



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 28

Sunday, March 4, 2012

75¢ Plus tax

Man accused of stabbing wife
... Page 18

Reward for Okeechobee's Most Wanted
... Page 15

Hospital treats sleep disorders
... Page 11

Teen faces sexual battery charge
... Page 15

Lake Levels

12.98 feet

Last Year: 12.12 feet



Pogey's Family Restaurant
1759 S. Parrott Ave.
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Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Tennis anyone?

The Okeechobee High School Tennis Team is having a strong season. On Thursday, the OHS team played John Carroll at the Okeechobee Sports Complex. For more on the story, see page 8. Above, Sam Rivero helped the Lady Brahms with a win in doubles against John Carroll.

Council to discuss chamber building

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The lease of the chamber building will be the major topic of discussion at an otherwise short and routine meeting of the Okeechobee City Council on Tuesday evening. The lease was brought up at the last city council meeting. After some discussion at that time, both the city council and Terry Burroughs, who represented the prospective tenant, the Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County, agreed that the

If you go ...

WHAT: Okeechobee City Council meeting
WHEN: Tuesday, March 6, at 6 p.m.
WHERE: Okeechobee City Council Chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.

building should be inspected before continuing with talks. The building had been vacant

See CITY — Page 14



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elskan

Reward offered for information on fires

The Florida Advisory Committee on Arson Prevention is offering a reward of up to \$15,000 for information on fires in the Pine Ridge Park area of southeastern Okeechobee County, Feb. 26-27. Three suspicious brush fires and two structure fires were reported in two days. The attempted arson of a third home was reported the night of Monday, Feb. 27. Anyone with information about the fires is asked to call the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 863-763-3117, or in an emergency, call 9-1-1.



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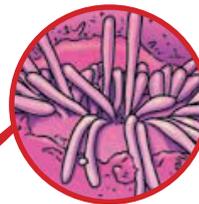
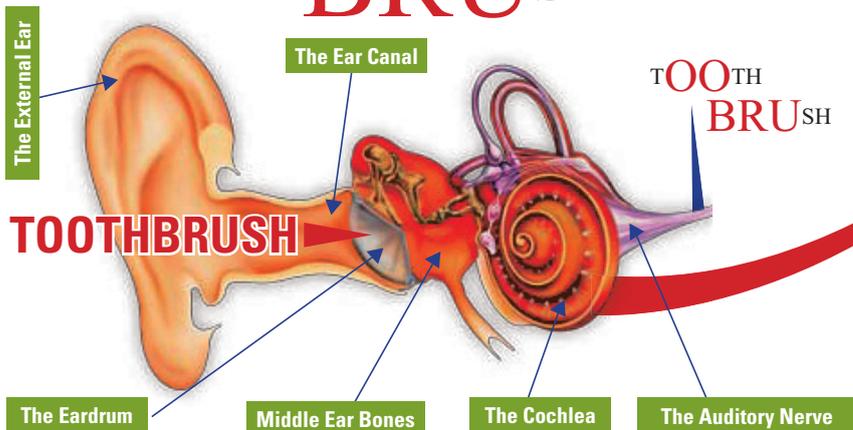
High-frequency sounds are some of the most valuable components of our spoken language. Frequencies above 3,000 Hz contribute approximately 25 percent of the audible speech cues required for recognition of spoken language. For some patients with high-frequency, sloping hearing loss, restoration of these high-frequency speech cues may not be possible or desirable with conventional amplification. Restoration of high-frequency speech audibility can be accomplished by the shifting of high-frequency information into lower frequency regions in which hearing loss is less severe.

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TOOTH BRUSH?

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Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the Students of the Week at South Elementary for the week of Feb. 27- March 2. They are: Emma Rodriguez, Isabelle Wildey, Anna Robinson, Brett Shockley, Emma Hickox, Savanna Miley, McKenzie Simmons, Braelon Pelt, Kirsten Pritchett, Jerome Roundtree, Brian Burton, Andrea Chavez, Courtney Braddock, and Alley Arellano. A special thanks to Cat in the Hat who joined us to celebrate Dr. Suess' birthday on "crazy hat and crazy hair" day at school!

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71. South-west wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north north-west.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. North northwest wind around 5 mph.



Extended Forecast

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 72. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Monday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. North northeast wind around 10 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. East northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tuesday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. East northeast wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. East northeast wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. East northeast wind around 10 mph.

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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Father's message on Facebook

• The computer was the Dad's to destroy. If a person buys something and wants to shoot it then he can shoot it. He bought it. Yes, some people say, "he should have donated it to a charity." NO, HE SHOULD HAVE SHOT IT. Sometimes "children" don't exactly get the message unless they see something that really gets their attention.

• I wonder if dad has checked his daughter's Facebook account to see what she's had to say on there since the "shooting." Sure, it's fun to make a video and put it on YouTube, have his 15 minutes of fame or whatever. He's as much a spoiled brat as the kid. Doesn't he have a safe where he could stow it until the brat straightens up her act and attitude? She is likely on her Facebook account from a friend's computer. Someone should follow up on that.

• My take was that it wasn't "fun" to make the video and get his 15 minutes of fame. I recognized that he was very mad at her and should have been. If he bought the laptop he could do whatever he wanted with it. I don't care if he was or was not filthy rich. She, apparently, understood being on the internet and he hit her where she lived... in front of everyone.

• I have been thinking about that guy who eliminated his daughter's computer, not only because he was tired of shelling out money for a kid who wouldn't work, but he would not take any more attitude. I have also been talking to other parents that have started doing the same thing only less graphic. You would think that a cell phone that takes movies and tells you when to wake up is a right endowed by their creators. NOT. Pay for it yourself. Help around the house. Don't just do the bare minimum of what is asked of you...Treat the place like you want it to last...not like something you can trash because, after all, you'll be gone. I think there is a definite backlash caused by this video.

Pay phones

I say we need to bring pay phones back.

Food theft

• Every winter we Okeechobee residents welcome the visitors. Some have been caught sneaking food out from the restaurants that have buffets. They think they are clever by carrying large purses. Once they get caught and are prosecuted, we'll see how much more they will steal.

OCRA

• I know a good number of children will not be going back to OCRA this year for baseball or football. We have decided (my children included) that it is not worth the stress to play for them. We try to live a drama-free life and drama is the only thing that I see in the OCRA organization. However, I do wish all of those who decide to play, good luck and hope you have a GREAT season!

Fires

• In regard to the fires last weekend, people wonder what they can do. One thing they should all do is make sure their homeowner's or renter's insurance is up to date. If you lost your home tomorrow, could you afford to replace everything? Even if we are spared future fires, it won't be long before hurricane season. Also, as someone else mentioned, make sure your smoke detectors are working. Have a family plan for what to do in case of fire. How would you get out of each room? Where will the family meet once they are outside? Get to know your neighbors and watch out for each other. If there is someone suspicious in the neighborhood, call the sheriff's office. Like the fire chief said, stay vigilant.

• Hearing about the first two fires was bad enough. But the third fire attempt, which was an occupied home, sent chills down my spine. Whoever is setting these fires does not respect anyone's property and they do not respect human life. If you know anything about it, please call the sheriff's office. There is, I believe, a reward being offered of \$15,000.



Reflections from the pulpit

As the young marry

By Wendy Schaffer, pastoral counselor

The Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee

Recently, I was speaking with some young ladies and the subject of marriage came up. To my surprise, they had no idea of God's view of marriage in the Bible. Several said they would put their parents ahead of their husband, while many said they would put their children ahead of their husband. They did not see marriage as a very intimate or permanent relationship and commitment, let alone that marriage is a covenant of God.

When Adam and Eve were the only two people in the Garden of Eden, Adam declared, "This (Eve) is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman ... Therefore a man shall leave his mother and father and cleave (cling and fasten to) unto his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:23-24). By the time of Abraham, the word marriage was used in the Bible: When Lot "spoke to his son-in-laws, who had married his daughters" (v.19:14). The meaning of the word "marriage" in this verse meant to accept, take, and carry away.

The meaning reminds me of how God has sent His Son to us. Several Bible verses refer to Jesus as the Bridegroom. The Hebrew and Greek meanings for "bridegroom" are the son of religious espousal (engagement) who marries a veiled betrothed. The meaning of "bride" is the veiled betrothed that becomes the son's wife. John the Baptist proclaimed in these inspired verses, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been

given to him from heaven. ... He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom ... rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. ... He who comes from above is above all. And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies. ... The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life" (John 3:25-36). This is a contract and covenant of God between Jesus and His followers.

Those of us who have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior are accepted as part of the betrothed bride. Jesus, our Bridegroom, is preparing a place for us (John 14:2) just as the bridegrooms in the Bible would go, and prepare a house, and then go back to marry the bride. The bridegroom would carry the bride away on an animal, or in a cart, to their home. After Jesus died and rose, again, He ascended into heaven. The disciples were gazing up when two men in white apparel said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come (come back) in like manner" (Acts 1:10-11). Jesus is coming back for His veiled betrothed bride—us. We are part of being Jesus' bride!

My hope is that you see the seriousness of marriage, and the intimate relationship between the husband and the wife. We need to teach our young people God's view on marriage, and lead them by example. Young people do not even realize that marriage includes God and needs to be blessed by God. The following verse in Isaiah proclaims, "For as thve young marries ... so shall your sons marry. And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride so shall your God rejoice over you" (v.62:5). AMEN!

Letter to the editor

Stolen chickens

We think that surely stolen chickens have been sold to a small store. The meat from there does not have the purple stamp from the inspector.

We have had chickens stolen from us numerous times and we reported it and nothing has been done about it. Although we described them and know where they live. I hear the thieves talking on their phones and saying the money from the chickens will pay their bills.

We bought two cans from a store that contain sardines and the can we opened

was spoiled and I checked the date on the other can. It is more than a year old. Who can we report this to?

Javier Alvarado Esquivel
Gladys W. Mendiola
Okeechobee

Editor's note: The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services regulates wholesale food operations, convenience stores, grocery stores and food processing operations. Their website is located at <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/fs/inspectn.html>, and they can be reached by telephone at 850-245-5520.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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To Submit News

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

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

We Pledge...

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

- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
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Obituaries

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

Gloria Irene Nesbitt Lowe

OKEECHOBEE - Gloria Irene Nesbitt Lowe passed away Sunday, February 26, 2012. She was born in Okeechobee on April 23, 1950. Gloria was well known in Okeechobee. She was a fun loving, caring individual. Gloria thought her children were her hero's. She is now in Heaven with her grandma and grandpa Lanier; her mother, Leolo Waldron; and also her two daughters; LaGracia Lowe and Sherry Whaley; and sister Ellen Crews. Gloria is survived by her daughter, Donna Jean Smith; son, Tyrea Griffin; and her grandchildren. Services will be held at North Church of God on Tuesday, March 6, 2012.



Ines N. Mullins, 96

OKEECHOBEE — Ines N. Mullins, age 96, died Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012, at the Okeechobee Health Care Facility.

Born March 22, 1915, in W.Va., Ines relocated to Okeechobee in 1990.

She was a teacher and reading specialist for Wyoming County, W.Va. Ines and her husband owned Mullins Antiques in Pineville, W.Va., and Dade City, Fla. Her grandchildren were the highlight of her life. She enjoyed antiquing, shopping, fishing, and was an avid reader.

Ines was preceded in death by her husband, Woodfin Grady Mullins; son, David Mullins; and daughter-in-law, Kay Mullins. Survivors include her son, Danny Mullins and daughter-in-law, Yvonne Mullins, both of Okeechobee; grandchildren, Deanna (Ricky) Gude of Dade City, Fla., Patricia (Ben) Bolan of Okeechobee, Samantha (Craig) Vandegrift of Port St. Lucie, David Mullins, Jr. of Okeechobee, Danny (Tiffany) Mullins of Okeechobee; and seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held at Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home on Monday, March 5, 2012, from 10 a.m. until service time of 11 a.m. Burial will take place in West Virginia.

Friends may send online condolences to www.buxtonseawinds.com

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

View obituaries from the past month at <http://www.legacy.com>

Community Events

Cypress Eagles host chicken dinner

Sunday, **March 4**, from 1-5 p.m. the Cypress Hut Eagles will host a Chicken Dinner for \$6 per plate. All proceeds will benefit Community Charity Fund. The public is welcome.

Buckhead VFW 9528 announces chicken dinner

The Buckhead Ridge VFW 9528 will host a Sunday chicken dinner on **March 4**, from 2 until 5 p.m. for \$6 per plate. Proceeds will benefit homeless veterans.

Eagles North to host Sunday breakfast

Eagles North will have their Fantastic Breakfast on Sunday, **March 4**, starting at 9 until 11 a.m. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 Auxiliary benefit fund. 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee.

Fire Chiefs to be recognized

The Okeechobee Historical Society will be having a second recognition ceremony in honor of the City of Okeechobee Fire Chiefs. At this ceremony, a collage of the Fire Chiefs will be hung in the Okeechobee Historical Society Museum. The ceremony will held on Sunday, **March 4**, beginning at 2 p.m. in the Museum on Hwy 98 N. Everyone is invited to attend this ceremony. Light refreshments will be served upon conclusion of the program.

OREA plan to meet

The Okeechobee Retired Educators' Association will be meeting on Monday, March 5, at 11 a.m. in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's. Any retired educator is invited to attend.

Eagles North to host BINGO!

Tuesday, **March 5**, Eagles North will have BINGO starting at 1 p.m. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund. 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee.

Shrine Club to host spaghetti dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, S.R. 78 W., members will host their Tuesday evening **March 5**, Spaghetti dinner from 4 until 7 p.m. A no-smoking atmosphere with music starting at 5 until 8 p.m. Donation is just \$6 per person. For information call the club at 863-763-3378 or Mac Simpson at 863-484-0427 or Kip Gardner at 863-610-6659.

Eagles North to host BINGO!

Wednesday, March 6, Eagles North will have Bingo beginning at 4:30 p.m. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. Community Benefit fund. 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee.

Cypress Eagles to host BBQ dinner

The Cypress Hut Eagles will host a Barbecue Boston Butt Roast Dinner on Tuesday, **March 6**, for \$6 per plate. All proceeds will benefit Community Charity Fund. The public is welcome.

ConKerr Cancer 'sit & sew'

ConKerr Cancer's mission is to provide children with cancer or other life changing illnesses a feeling of warmth, love and a smile through the simple gift of a pillowcase. The next ConKerr Cancer "sit & sew" will be held on Tuesday, **March 6**, from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Join us at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue. Bring your sewing machine (or serger) and fabric and sew with other ladies in our community who want to help make a difference to a sick child. The group received a generous donation of material so this month they will be sewing pillowcases for the upcoming Easter holiday. For more information, please call Joan at 863-467-0290.

OCEA to meet

Okeechobee County Education Association (OCEA) will have its third general membership meeting of the 2011-12 school year on Thursday, **March 8**, at 4:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Okeechobee Achievement Academy, 1000 NW 34th Street. All OCEA members of the instructional and classified bargaining Unit are encouraged to attend. Potential members may join the meeting. Come hear the latest on the teacher evaluation system, Instructional Contract Impasse timelines, and current legislative issues affecting public education employees. Door prizes and refreshments will be available. Now is the time to get involved in your chosen profession. Contact OCEA at 863-467-1564 for more information.

Eagles North to host steak night on Friday, March 9

Friday, **March 9**, Eagles North will have their weekly steak dinner featuring the Fantastic Al Jones. Come eat and dance. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 Community benefit fund. 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee.

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

newszap.com

Shared Services Network to meet on Friday

The Executive Roundtable of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee County will conduct its bi-monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, **March 9**, in the board room of the Okeechobee County School Board office. This forum provides a mechanism for dialogue and problem solving in our community through the collaborative efforts of our local decision makers. The public is invited to attend. For more information, please call Sharon Vinson (863) 462-5000, Ext. 257.

OCEA to open booth at weekend festival

The Okeechobee Retired Educator's Association will be having a booth at the Speckled Perch Festival on Saturday and Sunday, **March 10** and 11, at which they will be selling the 2011 Historical Ornament, the Okeechobee Train Depot as well as selling raffle tickets for a chance on a Kindle Fire, a \$50 Walmart gift card or Beijo Purses.

Raise money selling tickets to Cattlemen's Spring Rodeo

Okeechobee County Cattlemen's Association is offering ticket sales fundraising opportunity for local clubs. For more information please contact Heather Hancock @ CenterState Bank 863-763-5573. Okeechobee County Cattlemen's Annual Spring Rodeo, March 10 and 11 at 2 p.m., Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.

Garden Club plans golf tourney

The Lakeport Garden Club will host their Third Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, **March 10**, at 8 a.m. at the Blue Heron Golf Club, 1925 S.E. Ninth avenue in Okeechobee. For more information, call Glenda at 863-946-1794.

Former Girl Scouts needed

Calling on all adult Girl Scouts! If you were a Girl Scout or worked with Girl Scouts as an adult, we would like to have you join us in marching in the Speckled Perch Parade in Okeechobee on March 10, to celebrate our 100th anniversary! Contact Laurie Pharr for more information 863-634-0465.

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Conservation initiative to restore grasslands, wetlands & wildlife

WASHINGTON—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Friday announced the opportunity for producers to enroll a total of 1 million acres of land in a new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) initiative to preserve grasslands and wetlands. Vilsack will highlight the announcement later today at the Interior Department during the White House Growing America's Outdoor Heritage and Economy conference, which emphasizes the link between conservation and strong local economies through tourism, outdoor recreation, and healthy lands, waters and

wildlife. The conference has attracted boaters, hunters, anglers, farmers, ranchers, land conservationists, historic preservationists, outdoor recreationists, small business owners, local governments, tribal leaders and others from across the 50 United States to discuss ways to spur and support successful conservation projects around the nation.

USDA's CRP has a 25-year legacy of successfully protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural commu-

nities across the United States. Under the Obama Administration, USDA has enrolled more than 8 million acres in CRP. The goal of the new CRP grasslands and wetlands initiative is to increase enrollment of environmentally sensitive land through targeted signups. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), which administers CRP, will set aside acres within the 32-million acre program for specific enrollments that benefit duck nesting habitat, upland birds, wetlands, pollinators and wildlife.

"By focusing 1 million acres of CRP on grasslands and wetlands, this initiative will have enormous benefits for farmers, sports-

men, and all Americans," said Vilsack. "CRP is one of our nation's most valuable and vital conservation efforts, ensuring cleaner air and water, preventing soil erosion, and enhancing economic opportunity in rural America by supporting recreation and tourism. With high crop prices, this approach to target our most sensitive lands is essential if we want to maintain the substantial benefits of CRP while ensuring that productive farm lands continue to produce the food and fiber Americans and the world needs."

Currently, about 30 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Contracts on an estimated 6.5 million acres will expire on Sept. 30, 2012.

FEBRUARY 27 & 28, 2012

MONDAY SALE AT 12:00PM...TUESDAY SALE AT 11:00AM

COWS:		MED #1	STEERS	HEIFERS
BREAKING	81.00 - 102.00	150-200	- - -	- - -
CUTTER	73.00 - 81.00	200-250	255 - 305	230 - 275
CANNER		250-300	235 - 280	225 - 270
		300-350	225 - 265	200 - 250
		350-400	210 - 240	180 - 215
		400-450	185 - 215	165 - 178
		450-500	178 - 200	155 - 173
		550-600	160 - 183	147 - 155
		600-650	147 - 167	- - -
BULLS		MED #2		
1000-1500	101.00 - 108.00	150-200	-	-
1500-2000	100.00 - 120.00	200-250	210 - 240	200 - 225
		250-300	210 - 230	170 - 220
		300-350	185 - 218	160 - 198
		350-400	180 - 205	150 - 175
		400-450	155 - 180	140 - 160
MONDAY		TUESDAY		
CLFS	550	1076		
COWS	88	341		
STRS	2	213		
HFRS	0	8		
BULLS	11	29		
YRLNGS	29	87		
MIX	0	35		
TOTAL	680	1789		

AS FAR AS CATTLE PRICES GO, ALL RECORD HIGHS ARE BEING BROKEN EVERY SALE DAY! WE HAVE NOW HAD SLAUGHTER COWS BRING OVER \$1.00 AND SLAUGHTER BULLS BRING \$1.20 A POUND. SOME CALVES HAVE BROKEN THE \$1000 BARRIER! IS IT REAL? OR IS IT A DREAM? THE NUMBERS SAY IT'S REAL. LET'S HOPE IT STAYS AT THIS LEVEL AT LEAST THROUGH ONE WHOLE CYCLE, THEN I'LL FEEL BETTER ABOUT IT!

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ED WALPOLE, OKEECHOBEE, TOPPED THE COW MARKET WITH A HIGH OF 102.00, BOUGHT BY DAIRYMENS.

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

of the
Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc.
ANNUAL MEETING

March 24, 2011

Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s 2012 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at Osceola Middle School in Okeechobee, Florida. The purpose of the meeting being to elect trustees, vote on proposed By-law changes, and hear annual officers' reports. Registration, Entertainment and Voting will begin at 8:00 a.m. The Business Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for great entertainment, fun, and prizes including a 2001 CHEVROLET K-1500 4X4 for one lucky member!

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OHS boys net team tops John Carroll 4-3

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee boys tennis team got contributions from their entire roster Thursday as they defeated John Carroll 4-3 at the Okeechobee Sports Complex.

Brendon Jonassaint, Lucas Penido and Colt Root won singles matches and the doubles team of Cody Walker and Jonassaint

won a doubles match to win the match for the Brahmans.

It was a tough match throughout as the teams enjoyed nearly perfect conditions for tennis, sunshine, and little wind.

In #1 singles Andrew Blair defeated Otto Ramirez in an entertaining match involving talented players 6-3 and 6-0. Santiago Abondano outlasted Walker in a marathon match 7-6, 2-6 and 12-10. Jonassaint dominated

Sam Bennett by showcasing an all around game, which included good play at the net, 6-1 and 6-0. Penido defeated Christian Mayhen 6-2 and 6-3. Root defeated Trevor Friedrich 6-2, 2-6, and 10-8.

In doubles play the team of Blair and Osgood defeated Ramirez and Root 8-2. Walker and Jonassaint outlasted Abondano and Kyle Williams 8-2.

The Lady Brahmans had a tough time as they lost to the Rams 6-1. Sara Charles defeated Samantha Rivero 7-6 and 7-5 in a battle of hard hitting ground strokes from the baseline. Jenna Taylor took the first set 7-5, lost the second 3-6, and won a tiebreaker in the third set to defeat Jenna Rath. Taylor showcased an ability to keep long rallies going during the match. The Lady Rams won the other singles matches by lopsided scores. Emily Jackson defeated Vanessa

Watt 6-1 and 6-1. Amanda Breslaw defeated Okeechobee's Jessica Luna 6-0 and 6-0. Sophia Angelos defeated Alley Lopez 6-3 and 6-1. In doubles Rivero and Watt defeated Breslaw and Taylor 9-7. The team of Jackson and Carly Jones defeated Rath and Luna 8-4.

Girls tennis coach Stefanie Menoff said the match showed the girls how hard they will have to work this year to achieve success, "The girls had a tough match today. They fought hard but in the end we came up a little short. I do think this match was great practice and motivation for the rest of the season."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Brendon Jonassaint played well as he won a singles and doubles match on Thursday.



Jenna Rath awaits a serve during a three-set match with Jenna Taylor of John Carroll Thursday. Taylor prevailed 7-5, 3-6, and 10-5.



Colt Root won a singles match as OHS defeated John Carroll on Thursday.

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Thurs., Mar. 8TH**

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SFWMD ePermitting adds 'Google Earth' enhancement

The public can now view South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) permitting information using Google Earth mapping software as part of a continuing commitment to enhance customer service, transparency and accessibility.

"This new mapping feature adds functionality to the District's already robust ePermitting database," said SFWMD Executive Director Melissa Meeker. "Technology tools allow us to boost public access and improve efficiency, making it easier for businesses, residents and other governments to accomplish work with this agency."

By integrating the Google Earth mapping program, the District is now able to present permitting information in a graphic format. Businesses and residents can search for permits by specific location and save their searches.

With a program feature that turns on and off map layers, database users can refine searches by permit type such as environmental resource, water use and works of the District.

"This is one of the more sophisticated databases, with features that significantly streamline the permitting process and increase transparency," said SFWMD Assistant Executive Director Bob Brown. "The District is committed to using the most efficient technology to enhance customer service for our stakeholders doing business with this agency."

The new mapping capability enhances the SFWMD ePermitting system, in which customers have convenient, 24-hour online access to conduct a variety of business, including:

- Submittal of applications for permit and/or permit compliance data;
- Searching for application and permit information;
- Submittal of payments for permit fees;
- Applying to transfer an existing permit;
- Subscribing to receive electronic noticing of permit-related information; and,
- Obtaining help and instructional guides to use the system efficiently.

ePermitting reduces applicant paperwork, eliminates printing and postage costs and reduces permit processing time. To assist customers with the ePermitting system, the SFWMD hosts free workshops focusing on Environmental Resource Permits and Consumptive Use Permits. A workshop will be held on March 8 at the Okeechobee Service Center, 205 North Parrott Avenue, Suite 201, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Launched in September 2005, SFWMD ePermitting now has more than 10,000 user accounts. To date, nearly 300 individuals subscribe to the system's automatic e-notice feature, allowing users to subscribe to receive electronic notifications regarding permit-related information. This information includes details on newly received applications, permits issued, regulatory agendas and rulemaking changes. The e-notices can be customized by each user, including by county or permit type.

All converted data, as well as existing applications and information on the training sessions, can be accessed online at <http://my.sfwmd.gov/ePermitting>.



OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

March 10th & 11th 2012
OKEECHOBEE AGRI-CIVIC CENTER

Photo By:
Ron Mandes

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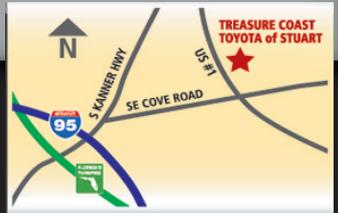
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Raulerson Hospital recognizes National Sleep Awareness Week

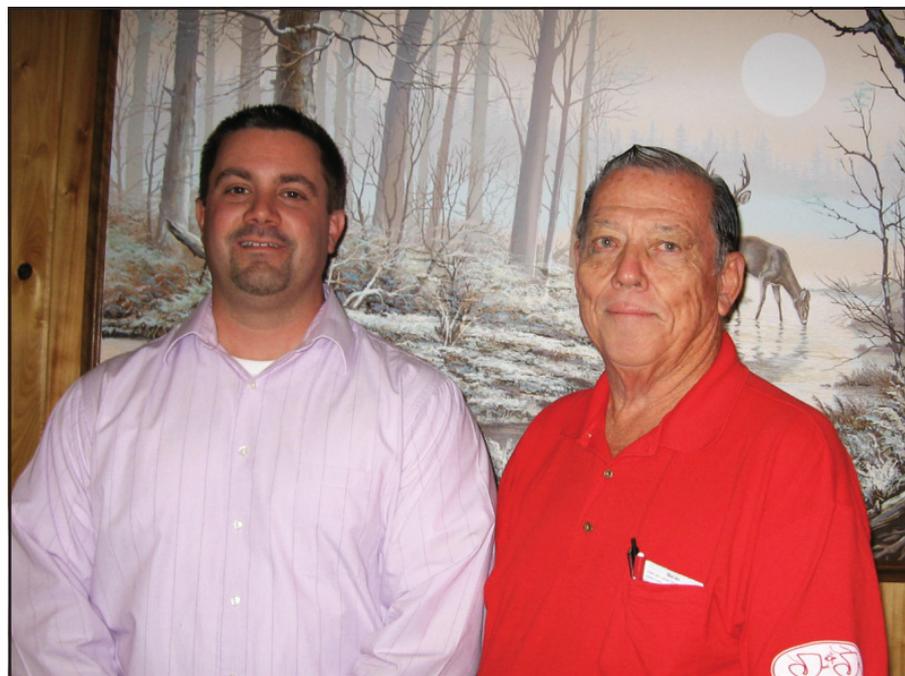
March 4-10 is National Sleep Awareness Week. Approximately 40 million Americans suffer from a sleep disorder. Raulerson Hospital's Sleep Lab is dedicated to diagnosing and treating sleep-related disorders, all of which directly affect an individual's daily lifestyle. Raulerson Hospital's Sleep Lab offers patients the latest technology in diagnostic equipment, techniques to monitor and evaluate sleep disorder; and a warm, comfortable environment similar to your personal amenities at home. In the security of a monitored bedroom, a formally trained Registered Respiratory Therapist observes patients throughout the night using the latest infrared video equipment and an advanced computerized monitoring system. These devices are used to track breathing patterns, brainwaves and the heartbeat of the sleeping patient. Additionally a sensitive intercom is used to trace sounds such as snoring. Some of the most common sleep disorders which can easily be diagnosed at the Raulerson Hospital Sleep Lab include the following:

- Insomnia
- Nocturnal Myoclonus

Don't let sleep disorders keep you or your family awake. Sleep disorders are usually easily treated. Raulerson Hospital's Sleep Lab can develop an individual treatment designed specifically for you. For more information, contact Raulerson Hospital at 863-763-2151 or visit: RaulersonHospital.com.

Upcoming Okeechobee Blood Drives planned

The Big Red Bus will be in Okeechobee for blood drives on: Saturday, Sunday, March 9, 10 -- Speckled Perce Festival in the Park, 10-3 both days; Saturday, March 9 -- Seminole Cove, 7-12; Wednesday, March 14 -- KOA, 8:30-2:30; Thursday, March 15 -- Heritage Village, 9-3; Friday, March 16 -- Walgreen's, 2-6; Sunday, March 18 -- Golden Corral, 11-4; Thursday, March 22 -- Ancient Oaks, 10-3.



Okeechobee News/Diana Whitehall

Kiwanis Club learns about youth facilities

The Thursday, March 1, Kiwanis meeting held at The Lodge at the Lake Family Restaurant invited (left) Bill Jordan, facility administrator for G4S Youth Services, LLC/Okeechobee Youth Development Center, and Jay Zeller, Kiwanis member. Bill is a graduate of Western New York with a Masters Degree in Psychology and he talked to the Kiwanis members about their four facilities who helps the youth who are suffering with Substance Abuse, Mental Health, etc. He believes a strong faith base and a good education is the key to success. They are in need of mentors who can give a few hours of their time to help the youth with reading, math and more.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Central Students of the Week

Students of the Week at Central Elementary School are: Delaila Sandoval, Alyna Kane, Makai Comfort, Emmett Sumner, Lily Duncan, Heather Walker, Arissa Osceola, Charles Van Eman, Cloe Rhoden, Felipe Rodriguez, Ira Garin, Jennifer Santillan, Keith Simpson, Aiden Christensen, Takiya Jones, Jarred Dubbs, Logan Sauseda, Morgan Tucker, Triston Gorney, Jayla Hayes, Allison Meara, Austin Garcia, Julissa Sanchez, Haleigh McCabe, Matthew Aguilair, Cera Elliott, Laura Rodriguez, Elizabeth Casas, Antonio Bartell and Austin Allen.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SEM

Students of the Week

Seminole Elementary would like to congratulate their Students of the Week for the week of March 2: Osvaldo Salgado, Francisco Montoya, Natalie Villegas, Jorge Garcia, Esmeralda Meneses, Hector Tagle, Maritzsa Flores, Karla Alderman, Briana Pelayo, Adrianna Prado, Laura Montoya, Martasha Daniels, Antonio Yanez, Yovani Garcia-Elias, Alex Vasquez, Uriel Lopez, Regan Downing, Liz Rivas, Ashley Garcia-Reyes, Heather Floyd, Mya Gomes, Stephanie Mondragon, Ariana Cason, Marisol Martinez, Berenise Garcia, Leo Pascarella, Evan Galvan, and Kiamber Mingo.

Free tax preparation and e-filing help offered

AARP Taxaide volunteers will be available to provide free income tax preparation and e-filing now 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. Please DO NOT call the American Legion. For more information, please call 863-357-1694 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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*All invoices must be paid in full to be eligible, promotion applies to residential customers only. Valid December 1, 2011 ~ November 30, 2012
*Winners will be announced in the Okeechobee News. Call for additional details.

Teen accused of sexual battery

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee teen has been arrested on charges that he allegedly forced a 15-year-old girl to have sex with him, then apparently tried to molest a 10-year-old girl.

Justin Lee Martinez, 17, S.W. Fourth Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Wednesday, Feb. 29, on felony charges of sexual battery with force, attempted lewd and lascivious molestation and two counts of lewd and lascivious battery.

Martinez was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.



Justin Lee Martinez

Deputy Rosemary Farless, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated in her arrest report that Martinez allegedly held the 15-year-old girl down and forced her to have intercourse with him. At some point, the girl was able to kick her attacker off and away from her.

According to the detective the two molestation charges stem from incidents where Martinez either had sex with, or attempted to have sex, with a 13-year-old girl.

The third charge is based on the allegation of a 10-year-old girl that Martinez touched her inappropriately, stated the OCSO investigator.

Detective Farless went on to state in her report that her investigation is continuing.

Okeechobee's Most Wanted

The following persons are on Okeechobee's Most Wanted list. There are active warrants for these persons. The criteria for making Okeechobee's Most Wanted list is based on the severity of the crime in conjunction with the age of the warrant.



Randy Edward Ammons



Debra Morris Young



Lester Donald Smith

• Randy Edward Ammons, 49, is 5'11", 170 lbs., with brown hair, blue eyes. He is wanted on charges of felony battery.

• Debra Morris Young, 43, is 5'4", 180 lbs., with blond hair and green eyes. She is wanted for failing to appear in court for sentencing.

and sale of oxycodone,

If you have any information on the whereabouts of any of Okeechobee's Most Wanted you can call the Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 1-800-273-TIPS (8477). If you call Treasure Coast Crimes Stoppers, you have the option of remaining anonymous. You can also receive a reward if the information results in an arrest.

• Lester Donald Smith, 45, is 5'11", 200 lbs., and has brown hair and blue eyes. He has tattoos on his arms and back. He is wanted on charged of possession of oxycodone with intent to sell

Weatherization helps cut electric bills

Okeechobee Non Profit Housing Inc., is collaborating with Indiantown Non Profit Housing Inc., to implement a weatherization program provided by the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs. Low income families in Okeechobee County can obtain funds through the program to add insulation and make other improvements to their homes that will help cut electric bills. The program is open to both homeowners and renters. In the case of a renter, the owner of the rental property must agree to pay 10 percent of the cost of the improvements. The program mission is to reduce heating and cooling costs by improving the energy efficiency of the home. Strategies include sealing windows and doors to prevent waste of heating and cooling, attic insulation, installation of smart thermostats for central heating and cooling, replacing inefficient refrigerators, and many other improvements at no cost to the applicant. Contact Okeechobee Non Profit Housing Inc. by calling 863-467-5525.

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NEW LISTING 5008-H: Conners Gables. Cute frame home, would make a great starters home or weekend retreat. 1380 total sq ft. carport. Close to Everglades Elementary School. \$48,000 MLS #205611	REDUCED 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 NOW \$131,900 MLS # 205524
3005-M: Treasure Island 2BR/2BA MH completely furnished. Roof is approx 5 yrs old, new front porch with decorative stone, Living sq ft. 1,248, carport with shed. Well taken care of over the yrs. \$63,900 MLS #205608.	LAKE ACCESS 4004-M: Buckhead Ridge waterfront 2BR/2.5BA with additions. Lg FL rm, screened rm, workshop, boat lift, double carport on a large corner lot with water on two sides. \$85,000 MLS #205528
5002-H: Larodo Shores Lg 3BR/3BA plus extra room for office on the Rim Canal with Lake access (3,088 Living sq ft.). Too much to list call for further info. Short Sale. \$175,000 MLS # 205575	NEW LISTING 7003-C: Opportunity to be your own boss! Lucky Gator Arcade (Business Only). Lucky Gator Arcade \$200,000 with 59 games OR \$75,000 with just the business and machine lease. MLS # 205522

• 20+/-ACRES NW 72nd Ave. **Not buildable** Seller is open to offers. \$40,000 MLS #205495 • FORECLOSURE 20+/-acres located in a rural area of NW Okeechobee County. Pasture land suitable for cattle/agriculture. **Not Buildable** \$38,000 MLS #205578 • 50.4+/-acres SR 710 MLS #204068 • Blue Heron Lot S.E. 141 CT. \$20,900 MLS #205527 • Basswood Lot NW 33rd Ave \$6,000 or better offer. MLS #205239

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Announcements

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Lost



Lost 3 month old Pit Bull
Last seen in the vicinity of Oak Park on Friday, 2/24. Tan and white, Childrens pet. We really miss him. 863-532-0700

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

Lost

Lost IPOD touch on Saturday either in Okeechobee Estates, the Library, or near SW 15th Street. I will pay \$100 reward for its safe return. Please Call 863-697-0328

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

Estate Sale

Massive Estate Sale
March 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th
3681 SE 38th Ave
Next to Fire Rescue #2
Lots of Harley Davidson Collectibles, Clothes, household items, books, 33 vinyl records & cassettes, 2 Glass Dining Tables.

Garage/ Yard Sales

Garage Sale
March 1st, 2nd, 3rd
2921 SE 44th Drive
Fishing equipment (homemade jigs), knives, Military caps, Kentucky caps, ext ladders and Therapeutic bed.

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

Moving Out Sale
Fri. 2, Sat. 3 & Sun. 4
7am till ???
1203 SE 8th Ave
EVERYTHING GOES!!!

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Golf Cart Repairs, parts, carries Power-tron and US batteries. Will buy unwanted and not working golf carts. Locally owned & Operated Call Dan at 863-610-0479

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Employment Full Time

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Qualifications:

- High school diploma, GED certification or equivalent and be a non-commissioned security officer licensed by the State.
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nora@cocosodfarms.com
or call: 863-801-8814

Management Analyst

A local company is hiring a Management Analyst. The company provides management advice to third party business and also owns and manages various small businesses (5 at present) across central FL area. The Mgmt Analyst will be expected to conduct comprehensive analysis of businesses to make & implement recommendations for improving them and monitor the changes implemented. The ideal candidate will have at least an MBA degree. Courses in International business are preferred. Please mail your resume to:
11150 4th St. N., #4502
Saint Petersburg, FL 33716.
Attn: Jobs

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

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

MECHANIC NEEDED;

Need to have extensive experience in heavy eq. repairs; have own tools. The shop is located in Okeechobee but the person chosen will be required to travel to various job sites. We do MVR; drug testing and background checks. Please fax resumes to 863-763-1309.

Employment Full Time



Manager Trainee

- *Assigns employees to specific duties in absence of higher management
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- *Locks and secures store
- *Insures compliance with the Beverage Laws
- *Attends regularly scheduled meetings as required
- *Maintains a clean and safe work environment.
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www.abcfws.com
or at 601 E.N. Park ST. Okeechobee, FL 34972

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

Employment Medical

Clinical Case Manager (RN or Social Worker) - Must have 2 years hospital case management, clinical and/or social work experience, verbal, written and computer data skills. Will coordinate care and services for selected patient populations. Able to demonstrate leadership, decision making and problem solving skills. Bilingual Spanish/English pref. Fax resume & cover ltr to FL Community Health Ctrs. (561) 844-1013 e-mail hr@fchcinc.org EOE/DFWP.

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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.

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ANTIQUES - FOR SALE DRESSERS, ARMOIRE, SPINETTE-DESK, CHINA CABINET, CURIO CABINET, HALL STAND. SERIOUS BUYERS CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DETAILS 863-763-6640.

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Old good sewing machine, custom cabinet base, Rodney Brand \$125.00
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Call 863-763-2358 or 863-320-8813

Pets/Supplies
AKC Boxer Pups 9 weeks, Fawn \$550.00
Call 863-634-6386

Wanted To Buy
Need Cash??? We Buy Cars We Pay Top Dollar \$ \$ Okeechobee Dodge 4224 Highway 441 S. Contact: Rick Proverb 863-357-0500

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Craftsman riding mower - 12.5 HP Briggs and Stratton motor, 28" deck, new blade on mower and spare blade backup. 1 year old used 8 times. \$900.00/neg. (863)467-1708 or (863)801-5038

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Houses - Rent
3 Bedroom/1 1/2 Bath in SW section Okeechobee across from public library 1600 SW 3rd. \$875.00 a month \$2,000 to move in (863)634-0512

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

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For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Business Places Sale
Lakeport Patty's Bait & Tackle Shop
Hwy. 78 & Martin Blvd. bldg/commercial property business-turn-key bait/tackle shop w/loyal customers, everything incl. Will consider lease &/or OF \$90,000.00, Owner retiring. Call after 5 p.m. 863-673-1155 or visit.

Public Notice

Houses - Sale
TREASURE ISLAND Owner financing. LARGE 4BR, 2BA, CBS house on the water. \$159,000. Will consider lease \$1200 mo. Call 863-634-9119

Lots - Sale
2 WATERFRONT vacant lots in Taylor Creek Isles. Both on canal with sea walls. Each \$35,000 OBO. Call (239) 898-7084.

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RV Lot in Sportsman Village, Moore Haven. 55+, Clubhouse, Pool, Lots of Activities. Beautiful Large Lot. \$29,995
Call 239-218-6079

Public Notice

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Visit www.roselandco.com/82H Drive by then call 866-249-0680.

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Mobile Home Lots
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Public Notice

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\$600 monthly 3/2 Double wide, built in 05, excellent condition. 2/2 Double wide, remodeled excellent condition, city water \$525 monthly Call 863-801-1739

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Public Notice

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

Lakeport — 2BR/2BA older MH w/upgrades, 1/2 acre, roof over huge frt. Porch, 3 sheds, 2 cov. parking, now rented @ \$600 mo. O.F. @ \$68,000.00, with \$5,000.00 down, \$1,000.00 per mo, + prop taxes/ins. Entire amount to mortg. Paid in full w/in 5 yrs. Cash @ \$65,000.00-call after 5 p.m. 863-673-1155.

Older Single Wide in 55+ Park, w/screened room, porch and dock on Taylor Creek. 1/2 mile from Walmart \$7,500. Call 828-208-0980

Single Wide 46' MH w/10x40 Fla. room, utility room, fully furnished, washer & dryer. Fronts on Taylor Creek. 516 SE 4th St Lot#36 \$21,500 Available 4/15/12 863-763-2358 or 812-320-8813

Public Notice

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Boats
14 ft. Aluminumcraft Boat 4 stroke electric start motor, lights plus extras and heavy trailer. Also (2)16x10 culverts for sale call 357-3329
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RV Space Rent
RV Lot in Sportsman Village, Moore Haven. 55+, Clubhouse, Pool, Lots of Activities. Beautiful Large Lot \$250 mo. Plus Electricity Call 239-218-6079

Fifth Wheels

35' 5th Wheel 2000 Spinnaker by Forest River, 3 slides, ready to travel or live in located in Okeechobee area call 772-532-0041

Public Notice

COUNTY OF OKEECHOBEE-FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012
NOTICE OF BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING

The Okeechobee Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on March 8, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, for the purpose of adopting budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Budget for Okeechobee County to reflect changes in balances brought forward and changes in revenue estimates.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

FUND DESCRIPTION COUNTYWIDE FUND	REVENUES (SOURCE)					EXPENDITURES (USE)			AMENDED BUDGET FY 2011-12
	CURRENT BUDGET FY 2011-12	Balances Brought Forward	Operating Revenues	Total	Reserves	Operating Expenditures	Total		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
General Fund	31,133,534	249,932	(1,111,785)	30,271,681	4,028,336	26,243,345	30,271,681	30,271,681	
Tourist Development Trust Fund	266,906	(11,826)	0	255,080	42,738	212,342	255,080	255,080	
Public Safety Fund	4,074,044	(394,203)	18	3,679,859	110,406	3,569,453	3,679,859	3,679,859	
Criminal Justice Fund	0	18	(18)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	(0)	
Boating Improvement Fund	155,660	9,714	0	165,374	116,176	49,198	165,374	165,374	
Enhanced 9-1-1 Fund	835,366	(30,082)	0	805,284	583,379	221,905	805,284	805,284	
Drug Abuse Trust Fund	17,994	(786)	0	17,208	5,208	12,000	17,208	17,208	
Law Enforcement Trust Fund	416,230	105,411	0	521,641	309,965	211,676	521,641	521,641	
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Fund	139,172	(19,813)	0	119,359	50,376	68,983	119,359	119,359	
Unincorporated Service Area Fund	1,749,518	(77,784)	0	1,671,734	309,900	1,361,834	1,671,734	1,671,734	
Fire Rescue Fund	8,101,211	(385,268)	0	7,715,943	1,448,747	6,267,196	7,715,943	7,715,943	
SHIP Fund			62,795	62,795		62,795	62,795	62,795	
State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP)	576,043	62,795	6,607	645,445	0	645,445	645,445	645,445	
Landfill Trust Fund	8,014,378	(93,086)	(499,108)	7,422,184	7,422,184	0	7,422,184	7,422,184	
HRS Building Maint Fund	76,832	6,368	0	83,200	0	83,200	83,200	83,200	
Cemetery Trust Fund	217,765	(6,022)	0	211,743	67,302	144,441	211,743	211,743	
HHRP			6,607	6,607	0	6,607	6,607	6,607	
Driver Ed Safety Fund	144,417	97,478	0	241,895	24,417	217,478	241,895	241,895	
Hurricane Housing Recovery Program Fund	0	6,607	0	6,607	0	6,607	6,607	6,607	
CDBG Disaster Fund	520,386	148,497	0	668,883	0	668,883	668,883	668,883	
Court Innovation Trust Fund			0	0		0	0	0	
Impact Fee Fund			0	0		0	0	0	
Court Innovation Trust Fund	298,017	(13,105)	0	284,912	267,335	17,577	284,912	284,912	
Teen Court Fund	10,925	0	5,328	16,253	0	16,253	16,253	16,253	
Special Grant Fund	3,741,093	109,904	0	3,850,997	124,342	3,726,655	3,850,997	3,850,997	
Jail Loan Repayment Fund	715,150	(88,458)	0	626,692	133,263	493,429	626,692	626,692	
Courthouse/Ag Center Loan Fund	0	892	0	892	0	892	892	892	
Capital Improvement Fund	10,641,172	(653,180)	2,580,061	12,568,053	1,686,248	10,881,805	12,568,053	12,568,053	
	71,845,813	(975,997)	1,050,505	71,920,322	16,730,322	55,189,999	71,920,322	71,920,322	

PUBLISH: March 4, 2012

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OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA

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NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M. AT 17429 NW 242ND STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972 (FIELD OFFICE). A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE UNDERSIGNED. IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING; THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, IS MADE. ANY PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING MUST HAVE THEIR NAME AND TOPIC PLACED ON THE AGENDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING. ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S OFFICE BY CALLING (863)-763-4601 AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING.

NOTICE: COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT HAS AN ONGOING AQUATIC SPRAYING PROGRAM, DISTRICT WIDE.

WILLARD M. BYARS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
17429 NW 242ND STREET
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972
(863)763-4601 OR (863)634-3166
411366 ON 3/4/2012



Special to the Okeechobee News/Okeechobee Shrine Club

Shrine officers installed

The 2012 Okeechobee Shrine Club officers were installed at a ceremony held Thursday, Jan. 19. Those officers are: (left to right) Mac Simpson, president; Dr. Randall Mims, first vice president; Tom McCoin, second vice president; Dick Bilbrey, secretary/treasurer; Mike Miles, board member; and Donnie Bryant, board members. Club members also thanked the Okeechobee community for their support of Shrine hospitals.



Submitted photo/Okeechobee Shrine Club

At a recent ceremony the Ladies of the Okeechobee Shrine Club presented a check to Amara Potentate Jim Gretskey in the amount of \$3,174.50. That money will be used in the Amara transportation fund to transport patients to hospitals for treatment. Many children in the Okeechobee area have benefitted from free orthopedic and burn care provided by Shrine hospitals.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
1 Cape Cod feature
6 Valentine trim
10 Embezzle
14 Medicinal plants
15 Comet competitor
16 Plantation near Twelve Oaks
17 Like ESP?
18 ___ avis
19 Prince William's alma mater
20 Heavy metal mimic?
23 Exotic guided tour
26 Subway co. in a 1959 song
27 Flop
28 Nickname for a pharmaceuticals czar?
31 Aim high
33 Commotion
34 Chapeau's perch
36 One bearing down
37 Surfing-induced torpor?
40 Williams of "Happy Days"
43 Peevish, as a puss
44 One shooting the bull?
47 Sharp Italian cheese
49 Sailor's pocket bread?
52 11th-century date
53 Mantel piece
55 Crankcase reservoir
56 Heavenly food on the nightstand?
60 Bit of plankton
61 C-3PO worshiper
62 Where to see government programs
66 Nat or Card
67 Sparkling wine city
68 Elicit a :-) from
69 Dismally damp
70 "Lolita" star Sue
71 Pram occupant's wear
- DOWN**
1 State of matter
2 Fighter who was a dove
3 Emulate 2-Down
4 Ruinous
5 F equivalent
6 Blubber
7 Slightly gapped
8 Ricochet
9 Long-odds track
10 Stalk
11 Insect that can mimic a leaf
12 Cargo on the Edmund Fitzgerald when it sank in Lake Superior
13 Recipient of an annual baseball award since 1983
21 Rodeo prop
22 "Casey's Top 40" host
23 Bad Ems attraction
24 Give a leg up
25 Showman Ziegfeld
29 Chest muscles, briefly
30 Oldest musketeer
32 Zadora of "Hairspray"
35 OAS member
37 Zookeeper's main squeeze?
38 Lassitude
39 DuPont's Fiber A, now
40 Worn symbol of support
41 "Billy Budd," e.g.
42 Wee bit
44 Certain lounge frequenter
45 SFO listing
46 Soak up some rays
48 Tough test
50 Object of a kicking game
51 State of matter
54 Like a thorough update
57 Cutty ___ : historic clipper ship
58 Agent inspired by Chan
59 Like, with "to"
63 Minor crying wolf?
64 Egyptian viper
65 Napoleonic Wars marshal

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

J E T T A G A W K M O J O
F A R A D I L I E A L O U
K N I G H T B L I N D N E S S
A L O S S O N S E T
K N I C K O F T I M E
S I G N N O H O D O N E
I G U E S S R A N G P I X
S A L K N I T W I T T M C
A L A A I N U A S P I R E
L I R A D O N S E C O L
K N E W E N G L A N D
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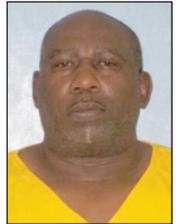
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By Kelsey Blakley
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Man reportedly stabbed wife for 'disrespecting' him

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



Johnny Henry

An Okeechobee man has been arrested for reportedly stabbing his wife in the back when "she disrespected him" by being too slow to get some drinks for guests at the couple's home.
Johnny Henry, 59, N.E. 14th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Thursday, March 1, on a felony charge of aggravated battery. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a \$75,000 bond.
Jail records indicate that he has since been released on bond.

bee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that the couple began to argue after Henry apparently asked his wife to get some juice drinks for a couple of house guests.
Henry apparently became angry when his wife, who was talking on the telephone, didn't react quickly enough to his request and the couple began to argue.
The woman reportedly armed herself with a pair of scissors to defend herself against her 6-foot-2, 280-pound, husband.
As the two became engaged in a physical confrontation, the woman punched her husband in the upper lip, stated the deputy's report.

According to Deputy Schoonmaker's report a guest at the house tried to intervene but Henry pushed him aside and said "... get way, I got this. She's not going to disrespect me!"
At that point Henry allegedly stabbed his wife in the back of her right shoulder with a kitchen knife.
During a search of the home, Deputy Schoonmaker stated that he found a knife with blood on the blade and a pair of scissors that appeared to have blood on one of the blades.
The deputy went on to state that the woman was taken to Raulerson Hospital where she was treated for her injury. The report does not state if she was admitted or released after treatment.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Farm Bureau

Donation presentation

Okeechobee County Farm Bureau Women's Chair Amy Daniel (right) gave a \$100 financial donation to Martha's House representative Jean Hartman (left) in honor of Food Check Out Week.

Changes made to Kindergarten Readiness Rate

On Feb. 28, the State Board of Education finalized the Kindergarten Readiness Rate, which reflects how prepared children are for kindergarten. The calculation for identifying "Low Performing Providers" (LPP) has changed. The minimum 2010-2011 VPK Provider Readiness Rate is now set at 70 percent. This means that 70 percent of students must screen "ready" on both assessment components: ECHOS and FAIR-K. Also, this year the scoring for every center has changed – from 200 to 100. This means that the highest score possible from any provider will be 100.

This new measurement and definition has drastically increased the number of low performing providers (LPPs). Last year, the

Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties had only four LPPs. Using the new measurements, the number of LPPs has increased to 24. The ELC is well prepared to work with these anticipated LPPs in helping them attain passing scores for the VPK program. Children take the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) during the first month of kindergarten.

For more information about the Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties, please call 772-220-1220, toll free 877-220-1223, visit our website at www.elcirno.org or "Like us on Facebook" www.facebook.com/elcirno.

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