



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 86

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

50¢ Plus tax

DUI checkpoint scheduled

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Watch out for fake vet groups

... Page 4

Mom arrested for leaving kids alone

... Page 7

Church activities special speaker

... Page 8

Campers learn hunting, fishing

... Page 9

Lake Levels

12.01 feet

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Local candidates face the public

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee voters got a chance to listen to and ask questions of candidates for local constitutional offices in the primary election thanks to a forum held Monday evening, July 16, at Osceola Middle School.

Each candidate was given two minutes for opening remarks. They were then asked the

same four questions before being allowed two minutes for closing remarks.

First up were the two Republican candidates for sheriff -- incumbent Sheriff Paul May and challenger Deputy Jon Folbrecht, of the Martin County Sheriff's Office. The winner of the Republican primary for sheriff will face write-in candidate Timothy Allen Higgins in the November general election.

While Deputy Folbrecht admitted that some

people thought he was too young to be sheriff, he asked voters to decide for themselves. He said he had been a Martin County deputy since 2005 and has received 400 hours of training. He said his grandfather was a Palm Beach County deputy for 30 years and his wife was also a deputy.

"My campaign for sheriff is not about me,"

See CANDIDATES — Page 5



Special to the Okeechobee News

Firestix softball win tournament!

The Firestix brought home another crown this month as they won the South Florida fast pitch softball B tournament in West Palm Beach winning seven of eight games. They won the championship 7-4 over the Sunrise Thunder. For more on the story, see page 9.

3 men charged with beating, robbing man

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Three local men have been arrested for allegedly beating a man then stealing his prescription medications from him.

Arrested were: Timothy Courson, 19; Billy James Foley, 21; and, Jimmy Howling, 66. All three men list the same S.W. Third St. address in Okeechobee as their home address.

Each man was charged with one felony

count of robbery by sudden snatching and one misdemeanor count of battery.

The trio was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on Saturday, July 14, where bond for Foley and Howling was set at \$3,000 each. Courson's bond was set at \$1,500. Jail records indicate the three men have been released on bond.

An arrest report by Deputy Leland Schoon-

See BEATING — Page 5

Okeechobee schools rated a D for 2011-12

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

For the first time the Okeechobee School District has earned a D grade.

The Florida Department of Education released all of the grades for the 67 counties Friday and gave Glades County schools a B grade. Okeechobee earned a C in 2010 and 2011 and were an A District in 2009. Glades schools were earned an A in 2011, a C in 2010, and a B in 2009.

Okeechobee schools were close to a C but not quite as they earned 433 points. The cutoff for a C was 435 points. The state report said 46 percent of Okeechobee students were at grade level or higher in reading, 47-percent were at grade level in math, and 74-percent were at grade level in writing.

The report said 35-percent of students were at grade level in science. Fifty-nine percent of students made learning gains in reading and 55-percent made learning gains in math. Sixty-two percent of the lowest performing students improved in reading and 55-percent improved in math.

See SCHOOLS — Page 5



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Two city council seats will be on Nov. 6 ballot

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Among all the other local offices appearing on the Nov. 6 ballot will also be two city council seats. The nonpartisan at-large seats currently held by Mayor James Kirk and Councilman Mike O'Connor will be up for grabs. Neither incumbent has announced if they will run for re-election.

The ballot for city voters will have an alphabetical list of all qualified candidates in the November general election. The two candidates who receive the most votes will be elected to four-year terms beginning Jan. 7, 2013.

Candidates for these two positions must be a registered voter in the city and a resident of the city. The deadline for qualifying

is noon, Friday, Aug. 24, at the Office of the City Clerk, 55 S.E. Fifth Ave.

Anyone interested in running for city office must appoint a campaign treasurer, complete several forms and pay the qualifying fees. The qualifying fee is \$50. In lieu of that fee a candidate can submit 27 city voter signatures to the Supervisor of Elections by noon, July 20. Candidates must also pay an assessment fee of 1 percent of the annual salary of the office to be paid the week of noon Monday, Aug. 20, through noon, Friday, Aug. 24.

For more information, contact City Clerk Lane Gamiotea at 863-763-3372 ext. 215.

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

CCC meeting planned

The Community Collaborative Council of the Okeechobee County Shared Services Network will conduct their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **July 24**, at 10 a.m. in the board room of the Okeechobee County School Board office. Guest presenters: Treasure Coast Food Bank – Krista Garofalo and Beth MacKenzie with Guardians for a New Future. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the community to identify issues, collaborate, and share information regarding services for children and their families.

The meeting is open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please call Sharon Vinson at 863-462-5000, Ext. 257. NOTE: we are collecting back-to-school supplies for needy children.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Benefit helps injured teen

Kaleb 'Fred' Langdale, a member of the Moore Haven FFA Chapter was attacked by an alligator in Moore Haven on July 9. The Okeechobee Brahman Senior FFA and District 11 FFA Chapters will host a car wash on Saturday, **Aug. 4**, at the Okeechobee Tractor Supply. They are asking for a \$10 donation per vehicle. All proceeds will go the Langdale family. For more information, contact Curtis Evans at 863-763-4475 or 863-801-4468.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and a chance of rain in the afternoon. High of 93F. Winds less than 5 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and a chance of rain. Low of 72F. Winds less than 5 mph. Chance of rain 20%.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and a chance of rain in the afternoon. High of 91F with a heat index of 99F. Winds from the SSE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20%.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Fog overnight. Low of 73F. Winds from the SSE at 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Fog early. High of 91F with a heat index of 99F. Winds 5 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Fog overnight. Low of 72F. Winds from SSE 5-10 mph.

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS HEADLINE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2007
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Report: Man caught with bogus SS card

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A man went to a local hospital for a pre-employment drug test but ended up in the county jail when it was learned the Social Security number he was using belonged to someone else.

Luis Alonso Juarez, 40, N.W. 214th Circle, Okeechobee, was arrested Friday, July 13, on a felony charge of identity theft.

He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$1,000.

Juarez was released from jail on bond.



Luis Alonso Juarez

Detective William Hill, of the Florida Department of Financial Services - Division of Insurance Fraud, stated in his arrest report that Juarez went to Raulerson Hospital for an employer's drug screen. When hospital staff cross-checked the Social Security number given them

by Juarez they found it belonged to a former patient, stated the detective.

According to the report Juarez had given

the potential employer a resident alien card and a Social Security card with the bogus number, the report added.

Detective Hill went on to point out that Juarez told him he bought the resident alien card and Social Security card three years ago in Tifton, Ga. The man reportedly told the detective he paid \$200 for the fake credentials.

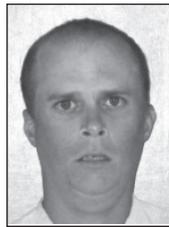
Juarez reportedly went on to say that he had used the illegal cards to gain employment at several different places since then.

Area man facing burglary, grand theft charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

After Justin Cole Simmons allegedly tried to flee from deputies on a stolen golf cart, it was also learned that he had apparently broken into a car dealership and damaged a vehicle.

Simmons, 30, S.W. Eighth St., was arrested Friday, July 13, on felony charges of burglary of an unoccupied structure, two counts of criminal mischief over \$1,000, grand theft, fleeing and eluding a law enforcement officer and resisting a law enforcement officer with violence.



Justin Cole Simmons

He was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence and driving while license suspended/revoked.

This investigation began when Deputy Corporal Donald Ellis, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), was investigating a break-in at a car dealership on U.S. 441 S. Someone had broken into the dealership and, with some sort of tool, broke out a window of a sports utility vehicle and dented the door. The damage was estimated at over \$1,000, stated Cpl. Ellis.

A witness reportedly told Cpl. Ellis they saw a man running from the dealership toward a nearby campground.

As the corporal was investigating the break-in he heard an OCSO dispatcher say

that Deputy Howard Pickering had apparently located the burglary suspect, and that the man was now on a stolen golf cart and refusing to stop for the deputy.

That man was later identified as Simmons.

Simmons, stated an arrest report by OCSO Deputy Steven Pollock, drove the golf cart onto the lot of another dealership and intentionally drove the cart into a 2013 SUV. He then jumped from the cart and fled on foot.

Deputy Pollock said damage to that SUV was estimated at \$3,000.

Simmons then allegedly ran across the

four-lane highway, where he jumped into a water retention area and was finally taken into custody on the south side of the Publix parking lot.

As deputies were escorting the now-handcuffed Simmons to a transport vehicle he pulled away from the deputies and reportedly tried to kick Deputy Pollock.

Deputy Pollock went on to state in his report that a bag of suspected spice and an alleged smoking pipe were found in the man's pockets. The suspected spice and pipe will be sent to the Indian River Crime Laboratory where they will be analyzed to see if either contain any illegal substances.

OCSO plans another DUI checkpoint

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) will set up a DUI/driver's license checkpoint Saturday, July 21, on S.R. 70.

These check points are a proven tool and are effective in reducing the number of people killed or injured in alcohol-involved crashes, said Sheriff Paul May. He went on to say research shows that such crashes are reduced by an average of 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted enough.

Law enforcement officers will be checking drivers for signs of possible impairment. Drivers will also be checked to make sure they have the proper licensing.

Impaired drivers can expect to be arrested and jailed. Besides fines and other

fees, impaired drivers can also expect to have their license suspended and the cost of their insurance increased.

DUI classes and other expenses can exceed \$10,000, pointed out Sheriff Paul May.

Motorists are reminded that if they are going to drink they should designate a driver; call a cab; call a family member; or, stay home.

Florida law considers a driver with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or higher to be impaired. Drivers under the age of 21 with a BAC of .02 or higher are also in violation of state law.

Assisting the sheriff's office will be officers from the Okeechobee City Police Department and troopers from the Florida Highway Patrol.

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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Sex education

- The Okeechobee County School Board has finally decided that the "abstinence only" program is not working and they will add information on contraceptives and teen pregnancy to the sex education classes taught in 9th grade. Considering how some of the middle school kids act, I think 9th grade might be a little late in the game for some kids.

- You can't stop human nature. Some kids make the right choice. Some don't.

- I feel the most effective thing to "preach" is safety. For the simple fact that parents are not always gonna fully know what's going on with their kids. Safety tip #1: supply your own condoms.

- Make sure the kid understands that teaching safety is NOT giving permission.

- The decision to teach sex education in school comes many years too late. Abstinence hasn't worked for awhile. The school board is finally waking up. May not be the best choice, but still it is one that is being made. If the parents aren't going to equip them with the knowledge of safety, at least someone will. Show STD pics too—it's not pretty. Give all aspects.

- How is this of any concern to the schools?

- As a 23-year-old mother of two, I was taught about abstinence in 8th grade in North Carolina. I agree it is a parent's job to talk about sex, protection and contraception, but most of the time it is a little too late. By 8th grade, A LOT of my peers were sexually active. Was I? No. I honestly believe if Okeechobee was to have a seminar in which current teen/young moms bring in their kids for all the kids who are in school to see it would bring a different light. Education is key, and a lot of that ceases when you have a child, unless of course you have an awesome support system.

- It's about time!

- You don't tell a teen "no"! TALK about it. Tell them what if's. Don't encourage and for heavens sake DO NOT deny them their human rights. EDUCATE. TALK.

- Just a thought here but maybe if they stop teaching them how to do it and get away with it they might not do it so much.

- How about sending each student to a day care center for one day? Have them interact with a baby for 8 hours, with the crying, diapers, rocking, walking him around till he's quiet, feeding, bottle-making procedures, teething, spitting up. That ought to change their minds about the back seat of a car/truck.

Letters to the editor

Dear managers of local businesses

This letter is in response to recent activity by out-of-town and out-of-state organizations collecting donations for veterans. While these organizations may be legitimate fundraising groups by law, meeting the minimum requirements for a 501 (c) 3 status, the money that they are obtaining from our community is taken to larger cities in and out of the state of Florida and distributed. It is not benefiting the veterans of Okeechobee.

Some of these groups are using paid employees to stand at our store fronts in what looks like a military uniform. These employee fundraisers are paid as much as 30 percent of their daily collections. Their supervisors and the head of the organization may be making six-figure incomes off these collections that are advertised as going to the veterans in need.

Of course, not all fundraiser organizations are operated this way, and we are not trying to stop the fundraising activity of our local organizations. Schools, churches, youth activity, homeless, and veteran organizations cannot exist without fundraiser efforts. We are, however, tired of watching the limited money that is donated by the citizens of our small community being drained out of this area.

We believe that the money given by Okeechobee area residents should benefit the Okeechobee area needs, not Miami, Tampa or Atlanta. Fundraisers should be put on by volunteer organizations for the purpose of raising money that is not otherwise available to help those who have specific needs. They should not be a business that makes money from well-intentioned citizens who think they are helping those in need in the community, but are actually just giving money to collectors who line their own pockets first then give what is left to those to whom the money was originally intended.

The Okeechobee area has several volunteer organizations that do work to assist the veterans who are in need in our community. We do collect funds and have fundraisers for this purpose. These clearly identify themselves as Okeechobee city, county or area organizations and should be well known in the community. No one is paid by these groups and all monies collected go to the needs of those for whom the money was collected.

The following is a list of those volunteer veterans organizations who are recognized by the Okeechobee Veterans Council as fundraisers for veterans needs: American Legion Post 64; VFW Post 10539; VFW Post 9528 (Buckhead Ridge); VFW Post 4423; Am-Vets Post 200; U.S. Coast Guard Aux. 57; Big Lake Missions; and, Okeechobee Veterans Council.

This list does not preclude other local civic and fraternal organizations from raising funds for our local veterans. We welcome any and all assistance from all-volunteer, non-profit organizations or from any businesses that wish to take up a collection or have a fundraiser for the veterans as long as all funds collected are distributed to Okeechobee area

veterans who have special needs.

We are asking the business owners and managers in the Okeechobee, Fla. area to ensure that those who request to have a fundraising event at your store, are actually a volunteer group which is raising these funds for the Okeechobee community and that no one is getting paid or making a kick-back from the monies collected. In this way, our citizens can be assured that when they give their money to a cause, the donated funds are actually going to the local community needs and not to some other city or into some person's pocket that is taking the money.

Again, we thank you for your assistance in dealing with this situation.

**David Clemenson, chairman
Okeechobee Veterans Council**

VOTE!

We've come to that time again where we must choose the right person to be a good leader. By now, most have already made up their minds who they are going to vote for.

The matter of the Presidency is only two choices (very sadly) so please think carefully and fully examine the candidate of your choice.

Then we have city and county officials (and non-officials) running either for re-election or to fill an empty seat or to take over someone else's seat. AGAIN...weigh the odds, look at the candidates carefully. Look at their history, past and present. If they are already in office and doing a great job, why remove them?

Guaranteed, some people in office need replacing, be careful who you replace them with...don't jump from the frying pan into the fire.

And just because they are friends does not mean they will still be your friend once they are in office. Remember, "THERE ARE NO FRIENDS IN BUSINESS." Once in office they will have jobs to do that will not include you.

Some of the people who are running against those in office are not fully equipped to handle the job. Most of those already in office have proven themselves over time and should not be removed. And then again, I say, there are some who should be replaced. Just make sure you choose wisely.

And above all things before you make any decisions, please, please go to the LORD in prayer. Seek His guidance and ask for wisdom in making the right choices. Not only in these elections, but in all matters of your life.

Psalm 25:12. "Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way that He chooses." God will never fail you, but man will.

**Jesus loves you and so do I~~
Cheryl Gawda**

KEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D
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To Submit News

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

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Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.

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

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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.

**MEMBER
OF:**



CANDIDATES

Continued From Page 1

Mr. Folbrecht asserted. "It's about my children and your children. Vote for the future."

The incumbent sheriff lost no time in squelching the rumor that if elected, he would only serve for two years and then resign to allow Major Noel Stephen to become sheriff. Sheriff May said that was not true and that Maj. Stephen wanted to run for sheriff on his own.

"I'm running on my record," the sheriff said, "I'm doing what I told you I would do."

He pledged not to give up in the war on drugs.

With a decreasing budget he said he has had to do more with less.

When asked what he would do differently if re-elected, the sheriff said he would get more people involved in the war against drugs.

"As sheriff I will continue to drop the budget," was Deputy Folbrecht's response to the same question. He also said he would be concerned with administrative issues and policy changes and try to get more grant money.

In response to another question, Deputy Folbrecht said the lack of entertainment is the biggest problem facing youth. He praised the BRAT (Building Relationships Among Teens) program for young people in Okeechobee. He said the youth need to be positively motivated.

"Our youth are our future," he asserted.

Sheriff May chose to look at the youth situation from a positive angle. He said his office launched a six-week undercover program at Okeechobee High School. While 22 students were arrested, he said 1,178 students were not involved with drugs. He stressed the importance of home life to our youth and emphasized that he had confidence in them.

When asked what he would cut if he had to make further budget cuts, Sheriff May replied: "We don't have anywhere else to go but personnel."

In response to the same question, Deputy Folbrecht said there were plenty of places to cut. He mentioned possible savings in health

care for employees. He also said unnecessary positions could be eliminated. He said raises could be given to sheriff's office personnel from the savings in health care.

"My budget can come from state and federal grants," he replied, when asked about how declining property values would affect his budget.

He also said the current sheriff's office has too many vehicles.

In response, Sheriff May said Deputy Folbrecht has been told several times that his insurance figures were not correct.

In closing, the sheriff said he has 46 years experience in law enforcement.

"The safety and well being of my employees is my number one priority," he said.

He vowed to continue the fight on drugs, and let doing the right thing guide his hard decisions.

Deputy Folbrecht expressed his concern for gangs and drugs. He also expressed concern about the local economy and the professionalism of deputies. He said the voters could keep what they have and live in the past or vote for the future.

Incumbent Republican property appraiser Bill Sherman discussed the issues with challenger Sharon Wallace.

The winner of the Republican primary for property appraiser will face Democratic challenger Stan Curren.

"It has been, and will continue to be, my goal to give you a fair and impartial assessment," Mr. Sherman said.

He said he took on a large corporation each tax year from 1994 to 2006 and today his corporation is assessed the same as everyone else.

"This is not a job for a novice," Mr. Sherman said, adding that he has over 480 hours of continuing education. "I want you to realize I take this job very seriously."

"I want fair and equitable appraisals for all of us," said Mrs. Wallace, adding that she wants to see the rules applied equally.

Mrs. Wallace said she has over 1,200 hours of continuing education and has 23 years experience in administrative, contractual and budget areas.

"I will always be accessible to you," Mrs. Wallace promised. "I will be the hardest working public official you have ever had."

When asked why she wanted to serve, Mrs. Wallace said: "I want this office pas-

she added.

While the district grade was a D, all Okeechobee schools had a grade of C or better for 2011-2012. There were no A schools this year.

Thirty-nine school systems in Florida dropped one letter grade this year. No districts improved their grade according to the Florida Department of Education.

The report for Glades County schools showed 51 percent of students were at grade level in reading, 61-percent in math, 75-percent in writing, and 43-percent in science. The report showed 58-percent of reading students and 57-percent of math students made learning gains. The report showed 61-percent of low performing students improved in reading and 60-percent improved in math.

The Pemaquett Emahavk Charter Elementary school in Brighton had a C grade and the Middle School earned a B grade, an improvement from a C last year.

sionately so that I can serve you with all the energy I can muster."

"I want to continue to serve you because I love Okeechobee County," Mr. Sherman replied, while pointing out that he has a lifetime of experience in the appraisal field. He claimed to have reduced his budget 20 percent in the last five years. "We are at bare bones," he said. "We don't have anywhere else to go."

"I will not be reducing salaries," Mrs. Wallace vowed. "I will not be reducing staff."

In reference to Mr. Sherman's legal battles, Mrs. Wallace noted that last year the county spent \$125,000 in legal fees. "Maybe if we get the assessment right the first time we won't have legal fees," she said.

"I am a younger and more energetic person," Mrs. Wallace continued. "It's time for new ideas and vitality to be brought to this office."

Mr. Sherman replied that he had 38 years in the property appraisal field and is recognized as an expert witness in state and federal court.

"If you do your job, you are going to be sued," Mr. Sherman asserted. "Big corporations do not want to be appraised like you."

He said the costs of his lawsuits were offset by the increased property taxes to the county and the school board.

"I have the experience. I have the education. I have the grit," Mr. Sherman said.

When asked if the system of commercial assessment is, when compared to residential assessment, fair Mr. Sherman said there is currently a 10 percent cap on commercial property assessment and a 3 percent cap on residential property. He supported legislation to reduce the commercial cap to 5 percent because that would make the assessment process fairer.

Mrs. Wallace replied: "The thing we want to do is promote business."

In closing, Mrs. Wallace he spoke of her community involvement which included membership in the cattlemen's association.

"When I commit to something I give it my all," she told the audience.

Mr. Sherman closed by saying: "This job must be done by a competent property appraiser. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve you as property appraiser."

There are two candidates for the non-

partisan position of school board district 1 -- incumbent Kelly Owens and challenger Malissa Morgan.

Mrs. Morgan has been married for 23 years and has two sons. She has 17 years in education, including 14 years as a certified teacher. In 2001 she was named her school's teacher of the year. She has a bachelors, masters and specialist degrees.

"I believe in giving back to the community I call home," Mrs. Morgan said. "I am passionate about access to quality education."

Mrs. Owens has been on the board since 2004. She has 18 years experience in the education field, and has a vested interest in the school system because of her grandchildren.

In response to a question, Mrs. Owens said the biggest obstacle to youth is the pressure brought about by high stakes testing.

"We do need testing, but it needs to be reasonable," she answered.

Mrs. Morgan replied that the biggest problem is lack of programs for youth.

When asked what she would do differently Mrs. Morgan replied: "I would educate our community on a school board's job."

Mrs. Owens said if re-elected she would focus more on securing help from the federal level and "be more active at the state level to protect programs."

Mrs. Morgan said her nine years experience as a business owner would help her deal with regulatory agencies.

"We will be an advocate who goes to Tallahassee," she vowed.

Mrs. Morgan wants to cut funding in other areas to save personnel, while Mrs. Owens wants to continue to focus on the development of teachers.

In her closing remarks, Mrs. Owens referred to the state level positions she has held and her promotion of various educational causes.

Mrs. Morgan closed by pledging to be the advocate for children, parents and schools.

For more from the political forum, watch for the July 20 edition of the Okeechobee News.

SCHOOLS

Continued From Page 1

Director of Student Services Renee Getting said the district anticipated a lower grade this year and the schools are working diligently to improve the scores through their school improvement plan.

"Obviously we had hoped to maintain the C grade and it was a surprise that the match scores were lower than they had been. I feel the schools are working diligently to improve in the next year," she added.

It is possible the high school data could help raise the district grade to a C when that data is released later this year. Getting said a decision on whether to appeal the grade had not been made.

"I think the school improvement plans will look at the weaknesses each school had and concentrate on improvement there. That should improve the scores next year,"

she added.

While the district grade was a D, all Okeechobee schools had a grade of C or better for 2011-2012. There were no A schools this year.

Thirty-nine school systems in Florida dropped one letter grade this year. No districts improved their grade according to the Florida Department of Education.

The report for Glades County schools showed 51 percent of students were at grade level in reading, 61-percent in math, 75-percent in writing, and 43-percent in science. The report showed 58-percent of reading students and 57-percent of math students made learning gains. The report showed 61-percent of low performing students improved in reading and 60-percent improved in math.

The Pemaquett Emahavk Charter Elementary school in Brighton had a C grade and the Middle School earned a B grade, an improvement from a C last year.

BEATING

Continued From Page 1

maker, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated the three men pulled the male victim from his car and beat him to the point he passed out.

The victim and his girlfriend were at Nubbin Slough looking at the water and watching people fish when the attack occurred, stated the report.

After beating the victim, the three men allegedly took his prescriptions—56 methadone 10 mg, and 56 xanax 1mg pills.

According to the deputy's report the men



Billy James Foley



Jimmy Howling

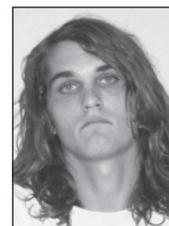
attacked the victim without provocation.

Deputy Schoonmaker went on to state

that the victim was taken to Raulerson Hospital for treatment.

The report also indicates that four people at the S.W. Third St. home all said Courson, Foley and Howling had not left the residence all day.

Those four individuals all signed witness statements to that effect, added Deputy Schoonmaker's report..



Timothy Courson

Community Events

VFW Buckhead Ridge to host dinner night

The Buckhead Ridge VFW Ladies Auxiliary will hold their monthly Wednesday night dinner **July 18**, with a spaghetti dinner by Rene'. All proceeds will benefit our Veterans and their families. Dinner will be served from 5-7 p.m., with a donation. On Thursday, **July 19**, the Ladies Auxiliary will serve burgers for Bingo from noon-1 p.m. Come out and play bingo and enjoy a great burger at our post. For more information please call 863-467-2882.

Eagles North to host BINGO

Eagles North will host Bingo on Wednesday, **July 18**, at 4:30 p.m. Come on out! Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund. The club is located at 9985 U.S. 441 N.

Cowboys for Christ to meet

Cowboys for Christ of Basinger will meet Thursday, **July 19**, at the Basinger Community Center. A potluck supper will begin at 6 p.m. followed by services at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Doyle McDuffie at 863-763-2285.

Main Street plans mixer

The July Main Street Mixer will be sponsored by the Brown Cow Sweetery, 103 S.W. Park St., on Thursday, **July 19**, from 5-7 p.m. Okeechobee Main Street mixers are free to the public and everyone is welcome to attend.

This is an opportunity to meet fellow citizens and local business owners while you relax and enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

The theme for this event is a "Tacky Tourist" so bring your camera, hat, and shades to fit right in! For more information contact the Okeechobee Main Street Executive Director Cindy Birdashaw at 863-357-6246 or stop in the Main Street office at 111 N.E. Second St. (directly north of CVS).

Day Spa to hold grand opening event

Join Okeechobee Main Street as we celebrate the Grand Opening of the Bella Rose Day Spa and Salon, 311 N.E. Second St., on Tuesday, **July 24**, from 5 to 8 p.m. The official Ribbon Cutting will be held at 5:15 p.m., with a tour of the building and reception to follow. The public is invited to take this opportunity to experience the salon and see first-hand all of the wonderful services that they provide. Dr. Christopher R. Cromwell, M.D. and plastic surgeon will be on-site during the grand opening.

Bella Rose is an upscale, full service Bumble and bumble exclusive salon specializing in makeovers, haircuts, color, makeup, massage and much more!

For more information contact the Okeechobee Main Street Executive Director Cindy Birdashaw at 863-357-6246 or stop in the Main Street office at 111 N.E. Second Street.

Local Democratic Committee to meet

The Okeechobee Democratic Executive Committee will meet on Thursday, **July 19**, at 6 p.m. in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's. High on the "to be accomplished list" will be the finalizing of plans for the upcoming JJ Picnic which will be held Saturday, July 28, at the Civic Center. Democratic candidates and candidates for the universal primary are invited to speak and free food for all.

DAR plan Summer Brunch

Okeechobee DAR will have a Summer Brunch on Friday, **July 20**, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Su George, 1709 S.W. 28th Ave. For information call 863-763-0266. All members and those interested in DAR are invited.

B.R.A.T. Club plans summer teen dance

Come to the dance! The Summer Teen Dance is at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus, 610 S.W. Second Ave. on Saturday, **July 21**, from 7-10 p.m. Ages 12-16 are welcome. Admission is just \$7 and includes pizza, soda, chips, entertainment and more! Contact Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996, for more information.

Poker run benefits children of Heather Town

A poker run and bake sale to benefit Heather Town's children are planned for Sunday, **July 22**, with the first bike out at 1 p.m. and last bike in at 3 p.m. The first stop is J&S Fish Camp; second stop, Happy Hour Tavern; third stop, Frosty Mug; fourth stop, North Eagles Aerie on U.S. 441 N.; fifth stop, Good Spirits Lounge; sixth stop Uncle Larry's Rim Ditch Cafe. The last stop is at the Cypress Hut Eagles, 4701 441 Southeast (the old Cypress Hut Flea Market). This is where the benefit will be. There will be a bake sale, a 50/50 drawing, and pulled pork sandwich dinners for \$6. Music will be by Debbie and Jimmy Harper. A car wash sponsored by Kitana and friends will start at noon. For more information, contact Chrissy at 863-697-6812 or Courtney at 863-261-1920.

CCC meeting planned for July

The next meeting of the Community Collaborative Council, a part of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, will be Tuesday, **July 24**, at 10 a.m. in the board room of the school board office.

Football camp planned

MOORE HAVEN—'Muck Area' Christian Football Camp will be held Saturday, **July 28**, at Moore Haven Jr-Sr High School Field for Grades 7-12. Cost is \$10. The camp will feature former and current pro and college players, along with high school coaches. Recruiters from various colleges are also expected to attend. To reserve a spot or for more information, call Rod at 561-809-8300 or email rfelt10@aol.com.

OKMS to hold meeting

The Quarterly General Membership meeting for Okeechobee Main Street will be held on **July 25**, at noon at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Ave.

Please plan to attend to network with fellow citizens and business owners, greet new members and receive updates of current activities and accomplishments of the quarter.

For questions or additional information please contact Cindy Birdashaw at 863-357-6246.

Okeechobee YMCA Children's Art Auction to be held

The Okeechobee YMCA Children's Art Auction in partnership with the Children's Services Council of Okeechobee, will be held on Thursday, **July 26**, from 6-7:30 p.m. at "old" New Endeavor High School, 575 S.W. 28th St., in Okeechobee.

Come laugh and cry while the Y children share their Y stories and their famous art work!

This event is to raise funds and awareness about the YMCA Okeechobee Community Support campaign which allows the Okeechobee community to enjoy youth development, summer camp and after school.

For more information on how you can make a difference, contact Shawn Keil 772-215-9780 or Skeil@ymcatreasurecoast.org.

Backyarders only'

BBQ event is July 27-28

The National Day of the American Cowboy Cookoff for backyard grillers only has been slated for **July 27 and 28** at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center, 4601 S.R. 710. 'Anything butt,' sauces and beer can chicken turn-ins will start at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 27.

The pork butt, ribs, brisket and chicken turn-ins will start at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 28.

For information and fees, contact: Keith Stripling - 863-634-9108; Bobby Schoonmaker - 863-634-3910; Laurie Raulerson Stephen - 863-634-3462; or, Noel Stephen - 863-634-0650. Proceeds from the event will benefit the O.L. Raulerson Jr. fund. Water and electricity will be provided.

Vendor applications for upcoming events available

Okeechobee Main Street is currently taking applications for the National Day of the American Cowboy, to be held in the Agri-Civic Center on **July 27** and 28, and the annual All-American Labor Day Celebration which will be held in Flagler Park on Sept. 1, 2, and 3.

Applications for booth space are available at the Main Street office, 111 N.E. Second St., directly behind C.V.S. and can also be found on the Main Street website at www.okeechobeemainstreet.net.

For further information, please contact Cindy Birdashaw at 863-357-6246.

Obituaries

Submit obituaries by emailing obits@newszap.com. A link to obituaries is available at florida.newszap.com.

Helen L. Osborne

OKEECHOBEE — Helen L. Osborne, age 84 of Okeechobee died Monday, July 16, 2012 in Summerfield, Florida.

She was born, Mar. 14, 1928 in Garrett, Kentucky and was a retired Registered Nurse. She had been a resident of Okeechobee since 2002 coming from Stuart. She was of the Christian faith.

Mrs. Osborne is preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, David; and a great grandson, Caleb Nelson.

She is survived by her son, Larry Osborne (Donetta) of Belleview, Fla.; daughters, Diane King (Dana) of St. Cloud, Fla.; Debbie Branham (Chip) of Okeechobee, Fla.; grandchildren, Kimberly Branham-Nelson (Billy) of Fernandina Beach, Fla., Brett Osborne (Nicole) of Arden, N.C.; Chris Branham (Michelle) of Okeechobee, Fla.; four great-grandchildren, Savanna Nelson, Bryce Nelson, Brady Nelson and Carter Branham.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. until service time of 1:00 p.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, FL.

Interment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery. All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, FL. On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

John Albert Starnes Sr.

OKEECHOBEE — John Albert Starnes Sr., born on Sept. 2, 1930, passed away peacefully in his sleep on June 16, 2012 at 6:02 p.m. with a favorite CNA who'd adopted his two dogs at his side.

He is survived by his sons, John Jr. and Kevin Lee.

He was a hardworking, honorable, decent, loyal man dedicated to being a good provider for his family with a 22 year career in the Air Force, followed by a second stellar career at Pratt and Whitney. He and his wife Sue, who passed away May 28, 2010, moved to Okeechobee in 1974 and transformed a few acres of low lying pasture into a tidy gated estate with trees and fishponds and gardens surrounding a lovely sturdy home. His last several months were partially spent at Okeechobee Health Care where he made many friends and enjoyed a lovely twilight romance with a delightful woman named Mary. He will be missed by many.

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Mom arrested for leaving kids alone

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Two young children were found walking in the middle of N.W. 36th St. after their mother had reportedly gone to a neighborhood convenience store and left her kids alone in the home.

Natli Gonzalez, 21, N.W. 36th St., was arrested Monday, July 16, on two felony counts of child neglect. She was later released on her own recognizance.

In an arrest report Deputy Matthew Grumbling, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that the sheriff's office received a call

from a woman who found the children—ages 2 and 4—walking in the middle of the street in Basswood. When asked, the children did not know where their parents were, added the report.

The woman reportedly gathered up the children and kept them safe until Deputy Grumbling arrived.

The deputy said about 5 minutes after his arrival at the scene the children's mother returned.

According to the report Gonzalez said her children were asleep in their bed around 10 a.m. Monday so she decided to go to a convenience store located at U.S. 441 N. at its intersection with N.W. 36th St. Gonzalez apparently told the

deputy that the store is about 10 minutes from her home and that she had been gone about 20 minutes.

No other adults were in the home at the time.

Some time after the woman left the home, the children got out of bed.

When the deputy asked Gonzalez why she didn't call someone to stay with her children, she reportedly answered that she doesn't have a telephone.

Deputy Grumbling stated in his report that he contacted the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the two youngsters were placed in the custody of another family member.



Natli Gonzalez

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).

- Derrick Lamont Rose, 28, Coffee Circle, Dover, Del., was arrested July 14 by the OCSO Street Crimes Unit on a felony charge of carrying a concealed firearm. He was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of a firearm with altered serial numbers and possession of marijuana under 20 grams. His bond was set at \$9,500.

- Raul Morales, 22, N.W. 11th St., Okeechobee, was arrested July 14 by Deputy Raul Marrero on a Palm Beach County warrant charging him with the misdemeanor of driving under the influence. He is being held without bond.

- Darrell Anthony Blackburn, 16, S.R. 78 W., Okeechobee, was arrested July 14 by Deputy Corporal Michael Hazellief on Broward County warrants charging him with burglary of a conveyance, petit theft, trespass of a structure, criminal mischief (two counts), burglary and grand theft. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

- Brett Allen Joiner, 26, N.E. Fourth Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested July 14 by Deputy Leland Schoonmaker on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence. He is being held without bond.

- Zachary David Sanders, 27, Simpson Farm Lane, Dade City, was arrested July 15 by Sergeant Justin Bernst on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Kenneth Edwin Mowery, 55, S.E. 26th St., Okeechobee, was arrested July 16 by Deputy Steven Pollock on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$1,000.

- James Estinvil, 28, Sunrise Blvd., Fort Pierce, was arrested July 17 by Deputy William Jolly on an amended Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation

of probation - possession of cocaine. He is being held without bond.

- Howard Lee Clendenin, 51, Parker Ave., Jacksonville, was arrested July 17 by Deputy William Jolly on an amended Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - attempted sexual battery (two counts). He is being held without bond.

- Matthew Rod Taylor, 23, S.E. 86th Blvd., Okeechobee, was arrested July 17 by Deputy William Jolly on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - fraudulent use of a credit card. He is being held without bond.

- Lisa Jean Martin, 26, South Tamiami Trail, Naples, was arrested July 17 by Deputy William Jolly on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with violation of probation - grand theft. She is being held without bond.

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



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KEECHOBEE NEWS

Churches host VBS and other summer activities

Dr. Jack Sharpe is going to be the guest speaker at **Fountain of Life Church**, at 1302 S.W. 32nd Street, on Sunday, July 22, at 11 a.m. He is a retired professor from South-eastern University, in Lakeland, Fla. where he taught counseling and is now a full-time evangelist who has an anointing from God to preach the word. For more information call, 863-763-8945.

Believers Fellowship Church will hold Vacation Bible School the week of July 23-27, at 300 S.W. 6th Ave., (behind the ROC) from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each night. All young people ages 4 and up are invited to attend. There will be lot of fun and music, crafts, games and yummy food. Plan on attending and we'll have a great time together. For more information, call 863-763-6848 or 863-634-4327.

Peace Lutheran Church, 750 N.W. 23rd Lane, has two worship services each

Sunday, one at 8 a.m. and one at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come hear God's message of love and forgiveness for all people through Jesus Christ. Web site is www.peace-okee.org.

Okeechobee Christian Church is going Backstage With The Bible! Come join us July 30 through Aug. 3, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. every night. We will be having some fun new music and games! Be sure to bring a change of clothes and a towel for our water fun! So head on over to Okeechobee Christian Church for the BVBS event of the summer and let's see how rock-in' the Bible can be!"

There is a Community Gospel Sing at



Places of Worship

Share your news and photos for this column by email to okeenews@newszap.com

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, do-bro, and harmonica—come and enjoy!

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.

St. Theresa's Catholic Church, on State Road 78 at Chobee Loop in Buckhead Ridge, is one of the meal sites for the Glades County School District Summer Food Service Program through August 9. Meals will be provided Monday-Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. All children ages 2 to 18 years old are eligible for meals and activities at no charge. No pre-registration or paperwork is required. All children are welcome!

The Okeechobee News welcomes news from area churches for this column. E-mail okeenews@newszap.com.

Guardians program searches for back to school supplies

Guardian's For New Futures (GFNF), the non-profit organization supporting the Guardian ad Litem volunteers on the Treasure Coast is seeking help and support from the public to provide back to school supplies to abused, abandoned and neglected children. The "Kits4Kids" program is designed to provide fresh new school supplies to these children who are involved in dependency proceedings. There are approximately 1,300 children currently in dependency proceedings here on the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee. GFNF has been working tirelessly to raise enough funds to provide each child in need a backpack and supplies

required to attend public school. These are children who have been removed from their home due to abuse allegations and are in the care of a children's home, foster care or a relative.

It only costs \$25 dollars to sponsor a child and provide a full kit with good quality basic supplies and a backpack. Mail a donation in any amount for "Kits4Kids" to Guardians for New Futures, 546 NW University Blvd., Suite 203, Port St. Lucie or, donate through the website www.gfnf4kids.org. For more information, call 772-807-3868.

OKMS - Call to artists for next city mural project

Call to artists for Okeechobee Main Street's next mural project. Seeking a qualified mural artist to paint two large murals in downtown Okeechobee on the CarQuest building located on State Road 70. Please contact Bridgette Waldau for artist's informational packet and application at 863-467-7300 or e-mail at bridgette.art@gmail.com. Deadline for submission of application with proposal is Aug. 15.

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Campers learn about hunting, fishing and archery

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

For five days 35 local teens learned about hunting and fishing but more importantly learned that they have a friend in law enforcement.

Sheriff Paul May, his school resource officers, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conserva-

tion Commission (FWC), the Okeechobee Sharpshooters Club and the Okeechobee Children's Services Council teamed up from July 9-13 to hold a summer camp for boys and girls ages 13-15 at the sheriff's gun range.

Deputy Sergeant Mark Roberts, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), said kids learned how to fire weapons, a bow and arrow, and learned all about safety during the camp. They also learned about land navigation and the use of a compass.

FWC's Carri Muldoon provided a hunter safety course for the campers along with Don Sellers, a senior instructor for the FWC.

Sgt. Roberts said he was really impressed with the behavior of the campers and

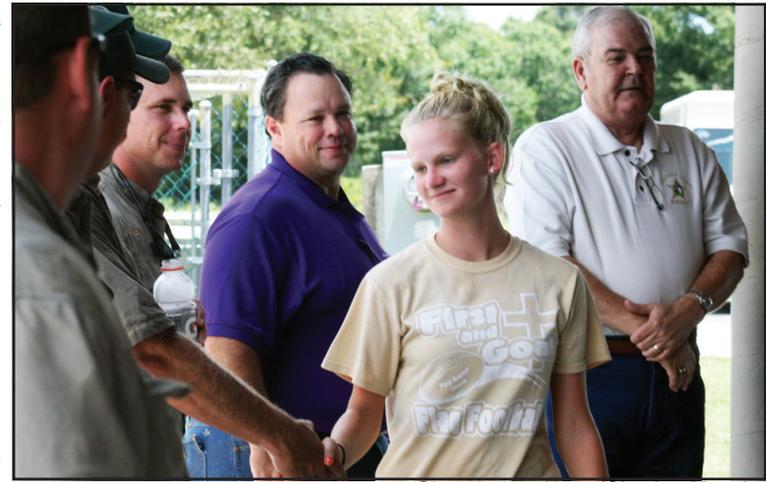
how much they learned this year. "It was awesome. It was a great year. We had no issues and no injuries, not even a band aid."

The sheriffs office provided transportation and lunches each day and an award ceremony was held Friday at the Sports Complex after a morning of swimming in the pool.

Sgt. Roberts said they eliminated water sports at the gun range from the plan this year because alligators have become more aggressive and possibly posed a threat to campers.

Sheriff May told the campers that they should look at his deputies as his friends who are there to help them.

"I want the kids to know that my deputies are people they can talk to. If they have a problem, they can confide in them, and they will try to help them," said the sheriff.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Samantha Bobrowski was one of 35 teens who participated in a teen camp put on by the Okeechobee County Sheriffs Office this week. They were given awards Friday, July 6, at a special barbecue luncheon that included Sheriff Paul May (far right) and Major Noel Stephen (second from right).

May said his department has offered the camp for over five years and he intends to offer it next year.

"We have some wonderful help from the Children Services Council and I want to thank them," he added.

OCSO deputies involved in the camp included Sgt. Roberts, Dale Hardy, Rodney Rucks, Donnie Holmes, John Fisher, Keith Murrish, Steve McKinley and Justin White.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Dustin Holmes is congratulated by deputies for completion of the Sheriff's Teen Camp at an awards ceremony last Friday.

Firestix softball takes win in state tourney

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Teamwork was the name of the game this month as the Firestix softball program won the 18B Florida State Tournament in the United States Specialty Sports Association, USSSA.

Coach Mark Ward said Delaney Osceola pitched well, and the team had contributions from several girls at the plate as they won the tournament title.

Stormy Stokes had two runs batted in. Khrysta Herndon did a great job behind the plate. Amanda Bayerlein and Danyelle Shef-

field pitched well. Top hitters included Taylor Williams, Sheffield, Lexi Ward, Jaide Micco, Jaryaca Baker and Delaney Osceola.

"Our girls never quit and quitters never win," Ward said. "I have coached this age group for five years and they work really hard. It has been nice watching them develop their skills over the summer and through the school year."

The team finished third in an 18A state tournament in Fort Myers this past weekend. The final tournament of the year will be the World Series at Walt Disney World in Kissimmee from July 21-28.

Re-Elect

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SHERIFF

of Okeechobee County

- ★ We will continue to strongly enforce our drug laws and monitor gang activity. I have compassion for people hooked on drugs, but I do **NOT** have compassion or sympathy for people who sell drugs or bring drugs into our county. In the past four years, misuse of prescription drugs has added a tremendous burden to our Narcotic Task Force. I now have nine officers who solely work on drugs and monitoring gang activity. This fight is important to everyone and it will continue.
- ★ We will continue to monitor under-aged selling, buying and consumption of alcoholic beverages. We have the attention of our store owners; now, most demand identification and for this, we thank them.
- ★ Although budgets are tight, I will keep Resource Officers in our schools. Now more than ever, our most precious resource — our children — must be protected.
- ★ I will continue to support our Sheriff's Auxiliary Units, the C.O.P.S. Program, Search and Rescue and the All Volunteer Sheriff's Posse. These volunteers save the county thousands of dollars each year. I thank each of them for their service to our community.

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16 compete in Texaco Country Music Showdown

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The familiar twang of country music filled the air as 15 very talented acts competed in the Okeechobee Texaco Country Music Showdown contest Saturday night at Good Spirits Lounge, and it was a Brooksville woman who took home top honors.

The annual contest is organized, promoted and sponsored by Okeechobee's local radio station WOKC and General Manager Wayne Cunningham and is hosted by WOKC Program Director Billy Dean.

The winner, Ashley Shannon is no stranger to awards having won several awards with the National American County Music

Association International Competitions in 2010, 2011, and 2012. She has produced an album with Jim Vest founder of the Nashville Cats, and wants to become a country music star.

"I've been singing since I could talk with my mom in church. In middle school I got a standing ovation in a talent show and that reved things up for me," she explained.

She's tried her hand at Christian and now country music. She performed the song, 'Girls Night Out,' which got a wonderful reaction from the Okeechobee crowd.

"I think it's awesome that I was able to win, I was definitely not expecting it, there is a lot of great talent," she added.

Shannon now advances to the Florida

State Competition on Sept. 8 in Live Oak. The winner of that competition takes home \$1,000. The winner of the Okeechobee contest has won the last two Florida State competitions. The acts were judged on their marketability in country music, their vocal and or instrumental ability, the originality of their performance, their stage presence and charisma, their talent, and their song writing ability. Several acts performed songs they wrote themselves.

"I hope I do well but I won't be overconfident," she said. "I feel lucky to have won this contest. I'll keep my fingers crossed and do my best."

Okeechobee had three contestants in the competition, Charlotte Papasso, Nikki St. Pierre and Taylor Pearce. St. Pierre is an assistant dance teacher at Leslie's Dance Studio and a 17-year-old senior at Okeechobee High School. She was a varsity cheerleader for the past two years and has 400 hours of community service in Okeechobee. She intends to attend the University of Central Florida and become an Ultra sound tech. She performed the Carrie Underwood hit, "I Told You So."

Pearce, a 15-year-old student at OHS, is a self-taught musician. She sang an original song for her close friend and her goal is to become a country music star. She participates in FFA, cheerleading and church activities. She is the daughter of Matt and Alisha Pearce.

Papasso has been singing since she was eight years old. Her biggest passion in life is to be on stage bringing music to the world.

Other contestants this year included Derrick Hughes of the Chase Band in Clewiston, Jackie Steil, a 15-year-old student from Vero Beach, Hannah Mahoney of Royal Palm Beach, Brittany Hutchings, Liddy Clark and Ginger Salem, Luke Mazzina of Clewiston, Manny Pierce, Rachel Pecaro, a 17-year-old student from Spanish River High School, Bernice Acosta of Moore Haven, the duet of Brad Conner and Stacy Jo Kimbrough, and the Casey Raines band.

Music was set up and provided by Gator and Lisa and the judges were Toni Doyle and Maureen Burroughs.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

(Above left) Bernice Acosta was among the 15 contestants in the 2012 Texaco Country Music Showdown held in Okeechobee Saturday. (center) Nikki St. Pierre of Okeechobee sang the Carrie Underwood Hit, 'I Told You So,' to the delight of the crowd. Taylor Pearce, 15, sang one of her original songs as she entertained the home town crowd at the country music showdown in Okeechobee.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

The country music showdown winner was Ashley Shannon (left). She was presented her prize by WOKC General Manager Wayne Cunningham, Saturday.

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Skin care workshop

Phyllis Folkens, local Mary Kay representative, presented a workshop on the importance of skin care at any age for residents of Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility. Men and women participated in the workshop that taught about cleansing and hydrating the skin as well as the importance of using protection when in the sun. (Top left photo) Phyllis Folkens and Gretchen Deaton at the Skin Care Workshop at Grand Oaks. (Bottom photo) Gretchen Deaton, Ellen Bastianelli, Fran East and Sue Otten enjoy learning about skin care at Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Grand Oaks

IRSC Technology Institutes hold information session

Indian River State College Advanced Technology Institutes provide hands-on training and comprehensive knowledge in the most growth-oriented fields of the future: robotics and photonics, cyber security, digital media and graphic design. Anyone interested in finding out more is invited to an Information Session on Wednesday, Aug. 1 at 5 p.m. in the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies on 35th Street at the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce. Presentations begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by tours and demonstrations.

Students can complete the Robotics and Photonics Institute in two years, to be ready for a career in the rapidly growing world of robotics used in ocean and space exploration,

biomedical research, homeland security and food processing. Photonics affects almost every industry from laser surgery to fiber optic cable. At the Cyber Security Institute students learn about the latest in network security, web development and computer forensics. Graduates can continue their education through the college's new Bachelor's degree program in Cyber Security. The Digital Media Institute offers the opportunity to prepare for a fascinating creative career in computer graphics, multi-media design, animation and video production.

For more information, call 1-866-792-4772 or visit www.irsc.edu.

News in Brief

Annual school drive

Okeechobee Firefighters and Paramedics Local 2918 are having their annual school supply drive, to benefit My Aunt's House, The Closet (501c3). All supplies will be given to local needy and foster children. Union members will be at the front of Wal-Mart in Okeechobee on Friday, Aug. 3, through Sunday, Aug. 5. Okeechobee Firefighters and Paramedics would appreciate your support. If you have any questions please contact

Matt Vinson, at 863-697-1205.

Main Street to host new business grand opening

Okeechobee Main Street will be facilitating the Grand Opening Ceremony for the Bella Rose Day Spa and Salon on Tuesday, **July 24**, from 5 to 8 p.m. A ribbon-cutting will be held at 5:15 p.m. Bella Rose is located at 311 N.E. 2nd Street.

B.R.A.T. Club to present Labor Day parade

The B.R.A.T Club Presents the 2012 Labor Day Parade. The parade will be held on Monday, Sept. 3. You can get more information by emailing Teresa Chandler at tchandler@wm.com or by searching the events calendar at: <http://okeechobeebusiness.com>



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Okeechobee Cancer Center Offers State of the Art Cancer Treatment Locally

By Dr. Ron Woody
Okeechobee Cancer Center

Hello! I am Doctor Ron Woody, physician at Okeechobee Regional Cancer Center. I am a native Floridian, born in Jacksonville Naval hospital and a graduate of both FSU University and University of Florida Medical School. (So no rivalry since I'm a hybrid.)

I'm writing to tell you about state of the art cancer treatment located right here in Okeechobee and you will be treated here and not shipped to the coast (except for planning of your treatment) or anywhere else where you don't have the support of your family and friends.

At the cancer center, we are capable of delivering Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy. Now, you don't have to know the details, all you need to know is it allows us to concentrate the radiation where it is needed and even shape the area to conform to your anatomy, avoiding excessive radiation of normal, non-cancerous tissue.

The treatments are painless and the only side effects are localized to the treatment area, unlike chemotherapy which affects the entire body and bone marrow. Recently, IMRT has been found to be superior to proton therapy in some tumors! Giving equal or better cure rates and less long term side effects!

This was a relative surprise since the ONLY advantage of protons was supposed to be sparing of normal tissue. Whew! Thank God I don't have to go spend 125 million dollars! About the only thing superior about protons is the expense. It is a failure of our system to approve technology for use before it is proven to be effective.

If you are treated at Okeechobee Cancer Center, you will also have the advantage of your treatment being planned using the only PET/CT simulator on the Treasure Coast! This is one of the most important and useful technological advances in the staging of and treatment of cancer. A PET/CT is significantly more accurate because the CT portion cuts down on FALSE positive and negative interpretations. (Improves by as much as 15 to 30 percent or more.)

So remember, if a PET is ordered, it is better done on a combination scanner for staging and treatment. The major advantage of using a PET/CT simulator is in showing more accurately the extent of the tumor. Since as a Radiation Oncologist my job is basically that of a target shooter, the PET keeps me from missing the target (cancer) by telling me to treat more or most importantly allows me to treat less thereby reducing side effects! You only have access to this technology at Okeechobee Cancer Center.

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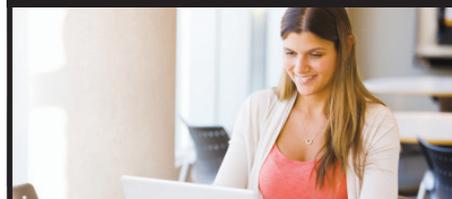
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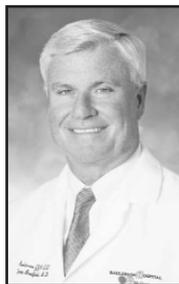
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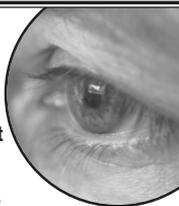
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TAYLOR CREEK - 1/1 Condo on ground floor. Unfurnished. Pool access. Washer, Dryer, Dishwasher. Includes water. \$700/mo. 1st month free. 863-801-3713

TAYLORCREEK - Condo, 2/2, ground floor, screened porch, tile. \$800/mo. + sec., incldis water, & pool. 863-801-3713

Houses - Rent
1004 SE 8th Drive Newly Remodeled 2 bed, 1 bath \$650.00 All appliances, tile floors, hurricane windows. July occupancy Last, security, references. Chris 863-447-3282 anytime

CBS - 3BR, Southwest section, great location, remodeled & upgraded, Corian, marble, Oak cabinets, tile floors, 24/14 enclosed FL rm, huge fenced backyard, 12/12 wood shed, landscaped, comes with w/d. Move in date Aug. 5th. \$900/mo. 1st & sec. Credit & background check. 863-697-2161.

It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.

Houses - Rent
FT. Drum Area. 4 acre pasture, 1bdm CBS home, old barn, Pet Fee. \$500 deposit \$500 monthly Call 912-224-4658 or 734-637-2697

Kings Bay CBS Home, 2/2, 1 car garage, W/D, \$900 mo. Call 863-801-9163

NW area of Okee. 1BR, 2 people only. No pets. Non-smoker. Very quiet & clean. \$550/mo. \$250 dep. 863-697-1168

OKEE 3/1 Small Updated Home, central a/c, wood flooring, Tiled Bathroom, w/d, Well Water. \$725 mo. plus security Located by 15-B. Call 786-201-0306

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

Office Space Rent
OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT (863)763-8565

Real Estate
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Land - Sale
10 Acres - Owner Financing - \$3,000 down - Park your trailer or build your house - 7 mins to town - (863) 763-6358

Lots - Sale
Great Building Lot Located in Brentwood Estates. 0.65 acres, water deposit paid, house pad in place to accommodate up to 3500 SQ. ft. home. REDUCED TO \$39,500 CARL @ 863-634-8617

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

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

Mobile Home Rent
BUCKHEAD RIDGE - Dbl. Wide 2BR, 2BA, C/Air. \$500 mo. Large 3BR, 2BA, C/Air. \$550 mo. No pets. Yearly lease, plus sec. (863)763-4031

Mobile Home Rent
KISSIMMEE RIVER Estates, 2 Bedroom, 17216 Brynwood Lane, \$400 mo. + \$400 deposit. Lawn & Water maintenance included. 317-402-5441 or 863-261-4138

Lovely Completely Remodeled 3bd/2ba Mobile Home in Country Setting. Just 15 minutes from Okeechobee and 1 1/2 mile from Kissimmee River boat ramp. For more info Call Stan 863-385-2613

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

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

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

Automobiles
07 Chevy Cobalt 4d, LS Low mileage, great on gas, 25 city, 34 hwy, NADA/Kelly Blue Book \$9,000. Asking \$7,500 obo 772-291-8799

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

Vans
94 GMC Safari Van - Seats 7, runs great, no air, no heat, \$750 or best offer (863)467-8543

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

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO. 472011CA000079XXXXX
GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC, Plaintiff,
VS.
RONNIE D. GATLIFF; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Summary Final Judgment of foreclosure dated June 19, 2012, and entered in Case No. 472011CA000079XXXXX of the Circuit Court in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC is Plaintiff and RONNIE D. GATLIFF; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, 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 N.W. 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, beginning at Okeechobee County, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 15th day of August, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Order or Final Judgment, to-wit:
LOT 89, TREASURE ISLAND - UNIT NO. 7, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 60, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
SHARON ROBERTSON
As Clerk, Circuit Court
By: Sandra L. Creech
As Deputy Clerk
SMITH, HIATT & DIAZ, P.A.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
PO BOX 11438
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33339-1438
Telephone: (954) 564-0071
420943 ON 7/18,25/2012

Public Notice
PUBLIC NOTICE
The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold its Regular Session on **Thursday, July 26, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.** in the "Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom" at the Historic Courthouse, 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.
Any person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of such proceedings is made, which record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Administrator's Office not later than four (4) working days prior to the proceeding at 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Room 123 Okeechobee, Florida 34972, or call 863.763.6441. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-222-3448 (voice) or 1-888-447-5620 (TTY).
Margaret Garrard Helton, Chair
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida
Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Paula Poskon/ Deputy Clerk
421283 ON 7/18/2012

REQUEST FOR BID (RFB) NO. 6000000375
C-44 RESERVOIR/STA PROJECT COMMUNICATION TOWER, MARTIN COUNTY, FL
The Procurement Bureau of the South Florida Water Management District, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406, will receive sealed bids up to **2:30 p.m.** opening time on **Thursday, August 16, 2012** for the **C-44 RESERVOIR /STA PROJECT COMMUNICATION TOWER, MARTIN COUNTY, FL**. Project Description: This project includes but shall not be limited to: a 300-foot communication tower with a fully functional microwave system which allows the C-44 Project to operate remotely, allow communication within the SFWMD backbone system, and eliminates SFWMD need for the Indiantown Tower. This work includes a Microwave Equipment Shelter, Generator Shelter, generator, and a buried Liquid Petroleum (LP) tank. The antennas and microwave equipment will be owner supplied. The Contractor will test, install and integrate the antennas and equipment at five tower sites (C-44, C-18, Allapattah, S-135, and Indiantown). This work also includes shellrock for an improved access road, stone, grass and fencing as part of the C-44 Tower site work.
An OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held on **Tuesday, July 31, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the C-44 Construction Trailer, C-44 Reservoir/STA Project site, 13225 SW Minute Maid Road, Indiantown, FL 34956. For directions call (561) 236-5344.
All bids must conform to the instructions in the RFB. The interested respondents may obtain a copy of the complete RFB (1) at the above address; (2) by downloading the solicitation from our website at www.sfwmd.gov; (3) by calling (561) 682-2715. The public is invited to attend the bid opening. **Further information on the status of this solicitation can be obtained on our web site - www.sfwmd.gov** 421832 ON 7/18/2012

NOTICE:
This ad shall serve as a notification of channel enhancements for Comcast Cable's residential and commercial channel lineups in the West Palm market area.
Beginning on, or around, August 16, 2012, for Palm Beach and Martin Counties all digital lineups and on a rolling basis: Cartoon HD, HD Digital Starter channel 442, will move to channel 391; WPBT-HD will be added as a HD Digital Limited Basic channel on 442; and WLRN-Learn will be added as a Digital Limited Basic channel on 79.
On, or around, August 21, 2012, for Palm Beach, Martin, Okeechobee Counties digital lineups: WWHB-Azteca, Digital Limited Basic channel 230, will move to channel 21.
On, or around, August 21, 2012, for Brevard County, St. Lucie, Indian River, digital lineups: WWHB-Azteca, Digital Limited Basic channel 230, will move to channel 24.
On, or around, August 23, 2012, for Palm Beach, Brevard County, St. Lucie, Indian River and Martin Counties all digital lineups: PAC-12 will be added on channel 764 of the Sports Entertainment Pack, and ESPN Goal Line will be added on channel 766 of the Sports Entertainment Pack. A preview of this programming may be seen by customers subscribing to the appropriate tier of service prior to the effective date.
Please call 1-800-COMCAST (266-2278) with any questions.
GENERAL INFORMATION
*A digital-ready television set and/or digital equipment may be required to receive certain digital channels or certain services. Service charges may apply. Services not available in all areas, restrictions apply. For customers with commercial accounts or bulk rate arrangements, some product, pricing and other information may not apply. Upon proper notice, all pricing, programming, channel locations and packaging are subject to change. For information about all of our product offerings, please visit www.comcast.com. 422149 ON 7/18/2012



Wake up to the latest news from around town

Okeechobee News florida.newszap.com

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. CASE NO.: 2008-CA-602

BRIAN J. KELLEY Plaintiff, VS. PATRICK J. O'MALLEY (as to Parcel 1), MARIA S. DE CHAVEZ and REMEDIOS H. DE CHAVEZ (as to Parcel 2), and JAMES J. DELK (as to Parcel 3 and 4) and as to each of the foregoing persons, if alive or deceased, their unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, under or against these Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: The unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, under or against Patrick J. O'Malley, deceased, as to (Parcel 1); Maria S. De Chavez (as to Parcel 2); and Remedios H. De Chavez (as to Parcel 2)

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title of the following described property in Okeechobee County, Florida, to-wit:

PARCEL 1: LOT 14, BLOCK 58, UNIT 5, BASSWOOD SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 51, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Parcel ID: 1-05-37-25-0050-00580-0140

PARCEL 2: LOTS E & F OF TRACT 2 THE WEST 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF TRACT 02 SECTION 09; AND THE EAST 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF TRACT 02 SECTION 09

Parcel ID: 1-09-34-33-0A00-00002-E000

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, to it on DEVIN R. MAXWELL, Esquire, 405 NW 3rd Okeechobee, Florida 34972 and file the original with the Clerk of the above styled Court on or before thirty days of the first publication otherwise a judgment will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court on this 22nd day of June, 2012.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of Circuit Court By: Linda F. Young DEPUTY CLERK

420864 ON 7/4,11,18,25/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 472009CA000716AXXXX

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, Plaintiff,

VS. JOHN KEITH AGNEW A/K/A JOHN K. AGNEW; SHANNON AGNEW; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS.

Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 19, 2012, entered in Civil Case No. 472009CA000716C of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest bidder for cash on 15th day of August, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. in The Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, relative to the following described property as set forth in the Final Judgment, to-wit:

THE EAST 1/2 OF LOT 29, FOUR SEASONS ESTATES, AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION, SAID LOT BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 23'24" EAST, ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF SECTION 17, FOR A DISTANCE OF 1269.00 FEET FOR THE POINT OF THE BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 23'24" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 99.00 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 05'07" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 195.11 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 88 DEGREES 23'24" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 99.00 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 05'07" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 196.21 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. LYING AND COMPRISING PART OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, LESS AND RESERVING THE SOUTH 60.00 FEET FOR DRAINAGE EASEMENT.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986. Phone: (772) 807-4370

at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receipt of this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

DATED AT OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA THIS 19TH DAY OF JUNE, 2012.

SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Sandra L. Crech DEPUTY CLERK

420935 ON 7/18,25/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2010-CA-000229

FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,

VS. GABRIELA I. MALDONADO JORGE TORRES, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 19, 2012, and entered in Case No. 2010-CA-000229, of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida. FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION (hereinafter "Plaintiff") is Plaintiff and GABRIELA I. MALDONADO; JORGE TORRES; GABRIELA I. MALDONADO; JORGE TORRES; JOHN DOE N/K/A FRANCISCO SANGABRIEL, are defendants.

The Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 at 11:00 a.m., on the 15th day of August, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOTS 8, 9 AND 10, BLOCK 21, SOUTHWEST ADDITION TO OKEECHOBEE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 7, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2012.

SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT By: Sandra L. Crech DEPUTY CLERK

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE #: 2009 CA 000798

Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") Plaintiff, VS.-

Marshall Waldron; Unknown Parties in Possession #1; Unknown Parties in Possession #2; If living, and all Unknown 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 May 31, 2012, entered in Civil Case No. 2009 CA 000798 of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein Federal National Mortgage Association, Plaintiff and Marshall Waldron are defendant(s), I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Jury Assembly Room, on the Second Floor, of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 N.W. Third Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 beginning at 11:00 A.M. on August 8, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

BEGIN 410 FEET SOUTH AND 25 FEET WEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF GOVERNMENT LOT 2, SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, THENCE RUN SOUTH PARALLEL TO THE EAST BOUNDARY OF GOVERNMENT LOT 2, AFORESAID, 100 FEET; THENCE WEST 100 FEET; THENCE NORTH 100 FEET; THENCE EAST 100 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540 Notices to Persons With Disabilities

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptaci3n 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 notificaci3n si es que falta menos de 7 dias para su comparencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva o de habla, llame al 711.

KREYOL: Si ou se you mon ki kokobe ki bezwen asistans ou aparye pou ou ka patispe nan prosedu sa-a, ou gen dwa san ou pa bezwen peye anyen pou ou jwen on seri de ed. Tanpri kontakte Corrie Johnson, Co-ordinator ADA, 250 NW Country Club Drive, suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 pou ou avan ke ou gen pou-ou pare nan tribunal, ou imediatman ke ou resevwa avis sa-a ou si le ke ou gen pou-ou ale nan tribunal-la mwens ke 7 jou; Si ou pa ka tande ou pale byen, Me 711.

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

42424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360 Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (561) 998-6700 (561) 998-6707 419317 ON 7/11,18/2012

er than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

420877 ON 7/18,25/2012

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 2012-CP-098

In Re: Estate of LYTLE HOOKER RAULERSON, a/k/a LYTLE H. RAULERSON, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of LYTLE HOOKER RAULERSON, a/k/a LYTLE HOOKER RAULERSON, deceased, whose date of death was May 9, 2012, and whose social security number is XXX-XX-6876, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH IN THE FLORIDA STATUTES WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The first publication of this notice is July 18th, 2012.

Personal Representative: Patricia Nadene Hemingway 1116 S.W. 6th Street

Okeechobee, Florida 34974 Attorney for Personal Representative: CONELY & CONELY, P.A. Post Office Drawer 1367 Okeechobee, Florida 34973 By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482 Telephone: (863) 763-3825 421343 ON 7/18,25/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 2012-CP-18

IN RE: ESTATE OF HAZEL M. HIGGINS, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Summary Administration)

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of HAZEL M. HIGGINS, deceased, File Number 2012-CP-18, by the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee County, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; that the decedent's date of death was November 28, 2011; that the total value of the estate is \$1,000.00 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:

Allen D. Higgins 696 Ledgerock Circle Brunswick, OH 44212

All interested persons are notified that:

All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE.

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is July 11th, 2012.

Person Giving Notice:

421564 ON 7/11,18/2012

ALLEN D. HIGGINS 696 Ledgerock Circle Brunswick, OH 44212

Attorney for Person Giving Notice: Colin M. Cameron, Esquire Florida Bar No.: 270441 200 N.E. 4th Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34974 (863) 763-8600 421774 ON 7/11,18/2012

Personal Representative: Beth Lehman P.O. Box 2818 Okeechobee, FL 34973

Attorney for Personal Representative: CONELY & CONELY, P.A. Post Office Drawer 1367 Okeechobee, Florida 34973 By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482 Telephone: (863) 763-3825 421379 ON 7/18,25/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 2012-CP-096

In Re: Estate of KATHY WILKINSON, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of KATHY WILKINSON, deceased, whose date of death was June 7, 2012, and whose social security number is XXX-XX-3566, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH IN THE FLORIDA STATUTES WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is July 11th, 2012.

Person Giving Notice:

421564 ON 7/11,18/2012

ALLEN D. HIGGINS 696 Ledgerock Circle Brunswick, OH 44212

Attorney for Person Giving Notice: Colin M. Cameron, Esquire Florida Bar No.: 270441 200 N.E. 4th Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34974 (863) 763-8600 421774 ON 7/11,18/2012

Personal Representative: Beth Lehman P.O. Box 2818 Okeechobee, FL 34973

Attorney for Personal Representative: CONELY & CONELY, P.A. Post Office Drawer 1367 Okeechobee, Florida 34973 By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482 Telephone: (863) 763-3825 421379 ON 7/18,25/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 2012-CP-096

In Re: Estate of RUTH L. WIER, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (summary administration)

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of RUTH L. WIER, Deceased, File Number 2012-CP-096, by the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; that the decedent's date of death was February 16, 2012; that the total value of the estate is \$6,000.00; that the names and addresses of those to whom has been assigned by such order are:

GERALD E. LEIGHTON, Trustee of the Ruth L. Wier Revocable Trust dated March 31, 1997, 1740 S.W. 35th Circle, Okeechobee, Florida 34974.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the decedent persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision

for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claim with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE.

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is July 18, 2012.

Person Giving Notice: Gerald E. Leighton, Trustee of the Ruth L. Wier Revocable Trust dated 3/31/1997 1740 S.W. 35th Circle Okeechobee, Florida 34974

Attorney for Person Giving Notice: CONELY & CONELY, P.A. Post Office Drawer 1367 Okeechobee, Florida 34973 (863) 763-3825 By: Tom W. Conely, III Florida Bar #096482 421421 ON 7/18,25/2012

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY Case #: 2012-CA-000162

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association Plaintiff VS.-

Jean M. Firmin; Unknown Parties in Possession #1, If living, and all Unknown 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; Unknown Parties in Possession #2, If living, and all Unknown 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 Defendants

NOTICE OF ACTION FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS-PROPERTY

TO: Jean M. Firmin, WHOSE RESIDENCE IS: 8394 SE Windham LN, Hobe Sound, FL 33455 Residence unknown, if living, including any unknown spouse of the said Defendants, if either has remarried and if either or both of said Defendants are dead, their respective unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienholders, and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant(s); and the aforementioned named Defendant(s) and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants as may be infants, incompetents or otherwise not sui juris.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced to foreclose a mortgage on the following real property, lying and being and situated in Okeechobee County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

LOT 16, BLOCK 24, UNIT NUMBER 2, BASSWOOD INCORPORATED, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, AT PAGE 28, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, more commonly known as 3818 Northwest 27th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972.

This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon SHAPIRO, FISHPAN & GACHE, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360, Boca Raton, FL 33431, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on the 5th day of July, 2012.

SHARON ROBERTSON Circuit and County Courts By: Arlene Nealis Deputy Clerk

Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540 Notices to Persons With Disabilities

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptaci3n 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 notificaci3n si es que falta menos de 7 dias para su comparencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva o de habla, llame al 711.

KREYOL: Si ou se you mon ki kokobe ki bezwen asistans ou aparye pou ou ka patispe nan prosedu sa-a, ou gen dwa san ou pa bezwen peye anyen pou ou jwen on seri de ed. Tanpri kontakte Corrie Johnson, Co-ordinator ADA, 250 NW Country Club Drive, suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 pou ou avan ke ou gen pou-ou pare nan tribunal, ou imediatman ke ou resevwa avis sa-a ou si le ke ou gen pou-ou ale nan tribunal-la mwens ke 7 jou; Si ou pa ka tande ou pale byen, Me 711.

421564 ON 7/11,18/2012

ALLEN D. HIGGINS 696 Ledgerock Circle Brunswick, OH 44212

Attorney for Person Giving Notice: Colin M. Cameron, Esquire Florida Bar No.: 270441 200 N.E. 4th Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34974 (863) 763-8600 421774 ON 7/11,18/2012

Personal Representative: Beth Lehman P.O. Box 2818 Okeechobee, FL 34973

Attorney for Personal Representative: CONELY & CONELY, P.A. Post Office Drawer 1367 Okeechobee, Florida 34973 By: Tom Conely III Florida Bar #096482 Telephone: (863) 763-3825 421379 ON 7/18,25/2012

YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The first publication of this notice is July 18th, 2012.

Person Giving Notice:

421564 ON 7/11,18/2012

ALLEN D. HIGGINS 696 Ledgerock Circle Brunswick, OH 44212

Attorney for Person Giving Notice: Colin M. Cameron, Esquire Florida Bar No.: 270441 200 N.E. 4th Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34974 (863) 763-8600 421774 ON 7/11,18/2012

Personal Representative: Beth Lehman P.O. Box 2818 Okeechobee, FL 34973

Attorney for Personal Representative: CONELY & CONELY, P.A. Post Office Drawer 1367 Okeechob

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
CASE NO. 2012-0P-012

IN RE: ESTATE OF **ROBERT HERBERT PECHUMAN** Decedent.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of **ROBERT HERBERT PECHUMAN**, whose date of death was January 3, 2012, and whose social security number was xxx-xx-5587, is pending in the circuit court, in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, probate division, the address of which is OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER 312 N.W. 3rd St. Okeechobee, FL 34972. The personal representative and attorney for the estate are named below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedents estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court.

All claims must be filed within 3 months after the time of the first publication of this notice, or 30 days after the date of service of a copy of this notice on them.

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims against the estate of the decedent must file their claims with this court.

All claims must be filed within 3 months after the date of the first publication of this notice. All claims not filed within this time period set forth in Florida Statutes will be forever barred.

Notwithstanding the time periods set forth above, any claim filed two (2) years or more after the decedents date of death is barred.

The first publication date of this notice is July 11th, 2012.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: JOHN F. COOK P.O. Box 515 Okeechobee, FL 34973
 Attorney for personal representative: JOHN R. COOK P.A. P.O. Box 515 Okeechobee, FL 34973
 Fl. Ear 262951
 (863)467-0297
 421603 ON 7/11,18/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 47-2012-CA-000026

GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC Plaintiff,
 v.
 MAYA ROGEL, ET AL. Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: MAYA ROGEL; and all unknown parties claiming by, through, under or against the above named Defendants, who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said unknown parties claim as heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, spouses, or other claimants.

Current residence unknown, but whose last known address was: 4040 GRAND VIEW BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90066

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida, to-wit: UNIT D OF DWELLING STRUCTURE 20, OAK TREE PLACE, TOGETHER WITH THE LAND IMEDIATELY ADJACENT THEREIN, AS DESCRIBED AND DEPICTED IN DECLARATION OF PARTY FACILITIES AND PROTECTIVE COVENANTS FOR OAK TREE PLACE, AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 260, PAGE 999 AND AMENDMENT THERETO AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 261, PAGE 405, AND IN OFFICIAL RECORD BOOK 303, PAGE 1083, AND ANY AND ALL AMENDMENTS THERETO, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on DOUGLAS C. ZAHM, P.A., Plaintiffs attorney, whose address is 12425 28th Street North, Suite 200, St. Petersburg, FL 33716, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at 312 Northwest 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972, either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint petition.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Court on this 3rd day of July, 2012.

Sharon Robertson
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: Deputy Clerk

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO

Public Notice

PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT COURT ADMINISTRATION NOT LATER THAN SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE PROCEEDING AT 250 NW COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE, PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 34972 OR CALL 1-772-807-4370 WITHIN TWO WORKING DAYS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1-800955-8771 (TDD); IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED 1-800-955-8770 (V); VIA RELAY SERVICE. 421487 ON 7/11,18/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2009-CA 622

CATHERINE P. CHESTER, Plaintiff,
 v.
MYRNA BROWN, Defendant.

CLERK'S NOTICE OF SALE UNDER F.S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Default Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 19, 2012 in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 2ND Floor, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW Third Street, Okeechobee, Florida, at 11:00AM on August 15, 2012, the following property:

The West 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the South 1/2 of Tract 1, Section 27, Township 34 South, Range 33 East, According to the Plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 4, Pages 3A through D, inclusive, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida. (1.25 Acres) (a/k/a Lot M).

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Dated: June 19, 2012.
 SHARON ROBERTSON
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 By: Sandra L. Crech
 Deputy Clerk
 421150 ON 7/18,25/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2009-CA 623

CATHERINE P. CHESTER, Plaintiff,
 v.
FREUD FRANCOIS, Defendant.

CLERK'S NOTICE OF SALE UNDER F.S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Default Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 19, 2012 in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 2ND Floor, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW Third Street, Okeechobee, Florida, at 11:00 AM on August 15, 2012, the following property:

The West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the North 1/2 of the South 1/2 of Tract 22, Section 27, Township 34 South, Range 33 East, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, pages 3A through D, inclusive, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida. (1.25 acres)(aka Lot J)

The West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the North 1/2 of Tract 22, Section 27, Township 34 South, Range 33 East, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, pages 3A through D, inclusive, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida. (1.25 acres)(aka Lot G)

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Dated: June 19, 2012.
 SHARON ROBERTSON
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 By: Sandra L. Crech
 Deputy Clerk
 421154 ON 7/18,25/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 47-2010-CA-000195

PENTAGON FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 CLIFFORD L. KAUFFMAN, JR., et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

Public Notice

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 22, 2012, and entered in Case No. 47-2010-CA-000 195 of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida in which Pentagon Federal Credit Union, is the Plaintiff and Clifford L. Kauffman, Jr., Tracy A. Kauffman, Blue Heron Golf and Country Club Homeowners Association, Inc., SunTrust Bank, are defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, Okeechobee County, Florida at 11:00AM on the 1st day of August, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

LOT 42, OF BLUE HERON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, PHASE ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGES 50 AND 51, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. A/K/A 925 S.E. 23RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated in Okeechobee County, Florida this 23rd day of May, 2012.

SHARON ROBERTSON
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 Okeechobee County, Florida
 By: Sandra L. Crech
 Deputy Clerk

Albertelli Law
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 P.O. Box 23028
 Tampa, FL 33623
 (813) 221-4743
 T-10-39385

In Accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. 419235 ON 7/4,11,18/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO: 2012CP060

IN THE ESTATE OF: **MARIA TDERINA,** a deceased person,

FORMAL NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: Antonia Vela, Demacco Camarrillo, unknown Heirs, devisees and grantees of Virginia Gaudin, unknown Heirs, devisees and grantees of Jose Camarrillo

And as to each of the foregoing persons, if alive or deceased, their unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors and other parties claiming by, under or against these Defendants, AND TO ALL OTHER WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action for probate of the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida

Lot 13, Block 51, of El Mirasol Subdivision, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 4, of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Plaintiff's attorney whose name is JEFFREY A. FADLEY, ESQUIRE, 807 SW Second Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974, Court on or before the 6th day of August, 2012; otherwise a judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Witness the hand and seal of said court on the 5th day of July, 2012.

Sharon Robertson
 Clerk of Court
 By: Linda Young
 421529 ON 7/11,18,25;8/1/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO. 2011CA245

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE-PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff
 vs.
 Defendant(s).

Public Notice

CARL MAXWELL A/K/A CARL S. MAXWELL; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CARL MAXWELL A/K/A CARL S. MAXWELL N/K/A REBECCA MAXWELL; TD BANK, NA; CITY ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY; UNKNOWN STATES OF AMERICA; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2, et al.
 Defendant

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 1, 2012, and entered in 2011CA245 of the Circuit Court of the NINETEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida wherein THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR TBW MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, is a Plaintiff and CARL MAXWELL A/K/A CARL S. MAXWELL; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CARL MAXWELL A/K/A CARL S. MAXWELL N/K/A REBECCA MAXWELL; TD BANK, NA; CITY ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2, the Defendants. The Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in The Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Fl., Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd St., Okeechobee, FL 34972 at 11:00 AM on August 22, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment to-wit:

ALL THAT CERTAIN LAND SITUATED IN OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO-WIT: LOT 11, BLOCK 38, BASSWOOD INC., UNIT NO. 3, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN THE PLAT BOOK 3, PAGES 37, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. - A/K/A 3632 NW 35TH AVE., OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 2nd day of May, 2012.
 SHARON ROBERTSON
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: Sandra L. Crech
 As Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. 417027 ON 7/18,25/2012

Okeechobee County School Board Meetings July 24 and July 31, 2012

The Okeechobee County School Board will meet on July 24, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., to consider advertisement of proposed millage rates and the proposed budget for 2012-13. The School Board will meet on July 31, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., for a public hearing to consider adoption of tentative millage rates and the tentative budget for 2012-13. Both meetings will be in Room 303 of the School Board Administrative Office at 700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, and both meetings are open to the public.

Ken Kenworthy
 Superintendent
 420624 ON 7/15,18/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE #: 2009 CA 000831

BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, L.P.
 Plaintiff,
 -vs-
 Stephanie N. Smith; If living, and all Unknown 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 May 31, 2012, entered in Civil Case No. 2009 CA 000831 of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, L.P., Plaintiff and Stephanie N. Smith are defendant(s). I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at

Public Notice

Jury Assembly Room, on the Second Floor, of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 N.W. Third Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 beginning at 11:00 A.M. on August 6, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 25, BLOCK 57, BASSWOOD UNIT 5, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 51, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540 Notices to Persons With Disabilities

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptacion(ON 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(ON si es que falta menos de 7 dias para su comparencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva o de habla, llame al 711.

KREYOL: Si ou se you moun ki kokobe ki bezwen asistans ou aparey pou ou ka patispe nan prosedu sa-

Public Notice

ou gen dwa san ou pa bezwen peye anyen pou ou jwen on seri de ed. Tanpri kontakte Corrie Johnson, Coordinador ADA, 250 NW Country Club Drive, suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 Omwen 7 jou avan ke ou gen pou ou parete nan tribunal, ou imediatman ke ou resevwa avis sa-a ou si le ke ou gen pou ou ale nan tribunal-la mwens ke 7 jou; Si ou pa ka tandu ou pale byen, rele 711.

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

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF:
 SHAPIRO, FISHMAN & GACHE, LLP
 2424 North Federal Highway
 Suite 360
 Boca Raton, Florida 33431
 (561) 998-6700 (561) 998-6707
 419303 ON 7/11,18/2012

IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2009-CC-54

CATHERINE P. CHESTER, Plaintiff,
 v.
 DENISE CHARLES, Defendant.

CLERK'S NOTICE OF SALE UNDER F.S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Default Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 11, 2012 in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 2ND Floor, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW Third Street, Okeechobee, Florida, at 11:00AM on August 15, 2012, the following property:

The West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the North 1/2 of the East 1/2 of Tract 16, Section 16, Township 34 South, Range 33 East, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, pages 3A through D, inclusive, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida (1.25

Public Notice

acres)(aka Lot B) and The East 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the North 1/2 of Tract 2, Section 11, Township 34 South, Range 33 East, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, pages 3A through D, inclusive, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida (1.25 acres)(aka Lot H).

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Dated: June 14, 2012.

SHARON ROBERTSON
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 By: Sandra L. Crech
 Deputy Clerk
 420516 ON 7/18,25/2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 47-2010-CA-000589

WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff,
 RAY LEE VALENTIN, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated June 19, 2012 and entered in Case No. 47-2010-CA-000589 of the Circuit Court of the NINETEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for OKEECHOBEE County, Florida wherein WELLS FARGO BANK, NA SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE, INC., is the Plaintiff and RAY LEE VALENTIN; IRMA R. VALENTIN; N&A REAL ESTATE, INC.; BANK OF AMERICA, NA, are the Defendants, The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best

Public Notice

bidder for cash in THE JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 N.W. 3RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972 at 11:00AM, on the 15th day of August, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

LOT 19, BLOCK 58, BASSWOOD UNIT 5, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 51 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. A/K/A 3024 NW 35TH DRIVE OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale.

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court on June 19, 2012.
 SHARON ROBERTSON
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: Sandra L. Crech
 Deputy Clerk

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

Summer storms, lightning mean more wildfires

As summer rains arrived, lightning-caused wildfires increase. Since July 1, 2012 the Florida Forest Service has responded 12 lightning-caused wildfires that burned over 532 acres along the Treasure Coast & Okeechobee Counties. Saturday, July 13, Florida Forest Service suppressed a 205-acre lightning acre wildfire in South Martin County off Pratt Whitney Road. Lightning is the

single greatest cause of wildfires along the Treasure Coast.

In Florida, certain vegetation types can quickly dry out due to sandier soils. A recent dry period in wet season made the land vulnerable to wildfire ignitions. A lightning strike has a potential to reach temperatures of 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightning can instantaneously cause a wildfire on dry veg-

etation or lightning ignitions can smolder for days before they start to show visible signs.

In the coming weeks we should start to see a more consistent rainfall pattern forming along the Treasure Coast. Thunderstorms may appear daily; with this pattern more lightning strikes are common. If you locate a wildfire please report it by calling 911; when caught early wildfires caused by lightning can be quickly managed and suppressed.

Okeechobee County

2012 - 9/25 = 36%

2011 - 25/81 = 31%

2010 - 7/80 = 9%

2009 - 13/63 = 20%

2008 - 12/45 = 27%

Explaining the Table – example 28/79 = 35%. 1st Number = lightning caused wildfires. 2nd Number = total wildfires for the year. 3rd = percentage of lightning caused wildfires for year by county.

A lightning caused wildfire is nature's way of cleansing the forest floor of dead debris.

When Treasure Coast residents build their houses too close to nature then natural role of fire can be devastating.

Firewise Tips Include:

(1) Remove anything that will burn from your roof and gutters. That includes pine needles, leaves, small twigs, and palm fronds.

(2) Be sure there is nothing flammable against the sides of your home.

(3) Be sure to use plants that are not highly flammable around your home.

(4) Keep the area within 30 feet of your home picked up, mowed, and watered within the guidelines of local water management.

To learn more FIREWISE tips, please contact your local Florida Forest Service office Okeechobee 863-462-5160. Please visit our website at www.floridastateservice.com/wildfire.

Moore Haven Lock will re-open to navigation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has re-opened the Moore Haven Lock to navigation after completing installation of the Manatee Protection System (MPS) July 14.

"Installation of the Manatee Protection System was completed three weeks ahead of schedule, allowing us to reopen the lock on Okeechobee Waterway to navigation," said Al Bruns, project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District.

Work was initially scheduled to begin May 14, but was postponed twice after taking into consideration the concerns expressed by local business owners, recreational boaters and residents about the lock being closed during the height of boating season and the resulting economic impacts. The work, which began June 11, was scheduled to take approximately eight weeks to finish, was

completed in approximately five weeks.

Installation of the MPS is part of the Manatee Pass Gates project. The primary goal of the project is to safeguard Florida's endangered manatees at water control structures and navigation locks by modifying these structures with a MPS. Using a set of acoustic transmitters and receivers, the MPS detects the West Indian manatee and prevents the gates from closing and harming the protected animal. Additional information on this and other navigation notices impacting the Okeechobee Waterway can be found at the following website:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Divisions/Operations/Branches/Navigation/NavNotices.htm>.

FWC wants to hear from anglers about saltwater fishing in Florida

If you go saltwater fishing in this state, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) researchers want to learn about your experiences and opinions through the new online Florida Saltwater Fishing Panel. Anyone with a valid Florida saltwater fishing license or Persons with Disabilities Resident Hunting and Fishing License, as well as exempt residents age 65 and older, can sign up to take part in the panel, which begins this summer.

Registered panel members will be asked to complete one Web-based survey per month for a one-year period. The surveys will each take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. While most of each survey will focus on the angler's last saltwater fishing trip in Florida during the previous month, surveys may also include questions about current or proposed fishing regulations, licenses, conservation of fish stocks and management effectiveness.

FWC researchers will use survey data to estimate the economic impact and value of saltwater fishing in Florida, to assess the importance of fish hatcheries, to estimate

fishing effort and catch rates and to describe angler behavior.

The FWC will take information gathered from panelists into consideration as part of management and policy-making decisions. Panel members will receive a coupon from West Marine for each monthly survey they complete. Participants will also have the opportunity to review summary results from the monthly surveys.

More than 200,000 anglers who provided their email addresses when they purchased their licenses have already received emails asking them to register for the panel. Those licensed anglers who have not received an email can sign up at www.fwcsaltwaterfishingpanel.com, by clicking "Register for the Panel." Interested anglers must register by Aug. 20 to receive the September survey. However, new members will be accepted throughout the duration of the panel's operation.

As the panel is fully Web-based, a panel member must have Internet access and a current email address.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Home Depot

Girl Scouts visit The Home Depot

Girl Scout Troop 60377 recently visited The Home Depot. Each Scout made their own personalized fold out chair from canvas drop cloth, followed by a store tour. If you would like to register for a group, please contact Michelle Smith, ASDS at 1-863-467-0292, extension 077.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Joe Suarez

Presentation to the band

The Band Boosters of Okeechobee County received a welcome check from South Central Florida Chapter of Thrivent Financial. A check was part of matching funds raised through the Care Abounds in Communities program. The Band Boosters welcome the receipt of donations to further music education in Okeechobee County. This check will assist with purchase of needed items to support Okeechobee band students. As a result of funding from the Children's Services Council's Summer Grant Program, the Band Boosters in conjunction with local band directors, will host the first ever Music Matters Summer Band Camp. Students do not have to be a member of school bands to attend. No instrument or rental is required. All High School and Middle School students who wish to attend can contact Robert Orr at 863-634-1381 or Leah Suarez at 863-697-8718 for more information.

Freedom Outreach fishing tournament

The final Freedom Outreach fishing tournament will be held on Sunday, Aug. 12, and the championship is to be held on Sept. 9 (\$120). The \$80 (cash only) entry fee includes the big fish pot and championship fund. You must have fished 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.



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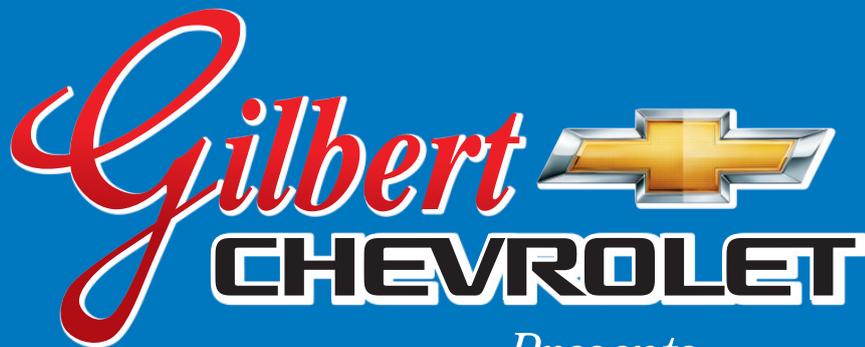
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If a retail customer purchases an eligible 2012 or 2013 Chevrolet vehicle and takes delivery between July 10, 2012 and September 4, 2012, the customer may return his/her vehicle to the original selling/participating dealer. The customer has to retain the vehicle for 30 days after the delivery date, and return it by the 60th day after delivery. The vehicle also must have less than 4,000 miles on the odometer since the delivery date when it is returned. All rebates and incentives to dealer. See Gilbert Chevrolet dealer for additional details. Offers expire 9/4/12.

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