



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 90

Friday, July 27, 2012

50¢ Plus tax

Local man faces 'child porn' charges

... Page 18

Teen reportedly pointed gun at woman... Page 15

EEV found in Glades County horses ...Page 3

Two compete for commission seat ... Page 10

Dress code changes at OHS ...Page 19

Lake Levels

12.13 feet

Last Year: 10.15 feet



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School system grade changed to C

Freshman campus earns a B

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Schools were only a D district for a week and that was by mistake, according to the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE).

Forty School systems around the state were wrongly graded earlier this month, with 213 schools receiving grades that were worse than they earned, the FLDOE confirmed Friday.

As a result, Okeechobee's grade will change

from a D to a C and none of the individual schools here will be a failing school. The final school grades will be released in September.

The Okeechobee improvement came as a result of work done at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus. Apparently the state did not give the school enough points for the learning gains made in reading and writing for their low performing students.

School Superintendent Ken Kenworthy said he knew all along that the district wasn't a D,

"Our kids deserve better and our teachers work harder than that," he said. "When all of your schools have a B or C grade, how does

your district end up with a D?"

Mr. Kenworthy said administrators were anxious to look at the actual data so they could find where the mistakes were made. He applauded the work done at the OFC.

"A few years ago they switched to end of course exams and didn't receive a grade. I think the B grade (for the OFC) is quite an accomplishment," he added.

Mr. Kenworthy said the district was pleased that they were able to maintain the C grade despite the increase in the rigor of the FCAT exam and the higher cut scores.

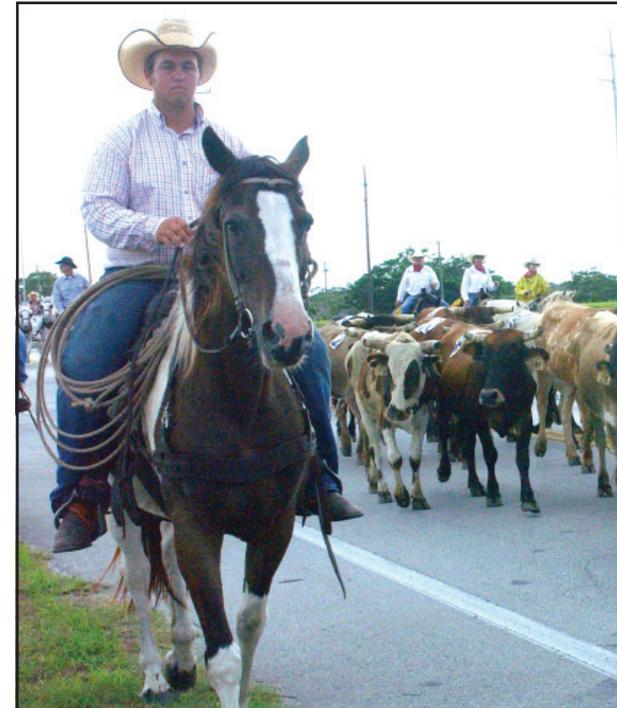
See GRADE — Page 8



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Strongman competition

Kyle Reno won the concrete carry, the first event in the Okeechobee Strong Man Competition July 21 at the Fitness Factor. For more, see page 9.



Okeechobee News/File photo

Day of the Cowboy

The Okeechobee community will celebrate the National Day of the American Cowboy this weekend. Events are planned at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center on Friday and Saturday, with a cattle drive from downtown Okeechobee to the Agri-Civic Center on Saturday. For details, see page 2.

Steve Hoskins

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National Day of the American Cowboy celebration planned for this weekend

With great pride in our heritage, Okeechobee Main Street announces the celebration of the National Day of the American Cowboy on Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28. The purpose of this celebration is to preserve our cowboy heritage, salute the contributions and share the lifestyle and labors of our cowboys and cowgirls, past and present. At the center of the activities will be the Cattlemen's Ranch Rodeo and the Cattle Drive through the streets of Okeechobee. Twenty teams will compete in this year's event, with the top team securing a coveted seat at the State Finals in Kissimmee and gaining "bragging rights" among their peers for the remainder of the year. Events will include ranch bronc riding, trailer loading, team sorting and team branding.

Only in Okeechobee will you see the time-honored tradition of a cattle drive take place down Highway 70 from Eli's Western Wear to the Agri-Civic Center. The Seminole Tribe will also participate with their wagons.

In addition to these events, a local barbecue competition will be hosted by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, with a "People's Choice" award on Saturday at 4 p.m. Barbecue rib and pork sandwiches will be available for purchase with other festival goodies! Local talent will demonstrate various cowboy trades and western goods including hats, jewelry and clothing will be sold by the many vendors. Several children's activities, including the "Barrel Racing" train and pony rides will round out the event.

On Friday, July 27, this event will open at 5 p.m. and the ranch rodeo will begin at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, July 28, the gates will open to the public at 3 p.m., the cattle drive will



Okeechobee News/File photo
Okeechobee's celebration of the National Day of the American Cowboy includes a cattle drive through downtown Okeechobee to the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. This photo was taken at the 2011 event.

leave Eli's Western Wear at 4 p.m., and the ranch rodeo will take place at 6 p.m. The event will close following a performance by the local band, "Burnt Biscuit," sponsored by the Syfrett Feed Company. "Burnt Biscuit" is one of the most popular and versatile bands in South Florida performing modern country as well as old school rock and roll and jazz.

Admission is \$5 per person; children under 12 are free. The Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center is located at 4601 Highway 710, Okeechobee. Okeechobee Main Street and the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association are co-sponsors of this unique event. Major event sponsors include MidFlorida Credit Union, Tobacco Free Florida, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Treasure Coast Dermatology- Dr. Tim Ioannides, Seacoast National Bank, Teez 2 Pleez, American Drilling Services, Ameriprise Financials, CenterState Bank, Labor Finders, Waste Management and St. Lucie Battery and Tire-Okeechobee. If you have any questions, please contact the

Okeechobee Main Street office at 863-357-6246 or visit the website at www.okeechobeebeemainstreet.net.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Sunny and hot, with a high near 97. Heat index values as high as 105. Light and variable wind becoming east 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Friday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 73. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light in the evening.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 95. Light and variable wind becoming southeast 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. South southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3pm. Sunny and hot, with a high near 96. Light and variable wind becoming east southeast 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday night: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. South southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.



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We are owned by a journalistic trust. All after-tax profits are invested in our mission of community service through good local journalism.

Staffing is local, and we seek out people who care about the community and want to stay here.

How are we doing?

Let us know by emailing feedback@newszap.com or call your editor.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS
Community Service
Through Journalism

Glades County horses confirmed with EEEV virus

Mosquito-borne virus reported for second time this summer

GLADES COUNTY -- There has been a second Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV)-confirmed positive horse (onset 7/14/12) reported from the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS) for Glades County. This is the 13th horse reported in the state with EEEV infection with onset during 2012.

The Glades County Health Department will continue with surveillance and encourages everyone to take basic precautions to help limit exposure to mosquitoes.

To protect your horses from mosquitoes, you should:

- Consult with your veterinarian on getting your horses vaccinated for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV).
- Avoiding mosquito bites is the best way

to prevent disease. You can protect yourself against mosquito-borne diseases by remembering to "Drain and Cover":

- Drain standing water to stop mosquitoes from living and multiplying around home or business.
- Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.
- Discard old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.
- Empty and clean birdbaths and pet's water bowls at least once or twice a week.
- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.
- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.
- Cover the skin to protect from mosquito bites and from the diseases mosquitoes carry.
- Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeves. This type of protection may be

necessary for people who must work in areas where mosquitoes are present.

- Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective.
- Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.
- Cover doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your house.
- Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

Tips on Repellent Use

- Always read label directions carefully for the approved usage before you apply a repellent. Some repellents are not suitable for children.
- Products with concentrations of up to 30 percent DEET are generally recommended. Other EPA-approved repellents contain Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. These products are generally available at lo-

cal pharmacies. Look for active ingredients to be listed on the product label.

- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin, or onto clothing, but not under clothing.
- In protecting children, read label instructions to be sure the repellent is age-appropriate. According to the CDC, mosquito repellents containing oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under the age of three years. DEET is not recommended on children younger than two months old.
- Avoid applying repellents to the hands of children. Adults should apply repellent first to their own hands and then transfer it to the child's skin and clothing.
- If additional protection is necessary, apply a permethrin repellent directly to your clothing. Again, always follow the manufacturer's directions.

The Department of Health conducts statewide surveillance for mosquito borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria and dengue. Deaths in some types of wild birds such as blue jays and crows may indicate mosquito disease activity. Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds via the public website <http://www.MyFWC.com/bird>. For more information about mosquito-borne prevention and illnesses, visit the Department of Health's Environmental Health Web site at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboreal/index.html> or call your local county health department.

March of Dimes seeks grant and award applications

The March of Dimes Florida Chapter funds programs that help moms have full-term pregnancies and healthy babies. This includes providing financial support to research and education that will help moms

before and during their pregnancies. It also includes working with local medical groups and organizations to improve prenatal care and newborn screening.

There are two applications processes for

the 2013 program. For projects of \$3,000 or less, applicants should use the Community Award Application. For projects on interconception and post-partum health, applicants should use the Florida Chapter Grant Application. Both applications can be found on the March of Dimes website, at: http://www.marchofdimes.com/florida/grants.html?src=edd_chapter_fl_120725

The March of Dimes Florida Chapter uses gifts wisely, awarding grants based on a number of criteria, including the group's or organization's ability to accomplish its goals, as well as the potential impact a project will have in helping the March of Dimes prevent premature births, birth defects, and infant mortality.

For more information about the Chapter Grants, contact Donna Poynor at dpoynor@marchofdimes.com and for information about the Community Awards, contact Nikita Toppin at ntoppin@marchofdimes.com.

Anyone interested in being a part of the March of Dimes' major fundraiser, March for Babies, should call Laura McCall at 863-763-3131 or Cindy at 772-562-0115.

Okeechobee August blood drives announced

When you need blood you assume it will be there for you. But are you aware that only 4 percent of the U.S. population actually donates blood? There is no substitute for blood so healthy community members are asked to get on the Big Red Bus at one of these August drives and help ensure that blood will be on-hand when you or someone you know, needs it. All blood used at Raulerson is derived from Florida's Blood Centers, The Big Red Bus will be in Okeechobee on the following dates:

- Friday, Aug. 3 – Sprint Store on Second Street and U.S. 441 N, 2 to 6 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 3 – OHS Football Support Drive at Okeechobee High School on U.S. 441 N, noon to 4 p.m.

- Saturday, Aug. 4 – Advance America Fun Day (in Public Center) 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug 7 – Raulerson Hospital, noon to 5 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 10 – Okee Health Department, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, 1 to 5 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 16 – Okee Correctional Inst., public invited, noon to 5 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 17 – Walgreen's, 1 to 6 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 20 – Publix, 3 to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 25 – Wal Mart, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 30 – Okeechobee High School, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Brahman Theaters III

Fri., July 27TH - Thurs., Aug. 2ND

For Info, Call 763-7202

I: "BATMAN"
Fri. 7:00 & 10:00, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00 & 7:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG-13**

II: "TED"
Fri. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **R**

III: "ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT"
Fri. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG**

Movie Tickets: Adults - \$6.50 • Children 12 & under - \$5.00
Senior Citizens - \$5.00 all movies • Matinees - \$4.50

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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!

Code enforcement

• Can someone please explain to me what the code enforcement folks do? They certainly aren't enforcing codes. I live in Oak Lake Estates and there is a vacant lot that the grass is literally six feet tall. I called code enforcement almost two months ago. I gave them the benefit of the doubt for the first 45 days because I know they have to send a letter. It had clearly been long enough to address this problem. I realize maybe they are busy and can't just drive around looking for violations but at the very least they could deal with the ones that people are asking for help on.

• How do you deal with all these problems?

Robberies

• I own one of the 15 homes that was broken into last week by these guys to feed their coke habit and I probably will never get my stuff back because there is no way to prove it was mine. In other words, I have to donate money and keepsakes to some druggie to help his habit and they will probably be back on the street in a few months robbing more homes.

• Sorry to say but this new scrapping law that requires everyone to show proof of ownership of the items they are scrapping and wait for a check to be mailed to their residence weeks later is going to make breaking and entering a way bigger problem. Instead of stealing items outside that they could scrap they will now be forced to venture inside for stuff they can sell on the street or at a pawn shop. Hopefully not too many people will be injured or killed by these lunatics trying to catch that next high. I'm sure the people that implemented this law did not think far enough into this before they put it into effect. Dope heads are going to do what they got to do to get their next fix.

New dress code

• Okeechobee High School will try a change to the dress code when the 2012-13 school year starts and is trying to get the information out before parents shop for back-to-school clothes: Due to the warm climate that we live in, Okeechobee High School is going to experiment with a modification to our dress code. Students will be allowed to wear shorts everyday of the week as long as they wear: a collared shirt, a college shirt, an OHS sports team shirt, or an OHS club shirt. Shorts must be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee and they must be worn at their waist. Holes in the shorts are not permitted. For girls, the shirts must not reveal cleavage. The rest of the dress code remains the same.

• It's about time! Wearing jeans in Florida in the hot months is just not smart.

• We had to deal with it and so should they!

• They should do this everywhere.

• The shorts is a nice thing but why does it matter what shirt you wear? They are so much worried about dress-code, public displays of affection, and drugs than they are actually teaching the students.

• It was warm ... sometimes hot as the African safari when we were in school and we still dealt with the warm climate. SO why is it such a big deal now? But I guess that's a good thing for the students.

• If you have to wear a special shirt with shorts, you might as well have them all wear uniforms.

• Uniforms would be cheaper on the parents.

• So, if you're not in a club, interested in a college and happen to have one of their shirts, or on a sports team your only option if you want to wear shorts is to wear a collared shirt? That's just a little inconvenient considering there are plenty of style shirts out there that look perfectly fine and cover up even more than some collared shirts. I am so glad I don't have to deal with those silly, silly dress code rules anymore.

• Was it not hot when we were in school?

• Some parents can only afford certain things for their kids. I know growing up as a kid my parents couldn't find clothes for me because I was fat. So finally they found things I was comfortable with and could sit in all day.

Letters to the editor

Clarifying misconceptions about EOC building

Hearing all that was said at the political forum last week made me realize that some clarification is in order. When information's presented and it isn't accurate or is incomplete, it's difficult to set the record straight when there's no allowances made for rebuttal. Unfortunately, a few misrepresentations have occurred.

First, the Okeechobee Emergency Operations Center (EOC) became an attainable reality in the aftermath of the 9/11 Trade Center crisis. With heightened awareness and the onset of Homeland Security, the county began the long process of planning and design and the search for grant funding, the first of which culminated in 2002. Soon thereafter, Florida faced an unimaginable death toll and devastation caused by the 2004-05 hurricane seasons, making it obvious that the back room of the old hospital was no longer an acceptable venue for weathering or responding to a catastrophic event. Our communications system was also antiquated, having been a hand-me-down from St. Lucie County. In the aftermath of those storms, we realized how ill-prepared and equipped we were to face a real crisis. Once we were prepared to start construction, the bid process revealed that due to the onset of the economic downturn, we would be able to complete this project for approximately \$2 million under the originally anticipated cost. Despite criticism regarding the budget constraints as construction began, grant restrictions required that we complete this project within a prescribed time line or face forfeiting grant proceeds exceeding \$1.5 million. The net cost of the EOC to Okeechobee County was \$2.4 million—not the \$5.6 million that had originally been budgeted.

Second, what many don't realize is that one-third of the EOC building is used by our Sheriff's Department to house dispatch and 911 services, as well as the Statewide Law Enforcement Response System (SLERS), which provides for direct communication with state authorities, and also provides a reliable communications system for our law enforcement, emergency services, local government and utility authorities. The EOC building not only meets all mandates for weathering a catastrophic event, it also enabled the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to provide immediate expansion for our Sheriff's Department, accommodating their spatial needs well into the future. Also housed in the EOC are our Public Safety Director/Fire Chief, the Okeechobee County Fire Rescue (OCFR) Training Officer, and their staff, along with our EOC Director. This building is utilized on a daily basis and requires no debt service from the County budget.

Third, the concern regarding decimation of our Sheriff's Department and Fire Rescue is totally unwarranted. Actual spending by the Sheriff's Department during budget year 2004/05 was \$12,098,390, as compared to 2010/11 when their actual spending was \$14,778,544 an increase of over \$2.6 million (23 percent). The OCFR/EMS operations' spending in 2004/05 was \$3,876,376, as compared to \$4,852,961 in 2010/11, an increase of nearly \$1 million (26 percent). These increases have occurred despite the County's budget constraints, worsened by the weakened economy and declining property values. Because the Board has placed such a high priority on public safety, both the Sheriff's Department and Fire Rescue/EMS have been afforded the opportunity to increase their operations, despite challenges to provide the needed financial support to do so. Finally, despite the economic downturn that's wreaked havoc with all of our lives, growth in our County has continued. Building permit activity between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2011, is summarized as follows:

Type	Number	Valuation	Fees	Percent
Total Commercial	125	\$52,816,415.07	\$729,087.55	0.0138
Manuf Home Vacant Lo	54	\$2,200,692.00	\$214,595.70	0.0975
Manufctre Hm Vac Par	2	\$82,800.00	\$7,408.58	0.0895
Residential Bldg Vac	182	\$48,000,650.71	\$1,019,257.24	0.0212
TOTALS	363	\$103,100,557.78	\$1,970,349.07	0.0191

Please note that total permitting fees are less than 2 percent.

In closing, I'd like to assure each of you that the EOC is not an empty building waiting for a crisis to occur. It is a viable part of our day-to-day county operations and will serve us well in the event of unforeseen catastrophic events if and when they occur. You can rest assured that our Sheriff's Department and Fire Rescue/EMS is sufficiently funded to continue to serve you and your families if and when you need them. Lastly, we can all take pride in the fact that our County has been the venue for over \$103 million in permitting activity during the last five years, despite the economic hardships that have plagued us all, and we stand ready to welcome much, much more whenever construction and new development comes our way. Together we have continued to build a better place to grow our businesses, our families, our lives.

If you have questions about County issues, please don't hesitate to contact your Commissioner or County administration.

Sincerely, **Ray R. Domer, Okeechobee County Commissioner-District 1**

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Website: www.newszap.com

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



Okeechobee High School Annual Scholarship Night



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Education Association Scholarship

Okeechobee County Education Association Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are: Candy Walker, Emily Raulerson, Savanna Whitlock, Ton Bonasera.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

State Farm Scholarship

State Farm Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are: Aubrey Robertson, Tyler Finney, Raychel Rabon, Maurisa Tremain.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

John E. Entry Jr. Memorial Scholarship

John E. Entry Jr. Memorial Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall.- From left to right are: Brandon Elkins, Taylor Davis, Doris Entry, Joseph Stanley.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Bubba Helton Memorial Scholarship

Bubba Helton Memorial Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. In the front from left to the right are: Hector Torres, Araceli Sanchez, Lauren Fusco. In the back from left to right are: Lacy Altman, Margaret Gerrard Helton, Michelle Dorta, Erica Frederick.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Glades Electric Scholarship

Glades Electric Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are: Barney Goodman, Makenzie Tomlinson, Karli Holtkamp, Benjamin Kielbasa.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Golden Corral Scholarship

Golden Corral Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are: Lauren Halliday, Deborah Hall, Deion Hayes.

Community Events

'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 at 863-634-9108; Bobby Schoonmaker at 863-634-3910; Laurie Raulerson Stephen at 863-634-3462; or, Noel Stephen at 863-634-0650. Proceeds from the event will benefit the O.L. Raulerson Jr. fund. Water and electricity will be provided.

OKMS taking vendor applications for Day of the Cowboy event

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. 2nd Street, 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.

Buckhead Moose Lodge to host Beach Party

Buckhead Ridge Moose Lodge #2417 will host a Beach Party on Saturday, **July 28**, starting at 11 a.m., featuring a white sandy beach and a swimming pool, with food, music, and games available all day long. Games include Duck Races and a Dunk Tank. For more information, call 863-763-2250. All proceeds to benefit Moose Charities.

VFW Ladies Auxiliary has 'Christmas in July'

The Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 10539, at 3912 Hwy. 441 S.E., is having "Christmas in July" on Saturday, **July 28**, at 2 p.m. with a dinner of turkey and fixings. They will also have a Chinese raffle and a mystery gift auction. The public is invited. Music will be by Deb West.

Chobee Steelers Awards Night planned

All are invited to attend the Chobee Steelers Awards program on **July 28** at 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus Auditorium, 610 SW Second Ave, Okeechobee. Admission is free. There will be plenty of great music! Contact 863-763-3893 for more information.

ODEC plans JJ Picnic

The Okeechobee Democratic Executive Committee would like to invite any interested citizens in Okeechobee to their Jefferson Jackson picnic/fiesta on Saturday, **July 28**, at the Okeechobee Civic Center on Highway 98 N from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to come to this free event to meet the local and state Democratic candidates and the candidates for County Commissioner District 3 and 5 and School Board, District #2 as well as candidates running as no party affiliates.

Youth football game and dinner planned for July 28

The Okeechobee Youth Football Purple and White Game Chicken Dinner Fundraiser will be held **July 28**, at the Okeechobee County Sports Complex, 640 Northwest 27th Lane. Dinners are \$10 per plate. The meal will include a chicken quarter, two side dishes, rolls and dessert. The cheerleaders will host The "Sweet Treat Tent." Games start at 9 a.m. at the Okeechobee County Sports Complex.

Cypress Hut announces upcoming events

Cypress Hut Eagles will host card bingo starting at 3 p.m. on **July 28**. All proceeds to benefit FOE Charities. A bratwurst dinner by Harry is planned for at 5:30 p.m. on **July 31**, with music by Bobby & Carla. All proceeds to benefit FOE Charities. The aerie will host a steak or fish dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Aug 3, with music by Lisa. All proceeds to benefit FOE Charities. And on Aug 4, August there will be a Birthday Bash featuring Black and Bleu Burgers by Lorraine and Nadene at 4 p.m. and music by Cowboy. All proceeds to benefit Okeechobee High School girls track team. Contact 863-467-1154 or further information.

FREE Children's carnival at BHR Moose

A free childrens carnival, for ages 6 to 12, will be held at Buckhead Ridge Moose Lodge (1/4 mile past Okee-Tantie) on Sunday, **July 29**, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., sponsored by the Women of the Moose. Join them for games, crafts, demonstrations and horseback rides. There will also be chances to enter drawings for a boys/girls bicycle and E-reader. Hot dogs, drinks and more will be available for purchase.

Cypress Hut Eagles host benefit event

Cypress Hut Eagles will host benefit for Billie Hesch on **July 29**, starting at 2 p.m. Cypress Hut Eagles will be having a Benefit for Billie Hesch, Past Madam President. Music by the Harpers will start at 3 p.m. A complete turkey dinner with all the fixin's will be served at 5 p.m. There will be a cake walk, games and raffles etc. Billie is fighting lung cancer. All proceeds go to helping pay Billie's medical bills. The public is welcome.

Obituaries

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

James 'Jimmie' R. Minehan, Jr., 94

OKEECHOBEE — James 'Jimmie' R. Minehan, died peacefully on Sunday, July 22, 2012, at the Hamrick Home.

Born in Brunswick, Ga., he was a lifetime resident of Okeechobee. Jimmie was a member of the Okeechobee High School Class of 1936. During WWII, he proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy 15th C.B. Battalion. Returning to Okeechobee after the war, he was the owner of Jimmie's Standard Service Station and was also employed by South Florida Water Management. He was a past member of the Okeechobee City Council and the Okeechobee Utility Authority. In the spring during baseball season, he could always be found in the stands cheering the Okeechobee Brahman team on to victory.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James R. Minehan, Sr. and Ruth Angier Minehan; and sister, Sarah Hamrick.

Survivors include his daughter, Martha Benson; grandsons, W. Gregory (Shannon) Benson, Matthew (Lauren) Benson, Michael Benson; great-granddaughter, Abigail Benson, all of Austin, Texas; and niece, Regina Hamrick of Okeechobee.

Visitation will be held at the First United Methodist Church on Monday, July 30, 2012, from 9 a.m. until service time of 10 a.m. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Jimmie's memory to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973. Friends may send online condolences to www.buxtonseawinds.com.

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



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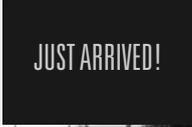
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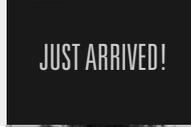


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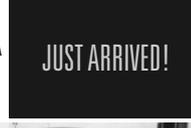


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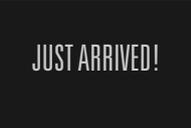
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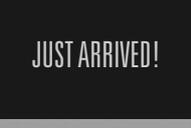
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School board cuts budget, sets tentative tax rate

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board approved a tentative \$64.9 million budget Tuesday that cuts spending by over 4 percent, slightly lowers the tax rate, and includes a \$1 million increase in state education funding.

The proposed spending plan still is in the red as the district will spend about \$4 million more than they take in this year, dipping into reserves. The plan also does not include any salary adjustments for employees and reflects a reduction of 27 positions that was approved last month.

Nearly every school in the county will receive fewer dollars this year. The capital project budget was also cut by just over \$1 million.

Local property tax payers will see a slight increase in the millage rate of .028 mills. That amounts to about \$2.80 for a home assessed at \$100,000. On mill equals \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 of property value.

The property tax roll was reduced by \$21.2 million this year or 1.34 percent. The amount of property taxes collected was reduced by \$202,897 or 1.69 percent. State education funding was increased by 3.19 percent. In the past five years the state increased the required local effort by one-half a mill and the discretionary millage by one-fourth a mill.

School Board Chairman Kelly Owens said spending has been reduced about \$20 million since she took office eight years ago.

"It is a pretty hard hit and we are still able to offer good education programs," she said.

The district has also cut into their fund balance with a reduction of 4.23 percent this year.

Okeechobee Freshman Campus, Okeechobee High, South Elementary, the Okeechobee Achievement Academy, Yearling Middle, North Elementary, Everglades Elementary, Seminole Elementary and Osceola Middle School will spend less this year. Only Central Elementary saw an overall increase in the tentative spending plan.

The capital projects funded include \$365,000 for a classroom remodel project at Yearling Middle School, \$100,000 for an electrical upgrade at Central Elementary, \$650,000 to purchase six new school buses, and \$175,000 for computer hardware and software. A wireless connection at Okeechobee High School will cost \$38,000.

The schools will also have their food service program certified which will mean additional federal funds of 6 cents per meal.

Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy said while Governor Rick Scott held true to his promise of an additional \$1 billion for schools, most of that came in school recognition dollars and because of lower grades, Okeechobee County schools won't benefit financially from that.

The base student allocation did increase \$85 per student which will benefit the schools.

"The budget is tight and we will burn reserves for the second year in a row. We need to get a handle on our appropriations and make cuts where we can while keeping student achievement at the forefront of every decision we make," he added.

Mr. Kenworthy said they tried to make the cuts equitable at each school and base it on the number of students who are served and the programs taught. He said he felt the schools would still do a good job academically despite these staff cuts.

Mr. Kenworthy sounded pessimistic about any salary hikes this year. He said the district wants to keep fund balance over 5 percent and currently it stands at 5.03 percent. That leaves precious few dollars to give salary adjustments. Next month the school board could eliminate any wiggle room as they'll be asked to approve a new policy that mandates at least a 5 percent fund balance each year.

"We know moving forward that salary enhancements will have to come out of the fund balance," he concluded.

The next public hearing on the proposed spending plan is scheduled for Tuesday, July 31, at 6 p.m. at the School Board offices.

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Firefighters host annual school supplies 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.

GRADE

Continued From Page 1

"We know a D grade is not where we want to be. We know that we can do bet-

ter," he noted.

Mr. Kenworthy said the mistake by the FLDOE was unfortunate. He said he hopes the FLDOE releases the new correct information with the same emphasis that they originally released the mistaken grades when the school grades are finalized in September.

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Fitness Factor hosts Strong Man Competition



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Osiris Mendez gave a strong showing in the concrete carry at the Fitness Factor



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Cory Schoppmeyer (left) encourages his brother Nick during the Strong Man competition.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Paul Belangia gives his all in the tire lift competition at the Okeechobee Strong Man Competition on July 21.



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Billy

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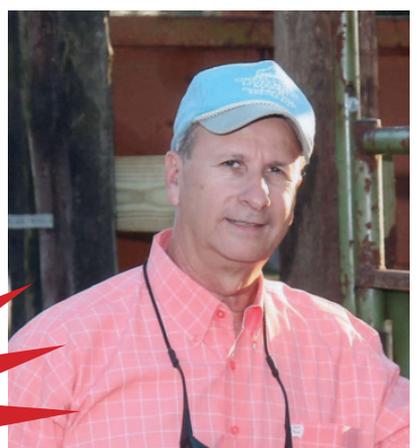
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Elvie Posey seeks to reclaim commission seat

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News



Elvie Posey

Elvie Posey, 65, is trying to regain the Okeechobee County Commission District 5 seat he held four years ago. Mr. Posey, a Republican, is married with two children, a boy and a girl.

He has lived in Okeechobee County most of his adult life. He graduated from Seacrest High School in Delray Beach.

Mr. Posey belongs to the Kiwanis Club. His interest in improving the economy is evidenced by the fact that he belongs to the business development board and he is the

governor's appointee to the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, an organization of six counties devoted to developing future plans for the region.

"I have been in agriculture all my life," Mr. Posey said. He was involved with Posey Dairy from 1969 until 2007 when the business was sold. He has also been involved in several other businesses. He has operated a convenience store, a restaurant and a tire repair business.

When asked why he was running for commission his reply was, "Because I think they need somebody with vision. I feel like I have the experience, I have the knowledge, I have a work ethic second to none. I want to come back and go back to work."

Mr. Posey strongly favors economic de-

velopment. "We need to improve our tax base and get some jobs. We've got to create jobs. We've got to invite investors to come to Okeechobee to create jobs. I think we have to be a business-friendly county."

Mr. Posey thinks most investors will simply go to another county if they do not receive a good reception here. "I want to be ready to welcome them to create jobs," he asserted.

Mr. Posey would like to control spending, reduce the tax burden on citizens and provide a comfortable level of services.

He is also concerned with improving the quality of life in Okeechobee.

"We have hit a brick wall with our revenue stream," he asserted. Mr. Posey intends to do what is reasonable and necessary to improve the revenue stream.

When asked what he saw as the biggest challenge to commissioners in the next four years he replied "The biggest challenge is going to be the budget," He believes commissioners will have to manage the budget in a way to provide the level of services necessary.

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

Helton seeks to retain county commission seat in district 5

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News



Margaret Helton

Margaret Garrard Helton, 62, is a Republican and is seeking her second term as the Okeechobee County Commissioner representing District 5.

Mrs. Helton was born in Dothan, Ala. She moved to Okeechobee in 1960 and graduated from Okeechobee High School in 1968. She is the widow of the late Bubba Helton. Since 1980, Mrs. Helton has owned and operated Garrard's Tackle Shop.

She served on the Okeechobee County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors from 1994 to 1996. In 2011 she was named to the Florida Association Counties Board of Directors. She has earned Certified Advanced County Commissioner credentials from the Florida Association of Counties. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments and a member of the Tourist Development Council. She is actively involved in Bubba's Redneck Yacht Club, a charitable nonprofit organization.

Mrs. Helton made history in 2008 when she became the first Republican to be elected to the county commission. As commissioner, she instituted the Coffee with Commissioner program.

When asked why she was running for reelection, Mrs. Helton said that when she first ran in 2008 she had never been involved in public office. She said she fell in love with the political system and wishes to continue working to make Okeechobee County a better place to live.

If re-elected, she said she would try to expedite the process of obtaining commercial building permits. She would also strive to create a business friendly environment. She is concerned with creating jobs and lowering taxes. The way to lower taxes, she feels, is to create more jobs so more people would be paying taxes. She said that in the last 4 years she believed the decisions she made were for the good of the community and she vowed to continue that policy if re-elected.

Economic growth and the budget are two challenges she sees facing the commission in the next four years. She said that in the last four years the budget has been reduced and she would continue to reduce the budget.



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ANNIVERSARY

MARTHA KARNES HOMER KARNES

Homer N. Karnes and Martha "Marty" A. Karnes of Okeechobee, FL., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family. They met at Cornell Aeronautical Research Lab Cheektowanda, N.Y., and were married on July 28, 1962, at St. Peter and Paul's Roman Catholic Church in Williamsville, N.Y.

The bride is the former, Martha Kost, of Buffalo. They moved to Ft. Lauderdale in 1970. Their children are, Neil Karnes and his wife Lori, and Todd Karnes. They have two grandchildren, Nick and Katie. They relocated to Okeechobee when Homer retired from The Art Institute of Ft. Lauderdale after 21 years of teaching.



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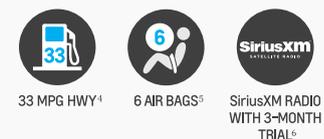
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Jessica lost 53 pounds with PWLC!

By Jessica
Testimonial

Summer was fast approaching and so was a size 15. I live in sunny South Florida where shorts and tank tops are most women's daily attire. I couldn't bear the thought of another summer in jeans. I walked into Physicians Weight Loss Centers and headed to the exam and consultation room with the diet counselor. In less than five minutes, I was convinced that this was the lifestyle change I needed. I didn't need another diet, I needed to

change the way I ate forever. I have been on other diets, but this was different. The program was straightforward and easy to stick to. Seventeen weeks after my initial visit to PWLC, I walked out 53 pounds lighter and 57 inches smaller.

I went from a size 12/14 to a 2/4, from 165 pounds to 112 pounds. Through PWLC I learned to eat to live, not live to eat. I wake up every morning thinking of my next adventure, not my next meal.

It's now summer and my daily attire consists of shorts and a tank top just what I always wanted! When people ask me about my weight loss, I tell them I went to Physicians Weight Loss Centers and it changed my life.

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Submitted Photo/Physicians Weight Loss Centers

Jessica, before and after

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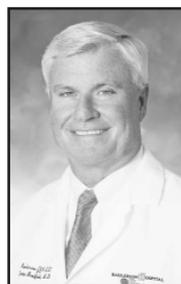
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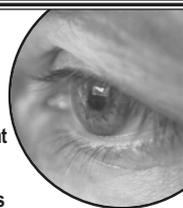
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Commissioners set preliminary assessment rates

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Some taxpayers could see a slight reduction in their overall tax bill if preliminary tax rates approved by Okeechobee County Commissioners at their Thursday, July 26, meeting receive final approval.

Once again the commissioners also discussed Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina.

Commissioners approved a proposed rate for the solid waste collection assessment of \$217.52 per dwelling unit for the coming budget year. This is an increase of \$24.50 and amounts to a weekly pickup rate of \$4.19.

The good news is that the proposed EMS rates decreased by 10 percent. County Administrator Robbie Charter said there were several reasons for this decrease. For one thing, reserve funds in this area have increased. Also the county is now able to collect a higher percentage of the charges for ambulance service. Operation expenses have been reduced because of the retirement of higher paid employees and their replacement with employees at a lower pay level. The preliminary rate per dwelling unit is \$66.60. Hotels, motels and RV parks are assessed \$1.80 per room/space. Commercial property is assessed at \$0.05 per square foot and the assessment for industrial/warehouse property is \$0.009 per square foot.

The proposed fire assessment rates are the same as the current year. This assess-

ment has not increased in 5 years. The proposed fire assessment for residential property remains at \$100 per dwelling unit while hotels, motels and RV parks would pay \$8 per room/space. Agricultural/vacant land is assessed at \$56 for parcels up to five acres with \$0.64 per acre added each for additional acre. Commercial and industrial properties are assessed according to the number of square feet.

These assessment rates will be finalized after a public hearing at the commission meeting on Aug. 23.

The board then set a preliminary millage rate. The current year's millage rate is 8.5470. The board set a preliminary millage rate of 9.2457. Taking into consideration the decrease in property values, this millage rate would bring in the same amount of revenue to the county as the current year's millage rate. However, because of the unique circumstances involved in the assessment of individual properties, some individual taxpayers could see an increase while others could see a decrease in their taxes. The board also set a proposed debt service millage rate of 0.3450.

One mil equals one dollar in taxes for every \$1,000 of assessed value.

The final millage rates will be established after a public hearing on Sept. 27.

County Administrator Robbie Charter reminded the commissioners that the final millage rate could be lowered but it could not be raised higher than the preliminary millage rate they established that day.

"Overall the county continues to be in good shape," Mrs. Charter said as she gave the monthly financial update. Revenues continue to outweigh expenses. She said that typically the county receives 95 per cent of ad valorem taxes. To date this year, the county has received 96.4 per cent of ad valorem taxes.

Commissioners took a step toward removing restrictions to a proposal to develop Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina by developer Randall Henderson. Mr. Henderson has proposed to lease the park for 99 years and develop a first rate RV park. When the property was deeded to the county by the state the county was restricted from selling or leasing the property. Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution requesting that the state release the county from these restrictions.

"If nothing is done, it will impact the project on the table," stated county attorney John Cassels. He said that even if the project under consideration does not come to pass this is a good time to ask for a release of restrictions. He said that in the future the relaxing of restrictions allowing the county to be more flexible in developing the park.

Commissioner Ray Domer noted that the park has not been a top priority in the past. However, he did say that there were some things the county could do to improve the property.

"This is the just the first step," Commissioner Frank Irby said. He agreed that Okee-Tantie has not been a top priority in the past.

"If we don't get the restrictions removed, we know our options are limited," he stated.

Turning to other matters, the board voted to purchase a 2013 International truck chassis to be used for an ambulance and authorized Maudlin International Trucks to refurbish and remount an ambulance body on the chassis for a total cost of \$133,892 including \$300 trade in.

They also appointed Commissioner Joey Hoover as substitute board member on the canvassing board.

The board heard comments from Sid Estrada and Dr. Pat Cooper, board members of Okeechobee Rehabilitation Center, formerly known as the ARC. They appealed to the commissioners for funding. Mr. Estrada stated that the center is the only nonprofit organization in Okeechobee that serves adults with disabilities. He said that the facility has a capacity for 50 clients but they only serve 27 due to available funds. Of that total, he said seven clients cannot afford to pay anything.

Dr. Cooper said the goal of the facility is to help their clients become self sufficient and productive citizens. She stated that since 2008 the facility had lost about 25 percent of its revenue sources while the cost of services had not been reduced. However, the number of staff members and the number of activities for clients has declined. Dr. Cooper noted that 2004/2005 was the last year the board provided any funding for the facility. She said a request for funding for 2005/2006 was not granted.

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Detective: Store owner didn't have workers comp

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



**Mohammad
Bazlur Sattar**

The legal woes for the owner of a local convenience store continue with his arrest for reportedly not carrying state-required insurance on his employees.

Mohammad Bazlur Sattar, 41, S. Lake Ave., West Palm Beach, was arrested Monday, July 23, on a felony charge of failure to secure workers compensation coverage. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on a bond of \$5,000, and has since been released on bond.

Sattar owns the Okeechobee City Marathon store at 120 S. Parrott Ave., which is the same business where an employee was recently arrested for allegedly selling synthetic

marijuana (spice).

According to an arrest affidavit by Detective William Hill, of the Florida Department of Financial Services - Division of Insurance Fraud, Sattar employs a total of five people, including himself, at the Marathon store.

"He (Sattar) added that he has operated businesses since 1995 and has never had workers compensation coverage," stated the detective in his affidavit.

One of Sattar's employees, Mohammed Mamus Salam, was arrested last month by detectives from the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force for allegedly selling synthetic marijuana out of the store.

Task force arrest reports stated that confidential sources twice bought spice from Salam, who was operating the store.

The evidence was turned over to the Indian River Crime Lab in Fort Pierce for analysis

to determine if there were any illegal substances present in the spice.

Salam was then arrested on May 14 on felony charges of sale of a controlled substance (synthetic cannabinoid) and possession of a controlled substance (synthetic cannabinoid) with intent to sell.

He was arrested again on June 27 when detectives received the second analysis from the crime lab showing that an illegal substance was reportedly found in the second bag of spice purchased from Salam, stated the arrest report. Salam was charged with the same two felonies.

Following Salam's first arrest, task force detectives executed a search warrant on the

store during which they reportedly found 548 bags of suspected spice that had an estimated value of \$6,000.

A task force detective said Salam, along with every other business in the county where spice was sold, had been told to stop selling the synthetic cannabinoid on April 5. This warning came about a month after a new law went into effect that banned the sale and possession of fake marijuana.

Spice, also known as K-2 and numerous other names, had been legal to sell and possess prior to the state legislature passing the new law.

Teenager pointed gun at woman, says report

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee teenager has been arrested after he allegedly threatened two people with a handgun while riding his bicycle.

Dwan Marshall Jr., 15, N.E. Sixth St., was arrested Monday, July 23, on a felony charge of aggravated assault with a firearm.

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

In a report by Deputy Mark Margerum, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), two people talked to him on July 14 about a young man who had pointed a handgun at them while he was riding a bicycle. Neither the man nor the woman knew

the young man's identity, added the report.

The female victim said she was in the 600 block of N.E. 14th Ave. when an unknown male riding a bicycle pulled a handgun and began yelling at her. The woman said she began running and the male, later identified to be Marshall, followed her on his bike, stated the report.

On July 18, OCSO Detective M.D. Faulkner showed the female victim photos of six males in a lineup. The detective stated in his report that she immediately identified Marshall as the male who pointed the gun at her.

Neither of the victims was injured.

The reports do not indicate if the handgun allegedly used by Marshall has been found.

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).

- Luis Delangel Perez, 33, 51st St., Vero Beach, was arrested July 25 by Deputy Paul Jackson on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of possession of cocaine with intent to sell. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Thomas Abram Hughes, 53, S.E. 19th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested July 25 by Deputy Paul Jackson on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of driving while license permanently revoked. He is being held without bond.

- Randy Ted Thornton, 29, S.E. 23rd Court, Okeechobee, was arrested July 25 by Deputy Paul Jackson on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felo-

nies of burglary of a structure, grand theft and dealing in stolen property. His bond was set at \$35,000.

- Richard Alton Peacock, 30, 37th Drive, Vero Beach, was arrested July 25 by Deputy Paul Jackson on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with felony petit theft. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Jamie Douglas, 39, S.E. 27th St., Okeechobee, was arrested July 25 by Deputy Marcus Collier on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - burglary of a structure, violation of probation - dealing in stolen property and violation of probation - giving false information to a secondary metal recycler. He 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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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

Mobile Home Sale
Palm Harbor Homes 4/2 from \$499mo Loaded 3/2 from \$399mo Loaded Homes on Your Lot 0 Down 800-622-2832 ext 210

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

RV Space Rent

BIG O RESORT - Two canal lots for rent. Yearly lease only. 55+ park, boat dock. \$3,000 per lot per year plus elec. Call 239-218-1269

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

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

Sport Utility
1995 Chevy Tahoe 78,000 miles, new tires, new brakes, no a/c, runs good \$2,500.00 Call 863-467-4734

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

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

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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
 2012TD152

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **TC 09 LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **3385** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**
 Description of Property: **SOUTH OKEECHOBEE LOTS 1 & 2 BLK X**
3-21-37-35-0040-0004A-0010
 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
SUSAN J SULLIVAN ESTATE
SUSAN SEVIER SULLIVAN ESTATE

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **6th day of September, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
 2012TD150

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **TC 09 LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2703** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**
 Description of Property: **TAYLOR CREEK ISLES SEC 3 LOT 371**
1-35-37-35-0040-00000-3710
 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
CHARLES R HAWES
MITCHELL WAYNE HAWES

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **6th day of September, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 Okeechobee County, Florida
 /s/ Robin R. Parrish
 Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 422322 ON 7/27;8/3,10,17/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
 2012TD151

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **TC 09 LLC** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2970** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**
 Description of Property: **TALL PINES ESTATES LOT 4**
1-18-37-36-0010-00000-0040
 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH
JAY P HUGHES

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **6th day of September, 2012**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 Okeechobee County, Florida
 /s/ Robin R. Parrish
 Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 422319 ON 7/27;8/3,10,17/2012

Public Notice
PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
AND PUBLIC TEST OF VOTE TABULATING EQUIPMENT
FOR THE AUGUST 14, 2012 PRIMARY ELECTION
 The Okeechobee County Canvassing Board will convene in the historic courthouse at the office of the Supervisor of Elections, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31, 2012. The Board is convening for the testing of the ballot tabulating equipment to be used for the August 14, 2012 Primary Election. The Board may also discuss other matters pertaining to the November 6, 2012, General Election.
 In accordance with the Sunshine Law of Florida, this meeting is open to the public.
 /s/Gwen Chandler
 Supervisor of Elections
 Okeechobee County
 422877 ON 7/27/2012

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO: 2012CA000127
 THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF THE CREDIT ADVANTAGE ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2007-21CB MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-21CB Plaintiff,
 VS.
 ETHEL M. BACHER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ETHEL M. BACHER; MARIE E. HUFFMAN; ANN G. KINGSLEY; CHRISTY R. MOODY A/K/A CHRISTY MOODY AND THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CHRISTY R. MOODY A/K/A CHRISTY MOODY; REGINALD F. KINGSLEY; ANN G. KINGSLEY; VERN R. HUFFMAN; MARIE E. HUFFMAN; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2, ET AL Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE
 TO: **UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ETHEL M. BACHER; MARIE E. HUFFMAN; ANN G. KINGSLEY; CHRISTY R. MOODY A/K/A CHRISTY MOODY AND THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CHRISTY R. MOODY A/K/A CHRISTY MOODY**
 whose residence is unknown if he/she/they be living; and if he/she/they be dead, the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, licensees, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest, by, through, under or against the Defendants, who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:
The West 1/2 Feet of Tract 107, QUAIL ACRES, AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION, as per plat thereof in Plat Book 515, Page 1900, of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida, more fully described as the West 190 feet of the following described land:
Commence at the Southwest corner of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 9, Township 36 South, Range 35 East, and run North 89°40'13" East along the section line a distance of 586.58 feet to the Point of Beginning. Thence continue North 89°40'13" East a distance of 382.04 feet; thence run North 0°19'54" West a distance of 544.55 feet to a road, thence run North 83°53'44" West along the southerly boundary of said road a distance of 384.46 feet to a point, thence run South 0°19'54" East a distance of 587.63 feet to the Point of Beginning.
 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 3010 North Military Trail, Suite 300, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 within 30 days from Date of 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 or petition filed herein.
 WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at County, Florida this 17th day of July, 2012.
 SHARON ROBERTSON
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 BY: Arlene Nealis
 Deputy Clerk
 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, AND SCHNEID, PL ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
 3010 NORTH MILITARY TRAIL, SUITE 300 BOCA RATON, FL 33431
 422309 ON 7/20,27/2012

NOTICE OF ACTION

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida:
The West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the South 1/2 of 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 0)
 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any to it on Ryon McCabe, the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 1601 Forum Place, Suite 505, West Palm Beach, Florida 33445 on or before 8/20/2012, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.
 DATED this 16th day of July, 2012.
 Sharon Robertson
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: Linda F. Young
 As Deputy Clerk
 422273 ON 7/20,27/2012.

NOTICE OF OUA MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Monday, August 6, 2012 at 8:30 A.M., at the Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

The needs of hearing or visually impaired persons shall be met by contacting the Executive Director's Office at 863-763-9460 at least 48 hours prior to the Public Hearing by any person wishing assistance.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Authority with respect to such meetings, he or she will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made; which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Such person may provide a court reporter, stenographer, or tape recorder for such verbatim record.

BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford
 Executive Director
 422392 ON 7/27/2012

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

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2010 CA 506
Judge Elizabeth Metzger
CATHERINE P. CHESTER, Plaintiff,
 v.
SHERRON L. MILLER, Defendant.
NOTICE OF ACTION
 TO SHERRON L. MILLER:
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida:
The West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the South 1/2 of 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 0)
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 As Clerk of the Court
 By: Linda F. Young
 As Deputy Clerk
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CASE NO: 2012CA000127
 THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF THE CREDIT ADVANTAGE ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2007-21CB MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-21CB Plaintiff,
 VS.
 ETHEL M. BACHER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ETHEL M. BACHER; MARIE E. HUFFMAN; ANN G. KINGSLEY; CHRISTY R. MOODY A/K/A CHRISTY MOODY AND THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CHRISTY R. MOODY A/K/A CHRISTY MOODY; REGINALD F. KINGSLEY; ANN G. KINGSLEY; VERN R. HUFFMAN; MARIE E. HUFFMAN; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2, ET AL Defendant(s)

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BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford
 Executive Director
 422392 ON 7/27/2012

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Crossword Puzzle
 Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- Calrissian of "Star Wars" films
- Playground rejoinder
- Down
- Center of Florida?
- Pageant prop
- __mater
- Negotiation obstacle
- Gallery opening?
- PDQ relative
- Palindromic fashion model
- Surgeon's patient, perhaps
- Recovery sites
- Chip away at
- 30 Paint choices
- A and B, at times
- 32 Holdup note?
- 70s-'80s televangelist show "The __ Club"
- Vinegary prefix
- 39 Be in the running
- 40 State capital
- component, often
- 43 Old fallout source
- Apollo 11 destination
- 46 Trading places
- 48 Most agree it should be reduced
- 52 Skunk's weapon
- 53 "Children of the Pool" author
- 54 Reason for the downfall of many kings?
- 58 __secret
- 59 Street weapon, and a hint to the circled letters in 17-, 23- and 48-Across
- 62 Rollover subj.
- 63 Turn away
- 64 Kitchen tubes
- 65 Turk's topper
- 66 Fills (up)
- 67 Germs may lead to them

DOWN

- Yeats's "__ and the Swan"
- Copies
- Sweet Sixteen initials
- 47-Down athlete
- 5 Place to play favorites, briefly
- Score direction after accelerando, perhaps
- Home of a 4-Down
- Words of defiance
- Rush find
- Galley tool
- Fifth wheel
- Broadcast
- Some are blind
- Doctor's suggestion
- Kitchen meas.
- Come-__: lures
- Bronco or Charger
- "Taking Woodstock" director
- "House" actor Omar
- Wasatch Mountains resort
- One way to stand
- First name in comics villains
- 33 Say and mean
- 34 Speedy Gonzales assent
- 35 __ precedent
- 37 Loads
- 80 Cops' favorite birds?
- 41 Dubai big shot
- 42 Jack of "Barney Miller"
- 43 NYPD broadcast
- 44 Beyond repair
- 46 Orders from above
- 47 Screen door material
- 48 "__ you paid me!"
- 49 Hold precious
- 50 Birthstone after opal
- 51 Petrol unit
- 55 Mr. Peanut prop
- 56 Tracy Tumbblad's mom in "Hairspray"
- 57 Gets it
- 59 Show age, in a way
- 60 Sen. Byrd's state
- 61 Electronic storage density meas.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

T	O	R	U	S	C	L	O	D	M	O	M	S					
E	B	O	N	Y	H	O	R	A	I	C	E	S					
M	A	X	I	M	G	O	R	K	Y	L	E	S					
P	D	A	S	A	P	E	P	T	A	S							
E	I	N	S	M	I	L	E	A	G	N	U	S					
S	A	N	T	E	N	E	T	T	R	I	P	E					
T	H	E	M	E	T	I	N	S	O	A	S	T					
				E	W	E	S	A	W	E	S						
A	R	A	L	S	U	V	A	B	S	O	R	B					
G	U	N	G	A	M	A	S	H	A	C	E	O					
O	P	T	I	C	O	P	T	I	N	A	D	O					
T	O	B	E					O	I	L	O	N	E	K			
N	U	N	S					M	A	R	V	I	N	G	A	Y	E
B	R	I	O					G	L	U	E	O	R	D	E	R	
A	E	O	N					S	I	B	S	B	E	A	S	T	

xwordeditor@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
14					15						16								
17	○	○	○	○	18						19								
20					21					22									
					23	24				25	26	○	○	○					
27	28	29						30											
31								32											
36								37	38										
40					41	42					43	44							
										45									
48	49	50								51	○	○	○	○					
52										53						54	55	56	57
58										59	60								
62																			
65																			

By Pamela Amick Klawitter
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ANSWER:

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

Reading a newspaper provides the opportunity to get involved in your community.
 No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!

'Hermit' facing sexual battery, child porn charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



Craig Barnes

A route salesman for a bakery franchise has been arrested on child pornography charges and for allegedly sexually molesting a teenage girl.

Craig A. Barnes, 51, N.W. 284th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Wednesday, July 25, on felony charges of sexual battery, computer child pornography and possession or promotion of child pornography.

Barnes is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail. His bond had not been set as of newspaper deadline Thursday because he wasn't scheduled to go before a first-appearance judge until Friday.

Detective M.D. Faulkner, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), arrested Barnes at his home Wednesday afternoon. The detective said a search warrant was executed at that time. An outbuilding and Barnes' red Ford Ranger pickup were also searched but nothing was found.

During a search of the man's doublewide mobile home the detective said multiple compact discs (CDs), digital video discs (DVDs) and videos were seized. Also confiscated were guns, flash drives, computers, external hard drives, a Nikon camera with zoom lens, sex toys and lotions.

A desk top computer and a lap top computer were also taken.

According to the detective the computers, flash drives and other items will be forensically examined for their content at a later date.

As of Thursday afternoon, Detective Faulkner said he had only looked at one CD so far and the 30-some images he saw were disturbing. Some of those images, he said,

were of adults in various sexual positions with children.

"I'm guessing the ages of the children are 7 to 15," he said.

While most of the images were male on female, some were male on male.

He went on to say that he expects to find "thousands" of child pornographic images.

"He's a sick individual," the detective said of Barnes. "He's been doing this (downloading child pornography off the internet) at least 20 years, based on my investigation."

The detective added that he has not had a chance to check the serial numbers on the guns found in the two bedroom, two bath home. He and other deputies seized an AK-47, a shotgun, two .22 caliber rifles and a .357 magnum revolver.

Despite all these weapons, Detective Faulkner said Barnes was taken into custody without incident.

"He was confronted at his residence by me and was cooperative," said the veteran investigator, adding that they went to the man's home on Wednesday because it was his day off.

OCSO Public Information Officer Michele Bell, who accompanied the detective and deputies, said Barnes lived in his mobile home on the Prairie "like a hermit."

"The inside of his home looked like a hoarder," she said.

Also involved were OCSO deputies Howard Pickering, Anthony Kibler and Matthew Grumbling.

Barnes, a route salesman for Entenmann's in Fort Pierce, has lived by himself on the Prairie for six years.

Mrs. Bell said when they entered Barnes' home they found the lap top computer on a couch.

"Apparently, when we went there he was on the lap top," she added.

Barnes has no prior arrest history, said

Mrs. Bell.

Of the teenage girl, Detective Faulkner said she was not physically injured. He went on to add that there is currently no indication that any of the children on the CDs or DVDs are local, or that there are any local battery victims.

He said the victim came to the sheriff's office where she reported the crime to Deputy Pickering. The investigation was then turned over to the detective.

Detective Faulkner said as far as he knows that girl is the only victim.

Mrs. Bell said Barnes is currently on suicide watch in the county jail.

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Lori Mixon
Lic. Real Estate Broker
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LMixon@MixonGroup.com

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517 S.W. Park St. • Okeechobee

FFA plans car wash to benefit teen bitten by alligator

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 863-801-4468 or 863-763-4475. You may donate to the family at www.gofundme.com/ulvr0.

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Auctioneer# AU2579.



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NEW LISTING

5015-H: Beautiful Country home on 10+/- acres zoned Ag. Concrete & brick construction. 2122 SF under air/3196 TSF. Island kitchen, lg 30x60 barn w/3 stalls and workshop, fenced, pond, in-wall pest control. Too many extras to list! **\$325,000** MLS #205942

NEW LISTING

1003-M: Seminole Cove 55+ community with Club House amenities. Great view of the lake, 2/2 DW MH w/addition, 2 Car carport, large driveway, Single/Metal roof, 1957 Total Sq Ft/ 1023 under air. **\$69,900** MLS #206023

3003-H: King's Bay- 2 Bedroom 2 bath, screened porch, concrete driveway. Easy to show. HOA amenities in-ground pool, clubhouse, tennis court, and lawn. **\$54,000 NOW \$47,900.** Make offer! MLS #205169

NEW LISTING

1005-M: Seminole Cove 55+ comm. Waterfront DW. 2BR/2BA, 2241 Total Sq Ft/1557 Under air. Lg Island kitchen and bkt area, living rm, dining rm, sitting area, lg enclosed addition with storage room, carport, awnings and more. **\$110,000** MLS #206049

REDUCED

1007-H: SW Section home with street on two sides. Living Sq ft 2343, large island kitchen, dining room with large Florida room with fireplace, appliances, lrg Oak trees and fruit trees. **\$170,000 NOW \$149,000** MLS #205526

NEW LISTING

5004-M: Larkee Lakes (SE 58th DR) MH with additions. Screened porch, open porch in back, power generator, large carport and shed. 1380 Total Sq Ft. Nice location for east coast commuters. **\$29,000** MLS #20600

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Okeechobee district schools to change food service menus

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County school children will be eating meals at a certified lunchroom this fall.

The Okeechobee School System will change around their menus a little bit and as a result bring in more federal aid.

Superintendent Ken Kenworthy said the menus will become healthier and will offer larger servings of fruits and vegetables. The federal government transferred the food service program from the Department of Education to the Department of Agriculture which should benefit students and also the economy.

Mr. Kenworthy said the new program offers incentives to schools if they purchase local agriculture products. With such a large agri-business industry locally, that should put more money into the community.

"We fully intend to purchase products locally. As a certified lunch program will receive an additional 6 cents for every meal we serve," he added.

Students should expect more whole wheat products and larger portions of fruits and vegetables when they return to school

in August. The menus will feature items that are high in protein and low in carbohydrates.

"We will serve good nutritious meals that some students might not get somewhere else," he added.

Okeechobee High School dress code to permit students to wear shorts

When students return to school in the fall, Okeechobee High School is going to experiment with a modification to the dress code. Students will be allowed to wear shorts every day of the week as long as they wear a collared shirt, a college shirt, an OHS sports team shirt, or an OHS club shirt. Shorts must be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee. Shorts must be worn at their waist. Holes in the shorts are not permitted. For girls, the shirts must not reveal cleavage. The rest of the dress code remains the same.



Special to the Okeechobee News/CCC

School supplies

The Community Collaborative Council, a part of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, is collecting school supplies for needy and foster children. All supplies will be given to My Aunt's House (501c3) for distribution. If you would like to donate school supplies, please call 863-462-5000 ext. 257.



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Sports News in Brief

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

• The Dixie Youth Angels All-stars from Okeechobee leave this week to compete in the Dixie Youth World Series in Troy, Ala. Okeechobee opens play on Saturday at noon against the Louisiana State Champions from Natchitoches, Louisiana. Ten teams compete in the double elimination tournament that runs through Aug. 1. Other teams in the mix include Sumter, South Carolina, Geneva, Alabama, Bonham, Texas, Summerton, Tennessee, Perry, Georgia, Montgomery County, Virginia, Montgomery County, North Carolina and East Central Mississippi.

Members of the State Champion Okeechobee squad include Kirstie Crosby, Alani Garcia, Carolina Sweat, Haley Underhill, Lillian Henry, Morgan Roberts, Amber Bass, Megan Boswell, Julia Smith, Janessa Nunez, Janel Aponte, and Justice Rodriguez. Coaches of the Angels are Dallas Nunez, Heath Underhill

and Brett Boswell.

• Brahman golfer Richard Donegan is getting ready for college golf with a busy summer of Florida Amateur golf tournaments. Donegan finished tied for 13th at the Florida Juniors Championships at the Sawgrass Country Club in Ponte Vedra as he shot 75-76 and 71 for a three day total of 222. Donegan finished in 34th place at the Florida Open this past weekend as he shot 2-over par, 218. Donegan will attend Florida Atlantic University on a golf scholarship this fall.

• Brahman baseball players Dalton Murray and Timothy Farrell will compete with Fort Pierce American Legion Post 358 in the American Legion Baseball Florida State Tournament Thursday. They open play against Vero Beach at 1 p.m. at Indian River State College. The other teams in the tournament include Sanford, Palm Beach Post 12, Tallahassee Post 13 and Boynton Beach Post 164.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Out for a stroll

This family of sandhill cranes seems to be enjoying wet areas left flooded by recent rains. Sandhill cranes are a protected species and seem to thrive in the cow pastures in South Florida.

Mortgage Assistance for unemployed or underemployed

The federal government has allocated funding to help qualified Florida families to pay the first mortgage on their homes through the Hardest Hit Help program. Assistance may be given for 12 months, and/or to re-instate a delinquent first mortgage. Loans will be "forgiven" in 5.5 years after completing the program. To find out if you qualify, please come to a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County, 55 S. Parrott Ave. at 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 9.

You can register by calling Okeechobee Non-Profit Housing at 863-467-5525. You may also visit the HHF web site at www.

FLHardestHitHelp.org and use the **Referral code 85087** so you can be assisted by ONPH.



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