



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 93

Friday, August 3, 2012

50¢ Plus tax



Ranch rodeo winners... Page 2

Amendments on ballot ... Page 3

State refigures Medicaid fees due from county ... Page 15

More scholarship photos inside

Lake Levels

12.13 feet

Last Year: 10.24 feet



Sponsored By:

Pogeys Family Restaurant
1759 S. Parrott Ave.
763-7222



Find us on Facebook

See page 4 for information about how to contact this newspaper.

newszap.com

Free Speech Free Ads



8 16510 00024 5

Murder scene was 'brutal and bloody'

Slain woman's husband & son tell jury about Bobbie Christensen's last days

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

It was around 6:40 p.m. when Eric Christensen awoke from a nap and thought it strange that he hadn't heard from his wife, Roberta. Well, he thought, it was her day off from the Golden Corral Restaurant where she worked as a server so maybe she too was napping.

So, he picked up his Boost phone to call her.

"I pushed the button and said 'honey, wake up. I love you.' But, I didn't get anything back," he said. "I called back and said 'honey, wake up. I love you.' But, there was no reply."

Eric, who was in New Jersey at the time, then called his son, Eric Jr., and asked him to go check on his mother.

Eric Jr. said his dad sounded "anxious" but admitted that Eric Sr. is a worrier.

But, with his wife following in another vehicle, Eric Jr. drove to his mother's house to check on her. He tried to turn the knob on the front door of his parent's mobile home in Pine Ridge Park but it wouldn't turn. So, he gave the door a push and it opened.

He walked in and called to his mother, but there was no answer.

"As I walked around the corner into the

kitchen I saw a big puddle of blood," he said.

Eric Jr. went to his mother's bedroom, opened the door and found his mother.

"I found her on the floor. I knew she was dead when I saw her."

At that same time, he heard his dad voice on Roberta's phone.

Except for an occasional sniffle, the courtroom was silent—hanging on every word being spoken by Eric Jr.

Eric and his dad were recounting the final hours of Roberta's life to the jury as the murder trial of Dale Glenn Middleton got under way Aug. 1.

When asked by Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright, Eric Jr. recounted how he an-

See TRIAL — Page 18

School budget planned

School tax rate lower; Budget is \$64 million

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board approved a \$64.9 million school budget that lowers the average tax bill by nearly 9 percent and spending by over 4 percent after a public hearing Tuesday night at the School Board offices.

The tentative millage was set at 7.898 mills and that will collect \$11.6 million in property taxes from Okeechobee property this year.

See SCHOOL — Page 15



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Skate camp is a hit!

Thirty children, ages 16 and under, learned about skate boarding this week in a camp funded by the Okeechobee Children's Services Council. For more on the story, see page 19.

Steve Hoskins

YOUR
AUTO ACCIDENT
ATTORNEY

Hosklaw.com

Free appointment
Call 357-5800

Office: 212 S. Parrott, Okeechobee



IRSC launches National Preparedness Institute

Through the new National Preparedness Institute (NPI), Indian River State College is taking the lead in public service education with up-to-the-minute training and consulting services in the public service sectors of law enforcement, homeland security, fire, emergency management, legal assisting and human services. The Institute is based at the College's Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex in Fort Pierce, a 50-acre living laboratory that has engaged public safety professionals from around the nation and world in mock disasters, simulations and exercises using the latest methods and technologies to keep the public safe.

NPI has already secured training contracts with Ineos New Plant Bioenergy, LLC in Vero Beach, to conduct emergency

response to ethanol fires and hazardous waste operations and emergency response training, a report-writing consulting contract with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and will play a lead role in the 2012 Great Florida Fire School, a five-day training school for firefighters throughout Florida. Additional one-day training programs are also in the works with local agencies in an effort to strengthen the local first responder workforce.

"The transition to the National Preparedness Institute was a natural one; after five years of partnership with Workforce Florida, IRSC recognized that Homeland Security is a developing industry with unique needs," said Evan A. Berry, Assistant Dean of Public Service Education. "As the National Pre-

paredness Institute, Indian River State College will continue to serve organizations and individuals alike as a clearinghouse for education, research and training."

With direct input from businesses and public safety agencies across the nation, the NPI will provide relevant, cost-effective training and consulting services that reflect current needs and issues and boosts the knowledge, skills and abilities of public safety providers. The Institute will provide a pipeline of workers, entry-level to advanced, for the homeland security industry. By developing responsive programs and curriculum, NPI will also become a resource for other colleges and institutions offering training in this field. NPI will host conferences, seminars and workshops for professional development and lifelong learning, attracting public service professionals to the region

and providing a cost savings to local agencies that would normally pay to send employees to these out-of-town events.

The National Preparedness Institute builds on the success of the IRSC/Banner Center initiative. Through a partnership with Workforce Florida, Inc., IRSC was named the Employ Florida Banner Center for Homeland Security and Defense in 2008. It is a direct response to two National Presidential Directives on the need for national security and emergency preparedness training and education.

For more information, visit www.tcpublicsafetytraining.com or call 772-462-7975.



Special to the Okeechobee News/IRSC

The Army National Guard's 48th Civil Support Team trained at the Indian River State College Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex in Fort Pierce. Training such as this is planned, managed and evaluated through the National Preparedness Institute (NPI).



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce

Ranch rodeo winner

Eli's Western Wear proudly presented buckles to Okeechobee's National Day of the Cowboy Ranch Rodeo winning team, Cow Creek Ranch. From left to right are: Brittany Avant (Miss Firecracker), Taylor Bolin (Florida Cattlemen's Sweetheart), Lacie Anastasio, Beau Anastasio, Brody Anastasio, Latt Durrance, Justin Seagle, Case Durrance, Ladd Bass, Amery Bass, Kellie Munn (Miss Rodeo Okeechobee), and Ashlie Clemons (Miss Speckled Perch). Team members not pictured are Ernesto Franco and Julia Milburn. The actual team members pictured are Beau Anastasio, Justin Seagle and Ladd Bass. Latt & Case Durrance represented Eli's to present the buckles. If you have any questions, please contact Kristi or Sam at Eli's 863-763-2984.

Okeechobee Forecast

Brought to you by:
QUALITY A/C
 and Heating of Okeechobee
 "Our Focus Is To Make You Comfortable"
www.QualityACokee.com 467-1545



Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 93. Heat index values as high as 101. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 91. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. East wind around 5 mph.



**Accident Victims...
Call Us First!**

- Tractor Trailer Crashes
- Auto Crashes
- Motorcycle Crashes
- Wrongful Death

FREE Consultation
 Se Habla Español

**Phones answered
24 Hours, 7 days-a-week!**

467-7100

www.crashinjuries.com

**Elect Sharon Wallace
for Property Appraiser**

Working For You!

FAIR AND EQUITABLE APPRAISALS FOR ALL

Paid by Sharon Wallace, Republican, for Property Appraiser

Strengths and Experience

- ★ Certified professional in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- ★ Has over 1,200 hours of continuing education
- ★ Will hold community outreach workshops educating you on how the Florida Department of Revenue's mass appraisal system works - find out where your tax dollars go
- ★ FL property appraisers must obtain certified FL appraiser's (CFA) accreditation their 1st term. Sharon is doing this on her time and dollar - not yours, the taxpayers

Proposed amendments could affect taxes

Proposed exemptions would mean some get a break and others pay higher taxes

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

On this November's General Election ballot, five of the 12 proposed amendments to the state constitution directly involve taxes. If approved, some of them could decrease individual tax bills. However, some of them could also negatively affect the revenue coming in to already cash strapped county governments.

Amendment 2 would increase the number of disabled veterans receiving ad valorem tax discounts. Currently those discounts are limited to veterans who were residents of Florida when they entered the military. If approved, this amendment would allow all partially or totally disabled veterans who are Florida residents to receive the discount. As with the current law, the percentage of discount would be equal to the percentage of disability.

Amendment 4 would by far affect the greatest number of taxpayers and cause the greatest decrease in revenue to Florida's counties. This amendment seeks to level the difference between assessed value of commercial and residential property. Increases in the assessed value of commercial property would be capped at 5 percent rather than the current 10 percent.

Okeechobee County Property Appraiser Bill Sherman thinks this amendment will make the assessment process fairer as it brings the cap on commercial property closer to the 3 percent cap on residential

property. This amendment also provides for an additional homestead exemption for owners who have not owned property for a specified amount of time. It would also allow first time buyers an additional homestead exemption equal to 50 percent of the median home price in the county. However, this 50 percent exemption for first time buyers would last only five years or until the sale of the house, whichever comes first. Each year the percentage of exemption would decrease by 20 percent.

Any negative impact on county revenues could be at least partially offset by stimulating the economy. Realtor Brandon Tucker thinks this amendment may stimulate the economy by encouraging more first-time home buyers.

Amendment 9 would allow the legislature to provide tax relief to the surviving spouses of military personnel who died from service-related causes while on active duty or the surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty.

Amendment 10 deals with tangible personal property tax exemptions. It provides an exemption for ad valorem taxes on tangible personal property value between \$25,000 and \$50,000. The current maximum exemption for tangible personal property is \$25,000. Counties and municipalities would have the authority to institute increased exemptions by passing an appropriate ordinance.

Amendment 11 would authorize the legislature to allow local governments to grant an additional homestead exemption equal to the assessed value of a homesteaded property if the property has a value lower than the specified amount, for an owner who has maintained permanent residency

on the property for a specified duration, who is at least 65 and whose household income does not exceed a specified amount. This amendment could affect a significant number of people in this county and also have a significant negative impact on the county's

revenue since this county has a larger number of people over the age of 65.

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

SFWMD looks at proposed budget and millage rate

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The Board of Governors of South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) have approved a proposed millage rate and budget for the coming fiscal year.

The proposed SFWMD millage rate for most of the county is 0.429. The northeast portion of the county is served by St. John Water Management District. One mil equals one dollar for every \$1,000 of assessed value. The proposed rate represents \$0.429 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed value.

Taking into consideration declining property values district wide, this millage rate is calculated to produce a \$4.7 million shortfall in the \$656.8 million budget. Water management staff members are working on reducing that shortfall by either

reducing expenditures or using projected balances from the current budget.

The largest portion of the proposed budget, 44 percent, would go to land acquisition, restoration and public works. Another 37 percent of the proposed budget would go for operations and maintenance. Water resources, planning and monitoring account for 8 percent of the proposed budget. Management and administration will use up 6 percent of the proposed budget. Regulation will account for 4 percent of the proposed budget while 1 percent would be spent for outreach.

There will be public hearings on Sept. 13 and 25, before final adoption of the millage rate.

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

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://okeechobee-business.com>.

Foster parents needed - Free training program

Hibiscus Children's Center Foster Care Program recruits, trains and licenses all the traditional Foster Parents in St. Lucie, Martin and Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. The required 30 hour (MAPP) classes are held one evening a week or on Saturdays and are free. For additional information about becoming a Foster Parent or to register for a class please call: 1-800-403-9311 ext. 415.

Correction

An error appeared in an article on page 10 of the Sunday, July 29, issue of the Okeechobee News under the headline "Libby Maxwell running for Supervisor of Elections." Mrs. Maxwell was incorrectly listed as a Democrat. While she is running for the office under "no political affiliation," Mrs. Maxwell is registered as a Republican. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this error.

Brahman Theaters III

Fri., Aug. 3RD - Thurs., Aug. 9TH

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: "TOTAL RECALL"
Fri. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **PG-13**

III: "DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: DOG DAYS"
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

August 11, 2012

LIKE US ON  www.FishingForRicky.com 

ONLY \$100 PER BOAT ENTRY FEE
FIRST 100 BOATS REGISTERED ELIGIBLE FOR BUCKET O' GOODIES

RICKY RAMSEY

BBQ & SILENT AUCTION
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT MOOSE LODGE

START AT PALM BEACH INLET AT 6:30AM

AWARDS CEREMONY & BBQ AT 5:00PM

OVER \$5,000 IN CASH AND PRIZES WOMEN'S AND JUNIOR'S DIVISION

KINGFISH * DOLPHIN * WAHOO * BONITO

THIS IS TO BENEFIT HIS FIANCE AND TWO YOUNG CHILDREN, LANDEN AND KAYLEE

FOR MORE INFO, CALL
HOLLY 561.719.9517 • CAROLINE 561.234.7395



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!

Economy

The economy is already bad. And I am aware of a lot of people who are incarcerated and these people are still spending or selling their food stamps while they are locked up. That's so sad. I think there should be a system that lets DCF know they are in jail and cut their food stamps off. I also know a lot of females that have their boyfriends put in jail and are using their food stamps cards also. I think they should be in jail along with their boyfriend for using their food stamps while they are in jail. And, I also know a lot of men that have been in prison and now have got good paying jobs never reported that they are working and still receiving food stamps. What a shame. It's not fair to the hungry kids that got to suffer in this bad economy.

No help

• I have a 16 year old son who is hooked on pills. I have him in rehab now, but no thanks to the sheriff or the sheriff's office. I asked for some kind of help from the sheriff's office and the answer I got was they could put him in jail. That is not an answer. They did not have any compassion or sympathy for my son or anyone else's who has a drug problem. How would they feel if this happened to their children or grandchildren? Would the answer be "put them in jail"? I remember when the sheriff's office goal was to protect and serve and no one was above the law.

Day of the Cowboy

• I was a little disappointed that the Seminoles weren't in the Day of the Cowboy cattle drive this year. In years past, I have enjoyed seeing their stagecoach and wagons. I hope they come back next year.

• It was great to see the turnout for the Day of the Cowboy celebration at the Agri-Civic Center, but it would be so much more enjoyable if we could move this event to the fall when it is not so hot. I am surprised that people didn't pass out from the heat. It had to

be miserable. I did notice that many of the riders who were not actually driving cattle were carrying cold drinks for themselves, but their poor horses couldn't get a drink of water until they got to the Agri-Civic Center.

• The Day of the Cowboy celebration is a great chance to teach young people about the importance of the cattle industry in Florida history. It is too bad that more parents did not bring their children out to see it. But this is the time of year so many people are gone on vacation, so I am sure that affects the turnout. The heat also probably kept some people indoors.

• I love this town and all the activities to hold on to the old time western past. When the cattle drive first started, it was so great and alive. The last couple of years, it's been so dull. I've watched enough western movies to know cattle drives are not a silent event. There wasn't one cow bawl, no whips crackin', nothing—not even a tip of the hat from a cowboy. No thrills whatsoever. Next year I'm driving to "Boot Hill" and listen to the cracklin' of old cowboy bones!! The cowboys and the arrangers went to a lot of trouble and hard work, but it just wasn't entertaining and the size of the crowd showed that!

Okee-Tantie

• If Okee-Tantie is going to be developed, I would love to see it turned into some kind of water park that would attract tourists and campers and also that local residents could enjoy. Look at what Collier County and Lee County have in their public water parks and do something along those lines. With all the hot weather, people are looking for a place to cool off.

A living Constitution?

• What is wrong with calling the Constitution a living document? Isn't that better than calling it dead? When someone says the Constitution is a living document, I take that to mean that it has changed over the years with amendments. In fact, the Bill of Rights were actually the first amendments to the Constitution and those were ratified in 1791. So even the framers of the Constitution knew there were things that would need to be added or clarified. Also, the Supreme Court interprets the Constitution when they are asked if a new law is unconstitutional. So it is not like the Constitution can't be amended. And the court faces issues that the framers of the Constitution could not even have imagined, for example, issues involving technology that a person living in 1776 would have considered "magic."

Guest commentary ...

Raising minimum wage good for Main Street business

By Margot Dorfman, CEO, U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce supported the last increase in the federal minimum wage on July 2009 and we believe another raise is overdue. The business owners I talk with every day say that, far from hurting their businesses, raising the minimum wage in fact helps small businesses and the broader economy.

The number one problem for our member businesses is weak customer demand. Too many people forget that workers are also consumers. Consumer spending drives 70 percent of our economy, and we must re-power consumer spending – backed by adequate wages rather than unaffordable debt – if we are going to re-power our economy, create jobs and rebuild our middle class.

Raising the minimum wage puts dollars in the pockets of workers who are by necessity most likely to spend them immediately at the grocery store, the pharmacy, the auto-repair shop and other local businesses. Raising the minimum wage boosts the economy from the bottom up, which is exactly what we need.

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce has over 500,000 members across the nation. Women are more likely to own businesses in the services sector – such as in retail, healthcare, education and personal services. Raising the minimum wage reinforces their business strategies.

Many of the women business owners who belong to the U.S. Women's Chamber left the workforce to start their own businesses because they felt they were not being fairly paid. The migration of women from the workforce into business ownership has been one of the great economic achievements of the American dream. Women now own over 30 percent of American firms and are using their decision-making authority to effect positive changes in the workplace.

Women business owners understand and value security for families. And they know that when businesses invest in their workforces with decent compensation, they enjoy the benefits of a dedicated workforce with less turnover, higher productivity and better customer service.

Our members know that the typical low-wage worker is an adult woman. Think of your waitress at Applebee's or the cashier

who rings you up at Walmart or the health aide who helps your mother or grandfather.

Our members know that the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour – just \$15,080 for full-time, year-round work – is too low. They know that keeping the minimum wage low, keeps women and families down.

I'm tired of hearing from well-paid business lobbyists who would keep minimum wage at the poverty wage of \$7.25 as long as they can get away with it. They often hide behind false claims about minimum wage and unemployment. In fact, the most comprehensive and rigorous studies of the impact of actual minimum wage increases show they do not cause job loss. See the studies published in the Review of Economics and Statistics and the journal Industrial Relations, for example.

In our experience, workers who are paid poverty wages work overwhelmingly for the big chains, not for Main Street businesses. In fact, the big chains count on responsible employers and taxpayers to subsidize them by providing food stamps and public health assistance to their workers who can't make ends meet on poverty wages.

The reality is that my members and other Main Street businesses have a lot in common with low-wage workers: both are being squeezed by the national chains. Raising the minimum wage to a more realistic amount helps level the playing field for businesses that believe in treating their workers fairly and investing in the communities they are rooted in.

We need strong minimum wage laws that guarantee to taxpayers that businesses are playing fair and compensating workers at responsible levels. That will help us stop the downward spiral we see across America. That will help level the playing field between small and big businesses. That will help us rebuild our economy and sustain job creation for the long term.

Senator Tom Harkin and Rep. George Miller have proposed increasing the minimum wage in three gradual steps to \$9.80 by 2014. If that sounds like a lot think about this: if the minimum wage had kept up with inflation since its highest level in 1968 it would be \$10.55 today.

Let's raise the minimum wage and move our economy forward instead of backward.

Margot Dorfman is CEO of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce.

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.

E-Mail: okeenews@newszap.com

To Place A Display Ad

Phone: 863-763-3134
E-Mail: okeeadsales@newszap.com

To Place A Classified Ad

Call 877-353-2424 to place a classified advertisement from home.

Fax: 877-354-2424

E-Mail: classads@newszap.com

Billing Department

E-Mail: billteam@newszap.com

To Start or Stop A Paper

Phone: (800) 282-8586

E-Mail: readerservices@newszap.com

The Okeechobee News is available three times a week via home delivery and is on sale at rack and store locations throughout Okeechobee County. Call the office to find out if your home is within our present home-distribution boundaries.

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.

Okeechobee News

USPS 406-160

Published 3 times a week: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday by Independent Newspapers, Inc.

107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D • Okeechobee, FL 34974
Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Okeechobee News
Circulation Administration
110 Galaxy Road • Dover, DE 19901

Staff

Editor: Katrina Elsen
Circulation Manager: Janet Madray
Publisher: Tom Byrd

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.



2012 Scholarships awarded



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Chaka's Stars Scholarship

Chaka's Stars Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. In the front from left to right are: Terra Morris, Morgan Crawford. In the middle from left to right are: Kiesha Cleckley, Ashley Hassan, Darrica Johnson. In the back from left to right are: Cody Cummings, Jer'Kota McNeil, Jerice McDonald.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Gilbert James Memorial Scholarship

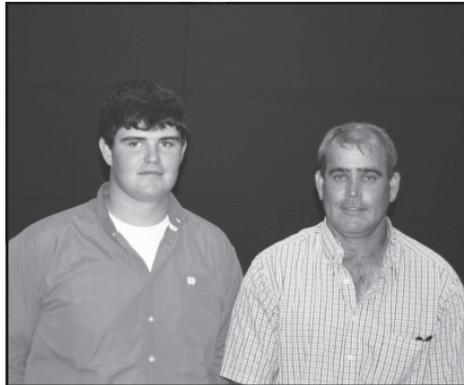
Gilbert James Memorial Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall to Daniel Eng.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

SkullHill Steel Scholarship

SkullHill Steel Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are: Dustin Houston, Brandon Baughman.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Jay Raulerson Memorial Scholarship

Jay Raulerson Memorial Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are: Joshua Lea, David Earl Raulerson, Jr.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Law Firm of Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd Scholarship

The Law Firm of Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd and Lloyd Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. Left to right are: Tyler Crenshaw, Steve Hoskins.



PENTECOSTAL

PENTECOSTAL

Serving
Breakfast & Lunch
OPEN 6-4 M-F

SonRise Cafe

Where the SON is always shining!
Call your order in, free delivery or pickup at window. 763-4127 or Dine in with free Wi-Fi. Go to Okeechobeeecog.com and click SonRise Cafe for menu

WOW! There is nothing like it in town!
at Okeechobee Church of God
301 NE 4th Ave., Okeechobee
2 blocks behind the McDonalds on SE 70E

PENTECOSTAL

Okeechobee Church of God

Pastors Mark & Madonna Smith

Sunday Services
8:30 & 10:45

Tuesday: 7 till 8pm - (You are invited)
Prayer Service
Special prayers for special needs drop off to us or email them to pastor@okeechobeeecog.com

Wednesday Night Service 7 pm

Children and Youth classes are Available Sunday Morning and Wednesdays
301 NE 4th Ave. • (863) 763-4127
2 Blocks Behind the McDonalds on SE 70E

Bible Church of God

"Your Place of Destiny" - Jeremiah 29:11
3666 E. Hwy 70 • Okeechobee
(Old Elks Lodge)

"Celebrating 25 years of Pastoral Leadership"
Sunday School - 9 am
Worship: Sun. - 10 am • Tues. & Thurs. - 7:30 pm
Prayer Service: Tues. & Thurs. 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Nursery Available at All Services
Office Hours
CLOSED Mondays
Tuesday - Friday 9 am to 5 pm
(863) 357-2264
Bishop Robert J. Banks, Jr., Pastor

EPISCOPAL

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

"Come worship with us"

Summer Sunday Schedule

9 am Holy Eucharist Mass in English
12:30 pm Holy Eucharist Mass in Spanish

Wednesday 6 pm
Holy Eucharist Service
200 NW 3rd Street
863-763-4843

Visit our website at www.okeecoos.com

BAPTIST

You are welcome to come visit and enjoy the traditional worship and music.
Welcome
Come and share in the word of God

Trinity Free Will Baptist Church

Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Bible Study 6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 pm

Pastor : Thomas Dees

1840 N.E. 39th Blvd (Cemetery Rd)
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863-763-4962

YOUR CHURCH

Your Church could be here!

Call 863-763-3134 or email okeeadsales@newszap.com

Community Events

Eagles North hosts steak night

Eagles North, 9985 Hwy. 441 North, will have steak night Friday, **Aug. 3**, starts at 5:30 p.m. Music will be by Michaels Memories. Come dance the night away. Saturday, card Bingo starts at 5 p.m. Come play! Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund.

Obituaries

Kenneth F. Everly, 79

OKEECHOBEE — Kenneth F. Everly passed away Wednesday, August 1, 2012, in St. Mary's Hospital West Palm Beach. He was born April 3, 1933 in Alexandria, Virginia to George F. and Helen Mae Everly.

He had been a resident of Okeechobee since 2004 coming from Lake Worth, FL. He was a Banker in Alexandria, VA as well as Florida retiring from Barnett Bank and Bank of America in 1998. Mr. Everly was a member of Barbershop (SPEBSQSA) Chorus for 20 years.

He is preceded in death by his parents, George and Helen Mae Everly and brother, Charles Everly.

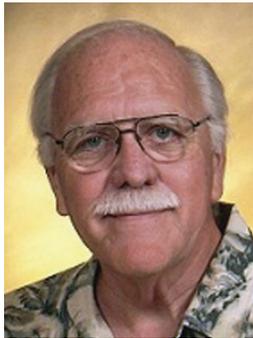
His is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Frances M. Everly of Okeechobee, FL; sons, Kenneth F. Everly of Swannanoa, North Carolina, Robert D. Everly (Luanne) of Lake Worth, FL; daughters, Lynn Moore of Lake Worth, FL, Karen M. Albers (Paul) of Okeechobee, FL and seven grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, August 4, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. until service time of 12:30 p.m. in the First Baptist Church of Okeechobee with Pastor Randy Huckabee officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church Youth Fund, 401 SW 4th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974.

Friends may sign the guest book at www.BassOkeechobeeFH.com

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



Special Blood Drive announced

It's time for football and also time for the Okeechobee High School Football team to sponsor a special blood drive at the school Friday, **Aug 3**. These athletes have put in a

Kevin Ward Burdeshaw, 54

OKEECHOBEE — Kevin Ward Burdeshaw passed away Tuesday, July 31, 2012, in Okeechobee.

He was born February 22, 1958, in Victoria, Texas to Ben & Emily (Howell) Burdeshaw. He proudly served in the United States Marines and was a Yearling Middle School Teacher. He enjoyed golfing, fishing, hunting and traveling to Tennessee.

He is survived by his loving wife, Carolyn "Sissy" Burdeshaw of Okeechobee; daughter, Jackie Burdeshaw (Bryan McHellen) of West Palm Beach, Fla.; grandson, Jaxson McHellen of West Palm Beach, Fla.; father, Ben Burdeshaw (Judy); mother, Emily Burdeshaw; sister, Melanie (Danny) Stinnett all of Okeechobee; nieces, Ashley Pareja (Jimmy) of Tampa, Fla.; Rachel Trent (John) of Okeechobee; and one great nephew, Nicholas Pareja of Tampa, Fla.

Services will be held 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 4, 2012, in the Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church of Okeechobee with Rev. Dr. Edward A. Weiss, OSB officiating.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Lifeline Dog Rescue, 855 NE 70th Ave, Okeechobee, FL 34972, Humane Society Pet Rescue, 1203 Highway 98 North, Okeechobee, FL 34972 or a charity of your choice.

Friends may sign the guest book at www.BassOkeechobeeFH.com

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



lot of practice time and effort to get ready for this year's games and ask you, their families and friends, to put in time supporting them in this drive. Let's show them our appreciation. On Thursday, Aug. 30, after school is under way, there will also be a drive for the general school population

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.

Robert 'Bobby' Earl Nelson, 67

OKEECHOBEE — Robert "Bobby" Earl Nelson, formerly of Okeechobee, passed away Monday, July 30, 2012 in Waynesboro, Georgia.

He was born December 5, 1944, to Walter and Ethel (Vinson) Nelson in Jacksonville, Florida. He was a crane operator, member of Operating Engineers Union, and the Church of God of Prophecy. His favorite thing to do was fish.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Ethel Nelson and a brother, Joseph Wade Nelson, II.

Mr. Nelson is survived by his wife, Glenda Nelson of Waynesboro, Ga.; daughter, Brenda Nelson (Danny Vann); grandson, Robert Vann all of Augusta, Ga.; brothers, Steve Nelson (Mary) of Fla., Philip Nelson (Sadhna) of S.C., Jimmy Nelson (Margaret) of N.Y.; sister, Elaine Proctor (Larry) of Ga.; sister in-law, Teresa Nelson of Ga.; several nieces, nephews, great nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, August 4, 2012, from 1 p.m. until service time of 2 p.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, FL. Pastor Mike Bevis will be officiating and interment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

All local arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972.

William Morgan Compton, Jr.

OKEECHOBEE — William Morgan Compton, Jr., age 64, died Tuesday, July 31, 2012, at his residence.

He was born October 13, 1947, in Nashville, Tenn., to William and Jerreldea (Davenport) Compton.

There will be no public services. 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.

Eagles to host dinner night

Cypress Hut Eagles will hold dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, **Aug. 3**. Steak, shrimp, or haddock will be served. Music by Jimmy and Debbie Harper. All proceeds go to charity. For more information please call 863-467-1154.

Family Fun Day is Saturday

Free Family Fun Day is set for Saturday, **Aug. 4** at the Northlake Village Shopping Plaza from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Activities include a demonstration from the K-9 unit, Sheriff's Office finger prints, low rider show, Publix hot dog wagon, face painting, The Big Red Bus and many more! So make sure to join us for this fun free event for the whole family.

Eagles to host Birthday Bash

Cypress Hut Eagles will be holding it's monthly Birthday Bash on Saturday, **Aug. 4**, 2 p.m. One free drink to any member whose birthday falls in August. Music by Cowboys. Lorraine's famous black and blue burgers. All food proceeds go to the girls High School track team uniforms. For more information, please call 863-467-1154

Golf tourney to benefit youth program

There will be a golf tournament Saturday, **Aug. 4**, at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club. Tournament to sponsor county-wide youth event, "UNIFIED," coming to Okeechobee in January. If you would like to sponsor the tournament or have a team in the tournament, or for more information call Bobby Steiert at 863-634-6523.

Car wash to benefit injured teen

Kaleb "Fred" Langdale, a member of the Moore Haven FFA Chapter was attacked by a 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.

Check out these new features:

- Daily Local News Updates
- New interactive and easy to navigate format
- Plus much, much more!

florida.newszap.com

Come see for yourself!

Celebrate A Life

with —an— **Online Guestbook**

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

Visit: **www.newszap.com**

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

newszap.com



SUMMER SALESEVENT

SUNRISE  FORD THE TREASURE COAST'S UNDISPUTED PRICE LEADER!

2012 FORD FOCUS SE



STARTING AT
\$189/mo.*
\$2,750 DUE AT SIGNING

"203A" PACKAGE, FULLY EQUIPPED!

2012 FORD FUSION



STARTING AT
\$189/mo.*
\$2,500 DUE AT SIGNING

LEATHER, SUNROOF, BLISS, REAR CAMERA!

2012 FORD ESCAPE



STARTING AT
\$216/mo.*
\$3,000 DUE AT SIGNING

2012 FORD EDGE



STARTING AT
\$285/mo.*
\$3,000 DUE AT SIGNING

WELL EQUIPPED!

2012 FORD FIESTA



BIG MPG'S!
SAVE \$\$\$
10 IN STOCK!

2012 FORD F-150 XLT



STARTING AT
\$28,650
SUPER CREW, V8, LOADED!

2012 FORD F-150 XL



WAS \$25,070 NOW JUST
\$20,991
#12895

4X2, AUTO, LTD. SLIP, TRAILER TOW, 3.7L V6, A/C

2012 FORD F-250 4X4



WAS \$49,285 NOW JUST
\$40,295
CREW CAB #12253

6.7L V8 DIESEL, 3.31 ELEC LOCK AXLE, SHIFT ON THE FLY

THE BEST SELECTION OF PREOWNED CARS & TRUCKS ON THE TREASURE COAST!

APR AS LOW AS 1.9% ON SELECT PRE-OWNED VEHICLES! SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS. EASY AND CONVENIENT APPRAISALS! WE'LL BUY YOUR CAR, EVEN IF YOU DON'T BUY OURS!

2006 FORD FREESTYLE SEL
73K MI., SILVER BIRCH, #P4379A
ONLY \$9,916



2009 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5SL
33K MI., MR, LTHR, LOCAL #130258
ONLY \$17,788



2011 HYUNDAI SONATA LTD
31K MI., LTHR, LOADED! #120121A
ONLY \$22,888



2010 FORD EDGE LTD
23K MI., SYNC, 1OWNER #121012A
ONLY \$26,988



2011 DODGE CALIBER HEAT
32K MI., BRIGHT WHITE, #P4375
ONLY \$14,922



2011 FORD RANGER XLT
6K MI., 5SPD, TOOLBOX, SS #13004C1
ONLY \$17,988



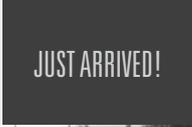
2010 FORD EDGE SEL
50K MI., GREY METALLIC, #12492C
ONLY \$22,950



2012 FORD EDGE LIMITED
19K MI., SILVER METALLIC, #P4391
ONLY \$28,950



2007 MERC. MOUNTAINEER
69K MI., PREM. PKG., LTHR #13071A
ONLY \$15,488



JUST ARRIVED!

2010 DODGE JOURNEY
46K MI., AUTO, FULL PWR #12809B
ONLY \$17,988



JUST ARRIVED!

2011 FORD MUSTANG V6
24K MI., RACE RED #P4359
ONLY \$22,950



2011 FORD EXPLORER LTD
22K MI., GOLD METALLIC, #P4376
ONLY \$33,488



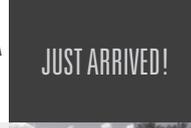
2010 MAZDA 6
47K MI., AUTO, FULL PWR! #104370A
ONLY \$16,988



2012 FORD FUSION SEL
27K MI., BLUE METALLIC #P4360
ONLY \$20,950



2012 HONDA ACCORD SE
4K MI., LEATHER & MORE! #12965A
ONLY \$22,988



JUST ARRIVED!

2011 FORD EDGE SPORT
9K MI., 22" RIMS, NAV, SF #P4129A
ONLY \$35,488



JUST ARRIVED!

2008 CANYON CREW CAB
45K MI., SONOMA RED, #13-058B1
ONLY \$17,488



2011 FORD MUSTANG V6
7K MI., INGOT SILV. MET., #12322A
ONLY \$21,960



2008 MERCEDES C300
56K MI., LUX. PKG, SUNROOF #12737B
ONLY \$23,288



2010 FORD F-150 4X4
40K MI., SUNROOF, NAV #P4402
ONLY \$38,488



JUST ARRIVED!

5435 U.S. 1 SOUTH, FORT PIERCE (1/2 MILE SOUTH OF MIDWAY ROAD ON U.S. 1) YOUR INTERNET REPRESENTATIVE HANK BASILE

www.SUNRISE-FORD.com

772.461.6000 CALL TOLL FREE OUTSIDE ST. LUCIE COUNTY 877-251-FORD (3673) Mon.—Fri. 8am—8pm Sat. 9am—5pm Se Habla Español



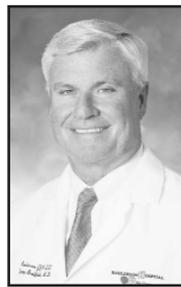
VISIT OUR WEBSITE!



SOME VEHICLE PHOTOS ARE APPROXIMATE LIKENESS TO THE IN STOCK INVENTORY. ALL VEHICLES ADVERTISED ARE SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE. VEHICLES PRICED AFTER ALL FACTORY REBATES PLUS TAX, TAG AND \$289 DEALER FEE. SOME FACTORY REBATES MAY REQUIRE FORD MOTOR CREDIT FINANCING WAC. SOME PRICES INCLUDE FMCC REBATE, RCL RENEWAL OR TRADE ASSIST REBATE. *10,500 MILES/YR. 24 MONTHS PAYMENT AND TAX.

Your Medical and Health Care Directory

GYNECOLOGIST



James E. Bradfield, MD FACOG

Gynecology
Board
Certified

All Major Insurances Accepted

- Loss of Libido
- Endometriosis
- Urine Control
- Infertility
- Menstrual Abnormalities
- Sterilization
- Laser Surgery
- Minimally Invasive Surgery

Email: drbradfield@earthlink.net

863-763-8000

1713 Hwy 441 N, Suite F,
Okeechobee

REHAB THERAPY/ NURSING HOME

We Love to Care!

Family-Owned & Operated, OHCF has been Providing Rehab & Residential Care to Okeechobee & the Surrounding Communities Since 1984

- Rehab, Physical, Occupational, Speech and Out-Patient Therapy
 - Long-Term Nursing Care Available 7 Days a Week/24 Hours a Day
 - Secure Dementia and Alzheimer's Memory-Care Wing
 - Delicious Dietitian-Planned Meals
- Stimulating & Fun Daily Activities*

Okeechobee Health Care Facility

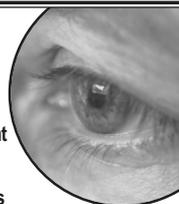
1646 U.S. Highway 441 North

★★★★★
Five-Star Rated

863-763-2226

OPHTHALMOLOGY/ OPTOMETRY/OPTICAL

Comprehensive Eye and Contact Lens Exams
Advanced Cataract Microsurgery
Diabetic Eye Exams
Glaucoma Evaluation & Treatment
State of the Art Complete Optical Laboratory
Eyeglasses & Contact Lenses



Optical Gallery

763-4334

Silviano Matamoros, M.D.
Board Certified Eye
Physician & Surgeon

Richard L. Solding, O.D.
David J. Underhill, O.D.
Board Certified Optometrists

357-4899 763-3403

Medicare/Medicaid and Most Vision Plans Accepted
520 S. Parrott Ave. • Okeechobee
Website: www.opticalgalleryeyecare.com

HEALTHCARE



Glades Health Care Center

120 BEDS

Skilled Long & Short Term Care Facility
Caring for Those You Care About

- Specialized Wound Care
- Full Time Medical Director
- Dialysis Support
- Alzheimer's Support Groups
- Intravenous Therapy
- Resident & Family Council Groups
- Specialized HIV Care
- Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
- 24 hour Registered Nurse Staffing
- Therapeutic Activities

• Jody Carter, Assistant, C.E.O •
230 South Barfield Hwy • Pahokee
561-924-5561 • www.floridacare.net
Other facilities in Gainesville & Bradenton

UROLOGY

DAVID A. SIGALOW, M.D.



Board Certified In Urology

Specializing in:

- Adult & Pediatric Urology
- Bladder & Kidney Infections
- Impotence/Implants
- No Scalpel Vasectomy

215 N.E. 19th Dr. • Okeechobee

863-763-0217

FAMILY MEDICINE

Yasmin Akhtar, MD

Diplomate American Board of Family Medicine

- Comprehensive Medical & Preventive Care
- Routine Annual Physicals
- Well Woman Exam
- Geriatric Care
- Management of:



Accepting New Patients!

Most Insurance Accepted

202 NE 19th Drive • Okeechobee • For appointments, call (863) 357-6030

**The 2011 – 2012
Medical Information Guide
is available online**

**SPECIAL SECTIONS.
newszap.com**

**Use this interactive site to browse
through articles and
advertisements on our updated
Newszap website**



MRI

The Best is Right Here! Okeechobee's *FINEST* Open MRI

**OPEN MRI
OF OKEECHOBEE**

115 NE 3rd
St. Suite A



863-824-6736

Specialty Trained/Board Certified Radiologists
2 Blocks North of CVS Drugstore

Your Medical and Health Care Directory

RADIATION ONCOLOGISTS

CANCER worrying you?
Do you need to talk about it?

FREE 1/2 Hour Counseling Session

Call: **863.467.9500**

Big Lake Cancer Center
1115 North Parrott Ave • Okeechobee

Ramesh Kumar, MD • William Crook, MD • Julie Santelli, MD, Board Certified Radiation Oncologists

HEALTH

MEDICAL WEIGHT LOSS • MEDICAL WEIGHT LOSS • MEDICAL WEIGHT LOSS • MEDICAL WEIGHT LOSS •

IMMEDIATE WEIGHT LOSS

**ALL NEW THERMOGENIC
FAT BURNING
WEIGHT LOSS PLAN**

FAST! EASY!

**Amazing Results
IN JUST 30 DAYS**



Physicians
**WEIGHT LOSS
Centers.**

Locations
Nationwide
to Serve You

CALL NOW!
863-357-9967

414 S. Parrott Ave., B
Okeechobee, FL

MEDICAL WEIGHT LOSS • MEDICAL WEIGHT LOSS • MEDICAL WEIGHT LOSS • MEDICAL WEIGHT LOSS •



What is Cyberknife Radiation Therapy?

By **Dr. Ramesh Kumar**
Big Lake Cancer Center

How many cancer patients would jump up and consider a treatment option that is proven to be highly effective, does not need surgery, painless, completed in 5 days or less, without significant side effects, while continuing to maintain their full level of activity and function?

20 to 35% for those patients treated with traditional radiation over several weeks.

As one of our patients commented, if it is good for patients at Stanford University, it is good for patients from the Okeechobee area!

If you or someone you know has any form of cancer, please call us so we can explore the possibility of treating it with this cutting edge technology. This 4.5 million dollar machine is available at the offices of Dr. Kumar in Saint Lucie County. Courtesy transportation is available to get to this office for those patients in need. Please call 863-467-9500 for more information.



Submitted Photo/Big Lake Cancer Center
Cyberknife: Cutting edge technology at work for our patients in Okeechobee.

Radio surgery is a technique that utilizes specialized machines that allow large amounts of radiation to be delivered with sub millimeter accuracy thereby killing the cancers without damaging surrounding normal tissues. It is as simple as going out to get a chest x-ray!

Cyberknife Robotic Radio surgery system, created at Stanford University over 10 years ago is unique and better than other systems in the fact that it is the only Radio surgery system that can achieve what is called "real-time tracking and killing of tumor."

What kind of patients can be helped by Cyberknife? There are several situations too numerous to mention here where Cyberknife would be extremely useful and safe. The following are just a few of them:

Patients with Trigeminal Neuralgia, pituitary tumors and tumors of the acoustic nerve called Acoustic Neuroma can avoid major surgical procedures on the brain by getting treated with Cyberknife.

Patients with cancers of the brain, spine, lung and prostate are but a few of the cancers that can be helped with one to five sessions of Radio Surgery. An article that was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2010 showed that patients with patients with lung cancer who received Radiosurgery had a survival rate of 55.8% at 3 years versus

FAMILY MEDICINE

**Raulerson
Primary Care**

Jose Villarreal,
D.O.
is a Family Medicine
Doctor who is
Board Certified by
the American
Osteopathic Board
of Family Physicians.



**Accepting
New
Patients
of all ages**

**Office Hours:
M-T 8-5 • F 8-4
Closed
for Lunch 12-1**

**202 NE 2nd Ave
Okeechobee, FL
863-467-2159
raulersonprimarycare.com**

**The 2011 – 2012
Medical Information Guide
is available online**

**SPECIAL SECTIONS.
newszap.com**

**Use this interactive site to browse
through articles and
advertisements on our updated
Newszap website**



Sports News in Brief

Swim team invites new teammates

OHS Swim Team - all 9th to 12th graders interested in being on the 2012-13 team should come to the sports complex pool beginning Monday, Aug. 6, from 8-11 a.m. You will need a swim suit & goggles. Team meeting is Aug. 6, 6:15 p.m. at OHS RM#4-212 (Science), parents are encouraged to attend with their athlete. Call Coach Turner for more info 317-372-5639.

Bowling team tryouts set for Aug. 13

Try outs for the Okeechobee High School Bowling Team will be held on Monday, Aug. 13, at 5 p.m. at Lucky Lanes family entertainment center on U.S. 441 S.E. Please contact George Marshall Jr. 863-801-2498 or Carol Olney 863-261-1081 for any questions for more information.

OHS football squad sponsoring blood drive

It's time for football and also time for the Okeechobee High School football team to sponsor a special blood drive at the school on Friday, **Aug 3**. These athletes have put in a lot of practice time and effort to get ready for this year's games and ask you, their families and friends, to put in time supporting them in this drive. Let's show them our appreciation. On Thursday, Aug. 30, after school is under way, there will also be a drive for the general school population.

Dates are set for inaugural Okeechobee Summer Games

The Summer Olympics in London has begun and millions of spectators watch and cheer on their countries. You too can experience the spirit of competition by attending Okeechobee's first Summer Games. On Saturday, Aug. 11, local competitors will participate in events for a chance to win bronze, silver and gold medals. The competition

originally scheduled for Aug. 4 and Aug. 11, was merged to only one day, Aug. 11. Opening ceremonies will begin at 9 a.m. at the Sports Complex. We are now accepting individual and team entries. Team fee - \$100 to participate in all 10 events. Individual events - \$10; group events - \$20. Sign-up by Aug. 7. Call the Parks & Recreation Dept. for more information at 863-763-6950.

Bowlers needed for local fall leagues

Do you want to bowl on a league this fall? Come and join a team at Lucky Lanes Bowling. Mondays and Tuesdays are Mix Nights with a meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m. Wednesday is Men's Night, Thursday mornings and evening belongs to the ladies. For more information, please call Lucky Lanes at 863-763-1800.

OCRA to open 2012 fall signups

It's time for football! OCRA is gearing up for their 2012 football season. Signups will be held in August for football players and cheerleaders ages 5 through 14. They are currently taking coaches' applications and looking for football umpires. The season will begin in September. This season OCRA is also introducing girls flag football for middle and high school age girls. If you have any questions or are interested in any of the areas mentioned above, please call 863-634-0515 or 863-634-1437.

Golf tourney to benefit youth program

There will be a golf tournament Saturday, **Aug. 4**, at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club. Tournament to sponsor county-wide youth event, "UNIFIED," coming to Okeechobee in January. If you would like to sponsor the tournament or have a team in the tournament, or for more information call Bobby Steiert at 863-634-6523.

FAITH FARM THRIFT STORE

MID-SUMMER MADNESS

STOREWIDE SAVINGS **FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

EXTENDED HOURS
9AM - 8PM **AUGUST 3RD & 4TH**

UP TO
50% OFF
ALL NEW FURNITURE!

UP TO
75% OFF
ALL PRE OWNED FURNITURE!

UP TO
50% OFF
ALL OUTSIDE SALES

50% OFF
ALL BRIC-A-BRAC!

* Clothing * Art * TV's * Toys * Tools * Books * Computers
* Jewelry * Bric & Brac * Major Appliances * Hardware
* Loveseats * Mattresses * Medical Equipment
* Lawn Care Equipment * Fitness/Sporting Goods
* Dining/Living/Bed Rooms & Much More

Locations:

Ft. Lauderdale
1980 NW 9th Ave
(954) 763-7787

Boynton Beach
9538 Hwy 441
(561) 737-2222

Okeechobee
1852 Hwy 70 West
(863) 467-4342

All Proceeds
fund our free residential drug and alcohol
recovery program. To learn more visit us at:
www.FaithFarm.org



**FAITH FARM
MINISTRIES**
A ministry with a heart for the hurting

Faith Farm Thrift Stores are operated by Faith Farm Ministries, a division of Ft. Lauderdale Rescue Tabernacle, Inc. which is exempt from licensure by the State of Florida.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.
GENUINE COMFORT.

LENNOX

LENNOX KNOWS YOU DON'T COMPROMISE. AND NEITHER DO WE.

That's why we dedicate ourselves to product innovation and customer service. So go ahead, get comfortable.

CAC014022
Offers expire 8/24/2012. *See dealer for details. Rebate offer is valid only with the purchase of qualifying Lennox® products. © 2012 Lennox Industries Inc. See your participating Lennox dealer for details. Lennox dealers include independently owned and operated businesses.

RECEIVE UP TO
\$3,300 between
Lennox Rebates, F P & L
Rebates and EWC Discount!*

on qualifying Lennox® Home Comfort System



Emory Walker Co. Inc.
(863) 763-6742
208 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee
Okeechobee's Longest-Established Lennox Dealer

CenterState Bank Community Hero recognition honors Karen Cotton



By Tabitha Trent
Special to the Okeechobee News

Teachers touch countless lives as they go through their daily work. They are magical people who can take hopeless situations and shine a positive light on the very dismal of days. They work with little funds and make school exciting and their classrooms a place of adventure. They provide joy, hope, excitement, and peace to thousands of children every year and are responsible for changing many young people into productive human beings. The skills learned in the classroom are carried over into life and many times inspire greatness. As a token of appreciation to the many community heroes in our school system CenterState Bank awarded a back-to-school shopping spree to a few lucky teachers, to say "thank you" to all the teachers, administrators and support staff at the Okeechobee County School District!

Special to the Okeechobee News/CenterState Bank
From left to right are: Tabitha Trent, CenterState Bank Manager; Karen Cotton, North Elementary Teacher.

Stitchin' group meets at Presbyterian Church

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



Special to the Okeechobee News/KarleeSue Hasan

Art exhibit

Local resident KarleeSue Hasan's art was accepted for display in the Orlando Museum of Art First Thursday exhibit.

ELECT

Billy MARCUM

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER District #1





OPEN INVITATION
"Town Hall" Meeting
Wed., Aug. 8th 7pm

Join Us for An Open TOWN HALL MEETING at the Civic Center Wednesday, August 8 at 7pm

I CAN RELATE TO THE DAILY STRUGGLES AND NEEDS OF THE EVERYDAY CITIZEN.

Being self-employed for over 30 years. I bring the expertise of my locally owned businesses along with a broad understanding of the values and integrity of our community on a personal and business level. I recognize the need for informed, positive growth, open doors, trust and honesty in our community. If elected as YOUR County Commissioner, every citizen of Okeechobee will know where I stand on the hard issues, common questions and the individual needs of our community. I will answer to NO special interest groups or individuals, but I am committed to everyone.

CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS
Current Director of The Okeechobee County Cattlemen's Association
OHS Booster • Presenting Sponsor of the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Labor Day & Spring Rodeos • Past Jaycee • Past Rotarian

BUSINESS HISTORY
Marcum & Associates • Marcum Cattle • Florida Farm Equipment

I am extremely Pro Active toward:

- Agriculture
- Youth Programs
- Sheriff's Dept.
- Fire Dept.
- County Employees
- Small Business
- Schools
- New Industry & Growth
- Taxpayers

Most Of All I Am ...
One Of You!

Political Advertisement Paid for and Approved by Billy Marcum, Republican, for County Commissioners

School News in Brief

Church to host Back to School clothing giveaway

The **Church of God of Prophecy** Clothing Ministry, God's Closet, will have their annual Back To School clothing give-a-way on Saturday, **Aug. 4**, from 8 a.m.-noon. We will have slightly worn, used clothing to help families that are in need for children that are returning to school, in Okeechobee County. We are located at 102 N.W. 10th Street. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Mullins at 863-261-0841.

Tax free shopping for school supplies this weekend

The Florida Legislature has declared this weekend as a tax-free period to help Floridians with their back-to-school shopping. A 3-day sales tax holiday will begin at 12:01 a.m., Friday, Aug. 3, and end at midnight Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012. During this period, no Florida sales tax or local option tax will be collected on sales of clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$75 or less per item, or on certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item. "Clothing" means any article of wearing apparel, including all footwear (except skis, swim fins, roller blades, and skates), intended to be worn on or about the human body. However, "clothing" does not include watches, watchbands, jewelry, umbrellas, handkerchiefs, or sporting equipment. "School supplies" means pens, pencils, erasers, crayons, notebooks, notebook filler paper, legal pads, binders, lunch boxes, construction paper, markers, folders, poster board, composition books, poster paper, scissors, cellophane tape, glue, paste, rulers, computer disks, protractors, compasses, and calculators. For more details, go to dor.myflorida.com.

School supply drive under way at Big Lake Mission

Big Lake Missions Outreach is currently sponsoring their annual school supplies drive for needy families. Last year we helped many children with their list, but this year the need is even greater. They will accept donations up until school starts which is Aug. 23. Most all school supplies are needed such as three-ring notebooks, pencil pouches, colored pencils, markers, hi-lighters, etc. For a complete list, please check out the local stores or call the school. They gladly accept checks made out to the Mission or gift cards and staff can do the shopping. Call 863-763-5725 or 863-610-1815 for more information or drop-off locations.

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.

OHS 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/OSS

Senior fun

Thirteen visitors enjoyed line dance class at Okeechobee Senior Services. Seniors 60 yrs. and older are invited to come join the fun every Monday at noon until 1 p.m. Two people are not pictured.



Your Largest Fence Post Supplier in South Florida

The Works!



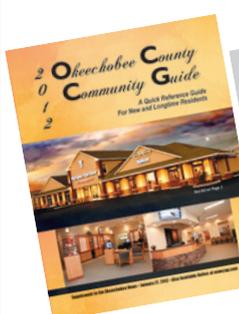
Gaucho Alligator Fence

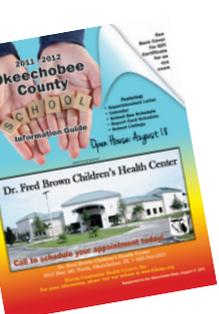
Walpole
Feed & Supply Co.
763-6905
Hwy 98 N. Okeechobee



All Sizes Posts Staples

Available 24/7



Community Guide: <http://specialsections.newszip.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=119590&pagenum=1>
 Medical Directory: <http://specialsections.newszip.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=59786&pagenum=1>
 Meet Your Merchant: <http://specialsections.newszip.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=56360&pagenum=1>
 School Information Guide: <http://specialsections.newszip.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=68371&pagenum=1>

Publish Your News

Do-it-yourself publishing at Newszap.com



Celebrations

Wedding, engagement, birth, graduation, birthday and anniversary announcements in print and online!



Special Announcements

Publish your community news item or press release. Get 100 words and one photo for only \$25

Visit www.newszip.com, click on your community, and then on the link for Publish Your News

Community Events

Eagles to host Bingo

Cypress Hut Eagles will hold five card bingo on Sunday, **Aug 5**, at 3 p.m. All proceeds go to charity. For more information please call 863-467-1154.

Special blood drive announced

Advance America, located in the Publix shopping center, will welcome many area businesses as, together, they hold a community blood drive. This will be a real Family Fun Day with Arnold's Wild Life, the Sheriff's Canine Unit, Martha's House, Home Depot, Publix and many others participating. What a great opportunity to show the next generation what it is to be a citizen of a caring community. Please come to this special drive on Saturday, **Aug. 4**, from 10 to 3. Picture ID is required for donation.

Benefit barbecue planned for Darren Washington

A barbecue dinner benefit planned for Darren Washington will be held this Saturday, **Aug. 4**, at the Douglas Brown Center from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Mr. Washington is in ICU at Raulerson Hospital. Donations will be appreciated at St. Stephen's Church.

Church to host special service

Come hear a stirring and spiritual message this Sunday, **Aug. 5**, by Pastor Jim McCutchen on the subject, "How to handle tragedy," a response the Colorado Massacre. This message will be helpful in dealing with the troubles of life when we ask the question "Why." The **Okeechobee Christian Church** services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Morning located on 3055 SE Terrace.

OCRA plan August meeting

OCRA will hold the August monthly meeting on Monday, **Aug. 6** at 6 p.m. at the sports complex. This meeting will be about the upcoming football season Anyone interested is invited to attend. For information, please call 863-634-0515.

Eagles to host Dinner Night

Cypress Hut Eagles will serve pot roast dinner on Tuesday, **Aug. 7**, at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds go to charities. For more information please call 863-467-1154.

Pet Day event announced

Tractor Supply Okeechobee is hosting a pet day on **Aug. 18**. Our rescue will be there to show off some of our beautiful available pets for adoption. We will be there from 9 a.m. until. Please drop by to support your local Humane Society.

Teacher In-Service Workshop planned

On **Aug. 7**, "Archaeology in the Classroom" Teacher In-Service Workshop will be held from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Okeechobee Library. This class is free and qualifies for CEUs and is sponsored by The Florida Public Archaeology Network.

Early Learning Coalition meeting planned

Okeechobee Provider/Advisory meeting is set for Wednesday, **Aug. 8**, at noon. Oakview Baptist Church, 677 SW 32nd Street, Building B (using West doors), Okeechobee.

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).

- Richard Ellis Duncan, 45, New Jersey St., Clearwater, was arrested July 31 by Deputy Cari Arnold on Okeechobee County warrants charging him with the felony of aggravated battery, and the misdemeanors of leaving the scene of an accident with property damage and failure to appear for arraignment - battery. He is being held without bond.

- Daniel Mark Bishop, 28, S.E. Highpoint Way, Hobe Sound, was arrested July 31 by Deputy Matthew Grumbling on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of grand theft and fraud. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Christopher Thomas Spells, 32, Texas Court, Fort Pierce, was arrested July 31 by Deputy Cari Arnold on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of violation of probation - trespass (two counts). He is being held without bond.

- Flavia Leticia Escobar, 29, N.W. Seventh Ave. Okeechobee, was arrested July 31 by Detective Augustin Saucedo on felony charges of grand theft, dealing in stolen property and defrauding a pawnbroker. Her bond was set at \$15,000.

- Emily Margaret Close, 17, S.E. 10th St., Okeechobee, was arrested July 31 by Detective Augustin Saucedo on felony charges of grand theft and dealing in stolen property. She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center.

- Nancy June Harthan-LaRoche, 49, N.W. 90th Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 1 by Deputy Tammy Serafini on a felony charge of child abuse and a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. Her bond was set at \$3,000.

- Ricky Leenorris Ford, 47, N.W. 11th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 1 by Deputy Tammy Serafini on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of sale or possession with intent to sell a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a church and possession of cocaine with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a church. His bond was set at \$30,000.

- Debra Morris Young, 43, Broadland Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 1 by Deputy Raul Marrero on an Okeechobee

County warrant charging her with the felony of violation of probation - grand theft. She is being held without bond.

- Barbara Ann Tyner, 59, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 1 by Deputy Tammy Serafini on Okeechobee County warrants charging her with the felonies of violation of probation - possession of cocaine and violation of probation - driving under the influence. She is being held without bond.

- Michael Dale Crose II, 27, N.E. 128th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 1 by

Deputy Tammy Serafini on an amended Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - uttering a forged instrument (two counts) and violation of probation - grand theft. 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.

Need EXTRA MONEY?



MOTOR ROUTES AVAILABLE



OKEECHOBEE NEWS
107 SW 17th St • Suite D
Inquire Within
NO PHONE CALLS

FREE Automotive Classified Ads!
400 Words + 4 Photos Online for 4 Weeks Absolutely FREE!



Example: Chrysler Convertible 2009, Excellent Condition, Heated Leather Seats, Front-Wheel Drive, Satellite Radio. \$0,000. Call 555-5555.

Place your **FREE AD** online: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at...

www.newszap.com click on Classifieds

Plus...post your ads in these Florida newspapers for as low as \$8 each!
 Okeechobee News, Caloosa Belle, Immokalee Bulletin, Clewiston News, Belle Glade Sun & The Glades County Democrat

Medicaid recalculation reduces county deficit

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Thanks to corrections made in past due Medicaid bills by the state, Okeechobee County's predicted deficit in the coming year's budget has been reduced.

According to HB 5301, which became law earlier this year, the state is making individual counties pay disputed Medicaid bills back ten years. Originally this county's bill was \$1,264,437.02. County Administrator Robbie Chartier paid the state \$194,331.56 toward that amount even though she stated that she felt there were errors in the billing system. One of the problems with the billing system was that the county was charged some bills for people living outside the county because they had an Okeechobee County zip code.

Since this new law would adversely affect counties statewide, the Florida Association of Counties intervened to try to get some relief for the counties. The state went back and recalculated the amount owed. After taking the zip code problem and other discrepancies into account, the state reduced the total amount owed by the counties

from \$373,384,958.93 to \$14,562,594.26. Okeechobee's bill was reduced drastically down to \$370,934.98.

The state plans to recoup the past-due Medicaid money it says it is owed by withholding sales tax receipts to the counties. Each county will have three years to pay the past-due bill. The first year the state will withhold one third of the amount it says it is owed. Then half of the remainder will be withheld each year for the following two years.

Since these are funds withheld by the state they would have no bearing on planning the county's budget. However, current

Medicaid bills would have to be budgeted. Based on the original bill presented to the county, Mrs. Chartier included \$700,000 in the proposed budget for current Medicaid bills. Based on the reduced amount now owed, she reduced the amount of money budgeted for Medicaid to \$55,000 which is more in line with what current bills have been in the past. Therefore the estimated deficit in the proposed budget was reduced from \$2.5 million to \$2.1 million.

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

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.

SCHOOL

Continued From Page 1

There was no public comment at the hearing.

While local revenues are down, the district will receive an increase of just over \$1 million from the state this year, or just over \$24.9 million. The budget of nearly every school in the district has been cut.

The district did benefit from the additional \$1 billion allocated to education by Governor Rick Scott. Student enrollment was estimated at 6,525 students by the state which is a decrease of 161 from enrollment during the 2011-2012 school year. The base allocation for students in Okeechobee was set at \$85.95 which is below the state average of just over \$103. The budget has about a \$2.2 million fund balance, which is just over the district goal of 5 percent.

The budget also reflects no salary adjustments for employees at this point.

Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy said the district has nine open positions to fill and will have approximately 30 new teachers on staff this year. The first day of school is Aug. 20. Open house for schools has been scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 16, from 5-9 p.m.

In other actions the board appointed Joseph Stanley as Assistant Principal at North Elementary School. He had been the District Coordinator of Instructional Technology.

The board approved a five-year agreement with Keiser University to provide career and technical program dual enrollment courses to Okeechobee High School students. Credits can be earned in accounting, administrative assistant, digital design, emergency medical responder and nursing assistant.

The board also rescheduled their September board meeting to Thursday, Sept. 6, at 6 p.m. The agenda will include the final public hearing on their proposed 2012-2013

school year budget.

The board also approved an agreement with the retired and seniors volunteer program to provide volunteers for the school system under the guidance of the Area Agency on Aging.

"I'm excited about this," Superintendent Kenworthy said. "This was a one-year effort

and I'm glad it'll come to fruition."

He said retired teachers could volunteer their time and improve the academics and school performance. The Area Agency on Aging will pay the cost of background checks for volunteers and the program will not cost the school system anything.

EARLY VOTING

Saturday, August 4th -
Saturday, August 11th

Early Voting

for the August 14th Primary

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

OPEN ON SUNDAY

LOCATION:

The Historic Courthouse

Supervisor of Elections Office

304 NW 2nd Street

Please contact the Elections Office if you have any questions about voting in the August 14th Primary at elections@voteokeechobee.com or call 763-4014

A REAL ~~No~~ BRAINER!

If you're looking to save money -- and who isn't these days? -- subscribing to the Okeechobee News is a real *no brainer!*

And if you enroll today in our **EZPay** subscription plan, you'll not only save **REAL** money, but you'll **s-t-r-e-t-c-h** every cent. Plus we'll give you a **complimentary e-Subscription**, so you can read **YOUR** newspaper anywhere via the Internet.



That's a value of \$72 -- Yours for FREE if you act NOW!

(*Value based on annual subscriptions)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

For **ONLY \$6.00** a month

EZPay is simplicity personified. It is the most convenient way to pay for your subscription. Once it's set up, it's automatic every month. And with no bills, no checks and no mail, EZPay is kind to the environment.

Act now! Limited time offer!

Visit: <https://circulation.newszap.com/>
Email: readerservices@newszap.com

Call: 800-282-8586

It's all about you, your news, your neighbors, your life.
KEECHOBEE NEWS

Online Classifieds

FREE!
Absolutely
FREE!

florida.newszip.com Free Speech & Free Ads

Create Your Own Ads Online! Four weeks FREE . . . It's Easy!

Submit Your Free Online Classified Ad Today at **FLORIDA.NEWSZIP.COM** - Click on Classifieds

Post your ads in any of these newspapers for as little as \$8 each:

Okeechobee News • Caloosa Belle • Clewiston News • Glades County Democrat • Immokalee Bulletin • The Sun

• Online for 4 weeks - 400 words + 4 photos
• Absolutely FREE!
• Post your ads in our papers for as little as \$8 each
florida.newszip.com
click on classifieds

Announcements

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

For more listings, go to
www.newszip.com

Lost

Lost Treasured Gold Heart locket and chain on 7/31 in or near Goodwill or Bealls Outlet in Okeechobee. Reward offered 863-763-7210

Garage/Yard Sales

Large-Yard Sale
2530 SE 18th Terrace
Taylor Creek Isles.
Sat. 8/4 & Sun. 8/5
9 a.m. to ?
No Early Birds!

Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful people!

Employment

For more listings, go to
www.newszip.com

Employment Full Time

Technical Consultant
Needed at
Wireless Planet
(Sprint Preferred Retailer)
Full Time, \$8.50/hr.
Must be Motivated and Energetic!
Bring resume to:
204 N. Parrott Ave.
NO Phone calls please.

Time to clean out the attic, basement and/or garage? Advertise your yard sale in the classifieds and make your clean up a breeze!

WANTED Lic. Beautician needed for new upscale salon and boutique. Best pay scale in Town. Great location - across street from theater. Call Jim 1-305-923-9270 or 763-6140

Employment Part Time

We are looking for a part time Administrative Assistant for a busy office. Apply in person at: 1500 State Road 70 East, Okeechobee, Fl. 34972

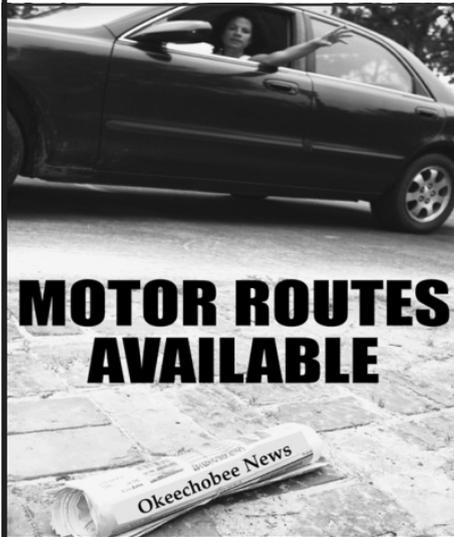
Financial

For more listings, go to
www.newszip.com

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifieds.

Business Opportunities

Need EXTRA MONEY?



MOTOR ROUTES AVAILABLE

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

107 SW 17th St • Suite D

Inquire Within

NO PHONE CALLS

Reading a newspaper provides the opportunity to get involved in your community.

No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!



Business Opportunities

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.

Merchandise

For more listings, go to
www.newszip.com

Computer/Supplies

Dell - Desktop Computer w/Flat screen, like new! Must sell \$75 Also wireless dell laptop w/ new battery and charger \$125 Call Tony 863-517-2782.

Pets/Supplies

Brindle Pit mixed puppies 8 weeks old, health cert. and current shots. \$200 or best offer, puppies are located in Okeechobee Call 561-414-4300

Pools & Supplies

Pool Pump, Flow Tech 1hp, with sand filter in good condition. \$250
Call 561-236-1656

Wanted To Buy

CASH FOR CARS
No Title Needed, Any Condition.
268junk.com
Call (863)484-2012

Agriculture

For more listings, go to
www.newszip.com

Farm Feed/Products

Alfalfa Hay for sale
70lb. bales
\$16.00 a piece.
Coastal and Oat Hay
Mix \$8.00 a bale.
Call 863-634-7051

Rentals

For more listings, go to
www.newszip.com

Apartments

IN TOWN- 1BR Unfurnished APT nice area. Utilities & lawn included. \$700/mo 1st & \$300 sec. Non smoking environment. No pets. 863-610-0861

IN TOWN- Unfurnished Efficiency Apt. Nice area. Utilities & lawn included. \$600/mo. 1st & \$300 sec. Non smoking environment. No pets. 863-610-0861.

VIKING/PRAIRIE - 1 br. Apartment. Very clean! \$650/mo. Incl. utils. No pets. Call Ron 561-329-8205.

Condos/Townhouses Rent

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

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

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

Houses - Rent

Contract Fell Through 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. \$900/mo. 1st & sec. Credit & background check. 863-697-2161.

FOR RENT - 2BR, 1BA duplex, great location in Okeechobee Estates, A/C, laundry room. \$675/month. Call 863-835-2391

SEASONAL RENTAL:
2/1 1/2, furnished home w/garage in city limits. Minimum 6 months. No children, pets or smokers. \$1,000/mo. plus electric. \$500 sec. dep. and 1st month. (863)447-2715

TREASURE ISLAND - 2/2, w/ Boat house, clean. \$600/mo. 3/2 CBS, boat house and shed. \$950/mo. Call (561)262-1390

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

Real Estate

For more listings, go to
www.newszip.com

Land - Sale

10 Acres - Owner Financing - \$3,000 down - Park your trailer or build your house - 7 mins to town \$59,000- (863) 763-6358

Lots - Sale

1/2 Acre Lot, fenced, oak trees, house or mobile home ok, off of 15A & 710 Hwy. \$21,000 obo. Call 863-467-4678

Mobile Homes

For more listings, go to
www.newszip.com

Mobile Home Lots

Mobile Home
Lot for Rent
Off North West 30th Street, close to Elementary School and Hwy 98.
Call for more info. 863-697-1168

Mobile Home Rent

3/2 Very Clean
Double Wide
\$600.00 per month
\$600 deposit, 1st and security to move in.
Call for more information
304-277-0427

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

Country Living
2/1 MH
\$400.00 monthly &
\$400.00 Security
Call 863-697-2486

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.

Mobile Home Sale

Palm Harbor Village
New Homes Start at \$39,900. \$5K for your used mobile home... Any condition!
800-622-2832 ext 210

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.



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

Boats

FREE- 23' Wellcraft
No Motor
Bring your own trailer.
863-467-9703 or
863-697-3853

Campers/RVs

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

Shop here first!
The classified ads

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



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

Automobiles

1996 Eclipse GL convertible 2.3, 5 speed, needs crank sensor, fast car, \$1,700.
See at 3040 SE 38th Ave
863-801-5673
ask for James

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.



Public Notices

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2012 DR86

Donna J. Dortch Kellman,
Petitioner
and
Lloyd E. Kellman,
Respondent

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

TO: **Lloyd E. Kellman**

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Donna Kellman, whose address is PO Box 2794, Okeechobee on or before 3-27-2012, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at **Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Court Operations 1st Floor, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972** before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit's Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
DATED: 7-30-2012

SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
423138 ON 8/3,10,17,24/2012

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2010-CP-154

IN RE: ESTATE OF **BETTY M. WHITE,**
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of **BETTY M. WHITE,** deceased, whose date of death was September 3, 2010, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney 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 other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate 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 PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE 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 August 3, 2012.

Personal Representative:
MARGIE GREEN
6805 NE 4th Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

Attorney for
Personal Representatives:
GLENN J. SNEIDER, ESQ.
Florida Bar No. 280461
Glenn J. Snieder, LC
200 SW 9th Street
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 467-6570
423271 ON 8/3,10/2012

When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.

Public Notice

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

NOTICE OF HEARING TO IMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF FIRE RESCUE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the County Commission of Okeechobee County will conduct a public hearing to consider the imposition of annual fire rescue special assessments for the provision of fire rescue services, programs, and facilities within the unincorporated area of Okeechobee County that constitutes the Okeechobee County Municipal Service Benefit Unit for Fire Rescue Services.

The hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m., on August 23, 2012, in the Commission Chambers, Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed assessments. All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the County Commission within 20 days of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the County Commission with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the County at (863) 763-6441 prior to the date of the hearing.

The assessment for each parcel of residential use property will be based upon the total number of dwelling units attributed to that parcel. Copies of the Fire Rescue Assessment Ordinance, the Initial Assessment Resolution, the Final Assessment Resolution, the proposed Annual Rate Resolution for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2012 and the updated Assessment Roll are available for inspection at the office of the County Administrator located at 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 103, Okeechobee, Florida.

The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November 2012, as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title.

If you have any questions, please contact the County at (863) 763-6441, on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Margaret Garrard-Helton, Chair Board of County Commissioners

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
423274 ON 8/3/2012

NOTICE OF HEARING TO IMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the County Commission of Okeechobee County will conduct a public hearing to consider the imposition of annual solid waste collection special assessments for the provision of residential solid waste collection and disposal services within the unincorporated area of Okeechobee County that constitutes the Okeechobee County Municipal Service Benefit Unit for Residential Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services.

The hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m., on August 23, 2012, in the Commission Chambers, Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed assessments. All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the County Commission. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the County Commission with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the County at (863) 763-6441 prior to the date of the hearing.

The assessment for each parcel of residential use property will be based upon the total number of dwelling units attributed to that parcel.

Copies of the Solid Waste Collection, Disposal and Assessment Ordinance, the Initial Assessment Resolution, the Final Assessment Resolution, the proposed Annual Rate Resolution for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2012 and the updated Assessment Roll are available for inspection at the office of the County Administrator located at 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 103, Okeechobee, Florida.

The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November 2012, as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title.

If you have any questions, please contact the County at (863) 763-6441, on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Margaret Garrard-Helton, Cha
Board of County Commissioners
Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
423272 ON 8/3/2012

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds.

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING TO IMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the County Commission of Okeechobee County will conduct a public hearing to consider the imposition of annual emergency medical service special assessments for the provision of emergency medical services, programs, and facilities within the incorporated and unincorporated area of Okeechobee County that constitutes the Okeechobee County Municipal Service Benefit Unit for Emergency Medical Services.

The hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m., on August 23, 2012, in the Commission Chambers, Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed assessments. All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the County Commission within 20 days of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the County Commission with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the County at (863) 763-6441 prior to the date of the hearing.

The assessment for each parcel of residential use property will be based upon the total number of dwelling units attributed to that parcel.

Copies of the Emergency Medical Service Assessment Ordinance, the Initial Assessment Resolution, the Final Assessment Resolution, the proposed Annual Rate Resolution for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2012 and the updated Assessment Roll are available for inspection at the office of the County Administrator located at 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 103, Okeechobee, Florida.

The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November 2012, as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title.

If you have any questions, please contact the County at (863) 763-6441, on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Margaret Garrard-Helton, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
423273 ON 8/3/2012

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

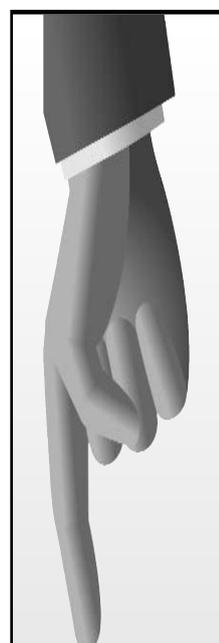
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

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. 422318 ON 7/27/8/3,10,17/2012



Reading a newspaper makes you a more informed and interesting person.

No wonder newspaper readers are more successful!



ADVERTISEMENT
and Get Results

www.newszap.com
click on classifieds

TRIAL

Continued From Page 1

answered his mother's phone and had to tell his dad—"I've got to call 9-1-1! He (Eric Sr.) said 'Why? Why?' I said, 'mom's dead!'"

Middleton, Mr. Albright told the jury, lived just 139 feet from Bobbie and Eric Sr.

It also came out in testimony that Middleton would visit Bobbie and drink coffee with her. Sometimes he would borrow money from her.

But on July 28, 2009, when Middleton allegedly asked her for a loan she told him she didn't have any money. At some point Middleton apparently grabbed the 49-year-old woman and began to stab her and cut her throat—three to four times.

"He cut her throat so deeply it went to the front of her spine," Mr. Albright told the 12-member jury.

The prosecutor went on to tell the jury that Bobbie "struggled" and described the crime scene as "brutal and bloody."

He told the jury that Middleton then stole a 42-inch LG flat screen television from the Christensen's home—the same TV Bobbie won at a Christmas party put on by the Golden Corral.

"I'll never forget how happy she was. She wanted one (flat screen TV) so bad," Eric Sr.

told the jury.

He was working in New Jersey at the time and living with the couple's son Todd who, testified Eric Sr., was having some problems and he was there trying to help.

Various witnesses later testified seeing the TV in Middleton's mobile home. Those witnesses said he told them that someone owed him some money so they gave him the TV in exchange and now he needed to sell it. Which, he did—for \$200.

While on the witness stand Thursday morning, a roommate of Middleton's recounted for the jury how he went to the Christensen's home when he heard someone screaming sometime around 6 p.m.

Garrett Wade Fowler told the jury he was standing outside talking to someone when he heard the screams for help. He ran to the Christen's home and saw a young woman—Eric Jr.'s wife Ashley—visibly upset and nearly to the point of fainting.

"She was out of it," he said.

He then went into the home and ran into Eric Jr. who told him to get out. But, he said, before he did he saw Bobbie's body.

"It was bad," he told Bernard Romero, who is prosecuting the case along with Tom Bakkedahl and Mr. Albright. "You could tell it was a murder scene. There was blood everywhere."

Middleton was arrested the next morning after investigators from the Okeechobee

County Sheriff's Office spent the night interviewing nearly 100 people.

On Sept. 9, 2009, a local grand jury found sufficient evidence to charge Middleton with premeditated first-degree murder. He is also charged with grand theft, dealing in stolen property and armed burglary of a dwelling.

Eric Sr. told the jury that the last time he talked to his wife, his "best friend", was around 2:50 p.m. on July 28, 2009.

"I said 'I love you and I miss you,'" he told his wife of 31 years.

Bobbie then spoke her last words to Eric Sr.: "I love you more."

The trial continues today.

~Our Priorities are simple...They're Yours!

Lori Mixon
Lic. Real Estate Broker
(863) 634-1457
LMixon@MixonGroup.com

Buying or Selling?... Let's Make It Happen!

5 ACRES

QUAIL WOODS—2005 CBS home on 5 ACRES. 1720 SF under air-2946 TLA. Brazilian cherry floors, great room, custom kitchen, gas fireplace. 2 Bd/2Ba/2Garage. Gunite pool. Dome screen enclosure, lon-izer. Metal roof, Generator, Water System. 1152 SF - 3 stall barn, tack room. Fenced, X-fenced. Circle drive, pond, dock. **PARADISE FOUND!** \$269,000 Call Lori (863) 634-1457

Visit our website...
www.MixonGroup.com
to view our
Over 100 Listings

Mixon REAL ESTATE GROUP, LLC
Lic. Real Estate Broker
Office: 863-763-6000

Your Hometown Realtor
Giving you the service you deserve!

Anderson
REALTY CO.



Vicki S. Anderson,
Lic. RE Broker

863-634-4106

vic_anderson@earthlink.net

www.andersonrealtyco.com

21442 E. SR 78, BHR • Okeechobee

ALWAYS SAVING
PROPERTY
BUYERS
\$ MONEY!



BUYERS ONLY
REALTY CO.

BILL F. STEGKEMPER,
REALTOR, CRS, GRI, APPRAISER
BK129997

(863) 801-9497 CELL

P.O. Box 1074, Okeechobee, FL 34973

517 S.W. Park St. • Okeechobee

Medicaid controversy sparks lawsuit

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

An unpopular state law has had a direct affect on county finances and provoked a lawsuit.

According to HB 5301, which became law earlier this year, the state is making individual counties pay disputed Medicaid bills back eleven years. One of the problems with the billing system was that the county was charged some bills for people living outside the county because they had an Okeechobee County zip code.

The state plans to recoup the past due medicaid money it says it is owed by withholding sales tax receipts to the counties. Each county will have three years to pay the past due bill. The first year the state will withhold one third of the amount it says it is owed. Then half of the remainder will be withheld each year for the following two years.

Okeechobee and most of the state's other counties have joined the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) in a lawsuit protesting the law. According to Cragin Mosteller, FAC's communications director, the lawsuit involves two points. The FAC claims this law is an unfunded mandate. According to the state constitution, unfunded mandates require a two-thirds majority from both houses of the state legislature for passage. The new medicaid law did not receive a two-third majority. The FAC also contends that the statute of limitations only goes back four years. However the state is requiring payment back 11 years.

"Counties have held all along that there are problems in the billing system," Ms. Mosteller said. She said that the huge reduction in the total bill after the state recalculated validates their position. "This is an extremely complex and complicated system," she added.

Tucker Group LLC

2739 Acre Ranch in Eastern Okeechobee County

Offered Exclusively by:
The Tucker Group, LLC
Call Brandon Tucker (772) 201-8722

\$7,250,000

104 NW 7th Ave.
Okeechobee

863-763-4010
or
888-874-2945

Lic. RE Broker
Auctioneer# AU2579.

Century 21

Hazellief & Prevatt Realty Inc.
(863) 763-2104 • Se Habla Español

David Hazellief, 863-610-1553
Betty Hazellief, 863-610-0144
Sharon Prevatt, 863-634-7069
Dee Reeder, 863-610-2485

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
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	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
	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		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

• Foreclosure Viking 2.50 acres **\$4,500** • Dixie Ranch 4+/- acres **\$30,000** • Basswood Lot 124x125 **\$6,000** Make Offer!
• 319+/- acres on HWY 441 North **\$4,000,000** • Viking 6.25+/- acres, pole barn, 2 ponds, electricity close to property **\$23,000** • SOLD Foreclosure 5+/- acres in Viking **\$11,900**

century21okeechobee@earthlink.net • 1200 S. Parrott Ave. • Century21okeechobee.com

Grant funds help make skate camp a success

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Thanks to a grant from the Okeechobee Children's Services Council, an average of 25 to 30 Okeechobee youth enjoyed a week-long skate camp at the Okeechobee skate park.

Communities in Schools/Police Athletic League of Okeechobee have put on the annual camp for several years and it appears to be as popular as ever this year.

The children learn about safety and get tips from veteran skaters and also get to take a trip to Fort Pierce to visit their skate board park.

For only \$40, the campers not only get the week-long instruction, but a year pass for the skate board park which is open Monday thru Friday from 3 to 6 p.m.

This year there are a lot of beginner skaters, and the kids range in age from six to 16.

Trae Kissam and Dylan Sweat are the instructors. Kissam will be a senior at OHS this year. He has been a skater for eight years. He said instructing children is a lot of fun, "I think this is a great opportunity for kids to learn to skate. It's been a really fun camp."

He emphasizes safety with the kids and the proper equipment. He also urges them to learn about the sport. His main priority is for the kids to have fun.

progress and get better. I think the skate park is the best thing in Okeechobee," he added.

Sweat said he is glad to see so many young children at this year's camp. He has skated for five years. He said he wishes he could have attended a camp when he was younger because it really teaches kids a lot.

"I want to get everybody skating and encourage the sport. I tell the kids to just keep going and don't give up. They learn a lot quicker than I did," he added.

He said he is glad to see the community has done something positive for skate boarders in Okeechobee.



Special to the News/Charles Murphy
Trae Kissam gives advice to Diego Reyna at the Skate Camp Tuesday.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Isabella Saucedo, and Joshua Baselice have enjoyed the skate board camp.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Landen Doyle, age 6, has enjoyed the skate camp along with his older brother, Ethan, (not pictured).

THE "ALTERNATIVE"

ELECT

Carl

Shumate

for County Commissioner, District 1

A Commissioner for ALL the people of Okeechobee NOT a chosen few

Would YOU like to see Okeechobee

- ✓ Suspend Impact Fees
- ✓ Create a Business Friendly County
- ✓ Consider Smart Economic Development

If so, then I am asking for your vote on August 14, 2012. Thank You!

CarlShumateforOkeechobee2012

Paid by Carl Shumate, Republican, for County Commission, District 1



Searching For a New House? Thinking About Moving?

It can be a daunting process, but ZapHomes can make searching for a new home and neighborhood easier than you think. ZapHomes has all the information and tools you need to find your dream house in just the right location.

Our new site allows you to:

- Browse listings by city, town or ZIP code • Evaluate the community
- See recent home sales, trends and property values • Calculate your mortgage

ZAPHOMES

To get started, visit www.newszap.com and click on ZapHomes

Paying Cash for Coins,
Currency, Gold & Silver

Information

Hampton Inn

1200 Hwy 70 E

Okeechobee, FL 34972

863-824-0003

(863) 604-5884

(863) 258-1470

July 30 - Aug 4

Mon. - Sat. 9am - 6pm

Thurs. by appt only

(call ahead to set)



Southern Estate Liquidators



BUYING SILVER COINS

Pre 65 Dimes



Pre 65 Quarters

Pre 1970
Half
Dollars



- Gold Scrap
- Investment Gold
- Sterling Flatware
- Timepieces
- Costume Jewelry
- Coins & Currency
- Vintage Musical Instruments
- Collectibles
- Antiques
- Military Items
- Scrap Sterling
- Dental Gold
- Foreign Coins
- Americana

