SCHOOLS** — Page 8



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS Drama Club  
In the picture front row, left to right: Kristin Higgins, Maria Zapata, Kylie Shirley, Tabatha Henry, Cody Walker. In the back row are: from left to right: Claresha Blair, Al Chaisson and Emilie Lege.

## Drama Club to present mystery dinner theatre

The OHS Drama Club will present a mystery dinner show, "A Wing and a Prayer" on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., in the OHS cafeteria.

The story takes place at Fair Haven Community Church, where Rev. Longacre has gathered church members to discuss

See **DRAMA** — Page 8

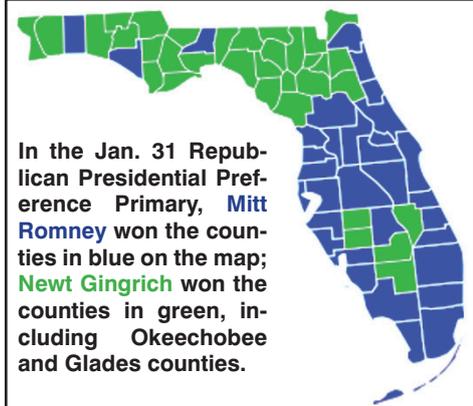
## Presidential Preference Primary goes smoothly

**By Katrina Elsen**  
Okeechobee News

The Republican Presidential Preference Primary election went smoothly in Okeechobee County, according to Okeechobee County according to Supervisor of Elections Gwen Chandler.

"It went very smoothly," said Mrs. Chandler.

See **VOTE** — Page 8



## Okeechobee Election Results

Jan. 31 Republican Presidential Preference Primary

Candidates	Votes	Percentage
Michele Bachmann	4	0.18%
Herman Cain	3	0.13%
Newt Gingrich	873	39.23%
Jon Huntsman	3	0.13%
Gary Johnson	0	0%
Ron Paul	125	5.62%
Rick Perry	12	0.54%
Mitt Romney	717	32.22%
Rick Santorum	488	21.93%

Statewide, Mitt Romney received 46.42% of the votes; Newt Gingrich, 31.93%; Rick Santorum, 13.34%; Ron Paul, 7.01%; John Huntsman, 0.37%; Michelle Bachmann, 0.24%; Hermain Cain, 0.21%; Gary Johnson, 0.07%.

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## **Okeechobee**

# Historic battle monument to be re-dedicated

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

An historic event which took place 72 years ago will occur again tomorrow with some of the original participants. At 11 a.m., at the Battle of Okeechobee Historic State park, across the street from the Treasure Island Fire/Rescue Station on S.E. 34th Avenue, the Battle of Okeechobee Monument will be rededicated.

It was originally located around the corner on U.S. 441 S.E. where Old Habits restaurant once stood. The original dedication took place on Nov. 11, 1939. The monument was erected to commemorate the Battle of Okeechobee which was fought in the vicinity on Christmas Day, 1837. According to the

Okeechobee News of Nov. 17, 1939, nearly 300 people attended the ceremony. Of those 300, at least three of will be in attendance tomorrow. The monument was unveiled by a little girl named Elizabeth Gentry Sayad, the great great granddaughter of Col. Richard Gentry who commanded the Missouri Volunteers and was killed in action in the battle. Tomorrow, Mrs. Sayad and her granddaughters Adrienne Gentry Sayad and Elizabeth Todd Sayad are scheduled to unveil the monument.

Cossie Conrad and Doc Anderson were also at the first dedication and are planning to be at tomorrow's ceremony. Mr. Conrad was there with his father, who was Sheriff of Okeechobee County at the time. Although his memory of the event has dimmed with

age, he said it was "quite a day" with a lot of people in attendance.

Doc Anderson was 13 years old and attended the 1939 event with the Boy Scouts. His memory of that day has also faded with time. He remembers there were speeches and one of the Boy Scouts fainted, either from the heat or the excitement.

Life-long Okeechobee resident Dozier Clements was also at the first dedication. However, a previous engagement will prevent him from attending tomorrow's event. Mr. Clements was in the third or fourth grade and attended with his school class. The original site of the monument was on the right of way of what is now U.S. 441 S.E. in a deserted location. Mr. Clements thought at the time that it was a funny place to put the monument.

Speakers at the original ceremony were State Senator Spessard L. Holland of Bartow and Major William Richard Gentry, Jr., of St. Louis, great grandson of Colonel Richard Gentry. Tomorrow's speakers will include State Representative Richard Macheck, who sponsored legislation for the purchase of the park property, and other state and local officials.

On Nov. 17, 2011 the monument was moved from its original site to its present lo-

cation. Moving the monument turned out to be a bigger project than originally thought. The 1939 newspaper account said the stone monument weighed four tons. However, that weight probably did not include the concrete slab the stone was imbedded in. Apparently, judging from early photographs, this concrete was added some time after the stone was put down. Matthew Buxton of Buxton-Seabreeze Funeral Home had volunteered to move the stone with his grave stone moving equipment. However, it soon became apparent that bigger equipment would be necessary. A large crane from Rick's Cranes was summoned to lift the stone and the concrete slab encasing it onto a trailer to be moved to the new location. An inmate work crew from the Okeechobee County Jail dug around the concrete base so straps could be placed under it to lift the stone.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com).

## Okeechobee Forecast

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Weather forecast for Okeechobee County from the National Weather Service

### Local Forecast

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. East wind between 5 and 15 mph.

**Friday night:** A 20 percent chance of showers after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 64. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

### Extended Forecast

**Saturday:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Saturday night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Sunday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 83. East wind around 5 mph.

**Sunday night:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm.



Special to the Okeechobee News/DAR Florida State Regent Mrs. Thomas Clair Maguire and Elizabeth Foster Gentry were there to dedicate the Battle of Okeechobee monument in 1939. The little girl from this photo is now a grandmother and will be accompanied by two of her grandchildren at the re-dedication on Saturday.

### Blood drives planned

Blood donors are sought in the Okeechobee County area to help maintain a safe blood supply for area hospitals. The "Big Red Bus" bloodmobile will be in the Okeechobee area on the following dates:

- Friday, Feb. 3 – Oasis Village, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 4 – Publix noon – 5 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 5 – Publix 1 – 6 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 9 – IRSC campus, 1 – 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 11 – Sour Orange Festival, Lakeport, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 12 – Golden Corral, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 18 – Trading Post Flea Mkt by Home Depot, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

*Brahmann Theatres III* **MOVIE LISTINGS**

**Fri., Feb. 3<sup>RD</sup> -**  
**Thurs., Feb. 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**For Info, Call 763-7202**

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

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

**THEATRE III: "ONE FOR THE MONEY"**  
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG-13**

Movie Tickets: Adults - \$6.50 • Children 12 & under - \$5.00  
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February 11, 2012

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## Public Forum/Speak Out

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

### Deputy saves choking toddler

• The story in Wednesday's paper about the deputy who saved the child who choked on a bite of pickle should be a wake-up call for parents. Parents of small children—and anyone else who babysits small children—should take First Aid and CPR classes so they know what to do in a medical emergency. Thank goodness the deputy was already in the area when the 9-1-1 call came in or that child might have died. The local office of the Red Cross offers classes on a variety of schedules. Some are evenings and weekends so you should be able to find one you can attend. If someone stops breathing, you only have 3 minutes before brain damage starts. For most, that is not enough time for EMTs to reach your home. You need to know what to do while waiting for help to arrive.

• I noticed the paper put the American Red Cross class information right under the story about the toddler. I hope that inspires parents to get that training. Those First Aid and CPR skills are a necessity for anyone with kids. And how many grandparents babysit their little grandchildren? They should also have that training. The time spent going to those classes is a good investment in your own piece of mind.

• I hope a lot of parents and anyone around kids pays attention to this. My son's father and I were required to get this training before we could bring my son home because he was considered 'special needs.' I cannot believe the training is not required for ALL parents of all kids, special needs or not. We used the training when my son was 3 years old and started choking on a piece of meat. He has a narrowing in his throat that requires attention periodically. It was and still is hard to get him to chew, chew, chew. His father panicked for about 10 seconds and then the training kicked in and he saved our son's life. It was an amazing moment and we are still grateful to St. Mary's hospital for setting the high standards they have and requiring us to have the training.

• Every parent should have First Aid and CPR training. My daughter is alive today because my husband knew what to do when she choked on big bite of food. If a kid is choking, there is usually not time for an emergency crew to get there. If you are a parent and don't have First Aid and CPR training, make it a priority to schedule that training. If you don't get the training, and one of your kids dies because you did not know what to do, how will you ever live with yourself?

### Sheriff candidate

• I see Jon Folbrecht in the picture next to one of our County Commissioners. Another photo opportunity for the young man running against our Sheriff May. After doing my homework, I was informed Jon has joined many organizations. Why am I disturbed as a black man? It was Jon's actions on Martin Luther King Day. What really disturbed me was his speech about Martin Luther King, trying to sound black believing he could reach out to our community. Tell me Jon - Would you have given that speech or even been in our community it not running for sheriff? I doubt it. I also am disturbed about his article claiming if sheriff, that he could eradicate drugs and gangs. You know nothing about our community. For the last eight years, the sheriff's department and city police department have worked endlessly to reduce the drugs and gang situation in our community. When they arrest one, another takes his/her place in front of our general store. Break up gang members? Only in your dreams. I understand that you patrol Indiantown and only have been on the force for a short period of time. I have relatives in Booker Park and if you can't clean up Booker Park, how do you expect us to believe that you will eradicate drugs and gangs in our county? It is your hope that you unseat our sheriff, which I believe this community will not allow to occur. I do know this much. If you lose, we will not see you for another four years. That's what politicians do.

### Okee-Tantie

• I think that they could change the layout at Okee Tantie without losing any of the public picnic and playgrounds. I cannot see the reason for any manmade lakes on property. It is on the river.

• I just don't want to lose those picnic tables and playgrounds on the river. There is also a band shell they just put up.

## Letters to the editor

### 2011 Kiwanis Radio Auction raises \$5,000

The Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee would like to express gratitude toward our generous community for making the annual radio auction fundraiser a huge success. The auction raised a record amount in three hours on Saturday, Dec. 10. We send a big THANK YOU to Billy Dean and Ken Keller, WOKC, Okeechobee News and the PennySaver for their help with pre-event promotions and airtime for the auction. Also CenterState Bank graciously allowed the Kiwanis Club to use their facility to house our auction and the staff was very accommodating. Waste Management's Okeechobee Landfill's sponsorship of the Pennysaver advertisement, which previewed the auction items, helped us keep our overhead low. Thank you to Bruce at Beef 'O' Brady's for providing the delicious wings and to Hungry Howies for the delicious pizzas! And a special thank you goes to the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office for their support.

Thank you to the following business owners and individuals for donating items and services for our auction: Total Roadside Service, Farm Bureau, Seacoast National Bank, KOA, Waste Management, Car Quest Auto, Platt Chiropractic, Okeechobee Feed, Golden Corral, One Stop Party Shop, Mixon Realty Group, Lonnie Kirsch, Cheri Watford, Frank DeCarlo, Gilbert Oil Company, Okeechobee Ford Motor Co., Jerry Ferrara, Okeechobee Fair Board, Ding-A-Ling Deli, Ultimate Gaming, Custom Sights & Sounds, B.R.A.T. Club, St. Lucie Battery & Tire, Guardian Ad

Litem, Cowboys, Bill's Shoe Repair, Larson Dairy, Emory Walker, Raulerson Hospital, Eli's Western Wear, Mid Florida Hardware, Taylor Rental, Jim Cole, Okeechobee Golf & Country Club, CenterState Bank, Golden Corral, Quail Creek Plantation, Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney, Fran McNeill Barr, The Hampton Inn, Sybles Flowers, Bill Hendry, Pat's Florist, Stripling Entertainment, FM Portrait Studio, Holiday Inn Express, Best Western, Mid Florida Credit Union, OK Corral & Gun Club, Okeechobee Cattlemen's Assoc., Flower Petals, Fitness Factory, Trinity Photography, Dominos Pizza and Gilbert Golf Cars.

A special thank you to our community for participating by calling in and bidding on these great items. Thank you Okeechobee High School Key Club for the great job you did 'running the bids' to everyone.

On behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee, please accept our most sincere gratitude to everyone for all of the donations, volunteer time and bidders!

The Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee is part of an international network of Kiwanis Clubs, all of which strive to serve the youth of their communities. Locally we will continue to do so, applying these funds to the following programs: Kiwanis Scholarship funds for OHS graduates, mathematics mini-grants for local teachers, Reading is Fundamental, G4S Halfway House Christmas Party, Terrific Kids Awards program for 4th & 5th Graders, Key Club, Builder's Clubs, Non-Alcohol Graduation Night Party, Santa in the Park and more.

**Teresa Chandler**  
Kiwanis Radio Auction, Chairperson

## Corrections

### RV Park names confused in arrest story

The article headlined "Task force arrests RV park owner" in the Wednesday, Feb. 1 edition of the Okeechobee News contained an error. The article stated that the man arrested, James Stephenson, is the owner of Jim's Place Park on State Road 78 W. This was incorrect. Stephenson is the owner of Jim's RV Park on U.S. 441 S.E. The owners of Jim's Place Park are Jim and Peggy Robinson, who have owned their park for more than 30 years. They have no connection with Stephenson or his park.

### Band misidentified in photo from Buckhead Ridge festival

In the photo from the Buckhead Ridge Catfish Festival on page 18, the band was misidentified as "Sounds of Country." The band in the photo is "Cripple Creek Band," featuring Phil Eddings, Scott Eddings and Ryan Eddings.

The newspaper regrets the errors and any confusion or inconvenience they may have caused.

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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

## Okeechobee News

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## Staff

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**Circulation Manager:** Janet Madray

**Publisher:** Tom Byrd

## Our Purpose...

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

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- 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.
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- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

### Chili cookoff judges and winners

On Thursday, Feb. 2, the employees of Okeechobee Correctional Institute held a chili cooking contest as a fund raiser to help with the medical expenses of their fellow employee, Tim White. Judges and winners were, left to right, Commissioner Bryant Culpepper and Undersheriff Noel Stephen, who were judges, Angelita Dennis, second place, County Judge Gerald Bryant, who was also a judge and Royce Dykes, third place. Not pictured was C. Johnson who won two prizes, "Where's the fire extinguisher" and first place. The People's Choice Award was to be announced later. That award goes to the chili chef who receives that largest amount of donations from fellow employees who sampled the chili.

### Affordable spay and neuter program vouchers offered

The Humane Society Pet Rescue would like to help with affordable spay and neuter of your pets. They will be offering affordable spay/neuter vouchers every Wednesday in February at The Tractor Supply Store in the Publix shopping center. Drop in and meet the volunteers and get your vouchers from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. With each voucher purchased, your pet gets a FREE rabies vaccine. You can also pick up your vouchers at the Pet/Rescue shelter on U.S. Highway 98 (next to the Livestock Market) on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Prices are based on weight of your pet.

Buy one for a friend or relative's pet for a Valentines gift. Find out more by going to: <http://www.bestfriends.org/nomorehomelesspets/pdf/SpayNeuterBrochure.pdf>.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Magi Cable

### Fire Chiefs honored

The Okeechobee Historical Society will honor the Okeechobee City Fire Chiefs on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at a 5 p.m., ceremony in the Okeechobee City Hall. The Historical Society is donating to the community a pictorial display of the City's Fire Chiefs. All members of the community are invited to attend this ceremony. Light refreshments will be served.



#### PENTECOSTAL

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## Obituaries

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

### Thomas J. Olsen, 58

OKEECHOBEE — Thomas J. Olsen, age 58, died at home on Friday, Jan. 13, 2012.

Thomas had relocated to Okeechobee in Oct., 2011, from Jensen Beach.

He proudly served his country as a member of the U.S. Navy and was a member of the American Legion. He enjoyed golf and football and anything that would create laughter.

Thomas is survived by his wife, Tina M. Olsen of Jensen Beach; a daughter, Lisa M. (Brian) Olsen-Bateman of New York; grandson, Anton Bateman; step-children, Timothy J. Quick, Jr. and Allison E. Quick; sister, Barbara (John) Scaduto all of Jensen Beach; and a brother, Walter Olsen, Jr. of New York.

A memorial service will be held today, Feb. 3, 2012, at 1 p.m. at Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home.

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

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

### Rose Marie Dunham, 65

OKEECHOBEE — Rose Marie Dunham passed away on January 30, 2012, in Floral, Ala. She was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 2, 1946, to William and Wanda Ralston. She and her family moved to Okeechobee in 1980, where she was a local business owner of Skip's Bar-B-Que for nearly 15 years. She was also a Co-founder of a local church that is still flourishing within the community called 'The Living Word of Faith'.

She is survived by her best friend, her husband of 50 years, Dallas M. Dunham; three daughters, Pam Miller (Charles) of Okeechobee, Rebecca Rexrode (Dwayne) of Okeechobee, and Debra Serrano (Edwin) of Okeechobee; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; four sisters; and one brother.

She was greeted in heaven by her parents and her beloved granddaughter, Danielle Leanne Rexrode.

The viewing will be held today at the Evans Funeral Home in Floral, Alabama from 9 to 11 a.m. and services will follow. Arrangements by Evans Funeral Home, Floral, Alabama.



### William O. Bouchillon, 83

OKEECHOBEE — William O. Bouchillon, 83, of Okeechobee, passed away Jan. 31, 2012, at the Hamrick Home.

Born Feb. 15, 1928, in Greenville, S.C., he served our country in the U.S. Army.

He is survived by his son, William C. Bouchillon and daughter, Janet Ungleich.

No services are planned.

Friends may sign the guest book at [www.Bas-sOkeechobeeFH.com](http://www.Bas-sOkeechobeeFH.com).

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

### Judith Pearl Alcock, 69

OKEECHOBEE — Judith Alcock, 69, of Okeechobee, passed away Jan. 31, 2012, at Raulerson Hospital.

Born Oct. 23, 1942, in Adrian, Mich., she was a retired clerk at Walgreens.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Richard Alcock; children, Richard Alcock, Pamela Seifert, Scott Alcock and Kimberly Alcock; 17 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter.

No services are planned.

Friends may sign the guest book at [www.Bas-sOkeechobeeFH.com](http://www.Bas-sOkeechobeeFH.com).

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

### Robert 'Bob' Campbell Jr., 75

OKEECHOBEE — Robert "Bob" Campbell, Jr., age 75, died Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012, at Raulerson Hospital.

Born in Manchester, Ky., Bob had lived in Okeechobee for the past 22 years. He was a Deacon of Northside Baptist Church.

Close to his heart were his children and church and he enjoyed fishing and cars.

He was a Past Master of Washington Masonic Lodge #17, Past Patron of Washington Eastern Star #195 of Hamilton, Ohio, and a member of the Scottish Rite Temple of Cincinnati, Ohio, and formerly affiliated with the North Fairfield Baptist Church in Fairfield, Ohio.

Bob was preceded in death by his daughter, Diana Campbell Faries; and his brother, Jesse Campbell, as well as his parents. Survivors include Phyllis Campbell, his wife of 54 years; a son, Thom Campbell of Manassas, Va.; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and his son-in-law, Scott (Mary) Faries of Sebastian, Fla.

The family will receive friends for a visitation in the Buxton-Seawinds chapel on Monday, Feb. 6, 2012, from noon till 1 p.m. with an Order of Eastern Star #128 service at 1 p.m. followed by a Masonic service by Okeechobee Lodge #237. Burial will take place in Hamilton, Ohio.

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

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



## Community News in Brief

### VFW North announces weekend plans

North VFW Post 4423, 300 NW 34th St. has some great fun planned for the weekend. Friday, **Feb. 3**, the grill opens at 5 p.m. with Karaoke by Just-Us 7-10 p.m. Saturday, there will be burgers on the grill noon-2 p.m., Fish dinner 5 p.m. with Karaoke by Chuck Darling 7-10 p.m. Sunday Lori will be serving Ham Dinner 2-4 p.m., and a Super Bowl Party at 6 p.m. (please bring a snack to share). All proceeds benefit Veteran Assistance Programs. Hope to see you there!

### Moose Club announces weekend plans

Loyal Order of Moose 1753, 159 NW 36th St. will be having Bingo 6:30 p.m., with Bonanza start at 5 p.m. on Friday, **Feb. 3**. On Saturday, there will be a fried chicken dinner (cooked by Ray) 5:30-7:30 p.m., with Karaoke hosted by D & K Karaoke (Danny & Kathy) 7-10 p.m. There will be a Super Bowl Party on Sunday. Be sure to join in the fun.

### Cypress Eagles to host dinner night

Friday, **Feb. 3** from 5:30-8:30 p.m., the Cypress Hut Eagles, will be serving Steak \$12, Fish \$8 or Shrimp \$12 dinners. Music By: Lisa Riley

All proceed go to Community Charity Fund. Public is welcome.

### Eagles North to host Friday Steak Night

Come hungry to the Friday Steak Night on Friday, Feb. 3, starting at 5:30 p.m., 9985 Hwy 441 North. Bring your dancing shoes and enjoy music by the Awesome Al Jones. Proceeds go to the FOE 4137 community benefit fund.

### Barbecue, auction and poker run to benefit Kerry Dean

Butch's Redneck Yacht Club will host a benefit barbecue, auction, poker run and cornhole tournament for Kerry Dean who recently had two major kidney operations. The event will take place on Saturday, **Feb. 4**, at Butch's Island Bar.

Please join us for a fun-filled day beginning at 10 a.m., with a poker run (\$10 per hand) until 2 p.m. Sign up at Butch's Island Bar. Several stops will be made including Good Spirits, Iron Eagle, J&S Fish Camp, Alibi's, Baracuda's, Shenanigans and back to Butch's Island Bar. Additional hands are \$10. Cornhole tourney starts at noon with registration at 11 a.m. Entry fee is \$20 per team. Sliced Barbecue Pork plates are just \$7 beginning at noon.

It's Swamp Cabbage season so come and get it at just \$3! Live auction starts at 3 p.m. To donate auction items or for more information, please call 863-467-1570 or 863-467-1009. All proceeds will assist in offsetting medical expenses.

### Church has movie night

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.

### Gordie Peer to hold question/answer session

Gordie Peer will answer questions on Saturday, **Feb. 4**, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., regarding his extensive Collection of Ranch Tools and Movie Memorabilia currently displayed at the Library.

### Vaudeville Bunch show planned

The Okeechobee Vaudeville Bunch will hold a music and comedy show at the Okeechobee Moose Lodge NW 36th Street Saturday, **Feb. 4**, from 1 to 3 p.m. Admission and parking are free. The kitchen will be open for those who wish to purchase food.

### Cypress Eagles to host dinner

Saturday, **Feb. 4** at 5 p.m. the Cypress Hut Eagles will be having their Feb. Birthday Bash! Gator & Shrimp Baskets \$6. Music by Cowboy Karaoke. Public Welcome. All proceeds go to Community Charity Fund.

### Eagles host card BINGO

Join Eagles North and bring your friends for Card Bingo on Saturday, **Feb. 4**, beginning at 4 p.m., 9985 Hwy 441 North, Okeechobee. Proceeds to benefit community benefit fund for FOE 4137.

### OHS Int'l Club to host benefit yard sale

The OHS International Club will be hosting a yard sale on Saturday, **Feb. 4** from 7-11:30 a.m., in the Mid Florida Hardware parking lot on 441 S. Please come out and help the students raise funds for their upcoming trip to England.

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## SCHOOLS

Continued From Page 1

he felt the rankings were based solely on FCAT and he said the philosophical question is, should an entire school's value and worth be based on one test?

"I think it gives us a starting point. We have looked at the ranking and we all know that is not where we want it to be," he explained.

Mr. Kenworthy said he felt each school had a strong school improvement plan and he predicted improvement in these rankings next year. They have invested in the professional development of students, and are always looking for ways to improve the education provided here.

"I do think it is good data to have. I think the rankings did not take into account several factors that Okeechobee has, like a high mobility rate of students, the number of students on free and reduced lunch and other factors that have an impact on the FCAT results," he added.

Kenworthy said the district will not use that as an excuse and plan to further investigate their school improvement plans.

School administrators have also been spoken to about improvement that will be expected in the next year. While some schools struggled, Mr. Kenworthy said some subgroups excelled like Central Elementary where 93 percent of their lowest performing students showed learning gains. School officials noted that percentage was better than many schools ranked above them in the state.

"We do have pockets of success and we are looking at ways of replicating those things at other schools so all of our students can benefit," Mr. Kenworthy added.

Mr. Kenworthy admitted in an ideal world, all of the schools would be ranked closely together. He said in the real world that is impossible as schools have different students, teachers and administrators that have different skills and talents. He said success at one school that is tied to policy and programs can be replicated at other schools to improve them.

"The principals know they are not where they want to be and there is always room for improvement. I think we have a well thought out plan, the teachers are on board, and hopefully next year these rankings won't look the same," he added.

with the audience must now figure out who stole the jewels and why. Come out and join the cast and crew for a fun-filled evening starring Cody Walker, Emilie Lege, Nikki Perdomo, Maria Zapata, Al Chaisson, Kylie Shirley, Claresha Blair, and Tabatha Henry. Backstage crew are Kristin Higgins, Bryan Claypool, Brianna Cross, Tristian DuBois, Frank Adamo, Deion Hayes, Tony Pierre, and Kaylie Corby. We will serve baked chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, cookies, brownies, ice cream, tea and coffee catered by the Golden Corral. All tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling Miss Raulerson at 863-462-5025 ext. 8011.

The state average for voter turnout was 41 percent. Turnout was better in the more populated counties where the candidates made more personal appearances and participated in debates.

Statewide, Mr. Romney won the election with 46 percent of the votes. Since the Florida primary is a "winner takes all" election, Mr. Romney received all 50 of Florida's delegates to the Republican National Convention, to be held Aug. 27-30 in Tampa. However, after the election, Newt Gingrich challenged Florida's "winner takes all" status with the Republican National Committee.

In recent years, the Republican Party has been growing in Okeechobee County. Until the 1990s, there were few Republican candidates in local elections. In 1996, Ed Miller made Okeechobee County history by becoming the first Republican candidate elected to Okeechobee county office when he won the race for Okeechobee County Sheriff. Now, the entire Okeechobee County Board of Commissioners is made up of Republicans. The county currently has 18,540 registered voters including: 9,298 Democrats; 6,239 Republicans; and 3,003 other.

The next election, the Primary Election, is scheduled for Aug. 14. However, Mrs. Chandler said there is a possibility that could change. For more information on local elections online, see the Supervisor of Elections web site at [www.voteokeechobee.com](http://www.voteokeechobee.com).



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Still teaching

Retired teacher and former Okeechobee County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Patricia Cooper reads to a class at Central Elementary School. She was one of the guest readers at Guest Reader Day at the school on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

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## VOTE

Continued From Page 1

She said they finished counting ballots at 9:15 p.m., which was a little later than they had hoped to finish. She added there were some complications with the paperwork because they combined some precincts in order to save money and that created some issues.

Okeechobee County Republicans had a 35.7 percent voter turnout. Absentee ballots accounted for 237 votes and 479 voters took advantage of the option for early voting.

"It was not a bad turnout, considering that only registered Republicans could vote," said Mrs. Chandler. She added the presidential primary was the only thing on the ballot. When there are other state or local issues on the ballot, an election attracts more voter interest, she said.

"All in all, I was pleased," said Mrs. Chandler.

Newt Gingrich received the most votes from Okeechobee County voters, with 873. Mitt Romney received 717 votes. Rick Santorum received 488. Mr. Santorum was the only candidate in the race to make a personal appearance in Okeechobee County during the campaign.

# Okeechobee Education Foundation announces Mini Grants

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

There was a buzz in the room as the Okeechobee Education Foundation handed out 54 grants that total \$23,500 to local teachers at a special ceremony on Monday.

Foundation President Linda Syfrett said interest in the grant programs have increased and that 97 teachers applied for grants this year.

"We are excited about the participation. It is always a wonderful day when we can help teachers help our kids learn more in the classroom," she told the crowd.

North Elementary Principal Pat McCoy saw her staff take home the most grants this year, 35. She said there was a lot of interest generated by last year's creation of a school garden that was funded through these grant programs. "The teachers saw what they could do with these grants and it has sparked great interest."

North Elementary School Physical Education teacher Joy Prescott said teachers and students have more tools to work with and that really inspires the learning process.

"That's the wonderful thing about the Okeechobee community and the school system. The community is willing to give all kinds of time, effort and money and we sure

appreciate it," she added.

The 2011 District Teacher of the year, Emily Streelman, of Everglades Elementary, said she felt it was an honor to work in a community that has so much support for teachers. She received two science grants this year.

"This will help students actually learn with their hands and see how science works and is a wonderful teaching tool. The materials are expensive, and whenever we have foundation support it makes things better," she said.

North Elementary Fourth grade teacher Megan Williamson collected nine grants this year and admitted she put several hours into grant writing this year. She helped the school create a school garden last year. She said the grants add to the opportunities students have to learn with hands on projects and also field trips.

"I'm so thankful for the foundation that allows teachers to have this opportunity. In the school system money is tight and this allows us to do extra things in the classroom and I try to take advantage of every opportunity I can for my students," she explained.

Williamson said in her opinion, hands on learning makes more of an impression and stays with students longer than simple textbook lectures and teaching.

"I feel you have to make it come alive and I believe students really connect to that," she added, "It is wonderful to see all of these funds going straight to kids, it would give anybody a buzz in the air," she added.

Williamson also took kids on a field trip to learn more about Okeechobee County history last year.

The Community Theatre issued four grants of \$500 apiece. The Doris Entry Reading grant of \$250 apiece went to four teachers. Nine teachers received the Gay Carlton Physical Education grant of \$222.22 apiece. Glades Electric Cooperative Math and Sci-

ence grants were given to ten teachers and totaled \$5,000. The Kiwanis Club and Blair Memorial Elementary Math mini grant was \$3,000 and was issued to six different teachers. The Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield handed out two grants for \$500 this year. The Rotary Club of Okeechobee handed out \$3,000 worth of grants to six teachers.

The South Florida Water Management District handed out \$4,500 worth of grants to nine teachers. The Treasure Coast League of Cities handed out three grants of \$500 apiece to promote understanding of civics and government.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

The Doris Entry Reading Mini Grant was awarded Monday. Left to right are Kelly Owens of the Education Foundation, Jackie Hilyer, Sherion Jennings for Sandy Thompson, Glenna Rucks, Lori Howard, Joseph Stanley (Foundation member and grandson of Doris Entry) and Ken Kenworthy, Superintendent of Schools.



Glades Electric Cooperative Math and Science Mini Grant was awarded Monday. Left to right are: Russ Brown, Foundation Board member, Megan Williamson, Emily Streelman, Elizabeth Stanley, Katrina Cook, Jenny Ward, Tracy Phillips, Mary McWaters, Denise Whitehead donor and Foundation Board member and Glades Electric rep, Paul McGehee donor and Glades Electric, Jim LaPenna and Mike Costopoulos Foundation Board member.



The Gay Carlton PE Mini Grant was awarded Monday. Left to right, back are: Tabitha Trent, Foundation Board member, Phillip Spearow, Melissa Brady, Travis Forde, Kevin Jackson, Dan Eldred, Patricia Cooper Foundation Board. From left to right, front, Joy Prescott, Gay Carlton (donor) and Nancy Beth Rucks.

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# Man, teen charged in theft case

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man and a juvenile have been arrested by detectives in after they were accused of involvement in the theft of items totalling over \$8,000.

Cody Abram Lagrange, 23, N.E. 13th Way, was first arrested Tuesday morning, Jan. 31, by Detective M.D. Faulkner on charges of grand theft and dealing in stolen property. Then, about five hours later, he was arrested by Detective Mark Shireman on charges of grand theft, dealing in stolen property and giving false information to a secondhand metal recycler.

Lagrange is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on a total bond of \$35,000.

Also arrested in connection with the first case against Lagrange was Blake A. Dickson, 17, Eighth Drive, Okeechobee. He was arrested by Detective Faulkner on charges of burglary and grand theft. He was booked into the county jail then released into the custody of his parents.

Although the cases worked by the two Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) detectives are separate, they are similar in that the items allegedly stolen were sold for scrap at area recycling centers.

In Detective Faulkner's case, Lagrange and Dickson are accused of stealing several items from a man's home that included two

generators, an air compressor, a rear projection television, two window air conditioning units, a large number of 2 x 4 boards, another television and several other items.

His arrest report indicated the stolen items had a total value of \$8,500.

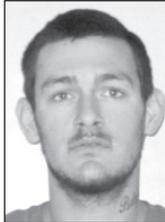
Detective Faulkner stated in his arrest report that when he checked transaction records at a local recycling center he was able to verify that Lagrange sold "... items that were similar to the items reported stolen such as clean cast aluminum and copper -- items that are used for generators and compressors."

For Detective Shireman, his case was similar to his fellow detective's in that Lagrange reportedly took a 1991 John Deere riding lawnmower and apparently sold it for scrap.

According to Detective Shireman, Lagrange gave the recycling center his thumbprint and his Florida ID card to prove his identification. Lagrange then signed an ownership form stating he is the lawful owner of the item he was selling.

In this case, added the detective, Lagrange sold the 400-pound lawnmower for \$13.75 a pound and received a total of \$55 in cash. Based on the current market value of similar used mowers, Detective Shireman estimated the value of the lawnmower to be \$450.

Both detectives indicated in their reports that their investigations are continuing.



**Cody Abram Lagrange**



**Blake A. Dickson**

## 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).

• Penny Bickel, 34, S.W. 17th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 31 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with failure to return leased property. Her bond was set at \$2,500.

• Samantha Jewell, 20, N.E. 128th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 31 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with dealing in stolen property. She was released on her own recognizance.

• David Hartzke, 32, N.E. 26th Ave.,

Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 1 by Deputy Mark Margerum on Okeechobee County warrants charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence (two counts). He is being held without bond.

• Jakaris Alphonso Morris, 19, N.E. 15th Ave., Okeechobee was arrested Feb. 2 by Deputy Arlene Durbin on Okeechobee County warrants charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - sale of a substance in lieu of a controlled substance, failure to appear for docket call - sale of a substance in lieu of a controlled substance, and the misdemeanors of failure to appear for arraignment - disorderly conduct and failure to appear for docket sounding - possession of marijuana under 20 grams. He is being held without bond.

*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.*

## American Red Cross offers health and safety classes

The Okeechobee County Branch office of the American Red Cross, 323 N. Parrott Avenue, will offer the following health and safety courses in February:

- Adult First Aid/CRR/AED, Feb. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Adult and Pediatric CPR/AED, Feb. 21, from 6 to 9 p.m.
- Adult CPR/AED, Feb. 21, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Adult First Aid/CPR/AED, Feb. 21 and 23, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Pediatric CPR/AED, Feb. 22 and 23, 6 to 9 p.m.
- First Aid, Feb. 23, 6 to 9 p.m.

To register for a class or find another class in your area, call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcross.org/takeaclass. Advance Registration Required. Courses, times and locations subject to change.

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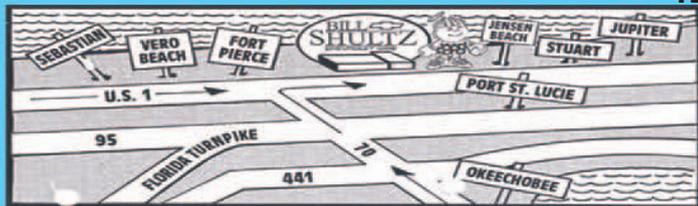


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Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

## Students of the Week

Everglades Elementary students achieving excellence in the classroom for the week of Jan. 30-Feb. 3 include: kindergarten, Flor Ruiz, Jevon Peters, Paige Bolen, Remington Weaver, Madison Collins, Manuel Mora; first grade, Emily Bianco, Sunshine Adams, Michael Kelnhofer, Cesar Garcia, Kaylee Connelly; second grade, Morgan Jackson, Thalia SanMartin, Tyler St Pierre, Raymond Elliott, Travis Sallette, Ivy Lawson; third grade, Daisy Lujano, Cameron Johnson, Mishell Garcia, Tristan Lewis, Johanna Rivers; fourth grade, Cory Romer, Ashley Elias, Rebecka Mims, Luis Colon; fifth grade, Jenna Thompson, Daulton Chouinard-Rix, McKenna Hickson and Bryan Skelton. Congratulations to our many outstanding students.

## Attend the free Astronomy Day – and night! open house

The public is invited to attend a free Astronomy Day – and Night! open house, sponsored by the Indian River State College and the Treasure Coast Astronomical Society (TCAS), on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 2 to 9 p.m. in and around the Hallstrom Planetarium located at 3209 Virginia Avenue on the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce. There will be telescopes, guest speakers, handouts, mini-planetarium shows, activities for kids, plus guided views of the moon, planets, and stars (weather permitting). For more information, contact the IRSC Call Center at 1-866-792-4772.



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

## It's Girl Scout Cookie time!

Girl Scouts from Troop 60938 were all smiles as they sold cookies outside the Okeechobee Publix Supermarket on Saturday. Left to right are Kimberlee, Sarah, Cecilia and "Cookie Mom" Jennifer. (The troop leader asked that last names not be published.)

## Be Valentine

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# OHS students part of statewide reading challenge

Okeechobee High School participated in the Million Minute Marathon sponsored by Just Read Florida. The purpose of the marathon was for all students statewide, to read for 20 minutes and hopefully reach a reading total of twenty million minutes. OHS students read for 20 minutes campus-wide on Jan. 23, reading for a total of 16,395 minutes. To continue the Celebrate Literacy campaign for the remainder of the week, the media center sponsored several activities including literacy trivia on a life-size game board, a literacy quiz competition offering 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes.

“Ask Me What I’m Reading,” is an ongoing activity for book discussion and free popcorn.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Carol Bryant  
Okeechobee High School students participated in a Literacy Quiz as part of the “Million Minute Challenge” reading program. First place went to prize Kelsi Brown.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Carol Bryant  
OHS students played a Literacy Trivia Game on a life-size game board as part of the “Million Minute Challenge” reading program. Second and third place prize winners in the Literacy Quiz at OHS were Sarah Piroli, Kaitlyn Wilson, Anthony Gallo and Hannah Rucks-Zaoui.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Carol Bryant  
Okeechobee High School students participate in book discussions as part of the “Million Minute Challenge” reading program.

## Let them see you read! CES celebrates literacy

Kids are more likely to read if they see you do it. It might start out with young ones mimicking an adult figure by holding a book and turning the pages, but eventually they’ll actually read. If they see you opting to pick up a book instead of turning on the TV or playing a video game, then they’ll be more likely to do so themselves.

As a part of Florida’s “Celebrate Literacy Week festivities,” on Jan. 31, Central Elementary School extended an invitation to parents, businesses, retired educators, law enforcement agencies, healthcare agencies, and other members of our local community to read a book to students in grades Kindergarten through fourth Grade. This festivity was warmly received by over 60 guest readers from every sector of our local Okeechobee Community.

While Jan. 23 through Jan. 31, highlights the celebration of literacy, Central Element-

tary and the rest of Okeechobee County Schools encourage students to celebrate literacy the entire year by looking for books that match up with current interests—reptiles, cars, animals, art, and so on.

Because most of the guest readers were long standing enthusiasts for literacy, they read books that they enjoyed. This level of enthusiasm was an apparent feature displayed by every reader. Our guest reader went above and beyond by actively engaging students in the text read.

For this Central Elementary would like to say, “Thank you Okeechobee for believing in our students’ bright literacy future. We look forward to your acceptance of future invitations to participate in our ‘Celebration of Literacy.’”

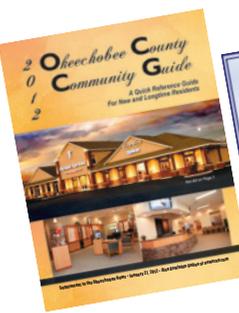


Special to the Okeechobee News/CES  
Sharon Coker from OHS took take to come to Central and read to Miss Coker’s Kindergarten class.



Paula Smith from the Health Department read to Mrs. Medrano’s class.

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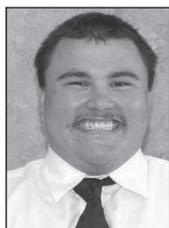
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# York completes football career at Mississippi College

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News



Cory York

Okeechobee alumnus Cory York may be done playing college football but he plans to stick around the game after completing his degree at Mississippi College.

York played four years for the Choctaws where he started on the offensive line for three seasons. He majored in education. He was a solid contributor on the offensive line for the Okeechobee Brahms for three years and was team captain and an all-region performer in high school. He is the son of Mike and Sonia York of Okeechobee.

York will graduate in May with a degree in psychology and kinesiology. He will become a Graduate Assistant Coach for the Choctaws this fall and plans to earn a masters degree. He will also assist in recruiting in South Florida.

York was also named the Offensive Linemen of the Year for the College in 2011. He

was also named to the American Southwest Conference 2011 Fall All-Academic Honor roll.

York said he felt his decision to attend Mississippi College was one of the best decisions he ever made, "I was able to win a conference championship, be a part of a good group of seniors, and accomplished a lot. This experience was everything I wanted from college."

York has already moved into the coaching frame of mind making phone calls to recruit players in South Florida. He plans to try and recruit Okeechobee graduates and other South Florida athletes.

"I know it is difficult to get out of South Florida because there aren't a lot of options for players, but I plan on working hard to give them other opportunities," he explained.

Choctaw Head Coach Norman Joseph called York a great contributor to the total program. He praised him for his leadership, his effort, and his knowledge of the game of football.

"He was an outstanding student and did a wonderful job for us as a player," he explained.

York started at offensive guard and center during his career and was known for his knowledge of the offense, and blocking schemes. Joseph said York did a great job helping the younger linemen understand the system and improve. He also praised him for overcoming some ankle injuries early in his career.

"We were very fortunate to have him for five years. He bought into the program, understood our expectations, and will do an excellent job as a coach for us," he added.

York said Division III football was tougher than he expected because many schools have Division I caliber talent. He called the conference as the SEC of Division III football with several teams usually ranked in the top 25 in the nation.

"It was a pretty dominating brand of football and the competition was difficult. It was a lot better than I thought it would be," he explained.

York expects to serve as a Graduate Assistant for at least one year and could be the Choctaw Offensive Line or Tight End Coach next fall.

# February recognized as Florida Hiking Trails Month

TALLAHASSEE—Governor Rick Scott has proclaimed February as Florida Hiking Trails Month, recognizing the importance of this healthy, affordable outdoor activity and inviting Floridians and visitors to enjoy a hike along the state's extensive, nationally recognized trail system. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Florida Park Service, along the Florida Trail Association (FTA) invites citizens and visitors to take advantage of the scenic beauty offered by Florida's outstanding system of trails.

"February is the perfect time to take advantage of cooler temperatures and enjoy a quiet walk or an invigorating hike on a Florida trail," said DEP's Florida Park Service Director Donald V. Forgione. "With the support of the Florida Trail Association and many statewide partners, Florida created a system of greenways and trails that make it easy and affordable for people to access the beautiful green spaces that naturally call us outdoors this time of year."

Florida Hiking Trails Month is designed to emphasize fun and fitness along scenic and diverse trails—from urban trails in the midst of cityscapes to wilderness trails that run through Florida's award-winning state parks. Florida has a vast network of trails that includes more than 2,500 miles of dedicated hiking trails and several thousand more miles of multi-use, recreational trails. Florida trails promote healthier lifestyles as well as nature-based tourism and economic benefits for the state.

The largest in the state, the Florida National Scenic Trail, is a path that will ultimately extend 1,400 miles from the Gulf Islands National Seashore in the Panhandle all the way to the Florida Keys. As one of 11 congressionally-designated scenic trails in the United States, this national treasure links public lands throughout Florida. The FTA encourages Floridians to take part in this celebration by exploring the Florida National Scenic Trail and the many hiking trails it provides in parks and forests throughout

Florida. For ideas in planning your own hiking trips, visit [www.FloridaStateParks.org](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org), <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/> and, for additional travel-related information, explore Visit Florida's trails website <http://www.visit-florida.com/trails/>. For more about the Florida National Scenic Trail and a wide range of activities planned to celebrate Florida Hiking Trails Month, look for the FTA chapter nearest you at: [www.floridatrail.org](http://www.floridatrail.org).

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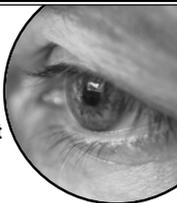
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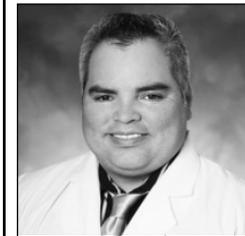
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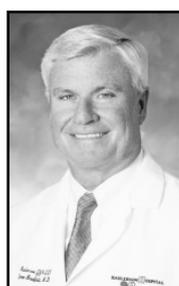
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- 2 years T/T experience
- Clean MVR & PSP
- Paid weekly
- Excellent benefits package

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EOE/DFWP

**(863) 763-5593**

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### NOTICE

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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.

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

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**(863)268-5865**

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**EGG DONOR**-Loving couple seeks a caring female to give the gift of life, by becoming an EGG DONOR. Must be between the ages of 19-29 drug free and in good health. **FINANCIAL COMPENSATION \$6,000.** Please contact Amy. (561)361-8980

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Antiques make great Valentines gifts, one of a kind, that last a life time. Many Primitives Just Arrived!  
1214 SW 2nd AVE  
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Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.

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Call Roy 561-373-7430

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**Local Farm**  
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Harvesting Now  
Oranges, Cabbage,  
Collards and Broccoli  
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863-634-7454

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

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## Apartments

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

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**Newly Furnished** 2 bdrm/1bath Townhome w/all amenities located in Kings Bay. Short or Long term rental, also 2 bdrm/1ba Duplex located to Courthouse, Lawn and Garbage included \$450.00 moves you in. 1st mo. w/1 yr. Lease Call 863-634-8331

**OKEE** - 1 br, furnished, Lease available. 1st, last & sec. (407)448-2495.

**TAYLOR CREEK** - 1/1 Condo unfurnished on ground floor. Includes electric & water. \$725 mo. 2 weeks FREE w/security deposit! Call 863-634-0663.

## Houses - Rent

**3Bd/ 1Ba CBS Home**  
Clean & Well Maintained  
New Tile Floors  
Quite dead-end street  
Asking \$850  
863-610-1980  
David May  
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**AFFORDABLE** - New Houses. 3/1/1 for \$900, 3/2 for \$1000. Large yards. Bring pets. Call 561-723-2226.

**Houses - Rent**

**Buckhead Waterfront**  
3bd/1ba CBS, carport, large Florida room, tile. \$650 mo plus security. 1137 4th St BHR Call 561-968-4018

**House for Rent**  
2874 NW 33rd Ave Basswood 3/2, Garage, big porch, fenced in, brand new house, good condition. \$1,100 monthly, \$800 security, renters application required 561-683-9754

**On Rim Canal- DBWD**  
Mobile Home. 3 BR/2BA. Lrg. Lot. \$800 plus Elec. \$500 sec. Lawn care, Water & garbage included. Call 863-697-0214.

**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

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**Houses - Sale**

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

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

**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 ACCOMADATE A 3500 SQ. FT. HOME WATER DEPOSIT PAID READY TO BUILD ON. \$45,000 OR O.B.O. CALL CARL @ 863-634-8617

**NICE 1/2 ACRE LOTS** FOR SALE IN NEW AREA GREAT FOR INVESTMENT WILL CONSIDER OFFERS. CALL 863-634-7781

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

**Mobile Home Rent**  
**2Bedroom/ 1Bath**  
Clean, includes lawn care & sewer. 25th St. in T.I. \$550 monthly, \$500 Dep. Call 863-467-1308

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

**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

**OKEECHOBEE:**  
1 BR, 1 BA, All utilities paid. \$400 Monthly Call 812-989-3022

**Mobile Home Sale**

**1568 SQ. FT.** Dble/wide on 4 lots. Kissimmee River Estates, 2BR/2BA, Fully Furnished. \$69,500 Call 765-978-0220

**2005 44'x12'** Park Model 55+ park, all residential appliances with W/D., new skirting, non-smoker, water filter system. \$6,750 obo Call Steve @ (863)-634-6705

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

**Back on the Market** \$25,000  
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

**Palm Harbor Homes**  
4/2 From 499 mo Loaded  
3/2 From 399 mo Loaded  
Homes on Your Lot 0 Down  
800-622-2832 ext 210



**PARK MODEL** FOR SALE  
BIG O RV RESORT  
Over 55 Community Unit has attached screened lanai, total length 52 feet, 20 feet wide. Excellent Condition with a lot of extras. Site 119 on the canal Call 610-442-0223

**SEMINOLE COVE** - 2BR, 2BA, 2 Car Carport & Florida Room. (863)467-0284

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

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

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.**, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website [www.cityofokeechobee.com](http://www.cityofokeechobee.com), to obtain a copy of the agenda.  
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance.  
By: James E. Kirk, Mayor  
Lane Ganiotea, CMC, City Clerk  
40998 ON 2/3/2012

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**  
2012TD001  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that **BIG LAKE HOLDINGS INC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate No: **2683** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **A PORTION OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST AND A PORTION OF THE LAND LYING SOUTH OF SAID SECTION 35 BETWEEN THE HANCOCK MEANDER LINE AND THE 17 FOOT CONTOUR LINE OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE AND A PORTION OF PERMANENTLY RECLAIMED LAKE BOTTOM LAND IN SECTION 35 AND/OR SOUTH OF SAID SECTION 35, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF THE NW 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 35, WHERE IT INTERSECTS THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF CONNER'S HIGHWAY (ALSO KNOWN AS U.S. HIGHWAY 7441 AND FLORIDA STATE ROAD 15) THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG A CURVE TO THE LEFT IN SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 6306.26 FEET AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 2 DEGREES 00 MIN 47 SEC, AN ARC DISTANCE OF 221.57 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY; THENCE BEAR SOUTH 67 DEGREES 36 MIN 50 SEC WEST, ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, A DISTANCE OF 28.43 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG THE AFORESAID DESCRIBED LINE, A DISTANCE OF 150.00 FEET; THENCE BEAR SOUTH 0 DEGREES 55 MIN 52 SEC WEST, A DISTANCE OF 875.11 FEET TO THE NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF LEVEE LD-4; THENCE NORTH 74 DEGREES 35 MIN 42 SEC EAST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY A DISTANCE OF 150.00 FEET; THENCE BEAR NORTH 0 DEGREES 31 MIN 58 SEC EAST A DISTANCE OF 892.32 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, LYING IN AND COMPRISING A PART OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, WHERE IT INTERSECTS THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF S.R. 15 (U.S. 441) THENCE RUN SOUTH 0 DEGREES 00 MIN 28 SEC EAST, ALONG AN EXTENSION OF THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID NW 1/4, FOR A DISTANCE OF 916.72 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF LD-4 OF THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 74 DEGREES 35 MIN 42 SEC WEST ALONG THE NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID LD-4 FOR A DISTANCE OF 400.00 FEET FOR POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 74 DEGREES 35 MIN 42 SEC WEST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF LD-4 FOR A DISTANCE OF 298.40 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 0 DEGREES 56 MIN 35 SEC EAST A DISTANCE OF 864.66 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF THE AFORESAID S.R. 15 (U.S. 441); THENCE RUN NORTH 67 DEGREES 36 MIN 50 SEC EAST, ALONG THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID S.R. 15 (U.S. 441), FOR A DISTANCE OF 278.43 FEET; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID S.R. 15 (U.S. 441) RUN SOUTH 23 DEGREES 23 MIN 10 SEC EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 27.00 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 67 DEGREES 36 MIN 50 SEC EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 21.57 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 0 DEGREES 55 MIN 52 SEC WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 874.98 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING, LYING IN AND COMPRISING A PART OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. 8.659 ACRES**

**1-35-37-35-0A00-00011-8000**  
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida  
Name in which assessed:  
**ANNITA JASKOT  
BRENTWOOD OKEECHOBEE LLC  
DHARMESH PATEL  
JACK JASKOT  
PIER II RESORT  
SUKETU PATEL**  
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **8th day of March, 2012**.  
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES  
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT  
Okeechobee County, Florida  
/s/ Robin R. Parrish  
Deputy Clerk  
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 408004 ON 1/27;2/3,10,17/2012

**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

**Public Notices**  
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**Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**  
1 Its leaves are used as a heart stimulant  
10 More than comfortable?  
14 Manhattan clam chowder feature  
15 "The Aviator" actor  
16 Nanny's challenge  
17 Disco family name  
18 Like the Ford logo  
19 2/9/2010 victory parade honoree  
20 Lemming predator  
21 59-Across element  
23 The Lean One, in "Peer Gynt"  
25 Directional suffix  
26 "... we extinguish sight and speech": Browning  
27 Kennedy associate  
29 Nitrogen compound  
31 Lupe's "Later!"  
32 Van Helsing's creator  
33 Serving monster  
36 Imaginary resident  
37 Certain Honshu ingredient  
38 Exotic smoothie ingredient  
39 Lennon love song  
40 Arens of Israel  
41 Part of HUD: Abbr.  
44 Logical tips?  
45 Mom's dinnertime plea  
47 Pundit briefly  
51 Otherwise  
53 Spanish cordial  
54 Latin I word  
55 Dramatic atmosphere source  
57 Somewhat, with "a"  
58 Some tree sculptures
- DOWN**  
1 Mulligan, e.g.  
2 White Rabbit's cry  
3 Rabbitt's "You and I" duet partner  
4 Derby-wearing Addams  
5 Water testers  
6 Neosporin target  
7 Rodeo twirlers  
8 Sees through  
9 Sealy competitor  
10 Cleaning aids  
11 1950s Irving Berlin campaign song  
12 Modern storage aid  
13 Sultry Cuban dance  
14 Jim with 589 lifetime homers  
22 Luminous  
24 Locals  
28 Savanna stalker  
30 NYC home of Dalí's "The Persistence of Memory"
- 59 Frost lines?  
60 Inventory site  
31 Alaskan island title  
32 Bygone Persian  
33 PA system essential  
34 The Tony Martin hit "There's No Tomorrow" is based on its melody  
35 English Channel resort  
36 Pitch target?  
38 Attending  
40 "Oh, ri-i-i-ght!"  
41 "The Merry Widow" hero  
42 "8 Mile" rapper  
43 Workbench gadgets  
46 Schisms  
48 Exultant yell  
50 Goblet feature  
52 Not very edgy  
56 Lifeguard's skill, for short

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

S	U	C	H	A	S		R	U	P	T	U	R	E	D
T	S	H	I	R	T		O	N	E	O	N	O	N	E
E	M	I	L	E	O		M	A	C	T	R	U	C	K
P	A	R	F	S			R	O	M	S		T	E	S
S	I	L		M	C	A		S	A	S	E			
I	N	I		A	U	N	T		R	E	D	D	O	T
D	E	C		C	R	O	C	P	O	T		O	P	E
E	S	K	E	R	S		U	L	N	A		C	P	L
				L	O	O	N		A	G	E		W	O
M	O	N	A		R	O	A	N				M	O	R
A	C	I	N	G		B	L	O	C	P	A	R	T	Y
M	O	C	T	R	I	A	L				R	A	C	K
A	M	A	R	I	L	L	O				E	T	H	E
S	E	D	A	T	E	L	Y				W	H	E	R

xwordeditor@aol.com

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14												15		
16												17		
18								19				20		
21						22		23			24		25	
26						27	28				29	30		
				31						32				
33	34	35							36					
37								38						
39							40					41	42	43
44						45	46				47	48		
49					50					51		52	53	
54										55			56	
57										58				
59										60				

By Brad Wilber  
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**ANSWER:**

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

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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

**SUDOKU**

# Former Brahman gets job as baseball pitching coach

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News



Ruben Guerrero

Ruben Guerrero has seen his share of success as an athlete at Okeechobee High. He was a high energy pitcher who challenged hitters on the baseball field, and wasn't afraid to run over or around players on the football field, as the Brahman QB.

He went on to earn a scholarship to pitch for North Florida Junior College and then Florida A&M. If he hadn't battled shoulder injuries he might still be pitching.

Now Guerrero has entered a new phase of his athletic career as he was recently named to become the Brahman's new pitching coach by Head Coach Jeff Blackstone.

Guerrero said he feels excited to be back on Brahman field and always wanted to get into coaching. He indicated an interest and met Coach Blackstone during Homecoming Week last fall. He said the two men hit it off and Guerrero was named pitching coach in December.

"I'm happy to be here because this is where I want to coach. Now is the perfect time for me because I have kids and a family and I want to give back to the community," he said.

Guerrero was born and raised in Okeechobee and played OCRA and high school ball for several years. He said he knows Okeechobee has always had a lot of baseball talent. He said his goal is to work with these kids and develop them a little bit better for the next level.

He also plans to bring a hard-nosed aggressive mentality to the mound. He said he wants pitchers who aren't afraid to pitch inside, and wants pitchers who will pound the strike zone with strikes. He also will work with kids on the mental side of the game.

"I always felt hitters could not hit me. You have to be mentally tough out here because talent will only take you so far. I want my pitchers to compete and win the battle with hitters," he added.

Guerrero is excited about the future of

the Brahman team. On paper, the team's pitching staff is one of their bigger question marks. He has already started to work with freshmen pitchers and predicted the Brahmans will have a very, very strong team in the next few years.

"The kids need to learn how to pitch. They must take the mound with confidence and not be afraid of contact. At this level every pitcher wants to strike everybody out but I want to get ground balls and get hitters out with fewer pitches," he said.

Guerrero said lower pitch counts will allow his starters to remain in the game longer. Another advantage for pitchers this year will be new bats mandated by the Florida High School Athletic Association. Experts claim the bats have a smaller sweet spot and should help pitchers across the board.

Guerrero said that means pitchers need to be more aggressive in the strike zone because the ball won't be hit as hard or as far as in the past.

Guerrero said he has no regrets about his playing career. He even tried arena football, getting into a semi pro league in Florida as he played for the Port St. Lucie Mustangs in 2007. Guerrero grew more than he expected and said he probably could have played college football. Still baseball was his game and despite ability in football and basketball, concentrated full time on baseball. While he is the team's pitching coach, Guerrero was a solid high school center fielder and hitter and can also assist in those areas of the game.

"I was a maximum type effort pitcher and I gave it all I had. I remember I told Coaches I didn't want to come out of games. That might have hurt me in the long run, but its how I play. I wouldn't change anything because it is what it is," he added.

Guerrero said he was blessed with some great coaches including his father Ruben Guerrero Sr., Tim Gillis and his college coaches. He said his main goal is to bring great coaching to a new crop of Brahmans.

"I want these kids to go to the next level and when they get into tough situations realize they've been here before and know what to do," he concluded.

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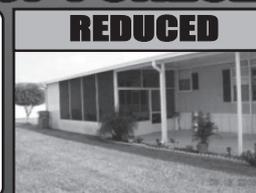
Se Habla Español

Hazellief & Prevatt Realty Inc.

CALL FOR A LIST OF FORECLOSURES



1000-H: SW Section Close to town! 2,749 sq. ft. of living 2 story 3BR/2.5BA on a large yard w/balcony. Open area, appliances, fireplace, shed, back screen porch, metal roof, and wood/carpet floor throughout. \$265,000 MLS #204835



REDUCED

1008-M: River Run Resort 2 Bedroom 2 Bath Mobile Home. Seller is ready to sell. Make an offer! \$39,999 NOW \$25,000 MLS #204194



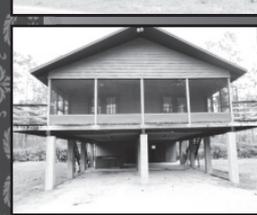
NEW LISTING

1007-H: SW Section. Street on two sides. Living Sq Ft 2343, Lg Island Kitchen, dining rm, large FL room with fireplace, appliances, large oak and fruit trees. \$209,000 MLS #205526

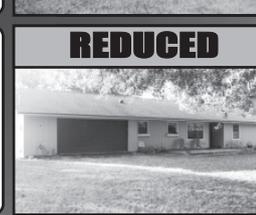


LAKE ACCESS

4004-M: Buckhead Ridge waterfront 2BR/2.5BA with additions. Large FL room, screened rm, workshop, boat lift, double carport on a large corner lot with water on two sides. \$85,000 MLS #205528



5000-H: Foreclosure Indian Hammock freshly painted Two story 2 Bedroom 2 Bath on 3.74+/- acres. Home has been remodeled.. stairs, floors, and new appliances. large fireplace. \$144,900 MLS # 205524



REDUCED

5006-H: Yeewah. 3 Bd 2 Bath on 3.53+/- acres. Close to Turnpike and SR 60. Appliances, fenced yard, animals welcome. Short Sale. 1,444 sq. ft. of living. \$150,000 NOW \$79,000 MLS #205327

Acreage/Lots: • Foreclosure Cabbage Woods (Rucks Dairy RD on HWY 70 West) 20.83+/- \$39,900 PENDING • Foreclosure Cabbage Woods (Rucks Dairy RD on HWY 70 West) 20.50+/- \$41,000 • 50.4+/- acres SR 710 MLS #204068 • Viking 6 acres \$20,000 (Owner Finance a possibility) • Foreclosure Viking 1.25 acre \$3,400 or better offer. MLS #205025 • Basswood Lot NW 33rd Ave \$6,000 MLS #205239 • Foreclosure Indian Hammock 2.67 +/- acres MLS #205358

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# Deer hunting still goin' strong in Florida

By Tony Young  
FWC

It seems the deer in my neck of the woods have been a lot more nocturnal than usual, and my hunting season has been pitiful thus far. As I type this, I have harvested only one deer. Now I did shoot a nice fall gobbler sporting an 11-inch beard on my two-thirds-of-an-acre Sopchoppy River lot, but that hardly counted, since I was really tryin' to get a doe during Zone D's antlerless deer season.

Anyway, I'm not throwin' in the towel just yet, but it has been very frustrating, and that's no lie. But, there's still lots of deer-hunting days west of where I live in Tallahassee, and I'm thankful I've got some good friends who have offered to take me on some of their leases.

So, if you're like me and still have plenty of room left in your freezer, or if you live in the central or southern part of the state and don't mind hunting with a primitive weapon, then point your pickup northwest, because Zone D's deer season's still goin' strong on private lands and on a lot of the wildlife management areas (WMAs).

The second phase, if you will, of muzzle-loading gun season runs from Feb. 20-26, in this part of the Panhandle. This unique late season, which occurs only in Zone D, was established to allow hunters the chance to hunt the rut, which runs from mid-January through February in this part of the state.

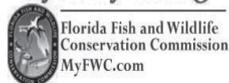
A \$5 muzzleloading gun permit is required to hunt during this season, where, on private land, hunters have the choice of using a muzzleloader, bow or crossbow.

On WMAs, this post-season is referred to as the archery/muzzleloading gun season. Hunters can use bows or muzzleloaders, but not crossbows – unless they possess a disabled crossbow permit. Hunters who choose to hunt with a bow must have the \$5 archery permit, and those using a muzzleloader need the muzzleloading gun permit.

The most common kinds of game to hunt during this season are deer and wild hogs. Only bucks may be taken (even if you use a bow), and one antler must be at least 5 inches in length. If you're hunting deer, make sure you have the \$5 deer permit. On private land, the daily bag limit is two. Bag limits and antler size for deer on WMAs can differ, so please consult the area brochure before you hunt.



**Outta' The Woods**  
By Tony Young



Wild hogs aren't considered game animals on private lands, and because of this, they can be taken year-round by most weapons with no bag or size limits. On most WMAs, there's also no bag or size limits, and hogs are legal to take during most hunting seasons except spring turkey. On selected WMAs, specific bag and size limits do apply, so check the area's brochure to make sure.

No dogs may be used in the pursuit of deer during this season. However, leashed dogs can be used to track a wounded deer if necessary. And it's important to note that no turkeys may be taken during this season.

Bows and crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds, and handheld releases on bows are permitted. Broadheads used in taking deer must have at least two sharpened edges with a minimum width of 7/8 inch.

During this season, you may use only

muzzleloaders that take black powder or a non-nitro-cellulose substitute and are fired by wheel lock, flintlock or percussion cap ignition (including 209 primers). You may not use muzzleloaders that require smokeless powder or those with self-contained cartridge ammunition capabilities. For hunting deer, muzzleloaders that fire single bullets must be at least .40-caliber, and those firing two or more balls must be 20-gauge or larger.

And you're allowed to take deer and hogs over feeding stations on private land, but it's illegal to do that on WMAs.

Eleven of the WMAs in Zone D have the late archery/muzzleloading gun season, and if you plan to hunt any of 'em, you must have the \$26 management area permit as well. Nine of those areas don't require a quota permit during this period: Apalachicola, Apalachicola River, Blackwater, Choctawhatchee River, Econfina Creek, Escambia River, Point Washington, Tate's Hell and Yellow River WMAs. The only ones that do are Chipola River and Perdido River WMAs.

You can get all of the licenses and permits you'll need at any tax collector's office and retail outlet that sells hunting and fishing supplies, by calling 888-HUNT-FLORIDA or by going online at [www.fl.wildlifelicenses.com](http://www.fl.wildlifelicenses.com).

So if you're like me and not quite ready to give up on deer hunting, have no fear, 'cause February's here! Grab your favorite primitive gun and head over to Zone D where the rut's goin' on hot and heavy.

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### Free tax preparation and e-filing help offered

AARP Taxaide volunteers will be available to provide free income tax preparation and e-filing from Feb. 6 through April 17, at the American Legion, 501 SE 2nd Street, on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Those who need help with their tax forms must bring photo ID, Social Security cards for dependents, last year's tax return and all 2011 financial statements. No appointment is necessary. First come, first served. Doors open at 8:45 a.m. Please DO NOT call the American Legion. For more information, please call 863-357-1694 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

# Okeechobee baseball team ready for new season

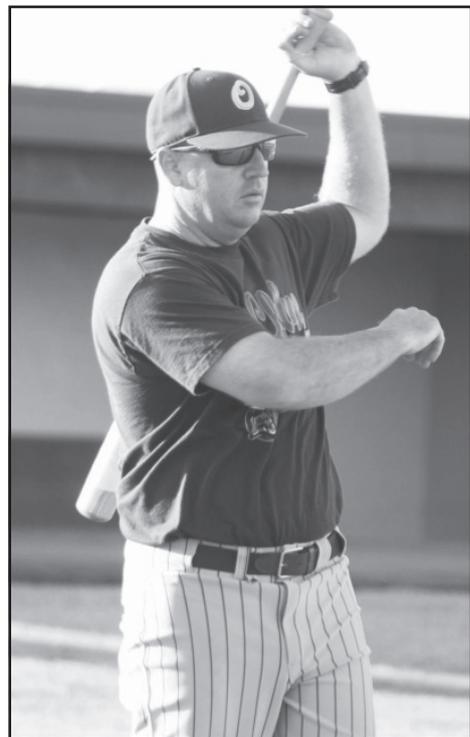
By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School will join a tougher district this year based in the Treasure Coast which includes long-time power, Martin County, a recent state champion in South Fork, a traditional power in Port St. Lucie and the always tough, Sebastian River and Fort Pierce Central.

In addition to a tougher schedule, Okeechobee returns only two pitchers who saw considerable action last year, and only three players who were regular starters.

The team has also missed starting catcher Dalton Murray due to injury and top hitter Richard Donegan, who may focus only on golf this spring.

That will put a lot of pressure on players like shortstop Tyler Finney and starting pitcher Tyler Barber, and make the team be even



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Jeff Blackstone's second season will feature a lot of new players in 2012.

more aggressive on the base paths with stolen bases, bunts, and hit and run plays.

Brahman Coach Jeff Blackstone enters his second year with a vastly different team from a year ago. He lost four-year starters Drew Selvey and Mark Weir to graduation, and top hurlers Austin Hamilton, Brandon Farless and Kevin Christensen as well.

"We have a different team. It's a younger team but we have a large group of seniors who are a good group of leaders. A lot of our most talented players are underclassmen," he said.

Blackstone's goal is to be competitive in every game and he is not conceding anything in terms of wins and losses. He said his team is good enough to beat anyone on their schedule but can also be beat by anyone on our schedule too.

"The level of competition will improve in our district but we also have a tough non district schedule as well," he noted.

On the schedule are teams like Lincoln Park, Treasure Coast, Centennial, the St. Cloud Bulldogs, John Carroll Rams, Park Vista Cobras, Jensen Beach Falcons, St. Albans of Washington, DC, and the Melbourne Bulldogs. There are no weak sisters here.

Blackstone said he wants his team to fight all the time to improve. He noted the kids won't get better by playing weaker teams.

"I'm real pleased with the work ethic and what the kids are giving me. I've pushed them pretty hard. I know we have got to be incredibly aggressive and scrappy this year. I've challenged the guys to reach a higher level of play," he added.

Here's a closer look at the team's depth chart. Several starting positions were still up for grabs at press time.

First Base—Senior Brad Coleman played a lot last year and has a solid glove. Also in the mix is junior David Coleman, no relation.

Second Base—Junior Alex Estremera returns for a second year at second. He will be a table setter at the top of the lineup and will be counted on to improve all aspects of his game this year.

Shortstop—Tyler Finney has grown in talent and maturity every year. He plays hard all the time and is a great role model for other

teenagers. He probably will lead off and will be counted on to produce runs and provide solid defense.

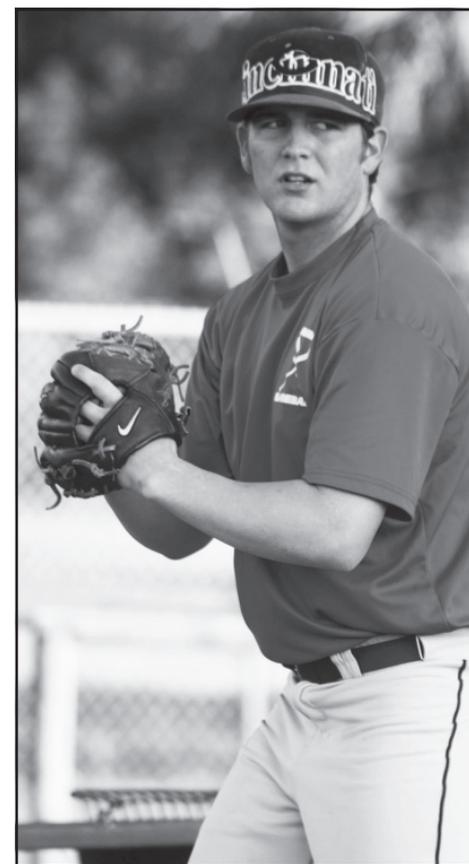
Third base—Jesse Stebbins and Christian Crews are among the candidates to start at third. Stebbins will also take over as the catcher until Dalton Murray is healthy and Justin Morgan returns from wrestling.

Catcher—The injury to Murray really hurts as he would have hit in the middle of the lineup. While he is sidelined Stebbins gets a chance to provide a lift on offense. Morgan has always been a solid backstop on defense.

Outfield—Several players are working hard to compete for starting positions in the outfield. Will Jackson and Tyler Barber are candidates in left field. Freshman Layton Thomas could open the year as the starter in center and Crews figured to play some in right field.

Other players competing for roster spots and playing time throughout the diamond include Brandon Ball, Kutter Crawford, Sean Munson, and Bryan Stokes.

Pitching staff—Tyler Barber is the ace of the staff and features hard sinking action on his pitches. He'll be relied upon to pitch the tough district games. Crews figures to be the #2 starter. Only a sophomore he comes from a family of former Brahman stars. Farrell would be the third starter and provide a crafty lefty to the two right handers. Others in the mix for innings include Estremera who could be the closer, Stokes, and Finney.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Tyler Barber should be among the best pitchers on the Treasure Coast in 2012.

## Chevy pro night at Gilbert Chevrolet

Meet the Chevy Pro Anglers at Gilbert's Chevy Pro Night on Feb. 4. Come out and experience the Chevy Boat Simulator, FLW Casting Game, and FLW giveaways. Cowboys BBQ and Steak Co. will be catering this event. The event will be from 3 until 5 p.m.

## OCRA baseball and softball signups start

OCRA will hold the 2012 baseball and softball signups starting this weekend, Feb. 4, followed by Feb. 11 and 18, at the Sports Complex score tower, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$60 per child. Boys ages are 7-14 as of 5/1/12 and girls ages are 7-15 as of 12/31/11. Tball age is 4-6 as of 5/1/12 for boys and girls. You must bring a COPY of the child's birth certificate with you. Any questions, call 634-0515.

## Farm Bureau hosts 3-D archery shoot

Okeechobee County Farm Bureau will host the Fourth Annual, 3-D Archery Shoot being held Saturday, Feb. 11. Registration is from 7:30-8:45 a.m. or you can pre register at our office at 401 NW 4th street. There will be 30 targets. Two 15 animal ranges. Cost on an individual basis is \$25 per person that includes lunch. Children under 10 will be \$15. Non shooters pay \$5 for lunch. Target sponsorships are \$100 per station. The shoot will be held on 4351 Hwy 441 N, across from ARS Motorsports. Call our office for more information. Proceeds go to support the Young Farmer and Rancher Scholarship Program.

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# Freshman qualifies for state weight lifting tourney

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Elisia Garcia was able to lift 220 pounds and finished third at the sectional meet Saturday and will advance to lift in the state meet in Kissimmee on Feb. 11.

Garcia was one of five Brahman lifters who competed in the event at Fort Pierce Central Saturday. Kathy Simmons lifted 205 pounds to finish in fourth place. Lauren

Hazellief lifted 200 pounds to finish in sixth position, Sarah Davis lifted 240 pounds to finish tied for fourth place, and Taylor Boyette lifted 210 pounds to finish seventh in her weight class. The top three lifters from each weight class advanced to the state meet.

As a team, Okeechobee finished ninth out of 13 teams which competed.

Garcia competed in the 183 pound weight class. She is the daughter of Jose Garcia and

Angela Lowe of Okeechobee.

She said it was a tense situation because a lot of the girls lifting had hoped they could reach the state competition.

"It was a really good feeling and it gave me a lot of confidence. It was very helpful to my self confidence," Garcia admitted.

Garcia just took up weight lifting this year. Coach Tyrone Smith suggested she try the sport, she gave it a shot, and started to enjoy it. At first it was tough, but the more she lifted, the better she became.

"I wasn't expecting to reach state this year because it's my first year. Most kids don't go this far in their first year," she added.

Garcia said her parents are very proud of her accomplishment and her dad pushes her to increase her strength. Her friends also have been supportive playfully nicknaming her 'muscles.'

"I think the state competition will be nerve racking and I'll be nervous. My parents want me to do my best and I'm looking forward to it," she added.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Elisia Garcia did OHS proud with her performance last Saturday.

# OHS boys soccer team falls to Pembroke Pines Charter

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Pembroke Pines Charter won a battle of attrition with Okeechobee as they peppered the Brahman net with shots and eventually broke through in a 3-1 win in the Region 15 Class 3A quarterfinal match Tuesday in Okeechobee.

Okeechobee ended their best season ever with a record of (17-2-1) and a district championship in District 15-3A.

Erick Garcia scored on a penalty kick to tie the score at the eight-minute mark of the second half but the Jaguars scored twice in the final 10 minutes to pull away.

Brahman Coach Lonnie Sears said the Jaguars were a high pace and talented team and his team didn't have 11 guys on the field who could keep up with them.

"We have a lot of talented players too but you could see that four of our guys weren't ready to play tonight," he said.

Pembroke Pines took control early and kept the ball in the Okeechobee side of the field for the majority of the match. They had several shots on goal early in the match to set the tone and keep Okeechobee on the defensive.

"There wasn't a whole lot we could do on defense because they just kept beating us back there," Sears said, "We couldn't control the ball or push it around. We didn't play like we have played this year."

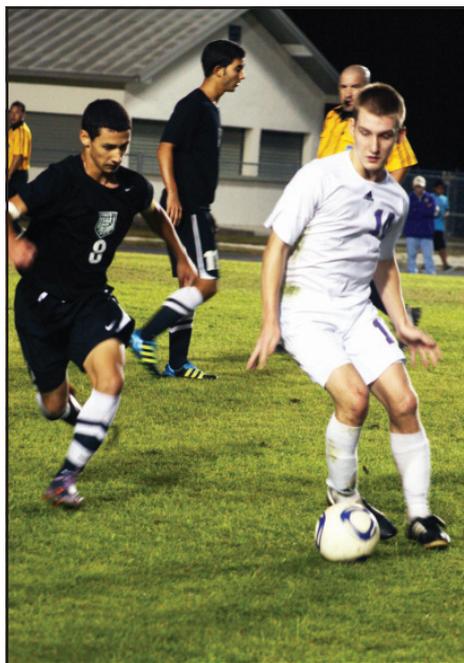
One Jaguar shot sailed over the net and another hit the post. They also had several corner kicks.

Still Okeechobee was tied with the Jaguars after 70 minutes of action a testament to how hard their goal keeper Serafin Espinoza played and the grit of the Brahman defense.

"You can only hold them off for so long. They pressed us and when you can't control the ball there is not a lot you can do," Sears said, "I would have liked to see us have a fighting chance and push the ball around the field a little more."

Okeechobee will graduate over 10 seniors this year but will still return a solid corps of players. Still this loss hurt as Okeechobee had hoped to go further than last year when they reached the semifinals of the state tournament.

"We have some kids that will be missed, a lot of key seniors. It will be hard to replace their personality but their skills..that's another story," he added.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Hunter Pritchard (right) and the Okeechobee offense had few good chances to score in the regional quarterfinal.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Brian Guerrero (right) chases after the ball, a common sight Tuesday, as Okeechobee couldn't wrestle the ball away from the Pembroke Pines Charter School.

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