



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 37

Sunday, March 25, 2012

75¢ Plus tax

Free fishing days start April 7
... Page 12

What to recycle? We have the answers
... Page 14

Two more nabbed in Operation Crackdown
... Page 15

Lake Levels

12.65 feet

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Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level

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Big crowds turn out for Bassmaster weigh-ins ... WaterFest fun continues



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Power-Pole Slam draws crowds

Crowds of people lined the banks at C. Scott Driver Recreation Area on Friday afternoon watching the anglers return from another day of fishing in the Power-Pole® Slam sponsored by B.A.S.S. The tournament and WaterFest continues through Sunday.

Was SFWMD board misled on lease?

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

When Patricia Pearce stood before the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) governing board in October of last year, she posed a few simple questions about their leasing policy—specifically, Glades County property leased to the Old River Cattle Company of Okeechobee.

Governing board chairman Joe Collins then turned to SFWMD Chief Real Estate Specialist Ruth Clements with a very simple question: “So, that was an existing lease when we acquired the land?”

“Absolutely,” answered Ms. Clements, adding that there were actually two leases in effect—one from the Pomcor Corporation and the other from The Nature Conservancy. “Both had leases in place with Old River Cattle when we acquired the property, so we acquired it subject to the lease.”

And this is where the inconsistencies with the district’s lease with the Old River Cattle Company begin.

HISTORY

In January of 2006, the district agreed to purchase the Glades County property from Pomcor, Inc.

At that time Pomcor, based in Lake Worth, was structured to purchase C-corporations.

Pomcor had an option to buy the property from Glades County rancher J.F. Pearce, and exercised that option in March of 2006 when they bought a total of 4,734 acres.

That same month, The Nature Conservancy purchased 1,646 acres in eastern Glades County from Pomcor on behalf of the district for approximately \$16.3 million because SFWMD did not have the funds immediately available to make the purchase.

See SFWMD — Page 5

State’s largest recycler builds plant in Okeechobee

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Things are picking up at the landfill.

The state’s largest recycling business is coming to Okeechobee. Trademark Metal Recycling is building a plant on N.W. 128th Avenue, adjacent to Waste Management’s (WM) Okeechobee landfill.

Trademark has 22 locations throughout Florida including four in the Orlando area and three in

the West Palm area. They buy, sell and process automobiles, aluminum, copper, steel/cast iron, stainless steel, high temperature alloys, appliances, sheet iron, industrial discards and all grades of ferrous and nonferrous metals.

Trademark has mobile crushing crews throughout Florida. They offer mobile baling of light metals, industrial demolition services and plant clean up, containers and roll-off boxes, land fill services, radio

See RECYCLER — Page 5



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Special to the Okeechobee News

Pet of the Week

Dudley is a Poodle/Yorkshire Terrier mix. He is very quiet and can be shy. His owner could no longer take care of him. Adoption fee is \$175, which includes neuter and current shots. He is available for adoption at Okeechobee Humane Society/Pet Rescue on Highway 98, next door to the Livestock Market. For more information, contact Humane Society Pet Rescue Florida, at 863-357-1104. To see more available animals go to petfinder.com. Homes are also needed to "foster" animals who are waiting for a permanent adoptive home.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Sunday: A chance of showers, mainly before 2 pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 84. West southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Sunday night: A 10 percent chance of rain before 8 p.m. Mostly clear, with a low around 55. West northwest wind around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 84. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Monday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 58. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 85. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 63. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 82. East wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 60. East southeast wind around 5 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!

SFWMD

• I am not sure what good shaving a leg is going to do. What we need to do is cut the head off the "hairy beast of corruption." The story points out the problems. The newspaper can't solve the problems or force anyone to give them information. What Mr. Kopp did was legally ask for the information and print what he obtained, as well as clueing the readers in on what questions the SFWMD has refused to answer. It's up to us, the public to contact our elected officials and to keep making noise about it until they clean this mess up.

• For years SFWMD has done whatever they want to without any oversight and without any consequences. They meet in West Palm Beach, making it difficult for anyone from Okeechobee to attend. But now their meetings are broadcast online, we, the public can keep up better with just what they are doing with our tax money.

• SFWMD is a blight on us. "Oh, we care about the environment, therefore we can spend millions to condemn property to buy it and we can't TAKE CARE OF IT." A few men, their trucks are parked there every week, are getting a playground out of it. They took it from people who cared for it and now no one cares...

Elevator: tall tale

• I don't get to the big cities very often so I took my son the other day for some sight seeing. We were in this building and an elderly lady pushed a button on the wall and the doors opened and she went in. My son and I stood there in awe. There were numbers on top of the doors and they went higher then came back down. The doors opened up and out stepped this gorgeous young doll baby. We looked at each other again in awe. Then I said to my son, "let's go home and bring mom back."

Parents

• I don't understand why parents are giving coaches a hard time. You should want to get involved. I have heard parents argue and give excuses why they can't help score keeping and concession stand work. My coach isn't the best but at least he's trying! God bless all coaches and have a good season.

• I have always thought I should not complain about the job any volunteer was doing, unless I was willing to step up and take responsibility for the work myself. I have served as an adult volunteer for many youth programs in Okeechobee and I know some of the parents can be frustrating to deal with. I have lost track of how many times I have waited an hour or more for a parent to pick up a child. Some act like they don't expect the adult volunteers to have their own lives and other responsibilities.

• People have been complaining about OCRA for at least 30 years, probably longer. There are other choices for your children's activities. If you don't like it, step up and volunteer and be part of the group working to make changes, or else walk away and find other programs you do like. Complaining and whining are not productive. Here's a thought: Ask your children what activities they would like to try. Many of these kids do not really care about sports and are only there because the parents make them do it or else it is the only activity the parents offer them. Given a choice, the kids might prefer dance classes or gymnastics or swimming or music lessons.

• The other day practice was over; our coach was waiting for one parent. I'm waiting just to see how long it would be - half hour later here comes mom! Get real parents. This coach's family I'm sure has other things to do. Some parents need to grow up and be more responsible. Pick your child up on time.

Positive signs

• I see some good things happening in Okeechobee. The new bank opened on Friday. Porter's Cleaners is reopening with new management. The new Applebee's Restaurant is opening. Any new business means jobs. A few jobs here and a few jobs there adds up. Every job helps someone. I think if we stick together and support the local businesses when we can, this town can thrive again.

Reflections from the pulpit

Misinterpretation

**By Rev. Allen Patterson
Administrative Pastor**

Okeechobee Presbyterian Church

I'm not much for sneaky gimmicks. Especially in church. So the first year I heard they were handing out stars on Vision Sunday with a range of words for the coming year, I was more than glad we were going to be out of town.

No, really, we had already planned to be away that weekend! Not that it mattered much, because when we returned the next week, someone stuck a star in my hand with a word on it and I promptly took it home and lost it. I know I lost it, because I looked for it just last week - a year later, but hey, I had lots of other bits and scraps of paper and receipts tucked away in my drawer from the previous year - but no Vision Sunday star. I remember thinking the whole thing was a bit hokey. It was just a word.

Now Vision Sunday is traditionally the first Sunday in January, and this year, quite frankly, I forgot to schedule some time off. By the time I realized what was happening and what day it was and what they were planning to do in the morning Worship Service, they were singing the opening song and it was too late to escape.

I tried to pass it off - again. I was thinking, "It's only a word. Doesn't mean a thing. Don't worry about it - this will all be over in just a bit..." But I knew I was in trouble when they gave the bucket full of stars to the children to pass through the congregation. I had to take one for real now. I couldn't NOT take one when a curly-headed, dew-eyed little girl was watching me.

So I reached in and picked a word at random. By the way, I think more often than not, the word "random" is another word for "God's got something He wants to tell you." So I pulled out my star and turned it over. And there it was - my word for 2012. Well, at least that's what they were saying up front while I was thinking, "Really? Attempt?" What kind of word is that?"

I really thought I had someone else's word. I tried to trade it in. No one paid any attention. They were all staring straight ahead with a glazed look in their eyes. Looking back on it, I think they must have all been trying to figure out whose word they had picked and how they could get rid of it.

I took the star with the word "Attempt" on it and I put it on my dresser and I thought about it for a whole week. And when I went back to church the next Sunday, I started hearing stories that made me think we hadn't pulled "random" words out of that bucket. Like the 15 year old who has been studying for his driver's license.

The word he pulled out was "Driving!" And the lady who decided to explore her word and discovered a brand new area in her life where God wanted to work.

So I went back home and thought about my word, "Attempt" for another week, and by the end of that second week, I was certain I had figured it out. This was going to be a pretty good year after all. Maybe this was my word. After all, I was no stranger to the word "Attempt." My life thus far has been defined by this word. Attempt new things, start new businesses, use my entrepreneurial strengths, strive to make more money, do bigger and better things. Or maybe I needed to attempt to complete some things I'd started, or things I'd always wanted to do and things I've talked about for years. Like playing the banjo, or maybe the piano. Or finding a new job. My brain was spinning with possibilities. But my heart was sinking.

I took my wife out to eat that Sunday night of the second week. We ordered our favorite - fish and chips. I was not doing well. There were shadows slipping in around the edges of my optimism. The star was wearing thin.

We talked for a bit, and I laid out my understanding of my new word. I told her I finally got it. I used every word I knew to explain my understanding and defend my position. But I was so wrong. As only she can do, she gave me an alternative understanding. I was speechless. In a moment, my poser was exposed, my default was challenged. My false self was stripped naked in a public restaurant. "What if there's something else to consider?" she said, her voice going up with a slight bit of anxiety, "Maybe God is saying you should 'attempt' to learn to be happy right where He has put us? He's really put us in a spacious place.... What if you could attempt to relax and enjoy what He has given instead of attempting something new, or attempting to find something besides what you have?"

And right there it was—my direction for 2012. On the surface it may not seem like much, but when she asked that question, it was so contradictory to my default manner of thinking, it hit me like a hammer. It was just so right on.

My word for 2012 is "Attempt" - and I'm learning to accept the gifts God has given and the places He is taking me. But I'm also learning that I often misinterpret God's word as I filter it through my desires, my false self or my poser. God so often offers me healing and new life and I twist it into a pretzelized definition that brings more brokenness, shame and loss of heart. He puts me in a spacious place and I end up staying inside looking out the window.

God is taking me to new places this year.... Where is He taking you?

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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SFWMD

Continued From Page 1

SFWMD agreed to reimburse The Nature Conservancy—plus 5 percent interest and carrying costs—within three years. In August of 2007 the SFWMD fulfilled that obligation and took title to the property.

In essence, this means The Nature Conservancy was the funding mechanism for this property deal.

SFWMD then closed on the remaining property, 3,088 acres, in May of 2006 for roughly \$38 million. Although not contiguous with The Nature Conservancy property, all of the parcels were put together in a lease deal.

The district agreed to manage The Nature Conservancy's property until the district took title of the property, which they did in August of 2007. In the mean time, however, The Nature Conservancy leased their property to Stuart-based Real Estate salesman Ricou Hartman.

When the district took title to the property they also took assignment of Mr. Hartman's lease.

On May 10, 2006, Pomcor entered into a lease with Mr. Hartman on the remaining 3,088 acres that Pomcor was selling to SFWMD. Also on that same day, Pomcor assigned their interest in that lease to the district and Ms. Clements signed it on behalf of the district.

Mr. Hartman also represented Pomcor in the sale of the 3,088 acres to the district.

On May 11, 2006, the district purchased the 3,088 acres from Pomcor subject to the lease.

At no time were these leases put out for bid, which is required by Florida state statute 373.093.

Which brings us to Mrs. Pearce's questions to the governing board at their Oct. 13, 2011, meeting.

After telling the board that her husband, Mark Hunter Pearce, and family members have had the property in question in their family since the 1800s she questioned why they were never given a chance to bid on the lease.

"Who were the bidders? Why haven't landowners been given options on the land?" she asked.

Turning to Ms. Clements, Mr. Collins asked that all important question: "So, the lease was existing when we acquired the land?"

"Absolutely," she answered. "Both had leases in place with Old River Cattle when we acquired the property, so we acquired

the property subject to those leases."

But, the leases weren't with Old River. They were with Mr. Hartman. Old River didn't become involved in the lease with Mr. Hartman until Jan. 3, 2008. According to state records Louis E. 'Woody' Larson Jr. is the principal agent of the Old River Cattle Company, while Mr. Hartman and Jeffrey O. Clemons are listed as managers.

She then went on to explain to the board about the two leases that were in place when the district acquired the land—the Pomcor and The Nature Conservancy leases.

Although Mr. Collins did ask that question, neither he nor any of the remaining eight governing board members asked that one vitally important question: How long had the lease been in place?

The answer is very simple: one day.

LEASING PROBLEMS

After acquiring that lease, SFWMD amended it in 2007 and again in 2008. On May 28, 2008, the Old River Cattle Company received an extension until March 14, 2012. However, they received a 10-year lease extension in December of 2011.

Again, this lease has never been put out for bids.

Today, the Old River Cattle Company is operating off that same 2006 lease. And while much of the lease is similar to today's water management leases, there are some very interesting differences.

Under the terms of that 2006 lease, lessees:

- cannot alter the land which includes, but is not limited to, mowing;
- lessees cannot engage in any discussions with the media pertaining to the lease which includes interviews, feature articles, fact sheets or similar promotional materials; and,
- lessees are responsible for obtaining all permits.

Let's take a look at these requirements.

First, it has been documented that the Old River Cattle Company has been baling hay on the property and have done so as late as February of 2012. Not only does the lease state on the first page that the property can only be utilized "... solely for purposes of cattle grazing ..." it also prohibits mowing, as mentioned above.

Next, Mr. Hartman did grant a 2011 interview with the Okeechobee News for an article about the district's leasing policy despite the lease prohibiting this.

Next, SFWMD documents show that Mr. Hartman did not get a consumptive use permit to use water from the L-59 canal.

Finally, because the three water control structures on the L-59 canal—which stretches from the Indian Prairie Canal to the Kis-

simmee River—were left free flowing with no water control devices in place nearly all the property south of the canal, including Buckhead Ridge, was flooded due to Tropical Storm Fay.

Because Mr. Hartman and Old River did not have the proper permits, and because there were no water control devices, are they to blame for the flooding?

Several inconsistencies have already been pointed out, but they don't end there.

When this newspaper posed a question to Ms. Clements that asked if The Nature Conservancy was the "... funding mechanism to purchase the Pomcor tract ..." her answer was evasive.

"In 2006, the district purchased 4,734 acres in Glades County consisting of the following: 1. 3,088 acres were purchased from Pomcor; 2. 1,646 acres were purchased from The Nature Conservancy."

Then on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, three more questions were e-mailed to the SFWMD that asked for a response from Ms. Clements.

Those questions were:

- In regard to the district's lease with Ricou Hartman, is the district still operating off the original lease that was signed May 10, 2006?
- If so, did Mr. Hartman violate the terms of the lease when he granted the Okeechobee News an interview to discuss that lease as alluded to on page 8 of that lease?
- You stated in the Oct. 11, 2011, governing board meeting regarding the extension of the Old River Cattle Company lease that the Old River Cattle Company had been leasing the property prior to SFWMD acquiring the property. How long had Old River been leasing the property prior to SFWMD closing on that property in 2006?

Simple, right?

Here is the answer we received: "The Old River Cattle leases were provided to you when your public record requests were fulfilled. The terms and conditions are contained in those documents. We are unable to provide additional information."

Looking back, it seems clear that the lease with Old River has been violated on several occasions. Still, Ms. Clements told her governing board that they were good tenants and, because of that, their lease should be extended for an additional 10 years.

And on Dec. 13, 2011, it was.

said, adding that with the Trademark facility there would be less waste and they can sell the extracted metals.

When asked why Trademark chose Okeechobee, since they have recycling facilities all over the state, Mr. Bianculli said WM officials were very cooperative and Trademark has a good working relationship with them.

The plant is expected to be operational by the third quarter of this year. Appropriately enough, the building will be constructed, in part, from recycled metal.

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RECYCLER

Continued From Page 1

dispatched trucking, certified/computerized scale transactions, and secondary aluminum melting.

However, no metal will be bought in Okeechobee. According to Trademark official John Bianculli, the Okeechobee facility will receive what is called "fluff" -- the fist sized finished product from shredding automobiles at some of Trademark's other facili-

ties around the state. The 60,000 square foot state of the art Okeechobee facility will extract the last bit of usable metal from the fluff before it goes to the Okeechobee landfill.

The new facility will help the economy in two ways. At full capacity, Mr. Bianculli envisions the plant working around the clock and employing 30 people. Trademark will also be paying a tipping fee to dispose of the processed fluff at the landfill. This tipping fee will, in turn, increase the host fees the county receives from WM.

"Life is good for everybody," Mr. Bianculli

Community Events

Masonic Lodge to host Sunday breakfast

On Sunday, **March 25**, from 8-11 a.m. the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge will host Sunday breakfast that will include eggs, bacon, grits, pancakes, biscuits, gravy, juice and coffee. The public is welcome and car-ryouts are available. The Masonic Lodge is located at 107 N.W. Fifth (Across from Flagler Park). Breakfast every 2nd and 4th Sunday. Proceeds to benefit Okeechobee Youth Programs.

Cypress Eagles to host Sunday dinner

Sunday, **March 25**, from 1-5, the Cypress Hut Eagles will be having a Fried Chicken Dinner. \$6 per dinner. All proceeds go to Community Charity Fund. Public is welcome!

Okeechobee Men's Night With God offered

Calling all men! You are invited to a non-denominational night with God, on Saturday, March 31. Get ready for an unforgettable night of fellowship, praise, and unity. Enjoy a free barbecue diner, live worship and a challenge from guest speakers. The program starts with dinner at 5 p.m. at Faith Farm Pavilion, 7595 N.E. 128th Ave. Please RSVP by **March 26**, by calling 863-763-4224.

Community Collaborative Council to meet March 27

The next meeting of the Community Collaborative Council, a part of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, will be Tuesday, **March 27**, at 10 a.m. in the board room of the School Board Office, 700 S.W. Second Street in Okeechobee.

Eagles to host bingo night

Eagles North, at 9985 U.S. 441 N., will host Bingo on Tuesday, **March 27**. Bingo starts at 1 p.m. We'd love to have y'all come and play. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund.

Cypress Hut Eagles offers chicken alfredo dinner

On Tuesday, **March 27**, at 5 p.m. the Cypress Hut Eagles will have a chicken alfredo dinner \$6. Public Welcome. All proceeds go to Community Charity Fund.

Shrine Club hosts spaghetti dinner

Join your friends and neighbors on Tuesday, **March 27**, at the Okeechobee Shrine Club for a spaghetti dinner with all the trimmings. Dinner is served at 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. with music and dancing from 5-8 p.m. Cost per person is just \$6. The public is invited. Proceeds will benefit Shrine activities. For information, please contact Mac Simpson 863-484-0427 or the Shrine Club or Kip Gardner at 863-610-6659.

Eagles North hosting bingo

Eagles North will host bingo on Wednesday, **March 28**. Bingo will start at 4:30 p.m. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund. 9985 U.S. 441 N., Okeechobee.

Yard sales will aid Martha's House

Martha's House will hold a huge end of month yard sale on Thursday and Friday, March 29 and 30, at 4134 U.S. 441 N. from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Call 863-763-2893 with any questions.

9Holes-6Pockets Memorial Biathlon set for March 31

On March 31, at 9 a.m., a biathlon will be held to benefit the Humane Society (no kill shelter). Start out by playing 9 holes of golf at Blue Heron and one game of pool at Good Spirits. Best-ball scramble, 4-person teams or singles welcome. \$30 per person, lunch included. Sign up by **March 29**. Check out '9holes 6pockets' on Facebook, or contact Keller at 863-467-1651 or Debbi at 863-634-8407, or send an email to 9holes6pockets@gmail.com.

Considering adoption?

Anyone interested in learning more about adoption is encouraged to join the Children's Home Society of Florida, Treasure Coast Division at our monthly Adoption Orientation session.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, **March 29**, at the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County office, located at 804 S. 6th Street in Fort Pierce.

This informative, casual and free open house-style orientation will provide an overview of foster care adoption and answer all questions related to adoption and CHS' adoption process.

Please help us raise adoption awareness in our community as we try to find additional permanent "Forever Families" for local children in foster care.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Children's Home Society's Adoption Information Line at 772-429-2001.

Friends of the Okeechobee Library host book sale

Friends of the Okeechobee Library invite you to their spring book sale from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28; 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, **March 29**; 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 30; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 31. Books and videos are a dollar a pound. Saturday, a bag of books is \$2 and a box is \$5.

A 10 percent discount is offered with a Friends of the Okeechobee Library membership card.

The sale has been extended an extra day because of the large number of books available for sale.

This is the Friends of the Okeechobee Library's major fund-raiser.

Church features gospel singers

There is a gospel sing at the Seventh Day Christian Church, at 912 N.W. Park Street and Hwy. 70 West, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, **March 30**. Featuring: The Cannon Land Gospel Singers.

Barbecue benefits Special Olympics

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) will host a barbecue Friday, **March 30**, to benefit Special Olympics and the OCSO Relay for Life team. Gilbert Snapper, 315 S. Parrott Ave., will host the event from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The cost is \$8 per plate and the menu will consist of one-fourth of a chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, roll and dessert.

For advanced tickets, or to schedule a delivery, contact Michele or Ronda at 863-763-3117.

Barbecue dinner will benefit Chobee Steelers

On Friday, **March 30**, Martha's House Outreach will sponsor a barbecue chicken dinner to benefit the Chobee Steelers Steel Drum Band, at 4134 U.S. 441 N. for a \$7 donation.

Call 863-763-2893 for your tickets. Will deliver with 10 or more orders.

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.

Betty Jean Finnell, 75

OKEECHOBEE — Betty Jean Finnell of Okeechobee passed away Mar. 21, 2012 in Baltimore.

She was born Aug. 25, 1936 in Coshoc-ton, Ohio to the late C. Henry and Leona (Lee) Jeanette Slise McCoy. She was a past President of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW of Buckhead Ridge, and recently became an Instructor with Weight Watchers which she was a member for many years. She enjoyed playing cards, dancing, socializing with her friends, and spending time with her dog, Misty. She won awards in archery, loved to cook and could create fashion designs on her Singer. In her youth she sang on the radio in Coshoc-ton and in her later years she sang with the church choir which brought her great joy. She embraced God and we said the Lords Prayer night-ly together.

Mrs. Finnell was preceded in death by her husband, Paul D. Finnell; her daughter, Cindy; her son, Stephen; her sisters, Peggy and Carol.

She is survived by her daughters, Brenda Finnell of Baltimore and Kathy O'Steen and son-in-law Carl of Texas; grandchildren, Emilia and El-lisa; daughter-in-law Donna; her sister, Sandy, and her companion Robert Hare. She leaves behind many nieces and nephews that she loved dearly.

Visitation will be Monday, Mar. 26, 2012 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, Mar. 27, 2012 at Ortona Cemetery with Pastor John Garrison officiating.

Friends may sign the guest book at www.Bas-sOkeechobeeFH.com

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 N.E. Second Street, (863) 763-2111.

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

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All Obituaries now include *Online Guestbooks* where family and friends can share reflections, remembrances and condolences.

Visit: www.newszap.com

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

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Annual Coed Softball Tournament

All proceeds will go towards the **Devon Venables Memorial Scholarship.**

Donations can be made directly to the Okeechobee Education Foundation with a notation in the "memo" of your check

"Devon Venables Memorial Scholarship"

For more information please contact Kim Hilliard 863-634-3620 or Jill Rogers 863-634-0870

In Memory of Devon Venables
June 15, 1989 - August 1, 2009

When: March 31, 2012
Where: Adult Softball Fields - Okeechobee
Time: Start 8am

- Registration \$250 at the field
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- Bracket will be determined by # of teams



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Special to the Okeechobee News/Parks and Rec

Champions

ECO Mowing Service finished undefeated (12-0) in the women's league. Team members are: Mona Baker, Kim McMahon, Janet Estremera, Damarys Garcia, Amanda Blewett, Amber Thornton, Erica Lipfert and Dawn Fox. Not shown: Amanda Wilton, Josie Gazzara and Vonsha Jarvis.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Parks and Rec

Runnerup

The runner up Beef O'Brady's team members are: Jeanne Billie, Josephine O'Mallan, Gena Davis, Jaime Purdue, Kristen Utzman, and Ali Nunez. Front: Daiana Fonseca and Elia Suarez. Not shown: Amy Harrison and Regina Jolly.

Spring softball registration opens on March 28

Parks & Recreation Dept. is accepting registration for the Spring Adult Softball League. The deadline is 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 5. League fees are: Men-\$375, Women-\$325 and Co-ed-\$325. There is an organizational meeting for all interested players, managers and officials on Wednesday, March 28, at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center on Hwy. 98 N. Registration is conducted at the Recreation Dept. at 640 N.W. 27th Lane (Sports Complex). For more information, call 863-763-6950.

Friends of the Library seek new members

The Friends of the Library for the Okeechobee County Library are looking for new and returning members. The friends assist the public library by sponsoring the Florida Humanities Programs in the winter, funding children's programs, donating to the teen room and purchasing books and DVDs for the library. They raise funds by holding twice annual used book sales, selling book bags and membership fees. The membership donations are as little as \$5 a year and application cards may be picked up at the library front desk. Members receive a 10 percent discount on books purchased at our book sales. The next book sale is scheduled for March 28 to March 31.

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UF researchers' findings shed light on iron-absorption

By **Mickie Anderson**

University of Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—Iron is a key mineral for human health. Too much of it in your body—or too little—can lead to major health problems.

University of Florida researchers have discovered that an iron-absorption process thought to happen only within cell membranes can also happen within the interior of iron-deficient rodents' intestinal cells.

The finding suggests there is at least one unidentified protein involved in iron absorption, and that it may help maintain proper iron levels in the blood by mediating iron extraction from the diet.

The scientists, led by Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences faculty member James F. Collins, an associate professor in food science and human nutrition who specializes in molecular and biochemical aspects of nutrition, recently published their findings online in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Iron absorption in humans is still a somewhat mysterious process, but Collins said the team hopes its findings can someday be used to alleviate suffering from iron-related health problems.

"Understanding exactly how the process works could reveal therapeutic targets where one could modulate the process of iron absorption," he said. "You could potentially give somebody iron and they would absorb it better or you could block the process in

conditions of iron-overload."

From the time you sit down for a nice steak or a big spinach salad, your body's process for handling and dispersing that iron is a complicated one, to say the least.

Once iron reaches the intestines, it must go through a reduction process so that it can be absorbed by intestinal cells.

Then it must be modified again, through a process called oxidation, so that it can bind to a protein in the blood plasma called transferrin, which delivers the iron to cells throughout the body.

A protein called hephaestin that is contained in intestinal cell membranes is part of the oxidation process that allows iron to be transported into the circulatory system.

But the mutant mice the scientists studied didn't have hephaestin, yet they were able to survive and had only mild iron deficiency indicating that hephaestin was important but not absolutely necessary for iron absorption.

"So we hypothesized that there's something else going on there. And that's what we've done in this paper, we've described an activity—we can't ascribe it to a single protein yet—so we've described another potentially important player in this process," Collins said.

Greg Anderson of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research and a widely known expert in iron metabolism, was not part of the study, although one of his graduate students is one of the paper's co-authors.

"The implications of this work are con-

siderable," he wrote in an e-mail. "The Collins work helps us to understand the main regulatory step in iron absorption, the movement of iron from the cells lining the small intestine and into the circulatory system. If we can understand this process in detail, we may be able to design therapeutic interventions that can alter how much iron you absorb, by either decreasing it or increasing it."

Collins said his lab will continue the National Institutes of Health-funded study, by working to separate and identify proteins in

intestinal cells, track their activity, and pinpoint the one that is doing the iron-absorption work in mice lacking hephaestin.

The research team included Perungavur Ranganathan, a biochemist and IFAS research assistant scientist (whom Collins credited as making the observation that led to their initial hypothesis); Yan Lu, a UF doctoral student in nutritional sciences, and Brie Fuqua, a doctoral student at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research in Brisbane, Australia.

Learn to assist in emergency situations - Open House planned

Okeechobee Medical Reserve Corps, (MRC)

The Okeechobee MRC is hosting two open house dates—choose your date! Come learn how you can assist after an emergency. MRC Orientation Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 26.

Open House 1 - Dixon-Hendry Campus - Monday, April 2, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Please R.S.V.P. to Brian Sell, 863-462-5865

Open House 2 Dixon-Hendry Campus - April 14, Saturday, 9-10 a.m. Please R.S.V.P. to Brian Sell, 863-462-5865

Orientation Meeting - Dixon-Hendry Campus, Thursday, April 26, Thursday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Please R.S.V.P. to Brian Sell, 863-462-5865.

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Christ Arose!

Easter Favorites & Handel's Hallelujah! Chorus

During which audience participation is encouraged!

Friday, March 30th

7pm

Saturday, March 31st

7pm

Sunday, April 1st

3pm

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Frank Carter, Accompanist Nicolle Wood, Narrator Sheila Brown, Sound

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Staff members Al Jacks and Carmina Parisi were two from the CASTLE agency who came to the Okeechobee County Fair to offer helpful advice and gift items to local parents

CASTLE gives helpful advice and more at Okeechobee County Fair

Staff from CASTLE, a local non-profit agency that provides child abuse prevention programs for children and families in distress, spent St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17, at the Okeechobee County Fair, handing out safe parenting tips along with free toys. The booth space was sponsored by the Children's Services Council of Okeechobee County.

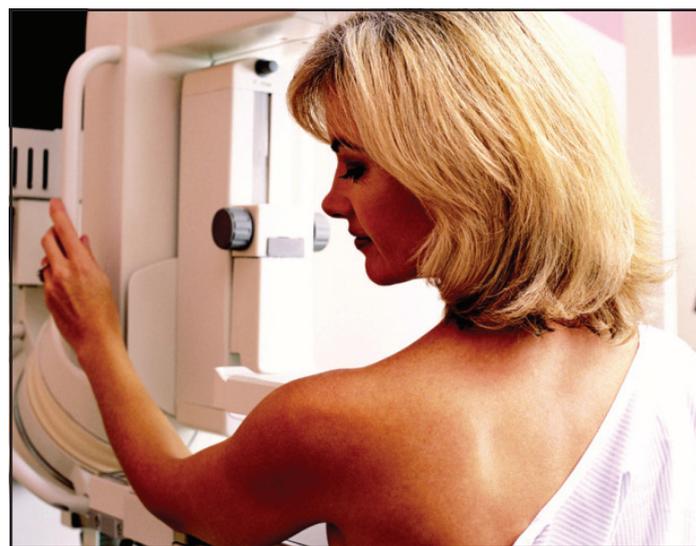
Lucky families were able to take advantage of the good advice and donated toys and educational materials. CASTLE staff who helped out that day were Al Jacks, Carmina Parisi and Michelle Peterson.

On-line pre-registration coming for Raulerson Hospital patients

Beginning March 27, hospital pre-registration will be more convenient for patients Raulerson Hospital patients may now pre-register online at RaulersonHospital.com prior to arrival at the hospital for a procedure or an appointment. Online pre-registration is available for patients scheduled for a:

- Screening Mammogram
- Surgery
- Test/Procedure.

Online pre-registration enables patients to complete the pre-registration process over the internet, allowing them to have more control over their own healthcare experience. Many patients will prefer the convenience of pre-registering from the comfort of their own home or office. Online pre-registration simplifies the registration process. To pre-register, log on to RaulersonHospital.com and click "Online Pre-Registration." Select the appropriate option to begin. Read the instructions and gather the items



Courtesy photo/Raulerson Hospital

Routine tests, procedures including mammogram screenings are included in the online pre-registration now available.

you will need to have on-hand in order to complete your pre-registration, such as emergency contact information, insurance information, physician name, etc. The system will direct you from page to page during the pre-registration process. For questions regarding online pre-registration, call 877-351-7006.



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For more information about the surgical services available at Raulerson Hospital, visit our website at RaulersonHospital.com. Our website also includes a health and video library to help you understand and become educated about the conditions that are important to you.




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Four license-free fishing days will start on April 7

Grab your fishing rods and tackle box. It's almost time – April 7 – to take advantage of the first of four license-free fishing days scheduled for this summer in Florida, according to Gov. Rick Scott, who highlighted the good news at today's Cabinet meeting in Tallahassee.

The days are perfect chances for parents, who don't yet have a license, to take youth

fishing, or for avid anglers to introduce a friend to the recreational pursuit without having to purchase a license.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) spread out the opportunities this year so more people will be able to head for their favorite lakes and rivers or saltwater destinations on designated days. Instead of providing one weekend for fresh-

water fishing and one weekend for saltwater fishing, the Commissioners decided at their meeting in February to break up the days. You won't need a recreational fishing license on the special days listed below.

Florida residents and non-residents, mark these Saturdays on your calendar for 2012:

April 7 - Freshwater; June 2 – Saltwater; June 9 – Freshwater; Sept. 1 – Saltwater

The April 7 date occurs during a productive freshwater fishing period when the weather is usually comfortable.

To make your free fishing day successful, check out MyFWC.com/Fishing for fishing tips, locations and rules.

Those who venture out may discover why Florida is the Fishing Capital of the World and feel as if they are part of the sport's business engine that propels a \$7.5 billion economic impact and sustains 80,000 jobs.

Fishing, however, is much more than a money-generating sport. Nature-based recreation can make people happier and healthier. And it's fun and relaxing.

Plus it is Easter weekend, and many people like to fill the weekend with a variety of activities with family or friends.

The June 2, free saltwater fishing day coincides with the first weekend of Gulf red snapper season and National Fishing and Boating Week, which means there will be lots of other related activities going on too.

The June 9, date for freshwater fishing

also coincides with the last day of National Fishing and Boating Week. Last year, 38 states had at least one license-free fishing day during this annual event.

Sept. 1 is the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend, when lots of people have time to recreate and celebrate the traditional end-of-summer holiday. In addition, bay scallops, lobster and snook will be open for harvest on this date.

All other bag limit, season and size restrictions apply on these dates. The license-free fishing designation applies only to recreational fishing, not commercial.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

MARCH 19 & 20, 2012

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

<u>COWS:</u>		<u>MED #1</u>	<u>STEERS</u>	<u>HEIFERS</u>
BREAKING	78.00 - 92.00	150-200	- - -	- - -
CUTTER	70.00 - 81.00	200-250	240 - 280	225 - 260
CANNER		250-300	220 - 260	205 - 225
		300-350	210 - 235	185 - 203
		350-400	200 - 220	175 - 188
		400-450	185 - 220	160 - 180
<u>BULLS</u>		450-500	175 - 200	155 - 172
1000-1500	93.00 - 103.00	550-600	165 - 177	142 - 155
1500-2000	95.00 - 103.00	600-650	146 - 152	138 - 146

	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>MED #2</u>		
CLFS	209	624	150-200	-	-
COWS	179	401	200-250	205 - 235	190 - 205
STRS	4	100	250-300	195 - 215	185 - 200
HFRS	4	114	300-350	180 - 205	160 - 180
BULLS	19	30	350-400	175 - 195	150 - 170
YRLNGS	19	83	400-450	160 - 180	145 - 157
<u>MIX</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			
TOTAL	434	1352			

Slaughter cows & bulls were about \$1 Higher after being off some last week. Calves were down last week but were steady with good demand this week. With short runs - try to get here before it's too late!

Driggers Jr. Lake Placid, topped the calf market with a high of \$3.05, bought by Thomas Cattle. Arrow C Cattle, Okeechobee, topped the cow market with a high of \$95, bought by Brown Packing. Pete



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Monday at 12 p.m.
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- Dr. Dennis Rainey - Host, FAMILY LIFE TODAY

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A wide variety of throw-away items are recyclable

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

"I was recycling when recycling wasn't cool," said Jeff Sabin of Waste Management (WM).

What some people may not realize is the wide variety of items that can be recycled in curbside recycling containers provided by WM. Many things that people routinely throw into their garbage cans can be recycled.

The list of items that can be recycled include food wraps, blister packages, plastic utensils, clean pizza boxes, milk and juice boxes, "gable-top containers" for milk and juice, cereal boxes, magazines, newspapers, junk mail, corrugated cardboard boxes, glass

jars, aluminum cans and aluminum foil.

Cloudy plastic containers such as milk jugs and shampoo bottles can be recycled as well as soda and water bottles.

However, Mr. Sabin requests that the lids be removed from those type containers and placed in the garbage. When such items are crushed as part of the recycling process the lids often fly off and become dangerous projectiles.

There are some things that WM cannot recycle. The number one item that cannot be recycled is plastic grocery bags.

"They do cause problems with equipment," Mr. Sabin said.

He said WM encourages shoppers to bring their own fiber or plastic shopping bags to the store and reuse them. However,

he said some stores will recycle plastic grocery bags.

Wire coat hangers cannot be recycled by WM. However, some dry cleaners will recycle them.

While fiber or paper egg cartons can be recycled, Styrofoam® egg cartons cannot be recycled by WM. Here again, some stores will recycle them.

Ceramics, porcelain, mirrors and tempered glass cannot be recycled. Soiled pizza boxes and take out food containers cannot be recycled.

Any large pieces of metal should be taken to a metal recycle facility.

Unlike some recycling programs which require separate curbside bins for different types of recyclables, in Okeechobee County WM employs what is known as "single stream" recycling. All recyclables are placed in one curbside bin.

Mr. Sabin said the popularity of recycling increased tremendously with single stream recycling because it is so convenient for

consumers. When the recyclables get to the plant they are mechanically sorted, and non-recyclable items are eliminated mechanically.

At one time the county used grant money to pay for recycling. Several years ago, when the grant money stopped, Mr. Sabin said WM had been getting such good feedback from the program that they did not want to discontinue it. Therefore recycling is now available in many areas of the county at no additional cost.

Mr. Sabin said WM is seeking to expand the areas that offer recycling, and are constantly looking for markets for recycled items.

Unlike some states, Florida does not have refunds for returned glass containers.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Employee of the Quarter

Erin Hess, administrator, Okeechobee County Health Department presents the Employee of the Quarter award to Paula Smith, RN.

'Idol' fundraiser to benefit Substance Abuse Coalition

The very first "Chobee Idol" competition invites local and surrounding area amateur vocal talents to tryout for this fundraiser competition. The event will be held on April 21, at the Okeechobee Shrine Club, at 1855 S.W. 153 Street. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition. A cash prize of \$500 will be awarded to the first place winner of the competition. For more information on tryouts, please call 863-801-2941.

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Two more arrested in Operation Crackdown

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Two more people have been arrested for allegedly selling crack cocaine to undercover officers during a street-level drug operation dubbed Operation Crackdown.

Fifteen people have now been arrested as part of the operation spearheaded by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force.

Arrested Thursday, March 22, were: Ricky L. Ford, 47, S.W. 128th Ave., Homestead; and Alexis Melinda Crowell, 21, N.W. Seventh St., Okeechobee.

Ford was charged with one count sale of cocaine and one count possession of cocaine with intent to sell. Crowell was arrested on similar charges.

Okeechobee County Jail records show that Ford is being held on \$20,000 bond, while Crowell is being held on \$15,000 bond.

The operation actually started in 2011 with the bulk of the arrests, 13, being made Monday, March 19. The crack cocaine operation was being staged at the same time as another operation entitled Operation Pill Crusher, which was aimed at the street level sales of prescription medications.

"We now have the manpower to run more than one operation at a time, and we will continue to do so," said Okeechobee County Sheriff Paul May in an interview



Ricky L. Ford



Alexis Melinda Crowell

shortly after the first 13 were arrested. "There is absolutely no reason to sell cocaine. If you do, you will go to jail."

One Okeechobee man has the unique distinction of being arrested in both undercover operations.

Hubert Lee Jenkins, 34, N.W. Fifth St., was charged with two counts of sale of a controlled substance (oxycodone) and two counts possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone) when he was arrested last month in Operation Pill Crusher.

He was arrested again in connection with Operation Crackdown and charged with the sale of cocaine and possession of cocaine with intent to sell.

Of those arrested in the most recent roundup, Sheriff May said some may well end up in prison.

"A lot of them have been in the drug business. We've arrested them and hoped they would get out of the business, but they didn't," he said. "Some of them will be going to prison for quite a while."

The sheriff said several different agencies took part in these operations including the Okeechobee City Police Department, Glades County Sheriff's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Sheriff May went on to add that these two investigations are continuing.

County coalition to discuss lake

The next meeting of the County Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and Lake Worth Lagoon will be held on Friday, **March 30**, at 10 a.m. at the Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom of the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 N.W. Second St.

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TAYLOR CREEK Condo
2BR, 1BA, furnished, No
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Houses. 3/1/1 for \$900,
3/2 for \$1000. Large
yards. Bring pets. Call
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TWO BEDROOM
FULLY FURNISHED
DUPLEX OR MOBILE
HOMES. EITHER
IN KINGS BAY
WITH HEATED
SWIMMING POOL -
TENNIS COURT -
GARAGE AND
WASHER AND DRY-
ER OR WATER
FRONT ON RIM
CANAL OR
KISSIMMEE RIVER,
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Houses - Sale

Cabana For Sale on Taylor Creek, with covered dock includes pontoon boat. \$22,000. Call 863-697-6022

FORT DRUM AREA \$5,000 down & \$1,000/month for 2 years. **PAID IN FULL!** (\$29,000 TOTAL!) Three bedroom home on 1/2 acre. **RENNICK REALTORS 772-562-5015**

Lots - Sale

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

Okeechobee, Florida, Northwest Addition Block 26. Lot #8, Lot #9, & Lot #10. Located on NW 3rd Street, corner lot on the city limit line and two adjoining lots. Three lots \$39,500. Call 850.420.5997.

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

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

Mobile Home Rent

\$695 - Steal 3/2 Furnished Double wide Built in 05, Mint Condition, City Water and Sewer. 1st, Last and Credit Check Call 863-801-1739

Mobile Home Sale

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

CASABLANCA PARK - 3BR, 1.5BA, Fully furnished, W/D, screen room, Florida room, newly remodeled and painted. \$16,000 OBO (219)384-3407

Mobile Home Sale

For Sale: Mobile Home in a Adult Park (Pine Ride Park), 14x48, 2bd and 1 1/2 bath, includes stove, refrigerator and washer/dryer. \$10,700 Call 239-246-5793 or 863-357-2888

PALM HARBOR HOMES Red Tag Sale Over 10 Stock Units Must Go. Save up to \$35K 800-622-2832 ext 210

TREASURE Island - Nice 2005 Doublewide w/lot. Large 3BR/2BA w/fireplace & fenced back yard. \$89,900 Will lease \$850 month. **Nice 2006** Singlewide w/lot. 3BR/2BA \$69,900 Will lease \$750 mo. 863-634-9119

Very Nice Mobile Home. 52ft long x 14ft wide. Completely furnished large carport, 10'x12' shed, in a quiet 55 or over park, 2bd/1bath. \$11,000. Call 231-942-1824

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

Boats

FOR SALE: Aluminum Boat Trailer, Continental Accommodates 17-23 ft. Boat, excellent condition. Asking \$750.00 o.b.o. Call 863-801-3060

Campers/RVs

36.6' Coachmen Santara, 49K miles, 1 slide, Dual Air, Tag Axle. Will Consider Trade for Buildable Lot. \$17,000 Call 863-467-2550

Wanted all Travel Trailers, Motor Homes and Fifth Wheels. Any Condition, Cash paid on the spot. Call 941-347-7171

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

2006 King of the Road 5th Wheel, 3 axles, washer & dryer, ice maker, vacuum system, auto satellite locator. Price? 618-727-2240 or 618-727-0279

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

Vans

1997 CHEVROLET ASTRO VAN - White cargo-style van in good condition. Approx 145k miles. \$2,000 /or best offer (863)801-6344

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

Public Notice

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SW 21st STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT BID # 2012-10 CAS PROJECT NO: 00-0903-108D

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed BIDS will be received by Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners until **11:00 AM on April 20, 2012 at 304 NW 2nd Street - Room 222.** They will be publicly opened by the County Clerk or designee and read aloud. Any BIDS received after the time specified will not be accepted.

The BIDS shall be based on furnishing all materials, equipment, and labor for the SW 21ST STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; OKEECHOBEE COUNTY BID # 2012-10.

All materials furnished and all work performed shall be in accordance with the Drawings, Specifications and Contract Documents as prepared by Craig A. Smith & Associates and/or pertaining thereto, which may be examined at or obtained from:

Engineer
Craig A. Smith & Associates
7777 Glades Road, Suite 410
Boca Raton, FL 33434
Phone: (561) 314 - 4445; Fax: (561) 314 - 4457

Or

Owner
Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners
304 NW 2nd Street, Room 123
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 763-6441

A non-refundable deposit of \$125.00 will be required for each set of Construction Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents. Checks are to be made payable to Craig A. Smith & Associates. Contract Documents can be obtained by express mail upon receipt of vendor's check and express mail account number. Contract documents can also be downloaded at no cost at the following FTP site:

<http://mail.craigasmith.com> Enter the following case sensitive username and password.

Username: okeecounty Password: choBEE321

At the FTP site, look for the Okeechobee County/SW 21st Street/ directory to locate the bid documents and plans.

Bidders will confine their bids to the project in its entirety. Partial bids will not be accepted. Each bidder will submit with this bid evidence that the bidder is licensed to perform the work and services or qualified by examination to be so licensed. Bidders who fail to include proper evidence of licensure will be considered non-responsive and their Bid will be discarded.

Each bid must be submitted in **TRIPLICATE (ONE ORIGINAL & TWO COPIES)** and accompanied by an acceptable Bid Bond or Certified Check, in an amount equal to at least five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid payable to the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners, as a guarantee that if the bid is accepted the bidder will execute the contract and file acceptable performance and payment surety bonds equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price within ten (10) days after written notice of the award of contract.

Contractors currently in default on a construction contract or currently in litigation with Okeechobee County or another municipality may not submit a Bid Proposal for this Contract. Contractors submitting a bid under any of the circumstances mentioned will be rejected as being non-responsive.

No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of ninety (90) days after date set for opening of the bids.

There will be a **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference on **April 3, 2012 at 10:00 AM** at Okeechobee County Historic Courthouse, **304 NW 2nd Street, Room 201, Okeechobee, FL 34972.** Written questions shall be submitted to the Engineer no later than April 13, 2012 -3:00 PM.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive informalities in any bid, and delete any portion of the project, whenever such action is in the interest of the Owner.

If in the opinion of the bidder, inconsistencies appear to exist in the specifications, it is the bidder's responsibility to seek clarification from the Engineer. Additionally, it is incumbent upon all bidders to conduct a personal investigation as to requirements of the Owner.

The Owner has the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids must be sealed and the outside of the envelope MUST be marked: **"BID - OKEECHOBEE COUNTY - SW 21ST STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT - CAS PROJECT # 00-0903-108D"** 413224 ON 3/25/2012

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
STATE OF FLORIDA, OFFICE OF FINANCIAL REGULATION
DIVISION OF SECURITIES

IN RE:
DAVID KLEIN, CRD#2034286

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO:
David Klein
9244 NW 142nd Terrace
Okeechobee, FL 34972

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an Administrative Complaint has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to Petitioner's Attorney, Tobi Pam, Senior Attorney, whose address is Office of Financial Regulation, 200 East Gaines Street, Suite 604, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0372 on or before May 8, 2012 and file the original with the clerk of this agency either before service on Petitioner's Attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint:

Jan Council, Agency Clerk
Office of Financial Regulation
The Fletcher Building, Suite 526
101 East Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0350
412620 ON 3/18,25;4/1,8/2012

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Public Notice

Public Notice

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FAMILY HEALTH/HEALTHY START COALITION, INC.
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2012-2013 HEALTHY START CARE COORDINATION PROGRAM

THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FAMILY HEALTH/HEALTHY START COALITION, INC. INVITES ALL QUALIFIED AND INTERESTED PARTIES WISHING TO PROVIDE HEALTHY START CARE COORDINATION SERVICES IN OKEECHOBEE COUNTY TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION.

WRITTEN SEALED PROPOSALS SHALL BE ACCEPTED AT THE COALITION'S OFFICE UNTIL 4:00 PM, EASTERN TIME TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2012, 575 SW 28TH STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

A COPY OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS WHICH OUTLINES RESPONSIBILITIES AND SELECTION CRITERIA, CAN BE OBTAINED UNTIL 4:00 PM APRIL 20, 2012 FROM THE COALITION'S OFFICE

575 SW 28TH STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974, (863)462-5877.
412556 ON 3/18,21,23,25,28/2012

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Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 37 Disorder | 50 1961 British movie monster |
| 1 Place to chill out | 38 Shows up | 51 Sasha, to Malia |
| 4 "In all likelihood ..." | 39 Infamous Amin | 53 Lee who co-created 24-Across |
| 11 Hollywood hrs. | 40 Postal motto word | 54 In the cellar, so to speak |
| 14 Many, many moons | 41 Every last one | 57 Jet set garb |
| 15 Land purveyor | 42 Driving force | 58 Rhine feeder |
| 16 Mr. ___!: | 43 Elucidate | 59 Tuscaloosa-to-Huntsville dir. |
| whodunit game | 44 Make public heading | 60 New England catch |
| 17 Diana Prince's alter ego | 45 Balance sheet | |
| 19 Have some grub | 49 Send in the check | |
| 20 Wore | | |
| 21 Thus | | |
| 23 Cutting the mustard | | |
| 24 Peter Parker's alter ego | | |
| 27 Arctic explorer John | | |
| 28 Quetzalcoatl worshiper | | |
| 30 Aromatherapist's supply | | |
| 31 Britt Reid's alter ego | | |
| 35 Bite for Mister Ed | | |
| 36 Bray beginning | | |
| 37 Steve Rogers's alter ego | | |
| 45 "Kubla Khan" river | | |
| 46 Meter (out) | | |
| 47 XV years before the Battle of Hastings | | |
| 48 Linda Lee Danvers's alter ego | | |
| 51 Trade punches | | |
| 52 Sound acquisition? | | |
| 53 More artful | | |
| 55 Flight board abbr. | | |
| 56 Reed Richards's alter ego | | |
| 61 Bis plus one, to a pharmacist | | |
| 62 Lizards with dewlaps | | |
| 63 "___ Hunters": History Channel show with the tagline "Hoax or History?" | | |
| 64 Many SAT takers | | |
| 65 Abundant flow | | |
| 66 Pink Floyd guitarist Barrett | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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xwordeditor@aol.com

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By Robert A. Doll

Internship - a summer class studies the River of Grass

LAKE WORTH—A unique opportunity is available for five college students or recent grads to explore the Everglades in-depth this summer, as a possible springboard for a future career in the protection of the River of Grass or a related field.

The Arthur R. Marshall Foundation 2012 Summer Intern Program is accepting applications through March 30. Interns will be selected by mid-April. The five participants will join a prestigious field of 43 other young adults who have graduated from the program since it was created in 2002.

"This internship provides a one-of-a-kind opportunity for motivated students," said Nancy Marshall, President of the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation. "Interns will explore the Everglades through field trips, interactive participation in Everglades restoration workshops, attending an international conference on wetlands, and mentoring by distinguished leaders in the field."

Participants will learn about the fundamentals of Everglades restoration including the history, watershed, ecology and politics. They will study specific issues including environmental education, citizen involvement, the role of agriculture, and the key partner

organizations implementing the restoration. The interns also conduct a group project.

Keynote speakers include former Florida Senator Bob Graham; Lynn Scarlett, former deputy secretary of the Department of the Interior; Dr. Stuart Pimm, professor of conservation and ecology at Duke University; Dr. Hillary Swain, executive director of Archbold Expeditions; and Charlie Pelliza, manager of four national wildlife refuges in Florida.

The intensive 11-week program is from May 18 to Aug. 4. Applicants must have a 3.0 or better GPA; should be studying environmental science, law or a related field; and should aspire to have a future career in environmental science or a related field. A stipend is provided, although students are responsible for their housing.

Based in Palm Beach County, the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation and Florida Environmental Institute is a champion for the restoration and preservation of the greater Everglades ecosystem through science-based education and outreach programs. Annually, more than 25,000 elementary and high school students in Palm Beach County actively participate in the Marshall Foundation's various education programs. Founded

in 1998, the nonprofit organization has in recent years awarded more than \$400,000 in scholarships and internships, planted nearly 100,000 native Florida trees in wetland areas, and involved more than 5,000 volunteers in hands-on restoration projects. The Founda-

tion is located in Lake Worth.

For additional information, please call 561-233-9004, e-mail rebecca@artmarshall.com or visit www.artmarshall.org. The website includes an online application and more details of the program.

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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 10: Sha'Myra Williams, Chaundra Wingfield, Jorge Garcia, Darvin Juarez-Jeronimo, Zachary Marker, Michael Lippman, Talasia Rowe, Kalinah Luna, Maylin Campos, Daniel Hernandez, Sarahi Montoya, Jo'Niya Sewell, Jo'Navia Sewell, Patricia Dunn, Esmeralda Toribio, Juan Baltazar, Luiz Reynoso, Gerardo Baltazar, Kyle Detzer, Victor Salazar-Prado, Alexis Garcia, Jose Windham, Jonathan Thomas, Liberty Kuschel, Andrea Olvera and Joel Treadway.

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*some restrictions may apply. Call for additional details



Okeechobee News/Diana Whitehall

Guest speaker

The Thursday, March 22, Kiwanis meeting was held at The Lodge at the Lake Family Restaurant. In the photo, left to right are Theresa Garbarino-May, executive director of CASTLE, Teaching Safe Parenting; Greg Thogersen, Kiwanis President and Rossana Gonzalez, community relations with CASTLE. Theresa and Rossana were the speakers who talked to the Kiwanis members about CASTLE whose Mission Statement is "Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect through Education and Awareness" and they serve St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties. CASTLE offers parenting expertise through in-home counseling; monitored visitations; classes for first time parents; parents who are divorcing; and for children who are experiencing the stress and confusion of divorce. CASTLE also honors the memory of children who have lost their lives in the State of Florida as a result of abuse and neglect with their Memory Flag Field – each flag holding a card bearing the name and age of a child who died as a result of abuse. They currently have an office at New Endeavor High School, but they are looking for a new office location as well as monetary donations. For more information, please visit www.castletc.org.

Ear, Nose, Throat practice announces further education

Drs. Berghash & Lanza, of South Coast Ear, Nose & Throat (SCENT) is proud to announce that Nicole R. Leach, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, attended the 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, earlier this month in Orlando.

This meeting provided allergy, asthma, and immunology professionals with the latest research in the field, as well as an extensive program of educational sessions. Some of the topics included food allergy

diagnosis in adults and children; allergy diagnostics and immunotherapy; asthma diagnosis and treatment in the pediatric and adult population; venom allergy and immunotherapy; and atopic dermatitis treatment, to name a few.

Mrs. Leach attended an array of seminars and courses during the six-day conference, and felt the information and research presented will be beneficial to the asthma and allergy patients here at SCENT.

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I: "THE HUNGER GAMES"

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]

II: "OCTOBER BABY"

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]

III: "DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX"

Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 [PG]

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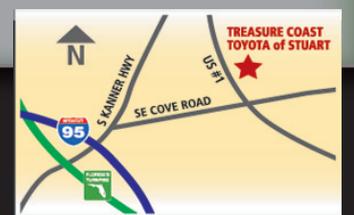
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