



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 94

Sunday, August 5, 2012

75¢ Plus tax

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## Lake Levels

**12.12 feet**

Last Year: 10.23 feet

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# Woman's throat cut to the spine

Jury is spellbound by Medical Examiner's testimony in murder trial

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

Dr. Linda Rush-O'Neil, from the District 19 Medical Examiner's Office, said Roberta 'Bobbie' Christensen died as a result of a "gaping wound" to her throat that was so deep the vertebrae in her spine were actually injured.

Dr. Rush-O'Neil, who performed the autopsy on Mrs. Christensen, told the jury during the third day of testimony that despite the many other wounds to the woman's body it was



**Roberta Christensen**

the wound to her throat that caused her death.

Dale Glenn Middleton, 39, is accused of attacking Mrs. Christensen in the kitchen of her home then dragging her to her bedroom where he allegedly killed the 49-year-old server at the Golden Corral Restaurant. Middleton is also charged with stealing her 42-inch LG flat screen television then selling it for \$200.

Although the courtroom was still and everyone was concentrating on Dr. Rush-O'Neil's testimony, soft groans of disbelief could be heard when an autopsy photo taken from the

right side of Mrs. Christensen's body graphically depicted the depth of the wound to her throat.

With Dr. Rush-O'Neil standing in the courtroom and describing the victim's wounds to the 12-member jury, Assistant State Attorney Tom Bakkedahl asked her how many times the woman was cut across the throat. The doctor said she couldn't tell.

Although, she added, she could say there were at least three passes of a sharp instrument across her throat.

When the prosecutor asked her about the cutting motion, Dr. Rush-O'Neil testified that a "sawing-type motion would be consistent"

See TRIAL — Page 10



Special to the Okeechobee News

## High flying fun

The Okeechobee Model Airplane club hosted a morning of fun and flying for the employees, their families and children at Real Life Children's Ranch on July 28. For more on the story, see page 14.

# Coalition looks at condition of the dike

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Unlike some meetings of a few years ago, the Wednesday, Aug. 1, meeting of the County Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and Lake Worth Lagoon at the Okeechobee County Courthouse was marked by cordiality and consensus.

The organization is made up of representatives from Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Lee, Palm Beach, Hendry, Glades, Highlands and Osceola counties.

See LAKE — Page 5

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### Hearing Problem #2

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### Hearing Problem #3

The cochlea is a snail-shaped organ containing thousands of living hair cells called stereocilia. A condition known as **Sensorineural hearing loss (nerve type hearing loss)** occurs when any of the hair cells become damaged.

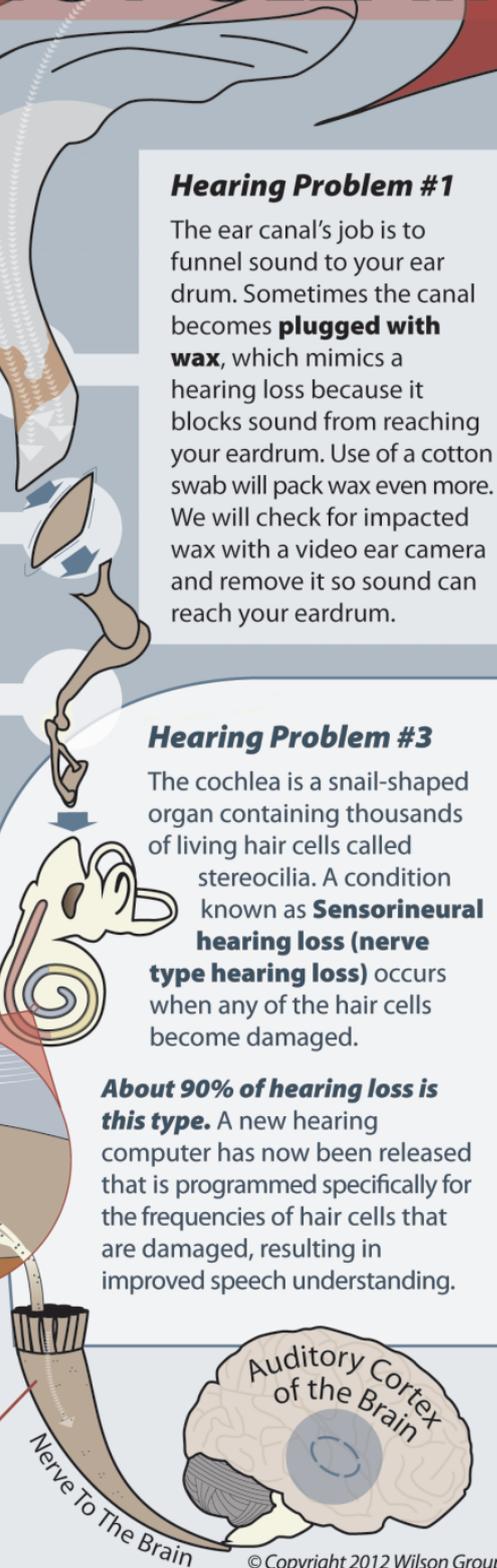
**About 90% of hearing loss is this type.** A new hearing computer has now been released that is programmed specifically for the frequencies of hair cells that are damaged, resulting in improved speech understanding.

(Magnification Of The Cochlea)

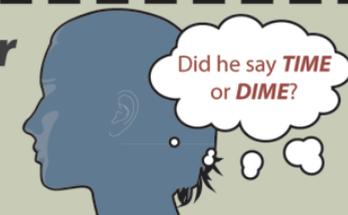
Sound Waves Inside cochlea

Living Hair Cells Detect Sound Waves

Nerves Send Sound Signals To The Brain



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### Free Demonstrations: August 6th - 17th



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The hearing computer was displayed at the 2012 American Academy of Audiology Symposium. It is available in Florida from Audibel Hearing Care Centers.



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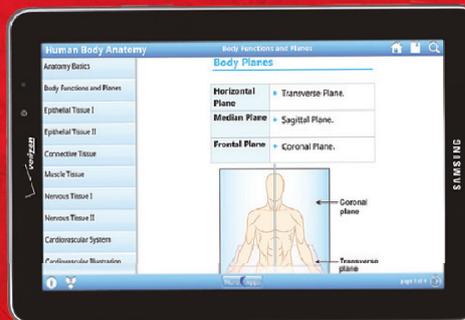
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*Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com), click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics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

### Constitution

• Is the Constitution a living document? It depends on what you mean by "living." Certainly it can be amended. And it was written in broad terms that often allow interpretation to allow for the circumstances of the times. But I think the problem people have with referring to it as "living" is that some who use that term have tried to say it can be changed from what the framers of the Constitution originally intended.

• The concept of a "living Constitution" is one that is debated by scholars and lawyers and probably does not make much sense to the average person. Instead of a debate over concepts, I think most Americans would like to hear what the candidates plan to do to improve the economy, both local and national.

### No help?

• In response to the comment in the Friday newspaper from the parent whose 16-year-old is addicted to pills, he or she said they could get no help from the sheriff's office except to say the kid could wind up in jail. First, it is your job as the parent to get your child help. It is not the government's job to provide for your child. You are the parent. You should have been teaching the child and keeping him away from drugs. And when he got into trouble, it was your job to get him help. The post said the kid is in rehab and that is good, although unless the kid wants to change, rehab may not work. An addict has to want to change. No one can do that for him. I know it is hard when your kid is in trouble and you want someone to blame. But blaming law enforcement for your kid's problems is not the answer.

### Economy

• No one can blame President Obama for the way the economy is today in the U.S., not after Bush dug a hole for eight years.

### Day of the Cowboy

• I want to thank everyone who helped make the Day of the Cowboy a success. It was a lot of work I am sure. And those on the cattle drive really had a tough, hot day to make that ride. They did it to provide something for this community and they deserve our appreciation.

• I think at the Day of the Cowboy some of the riders had to go up on the sidewalk because the cows they used this year were a little more jumpy than in previous years. I saw one get away and run down a side street and the cowboys had to chase it. Maybe the cattle were just trying to get away from the heat too. You can't blame an animal for trying to get out of that hot sun! However, if they can keep the horses off the sidewalk in the future, that would probably be best because people walking on the sidewalk had to be a little more careful after the horses went by.

• The cattle drive down the main street is a wonderful sight to see. I am glad my kids got to see it. It is like seeing history right in front of you. I just wish they would do this during a cooler time of year!

## Okeechobee Forecast

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**Today:** Showers and thunderstorms likely after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 93. East wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Tonight:** Scattered showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

### Extended Forecast

**Monday:** A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. East wind around 5 mph.

**Monday night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. East southeast wind around 5 mph.



## Reflections from the pulpit

### "Believe My Words"

By Calvin H. Fryar, pastor  
Brighton Baptist Church

John 5:46—"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"

Jesus said to the Jewish leaders that they must believe His words—but they didn't. They claimed to believe Moses. Jesus explained that Moses wrote of Him. Therefore, how can you believe Moses and not believe me?

On an American troopship, the soldiers crowded around their chaplain asking, "Do you believe in hell?" "I do not," he answered. "Well, then, will you please resign, for if there is no hell, we do not need you, and if there is a hell, we do not wish to be led astray." —Christian Beacon

There are too many people who do not know what they believe.

A poor man was examined on the subject of his faith, as follows: "What do you believe?" "I believe what the Church believes," he replied. "What then, does the Church believe?" they questioned. Again, he answered them, "The Church believes what I believe." Desperate for a real answer, they continued, "Tell me, then, I pray you, what it is which you and the Church both believe?" Finally, he avoided their question with, "Why, truly, sir, the Church and I both believe the same thing." —Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations

Jesus made several recommendations to the Jewish leaders who did not believe Him:

FIRST, THEY MUST SEARCH THE SCRIPTURE—"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me and ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." (John 5:39-40).

They were encouraged to study the Bible. But they thought they were very familiar with the Scripture. They had good reason to think this because the Jewish male studied the Scripture from his youth—then what was the problem? I believe that they, unlike old Simeon and Anna, were looking for a deliverer but not a Savior. If Jesus had taken a sword and said follow Me to establish the kingdom, they would have followed.

Dr. Walter L. Wilson tells the story of a woman who had attended one of his meetings and waited after the service for spiri-

tual help. When he asked her if she could quote any part of the Scripture, she said that she had once learned John 3:16 in Sunday school. He then asked her to quote it. She recited: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only forgotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Noticing that she had said "forgotten" for "begotten," he said, "Do you know why God forgot his Son?" She said, "No, I don't." And Dr. Wilson said: "It was because he wanted to remember you." Then Dr. Wilson led her to knowledge of Christ as Savior. —Minister's Research Service

THEN, THEY MUST SEEK THE SAVIOR who is to be found within the pages of the scripture. Instead they missed the Savior and found the King. They could not see their Savior dying on a cross. But they were to find the Savior in the writings of Moses and we must find Him in the Scripture as well—Jesus said so!—we must search for Him there. The Psalmist wrote that we could find Him in "the volume of the Book: "Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me..." (Psalms 40:7).

Dr. Alexander Maclaren used to tell of a man of great intellectual power whom he longed to win. To do so the famous preacher preached a whole series of sermons dealing with intellectual difficulties. To the doctor's delight, the man came shortly afterward and said he had become a convinced Christian and he wanted to join the church. Overjoyed, the doctor said, "And which of my sermons was it that removed your doubts?"

"Your sermons?" said the other. "It wasn't any of your sermons. The thing that set me thinking was that a poor woman came out of your church beside me and stumbled on the steps. When I put out my hand to help her, she smiled and said 'thank you' and then added, 'Do you love Jesus Christ my blessed Savior? He means everything to me.' I did not then, but I thought about it. I found I was on the wrong road. I still have many intellectual difficulties, but now He means everything to me, too." —Leslie D. Weatherhead

Every book in the Bible is about Jesus. Even the book of Esther reveals His presence. The name of God is never mentioned in Esther but God's hand is seen protecting His people there on every page. And when Moses wrote of Jesus he described him in the story of Joseph, the Passover Lamb, tabernacle, the High Priest, the manna, the water from the rock and the list could go on and on!

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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### Our Purpose...

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

### We Pledge...

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

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



# LAKE

Continued From Page 1

Okeechobee County Commissioner Frank Irby reported that his county was in the early stages of developing a public-private partnership for the revitalization of Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina.

"Martin County is in good shape," reported Martin County Commissioner Sarah Heard. "Our estuaries look good."

Glades County Commissioner Russell Echols, who chairs the coalition, reported that work is finished on the Harney Pond Canal in his county.

Ingrid Bond, project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), gave an update on the Herbert Hoover Dike. For background, she stated that the dike is 143 miles long and contains five spillway inlets, five spillway outlets, nine navigation locks, nine pumping stations and 32 culverts.

She said the Herbert Hoover Dike is one of the few dams administered by the COE that is considered a level 1 risk. Of levels 1 through 5, level 1 is considered the most likely to fail. In response to a question, she stated that the number of level 1 dams varies but currently there are 16. The Herbert Hoover Dike has to compete with all the other level 1 dams for funding. Ms. Bond said that in the current fiscal year Congress appropriated \$85 million for the Herbert Hoover Dike. They are still waiting on funding for fiscal year 2013. Typically, she said, the Herbert Hoover Dike gets 20 to 25 percent of COE funds allocated for dam safety. She said there will be a new dam safety report by 2014.

The COE has divided the dike into segments called reaches. They have completed 20.7 miles of cutoff wall in the center of the dike in the reach between Port Mayaca and Belle Glade. "We have changed our approach," Ms. Bond said. We used to have a reach-by-reach approach. We want to put taxpayers money on projects that are most at risk."

Now Ms. Bond said the emphasis is on replacing culverts which she said COE identifies as a higher priority. However, she said the reach 1 cutoff wall project will be completed to Bell Glade. Construction is currently under way to replace culverts 1 and 1A near Moor Haven as well as culverts 11 and 16 near Port Mayaca. The COE is in the process of abandoning culverts 7 and 9 and the Taylor Creek culvert, all in Okeechobee County.

"We are working with a schedule for culvert replacement," she said. The progress of the work relies on many factors including funding from Congress. She said the order of culvert replacement has to do with access. "Everything has to be done on the federal right of way."

Commissioner Echols expressed concern about not being informed of the shift in emphasis from dike rehabilitation to culvert replacement. "It seems the game plan changes and we aren't kept up to date," he said.

Calvin J. Neidrauer, chief engineer of South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Water Control Operations Bureau, gave an update on water conditions.

He said that district-wide, among the 16 South Florida Counties comprising SFWMD, rainfall for the current rainy season through

July 30 is about 6 percent above average. He said Lake Tohopekaliga and Lake Istokpoga are at regulation schedule. Lake Kissimmee is below regulation schedule. However, that lake has been supplying water for the Kissimmee River restoration.

The wet season began earlier this year on May 8. Therefore, water conservation areas south of the lake filled up quickly. Mr. Neidrauer said that water from those areas is being sent to tide to make more storage area for future rains this rainy season.

Currently, at just over 12 feet, Lake Okeechobee is in the beneficial use band of the Lake Okeechobee Regulations Schedule (LORS) used by the COE and no releases are called for. However, the Adaptive Protocol, a document used by SFWMD that interprets the LORS for environmental purposes, called for pulse releases to the Caloosahatchee Estuary in May, June and July. Currently the Adoptive Protocol does not call for releases because basin runoff is sufficient to maintain salinity.

Mr. Neidrauer said Lake Okeechobee has 99 active snail kite nesting areas in 2012—the highest number since record keeping began in 1992.

While predictions about the current rainy season are uncertain, he said predictions for the coming dry season are for above-normal rainfall.

"It is a delicate balance and there is a lot of competition for water." Mr. Neidrauer said of the process of regulating the lake level.

Commissioner Echols called for goals for next year. He asked that staff work with the individual members and put that item on the agenda for the September meeting. He noted there are many differences among the counties represented and he suggested they concentrate on areas where they are in agreement in formulating goals.

Martin County Commissioner Sarah Heard called for more substantive discussion on the health of the lake.

Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner suggested sending two representatives of the coalition to Washington to lobby for their causes.

It was the consensus of the group to invite all 16 counties served by SFWMD to the December meeting.

Commissioner Echols said his constituents were disgruntled about unfinished projects. "Let's get something completed instead of a lot of projects on the board," he said, suggesting long-term leases for SFWMD property that will not be used in the near future.

"We all get frustrated with projects not being completed," added Commissioner Heard.

The coalition then passed a resolution seeking continued funding for the C44 reservoir and stormwater treatment area project on the St. Lucie Canal to ensure its comple-

## Euchre Club of Okeechobee needs players

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

tion.

Michelle McGovern of U.S. Senator Bill Nelson's office told the coalition that the senator is trying to find funding for the state to help with their projects and also assisting with grants.

"We are all in this together," asserted Paul Gray of the Audubon Society of Florida. "What happens in one part of the system affects another." He noted that two third of the

marsh area of the lake is dry right now due, in part, to LORS. He said the lake level is kept down because of the condition of the dike. He said the Audubon Society was in favor of fixing the dike as quickly as possible. Until then he said it would help if all parties concerned would be as flexible as possible.

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



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## Community Events

### 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 to 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.

### 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.

## Obituaries

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

### William 'Bill' Earl, 85

OKEECHOBEE — William 'Bill' Earl, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2012, in The Tidewell Hospice House, Arcadia, Fla.

He was born March 11, 1927 in Erie, Pa. He proudly served in the United States Navy during the WWII conflict in the Pacific. He had been a resident of Okeechobee since 1969 and was a maintenance foreman for South Florida Water Management for 23 years. He was a member of the American Legion and loved to fish.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth Earl; and a brother, Robert Earl.

He is survived by his son, Phillip Roman (Melissa) of Jacksonville, Fla; daughter, Patricia Collins (Bruce) of Arcadia, Fla; six grandchildren, Phillip Roman, Christi Roman-Puga, Byron Hurst, Lauren Conley, Jaclyn Hebel, Seth Collins; four great-grandchildren; two brothers, Jim Earl (Cheri) of Citrus Springs, Fla., and Gene Earl (Cindy) of Sarasota; and one sister, Rita Burrell (Durwood) Union City, Pa.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 6, 2012 in Evergreen Cemetery with Pastor Don Leon officiating. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Tidewell Hospice & Palliative Care, 919 North Arcadia, Florida 34266.

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



### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Benefit fishing tourney planned for Ramsey family

A benefit saltwater fishing tournament is being planned for Saturday, **Aug. 11**, starting at 6 a.m. at Palm Beach Inlet. Proceeds to help and assist the Ramsey family. Ricky Ramsey was killed in July in an airboat accident. He leaves behind two young children. Only \$100 per boat entry fee, four anglers in each boat. A "Captain's" meeting is planned for 6 p.m. on Aug. 10 at Renegades Nightclub. Vendor, volunteers and sponsor opportunities still available. Over \$5,000 in cash and prizes. A barbecue and silent auction and awards ceremony are also planned for Aug. 11, at 5 p.m. at the Moose Lodge 2010. Call for more information at 561-719-9517 Holly.

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**Online Guestbook**

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

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[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

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

[newszap.com](http://newszap.com)

### Freedom Outreach fishing tournament

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

### American Legion Ladies

### Auxiliary meeting change

The scheduled meeting for the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit 64, has been changed from Tuesday, **Aug. 14** to Wednesday, **Aug. 15**, at 6 p.m.

### 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.

### Eagles host corn hole tournament

Come to Eagles North, 9985 Hwy. 441 North., on **Aug. 25**, for a corn hole tournament. Sign up early! There will be payout on first and second place. For more information, call 863-763-2552. Cost is \$10 per player, \$20 per Team. All proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund. The Aerie will also offer hamburgers, hotdogs and side dishes.

### 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](mailto:tchandler@wm.com) or by searching the events calendar at: <http://okeechobeebusiness.com>

### Call to artists for next city mural project

Okeechobee Main Street is seeking a qualified mural artist to paint two large murals in downtown Okeechobee on the Car-Quest building located on State Road 70. Please contact Bridgette Waldau for artist's informational packet and application at 863-467-7300 or e-mail at [bridgette.art@gmail.com](mailto:bridgette.art@gmail.com). Deadline for submission of application with proposal is **Aug. 15**.

#### IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

Please take a few minutes to review this information to make sure you are an informed voter. If you have questions, please call the Elections Office (763-4014) or email us at [elections@voteokeechobee.com](mailto:elections@voteokeechobee.com).

#### 1. EARLY VOTE

Early Vote Dates: Sunday, August 5th – Saturday, August 11th  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. One Location: Elections Office

#### 2. ADDRESS AND/OR NAME CHANGES

You can make an address or name change up to and including Election Day. Contact us at –763-4014 or [elections@voteokeechobee.com](mailto:elections@voteokeechobee.com). Making changes before Election Day will save you time when you go to vote.

#### 3. NEW VOTER CARDS MAILED TO ALL VOTERS

All voters were mailed new voter registration cards. If you did not receive one, contact the Elections Office immediately at – 763-4014 or [elections@voteokeechobee.com](mailto:elections@voteokeechobee.com)

#### 4. VOTE BY MAIL

Vote at home by absentee ballot. Contact us by phone or website – 763-4014 or [www.voteokeechobee.com](http://www.voteokeechobee.com)

#### 5. UNIVERSAL PRIMARY RACES

Three universal races will be on everyone's ballot. Voters may vote any race that is on their ballot. ALL VOTERS REGARDLESS OF PARTY AFFILIATION CAN VOTE IN THESE RACES: District 3, County Commissioner, District 5, County Commissioner, and District 2, School Board. The winner of each of these three races will be elected on August 14th.

# Livestock Market Report

**JULY 30 & 31, 2012**  
**MONDAY SALE AT 12:00PM...TUESDAY SALE AT 11:00AM**

COWS:	QTY:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
800-1000	77	58.00	90.00	75.09
1000-1200	131	65.00	93.00	81.63
1200-1400	68	71.00	95.00	84.64
1400-1600	18	72.50	91.00	83.92
1600-1800	2	87.00	87.00	87.00

BULLS:	QTY:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
1200-1400	2	86.00	89.00	87.50
1400-1600	1	95.00	95.00	95.00

STEERS:	QTY:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
200-250	36	105.00	265.00	190.60
250-300	47	150.00	225.00	200.26
300-350	66	115.00	200.00	162.50
350-400	116	110.00	175.00	140.77
400-450	132	110.00	162.50	129.97
450-500	170	100.00	147.50	127.05
500-550	175	106.00	140.00	123.43
550-600	131	105.00	131.00	117.36
600-650	113	105.00	129.00	122.33
650-700	57	108.00	126.00	116.26
700-750	35	108.00	121.00	115.13

HEIFERS:	QTY:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
200-250	22	100.00	200.00	158.13
250-300	40	125.00	185.00	151.15
300-350	52	117.50	185.00	152.98
350-400	59	100.00	160.00	127.19
400-450	60	105.00	140.00	121.35
450-500	75	105.00	126.00	116.98
500-550	73	100.00	134.00	114.67
550-600	32	102.00	140.00	114.02
600-650	29	90.00	140.00	112.35

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	422	821
COWS	114	196
STRS	87	172
HFRS	29	11
BULLS	6	4
YRLNGS	22	73
MIX	24	17
TOTAL	704	1294

Slaughter cows were higher this week with a few cows in the 90s. Calf prices looked to be a little stronger on Tuesday especially on front-end heavier calves. Marsh Cattle, Okeechobee; Adams Ranch, Ft. Pierce; Commercial Ranch, Medley; and, Brown Ranch, Miami, all topped the calf market with a high of \$2.65, bought by Foy Reynolds & Terry Bomhak. Monroe Arnold, Okeechobee, topped the cow market with a high of \$95, bought by Central Beef.

Make plans for our heifer sale and bull sales in October.

Todd

## Upcoming August blood drives

When you need blood you assume it will be there for you. But are you aware that only 4 percent of the U.S. population actually donates blood? All blood used at Raulerson is derived from Florida's Blood Centers, The Big Red Bus will be in Okeechobee on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Aug 7 – Raulerson Hospital, noon to 5 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 10 – Okee Health Department, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, 1 to 5 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 16 – Okee Correctional Inst., public invited, noon to 5 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 17 – Walgreen's, 1 to 6 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 20 – Publix, 3 to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 25 – Wal Mart, 11 a.m.

*Brahman Theatres III*

**Fri., Aug. 3<sup>RD</sup> - Thurs., Aug. 9<sup>TH</sup>**

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

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**Okeechobee Livestock Market**

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## News in Brief

### 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](http://www.FLHardestHitHelp.org) and use the **Referral code 85087** so you can be assisted by ONPH.



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Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer, but more than 98 percent of skin cancers can be cured with early detection. Schedule your skin check today if:

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Special to the Okeechobee News/OSS

## Seniors exercise class

Come join the fun every tuesday at noon at Okeechobee Senior Services for free exercise classes for seniors 60 and over and walk away the pounds at the Okeechobee Senior Services building, 1019 W.S. Park Street. For more information call 863-467-5180.

## WHO promotes breastfeeding

The road to life long health begins with breastfeeding. In August of 1990 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Aug. 1-7, to be World Breastfeeding Week.

The WHO supports and promotes breastfeeding with research to prove that breastfeeding an infant for the first six months of life has substantial health benefits.

These benefits include the reduction of infantile ear infections, digestive disorders, SIDS, asthma and other respiratory conditions. Also, mothers that breastfeed have substantial benefits that include the reduced chances of breast and ovarian cancer and the other chronic diseases.

Even with the many known benefits of breastfeeding mothers cannot be successful without proper breastfeeding support. Support from their families, health care providers, government entities, employers and communities are essential to be successful with breastfeeding. An example of a community supporter of breastfeeding is the WIC program.

The WIC program located at the Okeechobee County Health Department promotes and supports breastfeeding by providing prenatal breastfeeding classes and one-on-one support from trained peer counselors available to breastfeeding moms and infants. The WIC program's goal is to give every mom the chance to give their infant the Gold Standard of nutrition to begin the road to life long health.

As World Breastfeeding Week begins remember the many health benefits of breastfeeding and encourage mothers to breastfeed their infants. Also, use the community programs, like the WIC program, to increase your knowledge of breastfeeding and find the one-on-one support through trained peer counselors. This first week of August make a difference by supporting and promoting breastfeeding in your community.

For more information, please contact Shonda Flores at the WIC office 863-462-5814.

## 5 tips for helping an aging parent

When an adult child must step in to assist their mother or father with everyday activities like financial matters, medical issues and taking care of the house, traditional parent/child roles are reversed—often causing anxiety for both parties involved.

People are living longer than ever before and Mental Health America reports that nearly half of all Americans between 45 and 55 years old have living parents and children under the age of 21. Dealing with your own busy schedule while helping your aging parents can be stressful, even if they do not live with you.

Caring for your parents isn't easy, but the following tips may help ease the burden:

1. Know your parents' doctors, medications, and medical history. Keep a list of your parents' doctors' phone numbers handy and keep a chart that lists which medications and dosages should be taken throughout the day. Remind them to schedule and keep all necessary doctors' appointments (or schedule them yourself) and help them find a system that reminds them to take their medications. If you aren't with your parents continuously, a divided pill tray with slots for times of day is a good way to ensure that medications are taken at the right time.

2. Help with chores and projects around the house. If your elderly parents still live alone, even light chores like vacuuming, dusting and taking out the trash can become tough. Help them clean each week or hire someone to take this on. Many cleaning services are reasonably priced.

3. Watch their finances. Paying bills and doing taxes isn't easy for most people, particularly se-

nior citizens that may not understand or even use modern-day features like debit cards and online banking. Help take care of your parents' finances to ensure they aren't overspending and be sure to read the fine print when filling out forms and applications. Be aware that many people do not like to talk about their money with relatives, especially if they are having financial problems.

4. Make sure they are eating healthy meals. Good nutrition is important at any age, but it's not uncommon for seniors to skip meals to save money, forget to eat, or eat snacks instead of proper breakfasts, lunches and dinners. If possible, help your parents grocery shop and stock their pantry with healthy foods that are easy to prepare. A meal delivery program, such as Senior Services, may be able to bring food to your parents if you're not able to do so.

5. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Working and taking care of your children can make helping your aging parents even harder. Your parents may not be ready to live in a nursing home, yet still need more help than you can provide. They may be resistant at first, but the Family Caregiver Alliance offers a wealth of information about hiring in-home help for seniors.

Raulerson Hospital understands that seniors have special needs. If you're worried about a parent's health, our free Consult-A-Nurse® service is a great reference whenever you have questions. Our registered nurses can answer health-related questions and help you schedule an appointment with a physician for your loved one. Contact Consult-A-Nurse for a healthcare question or physician referral at 863-763-9228.

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 [CarlShumateforOkeechobee2012](#)

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

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# Local pastor returns from overseas deployment

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

The yellow ribbons tied around the palm trees in front of the Okeechobee Church of the Nazarene tell the story. Their new pastor, Rev. John Weller, recently returned from Kuwait where he served 188 days active duty as an Air Force Reservist. He was wing chaplain supervising a staff of seven.

When Rev. Weller was called as pastor of the Okeechobee church, he already had orders for Kuwait. However, he said the church was very patient. It was seven weeks after he became pastor at Okeechobee that he had to leave for military duty.

"I just love people and the opportunity to serve wherever I can," he said. Being a reservist gives him the opportunity to serve beyond the local area of his pastorate. "I believe I have the best of two worlds," he said. Rev. Weller enjoyed the opportunity to circulate around the base and meet and encourage military personnel. One of his accomplishments was to start a chaplains' and

chaplain's assistant dinner every Friday night where they could meet together for encouragement.

Rev. Weller has been favorably impressed with Okeechobee during his short time here. "I think there are great opportunities for ministry in Okeechobee," he asserted. "My goal is to reach out to the people and accept them where they are."

Rev. Weller and his wife, who teaches at Peace Lutheran Pre-School, are the parents of three grown children.

He has 30 years as a minister and 23 years as a chaplain in the Air Force Reserves where he holds the rank of lieutenant colonel. Rev. Weller grew up in Fort Lauderdale where he said his parents moved to escape the snow of the mid-Atlantic region. Ironically as a boy growing up in Fort Lauderdale he dreamed of working for the post office and living in Okeechobee because he likes to fish. Rev. Weller said he had not fished in many years however, he added, "I will be picking it up again."

He attended Trevecca Nazarene College

in Nashville and Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. Before coming to Okeechobee Rev. Weller served churches in West Palm Beach, Dover, Del, Leesburg, and Sarasota.

Rev. Weller has also served as police and hospital chaplain. Previous military deployments have taken him to France, Germany, England and to Kuwait once before. He was also part of the military response team in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew.

Rev. Weller said his most recent deployment may be his last.

While in Kuwait, he was able to communicate, via computer, once a month with the church leaders in Okeechobee.

His churches have always been supportive of his military duties. Rev. Weller has always had a friend or a supply preacher to fill in for him while he was on active duty.

As a reservist Rev. Weller now holds the position of reserve wing chaplain at McDill Air Force Base where he drills one Friday and Saturday a month.

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



Special to the Okeechobee News  
Rev. John Weller, the new Pastor of the Okeechobee Church of the Nazarene, is also a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserves. He recently returned from 188 days of active duty in Kuwait.

## Road closure to delay motorists

Construction work will begin Monday, Aug. 6, on the southern end of S.W. 87th Terrace. Motorists can expect delays for a few days. Then the road will be closed to traffic. Motorists will then have to take S.W. 67th Drive to reach S.W. Ninth Street. Motorists will still have access to S.W. Second Street and S.W. Fifth Lane from the northern end of S.W. 87th Terrace. The entire project will take 90 days. However, the road is not expected to be closed for the entire 90 days.



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OKEECHOBEE NEWS HEADLINE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2007  
"UTILITIES FORCED TO PAY UP"

"COUNTY WINS PROPERTY TAX SUITS OVER UTILITY GIANTS"  
"OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER BILL SHERMAN"

**\*Committed**

When I ran for election in 1992 I promised a fair impartial assessment for all taxpayers from larger corporations to vacant land owners. As a result of that commitment I have been sued by some of the largest corporations in Okeechobee. Our success in those litigations have resulted in additional tax revenue for the County and School Board.

I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON AUGUST 14th TO CONTINUE THAT COMMITMENT.



# TRIAL

Continued From Page 1

with the neck wound.

The assistant medical examiner went on to testify that because Mrs. Christensen's blood loss was so major, she would have been rendered unconscious in 10 to 20 seconds. Death, she continued, would have come in minutes.

Mr. Bakkedahl then asked her if, in her opinion, Mrs. Christensen was unconscious before her throat was cut.

"There is nothing to lead me to believe that she was rendered unconscious prior to the gaping wound to her throat," replied Dr. Rush-O'Neil.

Among the other wounds suffered by Mrs. Christensen were stab wounds to both sides of her neck, her upper chest, behind her right ear and to her lower back. There were also several defensive wounds to her hands and arms.

She also had bruising to her forehead and to the right side of her face.

The bruising on her right cheek was apparently caused by someone standing or "stomping" on her face.

Mr. Bakkedahl asked the doctor if the bruising on the woman's forehead, just over her right eye, could have been caused by someone standing behind her and putting their arm around her head to hold her. The



**Dale Middleton**

Forensic biologist Leslie Perrone told the jury she was able to pinpoint the source of DNA taken from a blood drop on a Wolverine boot reportedly owned by Middleton. That DNA, she told Mr. Bakkedahl, was solely Mrs. Christensen's—excluding an identical twin.

Ms. Perrone told the prosecutor there are approximately 7 billion people on earth, but Mrs. Christensen's DNA is one out of 1 quadrillion and 875 trillion.

When cross examined by defense attorney Thomas Garland, Ms. Perrone said she could not tell how that blood got on the boot or who left it there. She also said she tested scrapings from underneath Mrs. Christensen's fingernails but found nothing.

During his cross examination of Garrett Wade Fowler on Thursday, Middleton's roommate, Mr. Garland got Fowler to admit that he had worn Middleton's boots to work. At times, Fowler admitted, he even wore Middleton's clothes.

Another expert from the crime lab, Mark Chapman, told the jury Friday morning how

doctor replied that action would be consistent with the injury.

he matched a bloody shoe print left on a paycheck stub in Mrs. Christensen's bedroom to one of Middleton's boots.

With the sole of the left boot displayed on a large screen in the middle of the courtroom, Mr. Chapman pointed to two small areas near the outer edge of the sole where parts of the tread was missing. He then made an overlay of that sole and placed it over the shoeprint left on the check stub.

When Mr. Bakkedahl put that image up on the screen the jury could easily see the two "void areas" on the sole of the Wolverine boot.

That same print, testified Mr. Garland, was consistent with the shoeprint left on the right cheek of Mrs. Christensen.

Testimony will continue Monday, Aug. 6.



"The future of  
OUR COMMUNITY  
relies upon strong  
leadership. With your  
support, I will continue to  
work for YOU!"

**Re-Elect**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Margaret Garrard Helton**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**County Commissioner**

Democrats & Republicans will be able  
to vote for me in the Primary Election on  
Tuesday, August 14.

Paid by Margaret Garrard Helton, Republican for County Commissioner

## Woman heeds warnings; avoids scam

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

A local woman avoided falling for a scam in which she supposedly won \$2.8 million by remembering the numerous warnings issued by an Okeechobee detective.

Detective Bill Saum, of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), said the woman got a call Monday, July 30, informing her that she had won the money from Publisher's Clearinghouse. She was told that she would be receiving a check for \$5,000 and that she should pay her \$800 import tax out of that money.

The OCPD investigator asked that the woman's identity be withheld.

The caller then gave her two "briefcase codes." These codes, said the detective, were to be used to open the two briefcases containing her winnings.

"We all know Publisher's Clearinghouse shows up with that big, fancy check," said Detective Saum.

By now, he added, the woman knew this was a scam.

"She said she knew this was a fraud because she remembered reading about this in the newspaper," explained the detective, who got a call from the woman. "She told me she would normally have hung up but,

instead, she started taking down notes."

The woman told the investigator the caller ID on her telephone indicated the call came from Jamaica. The number, he said, was 876-850-0518.

After listening to the man's spiel for a few minutes, the woman told the caller she knew this was a scam and for him to take her name off his list. She then told the caller she was going to call local law enforcement.

"The man told her she won because she paid her bills on time this month—like he would know that," the detective scoffed. "He's scaring people by making them believe he knows everything.

"The whole thing is so ludicrous. Certainly, Publisher's Clearinghouse is not going to know if I paid my bills on time," he added.

Several times Detective Saum has called this newspaper to warn residents about scams being perpetrated in Okeechobee. But, he said, this is the first call he's had regarding Publisher's Clearinghouse and originating from Jamaica.

"Remember," continued the detective, "you do not have to pay to win."

Detective Saum went on to say the woman told him she appreciated the fact "that she was warned about these scams in the newspaper."

### 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.



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Residents at Grand Oaks Assisted Living Facility enjoyed a delicious lunch at Beef O'Brady's. The residents were very excited to choose from the large lunch menu and enjoyed dining in the banquet room.



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# Proposed county budget include no raises for employees

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

If the proposed county budget is approved, there will be no raise for county employees. The current budget year is the third that most county employees have gone without a raise, it is the fifth year for supervisors.

The proposed \$82.3 million county budget is a 7.23 percent reduction over the current budget. The largest single area of reduction on the county commission side of the budget is in the area of capital expenses. That area is down 25 percent from the current budget, due it large part to the completion of the new radio system. Personnel services are down 3.3 percent due mainly to attrition. Overall the net operating budget for

the county commission is down 9 percent.

While the total proposed budget for constitutional officers does not show a decrease, they have nevertheless held the line against rising costs. Their total proposed budgets have increased by only 0.06 percent. The sheriff's proposed budget has a pay increase. At this point the other constitutional officers are not offering their employees a pay raise.

Sheriff Paul May is proposing what he calls a "pay adjustment" of 3 percent. He does not call it a raise since he said his employees lost money when a new law that went into effect last year required them to pay three percent of their salaries toward their retirement.

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

# SFWMD, FWC expand Kissimmee River Recreation Area

Opening 60 acres to outdoor activities is the latest effort to provide access to public conservation lands

Outdoor enthusiasts have a newly expanded area for a variety of outdoor activities near the restored Kissimmee River as part of the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) effort to expand public access for recreation on conservation lands.

Working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the District is adding 60 acres to the expansive Kissimmee River Public Use Area. Hiking, hunting and wildlife viewing are among the activities allowed in the new section.

"One of the most inspiring locations to view successful restoration and a healthy ecosystem is along the Kissimmee River," said SFWMD Governing Board Vice-Chairman Kevin Powers. "Opening more of these restored lands for compatible recreation provides an opportunity for the public to re-

ally get out and enjoy the natural South Florida landscape."

Comprised of more than 30,000 acres, the Kissimmee River Public Use Area stretches along the Kissimmee River from State Road 60 south to Lake Okeechobee. Access is primarily by boat and is facilitated by a number of boat ramps within an area that spans portions of Glades, Highlands, Okeechobee, Osceola and Polk counties.

From camping and bike riding to hunting and horseback riding, the area offers a variety of outdoor experiences. A portion of the Florida Trail traverses the area, where hikers may see wildlife including white-tailed deer, alligators, wild turkeys, gopher tortoises and many species of wading birds. (Special-use licenses available from the District may be required for some activities, and FWC rules apply.)

This is the second time in recent years the District has worked with FWC to expand the Kissimmee River Public Use Area. In 2008, the SFWMD Governing Board passed a resolution requesting coordination with the FWC to add the 3,722-acre Chandler Slough to the public use area.

Inclusion of conservation lands into the public use area was inspired by the effort to restore the Kissimmee River,

which once meandered for 103 miles through central Florida. The Kissimmee River Restoration Project will return flow to 40 miles of the river's historic channel and restore about 40 square miles of river/floodplain ecosystem. The restoration project — a 50-50 partnership with the District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — is projected to be complete by 2015.

Throughout South Florida, the District provides recreational access to its public lands while continuing to manage them to support environmental restoration, water supply, water quality and flood control missions. At present, the District owns 621,000 acres of land that are open to the public. Many of these properties are in their natural state or have enhancements such as picnic tables, informational kiosks, primitive campsites and hiking trails.

For more information on recreational opportunities throughout the District's 16-county region, visit [www.sfwmd.gov/recreation](http://www.sfwmd.gov/recreation).

## Elect **Elvie Posey** For County Commissioner



*I have a strong work ethic and a commitment to see Okeechobee County and its citizens prosper. I want to keep Okeechobee County an affordable place to live and also provide the level of services that our citizens deserve. To do this we must follow a plan to develop our economy and improve our revenue stream. If we control spending and expand our tax base we can lower our tax burden, improve our community and enjoy a better quality of life for ourselves, our children, and our future generations.*

### EXPERIENCE

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- Graduate of Florida Association of Counties Advanced Commissioner Certification Program
- Member of Business Development Board of Okeechobee County
- Governor's appointee to Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Member of Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee

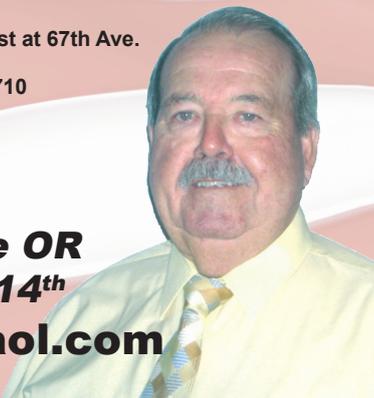
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- Widening and resurfacing of Berman Rd.
- Worked with FDOT to make turn lanes on S.R 70 West at 67th Ave. and 87th Ave.
- Repair of railroad crossing at 15A and 15B on Hwy 710
- Construction of the firestation on 441 North
- The Southwest drainage project on Wolff Rd.
- The Treasure Island canal-cleaning project
- Restoration of the old courthouse
- Creation of the Okeechobee Battlefield State Park

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### ENGAGEMENT

**CHEYENNE FALLMAN  
MICHAEL CORNELL**

Shannon Fallman and Robert Stossel of Okeechobee are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Cheyenne Fallman, to Michael Cornell, son of Jess and Patti Cornell.

Grandparents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Austin of Tell City Indiana, the late Norman Jenkins of Vero Beach, and Joyce Bond Okeechobee.

Grandparents of the groom are the late Mr. Henry Cornell and Mrs. Rose Cornell.

The bride to be graduated from Okeechobee High School. She is current-

ly majoring in business at Indian River State College. She is also employed by St. Lucie Battery and Tire and Eli's Western Wear.

Her fiancé graduated from Okeechobee High School. He is currently enrolled at Indian River State College studying to obtain his Bachelor's degree in Biology. He is employed by Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters, Halo Fishing, and Bett Fishing.

The wedding is set for October 13th, 2013 at Westgate River Ranch Resort.

# Fire/rescue responds to county brush fires

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue responded to several brush fires in the last few days.

On Sunday, July 29, two brush trucks and four personnel responded to a brush fire at 19998 N.W. 94th Drive that was called in at 4:28 p.m. The lighting-ignited fire burned about one-half acre of trees and grass. Access to the property was gained through a barbed wire fence. It took 500 gallons of water to extinguish the fire. The fence was repaired and the scene was turned over to the forestry service.

On Tuesday, July 31, fire/rescue received a call at 6:43 p.m. to respond to a brush fire two miles west of U.S. 441 N. When the three apparatus and four personnel responding arrived on the scene they discovered a large column of smoke. Access to the

property was gained by cutting the chain securing the gate. The fire was extinguished and the scene was turned over to the forestry service. The extent of the fire was about 25 acres.

Another brush fire call was received the next day, Wednesday, Aug. 1, at 4:10 p.m. There were three apparatus and four personnel sent to the fire at 10765 N.E. 120th St. The fire consisted of about one-half acre of pine trees and palmettos. The fire was quickly contained and the scene was turned over to the forestry service. Lightning was determined to be the cause of the fire.

On Thursday, Aug. 2, at 3:16 p.m. one apparatus and two personnel were called to the intersection of U.S. 441 N. and N.E. Ninth Avenue in Fort Drum to assist the forestry service. Upon arrival the call was canceled by the forestry service and they returned to the station.

## Conner withdraws candidacy in upcoming county commission race

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

"Dennis Conner told me he was withdrawing from the race," Supervisor of Elections Gwen Chandler stated Friday afternoon, Aug. 3. She said he made that statement to her earlier that same afternoon. Until Friday afternoon Mr. Conner had been a Republican candidate for the District 3 seat. Mrs. Chandler said that Mr. Conner said he was withdrawing because of health concerns.

Mr. Connor is the second person to withdraw from that race. Tara Boshell had

withdrawn earlier. That leaves only incumbent Frank Irby and challenger Brad Goodbread in the race which will be decided in the Aug. 14 Republican Primary since there are no Democratic challengers or challengers with no political affiliation.

When he was running for office Mr. Conner said he was concerned with providing more activities for our youth and stimulating economic development.

Efforts to reach Mr. Conner for comment were unsuccessful.

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

# ELECT

# Billy MARCUM

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# Real Life Ranch families enjoy flying model airplanes

By Joe Papasso

Special to the Okeechobee News

On Saturday, July 28, the Okeechobee Model Airplane Club hosted a morning of fun and flying for the families and children of Real Life Children's Ranch! The morning started with a quick introduction to Model Aviation followed by an extensive aerobatic show piloted by OMAC members Joe Allen followed by Richard Chivari. As soon as the smoke settled fellow OMAC member Pat Martin took to the air with a more traditional aerobatic show immediately followed by Frank Webster flying his magnificent DR-1 "Red Barron" Tri-plane. Later in the morning in a second air show with the same pilots and planes, OMAC Vice President David Fox flew his iconic red and white Decathlon in a "follow my leader" flight with Frank Webster flying his highly recognizable Piper Cub.

Between air shows and throughout the morning the members of OMAC had the privilege and pleasure to fly each of the children from the tiniest 6-year-old to the oldest teenager. Using a Buddy Box Training system and club instructors, everyone had a chance

to experience the wonder of flight first hand including a few house parents who dared to try! Everyone enjoyed the experience; the children even learned about the mystery of flight and had fun while doing it. As the families of Real life Children's Ranch drove away in their vans, all the club members commented that all they saw in the van windows were waving hands and ear to ear smiles on their faces.

The members of the Okeechobee Model Airplane would like to thank Real Life Children's Ranch for the opportunity and also for putting smiles on our member's faces, as well. OMAC would also like to recognize and thank Larson Dairies for their continued support through the use of their land as our flying field which allows our club to provide such an important service and positive experience for the youth of Okeechobee. If you have any questions about this event, Model Aviation or the Okeechobee Model Airplane Club please contact Joe Papasso at 561-252-0916 or Greg Gernat at 863-697-9915 or visit our website at <http://omac.embarqspace.com/#>.

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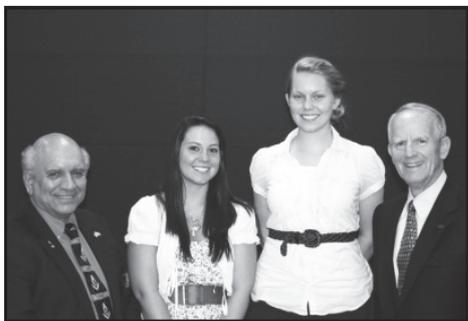
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Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

### Kiwanis Scholarship

Kiwanis Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are: Jim Vensel, Erika Jones, Anna Warren, Frank Irby.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

### LOAA Scholarship

Lake Okeechobee Airboat Association Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are: Jeff Brockaway, Lauren Fusco, Keller Orender, Brandon Baughman.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

### Keiser University Scholarship

Keiser University 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: Casey Holmgren, Tyler Crenshaw. In the back from left to right are: Karlie Bowers, Andi Baker, Rahsieka Minondo.

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**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.

## Pools & Supplies

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

Shop here first! The classified ads

## Wanted To Buy

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

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



## Agriculture

For more listings, go to [www.newszip.com](http://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](http://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.

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

## 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

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

## Houses - Rent

**\$599/ 3 br- BEST VALUE ON MARKET (OKEECHOBEE COUNTY)** - 3 bedroom, 2 bath situated on beautiful Ranch. Newer interior upgrades, paint, carpet, flooring, etc. Water, trash, pest control and lawn service included. Call Monday - Friday: 863-467-9800. NO PETS Approx 12 minutes Northeast of town center.

**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.

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

**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

**Houses - Rent**

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

**Real Estate**

For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

**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

Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."

**Mobile Homes**

For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

**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

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

Your next job could be in today's classifieds. Did you look for it?

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

**Mobile Home Sale**

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

Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

**Recreation**  
For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://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

**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

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

**Public Notices**  
For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

**Public Notice**

**Notice of Meeting Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board**

The Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at 3:30 P.M. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact the Planning and Development Department, 1700 N.W. 9th Ave., Suite A, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; (863) 763-5548.

All interested parties shall have the opportunity to be heard at this public meeting. Any person deciding to appeal any decision by the Licensing Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. Planning and Development tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official record of the Department.

Faye Huffman, Secretary to Board Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board 423258 ON 8/5/2012

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold its Regular Session on **Thursday, August 09, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.** in the "Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom" at the Historic Courthouse, 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of such proceedings is made, which record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Administrator's Office not later than four (4) working days prior to the proceeding at 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Room 123 Okeechobee, Florida 34972, or call 863.763.6441. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-222-3448 (voice) or 1-888-447-5620 (TTY).

Margaret Garrard Helton, Chair Board of County Commissioners Okeechobee County, Florida

Sharon Robertson, Clerk Board of County Commissioners Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Paula Poskon/ Deputy Clerk 423360 ON 8/5/2012

**Public Notice**

**Okeechobee County School Board Meeting Date Change**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Okeechobee County School Board on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, August 21, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in the School Board Administration Building, Room 303, 700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee. There will be no School Board meeting on August 14. School Board meetings are open to the public.

Ken Kenworthy Superintendent 421844 ON 8/5,12/2012

**READING A NEWSPAPER HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORLD AROUND YOU.**



**Public Notice**



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

**Kay Mullins Memorial Scholarship**

Kay Mullins Memorial Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are: Amy McDavid, Jason Rucks, Carlos Contreras, Bubba Mullins. Not Pictured- Bryan Stokes.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

**MidFlorida Credit Union Scholarship**

MidFlorida Credit Union Scholarship was presented at the annual Scholarship Awards Night May 24, in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall. From left to right are: Amy Danil, Jared Wilson, Juan Baza, Esther Banuelos.

**Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 World Wide \_\_\_
  - 4 Gunpowder element
  - 10 Turns seaward
  - 14 Firefighter's tool
  - 15 Dream up
  - 16 Losing strategy?
  - 17 Lather-holding cup
  - 19 Homely fruit
  - 20 Eye part containing the pupil
  - 21 Timeline divisions
  - 23 Habit wearer
  - 24 Kimono sashes
  - 25 Sock mender's tool
  - 28 Magi
  - 30 Sweden neighbor
  - 31 Utmost degree
  - 32 Church instrument
  - 35 Flag maker Betsy
  - 36 Violin knob for pitch adjustments
  - 38 "\_\_\_ to that!"
  - 40 Ecstatic way to walk
  - 41 Roman 700
  - 44 1992 Olympic skating champ Yamaguchi
  - 46 As an alternative
  - 48 Retriever or pointer
  - 51 Heidi's heights
  - 52 2011 minus year of birth, roughly
  - 53 It replaced the franc
  - 54 Handling the job
  - 55 Member of an Iraqi minority
  - 57 Joke that gets funnier with repetition
  - 61 "Now \_\_\_ me down ..."
  - 62 Complete
  - 63 Hurry, old-style
  - 64 Clearance event
  - 65 Smells to high heaven
  - 66 Blasting sply.

- 37 Unwelcome engine sound
- 38 Peppery salad green
- 39 Twenty Questions choice
- 41 "Afternoon \_\_\_": suggestive #1 hit of 1976
- 42 Ship's leader
- 43 Jewel box contents, briefly
- 44 Military pants
- 45 Hardens
- 47 Zesty taste
- 49 McJob holder
- 50 "\_\_\_ know you?"
- 54 Vending machine bills
- 56 Hair coloring agent
- 58 Author Anaïs
- 59 Rub the wrong way
- 60 Retrieve

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

B	L	O	W	N	S	A	V	E		C	O	N	I	C						
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xwordeditor@aol.com

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By Billie Truitt (c)2011 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**Pregnancy Center offers free services**

Free Pregnancy tests are available at the Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee. Office located at 500 N.W. Sixth St. and you may call the office at 863-467-8748. Free Parenting Classes available for mothers (and fathers) to be or those already with babies on Tuesday nights at 6 p.m. Call the office at 863-467-8748. Come find out about the Baby Boutique!

**Republican Party Office announces hours**

Need campaign signs? Need to register to vote? Need to change your Party affiliation? Need information on your favorite Republican Candidates? The Republican Party office at 401 NW 4th Street is open on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at most other times by appointment. Call 863-532-9623 for any information.

## 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).

• Sadey Nicole Fite, 19, N.E. Second St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 1 by Deputy Sergeant Robert Coleman on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (morphine) and possession of a controlled substance (clonazepam). She was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana less than 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia. Her bond was set at \$9,500.

• Kayla Harris, 19, S.E. 23rd St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 1 by the Deputy Sergeant Robert Coleman on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (morphine) and possession of a controlled substance (clonazepam). She was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana less than 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia. Her bond was set at \$8,500.

• Ronald Lee Jackson, 45, N.E. 16th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 1 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of possession of cocaine with intent to sell, and misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana under 20 grams

and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$35,000.

• Pardell Keyon Rembert, 20, N.E. 13th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 1 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of possession of cocaine with intent to sell, and misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$6,000.

• Kennan Karl King, 21, N.E. 13th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 1 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of possession of cocaine with intent to sell, and misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$6,000.

• Osman Geovanny Orozco, 26, N.W. 24th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 1 by Officer Jack Boon on a felony charge of grand theft. His bond was set at \$1,500.

• Vasillios Rallis, 33, N.W. 35th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 2 by Deputy Steven Pollock on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of grand theft. His bond was set at \$5,000.

• Joe Henry Hardy, 42, Hallmark Ave., Lake Placid, was arrested Aug. 2 by Deputy Yamil Astacio on a Polk County warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - burglary of a dwelling (two counts), violation of probation - grand theft, violation of probation - possession of a

forged license and violation of probation - uttering a forgery. He is being held without bond.

• Thomas Abram Hughes, 53, S.E. 19th Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 2 by Deputy Raul Marrero on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of driving while license suspended/revoked with knowledge. His bond was set at \$2,500

**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.**

## Investigations

### The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office investigated reports of the following crimes last week.

#### ASSAULT

- 3700 block of U.S. 441 N.
- 3200 block of S.E. 33rd Terrace
- 200 block of U.S. 441 S.E.

#### BURGLARY

- 7200 block of N.E. Fourth St.
- 10600 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 2200 block of S.W. 28th St.
- 11600 block of S.E. 55th St.

#### COUNTERFEIT MONEY

- 4100 block of U.S. 441 S.
- 1700 block of U.S. 441 S.

#### CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 800 block of N.E. 30th Ave.
- 800 block of N.E. 31st Terrace
- 4000 block of S.E. 24th St.
- 6500 block of S.E. 55th St.

#### THEFT

- 3400 block of S.E. 34th Ave. (identity)
- 7000 block of S.W. Ninth St. (grill)
- U.S. 441 S.E. (AC parts)
- 2200 block of U.S. 98 N.
- 3400 block of U.S. 441 S.E. (money)
- 4100 block of U.S. 441 S. (cell phone)
- 1100 block of S.W. Third St.
- S.R. 70 E. and Berman Road (boat)
- 1100 block of N.E. 12th St.



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**5/ACRES**

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

	<b>5015-H:</b> 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! <b>\$325,000</b> MLS #205942		<b>1005-M:</b> 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. <b>\$110,000</b> MLS #206049
	<b>1003-M:</b> 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. <b>\$69,900</b> MLS #206023		<b>1007-H:</b> 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. <b>\$170,000 NOW \$149,000</b> MLS #205526
	<b>3003-H:</b> King's Bay- 2 Bedroom 2 bath, screened porch, concrete driveway. Easy to show. HOA amenities in-ground pool, clubhouse, tennis court and lawn. <b>\$54,000 NOW \$47,900.</b> Make offer! MLS #205169		<b>5004-M:</b> 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. <b>\$29,000</b> 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**

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# D.R. Daniel holds Olympic gold

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee rodeo legend D.R. Daniel reached the national finals twice and a world championship finals once but he might be more proud of the gold medal he won at the 1988 Olympics held in Calgary.

Daniel said the 2012 Olympic Games do cause him to remember a bit about the trip he took to a beautiful part of Canada and sat on the world stage.

Daniel won the gold medal along with the American team in the sport of calf roping. The rodeo was a sport hosted by Canada that year. Each host country is allowed to add in an Olympic sport at each Olympics and they chose rodeo.

Daniel said the sport of rodeo received a boost because of the Olympic coverage but he said he would have liked more coverage on television. Rodeo, especially bull riding, has seen a large increase in interest and popularity from around the world, perhaps in part due to the Olympic coverage.

Daniel said he was used to the large stage having performed at the Dodge National Finals in Pocatello, Idaho in 1987 and 1988, and at the National Finals in 1986 in Las Vegas, Nevada. He said he was not intimidated by the media coverage or the large crowds in Calgary.

Today the sport of calf roping has been changed to tie down roping.

Daniel has retired from the rodeo circuit.

**“Representing America stands out in my career.”**

**— D.R. Daniel**

He was 24 years old when he competed in the Olympic Games. Only Canada and the United States fielded teams in rodeo that year and the U.S. prevailed.

Daniel said it was a wonderful experience to stand on the medal stand with his gold medal as the Star Spangled Banner was played. He also got to meet other Olympic athletes at those summer games. The rodeo team competed in bull riding, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, barrel racing and calf roping.

“It was a great honor to compete in the Olympics for my country. It was a good thing for rodeo to go into the Olympics for the first time because it really promoted the sport,” he said.

Daniel is a 1982 graduate of Okeechobee High School. He still works on his ranch west of Okeechobee and enjoys working with cattle and horses. He is also active in his church and charitable causes.

“Representing America stands out in my career. It was a great honor to compete and go to Canada and out of the country. I think Canada is our best neighbor,” he added.

## Sports News in Brief

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School swim team has already begun conditioning and practice for the new season. All high school students interested in being on the 2012-2013 team can attend tryouts this Monday, Aug. 6, from 8-11 a.m. at the Okeechobee Sports Complex pool. All that is required is a swim suit and goggles. A team meeting has been scheduled for Aug. 6 at 6:15 p.m. at the OHS science room #4-212. Parents are encouraged to attend the meeting. Call Coach Brian Turner for further details at 317-372-5639.

The Okeechobee Firestix program will hold fall tryouts on Aug. 30-31 from 6-8 p.m. at the Okeechobee High School softball field. Fall season will run from September through December. There are four teams this fall, an 8 and under, 10 and under, 12 and under and 14 and under squad. High school age girls will have a tryout in September. For more information call Coach Kim Hargraves at 863-634-6322 or 863-467-4900. You can also visit the Firestix Face book page Chobee Firestix.

Justin Mills finished in 24th place in the bareback riding competition at the National

High School Rodeo Finals in Rock Springs, Wyoming in July. He earned 105 points. Nat Stratton finished 18th overall in the saddle bronc competition as he earned 57 points. The Florida boy's team finished 21st out of 44 teams at the finals this year.

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.

On Saturday, Aug. 11, local competitors will participate in events for a chance to win bronze, silver and gold medals in the “Okeechobee Games.” Opening ceremonies will begin at 9 a.m. at the Sports Complex. The Okeechobee County Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting individual and team entries. For information, call 863-763-6950.

Lucky Lanes is setting up bowling leagues for the fall. 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.

### THREE CHOICES FOR VOTING

MAIL	EARLY	ELECTION DAY
<p><b>Absentee Voting</b></p> <p>Any registered voter may vote by mail.</p> <p><b>WOULD YOU LIKE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?</b></p> <p>A request for an absentee ballot can be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or through our website at <a href="http://www.voteokeechobee.com">www.voteokeechobee.com</a></p> <p>Absentee ballots must be returned by mail or hand delivered to the Elections Office by 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election.</p>	<p><b>Early Voting Dates:</b></p> <p><b>Sunday, August 5</b> thru <b>Saturday, August 11</b></p> <p><b>8:30 am to 4:30 p.m</b></p> <p><b><u>At Only One Location</u></b></p> <p>Elections Office 304 NW 2nd Street Historic Courthouse</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, August 14</b></p> <p><b>POLLS OPEN</b> 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>To verify your polling place, you may call the Elections Office at 763-4014, email the office at <a href="mailto:elections@voteokeechobee.com">elections@voteokeechobee.com</a> or use the office's website at <a href="http://www.voteokeechobee.com">www.voteokeechobee.com</a></p> <p><b>? Did you know voting in a precinct in which you do not live is illegal?</b></p> <p>Yes, it is illegal to vote in a precinct where you do not live.</p> <p>Section 101.045(1)F.S.</p>

**VERY IMPORTANT!**

If you have moved or had a name change since you last voted, or if you are unsure if you changed your address or name, contact the Elections Office (763-4014) to avoid delays on Elections Day.

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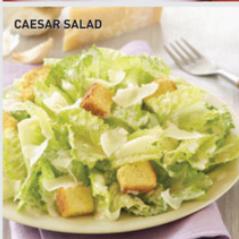
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# Jonathan Crawford discusses a busy, great year

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Jonathan Crawford is quite a busy man these days with trips to Omaha, Nebraska, Havana, Cuba, and back to Okeechobee in the past two months.

The Florida Gator pitcher took some time to speak to the Okeechobee news this week as he returned home to visit with family and friends.

Jonathan said it felt great to be able to come home and relax and to get away from baseball for awhile and give his body some rest.

He had an awesome sophomore year for the University of Florida as he helped pitch the Gators to the College World Series. Crawford said he got his chance when a few Gator pitchers went down with injuries and ran with it.

"The one thing that stands out for me is the no-hitter. It felt great and it was a really exciting night for me and the team," he said.

Crawford pitched the no-hitter against Bethune-Cookman in an NCAA Regional game in Gainesville. It was covered by ESPN and other major sports networks.

"My stuff was as good as it ever had been. I had everything going that night," he added.



Jonathan  
Crawford

Crawford made a few adjustments this year on the mound. His pitching coach dropped his arm slot. He threw more strikes and was better able to hit his spots consistently. He also has gained 15 pounds of muscle since his high school days at OHS.

Jonathan is also used to playing in front of large crowds. Gainesville was full for all of his starts, and the college World Series drew crowds of 20,000 to 25,000 fans each night.

Crawford said his appearance in the college World Series was also awesome, "It was fun but unfortunately we lost and I didn't do too well. It was still a great experience and I learned from it. Next year I can build off that experience and do better."

Crawford also has gotten used to the media attention. He watches all of his games on television to see how he pitched and takes notes on how he can improve for his next outing.

He also appreciates the support of his family and friends back in Okeechobee.

"I get a lot of well wishes and I want to thank all of my fans here in Okeechobee. I didn't really expect this success and it is definitely a dream come true. I just want to thank everyone for all of their support and it's definitely appreciated" he added.

Crawford returns to Gainesville this year for another year with the Gators. When the Major League Draft comes around next June, Crawford could potentially be a high round draft pick. He watched the 2012 draft on the MLB network but tries not to think

about the future.

"I just let things play out the way they do. If I think about that it might affect my play. I have put it in the back of my mind and not think about it," he explained.

Crawford can reach speeds of 97-98 miles per hour and has been told his stuff is comparable to major league ball players. He will definitely be scouted by a lot of teams this year. Crawford was drafted by the Miami Marlins after his senior year with Okeechobee High.

He said he will keep his professional options open after his junior year, "If I get an offer I can't really refuse I'll sign and play professional. If not I'll go back my senior

year. I can always get my degree in the off season."

Crawford's course of study is Family, Youth and Community Sciences. He said a career as a counselor has interest for him. He also made the South Eastern Conference honor roll for athletes this past year.

Another highlight for Crawford was a near two-week tournament in Cuba against professional players on the Cuban National Team. He said it was an honor to play for Team USA.

"The Cuban team was made of professional players from 20 to 40 years old who knew what they were doing. It was a lot of fun to play there," he added.

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