



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 43

Sunday, April 8, 2012

75¢ Plus tax



**Happy Easter!**

**Florida building codes among the toughest**

... Page 3

**Lake Levels**

**12.19 feet**

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## Pet Fest Fun



**Eli Deckard, 6, enjoyed cotton candy at the recent Pet Fest event at the Humane Society/Pet Rescue in Okeechobee. For more on the event, see page 5.**

## Cattle owners address SFWMD lease issues

SFWMD remains silent

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

"In Okeechobee we have a saying that character counts. I believe that and it's fundamental to me."

Louis E. 'Woody' Larson spoke those words earlier this week in a meeting between representatives of this newspaper and officials from the Old River Cattle Company. The purpose of that meeting was to let Mr. Larson and his partners, Ricou Hartman and Jeffrey Clemons, state their position in regard to their cattle grazing lease with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

During the nearly two-hour meeting several points were touched on, but two of the more dwelled-upon points were the cutting of hay on their property and why their lease on SFWMD-owned land has never gone out for bid.

Old River is currently operating off a 2006 lease that is somewhat different and more restrictive than the newer leases being given by SFWMD. That lease has been extended several times since 2006, with the most recent extension coming in December of 2011. That extension gives Old River use of the district's property until 2022.

The old lease contains requirements that the district's other current leases do not. That old lease prohibits altering of the land which includes, but is not limited to, mowing. It also states that lessees cannot grant interviews to the media. And, because of that, the Old River group had to get written permission from the district before their April 4 meeting with this newspaper—which, they did.

Starting with the haying issue, Mr. Hartman explained that Old River has been baling hay on the property ever since they entered into their agreement with the district. He said some of the round bales are moved to property owned by Old River on the south side of S.R. 78 W., and some are given to the independent contractor as payment for doing the mowing and baling. The rest, he said, stays on the property.

The property being leased by Old River are three non-contiguous parcels north of S.R. 78 W. and just west of the Kissimmee River.

Mr. Hartman went on to explain that his company contacts the district to get permission each time they cut and bale hay.

See SFWMD — Page 9

## FPL to install 'smart meters'

**By Pete Gawda**  
Okeechobee News

Soon electric meters in the area will be able to signal Florida Power & Light (FP&L) of a power failure before the customer has had a chance to call the utility, and also help customers lower their electric bills.

The new meters, called "smart meters" by FP&L are only a part of an FP&L program to modernize the electrical grid, thus making more efficient use of electricity and providing better custom-

er service. While the smart meters are only a part of the program they are the most visible to the customer, according to Dennis Reynolds, general manager of smart meter deployment for FP&L.

"We're excited about the benefits to our customers," Mr. Reynolds said.

Mr. Reynolds said that other devices to enhance the electrical grid have to be installed before the smart meters are installed. Those preliminary installations have been completed for Okeechobee

See FPL — Page 8

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Tara Rowley



## CARE Award presented

The Economic Council of Okeechobee proudly presents (at left) Robert Gent, Vice President of Lynch Paving and Construction Company, Inc. and (at right) Okeechobee Asphalt and Ready Mixed Concrete, Inc. with the Community Award Recognizing Enhancement, or CARE Award, for the first quarter of 2012. Located at 503 N.W. 9th Street in Okeechobee, the companies are recognized for the purchase and demolition of two dilapidated structures, as well as, landscaping, painting and general cleaning of their facility. Efforts are currently under way to replace their existing asphalt plant with a new, more efficient plant. The Economic Council of Okeechobee developed this quarterly award to acknowledge and promote the beautification businesses such as these have implemented to improve our community, realizing that first impressions and aesthetics are important factors to visitors and potential investors. In the photo are: (left to right) Tara Rowley, Sandy Perry, Donna Helton and Robert Gent.

## Okeechobee Forecast

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**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. East northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

**Sunday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. East southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.



### Extended Forecast

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Calm wind.

**Monday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. East wind around 5 mph becoming south.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. West northwest wind around 5 mph.

**Tuesday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. Calm wind becoming west northwest around 5 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. North northwest wind at 5 mph.

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# Florida building codes tough

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Florida recently got a high score on its building code. "It does not surprise me," Okeechobee County Building Official Arnold Verwey said. "We were always in the forefront." Even before Hurricane Andrew caused a revision of building codes, Mr. Verwey said Florida led the way.

Florida and Virginia head the list of coastal states that have the strictest building codes. The Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), recently issued a report grading the building codes of 18 hurricane prone states that border the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The IBHS is an independent, scientific, research and communications organization supported by the property insurance industry.

Out of a possible 100 points, Florida and Virginia both scored 95 and New Jersey scored 93. The IBHS says these high scores are the result of strong building codes and enforcement procedures.

"The report goes beyond just evaluating each state's code system," said Julie Richman IBHS president and CEO. "The report offers each state the detailed information and tools it needs to improve its building code process to better protect its citizens. It also give interested citizens useful information so that they can understand the need for, and demand, better building codes." The IBHS devised a 100 point grading system that rates state building codes according to 47 data points in three areas: code adoption and enforcement, code official training and certification and licensing requirements for construction trades.

Florida received 48 out of a possible 50 points for code adoption and enforcement, 22 out of a possible 25 for code official certification and training and a perfect 25 score for contractor licensing. On the negative side, the report stated that the state does not require fire sprinklers for one and two family dwellings and townhouses as is required by the 2009 International Residential Code.

Mr. Verwey said that in Florida, all building

officials, inspectors and plans examiners must have a state license as do all general, plumbing, electrical and mechanical, and roofing contractors.

Mr. Verwey said that if a building does not meet the Florida code, the inspector will reinspect until it is done right. However, after the third time with the same infraction, fines can be imposed.

The building official said it was possible to build for any disaster including earthquakes. However, the question is, "Can you afford it?"

Mr. Verwey that there is a variety of licensing requirements around the country with some states requiring no licensing. He said that in Texas a building permit is required in the cities, but not in rural areas.

In Virginia, general contractors and roofing contractors are not required to complete continuing education as they are in Florida. The number three state, New Jersey, registers contractors, but they are not required to take an examination or complete continuing education.

At the bottom of the list is Mississippi with a grade of 4. The state has no statewide building code and very few licensing requirements. General contractors are the only trade that has to take an examination and there is no mechanism to discipline contractors.

This report comes as no surprise to the insurance industry, according to local insurance agent Ronnie Lawrence. While there has not previously been a numerical ranking system, Mr. Lawrence said an insurance company seeking to do business in a state checks out the building codes as they have a bearing on insurance rates in that state. He said Florida's stricter building code helps lower insurance rates in the state. "It's good for the state," Mr. Lawrence said of the state's strict building code. He said new companies coming into a state are very particular about such things. Mr. Verwey recounted the story of a builder who moved from a state with a strict building code to a state with no statewide code. This builder found he could build a house without a building permit, but he could not get it insured.

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(The upcoming April 10<sup>th</sup> OUA meeting will also be posted)

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## Public Forum/Speak Out

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

### Happy Easter

• A very Happy Easter to everyone in Okeechobee. Take a little time on Easter to tell your family members just how much they mean to you.

### Bluegrass festival

• I have been watching the paper for a couple of weeks now to see if you were going to post anything about the First Annual Okeesimnee Bluegrass Festival. My husband and I attended this festival at the Okeetantie Campgrounds and were amazed at how professionally this event was run. It is a shame that they obviously have had little to no support from this community for this event. They brought in professional acts from around the nation to perform and I am sure that was not cheap. I only saw a handful of local people there, so I assume the majority was from out county and out of state. The campground appeared to be full which I have not seen in a very long time. I hope the low attendance does not stop this couple from bringing another bluegrass festival back to Okeechobee. Hopefully, if they decide to do this again, the community will help support them like they do the mud fest and fishing tournaments. After all, bluegrass is good family entertainment.

### Banyon tree cut down

• Ficus benjamina or just Ficus is an exotic and probably what is being referred to as Bayon trees. It can be a houseplant, hedge or grow into a large tree. The Florida strangler fig, Ficus aurea, is native.

• There are native Florida "strangler figs." There are some beautiful ones that are protected in state parks. It's the non-native figs that cause the problems. IFAS generally advises gardeners to stick to native Florida plants because they are best suited for the environment. The non-native plants often wind up becoming invasive when the seeds are spread by birds.

• When planting a tree, consider how tall it will be at maturity when deciding how close to put it to your home. Much of the damage in 2004 and 2005 during the hurricanes was from trees falling on houses, power lines, etc.

• Some "tree huggers" don't seem to understand that not all trees are good for the environment of a particular place. The Brazilian pepper trees are a blight on Florida and very difficult to control. The Melaleuca trees are a terrible problem in the Everglades. Neither of these trees belong in Florida, but they grow well here and spread because their natural enemies—insects which control their growth in their native habitats—are not here. These invasives crowd out native trees. The Melaleuca trees release a poison into the soil that will not let anything else grow. In some places they are so thick that they crowd out the native wildlife. If it's not native, don't plant it in Florida. Ask the Extension Office if you are not sure. There are lots of choices of beautiful native vegetation that will look great in your yard and be good for the local environment.

• I am at war with the Brazilian Pepper trees and some days I think they are winning. I have to wear long sleeves and gloves to cut them back and try to keep them off my property. If I even brush against their leaves with my bare skin, I get a rash. But my neighbors just let them grow wild on their property because they think they are "pretty." I wish the state would do more to educate people about what a bad thing the pepper trees are for the Florida environment.



### Zimmerman

• A rush to justice is not what is needed right now. Guilt or innocence will be determined through a thorough investigation, which should have been done from the onset and not given room for such speculation and deterioration. I am not saying Zimmerman is innocent nor am I saying guilty ... I am beginning to see however there may be more to this story than what the media originally told. This is one of those cases that I will wait and see what our Justice Department decides.

• I want the jury to sort it out rather than the DA or police.

## Reflections from the pulpit

### Where to find the real treasure

By Calvin Fryar, pastor  
Brighton Baptist Church

Mark 13:28—Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."

An old man lay dying. He was very poor and did not have many possessions. However, he had a Bible which he treasured very much. He called for it to be read from the passage which he had opened it to, and after the reading he closed it and handed it to his grandson. As he received it from the hand of his grandfather, the old man said, "Son, this is all that I have to leave you, but if you read it, you will find a treasure inside."

Years went by and the young man fell on hard times. He lost almost every thing he owned; then one day he remembered the old Bible left him by his grandfather. While he was reading it and turning the pages a one hundred-dollar bill fell out; he turned several more pages and another—then another and another.... When the old man had told him that there was treasure in the Bible, he had taken it to mean only a spiritual treasure.

The young man found enough money within the Bible to get back on his financial feet and pay off all of his outstanding debts. He had not expected to find such a treasure between the pages of his grandfather's Bible, but he continued to read the Bible. And as a result, he discovered an even greater treasure—his soul's salvation.

It is one thing to read and try to memorize certain verses in the Bible. But it is another to internalize it. We must store it in our heart and in that way its power will always be with us. We do that by obeying the Word of God.

There is a story of a missionary in Korea who had a visit from a native convert who lived a hundred miles away, and who walked four days to reach the mission station. The pilgrim recited proudly, without a single mistake, the whole of the Sermon on the Mount. The missionary was delighted, but he felt that he ought to warn the man that memorizing was not enough—that it was necessary to practice the words as well as to memorize them.

The Korean's face lit up with happy smiles. "That is the way I learned it," he said. "I tried to memorize it, but it wouldn't stick. So I hit upon this plan—I would memorize a verse and then find a heathen neighbor of mine and practice it on him. Then I found it would stick."

Psalm 119:11 says that we should hide it in our heart that we might not sin against God. We need the Word of God in our hearts for spiritual strength—it is food for our soul.

J. Wilbur Chapman once came to F. B. Meyer with the question, "What is the matter with

me? So many times I seem half empty, and so many times utterly powerless; what is the matter?" He put his hand on Chapman's shoulder and answered, "Have you ever tried to breathe out three times without breathing in once?"

Thinking it might be some new breathing exercise. Chapman answered, "I do not think I have." "Well," said Meyer, "try it." So he breathed out once, and then he had to breathe in again. "Don't you know," said Dr. Meyer, "that you must always breathe in before you breathe out, and that your breathing out is in proportion to your breathing in?" We must always fill the reservoir by prayer and a meditative study of the Word before we can draw out for service.—Walter B. Knight. Knight's Treasury

Inhale God's Word...exhale spiritual strength....Inhale God's Word...exhale spiritual strength: that is the key to a growing relationship with the Lord. If your goal in life is to find some great treasure, don't ignore God's Word. You will find within its pages the greatest treasure of all—the real treasure is that Jesus is with us and protects us from he who would rob us of our soul—the real treasure is Jesus.

A lieutenant in the United States Army and his buddy were on some far-off battle front. They were sent off on an important mission. When the enemy discovered them, the lieutenant faced them, saying to himself, "Lord, it's your responsibility now." As he reached for his carbine, a shot from one of them struck him in the breast and blasted him down. Thinking he was dead, his pal grabbed his carbine and blasted away with both guns. He received three bullet wounds, but when he finished not one of the enemy was left.

The lieutenant wrote his sister in Pennsylvania: "He was amazed when I rolled over and tried to get up. The force of that bullet had only stunned me. Dazedly, wondering why, I pulled my Bible out of my pocket and in utter muteness looked at the ugly hole in the cover. It had ripped through Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and kept going. Where do you think it stopped? In the middle of the Ninety-first Psalm, pointing like a finger at this verse, 'A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand shall fall at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.' I did not know such a verse was in the Bible....In utter humility I said, 'Thank You, precious God.'"—From a leaflet, "A Lieutenant's Miraculous Escape."

If you are looking for a treasure or an inheritance that will last, you will find it only in the Bible.

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### Okeechobee News

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### We Pledge...

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

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

### MEMBER



## Letters to the Editor

### Easter

To the cross He was sent to die  
Mankind to free from sin thereby  
Mocked, scorned and spit upon  
Bearing the cross He still went on  
Oh Lord in my mind in the garden I see Thee



Suffering anguish that Thou, the sinless one, must the sin bearer be  
The treacherous kiss, the scourging and beating that marred Thee  
The jeering crowd, crucify Him, on Him they ridiculed  
And Thou didst allow the Soldiers Thee to the cross be nailed.  
Finally Thou came to that awful place  
Skin torn, with a bruised and bloody face  
As the suffering lambs on the cross Thee lay  
Allowing Thyself to be nailed on that horrible day.  
Raised up on a cross Thou were left to die

Upon the cross between Heaven and Earth suspended  
Received not by those Thou didn't come to see  
Truly alone when a Holy God turned His back on Thee  
Black darkness covered the scene  
So mankind couldn't see Thee by God abandoned

The earth did shake, the temple veil was rent  
The Centurion said, "Truly this was God's son who He'd sent  
Loving hands from the cross took Thee down  
And lovingly laid Thee in that darksome tomb.

Their faces reflected their sorrow and gloom  
Then the stone was rolled to seal the tomb.

The soldiers sat and at the tomb did watch  
To make certain Thy lovers couldn't spirit Thee away

Thy father watched over Thee as in the tomb Thou lay

He spoke to Thee to arise and death fled away.

Mary from Thee a special message was given  
She ran to tell it and two, to the tomb did come

One stooped; entered and discovered Thee gone

The grave clothes only were still lying there

Then they remembered their Lord's words

In three days this temple I will destroy  
And in three days raise it up if I will  
He lives, He lives was their joyful shout  
That brought scores of others round about

And we Thy believe to this very day  
Rejoice that Thou arose from the tomb where Thou lay

Thou wast received back to glory from

whence Thee came

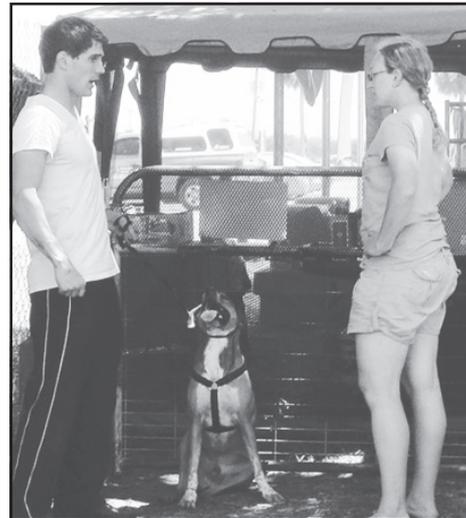
Honors rare by Thy Fathers were heaped upon Thee there

At the Father's right hand, crowned with glory sits Thee

Interceding for us until that glorious day Thy face we see

And we'll praise Thy name for all eternity.

**Andrew R. McKillop**  
**Okeechobee**



Special to the Okeechobee News/**Pet Rescue Animal Behaviorist, Tibor came to the Pet Rescue/Humane Society on Saturday, March 31, and gave local pet owners some tips on how to help your dog be better behaved.**

### Pet Fest event

Saturday's Easter event along with the dog behaviorist seminar was awesome! So many volunteers new and old came to the rescue and helped us, this event made me so happy that my eyes were tearing up. I owe so much to the wonderful people who stepped up to make it the great event it was. Families came to have fun and enjoy free goodies, and have pictures taken with the Easter Bunny, hand painting masterpieces by their children, yard sale goodies, and much more.

Tibor, the dog behaviorist did the most educational but entertaining seminar ever. Tickets sold offered a one-hour long class, but ended up being three hours long. He addressed each and every dog owner's concerns in the class.

I'm trying to get another seminar scheduled very soon with Tibor. So many more owners and their dogs can benefit from his behavior modification class.

Thank you to all who got the word out for us, all who contributed food, items to give away and sell, decorations, event volunteers. Last, but by far not least Lonnie, Lisa, Josie and their crew who did all of the hard work to prepare the kennel grounds for our guests.

**Belinda E. Forlifer, Director**  
**Humane Society Pet Rescue**  
**Okeechobee**

### On being kind

I am a mother and a grandmother. We always taught our children to be kind to all other children. God made us all with a heart and that means no mean or ugly things to other children. If someone says mean and ugly things to you, it will hurt your heart too. I am so sorry for Trayvon Martin's family. I sincerely hope that justice for this family is rendered.

**Thanks and may God bless each of you,**

**Frankie Russell Edwards**  
**Okeechobee**

### Fundraiser event

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Special Olympics and Relay for Life teams would like to thank all of the businesses for their donations and the community for buying dinners at our recent BBQ fundraiser.

You made our event a great success.

**Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office**

### Kopp -vs- SFWMD & ORCC

Mr. Kopp,

Who are you after: SFWMD or Old River Cattle Company? Front page once again? This story is no longer even news. Yet you continue to assume it is and that everyone else wants to hear more and more and ..... It appears you want to be lawyer, judge, and jury on an issue that is your personal vendetta. If you feel so strongly, please hire a real lawyer and stop using the Okeechobee News as your own venting grounds. It seems to me your interests in this story goes far beyond what your readers want or are interested in. On April 1, I wondered if this was a joke from you. I kept waiting to read "Happy April Fool's Day." Sadly, I did not find it.

**Sheila L Spors**

### Thank you from Okeechobee Christian Academy!

Okeechobee Christian Academy (O.C.A.) would like to thank everyone who participated in making the third Annual Easter Basket Give-A-Way a huge success! This year we were able to make 118 Easter baskets for children in our community that may not otherwise receive a basket. Each basket was loaded with goodies such as books, crayons, pencils, Play-Doh, toys, candy and stuffed animals. We would like to say a special thank you to Seacoast National Bank for giving us 100 baskets to fill, and TD Bank for giving us additional baskets and goodies to fill them with. We also want to thank The B.R.A.T. Club, Waste Management, Teez 2 Pleez, American Drilling Services, Inc., the O.C.A. families and all of the individuals who gave so generously to fill up the baskets. O.C.A. students had a great time preparing each basket. They took their time and put lots of love into assembling each basket. Communities In Schools is kind enough to accept the baskets and to distribute them

to the appropriate children in Okeechobee County. It is such a blessing to be part of this event and we are so thankful for everyone who has made this possible.

**Sarah Reno**  
**OCA staff**



Special to the Okeechobee News/**OCA kids participated in making the school's Easter Basket giveaway a successful one for the third year in a row.**

### Okeechobee what is going on!

What's happening in the news? The Trayvon Martin case has dominated the news on every level. Facts are coming out similar to a skirt hem unraveling...Sanford police department attorneys Benajamin Crump and Daryl Parks are from Tallahassee, FSU graduates, former BSU (Black Student Union, president and VP) so these guys have won cases in North Florida in the Martin Lee Anderson case, Panama City and the boot camp case.

Life is all about choices. I do believe the neighborhood volunteer, George Zimmerman could have called Trayvon's dad or asked questions before the fatal, tragic loss of life occurred. So marches, protests—again Florida is in the spot light. Lord have mercy!

Meanwhile in other news, politics, GOP debate over Etch A Sketch, Supreme Court heard the Affordable Health Care Act—no verdict until late June. So wait, and see.

St. Stephens A.M.E. Church had a wonderful dedication ceremony for their new church on March 24. A bright light in the Douglas Brown Community. The church with a heart for the people and Sheriff May attended the dedication.

The reason Obama will be re-elected is the economy is up. He is one of the greatest debaters, family man, morals, bailout auto industry, tried bipartisan, fought for veterans, bailed out Wall Street. America is recovering, end Congress grid lock, fair health care for all. Americans vote!

**Brenda Scott, 2012**

## Community Events

### Easter services planned

The Okeechobee Ministerial Association will host an Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, **April 8**, from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. at the Okeechobee Lock 7 Pier (where U.S. 441 meets State Road 78). The services will include congregational singing and special music by the Okeechobee Community Choir Men's Quartet. Donations will be accepted for Faith Farm ministries. Participants are encouraged to bring their own chairs, blankets, coffee and hot chocolate.

### BHR VFW plans dinner

The Buckhead Ridge VFW Post on State Road 78 West will host an Easter dinner on Sunday, **April 8**, from noon to 4 p.m. The menu will include ham, sweet potatoes, peas with new carrots and dessert. The VFW asks for a \$7 per person donation to benefit veterans' projects. The public is invited. For more information, call 863-467-2882. The VFW will also hold five-card bingo at 5 p.m.

### Radio Club to meet

Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club will be holding its April business meeting on Monday, **April 9**, at the Red Cross Classroom found at 323 North Parrott Ave in Okeechobee. All members and anyone with an interest in Ham Radio is urged to attend. The business meeting begins promptly at 7 p.m. and usually lasts about an hour.

For more information on the meeting, contact club President, Tom Timmons at 863-467-5435 and leave a message.

### Speech contest planned

Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Speech Contest, "SHOULD FOOD CROPS BE USED FOR FUEL?" will be held, **April 10**. The contest is open to any Okeechobee County students, grades 6 through 12. First place is \$200. For a complete list of rules and entry form contact 763-3619 ext. 501, email: jared.prescott@fl.nacdnet.net or visit [www.okeechobeeswcd.com](http://www.okeechobeeswcd.com). Deadline is April 9.

### Christian Business Breakfast planned

Christian Business Breakfast, every other Monday at the Hampton Inn, 8 a.m., breakfast only \$5. Come meet some new friends and enjoy the Bible study with Brandon Tucker leading. It's a great way to start the week! Next one will be Monday, **April 9**.

### Coffee with a commissioner

The April "Coffee with a Commissioner," set for Tuesday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Holiday Inn Express on U.S. Highway 441 (Parrott Avenue) will feature Okeechobee County Commissioner Bryant Cullpepper. The gathering is open to the public. No appointments are necessary. Commissioner Cullpepper will discuss plans for Okee-Tantie and answer questions from the public.

### OCEA to hold final meeting of school year

The Okeechobee County Education Association (OCEA) will have its final General Membership Meeting of the 2012-13 school year on Thursday, **April 12** at 4:30 p.m. in the media center of South Elementary, 2468 SW 7th Ave. All OCEA members of the Instructional and Classified Bargaining Unit are encouraged to attend. Potential members may join at the meeting. Come hear the latest on the Teacher Evaluation Impasse Hearing scheduled for April 18 and current legislative issues affecting public education employees. They also will be entertaining nominations for OCEA officers. Door prizes and refreshments will be available. Contact OCEA at 863-467-1564 for more information.

### Chamber Concealed Weapons Permit Class

The Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee is hosting a Concealed Weapons Permit Class on Thursday, **April 19**, at the Hampton Inn from 7 to 9 pm. Range training will be conducted on the following Saturday morning. The cost of the class is \$30, and a concealed weapon permit package will be provided to each participant. You do not need to own a gun to attend class. Preregistration and prepayment is required at the time of registration. Register online at [www.okeechobeebusiness.com](http://www.okeechobeebusiness.com). Go to calendar of events and click on the April 19, 2012 Concealed Weapons Permit Class. Then follow instructions to register online. You may also complete a registration form at the Hampton Inn. If you should have additional questions, please contact the Chamber at [terry@okeechobeebusiness.com](mailto:terry@okeechobeebusiness.com) or 863-467-6246.

### DAR to meet

The Okeechobee Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will hold their last meeting for the 2011=2012 season on Saturday, **April 14** at 10 a.m. in the Okeechobee county Library. All members and prospective members are invited to attend. Meetings will resume Oct. 6, 2012. For questions contact Kenna Noonan 863-634-5669.

### KOA hosts annual benefit dinner

The Ninth Annual Ham Dinner for KOA Kids Care Camp (with all the trimmings) will be Saturday, **April 14**, at Good Spirits 245 Hwy 441 S.E. beginning at noon. Dinners are \$6, eat in or take out. It will be a fun-filled day with games and music. Support our fundraiser to help the little ones at the KOA Cancer Camps. For more information, call 863-763-2734.

### Freedom Outreach fishing tournament

The Freedom Outreach fishing tournaments will be held on Sunday, **April 15**, May 13, June 10, July 15, Aug. 12 and the championship on Sept. 9 (\$120). The \$80 (cash only) entry fee includes the big fish pot and championship fund. You must fish at least four tournaments to be in the championship event! All tournaments will be held at Okee-Tantie Marina Boat Ramp from safe light until 2 p.m. Food and drinks free at weigh in. Please call 561-719-5989 or 863-634-8127 to register or with questions.

### Art and Music Fest calls artists and performers

Okeechobee Main Street is sending a CALL FOR ARTISTS—Booth, Adult Gallery and Students—to participate in the 2012 Top of the Lake Art and Music Festival. They are also looking for Farmer's Market vendors and representatives from various ethnic groups to perform. This exciting event will take place on Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15, in Flagler Park off State Road 70 in downtown Okeechobee. In addition to amazing artwork on display and for sale by Florida and local artists, the Art and Music Fest will include a children's art and activity section, farmer's market and a salute to our local ethnic groups. On Saturday musical entertainment will fill the air and a special presentation of selections from Broadway will be performed by the students at Leslie's Dance Studio. The highlight of the Art and Music Fest will be the special dedication of the Okeechobee Main Street's 5th mural project on the Old Bank Building Mural on State Road 70. This is a not-to-miss event for anyone who enjoys culture, history or just a pleasant walk through the parks!

### Win an iPad! support the American Cancer Society

We need your support and you can win an iPad for yourself! Raffle tickets are being sold for \$10 each at Big Lake Cancer Center, 1115 N. Parrott Ave. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society for the Relay for Life Event here in Okeechobee. The drawing is on Saturday, **April 14**, during the closing ceremonies of Relay for Life at about 10 a.m. at the Cattleman's Rodeo Arena.

### BHR VFW Auxiliary plans breakfast

Buckhead Ridge VFW Ladies Auxiliary 9528 will have their monthly Sunday morning breakfast on **April 15** starting at 9 to 11 a.m. They will have sausage, biscuits and gravy, eggs any way you want them, juice and coffee for a donation of \$5. The event is open to the public. Any questions please call the post at 863-467-2882.

### Shockwaves registration open

The Okeechobee County Recreation Department will hold registration for the Shockwaves competitive swimming team on **April 16** and 17 at the Sports Complex Pool, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 for the league fee and \$60 for the team fee. This is a competitive swim league for ages 5-18 practice is held three days a week in the afternoons until summer and then goes to five days a week with morning practice. Meets are held on Saturdays. The team does travel to meets in other counties and to the regional finals.

### 'Fake' marijuana use a growing problem

Paula Friedrich, Delinquency Prevention Specialist, Department of Juvenile Justice will share information about the growing problem of "fake marijuana" use among teens, at the Okeechobee Juvenile Justice Council meeting on Friday, **April 20**, at noon a, Beef O'Brady's. The presentation was put together by the St. Lucie County Sheriff's office.

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Special to the Okeechobee News

### Pet of the Week

Haley, a Dalmatian mix, was owner surrendered because she had too much energy for the owner. She's very playful. Adoption fee is \$175, which includes spay and current shots. She 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](http://petfinder.com). Homes are also needed to "foster" animals who are waiting for a permanent adoptive home.

## Consult-A-Nurse offers free physician referrals & health information

Consult-A-Nurse is a free community service from the HCA Hospitals in your area designed to help you find the doctor who fits your specific needs.

Finding the right physician can be challenging. Whether you are new to the area or just exploring your options, there are many things you will need to consider before establishing a relationship with a physician, including:

- The right medical skills and experience;
- Someone you and your family feel comfortable with;
- Office hours and a location to fit your schedule; and,
- Participation in your insurance plan or healthcare network.

Consult-A-Nurse can be contacted for information on free community healthcare programs and screenings, like Raulerson Hospital's Dine with the Doctor program. Consult-A-Nurse's staff provide up-to-date details on community events at HCA hospitals near you.

Registered nurses are just a phone call away to provide consultation and prompt answers to your health-related questions. Consult-A-Nurse nurses do not diagnose conditions, but provide health information in an effort to help callers find an answer to their health questions.

Consult-A-Nurse can also provide callers with free healthcare information on a variety of subjects including diabetes care, cardiac services and more. Consult-A-Nurse is fast, convenient and free.

Call Consult-A-Nurse at 863-763-9228.

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# FPL

Continued From Page 1

and some small adjoining portions of Glades and Highland counties. Post cards are scheduled to be sent to about 24,100 FP&L customers in the area on Monday, April 9, informing them of the program. Installation of the meters in individual homes in the area is scheduled to begin the following Monday. Installation is expected to be completed in June with the program to be fully operational for this area in October or November.

The system provides two way communication with FP&L and will eliminate the need for a meter reader to come on a person's property. It has automatic feeder switches to route electricity instantly to where it is needed based on current demand. Mr. Reynolds compared these switches to routing traffic around construction zones.

Mr. Reynolds said the system will have a lot of redundancy to help prevent power failures. However, when they do occur, they can be dealt with much faster. Currently the only way FP&L knows of a power failure is when the customer calls in.

"This is the phone call," Mr. Reynolds said. The smart meter will immediately alert FP&L of a power failure. The utility will instantly know the location and extent of the power failure and can dispatch the truck that is closest to the area.

The smart meter will also allow customers to lower their electric bills. When the system is fully operational, customers will have access to what FP&L calls an online energy dashboard. By going to a computer a customer can obtain an hour-by-hour readout of electricity use by the amount of electricity and the cost. However, the system only measures overall electricity use and does not have the ability to determine which appliances the customer is using. The customer can compare the dashboard with the use of appliances to determine how to use appliances more efficiently to conserve the use of electricity. The dashboard can also esti-



Special to the Okeechobee News/FP&L Smart meters, like the one shown here, will soon be installed for FP&L customers in the area. Smart meters will immediately notify FP&L of a power failure and provide customers with information allowing them to use electricity more efficiently.

mate the customer's next electric bill based on past use of electricity. The utility says that customers can make more informed choices about their electric use based on information gained from the dashboard.

With smart meters both the customer and the FP&L representative can see detailed information when customers call, helping to resolve issues more efficiently.

In 2007/2008 Mr. Reynolds said FP&L started a pilot program, enhancing the grid and installing smart meters, which are made in Bradenton. The utility began phasing in the program statewide in the last quarter of 2009. Currently out of approximately 4.5 million customers statewide, smart meters have been installed for 3.2 million customers and the system is completely operational for 2.5 million customers. The goal is to have system fully operational statewide by 2013.

For more information go to [www.fpl.com/EnergySmart](http://www.fpl.com/EnergySmart).

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# SFWMD

Continued From Page 1

"I don't see where it's a big deal," said Mr. Hartman. "You want to cut hay because it pulls phosphorous out of the soil. We did what we were supposed to do by contacting the district."

Mr. Hartman pointed out that the newer leases actually require the lessee to mow the property.

Before the haying process begins, Mr. Hartman said they contact Justin Nolte, SFWMD's land manager for the property, to get his verbal permission.

A check of Mr. Nolte's inspection reports indicate that Old River has taken good care of the property and managed it properly.

"They hold our feet to the fire," he said of the inspectors.

Why hasn't Old River's lease ever been put out for bids as required by state statute?

Mr. Hartman's wife, Janet, said the district did not have to solicit bids. "The statute is really silent on assignments," said Mrs. Hartman, an environmental and land use attorney in Palm City who also attended the meeting. "There was no obligation for them (SFWMD) to put it out for bid because they were assuming the lease, which they had the right not to assume if they wanted to. There's nothing in the law that addresses the assignment."

She was referring to the lease that was in place on the property when the district purchased the property from Pomcor, Inc., in May of 2006. The lease had only been in effect for one day prior to water manage-

## "They hold our feet to the fire,"

— Ricou Hartman  
Old River Cattle Company

ment taking possession of the deed on May 11, 2006.

In recent weeks SFWMD's leasing policy has been under fire—specifically, their alleged violation of Florida state statute 373.093. That statute states that all of the district's leases must be put out for competitive bid, unless there is diminutive value.

Diminutive value generally results in a reduced purchase price the district has to pay as the value of a lease is deducted from the cost of the land. The district currently has several such leases in effect.

However, two area leases that were extended in December of 2011 do not have diminutive value—Old River's lease and Alisa Sherman-Harris' lease in Highlands County.

In a 2010 interview, SFWMD's Ruth Clements explained that Mrs. Sherman-Harris apparently had some 80 head of cattle on the district's property without a lease being in place. She was given the choice of removing the cattle or entering into a lease. The cattle were removed.

Ms. Clements is the district's chief real estate specialist and oversees their land leasing program.

Then, in early 2011, the district advertised their intention to award bids on the property. Records show that Mrs. Sherman-Harris was the high bidder and was awarded the lease on April 8, 2011. That lease was then extended on Dec. 13, 2011, until April 7, 2022.

Since there is no diminutive value on this Highlands County property or the Glades County property why, then, wasn't Old River required to enter into a competitive bidding process the same as Mrs. Sherman-Harris?

"I don't know," replied Mr. Hartman. "If this is really illegal, somebody would have sued by now. You can bet after all this was stirred up last October that the district really put their attorneys to the test to see if they were really on solid footing.

"We have been in compliance with the lease and we've done everything we can do to be in compliance. We work hard to stay in compliance," he added.

Mr. Larson then commented on the district's leasing program by saying there are a lot of positive things going on—not only on their lease, but other leases as well.

"The South Florida Water Management District has a pretty big job and they have to manage resources for the good of the land, of the water and the people too," said Mr. Larson. "We need to keep these leases in place and we need to keep the cattle doing what they're doing—removing phosphorus. It's really a beneficial thing."

Still, there are numerous questions about the district's leasing practices that remain unanswered—mainly, why did some have to enter into a bid process to get a lease, while others didn't?

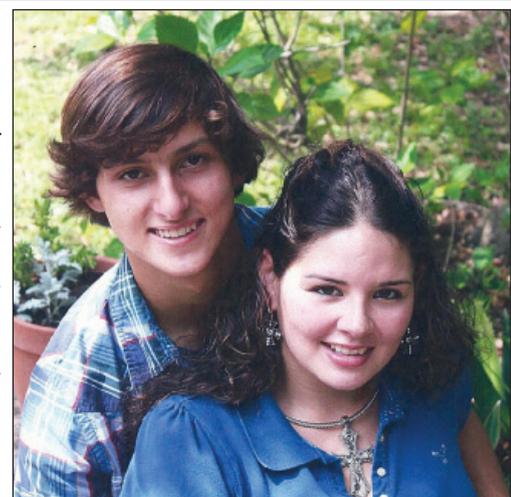
We don't know, and neither do the lessees.

And despite attempts to get that information, the person at the South Florida Water Management District who can answer that question has chosen to remain quiet.

### ENGAGEMENT

#### DEIDRA HANCOCK & TAYLOR ENFINGER

Mitchell and Paula Hancock of Okeechobee announce the engagement of their daughter, Deidra to Taylor Enfinger, son of Cindy and Danny Enfinger of Okeechobee. Taylor is presently employed at Superior Water Works and Deidra is working at Cowboy's BBQ. The couple plan to reside in Okeechobee. The ceremony will be held at Deidra's parents home on May 5, 2012, at 4 p.m.



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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 March 30: Hannah Moore, Jerimya White, Jose Monrroy, Ubaldito Rivas, Adolfo Lopez-Chavez, Luis Rojas-Ruiz, Antonio Zamora, Michael Thorton, Adelita Pina, Fernando Ramos-Baltazar, Sinrri Medina, Luiza Holsombach, Destiny Gorney, Saturnino Jaimes, Yareli Rojo, Alejandra Nunez, Ellioth Olvera, Yariza Hernandez, Chrishaila McKinney, Breanna Murphy, Jose Zepeda, Vilma Mungaray, Moises Fernandez, Justin Ray, Daniel Mingo and Wesley McClanahan.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

## Students of the Month

These high soaring Eagles earned Student of the Month at South Elementary School for the Month of March. Congratulations goes to: Kain Joles, Chase Hill, Madison Harrington, Andy Castellanos, Payton Collins, Matlyn Staton, Alexis Childs, Taylor Muffler, Brian Burton, Juan Navarro, Chase Mangold, Vance Denton, Bryce Johnson, Sharondra Jackson and Chancy Thomas.

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Special to the Okeechobee News

## Harney Pond Clean-Up Day

More than 30 residents of Lakeport gathered March 30 for the "Harney Pond Clean-Up Day" sponsored by the Lakeport Garden Club, the Glades County Board of County Commissioners and local citizens. Future plans for Harney Pond include re-surfacing of the access road, rehabbing the old restrooms, construction of a handicapped-accessible fishing pier and family oriented picnic areas. A special "thank-you" goes out to all who gave so generously of their time!

## Livestock Market Report

APRIL 2 & 3, 2012

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

COWS:	
BREAKING	80.00 - 90.00
CUTTER	74.00 - 82.00
CANNER	

BULLS	
1000-1500	95.00 - 103.00
1500-2000	100.00 - 106.00

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	216	448
COWS	167	340
STRS	8	24
HFRS	1	3
BULLS	22	22
YRLNGS	17	44
MIX	52	8
TOTAL	483	889

MED #1	STEERS	HEIFERS
150-200	- - -	- - -
200-250	250 - 285	220 - 260
250-300	230 - 260	200 - 220
300-350	210 - 230	185 - 200
350-400	200 - 223	170 - 185
400-450	190 - 213	160 - 175
450-500	180 - 198	153 - 168
500-550	171 - 185	147 - 153
550-600	160 - 170	143 - 153

MED #2	STEERS	HEIFERS
150-200	- - -	- - -
200-250	215 - 240	185 - 205
250-300	205 - 220	180 - 195
300-350	185 - 205	160 - 180
350-400	175 - 190	150 - 168
400-450	160 - 180	140 - 157

Slaughter Cows & Bulls \$1 lower. Calves were slightly lower, maybe \$1-\$2. Quality in general looked like most folks were cleaning up.

We have some really good Angus Bulls on hand...Call Us!

Keith Driggers, Indiantown, topped the calf market with a high of \$3.20, bought by Terry Bomhak. Barry Lewis, Okeechobee, topped the cow market with a high of 90.00, bought by Central Beef.

Pete

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**1001-H: Oak Tree Place**  
 In town condominium conveniently close to everything. Porch just off the kitchen area. Seller very motivated to sell. Unit #10-G Make offer! ~~\$52,000~~ **NOW \$39,000** MLS #203425

**5011-M: Four Seasons**  
 2006, 2br/2ba MH on 1/2 acre. Great location for east coast commuters! Fenced yard with 4 sheds, wooden front porch. Motivated seller, make an offer! ~~\$78,000~~ **NOW \$65,000** MLS #204129

**3006-H: Treasure Island**  
 lake access. CBS and frame home with front & back screen porch. Whether you're looking for a weekend retreat or a place to call home. ~~\$53,900~~ **NOW \$205626**

**3003-H: King's Bay**  
 - 2 Bd 2 bath, screened porch, concrete driveway. Easy to show. HOA includes pool, clubhouse, tennis court, and lawn. ~~\$54,000~~ **NOW \$47,900** MLS #205169

**3004-H: King's Bay**  
 - 2 Bedroom 2 bath, enclosed back porch and screened front porch, garage, appliance stay. HOA. Easy to show. ~~\$54,000~~ **NOW \$47,900** MLS #205168

**4002-H: Buckhead Ridge**  
 Lake Access two story 3 bd/2 ba. Upstairs & downstairs kitchen, lg storage bldg, hurricane shutters, seawall, RV Prkg. 2,560 sq. ft. of living. Way too much to list! ~~\$399,000~~ **NOW \$349,000** MLS #204356

**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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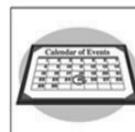
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Want the community to 'save the date' for your event? Place it on the Community Calendar up to a year in advance!



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See website for application & job description

Applications also available at City Hall, Office of the City Clerk, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974, 863-763-3372 ext. 215. Accepted until April 20, 2012, 4:30 p.m. Successful candidates are required to pass a pre-employment substance screening/physical. **EEO/ADA/GINA/VP/DFWP**

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## Employment Full Time

**Teez 2 Pleez** is looking for EXPERIENCED screen printers, must be knowledgeable in all phases of the business. Apply in person at 620 S. Parrott Ave.

**RECEPTIONIST OKEECHOBEE AIR COND.** Must be Bi-lingual, DFWP, Microsoft Word/Excel. Apply in person 312 SW 2nd St.

**TRUCK DRIVER NEEDED** CLASS A- CDL WITH HAZMAT AND TANKER ENDORSEMENT REQUIRED. APPLY WITHIN AT: DIAMOND R. FERTILIZER, 710 NE 5TH AVE.

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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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**2 BR, 1BA** - apartment, \$550/mo + utils. Located in city, NW section. Call John (863)697-0413 or (863)357-8769

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**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.



## Mobile Homes

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## Mobile Home Lots

**LOT FOR RENT:** Big "O" RV PARK: Yearly only. Avail. May 1st \$225 mo. (863)357-3830

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**\$700 A Month Steal** 3 Bed/2 Bath Dble wide Furnished. Built in 05. MINT CONDITION City water, 1st and last. No dogs and references. Call 863-801-1739

## Mobile Home Sale

**1986 SWMH** in Park, 14x48 2bd/1 1/2ba, very good condition, fully furnished. Must see, asking \$12,500 O.B.O., 3311 SE 33rd Ter. Lucky 7 Lot#3 Call 724-413-7057

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## Public Notice

### STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) gives notice of its intent to issue a major modification to the Lake Okeechobee Protection Program permit, in accordance with Section 373.4595, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to the South Florida Water Management District (District) for the addition of Phase II of the Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) Project (Department File No. 0287326-003). The application is available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Department's Office of Ecosystem Projects, Program Coordination and Regulation Section, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 24, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, telephone number (850) 245-3166.

Phase II construction activities will include five treatment cells south of the Preserve Area, Pump Station S-191A and the Outlet Canal for the entire STA, including culverts under U.S. Highway 98. Discharges and flows authorized by this permit are ultimately into Lake Okeechobee, a Class I water body, pursuant to Rule 62-302.400, F.A.C.

The Lakeside Ranch STA Project and its associated structures are located on a 2,700-acre parcel of land in southeastern Okeechobee and western Martin Counties between U.S. Highway 441 and U.S. Highway 98 east of Lake Okeechobee. The Lakeside Ranch STA is located within Sections 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, and 32, Township 38S, Range 37E, and Sections 4, 5, and 6, Township 39S, Range 37E. The L-63S/L-64 Canal Improvements and the access road to the Inflow Pump Station are located within Sections 13 and 24, Township 38S, Range 36E. The S-191A Pump Station is located within Section 6, Township 38S, Range 36E.

The Department's proposed agency action shall become final unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed pursuant to sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes before the deadline for filing a petition. The procedures for petitioning for a hearing are set forth below.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's proposed permitting decision may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) in accordance with sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. The petition must contain the information set forth below and must be filed (received) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000.

Petitions filed by any persons other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.63(3) of the Florida Statutes must be filed within 21 days of publication of the notice or receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. The petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the applicant at the address indicated above, at the time of filing. The failure of any person to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205 of the Florida Administrative Code.

A petition that disputes the material facts on which the Department's action is based must contain the following information:

- The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;
- The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination;
- A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;
- A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;
- A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action;
- A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes;
- A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action; and
- A statement of how each petitioner's substantial interest are affected by the Department's action or proposed action.

A petition that does not dispute the material facts on which the Department's action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise shall contain the same information as set forth above, unless modified by rule 28-106.301.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the Department's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Persons whose substantial interests will be affected by any such final decision of the Department on the application have the right to petition to become a party to the proceeding, in accordance with the requirements set forth above. In the event the issuance of this permit is subjected to a request for hearing pursuant to section 120.569 of the F.S., the permittee may, pursuant to section 403.088(2)(g), F.S., move for an order authorizing the interim construction phase of the facility.

Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

Any party to this order has the right to seek judicial review of it under section 120.68, F.S., by filing a notice of appeal under rule 9.110 of the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure with the clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel, Mail Station 35, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000, and by filing a copy of the notice of appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate district court of appeal. The notice of appeal must be filed within thirty days after this order is filed with the clerk of the Department.

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## Public Notice

## 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, Tobin 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 HEARING

Pursuant to Florida Statute 447.403, the Okeechobee County School Board will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 18, 2012, at 4:00 pm., in the Freshman Campus Auditorium at 700 SW 2nd Avenue. The purpose of the hearing is to resolve impasse(s) in negotiations between the Superintendent of the School District and the Okeechobee County Education Association #1604 for the Instructional Bargaining Unit. The hearing is open to the public to observe, but it is a labor proceeding with specific statutory requirements and only the two parties, the Superintendent and OCEA, will make a presentation to the School Board.

Ken Kenworthy  
Superintendent of Schools  
414296 ON 4/8,15/2012

# CASTLE'S Stomp Out Child Abuse 5K Run/Walk needs teams

In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month CASTLE will hold its Eighth Annual Stomp Out Child Abuse 5K Run/Walk. This year's event will be on Saturday, April 21, at Digital Domain Park. The 1,000 to 1,200 person run/walk starts in front of the stadium then follows a scenic path around St. Lucie West and concludes with runners and walkers crossing the finish line right at home plate inside the stadium.

"It's always great to see the community support CASTLE," said Executive Director Theresa Garbarino May, "participants have fun while creating awareness for the prevention of child abuse cause. This is an event for all ages." Teams consist of 10 people walking or running together. In the past businesses, church groups, schools, civic groups, book clubs have all signed up, with some groups challenging others for largest team, most money raised and best T-shirt.

CASTLE is looking for you! "All proceeds go to support CASTLE programs in the community to prevent child abuse. Last year we had over 900 participants. Every year our numbers are increasing. Round up your family, friends and business associates for this worthy cause, you will be glad you do. The first 750 registered receive a free event T-shirt. To register you can go to [www.castletc.org](http://www.castletc.org) or call 772-465-6011 Ext. 238. Cost is \$20 per person. Join us and change a life today.

# OHS baseball takes win over Port St. Lucie

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Tyler Barber tossed a five hitter with nine strikeouts and Tyler Finney and Brad Coleman both had three hits as the Brahms defeated Port St. Lucie 5-2 in a District 12-7A game Thursday night in Okeechobee.

Barber shutout the Jaguars for the first five innings and had a no hitter going into the sixth inning. He felt good about one of his top performances of the year, "I threw strikes and got ahead. When you pitch a good game you win games."

Okeechobee was helped by a mental error by Port St. Lucie in the third. After a strikeout, PSL mistakenly thought it was the third out and many of their players raced off the field in jubilation. First basemen David Ayala realized the mistake and tried to catch a Brahman runner off base. His throw went awry and with no fielder to back up in the outfield the ball rolled almost to the warning track. Two runs scored to give Okeechobee the momentum.

"That was a big play and a fortunate break for us," Brahman Coach Jeff Blackstone said, "I felt the kids did a good job. They were ready to play tonight. Consistency is what we're interested in right now."

Barber said the kids in the dugout were really amazed at the play. He admitted it was a big game changer and that the Brahms started to click after that break.

It helped that Barber appeared to be healthy as his velocity was improved and the break on his curve and off speed pitches



Okeechobee News/Charles

Murphy

**Kutter Crawford makes an impressive catch and throw in the first inning of Thursday's game at OHS. Okeechobee defeated Port St. Lucie 5-2.**



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

**Tyler Barber looked healthy and strong Thursday as he held Port St. Lucie to only five hits and two runs in a complete game performance.**

was sharper.

"He pitched a great game tonight. He threw his off-speed pitches for strikes early in the count. I'm happy with the direction we were headed in," Blackstone added.

Okeechobee added single runs in the fourth and fifth innings to go up 5-0. Port St. Lucie broke up the no hitter and scratched across two runs in the sixth and had a few

runners on base in the seventh. A key out was recorded on a bang-bang play at third base to help the Okeechobee cause. Barber wrapped up the game with a strikeout to improve Okeechobee to (9-11) on the season.

"I got a little tired at the end but I worked in my off-speed pitches. Everything worked for me tonight," he said, "Our team has come a long way since the start of the year. We've matured and come together as a team. Port St. Lucie is a tough team to beat."

Okeechobee fell at home to Sebastian River on Wednesday night 10-6 to complete an earlier game that was postponed by a thunderstorm in March. The Brahms travel to Fort Pierce next Tuesday afternoon and return home on Wednesday to host Vero Beach.

*Brahman Theatres III* **MOVIE LISTINGS**

**Fri., April 6<sup>TH</sup> -**  
**Thurs., April 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
**For Info, Call 763-7202**

**I: "THE HUNGER GAMES"**  
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:20, Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:20, 7:00 & 9:20, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG-13**

**II: "WRATH OF THE TITANS"**  
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: "MIRROR MIRROR"**  
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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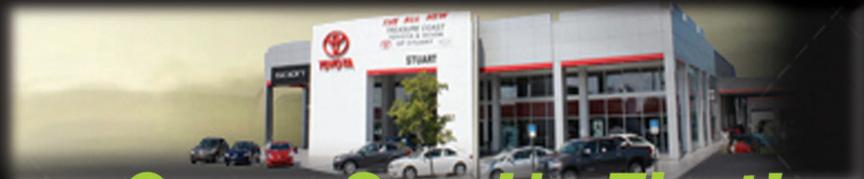


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