



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 102

Friday, August 24, 2012

50¢ Plus tax

County sets EMS, fire and garbage pickup fees ... Page 3

High winds down power poles ... Page 15

Gas pipeline gets OK ... Page 5

Deputies search for lost elderly man ... Page 2



Lake Levels

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Drug rehab plan draws opposition

Owners propose to put 4-6 detox beds in The Heritage Assisted Living Center

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A proposal to turn part of an assisted living center into a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center does not sit well with some Okeechobee residents. They came out to the Tuesday, Aug. 21, Okeechobee City Council meeting to voice their opposition.

The council was asked to approve an or-

"I don't understand how you can mesh these two together ... Let's not put it (drug rehab) in the same building as 80 or 90 year old women."

— Jim Vensel

dinance changing the zoning of The Heritage Assisted Living Center at 608 N.E. Second Ave. from Commercial Professional Office (CPO) to

Light Commercial (CLT). Currently the property is zoned CPO with a special exception for an assisted living center.

At their July 19 meeting the City of Okeechobee Board of Adjustments and Appeals voted 4 to 3 to recommend that the city council approve the zoning change. By that same 4 to 3 margin the planning board approved a special exception allowing for a group home that would provide for an alcohol and/or drug rehabilitation center and an assisted living center within a CLT zoning district.

See HERITAGE — Page 2

Are you prepared for a tropical storm?

By Katrina Elskan
Okeechobee News

As Tropical Storm Isaac approaches Florida, area residents are hoping for the best and preparing for the worst.

Mitch Smeykal, director of Okeechobee

Emergency Management, advises county residents to make the normal storm preparations.

"They need to be working on their plans, and make sure they have their supplies on hand," he advised. "If you have a generator, take it out today and make sure it runs. Don't

wait until Sunday to check it."

"We don't really know what the storm is going to do," he said. "We don't want to close schools or open shelters if we don't have to.

See ISAAC — Page 2

School board to maintain 5% fund balance

Aug. 28 meeting to discuss synthetic drugs, computer use

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

A new policy to ensure a 5 percent fund balance for Okeechobee County Schools earned unanimous approval at the monthly meeting of the School Board on Tuesday night.

The new policy states the budget should be

See SCHOOL — Page 12



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
James Jasper retired from the transportation department this month. He had worked for the school system since 1994. He was honored by Transportation Director Louise Piper and Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy.

Steve Hoskins

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Deputies comb pastures for missing man ISAAC

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

Law enforcement personnel from three different sheriff's offices spent their day Thursday combing acres of pasture land in search of an 85-year-old Sarasota man who had gone missing from that city.

According to a Silver Alert notice from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Newton H. Whidden was last seen in the area of 4800 10th St. in Sarasota. He has been missing since Monday, Aug. 20.

Mr. Whidden's 2000 white Dodge Caravan was found Wednesday, Aug. 22, around 3 p.m. on N.E. 128th Avenue in Okeechobee County. The vehicle appeared to be stuck in a small ditch.



Newton H. Whidden

It's not known if he is on foot, if someone has given him a ride or if his car was stolen then abandoned in Okeechobee County.

The FDLE alert describes Mr. Whidden as a white male standing 5-feet-9-inches in height and weighing 175 pounds. He has

gray hair, hazel eyes and is thought to be wearing a plaid long-sleeved shirt and tan slacks.

A Sarasota Herald Tribune newspaper story stated that Mr. Whidden has dementia and was thought to be traveling to a cem-

etry near Horse Creek in DeSoto County. The story said his cell phone was found in the Siesta Key Pharmacy in Sarasota.

Thursday, deputies and detectives from the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) and the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office (SLCSO) spent their day combing vast acres of pasture land in the northeastern portion of Okeechobee County.

Some of the deputies were searching on horseback, others searched from the air in the SLCSO's helicopter but the majority of the deputies and detectives were searching on foot.

It's unknown why he is in Okeechobee County or if he has friends or family here.

Continued From Page 1

We probably won't make that decision until after the calls from the Florida Office of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service on Friday.

"It keeps tracking further west and looks like it might be more of a west coast event," he said. "But all it takes is a 15 degree turn to the east and it's right on top of us."

Okeechobee County School officials will make a decision regarding possible school closures Friday or Saturday.

Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy said if the decision is not made before the end of the school day on Friday, students will be sent home with letters that explain the situation. If they decide to close school, parents will be notified through the automated phone message system. The information will also be distributed through the local media so parents should pay attention to school closing notifications on local television and radio broadcasts and the Okeechobee News page on Facebook.

The decision of whether or not to close school will depend on projected wind speeds, Mr. Kenworthy explained. "If the wind speed is over 35 mph for a sustained gust more than one minute, we have to cancel school because it is not safe to have school buses on the road."

Emergency shelters will be opened if needed, but not all shelters may open at the same time. Check the okeechobeeec.com web site or listen to local radio and television updates for news of shelter openings. With the exception of the medical needs shelter, no one is assigned to a particular shelter. Those who require the medical needs shelter are asked to register in advance with the Okeechobee County Health Department, 1728 N.W. Ninth Avenue. The health department's main phone number is 863-462-5819.

During an emergency, information will be broadcast on local radio and television stations. The radio stations are WOKC-FM 100.9, WOKC-AM 1570, and WWFR-FM 91.7 in Okeechobee. The television stations are Channels 5 and 25 from West Palm Beach, and the local cable station. For storm updates online go to okeechobeeec.com, floridadiaster.com or the Okeechobee News page on facebook. You can also follow Okeechobee Emergency Management on twitter and see updates on their Facebook page.

HERITAGE

Continued From Page 1

While zoning changes are the responsibility of the city council, as city planner Bill Brisson reminded the council, the board of adjustments and appeals has the final word on special exceptions. However, in this case, the special exception is contingent upon the zoning change since group homes are a special exception under CLT zoning. If the council disapproves the zoning change the current CPO zoning with a special exception for an assisted living center would remain in effect and the applicant would not be able to operate a rehab facility.

In his application, Mohammad Nooruddin, manager AMSA Holding LLC, one of the owners of the facility, proposed to use 4 to 6 beds on the first floor of the two story building for detox purposes.

Jim Vensel said his mother-in-law is a resident at the assisted living facility.

"We were under the assumption it was an assisted living facility," Mr. Vensel said. "I don't understand how you can mesh these together." While he acknowledged the need for a rehab facility, Mr. Vensel expressed concern for his mother-in-law's safety. "Let's not put it in the same building as 80 or 90 year old women," he said, adding that if the

proposal were approved he would take his mother-in-law out of the facility.

The next speaker was Karnyne Brass who said she was "vehemently opposed" to the proposal. She is on the board of adjustments and appeals and cast one of the negative votes. Ms. Brass said that housing a rehab facility in the same building would be "holding a vulnerable population hostage." She went on to add, "It is inappropriate. This does not seem well thought out at any level."

Dr. Saeed Khan, one of the owners of the assisted living facility, said that the reaction to his proposal "borders on hysteria." The doctor said he employed several people at the facility and had invested in the property. He said he was approached by some people who wanted a private and secure place for a rehab facility. He said he took personal offense at the idea he was putting people's loved ones at risk. Dr. Khan said he would run a very discrete program and refused to be what he called "blackmailed" adding, "Whatever we need to do we will do."

"Why would anyone question our integrity," Dr. Khan asked. "It has never been our intent say one thing and do another."

Councilman Mike O'Connor asked if it would be possible to house the rehab clients on the second floor. Dr. Khan said that would not work.

Councilman Dowling Watford said he

had been approached by some citizens who were opposed to the rehab facility.

"You understand there is opposition from current clients and may be an issue for future clients," Councilman Watford said. He said that most businesspeople do not want to offend their clients. He said that as a car dealer, if his customers wanted red cars, he would stock red cars at his dealership.

By a vote of 4 to 1 the council approved the first reading of the proposed ordinance and set a date of Sept. 4 for the final public hearing.

The mayor concluded the matter by saying, "We will move on and this will come up at the next meeting."

Councilman Devin Maxwell cast the lone dissenting vote. In a statement after the meeting Mr. Maxwell said, "I voted against the zoning change because the proposed use was based on a special exception that could potentially include a number of other types of group homes that wouldn't be compatible with the area. I believe the current owner's intentions are good, but when property changes ownership, the special exception continue and can lead to unintended uses later. I also felt that combing the new use with an existing assisted living facility in one two-story building was not in the public interest."

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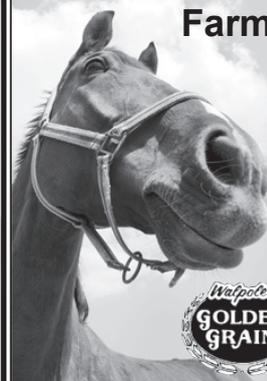
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Okeechobee City Council plans to lower budget

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Some taxpayers in the City of Okeechobee could see a reduction in their taxes. It was the consensus of the Okeechobee City Council at a lengthy budget workshop held Tuesday evening, Aug. 21, to keep the current millage rate of 7.7432. Since property values have been decreasing, this means some tax payers could pay less this year than last year.

One mil equal one dollar for every one thousand dollars of assessed value. The total proposed budget is \$6.6 million which is a 3.9 percent decrease from the current budget.

The downward trend in property values

in the city is continuing. Property values in the city have gone down 5.6 percent since last year. From fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2013 property values in the city have dropped over 30 percent.

Because of the drop in property values the total funds brought into the city by the proposed millage rate will result in an approximate \$560,000 deficit in the general fund. Reserve funds will be used to make up that deficit. However, finance director India Riedle expects the city will not have to use the entire amount of reserves that is budgeted. At the same time some property owners will see a reduction in their taxes due to the decrease in property values.

The proposed budget contains no pay

increase for full-time city employees other than the step increases already in the pay system.

While general fund expenditures in the proposed budget are up 3.7 percent from the current budget, they are down 2.6 percent from fiscal year 2008.

Significant increases include a 7.5 percent increase in insurance costs, \$10,000 for website design, \$6,000 for animal control services, \$5,000 for election costs, a full year of operation and maintenance of the new radio system, replacement doors and framing at the fire department at a cost of \$3,000 and certification and education costs of \$1,700. New in the proposed budget is a step increase plan for part time employees

which adds \$9,800 to the budget. Fuel costs for the coming year are budgeted at \$4.25 a gallon.

Shared Services will get \$8,950 as opposed to \$8,000 in the current budget if the new budget is approved as proposed. The request for funds from the Economic Development Board was decreased from the current budget's \$20,000 to \$10,000. The city council decided to delete \$500 that had been earmarked for fireworks.

Since this was a workshop, no official action could be taken. The city council will hold two public hearings in September before adoption of the budget.

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

City gives natural gas distribution system go ahead

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Residents of Okeechobee will soon have access to a new source of energy - natural gas.

By a vote of 3 to 2 the Okeechobee City Council at their Tuesday, Aug. 21, meeting approved a non-exclusive franchise with Florida Public Utilities Company to use city rights-of-way for a distribution system to provide natural gas to commercial and residential customers.

Natural gas for the distribution network will come from a connection with the Florida Gas Transmission pipeline on U.S. 441 at Cemetery Road. The company plans to

serve large commercial users first such as feed mills, asphalt plants and restaurants. Residential service should be available by the end of next year. Unlike states further north, there is not much demand in Florida for natural gas for residential heating. Instead natural gas is used in residences for appliances such as clothes driers, hot water heaters and stoves.

Councilmen Dowling Watford and Mike O'Connor voted against the franchise. During questioning by Mr. Watford, Barry Kennedy, operations director for Florida Public Utilities, said he could not answer certain questions because of confidentiality laws. When contacted after the meeting, Mr. Watford said that while he thought a natural gas

distribution system would be a wonderful asset to the city he added, "It bothers me when there are questions you can't answer. There may be something they don't want you to know."

Turning to other action, the council:

- awarded a contract to Nancy Phillips and Associates for grant administration services in connection with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Development Program;
- awarded a contract to Culpepper & Terpening, Inc. for engineering services in connection with the CDBG Economic Development Program;
- awarded a \$27,245 contract to Bowline Construction for the Curtis rehabilitation

project as part of the CDBG Economic Development Program;

- awarded a \$29,955 contract to American Construction for the Leon rehabilitation project as part of the CDBG Economic Development Program;
- awarded an \$18,180 contract James Sweat for the Roberts rehabilitation project as part of the CDBG Economic Development Program; and
- approved the purchase of a John Deere backhoe less a trade of an older machine for a total net cost of \$80,137.

OCEA to hold general membership meeting

By Candy Walker, OCEA
President

The Okeechobee County Education Association (OCEA) will have its first general membership meeting of the 2012-2013 school year on Thursday, Aug. 30, at 4:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Central Elementary School, 510 S.W. 5th Ave.

All employees of the instructional and classified bargaining unit are encouraged to attend. Potential members may join at the meeting, if they desire. Attendees will be briefed on the status of the Aug. 29 Classi-

fied and Instructional negotiation session, which includes the latest information on the Teacher Evaluation System, and items that are being negotiated for the classified contract. Now that the VAM scores are in from the state, OCEA and the district need to make more changes to the 2011-12 Teacher Evaluation System as well as changes to the 2012-13 system.

Teachers from the 2011-12 school year still do not have their final evaluation. Teachers will find out how to proceed if their final 2011-12 Evaluation score is not what they expected to receive.

Door prizes and refreshments will be served.

An update will also be given on the OCEA "Meet and Greet" that will take place at Lunkers on Sept. 7, from 4-6 p.m. Any employee may attend that function, WITH a member.

Now is the time to be informed of the mandates the state has put on your chosen profession. Contact OCEA at 863-467-1564 for more information and plan on attending on Aug. 30. Your job may depend on it!

Chamber announces September investor luncheon

On Sept. 4, the September Chamber luncheon will be held at the IRSC Williamson Center at 11:30 a.m. This event is being sponsored entirely by the Atlantic Wealth Management Group at UBS Financial Services Inc., which is made up of Greg Thogersen, J.D. Mixon, Steve Karr, and Sean Daley. Since the luncheon is being sponsored entirely by the Atlantic Wealth Management Group at UBS Financial Services Inc. the luncheon is free to our members. However, a RSVP will be necessary.

Our guest speaker is Mr. Kevin P. Molesky. Mr. Molesky is a Senior Regional Marketing Director at Putnam Retail Management in the broker/Dealer Division. He has been working in the investment industry since 1995 and will discuss the economic/tax climate as it relates to the upcoming elections.

Please RSVP via the Chamber website by selecting the date of the event (September 4, 2012) on the Chamber event calendar. Then click on the register on-line tab to register for the luncheon.

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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.newszip.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!

Polls

• I am fed up with the polls and hearing the poll numbers. The TV people can make those numbers say anything they want to. Those numbers don't mean a thing in real life. If someone gives me a poll to answer I am going to make up the craziest answers I can think of. They will just spin it whichever way they want it to turn out anyway. Don't believe the polls.

Get it from the source

• I am sick and tired of the Democrats telling me what the Republicans are going to do and the Republicans telling me what the Democrats are going to do. And none of it is true, according to the fact-checkers. I want my information from the source. If I want to know what the Republicans are going to do, I want to hear it from the Republicans. I want to hear what the Democrats are going to do from the Democrats. Quit telling such outrageous lies about each other and just tell the truth about your own platforms!

Nothing to do?

• I hear a lot about how there's nothing to do in Okeechobee. For those who complain, you missed out on a great opportunity to have a lot of fun and do something. The Parks and Recreation hosted Summer Games in honor of the Olympics. There was a junior division (17 & under) or adults (18 & over). There were team or individual events, so everyone had a chance to compete and actually win gold, silver or bronze medals. They put a lot of work into the event, and it was sad that not more people took the opportunity to support the community and get out and do something.

• There's ALWAYS something to do anywhere you are.

• The Florida.newszip.com site has a calendar where people can post their upcoming events and I wish people would take the time to post their events.

Drive with care

• Today I saw a car just speed right by a stopped school bus. If a school bus stops in front of you, the law says you have to stop!

In the news

• What is wrong with this country? On the news I saw several minutes devoted to the fact that Prince Harry was photographed nude in a Los Vegas hotel room, yet there was nothing about the American servicemen killed in Afghanistan. Every time a celebrity gets engaged or has a baby, it's all over the news. But our young men dying in wars overseas doesn't even make the news. They should report the death of each and every serviceman who gives his life. Until we the public demand the television news programs do a better job, this will continue.

Okeechobee Forecast



Today: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. Light east northeast wind increasing to 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight, then a slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 74. East northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 91. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday night: A slight chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 76. East northeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Sunday: A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Letters to the editor

Younified Fundraiser

On Saturday, Aug. 4, the community of Okeechobee came together at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club to support a great cause at the YOUNIFIED fundraiser golf tournament. Men, women and youth united together to enjoy fun, fellowship, food and prizes!

YOUNIFIED is comprised of community members uniting together to challenge teens in Okeechobee County with God's Truth about drugs, alcohol, bullying, depression, peer pressure, and abstinence. YOUNIFIED seeks to unveil God's presence and reveal His perfect plan in the heart of every youth. YOUNIFIED is calling upon our local churches, businesses, and individuals to unite under the common banner of Jesus Christ and see the Father's Kingdom advanced in our community.

On the weekend of Jan. 11-12, YOUNIFIED will be sponsoring a large scale youth rally at Osceola Middle School for our hometown youth. Nationally noted author and speaker, Mark Cahill will be present to teach and challenge our youth, as well as many other local speakers. There will be live music with bands "SameState" and "The MC's," food, fun, door prizes (iPods, iPads, phones, etc.) and more! For more information about YOUNIFIED or sponsored events, please Bobby Steiert at 863-634-6523.

The YOUNIFIED committee members wish to sincerely thank the following churches, businesses, organizations and individuals for their support:

G.M. Worley, Inc., Tenniswood Dentistry, East Coast Signs, Everglades Baptist Church, CenterState Bank, Real Life Children's Ranch, Pregnancy Center, Glades Gas Co., Eli's Western Wear, Gator Feed, Rep. Denise Grimsley, Everglades Pediatric Dentistry, Livestock Market, Lake Okeechobee Insurance Co., Badcock Furniture, Billy Marcum for County Commissioner, W & W Supply, Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd, The Tucker Group, Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home, 3-D Trees, Life Community Church, Domer's, Inc., Garcia & Garcia, Platt Chiropractic, Rotary, Nunez Lawn Care, Frank Irby, J & E Insurance, Malissa Morgan for School Board, Fifth Street Pharmacy, Cary Pigman for FL House, Big Lake Eye Care, Elvie Posey for County Commissioner, State Farm, Quality Garage Doors, Walpole, Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital, Williamson Cattle, American Drilling Co., Bruce Homer Insurance, Fitness

Factory, Pine Creek Sporting Club, Everglades Farm Equipment, Okeechobee Christian Academy, Fountain of Life Church, Kelly Owens for School Board, Brad Goodbread for County Commissioner, Law office of Gerald LeFebvre, Highlands Pest Control, More 2 Life Church, New York Life, Quality Turf, Waste Management, Jones Team, Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters, Buckhead Ridge Christian Church, Highlands Pest Control, Home Depot, Lawn Tamer, Captain Mike Krause, Kevin Barbour, W & W Lumber Co., Mid Florida Hardware, Dunklin Memorial Camp, Aaron's, Chaka Stars, B.R.A.T. Club, Los Coco's, Okeechobee Golf and Country Club, Paul May for Sheriff, Total Roadside Services, Hide-a-Way Drive Thru, Backyard BBQ, Faith Farm, Superior Water, Morgan's Furniture, Applebee's, CVS.

**Thank you again,
Darlene Mayer**

Dearest Okeechobee,

We, Myke & I, moved here 11 years ago on a whim and have never regretted the decision. We have enjoyed everything there is about Okeechobee. I got the opportunity to sing and entertain at most of the business' and homes throughout Okeechobee and Buckhead Ridge. We have met the most amazing amount of really good people and now, are a wonderful part of our lives. We are also proud that we have participated in many fund raisers and never expected anything in return. Just being a part of our great community was more than enough, but I recently became ill and haven't been able to work. Again, this great community, stepped up to help. Just saying "Thank you" seems so minute, but I am trying to find the words to express my esteemed gratitude.

We would like to thank VFW North, VFW South, VFW BHR, Good Spirits Lounge, Moose BHR, Moose North, WOKC Radio, Okeechobee News, KOA Kampground, Cowboy's, Beef O'Brady's, "The Hand List", Friends, Neighbors and my Beloved Myke Hoyt. Special thanks to our great Friends, Dennis (XXL Karaoke) & Joyce Pruitt for organizing the event! We hope to know soon about my surgery and hope to be back doing what I do best, Sing and Show Off. Again, Thank you "My Home Town" for all your love and support.

**Sincerely,
Sandoone**

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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- 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.



County commissioners set assessment rates

EMS rates decrease, garbage pickup rates increase

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

During a busy morning's meeting on Thursday, Aug. 23, Okeechobee County commissioners set assessment rates. They also handled a variety of other items including settling past due Medicaid bills with the state and considering allowing the consumption of alcohol at C. Scott Driver park.

Commissioners finalized assessment rates for fire, EMS and solid waste collection. The proposed EMS rate is a 10 percent decrease over the current year's assessment, not a 10 percent increase as was incorrectly reported earlier. Solid waste collection rates were increased by \$24.50 to \$217.52 for the coming year. The fire assessment rates remain the same.

Commissioners approved an amendment to the county's comprehensive plan to establish the Amistad Rural Activity Center. This rural activity center includes about 680 acres on the east side of S.E. 128th Avenue, north of Quail Woods and Bridlewood subdivisions and south of E. Center Street. The density of that area is now changed from one residential unit per five acres to one unit per acre and the amendment calls for up to 15 acres of commercial development.

Planning official Bill Royce said there was originally some concern about the impact of Amistad on schools. However, he said that build out would not occur right away so there would be time to work out the impact on schools. The amendment had already been approved by the appropriate state agencies.

Commissioners discussed the fate of the Advanced Stone Technology building in the county industrial park. As a result of recent litigation the county now has possession of the 19,438 square foot building valued at \$200,499. Kathy Scott, the airport and industrial park director, gave a report on the condition of the building including photographs. The staff inspection disclosed a considerable amount of trash and debris inside and outside the building and structural, water and termite damages inside the building. The commission directed staff to secure bids on

the cost of renovating the building.

In a related matter, commissioners agreed on settlement with the Snyder family as a result of the litigation. As of Aug. 23, the total amount owed the county including rent, taxes, late charges and interest is \$57,222.45. Richard Snyder offered the county \$6,000 in settlement. He documented having spent a considerable amount of money for cleanup including hauling 45 loads of trash to the landfill. It was noted that this was an expense that would have to be born by the county if Mr. Snyder had not taken this action. County attorney John Cassels stated that the county's out of pocket costs in this matter would be about \$7,500.

In light of the fact that Mr. Snyder had put considerable effort into cleanup, the commission decided on Mr. Cassels' figure of \$7,500. Mr. Snyder accepted this settlement.

Commissioners authorized repairs to the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center when they approved a proposal to remove and replace ten damaged wall panels, a damaged end wall column, three damaged header channels and trim at the base of the end wall. This work is covered by \$1,000 deductible insurance. While the contractor is working on the facility commissioners also authorized repairs to the rake trim and curb trim in the amount of \$3,984.

John Romano of New Horizons of the Treasure Coast presented the annual report for his organization. He said that for the first time there is a full-time staff member serving Okeechobee and that 1,036 Okeechobee clients were served in the past year.

The commission authorized staff to negotiate with the engineering firm of Steven Cooper, P.E. and Associates for consulting services on the Okeechobee Trailhead Lock 7 project.

It may soon be possible for events taking place at C. Scott Driver Park to serve alcoholic beverages—at a cost. Parks and recreations director Albee Scoggins suggested a change in policy. He recommended that alcohol consumption be allowed provided the user carries sufficient liability insurance. He also recommended increasing the fee for the outside pavilion from \$50 to \$150 as well as increasing the fee for the inside pavilion from \$400 to \$600. The security deposit would also be increased. Mr. Scoggins said that events that served alcohol would tend

to be larger events that would impact the facilities more thus justifying the increased rates. Staff was directed to develop a proposed policy on alcohol consumption at C. Scott Driver Park for commission consideration.

The battle with the state over payment of past due Medicaid bills is now over. Commissioners authorized payment of \$292,726.68 to the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. This settled the past due amount in full. Now the state will not be withholding revenue sharing funds for Medicaid payments. The original amount the state claimed the county owed was much

larger than that. However, that amount was reduced considerably after discussions with state officials. County administrator Robbie Chartier said that if any additional credits are discovered they will be applied to future bills. She said that there is still pending litigation questioning if the statute of limitations applies to Medicaid bills. The result of that action could possibly result in credits to future bills.

The board also received a financial update through July 31.

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



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Relay for Life Kickoff celebration planned

Please come and join us at Lunker's Sports Grill on Thursday, **Oct. 11**, to help kick off our 2013 Relay for Life year. The theme for this years event is All-Star Relay - Scoring Against Cancer so where your favorite sports memorabilia and join the fun. If you are interested in finding out more information related to joining this wonderful cause on any level please contact Missy Fipps 863-634-8674 or Lacey Summerall 863-634-7765.

Fallen Peace Officer Bass Tournament set

Florida Annual Fallen Peace Officer Bass Tournament is planned for **Oct. 27**. A \$110 entry fee goes into the big bass pot. Registration begins at 4 a.m. - Cash only. Drawing tickets will be sold for door prize drawings. Tickets are 3 for \$5 or 7 for \$10 and 15 tickets are \$20. The tournament will take place at C. Scott Driver Park Ramp and begins at safe light. Weigh-in is at 1 p.m. at the pavilion on the Point. There will be food and drinks at weigh-in. Donations will be accepted. Payout is based on a 50 boat field. All donations benefit Florida Fallen Peace Officer families. Teams wanting to pre-register please call Jack Fulce at 863-763-7753. Tournament is sponsored at Crappy Jack's Bait & Tack, local, county, and State Law Enforcement Agencies, FHP, and FWC. We hope to see everyone out there for a great day of fishing!

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Community Events

Eagles North announces special weekend events

Eagles North will have Friday Steak Night on **Aug. 24** beginning at 5:30 p.m. Music will be by Michael. On Saturday Night, **Aug. 25** it's the Big Corn Hole Tournament. Sign up is at 10 a.m. The action starts at noon.

Eagles host corn hole tournament

Come to Eagles North, 9985 U.S. 441 N., 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, hot-dogs and side dishes.

Golf benefit planned for Dennis Rutherford

A benefit is planned for local resident, Dennis Rutherford. Dennis sustained a very serious injury to his arm which required special surgery. Medical and rehabilitative bills are mounting and there is no insurance coverage. Please come out to Okeechobee Golf and Country Club and join us in a Saturday, **Aug. 25**, golf tournament to help offset some of the expenses. Sign up is at 7:30 a.m. and tee time is at 8 a.m. Fees are only \$240 a team and includes lunch. There will be a 50/50 drawing and heated chair massage will be available with a donation. For more information, please call Kay at 863-634-8822 or David at 863-634-0751.

Martha's House to host fundraiser

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. 441 S.E. 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 orange juice. Donations will also be accepted. For more information, please call 863-467-8232.

FFA Alumni to meet

The Okeechobee FFA Alumni will be having their first meeting of the new year on **Aug. 27**, at 7 p.m. at the Extension Office. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to attend. For more information please call 863-467-8696.

CCC meeting planned

The next meeting of the Community Collaborative Council, a part of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, will be Tuesday, **Aug. 28**, at 10 a.m. in the board room of the school board office.

Eagles to host bingo

Eagles North, 9985 U.S. 441 N., will have bingo on Tuesday, **Aug. 28**, at 1 p.m.; and Wednesday, Aug 29, bingo at 4:30 p.m. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund.

Church to host kids Bible Night

Join the fun at AWANA Bible Club at First Baptist Church of Okeechobee, Wednesday nights 6-8 p.m. through the school year. Clubs for 3 year olds through 12th grade. First night of Club/Registration will be **Aug. 29**, from 6-8 p.m. For details or questions, please call the church office at 863-763-2171.

County Fair Board to meet

The Okeechobee Fair board of directors will meet **Aug. 30**, at 5:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce.

Healthy Start annual meeting slated

The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition will have their annual meeting on Friday, **Aug. 31**, from 2-4 p.m. at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. This meeting is open to the public. The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition is part of a statewide network of coalitions responsible for planning and implementing services to pregnant women and children under 3 years of age. The Coalition is made up of citizens interested in promoting healthy families and babies in Okeechobee. For more information about the Coalition, please contact Kay Begin, executive director, at 863-462-5877.

OKMS taking applications for Labor Day event 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! Come spend some time with friends, enjoy the "tastes" of the festival and various specialty items for sale. While in town, visit our local shops and see what they now have to offer! 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.okeechobeemainstreet.com.

First Baptist Church to host flag football

Boys and girls, k-12 come sign up for First and Goal Flag Football. Registration is just \$35 with sign up deadline on **Sept. 8**. Games will be held from Sept. 22-Nov. 17. Games are sponsored by First Baptist Church, 401 SW Fourth Street, Recreation Outreach Center, 310 S.W. Fifth Ave., in Okeechobee. For more information, please call 863-467-7625.

Tobacco Free Partnership to hold September meeting

The Tobacco-Free Partnership of Okeechobee will meet **Sept. 5**, at noon. Lunch will be provided, please RSVP by calling 863-447-9140. The meeting will be held in the Thompson Hall, next to the Pentecostals of Okeechobee Church, 405 S.W. 10th Ave. The mission of the Tobacco-Free Partnership Okeechobee is to mobilize community partners to establish long-lasting system and policy changes that promote tobacco-free social norms in order to prevent usage of tobacco products by youth/young adults, encourage and support tobacco cessation, eliminate health hazards of secondhand smoke and decrease the number of deaths due to tobacco products.

Freedom Outreach fishing tournament

The Freedom Outreach fishing championship will be held on Sunday, **Sept. 9**. The entry fee is \$120. You must fish at least four tournaments to be in the championship event! All tournaments will be held at Okeechobee Marina Boat Ramp from safe light until 2 p.m. Food and drinks free at weigh in. Please call 561-719-5989 or 863-634-8127 to register or with questions.

Residents urged to have Coffee with a Commissioner

Coffee with the Commissioner will be hosted by Commissioner Margaret Garrard Helton on Tuesday, **Sept. 11**, from 10 a.m. – noon, and will be held in Commissioner Helton's office, room 261, in the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 N.W. Second St. Citizens wishing to participate are encouraged to call 863-763-6441 to schedule an appointment.

Children Services Council plans public budget meeting

The Children's Services Council of Okeechobee will have their First Public Budget Hearing for the year 2012-13 on Tuesday, **Sept. 11**, 2012, at 5:01 p.m., in room 303 at the Okeechobee County School Board of office, 700 S.W. Second Ave.

Patriot's Day planned

Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 4423 will be sponsoring a Patriot's Day Ceremony to honor our First Responders. It will be in Veterans Park at 6 p.m. on **Sept. 11**. There will be guest speakers, honored guests and special guests. These men and women put their lives on the line for us every day so please give one hour of your time to honor them. Contact the Dannye Strickland at 863-763-0589 for any questions.

Shared Services Network set meeting date

The Executive Roundtable of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee County will conduct its bi-monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, **Sept. 14**, in the board room of the Okeechobee County School Board of office. This forum provides a mechanism for dialogue and problem solving in our community through the collaborative efforts of our local decision makers. The public is invited to attend. For more information, please call Sharon Vinson at 863-462-5000, ext. 257.

'Fun day' to help injured teen

MOORE HAVEN -- In July, Glades County teenager Kaleb "Fred" Langdale was swimming in the Caloosahatchee River when he was attacked by an alligator. He managed to get away but lost part of his arm in the fight. A benefit fun day fundraiser is set to help the Langdale family with medical expenses. The event is set for **Oct. 6**, at the Chalo Nitka Grounds in Moore Haven and will include lots of fun activities including a rib cook-off, cornhole tournament, pie eating contest, live/silent auction with hunting and fishing trips. There will be something for everyone with live bands, water slides, bounce house, face painting, buggy rides, cake walks and a dunk tank to test your aim. Entertainment will include the music of Chris MacArthur. The Gator Boys alligator show will be noon and the Gator Boys will also participate in a "meet and greet." A web site at www.go-fundme.com has been set up for donations. The goal is to raise \$100,000. A link to the site and other news about Fred Langdale can be found on the Glades County Democrat page on facebook.com.

Putt for a Cure event planned

The Relay for Life Honey Do'er's Team and Dream Team will host a best ball golf tournament on **Oct. 6**, at the Okeechobee Golf & Country Club. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Fee for four person team is \$200, hole sponsorships: are \$100. There will be a 50/50 drawing and raffle tickets. For information about participants, sponsorship or donation of a raffle item call Lawrence Fipps 863-801-0901 or Missy Fipps at 863-634-8674.

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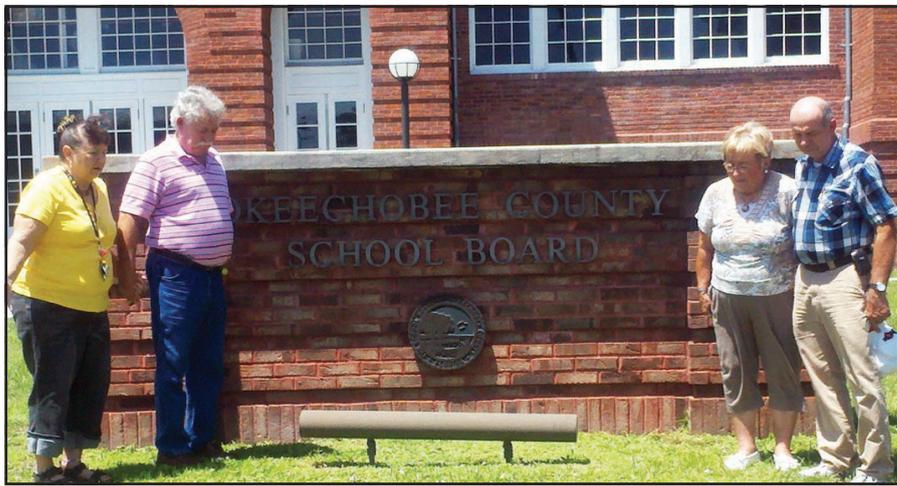
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Special to the Okeechobee News/Stephanie Metcalf

Wherever two or more are gathered

Members of the community pray on the first day of the school year for the students, faculty, board and staff of our schools as a reminder that all are invited to the September Tuesday night Prayer Walks sponsored by the Okeechobee Ministerial Association beginning Tuesday, Sept. 4, at 6 p.m. Each week's location school will be submitted to the Okeechobee News the week prior to the walk. Please consider joining together for our schools.



Special to the Okeechobee News/State Farm

Back to school supplies

The local State Farm Insurance Agency, Gretchen Robertson Insurance Agency, Inc., provided backpacks and supplies for needy children in Okeechobee. Pictured above is Ms. Robertson's State Farm staff presenting the table full of back-to-school supplies to Wendy Watt, a volunteer with My Aunt's House (501c3).



Special to the Okeechobee News/OSS

Free line dancing

Everyone 60 years of age and over is invited to free line dance classes every Monday from noon until 1 p.m.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Martha's House

Special recognition

Tammy Clifford, of The Frosty Mug, accepts a "Top Shelf Supporter" award for financial and material support of Martha's House. Thanks to all the members of the Frosty Mug Club who help keep Martha's House open for victims of domestic violence. The Frosty Mug, 6315 U.S. 441 S.E., will have a Martha's House benefit breakfast 7 - 11 a.m. Sunday, Aug 26., for \$5. Presenting Ms. Clifford with a plaque is Martha's House executive director Jonathan Bean.

Critical need for O Negative blood

Florida Blood Centers are in Critical Need of O Negative Blood Type. Wal-Mart in Okeechobee will hold a blood drive on Saturday, **Aug. 25**, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Give blood to save lives. Because donated blood is processed into components to give patients only the part of the blood they need, one unit of blood may help save up to three lives. All donors will receive a camo tee shirt, a movie ticket, and a Pueblo Viejo food coupon. Photo ID required.

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! Come spend some time with friends, enjoy the "tastes" of the festival and various specialty items for sale. While in town, visit our local shops and see what they now have to offer! OKMS is now taking applications for vendors and non-profits interested in setting up a booth. If you are interested, please contact Cindy Birdashaw at 863-357-6246 or visit our website at: www.okeechobeemainstreet.com.



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By Jessica Testimonial

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that this was the lifestyle change I needed. I didn't need another diet, I needed to change the way I ate forever. I have been on other diets, but this was different. The program was straightforward and easy to stick to. Seventeen weeks after my initial visit to PWLC, I walked out 53 pounds lighter and 57 inches smaller.

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Submitted Photo/Physicians Weight Loss Centers
Jessica, before and after

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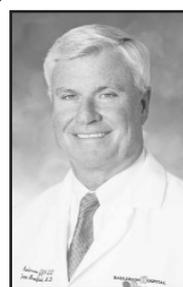
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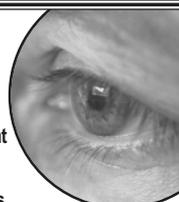
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Man gets seven years as result of plea deal

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



Wendell O. Bradley

An Okeechobee man was sentenced to prison by Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger earlier this week after entering into a plea arrangement with the state.

Wendell Octavius Bradley, 35, was sentenced Monday, Aug. 20, to seven years in prison after pleading to felony charges of possession of cocaine with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a park and possession of marijuana with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a park.

This sentencing was the result of Brad-

ley's Oct. 28, 2011, arrest.

He was also sentenced to 154 days in the Okeechobee County Jail on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. Bradley received credit for the 154 days he has already served.

The judge also revoked Bradley's driver's license for two years.

Judge Belanger handed down the prison term even though Assistant State Attorney Jeff Davis asked for a 15-year sentence.

"That's appropriate for someone who will not stop selling controlled substances,"

he told the judge, adding that Bradley has nine prior felony arrests.

A check of Department of Corrections (DOC) records shows that Bradley spent seven months in prison after being convicted in 2000 on a charge of sale of cocaine. He entered prison Nov. 1, 2000, and was released June 9, 2001.

"This has got to be your last stop in the criminal justice system," Judge Belanger told Bradley. "When you go out with a prior felony record and commit a felony it's not a mistake. Don't put yourself in this situation again—it's just not worth it."

Bradley was also ordered to pay court

costs and fees associated with his case.

Bradley will be back in front of Judge Belanger sometime in the future due to his March 19, 2012, arrest by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force during an undercover drug operation dubbed Operation Crack-down.

As a result of that operation, Bradley is charged with three felony counts of sale of cocaine and three felony counts of possession of cocaine with intent to sell. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana under 20 grams.

Bradley was one of 13 people arrested in that operation.

Man jailed for violating probation

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



Anthony G. Hernandez

An Okeechobee man admitted to violating his probation in circuit court and, as a result, was sentenced to spend the next 10 months in the Okeechobee County Jail.

Anthony Giovanni Hernandez, 20, was initially arrested in May of 2011 and was charged with burglary of a structure, grand theft and criminal mischief after he broke into the Church of the Nazarene. He took \$4,500 worth of sound and video equipment from the church but left everything sitting outside the church, stated an arrest report.

Circuit Judge Robert Belanger on Monday, Aug. 20, sentenced Hernandez to 10 months on each count with the sentences to run concurrently. Hernandez will also receive credit for the 141 days he has already served in jail.

Hernandez was not initially linked to the church break-in, but his later arrest on a misdemeanor retail theft charge led Detective Ted Van Deman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), directly to him.

As the detective was working the crime

scene a church worker pointed out to him that whoever broke into the church also rifled through an office storage area and some empty envelopes. OCSO Detective Mark Shireman was then called in and was able to lift two fingerprints from one of those envelopes.

One of the prints belonged to a parishioner, while the other was unknown.

On June 4, 2010, OCSO Crime Scene Technician and fingerprint expert Jackie Moore entered that unknown print into the OCSO fingerprint identification system. However, she was unable to find a match.

Then, on May 1, 2011, Hernandez was arrested for shoplifting. He was subsequently booked into the county jail where he was fingerprinted then released on bond.

Twelve days later Mrs. Moore entered the booking prints of recent arrests into the OCSO print system and she got a hit. That hit indicated the print taken from the offering envelope at the church belonged to Hernandez.

Representing Hernandez at his hearing Monday was local defense attorney Glenn J. Sneider. Assistant State Attorney Jeff Davis prosecuted the case.

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).

- Glen Edward Sobiecki, 41, S.E. 25th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 21 by Officer Chad Troutman on a felony charge of robbery and a misdemeanor charge of criminal mischief. His bond was set at \$10,500.

- Michael Vasquez, 34, N.W. Third St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 21 by Officer Chad Troutman on a felony charge of robbery. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Michelle Ann Smith, 44, N.W. Ninth Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 21 by

Officer Chad Troutman on a felony charge of robbery. Her bond was set at \$10,000.

- Cornelia Ash, 17, N.E. 13th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 21 by Deputy John Fisher on a juvenile take and hold warrant charging her with the felonies of violation of probation - assault (three counts) and violation of probation - burglary of a dwelling with an assault or battery, and the misdemeanor of violation of probation - criminal mischief. She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

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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SCHOOL

Continued From Page 1

prepared to ensure that the operating fund recurring revenue budget combined with reserves for the fiscal year shall be equal to or greater than expenditures. In other words the superintendent should propose a balanced budget each year. The proposed fiscal year budget for 2012-2013 contains a fund balance of 5.03 percent.

Another policy amended to meet new state law requires assessment of employees. Each member shall receive at a minimum an annual evaluation. The evaluation of instructional personnel and school administrators shall include indicators of student learning growth.

The board also approved a new strategic plan for 2012-2013 with the core values of excellence in academic achievement, educational quality, equity, a safe and secure learning environment and the empowerment of all stakeholders and partners.

The goals include a 2 percent increase in both enrollment and the scores of students in honors, dual enrollment and advanced placement courses. Another goal is to have the schools meet or exceed the state average on assessment tests. The district also will strive to have 2 percent improvements in third grade promotion rates, higher standards in writing, reading, math and science, and a 2 percent increase in graduation rates. Graduation rate fell from 71.7 percent in 2009-2010 to 68.9 percent in 2010-2011.

Another goal is a 2 percent reduction in dropout rates which stood at 5.3 percent for 2010-2011. That was an increase from 4.6 percent in 2009-2010. The promotion rate increased from 95.2 percent in 2010-2011 to 97.1 percent in 2011-2012. Other goals are fewer students in out-of-school suspension, fewer discipline referrals at school and on school buses, and more students enrolling in career education and designated college ready.

The board also approved the hire of Dana Bouly as Food Service Quality Assurance Manager at large.

A town hall meeting is planned in the OHS lecture hall on Tuesday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. to discuss the dangers of synthetic drugs and safe computer usage at home.

Superintendent Ken Kenworthy said the first week of school has gone smoothly. Student numbers are down 327 from last year. Central Elementary was down 91 students and Seminole by 67 students in the first few days of school. High school enrollment exceeded estimates. After 10 days, the district will count students and decide if any teacher positions need to be addressed.

"We know more students will show up and we're not going to panic," he added.

ACT scores improved in English, reading, science and math at the high school. The district remains shy of the state average but still their improvement rate was higher than the state. The staff at OHS was praised for their hard work.

"Their primary focus on upper-level classes challenges students and kudos to them," Mr. Kenworthy added.

Principal Toni Wiersma said student enrollment in dual enrollment courses has doubled this year.

Elsie Close of Yearling Middle School, an ESE Paraprofessional, was honored upon her retirement after 32 years of service in the school system.

James Jasper, a bus driver for Okeechobee Schools since 2004, was honored upon his retirement from the system.

OHS senior Sarah Davis was recognized as a 2012 Sunshine State Scholar and for athletic exploits for the OHS softball team. Miss Davis was named the District 12-7A Player of the Year and the All Academic Player. She was unable to attend the meeting.

In other actions the board set an executive session meeting to discuss union negotiations for Monday, Aug. 27, at 5 p.m.

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Okeechobee's Most Wanted

The following persons are on Okeechobee's Most Wanted list. There are active warrants for these persons. The criteria for making Okeechobee's Most Wanted list is based on the severity of the crime in conjunction with the age of the warrant.



**Kimberly
Lyons**

Kimberly Lyons, 29, is 5'3" tall and weighs 120 lbs. She is charged with dealing in stolen property.

Willie Joe Harris, aka "Buddy," 34, is 5'8" tall and weighs 180 lbs. He is charged with burglary to

a structure, grand theft and two counts of dealing in stolen property.

If you have any information on the whereabouts of any of Okeechobee's Most Wanted you can call the Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 1-800-273-TIPS (8477). If you call Treasure Coast Crimes Stoppers, you have the option of remaining anonymous. You can also receive a reward if the information results in an arrest.



**Willie Joe
Harris**

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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



FORECLOSURE

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



NEW LISTING

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



FORECLOSURE

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



LAKE ACCESS

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

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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

Giveaway

10 month old Blue Nose Pit, Female, spayed, all shots. Must find a good home. Call for more information 763-6778

Garage/Yard Sales

Kings Bay
 Inside Moving Sale
 5148 SE 42 Trace
 Fri.&Sat. 9-3
 Odds & Ends, furniture, baby items come out and see what you can take home!

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

Garage/Yard Sales

OKEECHOBEE - 3411 SE 25th Street, 8/24-8/26, 8am to evening. Have 55"LCD TV, Refrigerator, Full-size Sleep number bed, gas-grill, bed room furniture, and much more. Please call 863-763-5124 for more information if would like to purchase before yard sale.

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

Employment

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Employment Full Time

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 Full time for busy office working with offender population. Great people, phone and computer skills required. Must be able to multi-task. Fax resume to 863-467-2477.

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

Employment Part Time

Light Labor
 Outdoors 2 days a week 12-15 hours per week
 Good working environment
 Please call 467-9800

Employment Part Time

PT DRIVER
 3 Days a week. Clean driving record. Call 863-467-6377, Monday - Friday, between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **ONLY.**

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

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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.

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

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Business Opportunities

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Collectibles

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

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

Computer/Supplies

Dell - Desktop Computers w/Flat scrn, keyboard, mouse. 8 available \$75 & up. works great! Sat. Aug. 25th 1 - 3pm by the Goodwill. Call Tony to reserve one now 863-517-2782.

Pets/Supplies

mini Schnauzer pups - 9 wks old, liver female and salt and pepper merle male, 1st shots, health cert. and registered \$500.00/firm.
 (863)477-7416

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Apartments

2bdrm/1bath Duplex in town. Walking distance to stores, & 2bdrm/1bath Duplex in Kings Bay, NO PETS, First, Last & Security \$550.00 a month
 863-634-2820

Apartment for Rent

2BR 1 1/2 BA Large Town House In Town, Very clean, W/D \$650 mo, 1st, last & sec. Yearly Lease
 863-697-1129

Beautiful Samantha's Garden Apartments

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IN TOWN- 1BR Partially furnished APT., nice area. Utilities & lawn included.

\$700/mo., 1st & \$300 sec. Non smoking environment. No pets.
 863-610-0861.

VIKING/PRAIRIE - 1 BR Apartment. Very clean!

\$650/mo. Incl. utils. No pets. Call Ron 561-329-8205.

Condos/Townhouses Rent

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

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FOR RENT: FURNISHED 1 & 2 BEDROOM DUPLEX OR CONDO IN KINGS BAY OR TAYLOR CREEK CONDOS. STARTING AT \$700.00 A MONTH - LONG OR SHORT TERM LEASE-1ST & SECURITY-MOST MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED. 863-447-0742

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2/1 HOUSE - w/central AC and appliances. 310 NE 4th Ave. \$700/mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec req. (863)467-5965

FOR RENT - 2BR, 1BA duplex, great location in Okeechobee Estates, A/C, laundry room. \$550/month. Call 863-835-2391

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

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bdm 2 bath house on 1 acre \$3,500.00 down \$931.42 a month. Call Beverly 863-634-2820

Land - Sale
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Okeechobee 40 Acres vacant land. \$88,000 Call Jenny Ashburn, Coldwell Banker 772-528-8127

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

Mobile Home Rent

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

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

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Public Notice

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 Orphans' 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
CASE NO.: 2012 DR86

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

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

TO: Lloyd E. Kellman

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

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

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

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

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

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Public Notice

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

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

Shop here first!
The classified ads

Public Notice

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A CITY ORDINANCE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee, Florida will on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave., Okeechobee, FL, conduct a PUBLIC HEARING to consider final reading for adoption of the following Ordinance into law: No. 1089: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF OKEECHOBEE BY REZONING A CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN, FROM COMMERCIAL PROFESSIONAL OFFICE (CPO) ZONING DISTRICT TO LIGHT COMMERCIAL (CLT) ZONING DISTRICT; AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ACCORDINGLY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The ordinance is regarding Rezoning Petition No. 12-001-R, submitted by Muhammad Nooruddin, on behalf of property owners, A.M.S.A. Holdings, LLC and E.A.A.A.S. Holdings, LLC, to change the Zoning District, on approximately 0.642 acres, from CPO to CLT for property located at 608 NE 2nd Avenue. Legal: Lots 3-6, Block 78, City of Okeechobee, as recorded in Plat Book 5 Page 5, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida. The proposed use is for a Group Home to operate an Assisted Living Facility with an Alcohol and/or Drug Rehabilitation Center.

All members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate in said hearing. The proposed ordinance may be inspected in its entirety by members of the public at the Office of the City Clerk during normal business hours, Mon-Fri, 8:00 AM-4:30 PM, except for holidays.

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
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 Plaintiffs 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

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

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The classified ads

Public Notice

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A CITY ORDINANCE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee, Florida will on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave., Okeechobee, FL, conduct a PUBLIC HEARING to consider final reading for adoption of the following Ordinance into law: No. 1089: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF OKEECHOBEE BY REZONING A CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN, FROM COMMERCIAL PROFESSIONAL OFFICE (CPO) ZONING DISTRICT TO LIGHT COMMERCIAL (CLT) ZONING DISTRICT; AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ACCORDINGLY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The ordinance is regarding Rezoning Petition No. 12-001-R, submitted by Muhammad Nooruddin, on behalf of property owners, A.M.S.A. Holdings, LLC and E.A.A.A.S. Holdings, LLC, to change the Zoning District, on approximately 0.642 acres, from CPO to CLT for property located at 608 NE 2nd Avenue. Legal: Lots 3-6, Block 78, City of Okeechobee, as recorded in Plat Book 5 Page 5, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida. The proposed use is for a Group Home to operate an Assisted Living Facility with an Alcohol and/or Drug Rehabilitation Center.

All members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate in said hearing. The proposed ordinance may be inspected in its entirety by members of the public at the Office of the City Clerk during normal business hours, Mon-Fri, 8:00 AM-4:30 PM, except for holidays.

Public Notice
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
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,

vs. 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, 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; AND 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, DECEASED

whose residence is unknown if he/she/they be living; and if he/she/they be dead, the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, 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.

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.

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

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

** IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICAN'S 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

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READING A NEWSPAPER... makes you a more informed and interesting person. No wonder readers are more successful!

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Public Notice

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Public Notice
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 CIRCUIT COURT
By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance. By: James E. Kirk, Mayor Lane Gamlotte, CMC, City Clerk

Public Notice
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.

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By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE WILL MEET TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2012 IN ROOM 302 OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT 3209 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34981-5596.
 FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE - 2:15 P.M.
 PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE - 2:45 P.M.
 BOARD POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE - 3:00 P.M.
 ANY PERSONS SEEKING TO APPEAL THE DECISIONS OF THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE. 424700 ON 8/24/2012

Public Notice

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW
 Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute," will register with Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations the fictitious name, to wit:
Southern Garden Makers
 Under which we expect to engage in business at:
220 SW 67th Drive Okeechobee, FL 34974
 In the City of Okeechobee/County of Okeechobee, Florida.
 That the parties interested in said Business enterprises are:
John J. Allen Jr. Jill A. Allen
 Dated at Okeechobee, Okeechobee County, Florida this 21st day of August, 2012.
 BY: Jill A. Allen
 424656 ON 8/24/2012

Public Notice

NOTICE OF OUA MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Tuesday September 11, 2012 at 8:30 A.M., at the Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will hold a Public Hearing as soon after 8:30 A.M. as possible to adopt the final FY2013 Budget.
 All interested parties for or against the proposed Budget and other changes can be heard at said time and place. The needs of hearing or visually impaired persons shall be met by contacting the Executive Director's Office at 863-763-9460 at least 48 hours prior to the Public Hearing by any person wishing assistance.
 Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Authority with respect to such meetings, he or she will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made; which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Such person may provide a court reporter, stenographer, or tape recorder for such verbatim record.
 BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY
 John F. Hayford
 Executive Director
 424562 ON 8/24/2012

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 BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY
 John F. Hayford
 Executive Director
 424562 ON 8/24/2012

Winds down power poles

By Pete Gawda
 Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office and Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue responded to a report of power poles down on U.S. 441 in the vicinity of Okeechobee Youth Development Center, 7200 U.S. 441 N., around 4:45 p.m. Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 21. Upon arrival they found five power poles down. Florida Power and Light (FP&L) was contacted.

A spokesperson for the National Weather Service Office in Melbourne said that there were no reported tornadoes in the area but there were some heavy thunder-

storms. The damage was likely caused by straight line winds in connection with the storms.

A spokesperson for Okeechobee Youth Development Center said there was a lot of debris and a power outage but no damage was reported.

Bill Orlove, spokesperson for FP&L, said his company received the report of a power outage at 4:36 p.m. He said that 1,493 customers were without power. Power was completely restored by 8:35 p.m. Mr. Orlove confirmed that 5 poles were down and one was damaged. He said the damaged pole was replaced on Wednesday, Aug. 22.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
 1 Note for a soprano
 6 Puts away
 11 Jet or time follower
 14 Heart chambers
 15 ___ vincit amor
 16 Dander
 17 Family line of bar makers?
 19 "Wheel of Fortune" request
 20 Huge amount
 21 Malamute and mastiff
 22 "The Road to Wealth" author
 24 Windfall of chicken pieces?
 27 Four-time Masters winner, familiarly
 30 Cockamamie
 31 Vichyssoise veggie
 32 Lloyd or Paul of Cooperstown
 34 Teachers College advanced deg.
 37 Glasgow girl under a spell?
 41 Pitches between innings?
 42 Clod choppers
 43 Source of Davy Crockett's cap
 44 City on the Aar
 46 Slugger Ramirez
 47 Frat guy with a spatula?
 52 Angiogram image
 53 Like San Francisco's Coit Tower
 54 Google Earth image
 57 Popular ending?
 58 Unwanted grass at the Cotton Bowl?
 62 Celestial Seasonings product
 63 Hot coal
 64 Bunsen burner cousins
 65 Terre Haute sch.
 66 They may be French
 67 Reservations

- DOWN**
 1 "... why ___ thou forsaken me?":
 Matthew
 2 "Am ___ strict?"
 3 Nana
 4 With it
 5 Links assistant
 6 Mah-
 7 Build up
 8 ___ and outs: peculiarities
 9 Blotto
 10 Michener novel set in Japan
 11 "Michael Collins" star
 12 Desilu co-founder
 13 Davis of "A League of Their Own"
 14 "Who touches a hair of ___ gray head ...": Whittier
 23 Campaigned
 24 Collaborative website
 25 Tight spots
 26 Turow work set at Harvard
 27 Goya's "Duchess of ___"
 28 Pond plant
 29 Reuters, e.g.

- 32 Big shot
 33 Cousin of atmosphere
 35 "Runaround Sue" singer
 36 Say no to
 38 Like some machinery nuts
 39 Part of NFC: Abbr.
 40 Fight memento
 45 Me. hours
 46 Sounded like a Siamese

- 47 Greater Antilles nation
 48 Percolates
 49 Lazybones
 50 Orchard fruit
 51 IBM products
 54 Maître d's offering
 55 Not much at all
 56 Soft "Hey!"
 59 Latin 101 verb
 60 Wall St. action
 61 1940s mil. venue

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	P	A	S	M		A	S	A	P		B	I	O	L
A	L	C	O	A		N	O	L	A		U	N	T	O
F	E	E	L	I	N	G	I	L	L	I	N	O	I	S
E	B	B	S	A	L	E	S	S	I	N	C	E		
R	E	A		U	S	O		O	S	L	O			
			N	O	A	H	S	A	R	K	A	N	S	A
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E	G	G		C	U	T	A			E	L	I	D	E
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			E	R	T	E		O	R	E		G	T	E
A	M	N	I	O		I	T	S	S	A		L	O	A
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xwordeditor@aol.com

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By Frank Virzi
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Sports News in Brief

Firestix softball tryouts rescheduled

Try-out dates for the Okeechobee Firestix softball program have been rescheduled to **Aug. 29 and 30** from 6-8 pm at the Okeechobee High School softball field. The softball program is a travel-based league and involves several age groups. For more information call Kim Hargraves at 863-634-6322 or 467-4900. There are four teams this fall, an 8 and under, 10 and under, 12 and under and 14 and under squad. Try-outs for high school age girls will be held in September.

Youth football games planned for Saturday

The Mid Florida Football Conference Brahman youth football teams will host five games on Saturday at Okeechobee High School against the Lake Placid Dragons. Games start at 9 a.m. and include one flag game and four tackle football games. Three of the Brahman teams won last weekend in the season opener at Avon Park.

OCRA football, cheerleader signups will end Aug. 25

Saturday, **Aug. 25**, will be the last day to sign your child up for OCRA football, cheerleading and the newly-formed Girls Flag Football, ages 7-15. Signups will be held at the score tower at the Sports Complex from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 863-634-0515

Youth soccer sign-ups open through Aug. 31

Sign-ups for the Youth Soccer League will be through **Aug. 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 Dec. 31, 2012. League play will begin Saturday, Sept. 29, and end before Christmas. For more information, call 863-763-6950.

Soccer coaches & sponsors are needed for youth league

The Okeechobee Parks & Recreation Department is seeking coaches, sponsors and officials for the Youth Soccer League beginning play in September. Sign-ups for youth ages 5-14 are under way. Anyone interested in getting involved with the program is asked to call the office at 863-763-6950. The office is also accepting extra cleats or shin guards that are in good condition to give to those without equipment. Please recycle any unused items by taking it to the Recreation Department in the Sports Complex, Monday-Friday between 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Annual Boots and Pearls Gala planned to benefit Hospice

The Seventh Annual Boots and Pearls Gala will be held on Oct. 12, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Okeechobee KOA. The following are the various sponsorship opportunities and how to order tickets.
 Please join the party for fun, fellowship, good food and dancing to the music of "Chris MacArthur and the Florida Cracker Boys."
 This is the main fundraising event of the year for Hospice of Okeechobee and there are many ways for you to participate in this event:
 • Presenting Sponsor - \$10,000 - Includes two tables for eight, two bottles of wine on each table, valet parking and the front cover of the program.
 • Trail Boss - \$3,000 Includes two tables for eight, two bottles of wine on each table, reserved parking and full-page ad in the program.
 • Table Sponsor - \$500 - Includes one table for eight and recognition in the program.
 Single Ticket - \$50 - Purchase at Eli's Western Wear or by calling the Hospice Office at 863-467-2321. There will be a live auction for pieces of art work by a local artist.
 A silent auction will feature an array of items donated by local businesses and individuals.

OHS alum Donny Bush moves up in MMA career

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School record-setting wrestler Donny Bush has continued to strive for excellence as an adult as he's become quite adept at the growing support of mixed-martial arts and has hopes of becoming a professional fighter.

He will be a part of a huge fight card, Rise of the Warrior VIII on Sept. 8, at the Havert L. Fenn Center on Virginia Avenue in Fort Pierce and hopes to have an Okeechobee rooting section.

Bush has fought for the past seven months and has won four of five fights. He has travelled to Fort Lauderdale, Immokalee, Fort Myers and Fort Pierce to compete. He also trains weekly at the Treasure Coast Mall in Jensen Beach at American Top Teams under the guidance of former MMA fighter Din Thomas. He normally works out four to five times at the facility.

Bush has worked to improve his skills which include wrestling, kicks, strikes and submission holds. He said it is great to work with a pro fighter.

"I like the sport a lot. It's a passion. I'd rather be fighting in a cage legally than out on the street," he added. Donny fights at 155 pounds.

"There's a big risk because you never know what could happen. The other day I dropped my hand for a split second and one of the pro fighters caught with a kick that cut me right above the eye," he said.

Bush was aggressive and the attacker when he wrestled and he's kept that mind set in the cage. He said the one difference is the level of conditioning. He said he wished he trained this hard in high school because



Special to the Okeechobee News
Okeechobee High alumnus Donny Bush has used his skills learned in wrestling in the sport of mixed martial arts in the Florida Amateur Association.

he is in the best shape of his life.

"I'm older now and I see the results of work outs and conditioning drills. I try to explain that to the younger kids now," he added.

Bush also volunteers his time to help coach the Okeechobee wrestling team. While at OHS Bush won four district titles, advanced to state four times, and won two regional championships. He also holds the record for most wrestling wins during a four-year career. He said he hopes to become a pro fighter but not before his trainer tells him he's ready. His ultimate goal is to compete on television programs and on pay per views and win world titles.

"If you're a good fighter you can get a career out of this. Stepping on the mats and in the cage are pretty much the same to me. There's still some fear and I get nervous. When you get in the cage the nerves go away and its time to shine," he said.

He thanked his grandmother Shirley Bush, his dad Scott Bush and longtime friend Emerson Billie for all of their help through the years.

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