



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 99

Friday, August 17, 2012

50¢ Plus tax

Mobile home fire investigation continues

... Page 11

Python caught in Everglades sets new record

... Page 3



IRSC fall classes registration open

... Page 8

Lake Levels

12.15 feet

Last Year: 10.34 feet



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Republicans turn out for local primary

Sheriff Paul May's 82 percent of votes cast may be a new Okeechobee County record

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

Voter turnout almost met the Okeechobee Supervisor of Elections Gwen Chandler's predictions and one candidate may have set a new record in the Aug. 14 primary election.

Mrs. Chandler predicted a 30 percent turnout for the election, which attracted 28.6 per-

cent of Okeechobee's 18,812 registered voters. Republican voters seemed more motivated than Democrats and Independents, with 42 percent of the county's 6,914 Republicans casting votes.

Mrs. Chandler said Republicans had more local races on their primary ballots and this is the likely cause for the higher turnout.

"The Republicans delivered," she said.

Statewide the average for primary elections is around 25 percent, she said.

Sheriff Paul May may have set a record by receiving 82 percent of the votes cast in the Republican primary race.

"That certainly does stand out," said Mrs. Chandler. The highest percent she could recall in previous elections was in the 2000 primary for Okeechobee Tax Collector when Celeste Smith received 79 percent of the votes.

In the statewide races, Okeechobee County voters followed the state trend.

U.S. Senator- Republican Race

In the U.S. Senate Republican race, state wide Connie Mack received 58 percent of the vote: Mike McCalister, 13.85 percent; Marielena Stuart, 7.31 percent and Dave Weldon,

See VOTES — Page 5



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Ready for some football?

The Okeechobee High School Brahms football team has been hard at practice this week. Above, OHS quarterback Jack Radebaugh pitches the ball to a running back at OHS football practice. Coaches have been stressing attention to detail as they try and fine tune the team's rushing attack.

Detectives are part of Child Abduction Response Team

Team earns national CART certification

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Two area detectives are members of a regional Child Abduction Response Team (CART) that be-

came the fifth team in Florida to achieve national certification.

As members of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) Fort Myers CART, Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) detectives Rosemary Farless and

See CART — Page 5



Submitted photo/OCSO

Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office detectives William Suggs (left) and Rosemary Farless (right) are members of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Fort Myers Child Abduction Response Team (CART).

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Peace Lutheran greets new teachers

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee teachers returned to their classrooms Monday to prepare for the school year and among them will be over 30 new educators. Peace Lutheran Church welcomed the new teachers to town on Monday with the annual teacher luncheon at the church pavilion.

Reverend John Hirst said the Okeechobee school system is blessed to have a supportive community. He told the educators they can't find a better place to work. He mentioned approximately \$700,000 in local scholarships and \$500,000 spent for the youth livestock show in the past few months.

"You will find that this community is eager and willing to help the kids," he added.

A group of volunteers from the church put on the luncheon every year. About 50 people attended this year's luncheon. Also this week the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church and the First United Methodist Church will hold welcome lunches.

Rev. Hirst advised the teachers to be themselves in the classroom and to teach with humility and confidence. He also urged them to trust their instincts and told them kids want kindness and fairness from their teachers.

"Always push them to be their best and remember that you touch the future because you teach," he added.

Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy said this is always the most exciting time of the year because teachers are refreshed and ready to teach. He said the district hired a lot of new talent and many of them are former Okeechobee students.

"We are so proud that so many of our graduates have returned here to teach and help us out. It says a lot about them," he said.

The district does have a few hard-to-fill teacher vacancies left to fill but Mr. Kenworthy said he is confident the community will be impressed with the level of talent these new teachers have.

"My advice to them is to start strong. Get your classroom organized, get to know your students, stand firm on your discipline and



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Seminole Elementary has a new crop of teachers this year. Front row (L-R) Juliana Daaku, Maribel Gonzales, Rachel Williams and Jenni Ellis. In the back row are assistant principal Brian Barrett and principal Tracy Downing.



The Peace Lutheran Pre-School was represented at Monday's luncheon. Left to right are Sanna Easterday, Cindy Brandell and Nancy Dearborn.

engage these students in your lessons."

Open houses for Okeechobee schools is scheduled for Thursday from 5-9 p.m. with elementary schools from 5-7, the middle schools from 6-8, and the high school and freshman campus from 7-9 p.m.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. Heat index values as high as 102. Calm wind becoming east 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Tonight: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. Calm wind.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. Calm wind becoming southeast 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. Calm wind.

Sunday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. Calm wind becoming south 5 to 9 mph in the afternoon.



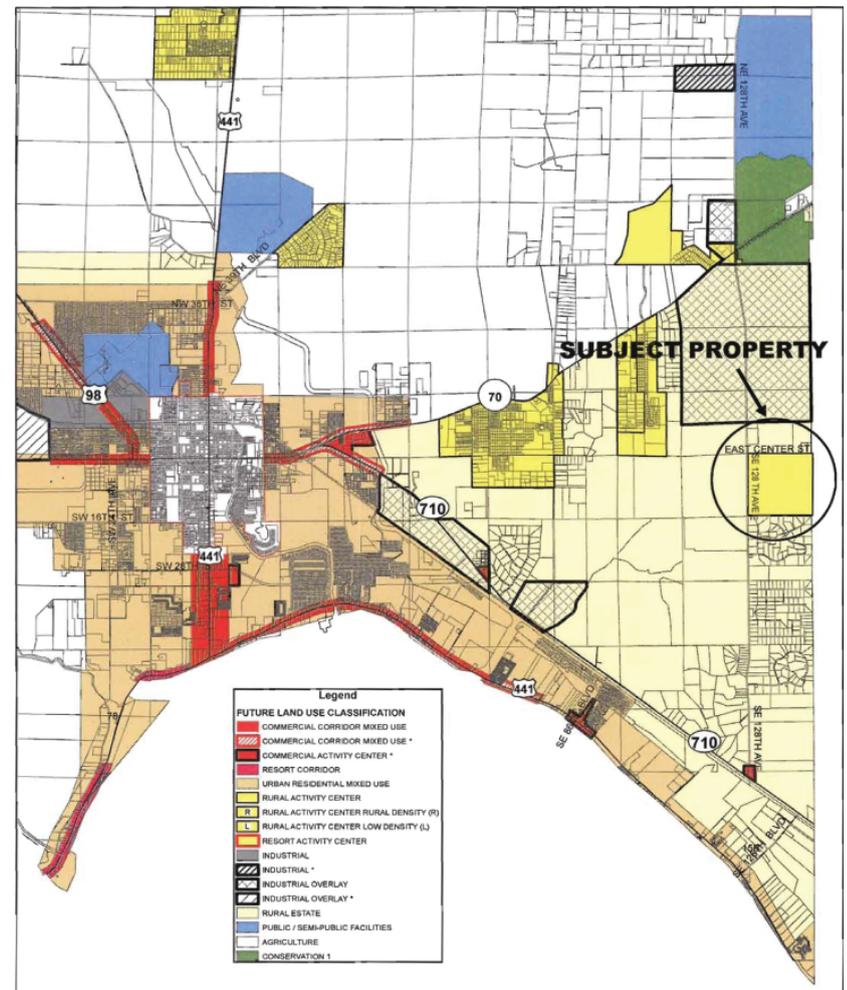
Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
From left to right are Maribel Gonzales and Michelle Lapointe who were among the new teachers at the Peace Lutheran Church lunch. Ms. Gonzales will teach second grade at Seminole Elementary and Ms. Lapointe will teach fifth grade at Osceola Middle School.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY gives notice that it shall hold a public hearing before the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners on Thursday, August 23, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Meeting Room, Room 270, Historic Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider adopting an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan of Okeechobee County.

The proposed comprehensive plan amendment is described as follows:

Amistad Holdings, LLC, property owner and applicant. Request to reclassify approximately 620 acres from the Rural Estate future land use classification to the Rural Activity Center classification. The change would increase the density for residential development from 1 unit per 5 acres to 1 unit per acre and allow for up to 15 acres of commercial development. The subject property is in Section 24, Township 37 South, Range 36 East, Okeechobee County, Florida. The property is on the east side of SE 128th A venue, north of Bridlewood Ranches subdivision and south of East Center Street.



THIS MAP HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE. THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DOES NOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ERRORS OR OMISSIONS CONTAINED HEREIN.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
LOCATION MAP

PETITION # C-2012-0101
APPLICANT: Amistad Holdings, LLC
DATE: August 2012

A copy of the proposed amendment shall be available for inspection by the public during normal business hours at the Okeechobee County Planning and Development Department, 1700 NW 9th A venue, Suite A, Okeechobee, Florida, 34972. Interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed amendment, and may submit written comments to the Planning and Development Department prior to the hearing.

If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, that person will need a record of the proceedings, and he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

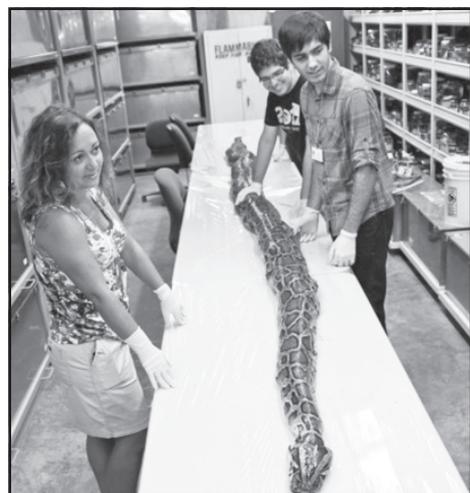
Publish in *The Okeechobee News*: August 17, 2012

UF scientists find 87 eggs in largest python from Everglades

By Danielle Torrent
University of Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — University of Florida researchers curating a 17-foot-7-inch Burmese python, the largest found in Florida, discovered 87 eggs in the snake, also a state record.

Scientists at the Florida Museum of Natural History on the UF campus examined the internal anatomy of the 164.5-pound snake Friday, Aug. 10. The animal was brought to the Florida Museum from Everglades National Park as part of a long-term project with the U.S. Department of the Interior to research methods for managing the state's invasive Burmese python problem. Following scientific investigation, the snake will be mounted for exhibition at the museum for about five years, and then returned for exhibition at Everglades National Park.



UF photo/Kristen Grace/Florida Museum of Natural History

The Burmese python is native to Southeast Asia and has been established and reproducing as an invasive species in Florida since 2000. Pictured are Claudia Grant (from left), Leroy Nunez and Nicholas Coutu.

"This thing is monstrous, it's about a foot wide," said Florida Museum herpetology collection manager Kenneth Krysko. "It means these snakes are surviving a long time in the wild, there's nothing stopping them and the native wildlife are in trouble."

Mr. Krysko said the snake was in excellent health and its stomach contained feathers that will be identified by museum ornithologists. Burmese pythons are known to prey on native birds, deer, bobcats, alligators and other large animals.

"A 17.5-foot snake could eat anything it wants," Mr. Krysko said. "By learning what this animal has been eating and its reproductive status it will, hopefully, give us insight into how to potentially manage other wild Burmese pythons in the future. It also highlights the actual problem, which is invasive species."

Native to Southeast Asia and first found in the Everglades in 1979, the Burmese python is one of the deadliest and most competitive predators in South Florida. With no known natural predator, population estimates for the python range from the thousands to hundreds of thousands. They were determined to be an established species in 2000 and are a significant concern, Krysko said.

"They were here 25 years ago, but in very low numbers and it was difficult to find one because of their cryptic behavior," Mr. Krysko said. "Now, you can go out to the Everglades nearly any day of the week and find a Burmese python. We've found 14 in a single day."

The rapid population growth led to recent state laws prohibiting people from owning Burmese pythons as pets or transporting the snakes across state lines without a federal permit. Florida residents also may hunt pythons in certain wildlife management areas during established seasons with a hunting license and required permits.

Everglades National Park and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are partnering with other agencies to address the increasing populations.

Skip Snow, a park wildlife biologist, said research of the snake's biology is important for understanding how to curtail the future spread of invasive species.

"I think one of the important facts about this animal is its reproductive capability," Mr. Snow said. "There are not many records of how many eggs a large female snake carries in the wild. This shows they're a really reproductive animal, which aids in their invasiveness."

Non-native species are considered invasive if they have a negative impact on native species or habitat, cause economic damage or pose a threat to human health and safety. Exotic snakes found in Florida are often the result of pet owners accidentally or intentionally releasing the animals. Citizens may dial 1-888-IVE-GOT1 to receive removal assistance by trained handlers.

Previous records for Burmese pythons captured in the wild were 16.8 feet long and 85 eggs.

"I'm really happy to be part of this team of researchers working on the Burmese python problem in Florida, and have been for a number of years," Mr. Krysko said. "But when I'm able to conduct this type of research here at the university, I'm able to teach new students and new researchers about python anatomy and discuss the problem with invasive species. We need all the help we can get, we really do."



University of Florida herpetologist Kenneth Krysko displays eggs found in the largest Burmese python from Florida to date. Florida Museum of Natural History researchers found a state record 87 eggs in the python's oviducts.



Courtesy photo/Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital

In 2009, a 17-foot-2-inch python was killed next to Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital in Okeechobee County. Some children spotted the big snake near a canal and notified veterinarian Jim Harvey, who killed the snake. According to FWC, it is legal to kill pythons if they are on private property. In this case, the big snake posed a threat to area children and pets.

Florida has the world's worst invasive reptile and amphibian problem. Krysko led a 20-year study published in September 2011 in *Zootaxa* showing 137 non-native species were introduced to Florida between 1863 and 2010. The study verified the pet trade as the No. 1 cause of the species' introductions and the Burmese python was one of 56 non-native species determined to be reproducing and established in the state.

Editor's note: In 2009, Okeechobee veterinarian Jim "Doc" Harvey killed a 17-foot-2 inch python on the bank of a canal next to Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital. The snake measured 26 inches in circumference and weighed 200 pounds, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission report. The python meat was donated to Arnold's Wildlife Center.

School news in brief

'Tween Summit set for Friday evening, Aug. 17

The Shared Services Network of Okeechobee County will proudly host the Fourth Annual 'Tween Summit, Friday, Aug. 17, 6-8 p.m. at the Williamson conference Center at IRSC. This summit is for incoming fifth and sixth graders and their parents. The goal of the summit is to provide both parents and tweens the tools to better communicate and to make better choices. The first 100 tweens will receive a backpack and supplies and all will receive a pizza dinner. Childcare will be provided.

OHS announces Senior Photo Day

Senior pictures are scheduled for Aug. 22 and Aug. 23, at Okeechobee High School. Make an appointment today by visiting prestigeportraitsfl.com. For more information visit the high school website or contact Mr. Pung at 863-462-5025 ext. 7-007.

2012-13 OHS Yearbook accepting senior ads

The 2012-2013 Okeechobee High School journalism staff is currently accepting ads for both the yearbook and newspaper. The deadline for senior ads and business ads for the yearbook is Sept. 28. Visit the high school website or contact Mr. Pung at 863-462-5025 ext 7-007. These ads help keep the newspaper affordable for all.

OHS Yearbook staff now accepting orders

The 2012-2013 Okeechobee High School journalism staff is currently offering this year's yearbook at a discounted price of \$40. This price is good through Sept. 7. The price will increase throughout the year. Reserve your copy now by contacting Mr. Pung at 863-462-5025 ext 7-007 or visiting yearbook-forever.com.

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Fri., Aug. 17TH - Thurs., Aug. 23RD

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

III: "PARANORMAN"
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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Sheriff's race

• Congratulations to Sheriff Paul May on his landslide victory. However, the huge win did not surprise me or anyone I know. The voters of Okeechobee are not fooled by web sites or confused by crazy rumors.

• I am not a Republican, so I didn't get to vote in the sheriff's election. I think if it had been an open election, Sheriff May would have won by an even larger percentage, although 82 percent of the votes is probably some kind of record.

School bus routes

• Who makes these decisions to cut a bus route and leave our children stranded to the mercy of the elements and potential hazards? It is an utter disgrace to pull bus service from a neighborhood. Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red, yellow, black and white, they are all precious in his sight.

Election

• I just came from voting. I presented my newly received voter's registration card that came in the mail just last week and the woman behind the table says "Oh, we don't need/want that... I'll need to see your driver's license." Then why thousands of new cards were printed and mailed to every listed voter in the county and they are not even using them? *Editor's note: Please see the page one election story for an explanation from the Supervisor of Elections on this issue.*

• The cards are issued because Florida law requires them.

• I think if you'll check your old card against your new card you'll see you are now in a different Congressional district.

• I suppose it's like the obsolete phone book the FCC still mandates be printed and distributed to all addresses whether they are "used" or not. Or like Saturday mail deliveries which are really unnecessary and would save a lot of money if stopped. I just can't relate to mandating an expense for something that is not used. Again, I must be missing the logic here.

• When you go vote they hand you a ballot and a pen. They tell you that these candidates are not candidates any longer therefore; you cannot vote for them. Why don't they just cross them out when you get your ballot? One of the candidates has dropped from the race a long time ago. How many people are going to waste a vote because they couldn't remember the instructions. *Editor's note: According to Supervisor of Election Gwen Chandler, they followed the Florida Elections Law, which details how voters must be notified when a candidate drops out of a race. The Elections Law does not allow poll workers to mark on the ballots.*

• The process took place and the people have chosen. I'd just like to know who the people are? All I hear about is cleaning house, we have to clean house. The county is suffocating.

• I think we elected good people who are public minded and will represent all the people. Clean house you say, maybe if you have better people to replace the ones in office.

Wildlife

• While returning home, I was transiting SW 16th Street (where it merges with SW 48th Ave). This area is often the "graveyard" of hogs, deer and other game. I spotted in the distance what I believe was a panther. It was fairly big and certainly moved like a cat. Has anyone else seen something like this there?

• I would not be surprised to find a big cat there. I have seen coyotes, deer, hogs and wild turkeys in that area. I stopped the car the other day and watched about a dozen wild turkeys cross the road ahead of me. The posted speed limit says that curve is 15 mph, and drivers would be wise to slow down there because you have no idea what might be in the road when you come around that curve. But people take it too fast and wind up hitting an animal.

• I know we have more panthers than the government says.

• Not too long ago, on Facebook, a woman who lives on one of the streets off S.W. 67th Drive reported seeing a panther cross her pasture. Those two areas would be in the same range for a panther. A big cat would just cut across the pasture land between 48th and 67th.

Letters to the editor

Upcoming Blood Roundup needs support

There's a lot of hurt'n folks out there and that's why The Blood Roundup is getting under way. One of the ways we can heal them is to offer goodie bags to every blood donor so they come and give to help others. We have 600 bags, kindly donated by TD Bank and Mid Florida Credit Union, ready to fill, but WE NEED STUFF to put in them. YOUR ADVERTISING ITEMS not only are appreciated, but they will reach a lot of customers, for little expense. We accept any number of items—from 50 to 600. If you order now, they will be here for our packing date of Nov. 1. Join us in (finally) making our goal of 600 units of blood drawn in two days. Order those key chains, pill boxes, band-aids, pens, pencils, note pads, one-day passes, colored markers, bag clips or anything else on which you can put your name. Contact me when they're in or if you have any questions, AND THANK YOU.

For more information, call 863-467-2557 or 863-610-2176.

Raye Duesinger, Roundup Chairman

National Day of the American Cowboy

Okeechobee Main Street would like to extend a special "Thank-You" to everyone who supported, participated, attended and volunteered for the 2012 National Day of the American Cowboy event. This national event is celebrated on the fourth Saturday in July and despite the heat, this two-day event was a huge success. Many enjoyed the cattle drive through the streets of Okeechobee, the Ranch Rodeo and various festivities held at the Agri-Civic Center. A crowd of over 3,000 people enjoyed outstanding BBQ, fair treats and an opportunity to purchase specialty items from the different vendors.

OKMS would like to recognize our partner in the event, the Cattlemen's Association, who sponsored the Cattle Drive and Ranch Rodeo. Thanks to David Hazellief, President of the Cattlemen's Association, for his assistance and support for this event. BIG congratulations to Ranch Rodeo winner, Cow Creek Ranch, and team members Ernesto Franco, Julia Milburn, Beau Anastasio, Justin Seagle and Ladd Bass. OKMS would like to extend a huge thanks to our Platinum Sponsors for this event: MidFlorida Credit Union, Seacoast National Bank, Tobacco Free Florida, Treasure Coast Dermatology- Dr. Tim Ioannides, Teez 2 Pleez, American Drilling Services, Inc.,

the Seminole Tribe of Okeechobee and Syfrett Feed Company, Inc., who was our Entertainment Sponsor. Thanks also to our Gold Sponsors: CenterState Bank, St. Lucie Battery & Tire -Okeechobee, Ameriprise Financials, Labor Finders of Okeechobee, and Waste Management. We also appreciate our Silver/Bronze Sponsors: Grow 'n Grass Spreader Service, Pine Creek Sporting Club, Culpepper and Terpening, Inc., Edward Jones Investments, Quail Creek Plantation, Tree Locators, Harbor Community Bank, Daniels Plumbing, G.M. Worley, Ropers Café, Pueble Viejo, 101 Ranch - Haynes and Susan Williams, Pete and Susan Clemons, Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, Walpole Feed and Supply, Brahma Bull Restaurant and Lounge, B.H. Tucker Real Estate, and Preferred Properties of Okeechobee Homes and Land, LLC.

OKMS relies on the support of the community, including the countless volunteer hours provided by our members. We could not have done it without the following individuals: Frank DeCarlo, John Creasman, Maureen Burroughs, Toni Doyle, Cheryl Daniels, Donna Huth, Mari Walther, Kim Shockley, Marnie Amiet, Jeff Sheffield, Lisa Watts, Merilee Berglund, Diane Davies, Joe Suarez, Leah Suarez, Raye Duesinger, Robert Orr, Brandon Hudson, Vicky McAllister, Cindy Brandel, Mark Brandel, Yvonne Morgan, Thomas Barber, Dowling Watford, Ralph Keel, Gail Schultz, Milton Schultz, Jerry Trout, Dale Nolan, Keith Stripling, Terry Burroughs, and Glenn Baker.

We have great appreciation for our advertising partners, the Okeechobee News, WOKC Radio, and the Pennysaver who consistently go out of their way to support and promote our functions. Thanks to the Cowboys Restaurants as well for distributing our flyers and to MidFlorida Credit Union for assisting with ticket sales.

Our final BIG THANKS goes to Alta Mosley and the staff of the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center, the County Commissioners and the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Department for their assistance and support throughout the entire event. Special appreciation is due to the Board of Okeechobee Main Street and our Corporate Sponsors- Bank of America, Syfrett Feed Company, Okeechobee the Magazine, Seacoast National Bank, TD Bank, Big Lake Cancer Center, Raulerson Hospital, and Floridas Blood Centers without whom none of our activities would be possible! Thanks Okeechobee for your continued support of Okeechobee Main Street!

**Cindy Birdashaw,
Executive Director, OKMS**

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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

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

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
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- 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.



Okeechobee Presbyterian Church welcomes teachers

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee Presbyterian Church gave a warm welcome to new teachers and school staff members Wednesday as they held their annual luncheon.

Tables were beautifully decorated with crafts and each teacher was given school supplies for the new year. There were also several door prizes given out to the new educators.

Reverend Loy Mershimer said he was very pleased with the turnout and the work done by his church, "They are a good group of people and it is always good to see the administrators and leaders of the schools."

Rev. Mershimer said his church started the tradition of hosting lunches for new

teachers. He said the church plans all year to purchase significant door prizes for the teachers, which he described as a welcome package.

"We really stand behind our teachers and our administrators, 100 percent. They are doing a very important job as they train the young minds of the next generation," he added.

Everglades Elementary principal Cynthia Weigum brought two new teachers with her to the lunch. She said it is awesome that the community and churches come together to welcome new teachers and staff. She said these new teachers bring a lot to the school.

"We're glad that they're in Okeechobee. They all have such new ideas and they bring

new energy and new focus to our staff. It is good to have them," she added.

Teachers have been busy this week with training sessions and preparing their classrooms for open house.

Ms. Weigum said they have also added a new lab and a peaceful playground on her campus with a lot of new games and activities.

Rev. Mershimer said the luncheon is a way his church can say thank you to the teachers and let them know they support them. He also thanked his church members and volunteers.

"The volunteers have done a wonderful job. They have gone the extra mile and whenever we hold these types of community events we don't hold anything back," he said. "The entire church is involved."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
OHS assistant principal Dylan Tedders (right) invited Susan Kuipers to the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church luncheon Wednesday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Central Elementary was well represented at Wednesday's new teacher luncheon. Left to right are Judy Simpson, Danielle Maes (Pre-K), Cecilia Ferguson (first grade) and Amanda Strickland (kindergarten).

CART

Continued From Page 1

William Suggs can now help find a missing child anywhere across the U.S.

There are seven child abduction teams across Florida.

The Fort Myers CART consists of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies from the counties of Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, Glades, Hendry, DeSoto, Highlands and Okeechobee.

These agencies are designed to immediately mobilize to provide assistance and investigative resources to the lead law enforcement agency when a child goes missing under suspicious circumstances.

"It must be a true child abduction," said Detective Farless, "and the child must be under the age of 18."

The local detectives said they were notified around May 31 that they had received their national certification.

Detective Farless and Detective Suggs took part in a mock exercise in Sarasota on Feb. 23 that led to their certification.

In that exercise, members of the Fort Myers team were tested in their communication capabilities, leads tracking systems, command post operations and search and

rescue efforts. Other resources used in the exercise included command posts, K-9s, air support and crime scene.

The point of the exercise was to successfully recover a 12-year-old girl who had been abducted from her bus stop. As a result of their efforts law enforcement personnel, as well as civilian team members, safely recovered the child.

The CART program began in 2005 as a result of the abduction of 11-year-old Carlie Brucia in Sarasota in February of 2004. That abduction ended in the child's death.

Florida's CART went nationwide when the U.S. Department of Justice' Office of Justice Programs (OJP) modified the program so that it could be utilized by other states.

OJP's nationwide development of the program builds on the AMBER Alert program.

The Florida AMBER plan is designed to broadcast critical information regarding a missing or abducted child that is thought to be in danger. This information is disseminated by using the Emergency Alert System, Dynamic Message Signs and lottery machines.

An AMBER Alert is not used for runaway or family abductions unless it has been determined that the child's life is in immediate danger.

VOTES

Continued From Page 1

20.14 percent.

In Okeechobee County, Connie Mack received 55.7 percent of the votes cast, Mike McCalister, 16.81; Marielena Stuart, 10.7 percent and Dave Weldon, 16.77.

U.S. Senator Democrat Race

In the U.S. Senate Democrat race, state wide, Bill Nelson received 78.79 percent of the votes cast and Glenn A Burkett received 21.21 percent.

In Okeechobee County Bill Nelson received 64.46 percent of the vote and Glenn A. Burkett received 35.53 percent.

U.S. Representative District 17

In the U.S. Representative District 17 race, district wide, Tom Rooney received 73.21 percent of the vote and Joe Arnold received 26.79 percent.

In Okeechobee, Tom Rooney received 54.04 percent of the votes and Joe Arnold 45.95 percent.

State Rep. District 55

In the State Representative District 55 race, district wide, Cary Pigman received 50.13 percent of the vote and Randy Johnson received 49.87 percent of the vote.

In Okeechobee County Randy Johnson received 67.28 percent and Cary Pigman received 32.71 percent.

Mrs. Chandler said there is a high probability that there will be a recount in this race because district wide the difference was only 30 votes. Cary Pigman received 5,974 votes to Randy Johnson's 5,944.

Changes

The primary was a confusing election for some due to changes in district lines and changes in polling places. To help voters understand the changes, the Supervisor of Elections office sent information packets out to all county voters. In addition to new voter information cards (Florida no longer uses voter identification cards), the packets included a form that could be mailed back to request an absentee ballot. Mrs. Chandler

explained that the cost of half of the printing and all of the postage was paid for with a grant.

State wide redistricting following the 2010 Census meant many Okeechobee County voters are now voting in a different district, Mrs. Chandler explained. In addition, the county has consolidated the number of polling places to save money. The county went from 18 to 11 voting districts and many voters had new polling places. For example, all city voters now vote at the First Baptist Church center known as "The ROC."

"Even though we talked about the changes and advertised the changes, we felt it was important to get the word out," she said, adding that it was the first county wide voter identification card mailing the county has done during her tenure as Supervisor of Elections. Usually, she said, they only send out cards to those whose voting information has changed. She said the mail-back forms to request an absentee ballot were very popular, and they provided hundreds of absentee ballots to voters who requested them.

"We wanted to make this information more prominent to all voters," she said.

The November election will be a difficult election, said Mrs. Chandler, and she wants voters to be as informed as possible.

"Not only will the November election be a high-stakes election, it is going to be a very different election from any I have administered," she said. "For the first time, voters will have two pages to read through. We have to include every word of the initiatives on the ballot." In past elections, the ballots contained summaries of initiatives such as proposed amendments to the state constitution. This year, due to a change in the law, the ballot must include the entire initiative. Mrs. Chandler said she wants people to know they have the option of requesting an absentee ballot so they have plenty of time to read the initiatives. If people are reading the initiatives for the first time in the voting booth, "it is really going to slow things down," she said.

Those who are not already registered to vote have until Oct. 9 to register to vote in the Nov. 6 general election. Early voting for the Nov. 6 election will be Oct. 27 to Nov. 3.

Community Events

Cowboys for Christ to meet

Cowboys for Christ of Basinger will meet on Thursday, **Aug. 16**. A potluck supper will begin at 6 p.m. followed by services at 7 p.m. The Shock Sisters of Labelle will be the featured entertainers. For more information, call Doyle McDuffie at 863-763-2285.

Democratic Executive Committee to meet

The Okeechobee Democratic Executive Committee will meet on Thursday, **Aug. 16**, in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's beginning at 6 p.m. Any interested Democratic is invited to attend.

OKMS announces

August Mixer event

The August Main Street Mixer will be sponsored by Seacoast National Bank, North Branch, 500 N. Parrott Avenue, on Thursday, **Aug. 16**, from 5-7 p.m. Join the staff at Seacoast for a "stroll through modern Rome" while you have the opportunity to socialize with fellow citizens and local business owners. Light hors d'oeuvres, drinks and door prizes will be provided. For more information contact the Okeechobee Main Street Executive Director Cindy Birdshaw at 863-357-6246 or stop in the Main Street office at 111 Northeast 2nd Street (directly north of CVS). Okeechobee Main Street mixers are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend.

Pet Day event announced

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

Cypress Hut Eagles to host dinner night

Cypress Hut Eagles will serve a 16 oz. rib eye steak dinner on Friday, **Aug. 17**, open to the public. Music by Jimmy and Debbie Harper. All proceeds go to the charity events fund. For more info please call 863-467-1154.

Eagles North announces upcoming events

Eagles North will host Steak Night on Friday, **Aug. 17**, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, Card Bingo begins at 5 p.m. Aug. 21, it's Bingo beginning at 1 p.m. and again on Aug. 22, beginning at 4:30 p.m. All proceeds go to community benefit fund. 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee.

VFW hosts 'Sandoone' benefit event

VFW Post 4423 at 300 W. 34th Street, Okeechobee is holding a benefit for Sandy Hoyt, aka "Sandoone" on Saturday, **Aug. 18**, from 1 to 5 p.m. Sandy has entertained us all with her zany musical acts for many years, but now needs help to cover the cost of a much-needed surgery.

The Post is serving hamburger or hot dog platters for a donation of \$5, and there will be a bake sale, 50/50 raffle, auction, games and prizes. Music will be provided by XXL Karaoke and friends. The public is invited. For more information, contact Dennis Prewitz at 863-467-0085.

B.R.A.T. hosts Teen Dance

Come and join the August edition of the B.R.A.T. Club Teen Dance on Saturday, **Aug. 18**, from 7 until 10 p.m. "Tweens and teens ages 12-16 are invited to get one last "dance off" before the school year begins. Enjoy pizza, soda, chips, games and entertainment all for \$7 admission. For more information, please call Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996.

Buckhead Ridge Ladies Auxiliary announce events

Buckhead Ridge Ladies Auxiliary 9528 will hold their monthly breakfast on Aug. 19, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. We will have eggs, sausage, home fries, biscuits, gravy, juice and coffee for a donation of \$5. Buckhead Ridge Ladies Auxiliary 9528 will have their Wednesday night dinner starting at Aug. 22, at 5:30 p.m. They will be serve Spaghetti by Rene.

Thursday is bingo day. Burgers will be for sale.

These events are open to the public, for additional info please call tje Post at 863-467-2882.

Orchid and Garden Club

Monday, **Aug. 20** at 6 p.m. the Garden Club will meet at the extension center followed by the Orchid Club at 7 p.m. For the Garden Club Extension Agent Dan Culbert will give a presentation on How to Get a Garden Ready for Fall. For the Orchid Club grower Victor Elliott will lead a discussion on How to Prepare Your Orchids for Possible Freezes. Bring any problem orchids for analyses or favorites in bloom. For more information call the extension center at 863-763-6469.

Eagles host corn hole tournament

Come to Eagles North, 9985 Hwy. 441 North,, on Saturday, **Aug. 25**, for a corn hole tournament. Sign up early! There will be a 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.

Martha's House to benefit from fundraiser breakfast

A pancake breakfast will be held to benefit Martha's House on Sunday, **Aug. 26**, from 7-11 a.m. at the Frosty Mug, 6315 U.S. Hwy 441 S.E., Okeechobee. The club will donate all food and supplies and 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit Martha's House. The breakfast is only \$5 and includes pancakes, homemade biscuits and sausage gravy, coffee and oj. Donations will also be accepted. For more information, please call 863-467-8232.

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.

Jeffery Scott Plummer, 47

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — Jeffery Scott Plummer passed away Saturday, August 11, 2012.

He was born November 14, 1964, to John F. and Lillian Ann (Abbey) Plummer.

The family received friends at 1 p.m. on Thursday, August 16, 2012, in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, Fla. Graveside services followed in the Ft. Drum Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Pastor Don Leon officiated the service.

All local arrangements were entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Cemetery, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972. On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

Athletics Scholarship

Athletics 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: Tyler Finney (Flagler), Kenny Buckner, Samantha Harrell (Bravard). In the back from left to right is: Richard Donegan (Florida Atlantic).



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS

U.S. Army Scholarship

U.S. Army 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: Brittany Bush, SSgt. Narvaez, Tracy Slusser. In the back from left to right are: Daniel Jansen, Jeffery Lipfert, Agustin Leon, Marvin Fuller.

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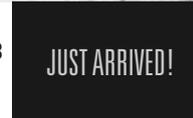
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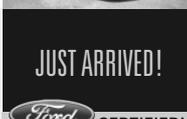
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Kiwanis welcomes Real Life Ranch

By Ken Keller

Special to the Okeechobee News

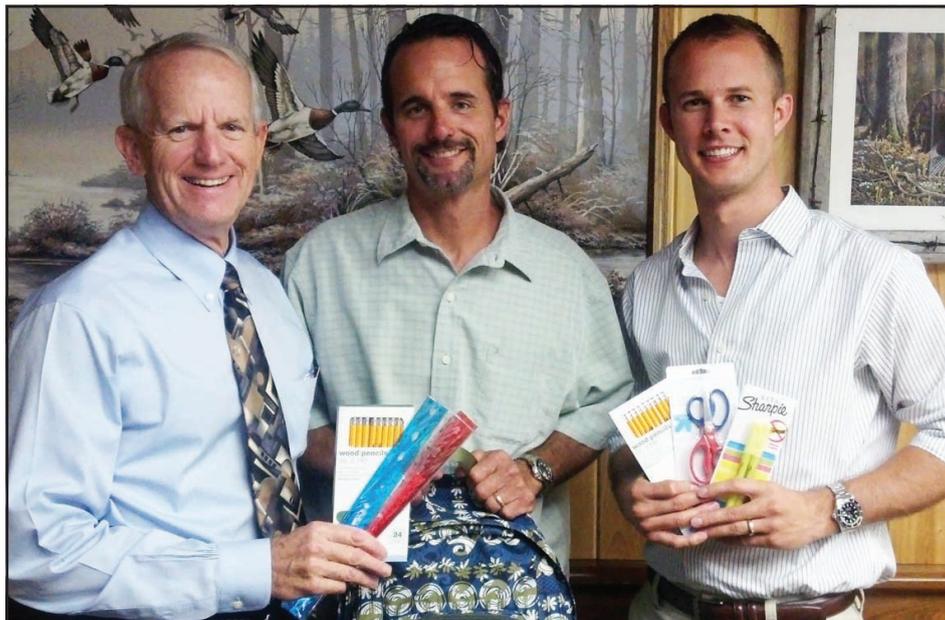
Mark Mayers, the executive director for Real Life Children's Ranch was the guest speaker at the weekly meeting for Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee. Mr. Mayers spoke on the function of Real Life Children's Ranch specifically their annual school supply drive which is currently happening.

Real Life Children's Ranch is a faith-based ministry that offers residential, family style group foster homes, and are licensed by the state of Florida to provide group foster homes for boys and girls who have been abused, abandoned and/or neglected. The Real Life Children's Ranch currently services twenty three children.

One of the signature fundraisers the Real Life Children's Ranch does is an annual school supply drive. The drive collects a wide variety of school supplies from pens to scientific calculators. School begins locally on Aug. 20.

The Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee presented Mayers with a donation of over \$2,300 to help with the school supply drive this year.

The Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee meets every Thursday afternoon at noon at The Lodge Restaurant.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Ken Keller
Thursday's Kiwanis Club meeting included a visit from Okeechobee's Real Life Children's Ranch. In the photo (left to right) are: Frank Irby- past Kiwanis president, Mark Mayers - executive director for Real Life Children's Ranch and J.D. Mixon - president elect of Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee.

Register for fall IRSC Dixon Hendry Campus

Fall registration for classes at Indian River State College is under way. Students can choose among Bachelor's Degree and Associate Degree programs and quick job training. Okeechobee area residents who are ready to achieve their education goals have many classes to choose from at the IRSC Dixon Hendry Campus at 2229 N.W. 9th Avenue in Okeechobee.

It is no surprise that 80 percent of future job opportunities will require education beyond high school, and programs available at the Dixon Hendry Campus make achieving that goal more accessible than ever. Programs available at the Dixon Hendry

Campus include EMT, Nursing Assistant, an A.A.S. Degree in Business Administration, Child Development and Office Administration - which offers flexible scheduling for day and evening, among others.

The Dixon Hendry Campus also offers quick job training that provides opportunities for short-term and certificate programs in fields like dental assisting, air conditioning, office skills, auto mechanics, agriculture and more. Classes begin Aug. 23. Students can register and pay for classes online at www.irsc.edu. For more information about the IRSC Dixon Hendry Campus, call 863-824-6000. For more information about IRSC

programs, degrees and offerings, call the IRSC Information Call Center toll-free at 1-866-792-4772 or email info@irsc.edu.



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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?

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."



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

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:

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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 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!

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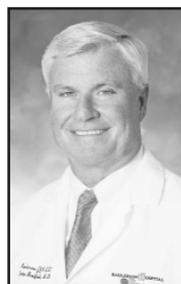
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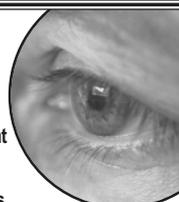
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Cause of mobile home blaze unknown

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The investigation into the cause of a mobile home fire on S.E. 86th Boulevard has been turned over to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

A report by Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue (OCF/R) Firefighter Josh Borgstrom indicated the singlewide mobile home was totally engulfed in flames when they arrived on scene at 2:49 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15.

Firefighters from the OCF/R and the City

Fire Department battled the blaze until the last unit cleared the scene at 5:20 p.m.

The OCF/R report estimated the damages to the home and its contents to be \$80,000.

According to the report a neighbor told firefighters they had entered the home earlier and taken the dog for a walk. When the neighbor opened the door to return the dog they reportedly smelled gas in the home.

Another neighbor told firefighters they heard a loud boom. When they walked outside to investigate the noise they saw their neighbor's home on fire.

The report went on to state that a total of 5,000 gallons of water was used to extinguish the blaze.

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).

- Juan Carlos Monterroso-Guiterez, 34, N.W. Second St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 15 by Officer Belen Reyna on a felony charge of domestic battery by strangulation. He is being held without bond.

- Sabrina Snyder, 22, N.E. 11th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 14 by Deputy Keith Murrish on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felonies of violation of probation - dealing in stolen property (two counts) and violation of probation - giving false information to a pawnbroker (two counts). She is being held without bond.

- April Lee Murray, 30, N.E. Third Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 14 by DOC's Melissa Spencer on felony charges of violation of probation - purchase of a controlled

substance (cocaine) and violation of probation - possession of cocaine. She is being held without bond.

- Tony G. Huet, 44, S.E. 80th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 15 by Deputy Joe Gracie on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Alecia Nichole Gilman, 22, N.W. 98th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 15 by Deputy Tammy Serafini on Okeechobee County warrants charging her with the felonies of violation of probation - burglary of a conveyance (two counts), violation of probation - grand theft of a firearm and violation of probation - grand theft. She is being held without bond.

- Robert Kelly, 53, S.E. 13th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 16 by Deputy Justin Akins on a felony charge of aggravated battery on a pregnant person. His bond was set at \$5,000.

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

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517 S.W. Park St. • Okeechobee

OKMS needs Labor Day Festival vendors

Okeechobee Main Street is proud to announce the 2012 All-American Labor Day Celebration scheduled for Sept. 1, 2 and 3, in the Flagler Parks! OKMS is now taking applications for vendors and non-profits interested in setting up a booth. If you are interested, please contact Cindy Birdshaw at 863-357-6246 or visit our website at: www.okeecheebemainstreet.com.

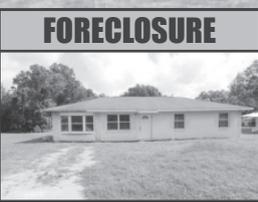
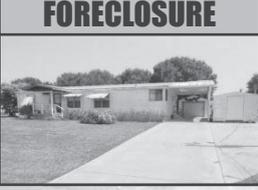
VFW Post announces education competitions

Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 4423 announces the kick-off of Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition. Local High School students have the opportunity to compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships and a trip to Washington, D.C. Nov. 1, is the deadline at the post level. Students must write and record a 3-5 minute essay on a given theme. Please contact Dannye Strickland at 863-763-0589 for information and entry form.

Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 4423 announces the kick-off of "Patriot's Pen Essay Competition." Middle school student in grades 6-8 have the opportunity to compete for thousands of dollars. November 1, is the deadline at the post level. Students are invited to write a 300-400 word essay on a patriotic theme. Please contact Dannye Strickland, at 863-763-0589, for information and entry form.

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

	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		1002-H: In town 4BR/1BA CBS with tile/carpet flooring throughout. 1342 Total Sq Ft. Nice starter house or rental. Needs some TLC. Make offer! \$59,900 MLS# 206025
	1009-H: Oak Park 2/2 plus small office. New carpet and tile in screen room, fenced back yard, carport and storage shed. 1064 under air/1640 total sq ft. \$68,500 MLS #206095		2001-M: Taylor Creek 3 bed, 2 bath mobile home. Fireplace, carport, porch, large shed and long paved driveway. 1568 under air, 2548 total sq ft. Make an offer! \$54,900 MLS #206079
	3007-M: Treasure Island Deep Canal Access, Lg family rm addition and Master rm, deck, seawall, dock, boat shed, two sheds, CBS att. garage, Tile floors kitchen & living rm, new roof in 2001. A/C 2 yrs old. \$69,000 MLS #205854		5001-H: Okeechobee Hammock 3 bedroom, 2 bath CBS house on a large lot. 1,320 Living Sq Ft. Great location for east coast commuters. \$115,000 MLS #205917

• 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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Offered Exclusively by:
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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

Services

Golf Cart Batteries, Repairs, Parts, Service and charger repairs. Will buy unwanted carts & chargers pick up and delivery. Call Dan's Golf Cart Repairs 863-610-0479 or 863-763-8318

Shop here first! The classified ads

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

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

Employment

For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Employment Full Time

We are currently hiring for a Diesel Mechanic, for a Full Time position to perform the duties below.
Position Description: Diesel Mechanic position which is responsible for diagnosing and repairing medium to heavy-duty trucks and trailers under minimal supervision. Repairs will include Preventative Maintenance inspections and repairs, air and hydraulic brake repairs, tire repairs, warranty procedures, driveline, steering & suspension, electrical trouble shooting, AC and other duties as assigned.

In addition, the Technician will assist other Technicians in repairs and will be expected to comply with Safety and EPA procedures and continue to learn additional mechanical duties such as advanced diagnostics, internal engine and transmission repairs.

Requirements:

- *18 years of age or older
- *Must be able to read codes and instructions on the computer.
- *Must be able to document repairs on the computers.

Additional Requirements:

- *High School Diploma or GED equivalent preferred.
- *Must have a Valid Driver's License and the ability to meet our driving qualification.
- *Prefer a Commercial Driver's License or ability to obtain one.
- *3 years of proven medium to heavy-duty vehicle repair including: PM's, tire & wheel, air & hydraulic brakes, diagnosis, computerized diagnostics, electrical.
- *Prefer certifications in tire & wheel, brakes, AC & /or EPA.
- *Must possess at minimum a set of hand tools up to 3/4
- *Ability to work flexible schedules including shift work, weekends, holidays, and on-call rotations for roadside assistance.

We offer a competitive pay & a comprehensive benefits package including: health, life, dental, vision, short-term, adoption assistance, employee assistance program, pre-paid legal plan, and paid holidays and vacation your first year.

Send resumes to: 9400 SE 126th Blvd, Okeechobee, FL 34974 or call Rose at 610-429-2316 for more information. www.ryder.jobs, click on Diesel Technicians/Fuelers position, Become a Ryder Employee, Enter Reg. Number 20249, Submit Interest. *You must create a user name (your email address) and password if you don't already have one.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PASSWORD IN A SAFE LOCATION Complete the information that is needed and save till you have successfully completed the assessment. Click on "jobs I've applied to" and click on assessment, if that is available on the right hand side, If that is not there, then you have successfully completed the assessment.

Employment Full Time

A/C Mechanic
Requires a minimum of 5 yrs exp DFWP

Apply in person:
312 SW 2nd St
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Employment Full Time

CDL O.T.R Driver wanted must have Hazmat Indor. 10 days out. Must live within 75 miles of Okeechobee, FL., 36 cents a mile to start. (863)697-6468

Dispatcher/Driver

Must have Class B Hazmat & Tanker Endorsements. Benefits, Retirement, Medical, & Vacations. Please apply in person to: Palmdale Oil, 120 S. Parrott Ave., Okeechobee, Florida.

Financial

For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Business Opportunities

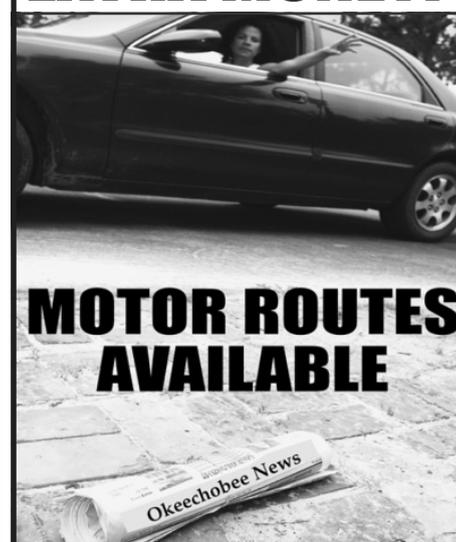
NOTICE

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.

Business Opportunities

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

107 SW 17th St • Suite D

Inquire Within

NO PHONE CALLS

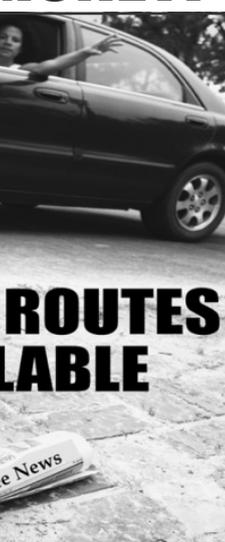
Services

For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

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

Business Opportunities

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NO PHONE CALLS

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LESLIE SUMMERFORD EXCAVATING LLC. Call us for your excavation needs; ponds, hauling of fill dirt, shell, millings (when available) transportation of heavy equipment. Call Leslie for excavation needs. (863)763-9330 or (863)634-7659.

Merchandise

For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Collectibles

WANTED - Highwaymen Oil Paintings. H. Newton, A. Hair, R.A. McClendon, G. Buckner, 1715 Fleet Treasure Coins. Big \$\$ Call 772-562-5567

Furniture

FOR SALE BAMBOO LOOK GLASS TOP TABLE & SIX CHAIRS. DRAWING TABLE/WORK TABLE. CALL 863-623-6446

Wanted To Buy

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

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

Apartments

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

Houses - Rent

Nice 3bd/2ba in Basswood area. \$800 per month, 1st and security deposit. Call 772-260-5029

FOR RENT Rentals

For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Condos/Townhouses Rent

2bdrm/ 1bath Unfurnished, Water, Sewer, W/D, in Kings Bay, small pet ok Pool etc. \$690/mo. Call 863-634-8331

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

CLEWISTON 2BR/2BA, Bass & Sun Condo. Pool. Tennis Courts. Boat Ramp. On canal view lake view/access. Furnished. Tile floors. All appl's including W&D. \$950/month. 305-360-2236. cmultra@terranova.net

Taylor Creek Condo-2BR/1BA, furnished, boat dockage, pool & water included, totally new kitchen & bath, \$850/month + 1 month security. No pets. Call (863)658-4264

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.

Houses - Rent

OKEE 3/1 Small Updated Home, central a/c, wood flooring, Tiled Bathroom, w/d, Well Water. \$700 mo. plus security Located by 15-B. Call 786-201-0306

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

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

Houses - Sale
\$49,900 STEAL
3br./2 ba. Built in 2004, needs nothing. Fenced yard, City water. Call 863-801-1739.

Mobile Home Rent

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

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

TREASURE ISLAND - 2/2, with detached 1/1 suite, large yard. \$725/mo. + sec. dep. No pets. 863-634-0663

Mobile Home Sale
Palm Harbor Village New 2012 30x76 4bd/3ba \$15K Off All Homes 800-622-2832 ext 210

Apartments

OKEECHOBEE COMMONS
863-467-9771 TDD 711
402 NW 10th Street
Okeechobee, FL 34972

Accepting applications for affordable 1 bedroom apartments for qualified applicants. Elderly age 62+ and/or disabled, with or without children. Rent starts at \$662.00 monthly with income based rental assistance available. Units equipped with central heat and AC, stove, refrigerator, carpet and blinds.

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



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

Campers/RVs

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



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. Dorch 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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD153

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FOUR K RANCH INC 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: **1802** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**

Description of Property: **BASSENGER PARK LOTS 25 & 26 BLOCK 4**

1-17-35-33-0010-00040-0250
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**ARLETHA SIMS
ERNEST E SIMS**

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 **20th 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. 423269 ON 8/10,17,24,31/2012

Public Notice

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

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD152

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

Certificate No: **3385** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **SOUTH OKEECHOBEE LOTS 1 & 2 BLK X**

3-21-37-35-0040-00044-0010
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

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

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

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

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

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No wonder newspaper readers have more fun!

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD153

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FOUR K RANCH INC 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: **1802** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**

Description of Property: **BASSENGER PARK LOTS 25 & 26 BLOCK 4**

1-17-35-33-0010-00040-0250
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**ARLETHA SIMS
ERNEST E SIMS**

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 **20th 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. 423269 ON 8/10,17,24,31/2012

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO. 2012CA000258

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, acting through the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, f/k/a Farmers Home Administration, a/k/a Rural Housing Service, Plaintiff,

vs. **AMANDA SCRUGGS; CARLOS LUNA, JR.; and OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA,** Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF OKEECHOBEE

TO: **AMANDA SCRUGGS** and **CARLOS LUNA, JR.**, whose last known address is 3535 N.W. 31st Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage regarding the following property in OKEECHOBEE County, Florida: **Lot 2, Block 34, UNIT NUMBER 2 BASSWOOD INCORPORATED, according to the Plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 28, of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida** has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on: **FREDERICK J. MURPHY, JR., Esquire, Attorney for Plaintiff, Boswell & Dunlap LLP, 245 South Central Avenue, Post Office Drawer 30, Bartow, FL 33831, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition.**

DATED on this 13th day of August, 2012.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT **FREDERICK J. MURPHY, JR., ESQUIRE, 245 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE, BARTOW, FLORIDA 33830, TELEPHONE (863) 533-7117, WITHIN TWO (2) WORKING DAYS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE. IF HEARING IMPAIRED, (TDD) 1-800-955-8771, OR VOICE (V) 1-800-955-8770, VIA FLORIDA RELAY SERVICE.**

SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: **Linda F. Young**
Deputy Clerk

424148 ON 8/17,24/2012

Public Notice

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

Donna J. Dorch 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

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application(s) for permit have been received for project(s) in Okeechobee County:

Stephen Myers (Pine Creek Cottages Parcel 2) One North Clematis Street, Suite 100, West Palm Beach, FL 33401, has submitted Application 120703-10 for modification of Water Use Permit #7-01036-W to irrigate 7.5 acres of landscape lands. The water will be withdrawn from the Surficial Aquifer and the project is located in Section 1, Township 35 South, Range 35 East.

Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a copy of the staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the South Florida Water Management District, Attn: Regulation Division, PO Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680, but such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 21 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to review the application documents. Application status and associated documents can also be obtained by accessing the District's website (www.sfwmd.gov) and selecting the Application/Permit Search on the ePermitting page. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.

423787 ON 8/17/2012

Notice of Hearing on Petition to Involuntarily Terminate Parental Rights

In Re: Adoption of Kaylie Lavina Windsor, a minor, No. 63-11-1317 in the Orphan's Court Division of The Court of Common Pleas of Washington County, Pennsylvania.

To: Seth Howard, Putative Father of Kaylie Lavina Windsor, who was born on July 28, 2012, in Dubois, Clearfield County, Pennsylvania. A Petition has been filed asking the Court to put an end to all rights you have to the child, Kaylie Lavina Windsor. The Court has set a hearing to consider ending your rights and the birth mother's rights to the child, Kaylie Lavina Windsor. Those hearings will be held in Orphan's Court Division, Court of Common Pleas of Washington County, 1 South Main Street, Courtroom No. 2, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301 on Tuesday, September 4, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. You are warned that even if you fail to appear at the scheduled hearing, the hearing will go on without you and your rights to the child may be ended by the Court without your being present. You have the right to be represented at the hearing by a lawyer. You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer or cannot afford a lawyer, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help. If you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, please advise the office of that when you telephone or visit.

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE
The Washington County Bar Association
119 South College Street
Washington, PA 15301
(724) 225-6710

This is to inform you of an important option that may be available to you under Pennsylvania law. Act 101 of 2010 allows for an enforceable voluntary agreement for continuing contact or communication following an adoption between an adoptive parent, a child, a birth parent and/or a birth relative of the child, if all parties agree and the voluntary agreement is approved by the court. If you are interested in learning more about this option for a voluntary agreement, contact your caseworker at Catholic Charities, 212 9th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, (412) 325-6754, or your attorney, if you have one.

MARK K. McDONALD, Esquire, attorney for Petitioner, 1111 Oliver Building, 535 Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222 (412) 471-9900.
423686 ON 8/10,17,24/2012

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 47-2012-CA-000199

CITIBANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR BEAR STEARNS ASSET BACKED SECURITIES I TRUST 2005-CL 1, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-CL 1, Plaintiff,

v. **THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BETTY JANE DAVENPORT A/K/A ELIZABETH JANE DAVENPORT, DECEASED; HARVEST CREDIT MANAGEMENT IV, LLC, A COLORADO LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO DIRECT MERCHANT BANK-METRIS; ELIZABETH LAWRENCE A/K/A CHRIS LAWRENCE; GARY DAVENPORT; BRUCE DAVENPORT; KAREN WASNIEWSKI; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAME UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS,** Defendant(s),

NOTICE OF ACTION

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BETTY JANE DAVENPORT A/K/A ELIZABETH JANE DAVENPORT, DECEASED whose residence is unknown if he/she/they be living; and if he/she/they be dead, the unknown defendant(s) who are spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the Defendants, who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Pasco County, Florida:

LOT 1, BLOCK 3, OAK PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 3, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

This property is located at the Street address of: 1702 Southwest 34th Terrace, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 350 Jim Moran Blvd., Suite 100, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney, or immediately thereafter, otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

This Notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in The Okeechobee News. WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on August 13, 2012.

SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE COURT
By: **Linda F. Young**
Deputy Clerk

**** IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT,** It is the intent of the 19th Judicial Circuit to provide reasonable accommodations when requested by qualified persons with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation to participate in a court proceeding or access to a court facility, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Court Administration, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986; (772) 807-4370; 1-800-955-8771, if you are hearing or voice impaired. 424147 ON 8/17,24/2012

Prohibición de discriminación ilegal

Ninguna persona será discriminada en base a su raza, color, religión, sexo, edad, origen de su nacionalidad, información genética, creencias políticas, estado civil, orientación sexual, discapacidad, ni por sus antecedentes sociales y familiares, o en base al uso de otro lenguaje, además del idioma Inglés, o por ser estudiantes identificados como LEP (aprendices del idioma Inglés), no se les debe de excluir de participar o negarseles beneficios, o ser sujetos a discriminación, en ningún programa o actividad educativa, o en ningún empleo o prácticas realizadas por este Distrito Escolar, salvo lo dispuesto por la ley. (Junta Directiva 6.43). Todos los programas de Educación Profesional y Técnica tienen la inscripción abierta y todos los estudiantes son elegibles para solicitar estos cursos.

La Junta Escolar deberá de cumplir con todos los derechos federales y del estado incluyendo el Decreto de 1990 sobre Americanos Discapacitados (siglas en Inglés-ADA), Title IX, Section 504, Florida Education Equity Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2008 (GINA), and the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.

Cualquier empleado, estudiante, aspirante del ingreso o aspirante del empleo que alegue haber sido discriminado u acosado por cualquier grupo (otro empleado, estudiante o persona), podrá llevar su queja directamente al/a director/a, supervisor, Coordinador de Justicia del Distrito o Superintendente del Distrito.

El Coordinador de Justicia del Distrito / Directora de Recursos Humanos
Quejas de Title II, Title IX, ADA/Section 504, Florida Education Equity Act
700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 462-5000, Ext. 267
424241 ON 8/17/2012

Public Notice

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

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

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

Public Notice

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FLORIDA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF OKEECHOBEE
CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2012CA260
PARCEL NO.: 138**

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,
Petitioner
-VS-
RICHARD KEVIN BASS, A SINGLE MAN, ET AL
Defendants.

**NOTICE TO SHOW CAUSE
AND
NOTICE OF SUIT**

STATE OF FLORIDA TO:
**GL Funding Limited
14901 Quorum Drive, Suite 900 Dallas, TX 75254**

You are each notified that the Petitioner filed its Petition and its Declaration of Taking in this Court against you as defendants, seeking to condemn by eminent domain proceedings the above described property located in the State of Florida, County of OKEECHOBEE.

You are further notified that the Petitioner will apply to the Honorable Elizabeth A. Metzger, one of the Judges of this Court, on the 10th day of October, A.D., 2012, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at the OKEECHOBEE County Courthouse, Okeechobee, Florida, for an Order of Taking in this cause. All defendants to this suit may request a hearing at the time and place designated and be heard. Any defendant failing to file a request for hearing shall waive any right to object to the Order of Taking.

AND
Each defendant is hereby required to serve written defenses, if any, and request a hearing, if desired, to said Petition:

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Post Office Box 1249 Bartow, Florida 33831
c/o Andrew J. DeNering, Esquire
Assistant General Counsel (863) 519-2623
Florida Bar No.: 975117

on or before the 3rd day of Sept., A.D., 2012, and file the originals with the Clerk of this Court on that date, to show cause what right, title, interest, or lien you or any of you have in and to the property described in the Petition to show cause, if any you have, why the property should not be condemned for the uses and purposes set forth in the Petition. If you fail to answer, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition. If you fail to request a hearing on the Petition for Order of Taking you shall waive any right to object to said Order of Taking.

To all said defendants who are living, and if any or all defendants are deceased, the unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, lienors, or other parties claiming by, through, under, or against any such deceased defendant or defendants, if alive, and, if dead, their unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, legatees, creditors, lienors, or other parties claiming by, through, under, or against any such deceased defendant or defendants, and all other parties having or claiming to have any right, title, or interest in and to the property described in the Petition, to wit:

FP NO. 1969042
SECTION 91070-000 STATE ROAD 70
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY
DESCRIPTION PARCEL 138

ESTATE OR INTEREST TO BE OBTAINED: FEE SIMPLE - RIGHT OF WAY

That portion of the northeast 1/4 of Section 18, Township 37 South, Range 36 East, Okeechobee County, Florida.

Being described as follows:
Commence at the southwest corner of the northeast 1/4 of said Section 18 said corner being on the westerly right of way line of NE 56th Avenue (per Official Records Book 196, Page 57, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida); thence along the west line of said northeast 1/4 and the westerly right of way line of said NE 56th Avenue,
North 00°28'02" East a distance of 1,058.85 feet to the survey base line of State Road 70; thence along said survey base line, North 67°53'58" East a distance of 642.13 feet; thence leaving said survey base line, South 00°28'02" East a distance of 38.78 feet to the southerly existing right of way line of said State Road 70 (per Florida Department of Transportation Maintenance Map, Section 91070 as recorded in the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida, Road Plat Book 2, Pages 57-63) for a POINT OF BEGINNING; thence along said southerly existing right of way line the following two (2) courses: 1) North 67°40'13" East a distance of 12.91 feet; 2) North 67°49'03" East a distance of 124.21 feet to the end of said courses; thence leaving said southerly existing right of way line, South 00°26'43" East a distance of 28.17 feet; thence South 67°53'58" West a distance of 137.02 feet; thence North 00°28'02" West a distance of 27.91 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.
Containing 3,573 square feet.

"IT IS THE INTENT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TO PROVIDE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS WHEN REQUESTED BY QUALIFIED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS AN ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A COURT PROCEEDING OR ACCESS TO A COURT FACILITY, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT: COURT ADMINISTRATION, 250 NW COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE, SUITE 217, PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL 34986; (772) 807-4370; 1-800-955-8771, IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED."

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court on the 26th day of July, A.D., 2012.
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

423771 ON 8/10,17/2012

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD151**

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

Certificate No: **2970** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **TALL PINES ESTATES LOT 4
1-18-37-36-0010-00000-0040**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH
JAY P HUGHES**

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

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

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

OHS Class of 2012 students earn Bright Futures Scholarships

Okeechobee High School held the annual Scholarship Awards night in May in the OHS Auditorium.

Fifteen members of the Okeechobee High School Class of 2012 who received Bright Futures Scholarships were not recognized at the annual OHS Scholarship Awards night because their grades from the 8th semester had not yet been submitted to the Bright Futures Program and these scholarships were dependent on their final grades. There are three categories of scholarships:

- FAS – Florida Academic Scholar;
- FMS – Florida Medallion Scholar and
- GSV – Gold Seal Vocational.

No photo was available for Katherine Peterman, FMS.



Heather Abner, FAS



Marisa Angle, GSV



Wendoly Castaneda, GSV



Vanessa Estrada, GSV



Lauren Halliday, FMS



Judson Harris, FAS



Delon Hayes, FMS



Karli Holtkamp, FMS



Jordan Maynard, GSV



Jerice McDonald, FMS



Jessica Wackler, FMS

Crossword Puzzles

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | | |
| 1 Jags of the past | 1 Romantic writing? | 31 Database command | 40 Get together about |
| 5 32 ounces at Long John Silver's, e.g. | 2 Bar staple | 32 Family nicknames | 42 Sad, on the Seine |
| 15 Actress Thompson | 3 He won comedy and drama Emmys for the same role | 33 Pitching device? | 43 Current event around Christmas? |
| 16 Good time for criticism? | 4 Nickname for an athletic "kid" | 34 Some winds | 45 Stupid co-star |
| 17 "___ of beauty outvalues all the utilities of the world": Emerson | 5 Home of A. Warhol's "Campbell's Soup Cans" | 35 Unfair treatment | 46 Star of TV's "Trackdown" |
| | 6 1972 DDT banner | 36 Warren's "Bugsy" | 49 Personal column? |
| | 7 They may be fond | 37 Bears no resemblance to peanuts? | 51 Abbr. in Québec place names |
| | 8 Work basket | 38 Be postponed | 52 Triumphant cry |
| | 9 Apply to | 39 Previous | |
| | 10 Cougar, e.g., for short | | |
| | 11 Rick's pianist | | |
| | 12 "Did we get the nod?" | | |
| | 13 Nodding, with "out" | | |
| | 14 Give the nod up by fans | | |
| | 24 Clanton and a "South Park" sibling | | |
| | 25 Royal Arms of England symbol | | |
| | 27 Scrape, to a tot | | |
| | 28 Rest, as at an inn | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

TREK IDOL ROIL
RENE SUMO APNEA
EXTRA INLIANDESTS
AKA THOLEBARON
DELTPETA STNS
ONDISC DORM
LOSTONESBEARS
PROMYAMAHA
COHOGRADPIER
ONEUNITAHA DAM
BRITISHSHILL
RANIN SILKSTOCK
AMINO ELIAYORE
PEGS ATAD ROXY

xwordeditor@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15														
17														
19			20				21					22		
23						24						25		
26							27						28	
29											30		31	
32													33	
34	35	36										38	39	40
41												43		
44													46	
47														49
50														53
54														55
56														57

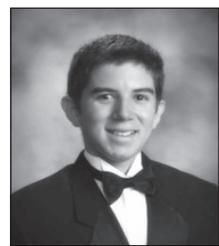
By Frederick J. Healy
(c)2011 Tribune Media Services, Inc.



Taylor Mills, GSV



Mikaya Reed, FMS



Oscar Ruiz, FMS

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:



Special to the Okeechobee News/Jo O'Mallan

Winners of the Tug-of-War were: (left to right) Bronze – Team Bazinga’s Rachel Jones, Todd Jones, Miranda DuBois and Sam Smith; Gold – Muddawgs - Jesse Lara, Laura Saucedo, Tahni Sheffield and Lalo Rodriguez; Silver – Blue Heron Night Golfers’ Janet Estremera, Pat Girdner, Amanda Blewette and Efrain Ochoa.

Okeechobee Summer Games showcases local athletes

Special to the Okeechobee News

Okeechobee’s first Summer Games were among the excitement this past weekend at the Sports Complex.

On Aug. 11, teams competed in 10 events to rack up their medal count. It began with opening ceremonies at the pool with a great performance by the Storm cheerleaders. A few standard events brought back memories of high school glory days including relay swim, ping pong and basketball shootout.

There were also many non-scholastic events that made its way into the Summer Games including: dizzy bat race, milking contest, hubcap hurling and inner tube sprint. While athletes did not train for these competitions, they all performed well and finished with a smile.

The sheriff’s office set up a great obstacle course that drew many spectators. Athletes crawled, climbed, jumped and even got shocked before crossing the finish line.

It wouldn’t be Okeechobee if it didn’t

involve an airboat. One at a time, athletes marched through knee-high water with airboat winds pushing back. Teammates cheered on as they completed the tough course.

Overall, it was a fun day for athletes and spectators. Everyone showed team spirit and good sportsmanship, which is the true aim for Olympic competitions.

Best T-shirt Design went to Shot Callers from Florida Community Health Center. Muddawgs won Spirit Award and Overall Champions.

Okeechobee Parks & Recreation would like to thank all the teams and competitors for coming out. A big thank you goes out to those in the community that supported the games in some way: Aarons, Billy Dean at WOKC, Matt Hurst and the sheriff’s office, Publix, Extension Office, Pool staff, Storm Cheerleaders, Hibbetts, DP Productions and all the volunteers who gave their time.

Sports News in Brief

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

- The Okeechobee High School golf program will host a Golf Scramble tournament on Saturday, Aug. 18, at 8 a.m. at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club. The tournament is four member teams. The cost is \$50 per golfer and \$200 per team. The cost for a business to sponsor one hole is \$100. Please help the Okeechobee Golf program with their travel and other expenses. For more information please call OHS Girl’s Golf Coach Brent Stuart at 863-634-7841. Any Okeechobee High School girl who would like to try out for this season’s golf team is asked to call Coach Stuart this week at 863-634-7841.

- OCRA will hold signups on Saturdays, Aug. 18 and 25 for football, cheerleading and girls flag football. Sign up between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the sports complex.

For more information, call 863-634-0515.

- Sign-ups for the Youth Soccer League are Aug. 13-31, for youth ages 5-14. Registration is \$35 per child and is conducted at the Parks & Recreation Department, in the Sports Complex, Monday-Friday between 8:30-5 p.m. A birth certificate is required at registration. The age determination date is December 31, 2012. League play will begin Saturday, Sept. 29, and end before Christmas. For more information, call 863-763-6950.

- 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.



PENTECOSTAL

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

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YOUR Church!

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

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.
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

PENTECOSTAL



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



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

OHS boys linksters look forward to a new season

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

With only two returners assured of starting positions, the Okeechobee High School boys golf teams words to learn for August, 2012 are competition and opportunity.

Kodi Stephen and Kutter Crawford are back for another year on the links and both are expected to have strong years. Stephen, a senior, is expected to be the team leader and captain and take on more of a leadership role than in the past. He was a regional qualifier last year.

After that golf coach Kenny Buckner said he sees a lot of potential and talent but nothing right now that separates the rest of his squad. He brings six golfers to every match and with 15 kids at practice this week, it means a lot of jobs are open.

“We have a lot of young and untested guys. I’ve heard good things about their talent, so we’ll see if we can get them tested,” he added.

Okeechobee finished fourth in the district last year. Vero Beach, Jensen Beach and Martin County are expected to be tough again in 2012. Okeechobee did make history last year as Richard Donegan won the State 2-A Golf Championship. He earned a scholarship with Florida Atlantic University and begins play for them this fall.

Buckner now turns his hopes for state glory to Stephen, an impressive youth golfer, who seems to have matured a great deal both mentally and physically in the past year. He has had some physical problems with his back, but said he is excited about the opportunity 2012 brings.

“I hope it is a good year. We want to win districts and regional and go to state. I have to improve everywhere and there is no room for error. I’ll practice as much as I can,” he added.

Stephen fired a 72 and a 78 at a tournament in Vero Beach last weekend so he appears to be rounding into form. Coach Buckner said Stephen has the talent to go to state but will need a few breaks and must stay healthy.

“Kodi has worked hard this summer and physically he’s in good shape. He has all the



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Seniors on the 2012 Okeechobee High School boys golf team are (left to right) Kodi Stephen, Jake Close and Tyler Milrot.

ability and hopefully things will work out for him,” he added.

Stephen said he will not put extra pressure on himself but knows he’s not where he wants to be as far as his golf swing. He also takes seriously the leadership role and plans to motivate the other players to work hard on their game throughout the year and not just for a few months in the fall.

“My advice to them is not to give up and practice as much as you can. You have to be relentless,” he added.

Buckner said he was impressed with the younger golfers but is interested to find out how they handle the pressure of match play this fall.

“We will find out in the next few weeks what they are made of. We’ll see their talent and how hard they work and how they react to different situations and adversity,” he explained.

A fund raiser golf tournament for the golf program is planned for this Saturday at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club. Buckner said the country club has been very supportive again this year. He also praised Okeechobee Dodge which will provide transportation for the golf team to 11 away matches this year. Okeechobee will host only two home matches this year which includes an 18 hole tournament on Sept. 17.

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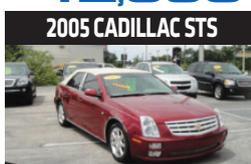
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