



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 103

Sunday, August 26, 2012

75¢ Plus tax

Officials monitor tropical storm
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OHS bowling team starts season
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Raulerson offers occupational health services
... Page 8

Lake Levels

12.37 feet

Last Year: 10.57 feet



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Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level

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County plans \$81.8 million budget

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The Thursday, Aug. 23, budget workshop held by Okeechobee County Commissioners resulted in good news for taxpayers and bad news for county employees.

Commissioners agreed to leave the millage rate at the current year's rate of 8.547. One mil equals one dollar for every \$1,000 of assessed value. With declining property values that means many taxpayers will see a reduction in their tax bill. At the same time this millage rate will bring in less revenue for the county than it

did last year.

Commissioners expressed fear of raising millage rates and getting closer to the mandatory 10 mil cap on ad valorem taxes. If the current trend in falling property values continues, the millage rate would have to be raised just to bring in the same amount of revenue as the previous year.

At this point the total proposed budget is \$81.8 million, a 7.4 percent decrease from the present budget.

Commissioner Frank Irby suggested that the reserves held by the sheriff be held by the

county commission instead.

"I don't feel comfortable coming back if something happens," Sheriff Paul May responded. "It would look bad for the sheriff to go back to the commissioners for more money."

"We really don't budget in excess," asserted Juanita White, the sheriff's secretary. "It is not really an excess because we don't know what our expenses will be."

Undersheriff Noel Stephen noted that several large line items in the sheriff's budget are

See BUDGET — Page 5



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Offensive tackle Cade Stokes (left) works on his pass blocking during a drill at OHS

Brahmans ready for 2012 season

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee Brahman football has high hopes for the 2012 season as they return a number of starters on both sides of the ball and appear to have a less grueling schedule.

Coach Chris Branham has praised the young

men for their character, hard work, and enthusiasm for conditioning and practicing. He had record amounts of young men attend camps this summer. He also had over 1,000 days of weight lifting training put in by prospective Brahmans

See FOOTBALL — Page 5

Sheriff's race will only have one name on ballot

By Katrina Elsen
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Sheriff Paul May, who won the Republican primary with 82 percent of the votes cast, will face an unusual situation in the general election.

His name will be the only one on the ballot in the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Race.

Sheriff May's only opposition is write-in candidate Timothy Allen Higgins.

"A write-in does not get their name on the ballot," explained Supervisor of Elections Gwen Chandler. She said the ballot will have Paul May's name first, with the indication that he is the Republican candidate. Under Paul May's name will be a

See SHERIFF — Page 5



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Special to the Okeechobee News/SEM

Students of the Week

Seminole Elementary would like to congratulate their Students of the Week for the week of Aug. 24, Novelez Thomas, Cristian Diaz, Hannah Adams, Eutimio Bucio, Francisco Valdez, Maria Jaimes, Maylin Campos, Maxwell Downing, Fabian Tagle, Megan Burns, Karla Alderman, Alexis Llanas, Veronica Trejo, Jose Guzman and Kyle Barrett.



South Florida Water managers closely monitor weather forecasts

With the potential for heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Isaac, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has begun preparations to maximize storage for stormwater runoff to reduce flooding where possible.

With up to several inches of rain forecast, canals and water control structures in Miami Dade-County and the Big Cypress Basin in Collier County have been placed in the low range. The structures will open as needed to maintain canals at levels that will enhance the ability of local drainage facilities to route excess runoff into the District canal system.

Depending on the storm's path and rainfall received, water managers will make adjustments to structures in Broward, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties and the

Kissimmee region as necessary. Water levels and flows are monitored around the clock by field staff and the District's Operations Control Room in West Palm Beach.

As a reminder, complete flood-proofing is not possible in South Florida given the potential for excessive rainfall from storm events.

Residents are urged to review their emergency plans and supplies and stay clear of water control structures, where there may be a rapid water flow even before a storm.

For updates in case of an emergency, residents and visitors can follow the District's Twitter feed (@SFWMD) and its list of weather and emergency management tweeters related to South Florida (@SFWMD/emergmanagement).

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Weather forecast for Okeechobee and surrounding area from the National Weather Service

Today: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Partly sunny, with a high near 87. Windy, with a northeast wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Sunday night: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low

around 77. Windy, with a east northeast wind around 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 88. Windy, with a east southeast wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Monday night: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 79. Windy, with a east southeast wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Tuesday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 93. Windy, with a south southeast wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

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Local officials monitoring storm progress

By Katrina Elskan
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County officials are keeping a watchful eye on Tropical Storm Isaac.

On Friday, school officials were planning to keep the schools open on Monday. They will monitor the situation over the week-end.

If the winds are 40 mph or higher, school will have to be cancelled as the school buses cannot operate in high winds, explained Assistant Superintendent of Schools Joanie Ard. She said local officials will meet this afternoon (Sunday, Aug. 26) at the Emergency

Operations Center to review the storm's projected path and intensity.

If officials find they do have to close schools, they will notify parents via the automated telephone message system. The information will also be on local television and radio stations, on the Okeechobee News page on Facebook and the Okeechobee County School System web page. Parents who have an email address in the Skyward system will also receive an email if a decision is made to close the schools.

"If there is a tropical storm system out there, people need to stay prepared," said

Mitch Smeykal, Okeechobee Emergency Management director. "You should have your supplies on hand with enough non-perishable food and water for three days, minimum."

He said even though Okeechobee County is off the projected path of the storm, the county is likely to experience thunderstorms early in the week and there could be some localized flooding.

Mr. Smeykal added that residents should keep up with updates on any changes in the storm's projected path. The situation can change pretty quickly, he said.

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, WQCS-FM 88.9 in Fort Pierce, and WAFB-FM 100.5 in Clewiston. 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, floridadisaster.com or the Okeechobee News page on Facebook. You can also follow Okeechobee Emergency Management on twitter and see updates on their Facebook page.

Road work planned in Okeechobee County

The Florida Department of Transportation, District One Office in Bartow has issued the following road work plan for this week.

- US 441: From State Road 15/County Road 68 East to N.W. 344 Street: Maintenance project—Crews will be making repairs to the shoulders of the roadway and intermittent lane closures will be required. Motorists should use caution when traveling through work area.

- US 98/US 441: From NW 36th Street to NW 9th Street: Maintenance project—Crews will be edging and sweeping along the sidewalks and curbs in the area. No lane closures are expected however motorists should drive with caution.

- US 98: South of CR 68: Maintenance project—Crews will be making repairs to the shoulders of the roadway. No lane closures are anticipated.

- SR 710: From north side of SR 710 between SR 70 & NE 34th Avenue: Maintenance project—Crews will be making drainage structure repairs on the northside of SR 710 between SR 70 & N.E. 34th. Ave., there are no lane closers expected. However traveling motorists should be aware of crews in the area.

- SR 70: Between S.W. 72nd Terrace and SW 8th Avenue: Maintenance project—Crews will be repairing drainage structures on SR 70 between SW 72nd Terrace and SW

8th Avenue. Work will be on the south side of the road with no lane closures expected. The traveling public should drive with caution while in work zone.

- SR 70: From SW 24th Street to US 98/US 441: Maintenance project—Crews will be edging and sweeping along the sidewalks and curbs in the area. No lane closures are expected however motorists should drive with caution.

Motorists are reminded to wear safety belts and drive with caution, courtesy, common sense, and patience as they travel through work zones. Remember, speeding fines are doubled in work zones.

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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Colored crystal meth

• The drug dealers have come up with a new way to hide their crystal meth. It looks and smells like strawberry 'pop rocks' candy. It comes in different flavors so it looks just like the candy. Parents watch your kids. This stuff kills. Tell them not to take candy from strangers. Editor's note: According to Snopes.com, rumors about flavored crystal meth began around 2007. According to the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency: "While colored versions of methamphetamine that somewhat resemble candy may have been found, the notion that drug dealers are deliberately targeting children by producing flavored versions of the drug intended to mimic the appearance and taste of candy appears to have been based on mistaken assumptions. When colored version of meth turn up, the coloring of the drug is likely to be incidental to the manufacturing process (rather than a quality deliberately introduced to increase the appeal of meth), and since police drug labs don't generally test drugs for flavoring ingredients, statements about seizures of flavored meth have probably been based on the drug's brightly hued appearance and not on its actual taste."

Questions in our schools

• I was shocked to find out at Okeechobee High School there is a day care for all the kids that are going to school that have babies. There are people hired to watch these babies. If they do not have a car, they ride the school bus with their babies to go to school. Is there something that I don't understand here or what? When I was in school if you became pregnant, you were GONE—they didn't take care of your baby at school. What is this place coming to?

• It's actually not something they get to choose. They are required by state mandate to provide care and such for children of students so that the parents remain in school and complete their education and prevent them from dropping out. I know that not every high school has them, so I can only assume that there are some milestones that need to be reached or, maybe, some intervention/action at a local level that results in the school having to dip into its operating budget to provide the service. These programs usually don't get money from the state. So they are called "unfunded mandates," which means the law says you need to do these things which are rather expensive but we're not going to give you any help in implementing them.

• I understood they get federal money/grant for following "their" guidelines and that's where a lot of the money comes from.

• I believe the mind set is that if these teenage mothers drop out of school, they have little chance of finding a job and will be a burden on society. If they stay in school, they are more likely to eventually work and support themselves and their children. The real problem is the high teenage pregnancy rate in Okeechobee County. The parents, schools, churches and community organizations need to do more to prevent teen pregnancy.

Letters to the editor

Help! I need plastic surgery!

Recently I returned from a trip to Colorado to welcome our first great-grandchild. Those of you who have several know what a joy the first one is. Anything his parents needed for him, I whipped out the old Mastercard and bought.

After I came home we went on a short vacation to visit another grandchild in Tennessee, work on our old house, and buy what we needed for that trip. Once again, out came a credit card. After Tennessee we went to Mississippi to visit elderly, ailing relatives. Again, out with the credit cards, gas, food, motel, etc.

Not one time did I give any thought to what these would add up to as we were using them. On the way home from Mississippi, I pulled a wad of receipts from my purse. Wal-Mart, Kroger, K-Mart, Publix, Winn-Dixie, Weigle's, Kids-R-Us, Furniture Factory, Airline tickets, motel receipts, gas receipts, Lowe's Lumber, Ace Hardware, Loaf 'N' Jug, restaurants, etc. I could not believe the amount I had put on several different cards, three different gas cards, three different credit cards, and practically every store we went to we had to have a card to get the discounts. My wallet is full of plastic cards. I have no less than 30 of them!

Today, I have decided to do plastic surgery. I am keeping one grocery store card, one gas credit card and one major credit card. And I will keep the Lowe's card. The rest are going to that great wastebasket in the far beyond. By shopping in the one grocery store I will get cents off the gallon on gas for the very gas card I keep, I may not get a lot of bargains, but I will get gas and not waste it going from store to store for the bargains. The major credit card I will save for emergencies, if I don't have cash for everything else, then I don't need it. Ah, my purse is already lighter!

God is a great God, He supplies our every need, yet we always tend to overdo with wants, or (His I-told-you-so look) when I finally realized how much I put out on credit. He doesn't want us to do that and I know it, but I did it anyway. Now I will have to deal with consequences of my actions. Cut backs will be top priority for the next couple of months until they are paid off.

All I can do right now is ask God to forgive me for being foolish with what He provided and thank Him for His Grace and Mercy that surpasses all my stupidity. Hopefully, someone else will look at what I did and remember not to do it themselves. Remember, God makes provisions for us all, every day in every way. I'm going back on His 10-20-70 plan. The top 10% goes to Him in tithes, the next 20% goes in savings and we will live off the last 70% to pay bills, food, and help others. Thank You, LORD, for being so good! Jesus loves you ~ and so do I,

Cheryl Gawda

Wildlife restoration program celebrates anniversary

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program turns 75 this September. It is likely you haven't even heard of this program, but people everywhere who care about fish and wildlife conservation should be celebrating this anniversary. Without question, this is one of the most highly successful user-funded/public-benefit conservation programs in our na-

tion's history.

It all began back in 1937 when hunters, joining with vendors of hunting equipment, approached the U.S. Congress to collect revenue from the sale of outdoor equipment and products to be used solely for the enhancement of wildlife conservation.

Wildlife Restoration funds have been critical to establishing healthy populations and habitats for many wildlife species, including the wild turkey, white-tailed deer and black bear just to name a few. These funds are essential to providing broader access and opportunities for public hunting and wildlife viewing, monitoring wildlife populations, conducting practical wildlife research, providing hunter education, acquiring key wildlife habitats and developing public shooting ranges.

Sport Fish Restoration funds are used to provide broader access for public fishing and boating by constructing boat ramps, docks and fishing piers, conducting key fisheries research, restoring critical fisheries habitat, and delivering educational programs targeting conservation of fisheries and their habitats.

Not only is September the 75th anniversary of the Restoration Fund, but Sept. 1 is also one of our saltwater license-free fishing days. What a great opportunity to introduce a non-angler to the sport of saltwater fishing. Florida is the Fishing Capital of the World, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is proud to be partners with all of the sportsmen, businesses and government agencies that help keep it that way.

As we enjoy the benefits flowing from hunters and anglers and the outdoor industry to fish and wildlife conservation and then back to everyone who enjoys our plentiful fish and wildlife resources, let's all remember that forward-thinking pioneers established the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. It indeed forms a strong circle of stewardship and support around fish and wildlife unrivaled by any other conservation program in the world.

So, if you are out enjoying a day in the field or on the water, or just observing wildlife, and you come across a hunter or angler ... offer your thanks for their leading role in conservation. They deserve major credit for the rich diversity of fish and wildlife resources we enjoy today.

Kenneth Wright, Chairman

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Whatever you do...watch the convention!

All right, can I say who is Mitt Romney/Paul Ryan? Will these guys continue to pull a page from Pres. Obama's 2008 Presidential bid or will Ryan tell Romney he is really the leader if he looks that way.

Please don't slash my future Medicare/Social Security/immigration/women's rights and personal funding. Life is more than just about your private sector friends boardroom mentality. Romney was a one-term governor, Harvard Law business graduate, Bain Capital Private Equity firm, CEO. How can you tell me he is for the everyday working American when he does not release his own taxes. Ryan did! Also Pres. Obama is still leading in every poll out there. Hello! Likability, smile whatever you do for the master, let in be real. I'm just saying, I too am America. Watch those conventions! Rock the vote.

Brenda Scott, Poet, Playwright

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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We Pledge...

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

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



BUDGET

Continued From Page 1

strictly invoice driven.

Commissioner Bryant Culpepper said he would rather have the sheriff hold surplus funds. "How does it benefit us if we hold it rather than the sheriff?" he asked.

Commissioner Irby replied that if the county has the money it can be used for emergencies.

The sheriff noted that for the fifth year his budget has decreased. He pledged to return almost \$600,000 to the county in unused funds from the current year's budget. Because county employees are not getting a raise, the sheriff agreed to remove the 3 percent raise for his employees that had originally been in his proposed budget. However,

he said that out of this year's surplus funds he would give his employees a one-time 5 percent bonus.

"We've cut, cut, cut until it is no longer a cutting problem," asserted Commissioner Culpepper. "It's a revenue problem. How can you keep cutting without reducing the level of services? We have reached the point where we are in crisis management."

Commissioner Culpepper was in favor of using capital funds to give employees a raise, an idea not shared by his fellow employees.

"I think you are walking on thin ice when you talk about using capital funds for operating expenses," was the opinion of Commissioner Irby.

"The citizens of this county cannot afford for us to give our employees a raise," Commissioner Margaret Garrard Helton said. She

noted that if county employees got a raise, in all fairness the employees of constitutional officers would also deserve a raise.

This would necessitate an increase in their respective budgets which, in turn, would have to be funded by the county.

Commissioners discussed the idea of closing Okee-Tantie Campground to save money. The area would still be available as a park but there would be no camping. The marina and the restaurant would still be open.

Commissioner Joey Hoover suggested cutting library hours to save money.

Commissioner Irby noted that the commission's part of the budget is only 25 percent of the total budget. The remaining 75 percent belongs to the constitutional officers. He asked that the constitutional officers, some of whom were present in the

audience, look again at their own budgets to see if they could make further reductions.

Commissioners also considered requests from private organizations. They agreed to give Main Street \$2,773 for the Halloween event at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center. That is up from the \$2,043 Main Street got last year. County administrator Robbie Chartier stated that the increased funding was more in line with the actual expenses based on the amount of time the ag center was in use for setting up and taking down the event. The Youth Livestock Show is trying to become more self sufficient. Last year they got \$9,400. This year they requested \$3,500. The Cattleman's Association was given \$4,068 for the Florida High School Rodeo Finals, the same amount as last year. They were also given \$4,000 for a regular high school rodeo. That is up from last year's \$3,124. Relay for Life was given \$1,000. The Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County got \$40,000. The Health and Safety Expo was given the same amount as last year, \$1,413.

Since this was a workshop no official action could be taken. Commissioners will hold another budget workshop on Monday, Aug. 27, at 9 a.m. in the commission chambers. There will be 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.

SHERIFF

Continued From Page 1

blank line with the words "write-in" in small type under the line.

Voters have the choice of voting for Sheriff May or writing in another name and voting for the write-in.

Voters can write anything they wish on that line. However, only votes for registered write-in candidates count in the election.

Every election there are write-in votes for people—and cartoon characters—who are not registered as candidates, explained Mrs. Chandler. She has even heard that some people just write in their own names. Those votes do not count.

"They can write a name in but we can't

count it unless you are a registered candidate," she said.

Write-in candidates have to register the same way other candidates do, she said. But a write-in does not pay a qualifying fee or get petitions signed, so the name does not appear on the ballot.

People who want to vote for a write-in must know the write-in name before they go to the polls. Under Florida law, there can be no signs showing the write-in candidates' names inside the polling place. And the poll workers are not allowed to tell the voters who the write-in candidates are or how to spell their names. Poll workers are not allowed to answer a question about a write-in candidate even if a voter asks.

"We can't post it or have anything by the ballots," said Mrs. Chandler. "You have to know the name."

If you misspell a write-in candidate's name, the vote can still count, she added.

"Spelling doesn't count in write-ins as long as it can be ascertained by the canvassing board it was the voter's intent," she said.

Since there will be a "write-in" line, Mrs. Chandler expects to find a variety of answers on the ballot.

"People sometimes entertain themselves," she said.

"Mickey Mouse gets a lot of votes every year, but he is not a registered candidate."

The world-famous rodent is apparently viewed by his fans as skilled to do just about anything, she continued. "Mickey gets votes in all kinds of local, state and national races. Apparently people think he can do just about anything."

FOOTBALL

Continued From Page 1

this summer. The team also did well in several 7 on 7 passing leagues.

Here is a closer look at the team.

Defensive outlook

Coordinator Tyrone Smith has implemented a 4-3 defense again to the Brahman defense. The coaches are enthused by the group's athleticism and speed and predict this could be a very strong defense. In the past few years the defense has struggled at times and has not been able to force many turnovers. They have also struggled getting a pass rush on opposition quarterbacks. That could change in 2012.

On the defensive line the team is thrilled with defensive tackles Cody Walker and team Captain Cory Vickers. They hope to limit the amount of time they have to play on both offense and defense this year to keep them fresh. Jose Garcia will also see a lot of time at defensive tackle. The defensive ends will be led by Eddie Neal and Cade Stokes. Devon Wigfall and Jefferson Davis are also in the mix for playing time.

Coach Branham is also excited about the potential of his linebacker corps. Elijowan Williams is a returner and will start at middle

linebacker. Rico Garza and Adrian Minondo should also start. Dee Shockley provides solid depth at the position and Joey Santibanez could also see time there.

The secondary has depth and talent. G.W Jarrell returns at cornerback. Al Morris has recovered from a devastating leg injury. LaVante Spivey is a quality option. Other options include DJ Washington, Zachary Wingfield, Santibanez, and Khalil Smith. Unlike other years, the defense has numbers and depth in case of injuries.

Offensive outlook

People don't realize last year's Brahman team rushed for over 1,700 yards as a team. They should be able to rush the football, and should have QB Jack Radebaugh ready for a full season. Coaches expect execution, intensity, and solid ball control this year. Coach Branham praised Radebaugh for his intelligence and football savvy and expects big things from his senior signal caller.

Radebaugh will see the bulk of time at QB. He'll be counted on to be accurate with his throws. He also likes the pass protection in front of him and is excited about the opportunity to throw the ball more. Washington could see some time there in certain formations. Dee Shockley provides depth, intensity, and knowledge of the offensive play book.

Running back will feature Washington and Fabian Howard. Both can run the foot-

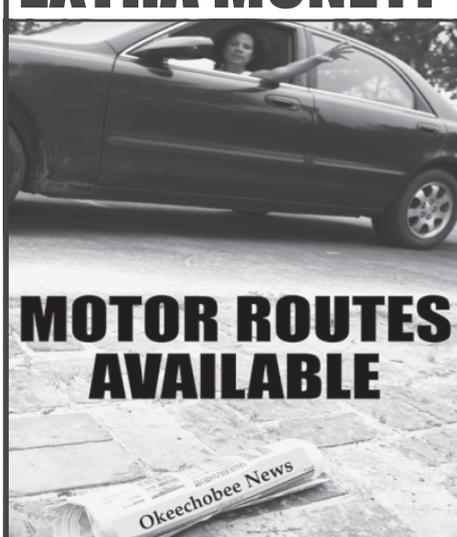
ball inside the tackles and occasionally break a long play on the outside. Khalil Smith played well at times last year and should also help in the backfield.

The offensive line will feature Vickers, Walker, Cade Stokes and other linemen. Top linemen Bobby Jo Garza is out for a few weeks due to shoulder surgery. He will be counted on to lead the line once he returns.

Wide receiver is another position of depth as most of the defensive secondary starters are capable receivers. Eddie Neal had a strong second half of 2011 and can play inside and outside. LaVante Spivey can take advantage of slower defenders. Al Morris was the top receiver last year until he was injured against Centennial. Washington can also line up at receiver. Okeechobee will show different formations and are capable of running five wide at times.

A key reason for optimism is the lack of dominating opponents on the Brahman schedule this year. Top district opponents should be Sebastian River, South Fork and Olympic Heights. Palm Beach Lakes has a new coach and is always capable of fielding a strong team. Forest Hill has struggled in football for years. Others on the non-district schedule include a solid Clewiston team, Port St. Lucie, Desoto-Arcadia, Martin County, and Centennial.

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Community Events

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., Okeechobee. The club will donate all food and supplies and 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit Martha's House. The breakfast is only \$5 and includes pancakes, homemade biscuits and sausage gravy, coffee and OJ. Donations will also be accepted. For more information, please call 863-467-8232.

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 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.

Program explains synthetic drug problem

"Knock Out SPICE" is an educational presentation for public servants, parents, students, community members, civic organizations, grandparents, business owners and community leaders. The presentation will be held in the Okeechobee High School lecture hall on Tuesday, Aug. 28, from 7 to 8 p.m.

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.

OCEA to hold general membership meeting

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. Fifth Ave. Contact OCEA at 863-467-1564 for more information.

Healthy Start annual meeting

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 vendors and non-profits

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! 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.

Obituaries

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

Dennis J. Brunning, 58

OKEECHOBEE — Dennis J. Brunning, died peacefully on Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2012, in the Jay Robert Lauer Unit of Hospice of Palm Beach County at JFK Medical Center in Atlantis, Fla. Born in Beech Grove, Ind., Dennis relocated to Okeechobee in 1985. He was a member of the Moose Lodge. He enjoyed bowling, fishing, playing cards and cooking. Along with his mother Sandy, he was co-owner of Bee's Elite Catering and Restaurant.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Gus and Sandy Brunning; brother, R. Michael Brunning; and a sister, Judith Brunning.

He is survived by his son, Denny Brunning; sister, Beth Hughes; nephews, Shawn, Eric and Todd Bryant; and niece Tara Higgs, all of Indianapolis, Ind.

There will be no services held locally.

Friends may send online condolences to www.buxtonseawinds.com

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

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 S.W. Fourth St., and the Recreation Outreach Center, 310 S.W. Fifth Ave. 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 SW 10th Avenue. 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 second-hand 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.

Coffee with the Commissioner

Coffee with the Commissioner will be hosted by Commissioner Margaret Garrard Helton on Tuesday, **Sept. 11**, from 10 a.m. – noon in room 261 at 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 to hold budget meeting

The Children's Services Council of Okeechobee will have their First Public Budget Hearing for the year 2012-2013 on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012 at 5:01 p.m., in the Okeechobee County School Board office, room 303 at 700 S.W. Second Ave.

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Forests beneficial to surrounding communities

By Tom Nordlie
University of Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—It might appear that the only people who profit from Florida's forests are landowners, but a University of Florida study says the trees provide valuable services to land users and people in surrounding communities.

As forests grow, they filter water, store carbon and perform other helpful functions that are known collectively as ecosystem services. These services are often overlooked by the public but UF researchers found a way to estimate their dollar value, which can exceed \$5,000 per acre over 20 years.

Results from the two-year study, called the Stewardship Ecosystem Services Survey Project, were just published at <http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/cfeor/SESS.html>

Researchers hope the report increases awareness of the benefits of forestland and the opportunities that exist for Florida landowners, said Jack Payne, UF senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources.

"This is a groundbreaking study for Florida, because it actually gets into the numbers," Payne said. "It establishes dollar values for some—not all, but some—of the benefits that forests create for our residents and visitors."

The study focused on four key ecosystem services—water quality, carbon storage, timber production and wildlife conservation. It also focused on forestland acreage enrolled in the Florida Forest Stewardship Program.

The voluntary state program helps landowners manage their forests for multiple uses, to increase its economic value and maintain its environmental quality. Those uses may include timber production, hunting, ecotourism or activity on the carbon credit market.

Currently, about 438,000 acres of forestland are included in the program, out of Florida's total 34.7 million acres of land. The total value for the ecosystem services provided by those 438,000 acres is \$2.07 billion, researchers found.

Forestlands enrolled in the program are likely to provide ecosystem services better than comparable unmanaged lands, said Tim White, director of UF's School of Forest Resources and Conservation.

"The program is all about developing and implementing management plans based on the owners' goals," White said. "So it's natural to expect that these forests would be doing very well, in terms of their growth and health."

Founded in 1990, the Florida Forest Stewardship Program is a partnership among UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, the Florida Forest Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

A 'watchdog' with manners?



A legitimate role for the press is that of "the public's watchdog." Most citizens can't spend the time necessary to personally observe their public officials at work, or to determine how well public institutions are carrying out their public mission.

But too many newspapers these days act more like "mad dogs" than "watchdogs."

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Community Service
Through Journalism

Livestock Market Report

AUGUST 20 & 21, 2012

MONDAY SALE AT 12:00PM....TUESDAY SALE AT 11:00AM

COWS:	QTY:	LOW:	HIGH:	LAST		CLFS	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				AVG:	WEEK:			
800-1000	146	47.00	86.00	68.24	73.11	714	1039	
1000-1200	162	50.00	89.00	75.55	75.93	148	327	
1200-1400	93	60.00	88.00	78.68	79.76	6	25	
1400-1600	34	73.00	86.00	80.60	80.70	21	5	
1600-1800	4	76.00	83.00	80.25	78.36	HFRS		
						18	15	
						YRLNGS	45	53
						MX	92	9
						TOTAL	1044	1473

BULLS:	QTY:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	WEEK:
1200-1400	8	91.00	101.00	96.33	93.33
1400-1600	7	92.00	102.00	96.25	99.50

STEERS:	QTY:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	WEEK:
200-250	28	140.00	285.00	181.67	215.41
250-300	33	135.00	215.00	185.15	185.46
300-350	90	105.00	210.00	164.64	172.45
350-400	94	115.00	185.00	150.05	150.86
400-450	124	110.00	172.50	143.43	137.62
450-500	162	110.00	160.00	138.61	130.41
500-550	161	105.00	147.50	129.55	125.48
550-600	156	105.00	140.00	124.80	121.13
600-650	80	100.00	134.00	123.66	119.85
650-700	61	100.00	134.00	120.46	117.15
700-750	34	110.00	132.00	120.71	115.24

HEIFERS:	QTY:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	WEEK:
200-250	18	145.00	295.00	205.00	136.25
250-300	54	110.00	190.00	155.00	161.88
300-350	77	90.00	185.00	150.92	150.98
350-400	106	100.00	165.00	139.15	128.78
400-450	124	92.50	150.00	131.48	125.38
450-500	135	100.00	142.50	126.49	124.02
500-550	153	100.00	133.00	120.01	116.28
550-600	85	98.00	126.00	117.03	111.91
600-650	41	100.00	125.00	114.20	109.45

The Livestock Market will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3 for Rodeo.

Feeder calves took a little jump this week with most calves \$2-3 higher. Slaughter cattle were about steady to a little weaker. Seems a little rain out west sure helped attitudes.

Watford Cattle, Okeechobee, topped the calf market with a high of \$2.95 bought by Foy Reynolds. Seminole Tribe/Big Cypress, Okeechobee, topped the Cow Market with a high of 89.00 bought by Central Beef.

Oct. 12: OLM Bred Heifer Sale & Little Springs Horned Hereford Bull Sale

Oct. 19: "44 Farms" Angus Bull Sale

Oct. 26: Little Creek Farms Brangus Bull Sale.
Todd



Sales:

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Tuesday at 11 a.m.

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II: "HOPE SPRINGS"
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III: "PARANORMAN"
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Raulerson Hospital's Company Care answers questions about services

Melanie Giles, director of Raulerson Hospital's Company Care Department recently answered some questions regarding local occupational health services and how employers may benefit from utilizing these services.

Question: *What trend or benefits can be associated with companies who conduct pre-employment drug screenings?*

Answer: Drug testing has become an important safety issue in the workplace. A large percentage of Fortune 500 companies perform drug testing. The purpose is to lessen the impact from drug abuse in the workplace, including tardiness, absenteeism, turnover, attitude problems, theft, decreased productivity, crime and violence. The U.S. Dept of Labor estimates that drug use in the workplace costs employers \$75 to \$100 billion dollars annually in lost time, accidents, health care and workers compensation costs. Sixty-five percent of all accidents on the job are related to drug or alcohol, and substance abusers utilize 16 times as many health care benefits and are six times more likely to file workers' compensation claims than non-abusers. By implementing a drug free workplace program a business can possibly receive a reduction in their workers' compensation insurance by 5-15 percent.

Question: *Why should employers in certain industries (which industries specifically?) require annual employee physicals?*

Answer: Physicals are required or recommended annually or biannually for employees who work in positions affecting public safety.

• The Department of Transportation requires that truck drivers with a Class A or B driver's licenses have a medical physical every 1-2 years. Drivers with certain medical conditions such as hypertension and diabetes require the more rigorous requirement of annual physicals, while those without specific medical conditions may be certified for two years at a time. The DOT also recommends workers in the field of public safety,

such as fire fighters and police officers receive a physical every 1-2 years.

Question: *Does an employer have to employ a certain number of people to use an Occupational Health Services Company, like Company Care?*

Answer: It doesn't matter if you have 5 or 50 employees. Keeping your employees healthy is good for your business. Company Care can provide physicals, vaccinations, fit testing, spirometry (lung function) vision screening, audiograms (hearing tests), post-exposure to blood and body fluids and lab work along with many other services.

Question: *What resources can an Occupational Health Service Provider, like Company Care, offer employers who need assistance with an injured employee's medical care and or workers' compensation protocol?*

Answer: Company Care provides employers with a one-stop shop for quality care for injured workers. When an injured employee is sent to Company Care, they can receive a full range of occupational health services including treatment for their injury, a drug-screening (if requested/required), x-rays, labs and more - all in one location.

Company Care also provides comprehensive case management services to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the medical care of the injured employee. Company Care communicates to employers and/or workers' compensation insurers to confirm the Medical Plan of Treatment is being adhered to for an aggressive light duty and return to work status.

Question: *How can employers learn more about the services provided by Company Care?*

Answer: Employers wishing to know more about Company Care's Occupational Health Services may call 863-763-2670 and ask to speak with Melanie Giles, visit Raulerson Hospital.com or drop by the Company Care office located at 1930 Hwy. 441 North, just north of Raulerson Hospital.

Hospital offers program on back pain

If you or a loved one suffer from back pain, you are invited to a program at Raulerson Hospital on Thursday, Aug. 30 for dinner and a physician lecture about spine surgery. Surgeon Dr. Don Moore will present an educational lecture about spine surgery. Dinner and dessert is available in the cafeteria at 5 p.m. for \$5 per person. The lecture is free and it will begin at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to: 763-9228.

August blood drives planned

The Big Red Bus bloodmobile will be in Okeechobee on Thursday, Aug. 30 – Okeechobee High School, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Relay for Life kickoff celebration planned

Everyone is invited to join the Relay for Life group at Luncker's Sports Grill on Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012 to help kick off our 2013 Relay for Life year. The theme for this year's event is "All-Star Relay: Scoring Against Cancer" so wear your favorite sports memorabilia. For more information, please contact Missy Fipps 863-634-8674 or Lacey Summerall 863-634-7765.

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Search for elderly Sarasota man is unsuccessful

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The search for a missing elderly Sarasota man continued in Okeechobee County on Friday. A local detective said he expected the search to be called off soon.

Newton H. Whidden, 85, has been missing since Monday, Aug. 20. He was last seen in the area of 4800 10th St. in Sarasota. However, his 2000 white Dodge Caravan was found in a small ditch Wednesday, Aug. 23, around 3 p.m. on N.E. 128th Avenue in Okeechobee County.

Since then law enforcement personnel from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office (SLCSO), the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (FWC) and K-9s from the Okeechobee Correctional Institute have been searching for Mr. Whidden.



Newton H. Whidden

"You've got to give it up some time," said

OCSO Detective Lieutenant Brad Stark of the search. "The sheriff's office has done everything it can to find this person. We've gone to every house, every barn and every cow pen." Personnel have searched a 5-square-mile area on foot, horseback and all terrain vehicles. Lt. Stark said that search was augmented by helicopters from the SLCSO and the SCSO.

He said the main focus of their search was a 3-square-mile area where Mr. Whidden's vehicle was found. That hunt has since been expanded.

The detective went on to say that ponds and canals in the area were also dredged Friday.

On any given day, added Lt. Stark, there have been at least 20 people from the OCSO searching for Mr. Whidden.

A Silver Alert was issued earlier in the week by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). That alert described Mr. Whidden as standing 5-feet-9-inches tall 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 ar-

ticle stated that Mr. Whidden has dementia and was thought to be traveling to a cemetery near Horse Creek in DeSoto County. The article said his cell phone was found in the Siesta Key Pharmacy.

Lt. Stark said the man's vehicle was not out of gas and the keys were not left in the vehicle.

"It looked like whoever was driving tried to turn around and got stuck," he added. "There's nothing suspicious with the vehicle—no broken windows or signs of forced entry."

The veteran detective said even though Mr. Whidden's vehicle has been found, it's still not known for certain that he's even in Okeechobee County. It's not known if his vehicle was stolen; if he's on foot and lost; or, if he possibly caught a ride with someone.

Lt. Stark added that Mr. Whidden's family was in Okeechobee Friday.

If you gave Mr. Whidden a ride or have any information as to his whereabouts or about this case you are asked to contact the lead detective, OCSO Detective Mark Shireman, at 863-763-3117.

Public safety agencies keep watch on Isaac

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Since Tropical Storm Isaac was expected to stay west of Florida, local law enforcement have no plans of ramping up their activities.

"If it doesn't jog east any, it will be business as usual on Monday. All staff is on stand-by just in case it does wobble and we have to call them in," said Major Noel Stephen, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), on Friday afternoon. "We may get some wind and rain, but not enough to shut us down."

According to a situational report from Mitch Smeykal, director of Okeechobee County Emergency Management, Okeechobee was not in the cone of error for a three-day forecast track as of Friday afternoon.

Detective Bill Saum, of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), said that agency also has no plans to have more officers on duty.

"As it stands right now, we're not doing anything as far as extra personnel," he said Friday. "We're not activating anyone unless it changes drastically."

Maj. Stephen said an 11 a.m. meeting was held Friday at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and it was decided that area public safety agencies should monitor the storm's path. Another such meeting will be held Sunday, Aug. 26, at 11 a.m.

Even though Isaac is expected to remain well west of the Okeechobee area, Maj. Stephen said the county could still get 6 to 12 inches of rain and winds up to 35 mph.

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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).

• Patricia Ann Basile, 67, N.W. Third St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 22 by Deputy Marcus Collier on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felony of obtaining or attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud (two counts). Her bond was set at \$5,000.

• Nichole Johnson, 22, N.E. 13th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 22 by Deputy Max Waldron on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felonies of burglary of a dwelling with an assault or battery while armed and robbery with a weapon while wearing a mask (three counts). Her bond was set at \$1,000,000.

• Jaye Wade Gary Jr., 20, Seminole Ave., Fort Myers, was arrested Aug. 22 by Deputy Max Waldron on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of burglary of a dwelling with an assault or battery while armed and robbery with a weapon while wearing a mask (three counts). His bond was set at \$1,000,000.

• Shaqanda Johnetta Williams, 24, Sabal Palm Blvd., Fort Myers was arrested Aug. 22

by Deputy Max Waldron on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felonies of burglary of a dwelling with an assault or battery while armed and robbery with a weapon while wearing a mask (three counts). Her bond was set at \$1,000,000.

• Michael Prescott Brantley, 47, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 22 by Deputy Max Waldron on an amended Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - possession of methamphetamine. He is being held without bond.

• David L. Moore, 59, U.S. 441 N., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 22 by Deputy Max Waldron on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of attempted first-degree murder of a law enforcement officer (two counts), attempted second-degree murder of a law enforcement officer (two counts) and introduction or possession of contraband in a correctional institution - alcohol or weapon (three counts). His bond was set at \$200,000.

• Breanna Marie Hines, 11, S.E. 30th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 22 by Deputy Cari Arnold on felony charges of battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting a law enforcement officer with violence. She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce

• James Alvin Brady, 50, Freeman Road, Rebecca, Ga., was arrested Aug. 23 by Deputy Bryan Holder on an Okeechobee County

warrant charging him with the felony of failure to appear - violation of probation - lewd and lascivious assault or act. He is being held without bond.

• Shannon Underhill, 41, N.W. 33rd Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 23 by Deputy Raul E. Marrero on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of grand theft and failure to appear on bail. He is being held without bond.

• Chad Frederick Edwards, 34, N.W. Third St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 23 by Deputy Raul E. Marrero on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He was released on his own

recognizance.

• Benjamin Robert Wilson, 16, of S.W. 22nd St., was arrested Wednesday, Aug. 22, on felony charges of burglary and grand theft. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then released into the custody of a parent. OSCO Deputy Matt Crawford was the arresting officer.

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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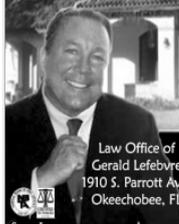
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OHS volleyball sweeps Highland preseason tourney

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Lady Brahman volleyball team got off to a strong start this week when they swept Lake Placid and Avon Park at the Highlands County Pre-Season Tournament at Sebring High School.

Tuesday the Lady Brahmans defeated Lake Placid 25-17, 25-15 and 25-19.

Thursday Okeechobee swept the Red Devils 25-12, 25-22 and 25-22. Sarah Davis had 13 assists, 10 kills and 10 service points. Krista Ward had 10 service points. Lexi Ward had 10 assists and Darby Jones had 10 kills at the net.

Coach Todd Jones said he felt the girls executed the game plan and played with good

intensity, "The plan for game one proved to be the best option for our team at this point in the season. We noticed some areas that are weak and we need to work on," he added.

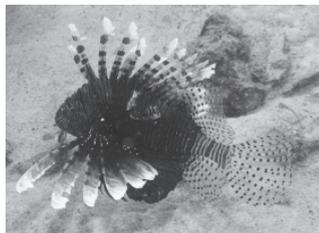
The pre-season tournament does not count in the standings but does give the team to get ready for the regular season and playing time for some of the younger players.

"I was quite proud of how well some of our new players filled their role on the court. It won't take long for the team to be firing as a single unit," he added.

Okeechobee opens up their home schedule next Thursday when they host Lincoln Park.

Lionfish harvest opportunities increase

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has announced changes to the lionfish harvest. Harvesting invasive lionfish no longer will require a fishing license when using certain gear, and there is no recreational or commercial



bag limit. The FWC is taking these actions to encourage more Floridians and visitors to harvest lionfish.

"The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission hopes that by increasing the opportunity for people to harvest invasive lionfish, we can limit the impact this nonnative invasive species has on Florida's marine fish and wildlife," said Jessica McCawley, director of the FWC's Division of Marine Fisheries Management. "We also want to express our gratitude to everyone, especially divers, who already go out on a regular basis to harvest lionfish."

The changes, enacted by an executive order, apply only through August 2013. They are:

- A recreational fishing license is not required to target lionfish while using a pole spear, a Hawaiian sling, a handheld net or any spearing device that is specifically de-

signed and marketed exclusively for lionfish.

- There is no recreational or commercial harvest bag limit for lionfish.

The changes do not allow spearing in areas where spearfishing is prohibited and apply to state waters

only, which is from shore to 9 miles in Gulf of Mexico waters and from shore to 3 miles in Atlantic waters.

Lionfish are a nonnative invasive species that threatens Florida's saltwater fish and wildlife. They prey on native fish and wildlife and can reduce native populations. Lionfish also compete for food with native predatory fish such as grouper and snapper. The FWC encourages people to remove lionfish in Florida waters to limit negative impacts to native fish and wildlife.

Lionfish have venomous spines, so the FWC urges careful handling. Unless a person is allergic to the venom, lionfish stings are rarely fatal. Anyone getting stung should immerse the wound in hot (not scalding) water or apply heat to the affected area for 30 to 90 minutes to help break down the toxin. Also, seek medical attention as soon as possible.

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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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Gardner, Tami D427
Thomas, Denise C254
Harden, Christy E617
424240 ON 8/19,26/2012

**School Board Executive
Session and Negotiations**

The Okeechobee County School
Board will meet in closed Executive
Session on Monday, August 27,
2012, at 5:00 p.m. in the office of
the Superintendent, 700 SW 2nd
Avenue, Okeechobee. The meet-
ing is for the School Board mem-
bers, their attorney, and chief
negotiator to prepare for negotia-
tions with Okeechobee County Edu-
cation Association #1604.

A bargaining session will be held
on Wednesday, August 29, 2012,
at 4:00 p.m. in Room 303 of the
School District Administration Build-
ing, 700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee.
Collective bargaining sessions
are open to the public.

Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools
424850 ON 8/24,26/2012

Public Notice

**School Board Meeting
September 6, 2012**

The School Board of Okeechobee
County will conduct its regular
monthly meeting as well as a final
public hearing for adoption of the
2012-13 millage rates and district
budget on Thursday, September 6,
2012. The meeting will be at 6:00
p.m., in Room 303, School Board
Administrative Office, 700 SW 2nd
Avenue, Okeechobee, and is open
to the public. There will be no
School Board meeting on Tuesday,
September 11, 2012, as previously
scheduled.

Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools
424303 ON 8/26,31/2012

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINETEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE
COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 2012-DR 01.65
Division: DOMESTIC**

VICENTA VITE
Petitioner
and
ARNULFO MARTINEZ
Respondent.

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR
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PATERNITY AND OTHER RELIEF**
TO: ARNULFO MARTINEZ
1653 SW 2ND WAY

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FL 34974 on or before 30 days of 1st
publication, and file the original with
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dress) 312 NW 3RD STREET, OKEE-
CHOBEE FL 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
Court's office. You may review these
documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Cir-
cuit 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 law-
suit will be mailed to the address on
record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida
Family Law Rules of Procedure, re-
quires certain automatic disclosure
of documents and information. Failure to
comply can result in sanctions, includ-
ing dismissal or striking of pleadings.

SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: /s/ BEATRICE RODRIGUEZ
Deputy Clerk
442323 ON 8/19,26;9/2,9/2012

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Soaking spots
 - 6 Mideast ruling family name
 - 11 Field call
 - 14 Language that gives us "kayak"
 - 15 Abu ___
 - 16 She played Beatrix in "Kill Bill"
 - 17 Romantic evening components, perhaps
 - 19 Strain
 - 20 Reason-based faith
 - 21 Film in Cannes
 - 22 California Gold Rush staple
 - 27 Watering hole
 - 28 23-Down was one: Abbr.
 - 29 "Able was ___ ...": palindrome start
 - 30 Try in court
 - 32 Came around regarding
 - 36 Alien statutes
 - 40 It can make a star shine
 - 41 4-Down titles
 - 42 Stadium take
 - 43 Like sashimi
 - 46 Cause of star wars?
 - 47 Wurlitzer whirlers
 - 52 27-Across offerings
 - 53 Plant moisture buildup
 - 54 Quaint stopover
 - 55 Decide once and for all, and what one can do to the ends of 17-, 22-, 36- and 47-Across
 - 61 Hens do it
 - 62 Novelist Jong
 - 63 Blue Cross competitor
 - 64 Yellow ___
 - 65 He passed Lou in 2009 to become the Yankees' all-time hit leader
 - 66 Pulitzer writer Kidder
- DOWN**
- 1 Certain eBay click
 - 2 Darth, at one time
 - 3 Large cask
 - 4 Gandhi, for one
 - 5 Directs
 - 6 Attaches to the house
 - 7 SeaWorld performer
 - 8 Did nothing
 - 9 Symbol of honesty
 - 10 Bad-mouth
 - 11 Sweetie pie
 - 12 Whirlpool brand
 - 13 Like some slippery floors
 - 18 Sally in space
 - 21 Anglers' baskets
 - 22 "So I was wrong"
 - 23 2009 Peace Nobel
 - 24 Leslie Caron title role
 - 25 Sub
 - 26 British weapon designed in Czechoslovakia
 - 27 Three-time Masters champ Mickelson
 - 31 Ruffles features
 - 32 Had
 - 33 Challenged
 - 34 Campfire base
 - 35 ___ buco
 - 37 Snatch
 - 38 ___-Rooter
 - 39 "A Clockwork Orange" narrator
 - 43 New Jersey's state tree
 - 44 Top server
 - 45 Burrowing marsupial
 - 47 Puts in the can?
 - 48 Radii neighbors
 - 49 Homeland of 23-Down's father
 - 50 Volleyball great Gabrielle
 - 51 More elusive
 - 55 Dr.'s study
 - 56 Were now?
 - 57 Cassis apéritif
 - 58 Seventh Greek letter
 - 59 Mandela's org.
 - 60 Mary ___ Ash, cosmetics company founder

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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

ANSWER:

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OHS bowling looks forward to new season with new coach

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee bowling team has used a new strategy this year to become a stronger program, use the talents of parents to help coach the team.

George Marshall and Carole Olney have become assistant coaches to new bowling coach Martha Bloom.

Marshall's son George is one of the boy's teams top bowlers. Other players include Austin Walker, Jarion Williams, Allen Perry, Brian Chapman, and Samuel Rogers.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
OHS bowling coaches Carole Olney, George Marshall and Martha Bloom.

Marshall said he has high expectations for the team despite the loss of a couple of experienced senior bowlers. "We have good players this year and we should show some good scores and do very well."

He said Chapman has really done well despite the fact he only started bowling a year ago. He has high hopes that he can be one of the better bowlers around. His message to the kids is have fun and do their best.

"We hope to continue building the team and do well this year and even better in the coming years," he added.

Coach Olney has enjoyed great success as a bowler and will be named to the National Bowling Hall of Fame in October. He daughter Jessica was MVP last year. The bowling team last year went undefeated in the regular season.

"I think were going to be okay. We'll be fine as long as the girls listen and keep their heads together," she noted.

Other bowlers on the team include Ashley Byrd, Brittany Baker, Tiffany Marshall, Kirsten Doney and Meghen Davis.

Olney has emphasized the girls should represent Okeechobee well and be respectful of each other.

Bloom was a bowler in high school and

in college at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. She moved to Okeechobee in 1996. She has taught off and on over the years and is a teacher at OHS this year.

She said she was very excited to become involved in the young people and is very impressed with the knowledge and the coaching skills of her volunteer parents.

"They are really good and very knowledgeable about this sport. They are very engaged and are very clear about their expectations and the rules of the team. I'm very excited," she added.

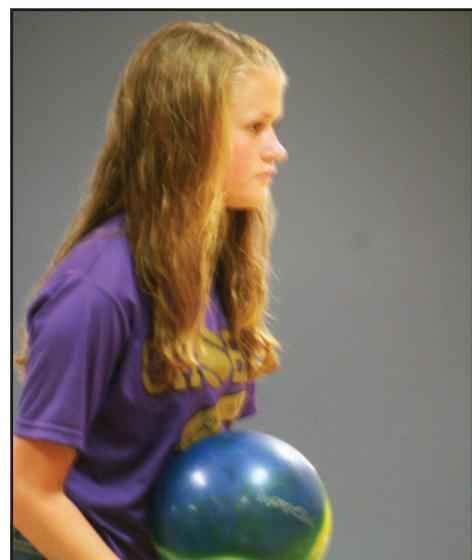
Home matches for Okeechobee this year include an Aug. 30 date with Jensen Beach, a

match with Fort Pierce Westwood on Sept. 17, Fort Pierce Central on Oct. 4, Sebring on Oct. 9, and Lake Placid on October 12.

Bloom thanked Lucky Lanes for all of their help and support for the Okeechobee bowling team.



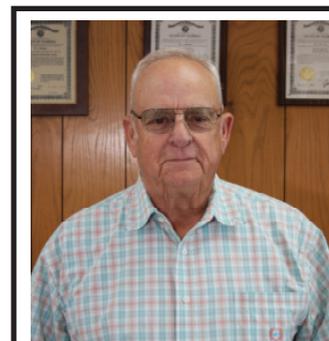
George Marshall will be depended upon as one of the boys team's best bowlers.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Brittany Baker will be counted on to contribute to the Lady Brahman bowling team this year.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jessica Olney was MVP for the Lady Brahman bowling squad last fall and hopes to continue her improvement this year.



Thank You

To all my Republican friends that supported me, and all my Democrat friends, that changed to the Republican party so they could vote for me in the recent primary election, I just wanted to say from my heart thank you so very much.

Bill Sherman



Paid by W.C. Sherman, Republican, For Property Appraiser



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