



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 68

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

50¢ Plus tax

## Suspect leads cops on high speed chase

... Page 7

## OHS softball coach resigns

... Page 12

## OHS track teams honored

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## Healthy food choices can be affordable

... Page 4

## Lake Levels

11.69 feet

Last Year: 9.92 feet



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Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

## Broken water line means 'boil water' notice

A Sunday morning water line break on S.W. 16th Avenue was quickly repaired by the Okeechobee Utility Authority, but the potential danger of bacteria contamination left OUA customers on a "boil water" notice on Monday and Tuesday. The notice is expected to be lifted today. For more on the story, see page 9.

## County commission to meet

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Tomorrow's meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission should be brief as the short agenda is comprised of mostly routine matters.

There is one item carried over from last

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### If you go ...

**What:** Meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission  
**When:** 9 a.m., Thursday, June 7  
**Where:** Commission Chambers, Okeechobee Courthouse, 304 N.W. Second St.

## Man accused of molesting small children

Okeechobee man, 67, held on \$2.5 million bond; one victim reportedly under the age of 5

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man is being held on \$2.5 million bond following his arrest on charges that he allegedly sexually molested four children—one under the age of 5.

Lanford Ladon 'Don' Weathersby, 67, S.W. 23rd Terrace, was arrested May 31 on charges of capital sexual battery on a child under 12 years of age, lewd and lascivious molestation on a child under 12 years of age (two counts) and lewd and lascivious conduct on a child under 12 years of age.

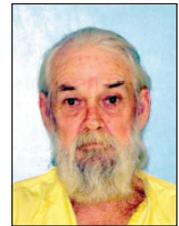
Weathersby is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail.

An arrest report by Detective Ted Van Deman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), referred to Weathersby as a "serial pedophile" because he sexually molested "... four or more girls under the age of 12."

In some cases, added the detective, the alleged acts were committed in front of other victims "... for the express purpose of his sexual gratification."

According to the detective's report, Weathersby would buy the children things. Sometimes, continued the report, he would use emotional tactics to make them feel guilty if they didn't do what he wanted.

In an interview, the mother of one of the victims said her child's behavior had changed and that she was now getting poor grades in school and behaving badly in school. She had also told her counselors that "she is worthless" and her speech has regressed and become



Lanford 'Don' Weathersby

See CHILDREN — Page 5



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# 2012 GRAD Night non-alcohol supervised party planned

Matt Buxton and Teresa Chandler, Co-Chairs, along with committee members Kristy Crawford, Jenny Pung, Dowling Watford, Allison Chandler, Toni Wiersma, Gena Davis, Mike Costopoulos, Joe Arnold, Tabitha Trent and JD Mixon are spearheading efforts for the 24th Annual Grad Night party in Okeechobee on June 11, from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. The Grad Night party will be held at Lucky Lanes.

The Okeechobee Educational Foundation, Rotary Club, Kiwanis, B.R.A.T. Club and Okeechobee High School volunteers are partnering to help make this year's celebration a fun time for seniors.

Every year, through the generosity of Okeechobee businesses and individuals, thousands of dollars has been raised to provide graduating seniors with a safe, fun-filled night that they can enjoy with friends. The

graduation event will be an all-night party which will include games, bowling, pool tournament, money machine, black jack, jeopardy, music, lots of food and an auction. Students will have a chance to earn "Brahman bucks" throughout the night and spend their winnings at the auction which will take place at 5:30 a.m.

All Okeechobee graduating seniors and their pre-approved guests are invited. Seniors and guests will need to register with Okeechobee High School to participate.

"In 23 years of hosting this event there have been no alcohol related deaths on graduation night in Okeechobee," said Matt Buxton, Co-Chair. "The Grad Night party

gives seniors a safe place to celebrate and we want to continue this safe record."

All participants will need to be checked in by 1 a.m. No entries allowed after 1 a.m. Students that leave the party early will not be permitted to re-enter.

All contributions are tax deductible. No amount is too small. Checks are made payable to The Okeechobee Educational Foundation. Promotional items are also needed.

For more information on how you can help with donations or volunteering, please call Kristy Crawford at 863.763.5573.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Peace Lutheran

## Graduation Night Fundraiser

Peace Lutheran Church was able to raise \$300 for the Okeechobee High School Graduation Night Party by having an Easter Pancake Breakfast. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matched the funds and Debbie Ahrens, Financial Director, was able to present a check to Matt Buxton for \$600 to help with the Non-Alcohol Grad Night.

## Healthy Start Coalition announces meeting

The Board of Directors of the Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition will meet on Wednesday, **June 13**, at 11:30 a.m., in their office, located at 575 S.W. 28th Street, within the New Endeavor High School Building. This meeting is open to the public. The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition is part of a statewide network of coalitions responsible for planning and implementing services for pregnant women and infants. The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition is made up of citizens interested in promoting healthy families and healthy outcomes for babies in Okeechobee. For more information about the Coalition please contact Executive Director, Kay Begin, at the Coalition office, 863-462-5877.

## Okeechobee Forecast

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**Today:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 90. Southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Tonight:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. South southwest wind around 5 mph.

## Extended Forecast

**Thursday:** Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 92. South southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Thursday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm, then a slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. South southwest wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

**Friday:** A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 92. West wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.



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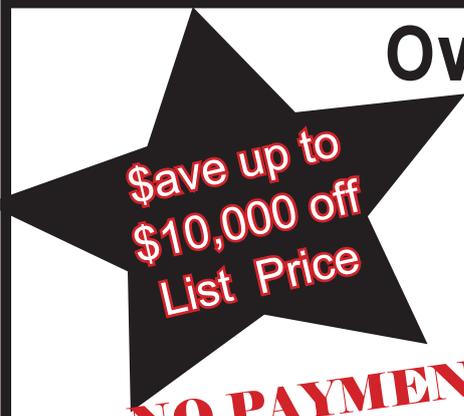
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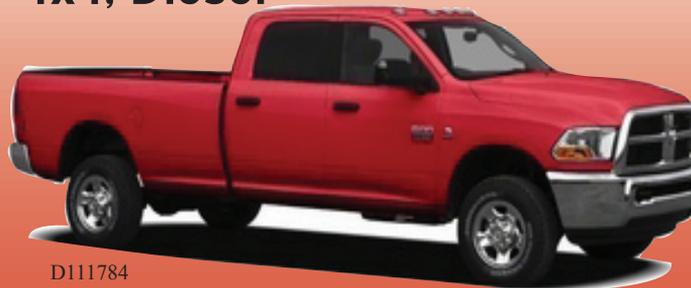
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## Public Forum/Speak Out

*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!*

### Winter homes

- The story about the man who broke into the winter resident's home and stole everything that could be pawned should be a warning for all who only live here part time. Get someone to check your home at least once a week. If you don't have any friends who live here year round, hire someone to do it. Imagine how bad it would have been if no one had noticed the break in until fall.

### New Testament

- The ever ongoing debate that there is nothing in the New Testament of the Bible about homosexuality. Well here are the scriptures: 1 Corinthians 6:9 "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality," 1 Timothy 1:10 "the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine," This in reply to those who said to me that it is only in the Old Testament it never says that in New Testament. Here is the other thing said to me, God hates gays ... that is NOT true. God loves everyone! Love the sinner hate the sin. Shame on anyone that calls themselves a Christian and speaks with hate to any person. Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." God bless you all!

- Or you know, make your decision about someone based on their merit and what they have done to better the world around them, not their sexual preferences. Love is love no matter where someone finds it.

- "Corinthians" are letters written by Paul. These are not quotes from Jesus Christ. This is not a first hand account of what Jesus taught. Jesus' message was about love and forgiveness.

### Okee-Tantie

- If Okee-Tantie could be such a great development for an investor, why was there only one proposal? This whole plan sounds fishy to me. Why would someone pay big bucks for an RV site they can only use half the year?

- I would like to ask how many local people would be employed by Talako construction for work to be done on the Okee-Tantie renewal project.

### Abortions

- A bill to ban 'sex selection' abortions has failed in the U.S. Congress.

- They are already doing this in India because it is too expensive to have a girl only to later pay the endowment to the to-be husbands family. There are now villages and town were there are NO women and the ratio men/women is becoming overwhelming. This is wrong! No child deserves to be killed because of the gender. This needs to be stopped!

- Kill a life? A heartbeat? Are you the wrong gender? Are you too old? When are you next?

- Why should it take a bill which obviously talks out of both sides of its mouth be passed? IE: (1) the parent can't "state" the abortion is for gender selection, (2) the doctor can't/is not required to ask is the abortion for gender selection, (3) the mother cannot be held liable if she is "caught/proven" to have had a gender selection abortion.... Okay, so why even bother to pass the bill in the first place? This will easily be gotten around by simply keeping ones mouth shut .. common sense, NO MORE intrusive laws!

### Capital equals money

- Bain Capital: Money for people who have a great idea and need someone to help them. Think about it. Who helps you to get ahead? Ahead. Get ahead. Help your family. Help others. You do it and others help you to do it. This is capitalism. There are good people in this world. Get the good out of the world.

### Scholarships

- According to the story in the paper, the Masonic Lodge decided to rethink their scholarship program because they never got any feedback to show the program was doing any good. They didn't even get thank you notes from those who received the scholarships. Something for this year's graduates to remember. Write those thank you notes!

# Healthy Foods: The Affordable Choice

**Guest Commentary**  
**By Kevin Concannon**  
USDA Undersecretary

Fresh fruits and vegetables? Key elements of a healthy diet, for sure. But many people of modest means, including those served by USDA's nutrition assistance programs, wonder if they can afford to buy healthy foods like the wonderful fresh produce that can be found in summer abundance at America's farmers' markets.

As USDA Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, I find that perception a source of concern because we work hard to encourage all Americans to make healthy food choices – particularly those participating in USDA's nutrition assistance programs, from kids in school to the more than 46 million people participating in USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Well, I'm pleased to say that a recent study by USDA's Economic Research Service, "Are Healthy Foods Really More Expensive? It Depends on How You Measure the Price," found that healthy food choices, like fresh fruits and vegetables, may be more affordable than people think.

They found that while it is easy to buy "cheap" calories by using less-healthy foods, there are many healthy food choices that cost no more per portion than less nutritious foods. Measured by the cost per portion, or per pound, grains, vegetables, fruit, and dairy foods are actually less expensive than most protein foods and foods high in saturated fat, added sugars, and/or sodium.

This is great news for all those trying to get by with a limited food budget – like people receiving SNAP benefits. You don't

have to compromise on good nutrition just because money is tight. And just in time for summer.

If you haven't been to one of the nearly 7,200 farmers' markets across the country, I encourage you to do so. Farmers' markets offer shoppers a wonderful place to find the fresh fruits and vegetables and other local produce so important to a healthy diet – particularly now when farmers' markets are practically bursting with a bounty of summer produce.

USDA strongly supports farmers' markets. And the Food and Nutrition Service, which I oversee, has farmers' market programs for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants, for seniors, and for WIC mothers to help provide healthy food for them and their children.

We also encourage farmers markets to accept SNAP electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, which makes it easier for SNAP participants to make purchases.

Farmers markets are the ultimate win-win situation. They're a win for customers because they can easily buy the freshest produce available. They're a win for producers because they are a convenient local market for their products.

They also provide a chance for customers and producers to meet face to face and build better understanding of community agriculture and what customers want.

So visit a local farmers' market today – you're in for a treat. And remember, fresh fruits and vegetables are not only the healthy choice – they're the affordable choice, too.

## Free Diabetes Education Seminar offered

Living with Diabetes, an education seminar will be presented by Wanda Haas, RN CDE at Grand Oaks Assisted Living Community, 203 S.E. Second Street on Wednesday, **June 13**, at 10 a.m. in the Activities Room. The seminar is offered by the Visiting Nurses Association.

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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## Staff

**Editor:** Katrina Elsen  
**Circulation Manager:** Janet Madray  
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## Our Purpose...

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

## 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.



# Churches plan special programs and events

Dr. Charles Gauldin, Associate Professor of Religion at Southeastern University in Lakeland, will be the guest speaker at **Fountain of Life Church**, on Sunday, June 10, at the 11 a.m. service. Dr. Gauldin is head of the Masters Degree Programs at Southeastern University. He is a renowned Bible scholar and evangelist. Fountain of Life Church is located at 1302 S.W. 32nd St. in Okeechobee. Call for more information at 863-763-8945 or 863-801-1297.



## Places of Worship

Share your news and photos for this column by email to [okeenews@newszap.com](mailto:okeenews@newszap.com)

Sky Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 18 through June 22 at **Peace Lutheran Church** and School,

750 N.W. 23rd Lane, Okeechobee. It will be from 6-8:30 p.m. Children three years of age through fifth grade will have fun imagining what it would be like to bounce among the clouds, soar with eagles, and reach the stars! The Bible comes to life as children explore why nothing is impossible with God! Join the fun activities, crafts, music and more! Register by calling 863-763-5042 or register on-line at [www.tinyurl.com/PeaceVBS2012](http://www.tinyurl.com/PeaceVBS2012).

**Oakview Baptist Church** will host Vacation Bible School – “Amazing Wonders Aviation” from June 18-22, at 6–9 p.m. for ages 3 years thru adult. Those interested may print a registration form from their website, [oakviewbaptist.com](http://oakviewbaptist.com), under “Forms” or you may register at the door. For more information, please call 863-763-1699.

**Church of God of Prophecy** has an Open Arms Ministry, at 102 N.W. 10th Street. The Hurting Women’s Ministry meets on the second and fourth Friday of each month at 7 p.m. This is a ministry for women of all ages who are going through or have been through crisis in their lives. For more information, please call 863-254-8304.

There is a Community Gospel Sing at the **Seventh Day Christian Church**, at 912 N.W. Park St. (S.R. 70) every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Anyone can participate in singing or playing guitar, banjo, mandolin, fiddle, dobro, and harmonica—come and enjoy!

A “Faith Community Nurse” basic preparation course and retreat will be offered by the **Interfaith Health and Wellness Association** this summer. Developed within an interfaith model, this educational course

and personal growth retreat prepares Registered Nurses to deliver wholistic care in faith communities. The program provides 33.5 contact hours and includes materials, lodging, meals, snacks, International Parish Nurse Resource Center (IPNRC) pin and certificate of attendance. Participants develop the knowledge necessary for practice & have an experience of a life-time. For more information, call 561-379-1972 or go online to [www.ihwas-soc.org](http://www.ihwas-soc.org).

The **Peace Lutheran School** is now accepting enrollment for 2012-13 school year, ages 2 through Kindergarten.

There are limited scholarships for Preschool available, as well as Step Up for students and McKay Scholarships for Kindergarten. Call 863-763-7566 for more information.

Peace Lutheran Summer Camp is now accepting summer campers ages 2 through 5th grade. There are limited scholarships available and Summer VPK is offered.

The **Peace Lutheran Church** Quilters meet every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who loves to quilt or wishes to learn is welcome to join the group at 11 a.m. Bring a snack for lunch break. Dessert and coffee is furnished.

The **Peace Lutheran Church** Frontline Warriors, a group of men dedicated to loving Jesus and serving others, meet weekly on Tuesday morning at 6:30 a.m. For additional information, call 863-763-5042. Seasoned Seniors, anyone 50+, meet the fourth Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and interesting programs.

The **Peace Lutheran Church** has a wonderful ministry to youth called CRAVE Youth Ministry. Senior CRAVE is for high school students in 9-12th grades and meets on Mondays from 6-8 p.m. Junior CRAVE is for junior high students in 5-8th grades and meets on Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m. There are all kinds of great activities for CRAVE youth groups, including trips and family camp-outs. All youth are welcome! If you would like to know more about Peace Lutheran Church, our faith and fellowship, you are invited to join the Discover Peace Class. For more information, call 863-763-5042.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Fifth Street Barber Shop open

Mary Bullington has been cutting hair since 1989, working in other people’s shops. So it was a natural step for her to open up her own barber shop. Ms. Bullington, right, and Trish Smith, left, provide hair cuts for the entire family with old fashioned service at Fifth Street Barber Shop. The shop is located at 101 N.W. Fifth St. The hours are Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon. The barber shop is closed on Sunday and Monday.

## COUNTY

Continued From Page 1

week that could generate some discussion. At their last meeting commissioners spent considerable time discussing but taking no action on awarding a contract for a drainage project in the S.W. 21st Street area. Commissioners will consider that contract again tomorrow.

Several items on the agenda are annual requests that the board deals with about this time every year. Once again the board will look at approving a one-time special use rate for Chaka’s Stars Foundation, Inc. to operate a summer camp program at the Douglas

Brown Community Center. The board will also consider the 2012 Summer Food Service Agreement between the county and the school board to furnish lunches and snacks for county’s summer play camp program. In addition the board will also appoint five members to the value adjustment board to hear citizens who dispute this year’s property tax bills.

The sheriff has asked that funds be transferred from Law Enforcement Operation Expenses to Law Enforcement Debt Services.

Commissioners will also be asked to approve a joint participation agreement with Florida Department of Transportation for signage and marking improvements at the county airport.s

## CHILDREN

Continued From Page 1

more “baby like.”

“At the time, she (the mother) did not understand why this was happening. Now, it makes sense,” stated Detective Van Deman.

During an interview Weathersby reportedly told the detective that one of the victims is “an evil girl” who would make up lies because she doesn’t like him.

Weathersby allegedly told the detective that some years ago two of the girls wanted to go swimming and he wouldn’t let them. He went on to say this made the girls mad and they told him if he didn’t let them go

swimming “they would accuse him of doing things to them,” stated the report.

Weathersby reportedly would have one of the victims watch movies on his computer that showed naked boys and girls together.

“These movies were shown to her so that she would learn how, and what, Don wanted her to do to him,” Detective Van Deman stated.

The arrest report indicates that two of the man’s computers were seized and the detective stated he will get a search warrant so the computers can be inspected.

Although not related, one of the girls referred to Weathersby as ‘Pops.’

Weathersby’s next court date has been set for Wednesday, June 20, at 9 a.m.

The detective said his investigation is continuing.

## OKMS announces upcoming mixer event

Aloha! The June Main Street Mixer will be sponsored by Quality Air Conditioning and Heating, 5351 S.W. 16th Avenue on Thursday, **June 14**, from 5-7 p.m. Wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt and lei as we celebrate in Hawaiian luau fashion. The public is welcome to all mixers, so please come and bring a friend for this great networking opportunity. For more information contact the Okeechobee Main Street Executive Director Cindy Birdshaw at 863-357-6246 or stop in the Main Street office at 111 Northeast 2nd Street (directly north of CVS).

## Community Events

### American Legion 64 announces events

It's Taco Day from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Wednesday, **June 6**, with music from 3-6 p.m. Proceeds support Boys State Program. Thursday, June 7 is soup and sandwich day from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. with music until 7 p.m. and on Friday, it's Karaoke with Ed from 5 p.m. to close. Proceeds from this event benefit veterans programs.

### Chamber to host grand opening social event

The Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County will be hosting the Grand Opening Social for the Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County on **June 7**, located at 55 S. Parrott Ave. The Social will begin at 5 p.m. and conclude at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served, so stop by and celebrate the grand opening of the new Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County.

### Cypress Hut Eagles to host steak night

On Friday, **June 8**, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Cypress Hut Eagles will have Steak or Shrimp \$12, and fish \$8. Music by Wes & Deb. All proceeds go to Community Charity Fund. Public is welcome.

### Eagles North announce weekend events

Friday, **June 8**, at the North Eagles starts a Big Weekend with BBQ cookoff (anything butt) and Friday night steak dinners beginning at 5:30, then Music by Lisa On Saturday, June 9, BBQ cookoff, ribs, chicken, and brisket, 5 p.m. card Bingo. Winners announced for cookoff between 5 and 6 p.m. For info on cookoff, contact Danny Harden at 863-634-3958. Proceeds from Dinners go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee. The public is invited.

### Annual golf scramble planned

United Way of Okeechobee is hosting their Seventh Annual Golf Scramble on Saturday, **June 9**, at the Country Club. \$200 for a 4-person team. \$100 to sponsor a tee or green. Same day registration begins at 7 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. All money raised goes to support local agencies providing health and human services in Okeechobee. To pre-register, or for sponsorship information, call 863-824-7545.

### Wild orchid hunt planned

The Okeechobee Orchid Club plans a walk to look for wild orchids on Saturday, **June 9**, at 8 a.m. at the recreational area on Highway 98 N, 1/2 mile south of the Kissimmee River. Note a big yellow and blue sign on left by the entrance. The group will meet in the parking lot. Everyone is invited to look for and photograph the Encylia Tampensis. Bring water, a camera, and manual binoculars. For more information, call Jan at 863-357-9980.

### Bingo night at Eagles North

Eagles North will host BINGO on Wednesday, **June 6**, starting at 4:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit community benefit fund. 9985 Hwy. 441 N. Okeechobee.

### OCA hosts fun shoot fundraiser

Okeechobee Christian Academy will host a Fun Shoot on **June 9**, with registration at 8 a.m. at the OK Corral Gun Club, 6341 N.E. 96th Avenue. The last shooter must take the course at 10 a.m. All proceeds will benefit the Okeechobee Christian Academy Scholarship Fund to help make a quality Christian education available to more children. Give-away drawings will include two, one-year sporting clay memberships provided by the OK Corral Gun Club. Team sponsorship is \$350 for four shooters and includes lunch. Individual shooter registration is \$85 and includes lunch. Lunch for non-shooters is \$20. For more information, call 863-634-2276.

### '12 Non-Alcohol Grad-Night Party planned

All 2012 graduates and their pre-approved guest are invited attend the Non-Alcohol Grad-Night Party held on Graduation Night, **June 11**, 11 p.m.—6 a.m., at Lucky Lanes Bowling Alley for a safe entertaining last night together. No students admittance after 1 a.m. and no re-admittance. Parents, businesses and individuals are needed to volunteer and/or donate. Please contact Kristy Crawford at 863-763-5573. Okeechobee has been fortunate enough to avoid a fatal accident on graduation night in the more than 20 years since the Non-Alcohol Grad-Night party has been established.

### Amateur Radio Club meets

The Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club will hold it's June business meeting, on Monday, **June 11**, in a new venue. The club will meet at Beef O'Brady's, 608 S. Parrott Ave. in Okeechobee with a meal beginning at 6 p.m. and the business meeting starting promptly at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to all amateur radio license holders in the Okeechobee area and we invite anyone with an interest in amateur or short wave radio to attend, enjoy a meal and meet the current members. For more information about the club, or the meeting, contact Tom Timmons, at 863-467-5435 and leave a message.

### Euchre Club needs players

The Euchre Club of Okeechobee needs players! Even if you haven't played euchre in a while, but want to brush up or learn, consider coming to the club sessions. Call John for more information at 863-357-0803. The club plays on Mondays and Thursday at 6 p.m. at the VFW on Hwy. 441 SE.

### Stitchin' group meets weekly

Okeechobee Stitchin' meets every Thursday at the Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Bring a bag lunch and come join us for socialization and crafting fun. All crafts are welcome. For more information call Sandy Brown, 863-697-3099, or Correy Geissinger, 863-467-2231.

### Coffee with the Commissioner

Coffee with the Commissioner will be hosted by Commissioner Joey Hoover on Tuesday, **June 12**, from 10 a.m.—noon, and will be held in Commissioner Hoover's office located at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Room 244, Okeechobee. Citizens wishing to participate are encouraged to call 863-763-6441 to schedule an appointment.

## Obituaries

### Sylvia Vernon Pennington-King

OKEECHOBEE — Sylvia Vernon Pennington-King (nee Arnold), age 86, passed away peacefully at home on May 2, 2012. Sylvia was born to the late Vernon Sylvester and Laura Belle Arnold at home on the banks of the Kissimmee River on July 14, 1925 and lived most of her life in Okeechobee. During her life she also lived and worked in Miami during WWII at the redistribution center for returning soldiers. She then returned to Okeechobee to help drive the school bus and deliver mail after her father became ill. In 1946, after WWII, she met and married in her late husband, James Edward King.



Sylvia was the third child of Laura and Sylvester. She was a great story teller and inspired many with her early memories of Okeechobee, the great hurricanes, life on the river, and many old remedies passed down by her mother.

Sylvia loved working in her yard planting and caring for her plants and orchids. She had a green thumb and could literally grow anything. She worked constantly on hand crafts, crocheting, and quilting until her eyesight deteriorated. She had an endless love of dolls which she made and also collected.

Sylvia was preceded in death by her husbands, James Edward King and Staley Jack Pennington; her parents; sisters, Pricilla Nettles and Kathryn Snipes; and a brother, Perry Sylvester Arnold.

She is survived by her daughters, Susie Burk, Boni Perl (Larry), and Jenny Vickers; Roseanne Locklear (John Paul) and Linda Lipscomb (James); sisters, Maybelline Creach (Franklin), Jane Hardin; a brother, Marvin Arnold (Rita); nine grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her friend and helpmate, Stephanie Metcalf who has provided the loving hands that helped ease many difficulties Sylvia faced during her last year. She is also survived by her loved and cherished canary, "Little Man."

A service will be 11 a.m., Tuesday, June 5, 2012, at Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home with burial following at Basinger Cemetery.

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

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 205 NE 2nd Street, Okeechobee, FL, 34972 (863) 763-2111

### Hospital to host prescription medication review event

Raulerson Hospital invites the public to a free prescription medications review with the pharmacist. Just bring a list of your medications. The event will be held on Wednesday, **June 13**, at 5:30 p.m. in the Raulerson Hospital Cafeteria. Please RSVP to: 863-763-9228.

**Submit obituaries to the Okeechobee News by emailing [obits@newszap.com](mailto:obits@newszap.com). Customers may also request photos and links to online guestbooks.**

### Carolyn J. Morris, 63

OKEECHOBEE — Carolyn J. Morris, age 63, passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, June 1, 2012.

Carolyn was born November 19, 1948, in Binghamton, N.Y., to the late Edward and Agnes Lamberton. She was a resident of Okeechobee for 33 years. She was employed with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission in Okeechobee for 32 years. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post #1645 in Binghamton, N.Y., the Okeechobee VFW Post #4423 and the Ladies of the Moose Okeechobee Lodge #1753.

Carolyn is survived by her loving husband of 41 years, Charles R. Morris; son, Charles E. (Liz) Morris; daughter, Kimberly (Timothy) Carlson, all of Okeechobee; step-daughter, Sherri (Frank) Slater of Hallstead, Pa.; four grandchildren; one step-granddaughter; two step-great-grandchildren; and many loving and caring friends.

Visitation will be 12 noon, Thursday, June 7, 2012, at Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home until service time of 1 p.m.

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

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



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# Assault suspect leads cops on 100 mph chase

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

A man suspected of allegedly cutting another man with a razor blade led law enforcement on a chase through the City of Okeechobee at speeds near 100 mph before he was finally caught by a sheriff's office K-9.

Dashawn McCombs, 27, was arrested Saturday, June 2, on felony charges of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and fleeing and eluding a law enforcement officer. He was also charged with the misdemeanors of battery on a law enforcement K-9 and no valid driver's license.

He is currently being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on a total bond of \$101,000.

McCombs was initially wanted for questioning for his involvement in an incident at a motel on U.S. 441 S.E. where witnesses identified him as the man who struck the victim in the face, stated an arrest report by Deputy Heath Hughes of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO).

McCombs, stated Deputy Hughes, had a razor blade between his fingers when he

struck the victim. The victim suffered a laceration to the right side of his face that was estimated to be 8-inches in length, added Deputy Hughes.

McCombs reportedly fled the scene in a white four-door Mercedes.

As OCSO Deputy Sergeant Shannon Peterson was on his way to the motel he spotted the Mercedes at the intersection of Charles Harvey Highway and S.E. 18th Terrace, stated his report.

Sgt. Peterson turned around and activated his red and blue lights to stop the Mercedes. However, continued Sgt. Peterson, the vehicle did not stop.

With his lights and siren sounding, the sergeant followed the Mercedes west to U.S. 441 South where the vehicle turned right. As McCombs was driving northbound on U.S. 441 S. he continued to speed up until he was "reaching speeds close to 100 mph," stated Sgt. Peterson.

In the 100 block of the S. Parrott Ave. Officer Chad Troutman and Sergeant Russell Cale, both of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), took over and Sgt. Pe-

terson began to slow down.

As the Mercedes reached the railroad tracks in the 800 block of U.S. 441 N. the car began to fish tail and spin around in circles until it crossed the median.

According to Sgt. Peterson, McCombs then got out of the car and began running onto N.W. 13th St. with Officer Troutman in pursuit. McCombs ran into a wooded area and hid, added the sergeant.

OCSO Deputy Matt Crawford and his K-9 Nero responded to the scene. The K-9 found McCombs in the woods and bit him. At that point, McCombs apparently grabbed the dog's muzzle which caused Nero to whim-

per in pain.

But, Nero was able get free of the man's grip and then grab onto McCombs. Nero did not release the man until deputies handcuffed the him.

Sgt. Peterson's report stated that McCombs was taken to Raulerson Hospital where he was treated for puncture wounds to his buttocks and his left elbow. Following that treatment, McCombs was taken to the county jail.

The sergeant's report does not indicate if Nero was injured while apprehending McCombs.



Dashawn McCombs

## Okeechobee Arrest Report

The following individuals were arrested on felony or driving under the influence (DUI) charges by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the Department of Corrections (DOC).

- Brian Edward Martin, 22, N.W. 30th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested June 1 by Deputy Rusty Hartsfield on a charge of driving while license suspended - habitual offender. His bond was set at \$1,000.

- Jennifer Dean Murphy, 39, Linda Road, Buckhead Ridge, was arrested June 1 by Officer Brian Enderle on a charge of driving while license suspended with knowledge. Her bond on that charge was set at \$5,000. She was later arrested by Deputy Fred Bradley on a charge of grand theft auto. Her bond on that charge was set at \$20,000.

- Michael Joe Allen, 26, 19th St., Vero Beach, was arrested June 1 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on an amended DOC warrant charging him with violation of probation - possession of marijuana under 20 grams and violation of probation - possession of drug paraphernalia. He is being held without bond.

- Pedro Garcia, 48, N.W. 34th St., Okeechobee, was arrested June 3 by Deputy Bart Potter on a felony charge of aggravated assault and a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery. His bond was set at \$3,000.

- Henry Chouinard, 37, N.W. 53rd Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested June 3 by Deputy Arlen Durbin on charges of introduction of contraband into a county detention facility and possession of a controlled substance (two counts). His bond was set at \$15,000.

- Lisa Center Gordineer, 45, N.E. 103rd Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested June 4 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a charge of obtaining a prescription by fraud (three counts). Her bond was set at \$4,500.

- Jose Guadalupe Palomar Jr., 31, N.W. 98th St., Okeechobee, was arrested June 4 by Deputy Matthew Grumbling on charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription (four counts). He was released on his own recognizance.

- Eden Nacole McGee, 26, N.W. 110th St., Okeechobee, was arrested June 4 by Deputy Joseph Hall on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with violation of probation - dealing in stolen property and violation of probation - giving false information to a pawnbroker. She is being held without bond.

- Jesus Castellanos Vigil, 43, St. Lucie Lake, Lake Placid, was arrested June 4 by Detective William Hill from the state Department of Financial Services - Fraud Division on a charge of worker's compensation fraud. His bond was set at \$1,000.

*This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.*

## Code Enforcement Week honored

At a special ceremony on Monday, June 4, Mayor James Kirk proclaimed the week of June 4 through 8 to be Code Enforcement Officers' Week. The mayor, right, presented the proclamation to Fred Sterling, left, the city's code enforcement officer.



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# OUA on system-wide boil water notice

By Katrina Elskan  
Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE—Okeechobee Utility Authority customers were placed on a system-wide boil water notice Sunday due to a break in a water transmission line.

According to OUA Executive Director John Hayford, a waterline on S.W. 16th Avenue near the entrance to Ousley Estates split sometime Sunday morning. Water was flowing freely across S.W. 16th Avenue into the canal on the west side of the roadway.

"The water plant kept trying to pump water through a broken line," he said. As a result, some customers experienced low water pressure and others had no water pressure.

The problem was reported to OUA at 9:52 a.m. Within an hour, an OUA crew was on the scene digging up and replacing the section of broken 24-inch pipe.

"We don't yet know the cause of the break," he said. "It was a relatively new pipeline." He said the pipeline was buried three to four feet deep.

Mr. Hayford said Department of Environmental Protection regulations required a system wide boil water alert be issued due to the break in the line and the fact that some areas of the system suffered low water pressure, which may have allowed bacteria to enter the system.

According to DEP guidelines, under these conditions all water used for drinking, cooking, making ice, brushing teeth or washing dishes should be boiled. A rolling boil of one minute is sufficient. As an alternative, bottled water may be used.

The boil water notice will remain in effect until the system passes health and safety tests two consecutive days. The water was tested Monday and will be tested again on Tuesday. Mr. Hayford explained that it takes 24 hours to get the test results. If the system passes both tests, the boil water notice could be lifted on Wednesday.

He said the entire OUA system is affected, but some customers have their own additional disinfection systems which will make it unnecessary for them to boil water. Those who do not have additional water disinfection systems are advised to boil water or use bottled water for drinking until the boil water notice is lifted. This could affect some businesses and present problems with machines such as ice makers that are directly connected to OUA water.

OUA used an automatic telephone system and radio announcements to alert customers to the problem.

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## Bill Casian Lost 33 pounds in 30 Days!

By Bill Casian  
Testimonial

My experience with Physicians Weight Loss Centers was truly a pleasant and successful one! I wanted to lose some weight for my upcoming 50th high school reunion, and since some of my friends had lost a lot of weight there, I joined their program.

and had to buy smaller clothes. I have now lost 42 pounds and feel fantastic...better than I did 10 years ago! It has changed my lifestyle and the way I eat. You don't have to "diet" forever, you just have to "cook and eat healthier!" So if you would like to lose a few pounds and get healthier, I highly recommend Physicians Weight Loss Centers.

Within 30 days, I had dropped 30 pounds! The program was clear and easy to follow and my wife and the PWLC staff kept me motivated and on track. Within a couple of weeks, my blood pressure returned to normal and my energy soared! I couldn't believe how quickly I lost over 40 inches



Submitted Photo/Physicians Weight Loss Centers  
Bill Casian, right, lost 33 pounds in 30 days! Also pictured is Connie Lowe, owner of Physicians Weight Loss.

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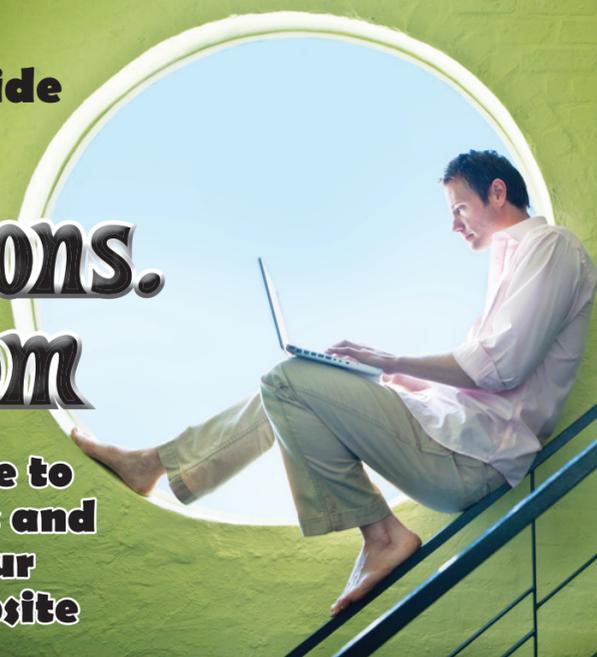
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### Pet of the Week

This is Gracie, a hunting hound waiting for a forever home at our shelter. Gracie needs surgery on two elbows but is a loving happy dog. The Humane Society's tight budget doesn't allow for surgery of this sort. If you can help with Gracie's surgery, please contact the Humane Society Pet Rescue FI office at 863 357-1104. To see more adoptable pets, go to www.petfinder.com.

### OKMS searches for vendors

Okeechobee Main Street is currently seeking sponsorships and vendors for the National Day of the American Cowboy. This home town festival will be held at the Agri-Civic Center on July 27 and 28, in conjunction with the Cattlemen's Association Ranch Rodeo. Sponsorships are available at various levels. Booth space is available for vendors of specialty items, food, and non-profits. Please call 863-357-6246 for a sponsorship form and additional information.

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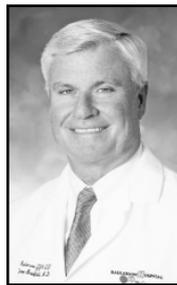
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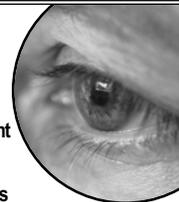
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# OHS boys harriers honored at award banquet

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Mike Thomas won the most valuable player and Quandrell Ridley took home the Brahman Award at the Okeechobee High School boys track banquet held last Friday night.

Seven of the team members qualified for the regional this year in what was a successful year according to first year coach Jose Nunez, "I think the season went well as a few of the guys went to region and a lot had personal records. I saw a lot of improvement this year."

Nunez said the main thing he enjoyed was watching the overall effort and commitment of the team. He noted there are a lot of younger athletes which means the team should continue to improve and be stronger in the next few years.

"We have a young team with potential. It looks like things are going good for the future," he added.

A goal will be to find a coach who is an expert in field events like the shot put and discus.

Ridley, a senior this year, said he really appreciated the award and he thanked God for allowing him to get as far as he did.

"I wouldn't have made it here without God. I put Him before everything. I tried my hardest every day and showed them all that I had," he explained.

Ridley was a key member of the 4x100 relay team that reached the regional. The team was very prepared and did a great job passing and receiving the baton, which is a key in the relay races.

"Personally I tried to be a leader and keep everyone in line. The regional was a challenge but personally I like challenges," he added.

Ridley intends to join the U.S. Navy after graduation and study information technology.

Thomas was able to qualify for the regional as an individual in the 100 meters and also with the 4x100 relay team. He said it felt great to win the MVP award.

"I tried to enjoy the moment and I can't stop smiling," he said.

Thomas said he had always been faster than other kids his age and he thought he might one day be able to build a career out of his speed. He also wrestles and will play football as a senior.

"I call it keeping my options open. You never know what sport will get you into college, so you can't depend on just one," he added.

Thomas said he plans to work hard in the off season and jokes he might travel to Clewiston and chase rabbits, a key workout done by athletes in the Glades to improve their speed and agility.

"The sprinters in Miami are known for their speed and they had a big impact on me. I tried my best and gave my all but I fell short. I want to become a state champion."

Thomas, only 5'7 said he also uses his height as a motivator because he is often underestimated and overlooked by taller athletes.

Other members of the track team honored included Frank Adamo, Jacalob Akins, An-

gel Alvarez, Steven Alvarez, Mariano Alvarez, Hernan Baltazar, Daniel Beyel, Ryan Born, Pedro Cervantes, Alec Emmonds, Christian Garcia, Erick Garcia, Thor Harden, Seth Herdick, Devin Jimenez, German Lopez, Victor

Nunez, Jose Ponce Del Leon, Marco Raya, Kain and Kyle Sarros, Tyrell Taylor, Roschell Thomas, Chone Vegan, Erik Velez, Wesley White, Devion Wigfall, and Nick Flood.

Harden and Beyel also made the regional

in the shot put and discus respectively.

Scholar athletes for the track team included Pedro Cervantes, Marco Raya, Christen Sheffield, and Chone Vega.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Mike Thomas (left) receives the 2012 MVP Award for Boys Track from Coach Jose Nunez.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Quandrell Ridley (left) gladly accepted the 2012 Brahman Award for Boy's Track from OHS Track Coach Jose Nunez.

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# Bragman softball coach resigns after title/39 wins

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Christina Bragman resigned as Okeechobee High School softball coach after two seasons, a district title and 39 wins but will remain an ESE teacher at the school, school officials announced Tuesday night.

Bragman welcomed an addition to her family, a daughter, six weeks ago and decided she wanted to spend more time with her and her husband and step away from coaching for awhile.

"It was a very tough decision. I'd like to thank Mrs. Wiersma for allowing me to be here and be a part of these kid's lives. It was a tough decision but I have to do what is best for my family," she explained.

She said she felt she made a difference and was able to build some close bonds with the players over the past two years. She took over a strong program and was able to develop a number of freshmen and sophomores into a group of players this year that finished in the top eight in the state in Class 7A losing only to the eventual state champion Tampa Chamberlain.

"Family is first and I'll never get this time back with my baby. It's more important to be there with her, and then to come back when she says Mom, its okay to coach," she added.

High School Principal Toni Wiersma said she is in no hurry to find a replacement. She intends to advertise the position and take her time before she announces Bragman's successor.

Bragman said she will still be available to help advise the players and the new coach but she won't dedicate 40 hours to the position as in the past.

"This decision was difficult and something I had to pray about many times," she added.

The principal said she felt the softball program remained strong during Bragman's tenure and that she was very proud of the girls and the coaching staff. This year the team had the Class 7A player of the year in this region, Samantha Harrell, the player of the year and academic player of the year Sarah Davis, and the district title. They thrilled the community with a deep run in the playoffs with two playoff victories before losing in the regional final.

"We are really proud of her accomplishments and we hate to see her go. She developed the program and the young players," she added.

Wiersma said she applauded her decision to put her family first and she advised Bragman Tuesday that you don't ever get these years back with your children. She called her a fantastic teacher and admitted the softball coach job is one of the tougher ones on campus.

"She followed a great coach and carried the program another step up. We'll look for someone else who will do the same thing and continue the excellence," she added.

Bragman said she felt the future of the softball program was very bright. She thanked all

the players and the parents for their support. "This is not goodbye. I'll still come out and

support them and provide assistance. I'm not ready to call it quits to coaching."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
OHS principal Toni Wiersma, Annie Bragman and Christina Bragman at Tuesday's announcement that Bragman would resign as OHS softball coach.

## Competitive cheer squad to host clinic

The Okeechobee "STORM" Competitive Cheer Squad will host their first "SPIRIT" Cheer Clinic Monday, June 18, through Friday, June 22, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day. The cost for this week-long cheer clinic is only \$60 and for that your child will receive lunch each day along with drinks, snacks and a camp T-shirt. Ages for this camp are 4-14 years. Sign your child up at the Sports Complex on Tuesday, June 12, and Thursday, June 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. the clinic will consist of cheer, dance and tumbling taught by experienced competitive cheerleaders. For more information you can call 863-634-0515. Space is limited, so don't delay.

## O.G. & C.C. Golf Results

Okeechobee Golf and Country Club Gold Tee Winners for the week of June 1 were: first place Gary Lee. second place Harry White, and third Place tie between Norman Koff and Ray Warren.

## Available 24/7



Community Guide: <http://specialsections.news2ap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=119590&pagenum=1>  
 Medical Directory: <http://specialsections.news2ap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=59786&pagenum=1>  
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Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION: CASE NO.: 472010CA000143CAXXXX

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 3rd day of April, 2012 and entered in Case No. 472010CA000143CAXXXX, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDERS OF THE HOME EQUITY ASSET TRUST 2005-5, HOME EQUITY PASS THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-5, Plaintiff,

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT 94; TRACT 94 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS; COMMENCE AT THE NORTH-EAST CORNER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST, AND RUN SOUTH 00'08" WEST ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 12, A DISTANCE OF 1386 FEET TO A POINT;

LOT 82, TAYLOR CREEK ISLES, UNIT IV, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 10, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Law Offices of Marshall C. Watson, P.A. 1800 NW 49th Street, Suite 120 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309 Telephone: (954) 453-0365 Facsimile: (954) 771-6052 Toll Free: 1-800-441-2438 415455 ON 5/30;6/6/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION: CASE NO. 2012-CA-53

VALERIE MCCHESNEY and WILLIAM MCCHESNEY, Plaintiff(s), vs. LAWANA GREEN, et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 24, 2012, entered in Case No. 2012-CA-53 in the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida wherein Valerie McChesney and William McChesney are Plaintiff(s) and Lawana Green, Woolley Sheds, Inc., Okeechobee County, Florida, and John Doe, unknown tenant, the names being fictitious to account for parties in possession, are the Defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 at 11:00 am on the 11th day of July, 2012, the following described property in Okeechobee County, Florida:

Tracts 1, 23 and 24, Block 7, DIXIE RANCH ACRES, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 35, of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY: Sandra L. Crech DEPUTY CLERK 416399 ON 6/6,13/2012

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Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION: CASE NO.: 472009CA000805CAXXXX

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDERS OF THE HOME EQUITY ASSET TRUST 2005-5, HOME EQUITY PASS THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-5, Plaintiff, vs. CYNTHIA V. HOLMES; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CYNTHIA V. HOLMES; UNKNOWN TENANT(S); IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 17th day of April, 2012, and entered in Case No. 472009CA000805CAXXXX, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDERS OF THE HOME EQUITY ASSET TRUST 2005-5, HOME EQUITY PASS THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-5, is the Plaintiff and CYNTHIA V. HOLMES and UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of the Circuit Court BY: Sandra L. Crech Deputy Clerk

Law Offices of Marshall C. Watson, P.A. 1800 NW 49th Street, Suite 120, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309 Telephone: (954) 453-0365 Facsimile: (954) 771-6052 Toll Free: 1-800-441-2438 415571 ON 6/6,13/2012

T. Rose, are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in The Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, on the 11th day of July, 2012, at 11:00 a.m., the same being a legal sale day and the hour a legal hour of sale, the following described property and the contents thereof in Okeechobee County, Florida:

NOTICE OF ACTION
To the following Defendant(s): DANIEL JASON HARRELL 4557 NORTHEAST 9TH LANE OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972 (LAST KNOWN ADDRESS)

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: LOTS 20 AND 21, BLOCK 55, OKEECHOBEE GARDENS, A SUBDIVISION IN THE EAST PART OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 30, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

SHARON ROBERTSON As Clerk of the Court BY: Sandra L. Crech Deputy Clerk 416182 ON 6/6,13/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION: CASE NO. 472012CA000066

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP FKA COUNTY RIDGE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP Plaintiff, vs. DANIEL JASON HARRELL; KELLY M. HARRELL; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF AMERICA; BY AND THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; RHS INDUSTRIES, INC. AJKA/RHS INDUSTRIES, INC. RETIREMENT; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION: CASE #: 2009 CA 000778

Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") Plaintiff, vs. William Jason Tomlinson; Unknown Parties in Possession #1 as to Unit #1 a/k/a Main; Unknown Parties in Possession #2 as to Unit #1 a/k/a Main; Unknown Parties in Possession #1 as to Unit #2; Unknown Parties in Possession #2 as to Unit #2; Unknown Parties in Possession #1 as to Unit #3; Unknown Parties in Possession #2 as to Unit #3; If living, and all other Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 24, 2012, entered in Civil Case No. 2009 CA 000778 of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein Federal National Mortgage Association, Plaintiff and William Jason Tomlinson are defendant(s). I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in The Jury Assembly Room, Second Floor, of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 N.W. Third Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 beginning at 11:00 A.M. on July 11, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

THE NORTH 300 FEET OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY: TRACT 84 - COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST, RUN THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 08 MINUTES WEST ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 12, A DISTANCE OF 2008.3 FEET, FOR POINT OF BEGINNING; THEN RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 40 MINUTES WEST PARALLEL TO THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF SECTION 12, A DISTANCE OF 660 FEET, THEN RUN SOUTH 0 DEGREES 08 MINUTES WEST PARALLEL TO THE EAST BOUNDARY OF SECTION 12, A DISTANCE OF 622.3 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 40 MINUTES EAST A DISTANCE OF 660 FEET TO THE 1/4 SECTION CORNER ON THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF SECTION 12, THEN RUN NORTH 0 DEGREES 08 MINUTES EAST, ALONG THE SECTION LINE A DISTANCE OF 622.3 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida BY: Sandra L. Crech DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

Attorney for Plaintiff: SHAPIRO, FISHPAN & GACHE, LLP 2424 North Federal Highway Suite 360 Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (561) 998-6700 (561) 998-6707 416289 ON 6/6,13/2012

SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptacion para poder participar de este procedimiento o evento; usted tiene derecho, sin costo alguno a que se le provea cierta ayuda. Favor de comunicarse con Corrie Johnson, Coordinadora de A.D.A., 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 por lo menos 7 dias antes de que tenga que comparecer en corte o inmediatamente despues de haber recibido esta notificacion si es que falta menos de 7 dias para su comparecencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva o de habla, llame al 711.

NOTICE OF ACTION
To the following Defendant(s): DANIEL JASON HARRELL 4557 NORTHEAST 9TH LANE OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972 (LAST KNOWN ADDRESS)

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: LOTS 20 AND 21, BLOCK 55, OKEECHOBEE GARDENS, A SUBDIVISION IN THE EAST PART OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 30, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

SHARON ROBERTSON As Clerk of the Court BY: Linda F. Young As Deputy Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION: CASE #: 2011-CA-000247

Kahane & Associates, P.A. 8201 Peters Road, Ste. 3000 Plantation, FL 33324-3486 Telephone: (954) 382-3486 Facsimile: (954) 382-3380 418634 ON 5/30;6/6/2012

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SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptacion para poder participar de este procedimiento o evento; usted tiene derecho, sin costo alguno a que se le provea cierta ayuda. Favor de comunicarse con Corrie Johnson, Coordinadora de A.D.A., 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 por lo menos 7 dias antes de que tenga que comparecer en corte o inmediatamente despues de haber recibido esta notificacion si es que falta menos de 7 dias para su comparecencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva o de habla, llame al 711.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment dated 4/02/2012 entered in Civil Case No. 2009CA000480 DIVISION: CIVIL, of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC, is Plaintiff, and ELLIOT THOMAS WEST AKA ELLIOT WEST; THOMAS WEST AKA ELLIOT WEST; CHOLE RADD; OAK LAKE VILLAS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CHOLE RADD; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2, Defendants.

SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida BY: Sandra L. Crech DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

Attorney for Plaintiff: SHAPIRO, FISHPAN & GACHE, LLP 2424 North Federal Highway Suite 360 Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (561) 998-6700 (561) 998-6707

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SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida BY: Sandra L. Crech DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

NOTICE OF ACTION
To the following Defendant(s): DANIEL JASON HARRELL 4557 NORTHEAST 9TH LANE OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972 (LAST KNOWN ADDRESS)

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: LOTS 20 AND 21, BLOCK 55, OKEECHOBEE GARDENS, A SUBDIVISION IN THE EAST PART OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 30, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY: Sandra L. Crech Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff: Elizabeth R. Wellborn, Esquire Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A. 350 Jim Moran Blvd., Suite 100 Deerfield Beach, FL 33442 Telephone: (954) 354-3544 Facsimile: (954) 354-3545

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# Start of hurricane season puts readiness plans in motion

## Waste Management offers tips to help residents be prepared

It's the service you rarely think about until it's truly needed. Much like electricity for your home or fuel in your vehicle, most South Florida residents may take their garbage and recycling collection or debris removal for granted. But after a severe storm or hurricane, these services are vital to beginning local recovery and revitalization.

To prepare prior to advancing storms, all residents and businesses in South Florida should take immediate actions to secure their garbage cans and other recycling and trash containers in a safe location. Remember to tie down or secure all loose items on your property that can become unsafe in high winds.

If a hurricane does directly impact your area, there's one way you can help. Simply remember to put household garbage such as food refuse and diapers – everything you ordinarily throw away – into containers or bags. Then place them at the curb separate from large storm debris like large household debris, trees and limbs. By separating your household garbage, you help your street get picked up more quickly and safely.

one of the most essential needs for a community to begin recovery is the reliable return of its most vital services," said Teresa Chandler, Community Relations Representative for Waste Management.

"That's why we spend a lot of time in the weeks prior to the start of hurricane season focusing within our company on annual hurricane preparation and recovery planning."

This year is no different. Local Waste Management staffs review their local plans, re-establish contact with local emergency authorities, and inspect and re-stock their hurricane preparedness equipment and supplies. All this and more is to ensure that employees are able to return to performing their very essential collection jobs in the community as soon as practical following a storm.

New for 2012 from Waste Management is the use of various social media tools to assure that local residents can find up-to-date information in the event of service disruptions resulting from challenging post-storm conditions. Once a storm strikes and is severe enough to warrant community updates, turn to [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com) for timely information about service. You can also find community information from Waste Management at [www.facebook.com/wastemanagement](http://www.facebook.com/wastemanagement) or follow the company on Twitter

at: [twitter.com/wastemanagement](http://twitter.com/wastemanagement).

As part of its hurricane planning and pre-storm preparation, Waste Management puts its hurricane response plan into action as soon as a storm becomes a verified threat to the area.

Waste Management's investment in emergency and storm recovery preparedness includes stockpiling of supplies and needed rapid-response equipment, including communications technologies and response vehicles. The effort includes mobile "command centers" that include overnight functionality plus satellite voice and data-enabled systems. These are stationed in Georgia and Texas but can be mobilized to be accessible anywhere in the southeast following a storm's impact.

After a storm, Waste Management works to restart waste and recycling collection and operations as soon as possible on streets that are passable. Reminders to separate household garbage from storm debris are issued. The company expands its routes to additional areas as more streets become clear of debris and other impediments.

"Our value to a community is not always apparent unless collection stops," said Chandler. "Doing everything we can to prepare before and return to service and help local residents recover after a crisis is what being a good community partner is all about."

More tips for hurricane preparedness are available on [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

# Lake Okeechobee regulation juggles needs of different users

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Maintaining the level of Lake Okeechobee is a juggling act that takes into consideration the concerns of diverse groups such as sportsmen and agricultural water consumers and relies on input from several government agencies.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) is charged with maintaining the lake level by balancing public safety, navigation, water supply and ecological needs. While a higher lake level might be good for large areas of South Florida that depend on the lake as a backup water supply for drinking water and agricultural purposes, public safety might be endangered. Lower lake levels might reduce the risk of flooding, but water supply might be restricted and harm might be done to downstream estuaries.

The level of Lake Okeechobee is regulated by two documents, the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule of 2008 (LORS 2008) which was adopted by the COE on April 28, 2008, after a two-year study and public input, and the Adaptive Protocols for Lake Okeechobee Operations completed in September, 2010. The primary goal of these documents is to keep the lake between 12.5 and 15.5 feet. According to Zafar Hyder, hydrological engineer for COE, this range of depths is to keep the lake healthy. This is called the operations band and it has five sub-bands to help water managers make the right decisions to maintain the optimum water level. Then there is the high lake management band which includes lake levels above 16 feet in advance of the wet season and

above 17.25 during the dry season. Operations in this band are focused on reducing the lake level and often include maximum water releases. Mr. Hyder said that above 17.25 feet, water managers began to be concerned about the safety of the dike. The regulation schedule also has a water shortage management band which includes lake levels below 10.5 feet in advance of the wet season or levels below 13 feet at the start of the dry season.

The Adaptive Protocols is a more detailed document than LORS 2008 and is used as a tool to make implementation of LORS 2008 more flexible and responsive to real time conditions. This document results in improved salinity of the estuaries and reduces the chances of the lake level falling low enough for ecological damage.

Mr. Hyder said that each Tuesday, the COE, using these two documents as guidelines, seeks the recommendation of SFWMD and the input from other local and state agencies to make decisions about releasing water from the lake.

As the water level drops into the water management shortage band, COE defers more to SFWMD as this agency tries to conserve water to meet the needs of agricultural and residential consumers.

Lake level is controlled, in part, by making low level pulse releases designed to mimic rainfall to the Caloosahatchee River and St. Lucie Canal. Pulse releases are also used to regulate the salinity in these waterways to provide for their healthy ecology.

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

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# OHS girls track team honored at award banquet

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School girls track team 2012 season was highlighted by Tabatha Henry, who won her second district title in running this year as she captured the 3200 meters last month.

Henry was awarded with the Most Valuable Player Award for the track team, the fourth MVP she has won in cross country and track during her freshmen and sophomore years.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Brianna Nunez was the 2012 Brahman Award winner for OHS Girls Track. She received the award from Track Coach Jose Nunez.

"It has been unbelievable. The district titles feel the same and both feel amazing," she said.

Henry was praised for the work she puts into the sport and her dedication. Her goal is to become a state champion by the time she completes high school in the next two years. She admits she likes to win and doesn't settle for anything less.

"I like the feeling of getting first. My goal was to be district champion this year and I made my goal," she said.

The sports are similar as far as training but the actual races are much different.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Tabatha Henry (middle) received the 2012 MVP Award for OHS Girls Track. She is flanked by Track Coaches A.J. Mayernik (left) and Jose Nunez (right).

Henry won the 3200 meter race in a tight battle. She finished eighth at the regional and missed out on a trip to the state finals. She wants to change that next year.

"I had an off day at regional and I was sick that week. I have two more years and next year I will definitely make it to states in both sports," she added.

Henry thanked her parents and her friends for their support as she trains to reach her goal.

Track Coach A.J. Mayernik said he felt his first year in command went well. He said the athletes put forth a great effort and really bonded as a team.

Many of the kids really didn't know what to expect as they didn't know him or his methods and probably wondered if he really knew what he was doing.

"I'm thrilled to see how well the team did and the improvement we had. My main goal was for the team to have fun and they had a lot of fun competing and furthering their abilities," he said.

While only one girl made the regional, a number of girls were very close to qualifying. Mayernik said that makes him excited about the future.

"I think we have a lot of outstanding talent on this team and most of the girls have gotten the jitters out and next year will be cool, calm and relaxed," he added.

Brianna Nunez was named the Brahman Award winner for girl's track. She said she was shocked when they called her name at the awards banquet.

"I'm not the fastest girl but I gave my heart out and I tried and practice every day," she said.

Nunez was part of the 4x100 meter relay team. They had some fine performances this year but fell short of the regional. They were forced to substitute a few girls due to injuries and absences and that hurt with the passing and receiving of the baton at times.

"I think track is amazing and I recommend it for everybody. I was able to stay in shape, make new friends and got comfortable with each other. It was a really good experience."

Other athletes honored at the banquet included Rosa Borja, Hunter Boshell, Baylee Evans, Ana Huerta, Jenna Kissam, Sandra Luviano, Hannah Raulerson, Selena Sanchez, Emilse Serrano, Cameron White, and Shania Bayes.

Scholar athletes included Hunter Boswell, Tabatha Henry, Ana Huerta, Sandra Luviano, Hannah Raulerson, Emilse Serrano, Cameron White and Shania Bayes.

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