



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 112

Sunday, September 16, 2012

75¢ Plus tax

State closes grocery; owner arrested... Page 8

OHS Brahmans play St. Lucie West Eagles ... Page 18

Hospital offers rehabilitative therapy...Page 12

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County to close campground

Okee-Tantie campground and bait & tackle shop to close; boat ramps, restaurant stay open

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

In an effort to save money Okeechobee County Commissioners have decided to close Okee-Tantie Campground. The action came during the first public hearing for the adoption of the millage rate and budget for 2012-13 held on Sept. 13.

The restaurant and the boat slips will re-

main open. The bait and tackle shop will be closed. The closing will take place as soon as possible. County administrator Robbie Chartier estimated that the county would save \$64,454 the first year of closing. In subsequent years the estimated savings would be much greater after the estimated closing cost of \$111,288 is taken care of the first year. On-going cost for utilities, insurance and mowing are estimated to be \$68,142 the first year.

Any reservations now held by the campground will have to be refunded. At this time it is unknown what effect the loss of security and the closing of the campground will have on rental of boat slips. Okee-Tantie currently has

"It's obvious that for years, we've not cared about Okee-Tantie,"

— **County Commissioner Frank Irby**

two full-time and four part-time employees.

The inventory of the bait and tackle shop will be sold. Vehicles used at Okee-Tantie could be declared surplus.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary has an office there and the Okeechobee County Sheriff's

See OKEE-TANTIE — Page 2

New city mural project in the works

With the City of Okeechobee giving their seal of approval, Okeechobee Main Street is ready to begin their fifth mural project.

The mural installation will be historical renderings of the old Okeechobee Hardware store. Two large 16' x 8' panels will be installed on the CarQuest building located in the heart of Okeechobee on State Road 70. George and Mary Beth Cooper, Monrad and Gwen Chandler and Sandra Wherrel are sponsoring the project in memory of the Wherrel family.

A call to artists went out in July and several artists responded. A panel of judges including community artists and the OKMS Arts and Cultural Committee, in conjunction with George and Mary Beth Cooper participated in a blind-judging process to select the artist for this project. Arts and Culture chair Bridgette Waldau led the process that included a scoring system as well as verbal discussion for the selection of the artist. Recommendations were made from that process to the mural sponsors. The sponsors ultimately chose Joseph Steiert to paint the mural that will depict the inside, as well as the outside of the Okeechobee Hardware Store.

After growing up on a dairy farm in Okeechobee, and attending our local high school, Mr. Steiert graduated from Ringling School of Art and Design in 1988. In 1989 he completed an intense Post Graduate program in Fine Arts at



Special to the Okeechobee News/OKMS
Artist Joseph Steiert will paint a mural depicting the old Okeechobee Hardware store on the Car Quest building on State Road 70.

Ringling and a study program in Salzburg, Austria in 1991. His work has been featured in the Palm Beach Daily News, The New York Times, Architectural Digest and Southern Accents. Mr.

Steiert has been painting commercial and residential murals for 21 years, mostly in the Palm

See MURAL — Page 2



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Prayer Walk planned for Tuesday

Members of the community met last week at the Freshman Campus for the annual Prayer Walk sponsored by the Okeechobee Ministerial Association (OMA) to pray for the schools, teachers, students, support staffs, parents and administrators in that area; School Board District Office, Faith Academy, Okeechobee Christian Academy, Rock Solid Academy and Central Elementary. The

group will meet at 6 p.m. next Tuesday, Sept. 18, at the flagpole at Yearling Middle for the next Prayer Walk.

The public is invited to attend and pray for a successful year for all that are involved with Okeechobee's schools. Come and be a part of this special hour-long community event. Participants walk or stand as much as they are able.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandy Perry

Participating in the upcoming Prayer Walk set for this coming Tuesday are: (Left to right, front row): Kylie Shirley-First United Methodist Church (FUMC), Jessica Suits-FUMC, OMA Member-at-Large Rev. Dr. Edward Weiss-Church of Our Saviour Episcopal, OMA Treasurer Rev. Nancy Vaughan-Director of Christian Education at FUMC, & Doc Thrift-First Baptist. In the second row are: Jalen Watts-FUMC, Anthony Metcalf-FUMC, Dennis Crady-First Baptist and Venessa Watt-FUMC. In the third row are: OMA member Bobby Huntley-The Gathering, OMA President Rev. Cary McKee and OMA member Jim Dawson-FUMC Assistant Pastor.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and a chance of rain. High of 75F. Winds from the NE at 5 to 10 mph shifting to the West in the afternoon. Chance of rain 30%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Fog overnight. Low of 64F. Winds less than 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Partly cloudy in the morning, then mostly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain. Fog early. High of 75F. Winds from the ESE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain. Fog overnight. Low of 64F. Winds from the SSE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20%.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy in the morning, then overcast with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain. Fog early. High of 79F. Winds from the SW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.



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Pump construction approved for Everglades restoration

Storage reservoir plus pumping capability to improve Everglades water flows, water quality



Courtesy photo

The L-8 Reservoir will add 15 billion gallons of water storage when complete — enough to cover 34,000 football fields with a foot of water.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) on Thursday awarded a contract for design and construction of a pump station and 6 massive pumps that will deliver water to the Everglades and natural systems from the 15 billion gallon L-8 Reservoir in Palm Beach County.

This milestone paves the way for the L-8 Reservoir to provide some of the increased water storage that is essential for Everglades restoration. With the \$63.9 million contract award, the district will begin work to design and construct the pumping facility, which can pull water from 40 feet below the surface.

“Constructing the L-8 pump station allows us to take full advantage of this reservoir’s capabilities,” said SFWMD Executive Director Melissa L. Meeker. “When completed, the project will meaningfully expand water storage south of Lake Okeechobee, reduce freshwater discharges to tide and maximize water quality improvement capabilities to the Everglades.”

The L-8 Reservoir is a 950-acre former rock mine. Watertight geology allows for deep, below-ground storage. Below-ground storage minimizes water loss through seepage and minimizes levee safety concerns. Initially approved in 2002, the project is ca-

pable of storing 15 billion gallons of water. This is enough to fill 34,000 football fields one foot deep. The reservoir will be able to accept up to 3,000 cubic feet per second of inflow from the L-8 Canal.

The L-8 Reservoir is included in a suite of projects in the State’s \$880 million plan to improve water quality in the Everglades. Governor Rick Scott, who first proposed the restoration strategy, announced earlier this week that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has issued the necessary state and federal permits to move forward with the water-cleaning and water storage projects in the plan.

Initially, the deep-ground reservoir will capture, store and deliver water to the federally designated “Wild and Scenic” Loxa-

hatchee River and protect water quality in the Lake Worth Lagoon. The reservoir will eventually become one of three Flow Equalization Basins in the restoration strategies plan, providing 99,000 acre-feet of storage for delivery of consistent flows needed to optimize performance of the region’s Stormwater Treatment Areas. The District is working with Palm Beach County to acquire their Mecca property to construct replacement storage and continue delivering water to the Loxahatchee River as the L-8 Reservoir transitions to operating as a Flow Equalization Basin.

To safeguard taxpayer investment in the project, the district included several contract provisions to ensure operating costs such

as power do not rise above set targets. The contractor, Archer Western Contractors, must also meet construction and operating deadlines.

The L-8 Reservoir has already provided regional water resource benefits. Approximately 3.1 billion gallons of water from Tropical Storm Isaac were directed into the reservoir to help alleviate flooding from historic rainfall. Florida Power & Light (FPL) has used reservoir water for its cooling system, reducing the demand on groundwater supplies. The reservoir also was used for flood control during major rain events, including the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes.

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Movie Tickets: Adults - \$6.50 • Children 12 & under - \$5.00
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Special to the Okeechobee News/Rotary

Rotary guest

Colin Cameron, Rotary Club of Okeechobee member poses for the picture with John Wilson, Big Lake District Executive for Scouting, representing the Boy Scouts of America. We were enlightened to the many services available to the young people in Okeechobee thanks to this program during our weekly meeting (beginning at noon) at the Golden Corral on Sept. 11.

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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!

Okee-Tantie

- What the county needs is REVENUE! There are two ways for the county to generate revenue—to either raise the millage rate on the current property owners at the current property values with all things remaining the same OR increase sales tax receipts and property tax receipts through growth, increase in property values and increase in tourism dollars. The Agri-Civic Center is being used as a toy. It is not a toy, it is an asset! The “proposal” of the Agri-Civic Center was sold to the taxpayers of Okeechobee County as an event center to generate revenue through tourism and growth. However, it has become a toy for the select few of our area and has been mismanaged from the start. The private sector is much more efficient and effective as an event planner, and the interest of the county would be better served if the Agri-Civic Center was placed in the hands of professionals through a long-term Lease. The county is not in the event business and has lost money at it since day one. Okee-Tantie is in the same boat! If it was operated by a private company through a long-term lease, it would be a much better destination and revenue generator for the county and the citizens of Okeechobee.

- I think Okee-Tantie needs a lot of work but I am not convinced that leasing it out is the right plan. When the county did that years ago, it was a disaster.

- Okee-Tantie is a jewel that has been hidden away for too long. The potential is there.

- I don't understand why the commissioners are so concerned that Okee-Tantie costs the county \$100,000 a year more than it brings it. At least the county residents get to use it. So we pay about \$3 a person a year to have that facility available. Seems like a bargain to me, especially if you like to take a boat out now and then, or have friends who visit and want to see the lake. The Agri-Civic Center loses a lot more than that a year and we are not allowed to use it unless we pay high fees.

Flooding

- In Playland Park area, sending in a backhoe to open/clean the drainage ditches would have been the first maneuver in helping that area as they were definitely under water from tropical storm Isaac. New, larger culverts would help; that has always been a low-lying area, but it seems since the concrete plant was built the drainage has worsened as the new roads and buildings now push the rains into the ditches instead of going into the ground like it did when that land was all pasture.

Should churches pay EMT fees?

- There seems to be growing support for requiring that the hilariously excessive number and size of churches in this county stop passing the immense and often hidden costs of planning, infrastructure support and protection for them on to individual homeowners. It is time for the “new generation” commissioner to make a motion to resume charging churches the fire/EMT assessment and reducing the charge to homeowners that seems to have doubled after the prior commissioners revealed how corrupt they were in exempting the business-like properties they were members of.

- Churches have big crowds of people, sometimes a lot of visitors. If someone has a heart attack, stroke or other health crisis during a church service you want an EMT to come right away. I think it would be reasonable to ask the churches to pay EMT fees. They don't pay property taxes. They could afford the EMT and fire assessments.

Upset parent

- I am a very upset and concerned mom. Recently I have been contacted by DCF and the sheriff's office about an incident involving my child. A teacher at the school stepped on my child's hand to get him to stop playing with leaves while waiting for the bus. My son cried and said it hurt him and another faculty member called DCF to report it. I have talked to both DCF and the sheriff's office. I have the option to press charges. Here I was being the forgiving person I am, thinking this teacher had a momentary lapse in judgement, so I wait to see what the board is going to do about it. The assistant principle can't tell me what is going to happen. The board told me the same thing. Has anyone else in our community had this happen? What did you do?

Reflections from the pulpit

Submission

By Mark Mayers, LMFT, CAP
Real Life Children's Ranch

In our modern world the idea of submission is not a popular concept. In most cases concepts like assertiveness, confidence and self-esteem completely overshadow the idea of submission. In God's holy word, however, we are absolutely instructed to submit. 1 Peter 2:13-17 says 13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

God commands us to submit regardless of the other person's response or position. 1 Peter 2:19-21 says 18 Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were

called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

Ultimately our proper submission to others is a reflection of Christ. It is a form of worship to, in humility, submit to others in a way that places them above us. Contradictory to what the world teaches, putting others first, regardless of how they treat us, always has the greatest reward. Jesus summed it up this way - Luke 27-36 27 “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Scam alert: beware fake ‘bank’ texts

The names of prominent banks, such as Bank of America and Wells Fargo, are fraudulently being used in an attempt to steal consumers personal information. Better Business Bureau reminds consumers to never provide personal information to anyone you do not know.

Consumers are receiving both text messages and phone calls that appear to be from a bank. These texts and phone calls lead consumers to believe there is an issue with their bank account or bank card and immediate action is required. When called by these scammers, consumers are asked to provide their personal information, such as their Social Security number and bank account information, to “confirm” they are the authorized account holder. Text messages consumers are receiving provide a number for consumers to call, or a web link. When

victims call the number, an automated message claims their debit card has been “limited due to internal security error.” It goes on to instruct the consumer to press ‘1’ to avoid debit card suspension. Consumers who do so are directed to enter their 16-digit debit card number. If you receive a text or call such as these, BBB advises you to:

- Do not give out your personal information.
- If you believe there is an issue with your bank, call them directly.
- Do not respond to the text or click on any links provided.
- Contact your phone provider to block any suspicious numbers the texts or calls are originating from.
- If you have already fallen victim to this scam, contact your financial institution immediately.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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

Okeechobee News

USPS 406-160

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

107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D • Okeechobee, FL 34974

Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Okeechobee News

Circulation Administration

110 Galaxy Road • Dover, DE 19901

Staff

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

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- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
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- 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.



Constitutional Amendment 3 concerns revenue limitation

By **Rodney L. Clouser**
University of Florida

Preface

This document is the second in a series of six fact sheets intended to provide information on proposed constitutional amendments having direct individual or government tax impacts. As some details of the proposed changes may not have been discussed due to space limitations, the series should not be considered an all-inclusive assessment of the proposed constitutional changes, and any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of University of Florida. These fact sheets are not intended as a replacement for personal knowledge about actual or proposed changes but are a guide to inform the public on the issues.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment 3

When people go to their polling place in November 2012, they will see information on the amendment, references to the portion of the constitution that will be altered, sponsor of the amendment, the ballot title, and the ballot summary. The information for Amendment 3 will be similar or identical to the following and the ballot title and ballot summary are direct quotes from the Florida Department of State website:

Proposed Constitutional Amendment: No. 3
Reference: Article VII, Sections 1 And 19 & Article XII, Section 32

Sponsor: The Florida Legislature
Ballot Title: State Government Revenue Limitation

Ballot Summary: This proposed amendment to the State Constitution replaces the existing state revenue limitation based on Florida personal income growth, with a new state revenue limitation based on inflation and population changes. Under the amendment, state revenues, as defined in the amendment, collected in excess of the revenue limitation must be deposited into the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches its maximum balance, and thereafter shall be used for the support and maintenance of public schools by reducing the minimum financial effort required from school districts for participation in a state-funded education finance program, or if the minimum financial effort is no longer required, returned to the taxpayers. The Legislature may increase the state revenue limitation through a bill approved by a super majority vote of each house of the Legislature. The Legislature may also submit a proposed increase in the state revenue limitation to the voters. The Legislature must implement this proposed amendment by general law. The amendment will take effect upon approval by the electors and will first apply to the 2014–2015 state fiscal year.

The Effects and Impacts

Constitutional Amendment No. 3 would revise the method by which the state revenue limitation in any given state fiscal year is cal-

culated. This amendment is one of the more complex of those proposed.

The proposed amendment “limits” state revenues collected beginning in FY 2014–2015 to the same amount collected in the previous fiscal year (2013–2014) with adjustments. In other words, the prior state fiscal year revenue collected determines the base state revenue for the next fiscal year. This is then multiplied by a “growth factor” and a small adjustment factor (to be phased out after state FY 2017–2018) to determine the revenue limit.

The “adjustment for growth” in the state FY revenue base, as it is referred to in the amendment, is calculated using the preceding five-year average of an inflation factor and a population growth factor. The inflation factor is defined as the percent change in the calendar year annual average Consumer Price Index-Urban (CPI-U) plus one. The population growth factor is the percent change in the state’s current population on April 1, compared to the state’s population in the prior year on April 1, plus one.

While the amendment proposes to limit state revenue growth, the term “state revenue” is not all-inclusive. According to the amendment, state revenue is defined as “taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for services imposed by the legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside of state government.” Several items are excluded from the state revenue limitation and include receipts of public universities; receipts from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; revenue needed to meet bond obligations prior to July 1, 2012; revenues used to provide matching funds for the federal Medicaid program; balances carried forward from prior fiscal years; and charges for school district services, etc.

The proposed constitutional amendment necessitates that if revenue exceeds the limitation level in any year, that excess revenue is to be transferred to the state budget stabilization fund until that fund reaches the maximum amount established in the state constitution (10% of the last completed fiscal year’s net revenue collections for the general revenue fund), then be used to reduce the minimum financial effort required by school districts, but should that minimum financial effort be no longer required, the funds are then to be returned to taxpayers.

The amendment also proposes three different methods by which the revenue limit can be increased:

A two-thirds vote by both houses of the legislature is required. Unless otherwise provided within the legislation, the increased revenue limit would be used in future years to establish the state revenue limit. (Requires a 72-hour “waiting” period before a vote can be taken by the legislative houses.)

The state revenue limit can be increased for a single fiscal year by a three-fifths vote of the legislature. This increase would not be used to calculate maximum revenue amounts in future fiscal years. (Requires a 72-hour “waiting” period before a vote can be taken by the legislative houses.) The legislature can propose a resolution to increase the revenue limitation by a three-fifths vote of both legislative bodies with the resolution voted on by Florida voters.

Passage by Florida voters would require 60 percent voting for approval.

The amendment states that it will become effective upon approval and will first apply to the 2014–2015 state fiscal year.

According to analysis by state legislative staff, there is no immediate impact expected if proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 3 is passed. Why? Staff analysis indicates that while the proposed amendment will reduce the maximum state revenue limit, growth in state revenues included in the proposed amendment will not exceed the revenue limit, at least based on estimates through state FY 2019–2020.

Florida currently has a state revenue limitation, but that limitation is based on the average annual growth rate in Florida personal income for the most recent 20 quarters. Under current law, it is estimated that the state revenue limit would be more than \$60 billion in state FY 2019–2020. With proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 3, it is estimated the state revenue limit in FY 2019–2020 would be approximately \$40 billion. However, in state FY 2019–2020, it is projected that state revenues collected, subject to this amendment, would only be about \$37–38 billion. Based on these projections, and realizing that it is extremely difficult to project revenues this far into the future, there would be no excess revenue to transfer to the state budget stabilization fund if this amendment were adopted. That does not mean, however, that the amendment will not have some sort of fiscal impact at some point in the future.

Constitutional Amendment No. 3 falls under the general category of similar legislation across the United States, often bearing the acronym of TABOR. TABOR is the short form for “Taxpayer Bill of Rights.” While many states have enacted or considered some form of state revenue limitation, the state with the most stringent program adopted is Colorado. The following quote indicates the impact of the Colorado revenue limitation effort: “Under TABOR, the state has returned more than \$2 billion to taxpayers, rather than using these funds to pay for K-12 education, higher education, transportation, public health services, public safety, and other services.” Colorado’s

TABOR was so restrictive that the program was suspended for five years.

Those in favor of this amendment may feel that the only way to restrain government expenditures is to limit the amount of revenue available for the government to expend. Likewise, some in favor of the amendment may believe the only way to reduce programs that go beyond the scope of “appropriate” government involvement is by reducing the amount of funds available for government to spend, thereby forcing governments to prioritize program/service importance. A former Governor of Colorado argued that, in Colorado, revenue limits provided more influence to the taxpayer and less influence to special interest groups and suggested that this is why revenue limits should be supported.

Those who oppose this amendment might argue that the growth factor allowed in the amendment is too restrictive and does not apply to units of government. For example, the market basket of goods used to determine the CPI-U is in no way reflective of government costs for infrastructure. They also might believe the formula used to derive future revenue limits, especially in times of economic downturn, is too restrictive in limiting government revenue in future years. Concerns have been expressed that restrictive revenue limiting measures result in gaps for “safety net” programs for those individuals with low incomes and special needs.

Other factors need to be considered when determining your support for or opposition to this proposed amendment. Florida already has enacted revenue limiting requirements. This amendment further refines the revenue limiting structure. In general, the proposed amendment is more restrictive in terms of the revenue limit. However, based on current analysis, there is no expectation that the revenue limit will have any impact through FY 2019–2020.

Rodney L. Clouser, professor and associate chair, extension public policy specialist, Food and Resource Economics Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Okeechobee Utility Authority/Roy Reno

Employee recognition

At the Tuesday, Sept. 11, meeting of the Okeechobee Utility Authority board of directors, acting chair Tommy Hoover recognized Kristy Hamblen, executive director’s assistant and customer service supervisor, for five years of service to the utility.

OHS Reunion planned

Class of 1973 Reunion is planned for **Oct. 26** and 27. On Oct. 26, the group will meet at the Homecoming game at the north end of the bleachers. At 9 p.m. they will meet at Kahootz for those who want to attend. On Oct. 27, they will meet at Luncker’s at 5:30 p.m. for socializing and dinner. Any questions can be directed to e-mail at okeecho-bee73@hotmail.com or call Vickie at 864-828-2083 or Nancy at 863-467-1565.

Community Events

VFW ladies auxiliary to host monthly breakfast

Buckhead Ridge Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars host their monthly breakfast Sunday, **Sept. 16** from 9 to 11 a.m. for a donation of \$5. The event is open to the public. For additional information please call the post at 863-467-2882.

Garden and Orchid Clubs to meet Sept. 17

The Okeechobee Garden Club will meet at 6 p.m. and the Orchid Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, **Sept. 17**, at the Extension Center, 458 Highway 98N. You are invited to come and discuss a problem or show a favorite plant. If you need help with re-potting, be sure to hydrate the plant you are bringing. For more information, call 863-763-6469.

Chamber to host Enterprise Zone seminar

The Chamber of Commerce will host a seminar on Enterprise Zone tax credits for both new and existing businesses that reside in the Enterprise Zone on Tuesday, **Sept. 18**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chamber member Tom Johnson of Ryan Tax Service will conduct this seminar. To attend this seminar, please register on-line by accessing the event calendar on the Chamber web site, search for Sept 18, click on the event name and use the register online tab to register for the event. This is a free event sponsored by the Chamber. Seating is limited to 25 attendees.

Free diabetes seminar planned

Living With Diabetes will be presented by Wanda Haas, RN CDE at the Grand Oaks Assisted Living Community, 203 S.E. Second St., located in the activities room on Wednesday, **Sept. 19**, at 10 a.m. offered by the Visiting Nurses.

Hospice yard sale planned

Come and check out the many items at the Hospice yard sale set for **Sept. 19** and 20, from 8 a.m. until noon. The Country Store has many new items and collectibles at great prices.

VVA to hold meeting about Agent Orange

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Florida State council and America Serving Veterans Foundation, will hold a Town Hall meeting to address the birth defects, diseases and learning disabilities affecting the children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans. The forum will be held on Thursday, **Sept. 20**, at 11 a.m. at the Florida Seminole Veteran's Building-Brighton, at 800 E. Harney Pond Rd., Brighton Reservation. For information contact Donna Kahn at 863-357-7620.

Democratic Executive Committee to meet

The Okeechobee Democratic Executive Committee will be having its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, **Sept. 20**, beginning at 6 p.m. in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's. Information about the upcoming community forum will be presented and several candidates will be visiting. Hope to see any interested Democrats there!

Junior rodeo planned in Okeechobee

The Florida Junior Rodeo Association will hold a rodeo on **Sept. 22** and 23 at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center. This association is for kids ages 5-14. There will be Barrel Racing, Bareback Bronc Riding, Chute Dogging, Steer Riding, Tie Down Calf Roping, Breakaway, Goat Tying, Pole Bending and Cutting. For more information, see the web site at www.afjra.com or contact Kay Hickson at 561-996-2298.

Martha's House presents Purple and White Night

Let's have a fun night featuring T.J. and the Cruisers Rock and Roll Revue. Wear your Purple and White on Saturday, **Oct. 13**, at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post, #10539, Okeechobee. Admission is just \$15. For tickets, please call 863-763-2893.

Knock Out Spice lecture rescheduled

Attention, public servants, parents, students, community members, civic organizations, grandparents, business owners and community leaders: Do you know what SPICE is? The kids do. On Tuesday, **Sept. 25**, from 7 until 8 p.m. at the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall you can learn how to protect our children and community from these dangerous drugs. Learn what synthetic drugs are and about unknown dangers and consequences.

Collaborative Council to meet in school board office

The Community Collaborative Council, a part of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, will be Tuesday, **Sept. 25**, at 10 a.m. in the board room of the School Board Office.

Feathers & Furs 4-H holds Rabbit and Poultry Clinic

On Saturday, **Sept. 29**, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the Feathers & Furs 4-H Club will host a Rabbit and Poultry Care Clinic, with a drawing for a rabbit with a \$1 donation to the club. The clinic will be held at Jones Supply & Feed, at 801 S.W. Park St. (south of Advance Auto Parts). Other 4-H Clubs are welcome to set up with us. For information contact: Cathy Arthur, 863-763-1512.

Healthy Start Coalition announces meeting

The board of directors of the Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition will meet Wednesday, **Oct. 3**, at 11:30 a.m. at their office located at 1132 S. Parrott Ave. in the White House Plaza. 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 for pregnant women and infants. The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition is made up of citizens interested in promoting healthy families and healthy outcomes for babies in Okeechobee. For more information about the Coalition please contact executive director, Kay Begin at the Coalition office, 863-462-5877.

'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 Saturday, **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.gofundme.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.

Eagles to host lunch

Cypress Hut Eagles will be serving homemade meatball subs on Tuesday, **Sept. 18**, at 5:30 p.m. For more information please call 863-467-1154.

Celebrate A Life



with *—an—* **Online Guestbook**

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

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 Meet Your Merchant: <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=56360&pagenum=1>
 School Information Guide: <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=68371&pagenum=1>

Strawberry plant orders taken now

Are you looking for a fruitful fall and winter? Orders for strawberry plants are now being taken at the Okeechobee County Extension office. The office will make arrangements with a local grower to have strawberry plants available at 50c per plant if you want to include strawberries in your garden.

Strawberry plants need to be planted in during the fall so that they will produce these luscious fruits during our cooler winter climate. It is often hard to locate sources of strawberry plants, so the Extension Office make this annual offer to help local gardeners.

If you want to learn how to grow strawberries, plan to attend the September meeting of the Okeechobee Garden Club. It will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday Sept. 17, to be followed by the monthly Orchid Club meeting at 7 p.m.

Last year, the Extension Office coordinated the sale of nearly 500 plants to home gardeners. The varieties of strawberry plants offered will be Treasure or Festival. The plants are typically grown in Canada or North Carolina, and are planted in the fall in Florida.

Call 863-763-6469 or email indiano@ufl.edu with your name, email or telephone number and the number of plants you want. No cash is needed at the time or ordering. Plants must be pre-ordered before Friday, Sept. 28.

The Extension Office will contact you when the plants arrive, typically around the first week in October. You will need to pick up your order and bring your exact cash payment (sorry, no checks) when you take delivery.

Livestock Market Report

SEPTEMBER 10 & 11, 2012
MONDAY SALE AT 12:00PM....TUESDAY SALE AT 11:00AM

COWS:	QTY:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:	MONDAY	TUESDAY
800-1000	135	55.00	90.00	72.17	59.77	1233	1520
1000-1200	173	61.00	93.00	78.64	65.02	141	362
1200-1400	96	60.00	91.00	80.15	70.28	50	94
1400-1600	38	79.00	89.00	84.00	69.71	43	58
1600-1800	11	76.00	86.00	81.80	75.75	26	9
BULLS:							
1200-1400	6	76.00	101.00	98.00	77.00	35	20
1400-1600	10	84.00	95.00	89.29	76.75	0	21
1600-1800	8	83.00	99.00	89.00	-	1528	2084
STEERS:							
200-250	32	105.00	275.00	200.79	220.91		
250-300	97	130.00	240.00	188.96	184.72		
300-350	189	120.00	230.00	170.63	188.37		
350-400	243	115.00	207.50	158.42	157.12		
400-450	273	105.00	182.50	147.62	141.99		
450-500	268	100.00	175.00	139.36	133.95		
500-550	239	105.00	165.00	132.86	128.94		
550-600	179	100.00	142.50	124.85	124.52		
600-650	130	107.00	137.50	124.33	123.60		
650-700	67	102.00	132.00	120.08	122.40		
700-750	28	105.00	127.00	117.27	114.11		
HEIFERS:							
200-250	46	120.00	240.00	168.26	175.50		
250-300	96	110.00	185.00	148.17	148.25		
300-350	142	100.00	180.00	142.02	142.22		
350-400	196	100.00	167.50	135.20	132.87		
400-450	250	100.00	165.00	127.18	131.85		
450-500	172	100.00	137.50	121.02	128.84		
500-550	167	100.00	130.00	116.68	121.26		
550-600	71	100.00	132.50	113.84	118.32		
600-650	41	105.00	137.50	115.91	113.84		

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	1233	1520
COWS	141	362
STRS	50	94
HFRS	43	58
BULLS	26	9
YRLNGS	35	20
MIX	0	21
TOTAL	1528	2084

Pretty good run of cattle this week! Prices on calves were steady. Slaughter cows and bulls were dollars higher this week. Please spread the word on our Special October Sales.

Martha R. Humphries, LaBelle, topped the calf market with a high of \$2.80 bought by Terry Bomhak. Danny Candler, Okeechobee, topped the cow market with a high of \$93 bought by Dairymens Marketing.

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:
Monday at 12 p.m.
Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Okeechobee Livestock Market
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Oct 19: "44 Farms" Angus Bull sale
Oct 26: Little Creek Farms Brangus Bull sale
Don't make a Mistake! Call Big Lake
863-763-ROOF (7663)

Extension Office to be present at 'Right Tree, Right Place' seminar

The Right Tree, Right Place principle is a familiar phrase and concept, and is the key to a healthy, sustainable landscape. However, it is not always easily achievable. This seminar is geared towards landscape architects, HOAs, homeowners, developers, contractors, and government employees. It will demonstrate how to complete a project using these principles.

Regional horticultural experts, including Okeechobee County Extension Agent Dan Culbert, will share their knowledge and lessons learned throughout the day. Mr. Culbert will present a seminar on, "New and under-utilized plant choices for challenging planting spaces."

This workshop will enlighten and educate attendees with sessions on Florida-Friendly Landscaping, Power Lines and Tree Planting, Tree Selection for South Florida, and Landscape and Tree Codes. Enjoy lunch (provided) before the day commences with a tour of Mounts Botanical Garden.

The seminar will be held at UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Exhibit Hall A, 559 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, on Tuesday, Sept. 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$30 which includes lunch, program materials and CEUs. Participants must pre-register by calling the Florida Urban Forestry Council at 407-872-1738. View

the seminar brochure on-line at: <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu/092512.RTRP.WPB.pdf>. For other questions, contact Palm Beach County Horticulture Agent Laura Sanagorski at 561-233-1748.

This program is made possible by a partnership between the UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Extension Service, the Florida Urban Forestry Council, and the Florida Forest Service.

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Most insurance accepted, including Medicare and Medicaid

State closes local grocery; owner is arrested

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The state shut down a local food store after the owner was arrested on site for not having worker's compensation coverage on his employees.

Naser A. Abueqab, 45, S.W. 196th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Thursday, Sept. 13, on two felony counts of failure to secure worker's compensation insurance. He was being held in the Okeechobee County Jail in lieu of \$7,500 bond.

According to Detective William Hill, from the Florida Department of Financial Services/Division of Insurance Fraud, Abueqab was initially arrested on a

warrant signed by Circuit Court Judge Robert Belanger. One of the stipulations of the warrant was that Abueqab could not be released on bond until he had surrendered his passport.

The detective said when he went to serve the arrest warrant an employee of Abueqab's was found working in the Bravo Supermarket, 802 E.N. Park St. When Detective Hill learned that employee was not covered by worker's compensation, he arrested the store owner on the second charge.

When the detective entered the store he was joined by another state agency—the Bureau of Worker's Compen-

sation—Division of Compliance.

"They also issued a stop work order on that business. We're on the enforcement side and they are on the regulatory side," explained Detective Hill. "Before he (Abueqab) can open again, he will have to produce coverage and comply with the penalty assessment from the bureau."

He went on to say he didn't know at this time just what the penalty will be.

Because the business cannot legally open until the penalty is satisfied, Detective Hill said the bureau will periodically check on the Bravo Supermarket to make sure its doors are closed.

The detective's arrest report indicates that Abueqab purchased a worker's comp policy

on May 3 that was supposed to be in effect for a year. However, the policy was cancelled on Aug. 4 for non-payment of premiums.

The store "has continued to operate beyond the cancellation of Aug. 4, 2012, without coverage," stated the detective's report.

A records check of Abueqab's background showed that he was arrested in May of 2005 for not having his employees covered. However, after paying the penalties and serving time on probation, that charge was dropped by the state.

"Prior arrests shouldn't effect his ability to get a worker's compensation policy," said Detective Hill. "He'll just have to shop around."



Naser A. Abueqab

DUI checkpoint will be on S.R. 15

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) will set up a DUI/driver's license checkpoint Friday, Sept. 28, on S.R. 15.

These check points are a proven tool and are effective in reducing the number of people killed or injured in alcohol-involved crashes, said Sheriff Paul May. He went on

OCSO Investigations

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

ASSAULT

- 500 block of N.W. Fourth St.
- 3300 block of N.W. 27th Ave.
- 3200 block of S.E. 35th Ave.
- 1700 block of U.S. 441 N.

BURGLARY

- 500 block of N.E. 28th Ave.
- 3100 block of S.E. 20th Court
- 3200 block of S.E. 19th Court
- 1200 block of S.W. 18th Terrace
- 28000 block of S.R. 710
- 1100 block of S.W. 24th Ave.
- 2600 block of N.W. 53rd Terrace

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 3700 block of N.W. 29th Ave.
- 900 block of N.W. 23rd Lane
- 900 block of N.E. 70th Ave.
- 3900 block of U.S. 441 S.

THEFT

- 3600 block of N.W. 21st Ave
- 14000 block of U.S. 441 N.
- 3000 block of N.W. Eighth Terrace (riding lawn mower)
- 2300 block of S.W. Third Ave. (riding lawn mower)
- 600 block of N.W. 23rd Lane
- 17000 block of N.W. 22nd Terrace
- 1600 block of U.S. 441 N. (cell phone)
- 1400 block of S.W. 19th Terrace (vehicle)
- 17000 block of N.W. 248th St. (laptop computer)
- 10000 block of N.E. 128th Ave.
- 600 block of N.E. 17th Ave.
- 700 block of N.W. 39th Circle
- 14000 block of N.W. 248th St. (laptop computer)

to say research shows that such crashes are reduced by an average of 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted enough.

Law enforcement officers will be checking drivers for signs of possible impairment. Drivers will also be checked to make sure they have the proper licensing.

Impaired drivers can expect to be arrested and jailed. Besides fines and other fees, impaired drivers can also expect to have their license suspended and the cost of their insurance increased.

DUI classes and other expenses can ex-

ceed \$10,000, pointed out Sheriff Paul May.

Motorists are reminded that if they are going to drink they should designate a driver; call a cab; call a family member; or, stay home.

Florida law considers a driver with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or higher to be impaired. Drivers under the age of 21 with a BAC of .02 or higher are also in violation of state law.

Officers from the Okeechobee City Police Department and troopers from the Florida Highway Patrol will be assisting the sheriff's office in this operation.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The City of Okeechobee has tentatively adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. A public hearing to make a FINAL DECISION on the budget AND TAXES will be held on:

Tuesday, September 25, 2012
6:00 p.m.

City Hall, Council Chambers, Room 200
55 SE 3rd Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34974

BUDGET SUMMARY							
City of Okeechobee - Fiscal Year 2012-2013							
THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE ARE 2.7% MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
General Fund 7.7432	GENERAL FUND	PUBLIC FACILITIES IMPROVE FUND	CDBG FUND	CAPITAL IMPROV. PROJECTS FUND -IMPACT FEES	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FUND	LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL FUND	TOTAL BUDGET
ESTIMATED REVENUES:							
Taxes:	Millage Per \$1000						
Ad Valorem Taxes	7.7432						
OTHER TAXES (INS. PREM. UTILITY, ETC)	\$ 602,175	\$ 569,224					\$ 1,171,399
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,246,306	\$ 66,308		\$ 500			\$ 1,313,114
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$ 903,908						\$ 903,908
FINE, FORFEITURES AND PENALTIES	\$ 22,400					\$ 500	\$ 22,900
USES OF MONEY AND PROPERTY	\$ 1,000	\$ 600			\$ 5,500		\$ 7,100
OTHER REVENUE	\$ 43,141		\$ 831,327		\$ 252,000		\$ 1,126,468
TOTAL SOURCES	\$ 4,516,500	\$ 636,132	\$ 831,327	\$ 500	\$ 257,500	\$ 500	\$ 6,242,459
Transfers In	\$ 967,080	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 967,080
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets	\$ 3,360,118	\$ 648,780	\$ 32	\$ 76,750	\$ 6,734,208	\$ 3,108	\$ 10,822,996
TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS & BALANCES	\$ 8,843,698	\$ 1,284,912	\$ 831,359	\$ 77,250	\$ 6,991,708	\$ 3,608	\$ 18,032,535
EXPENDITURES:							
LEGISLATIVE	\$ 115,919						\$ 115,919
EXECUTIVE	\$ 174,334				\$ 1,000		\$ 175,334
CITY CLERK	\$ 190,416						\$ 190,416
FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$ 256,404				\$ 1,200		\$ 257,604
LEGAL COUNSEL	\$ 71,823						\$ 71,823
GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES	\$ 324,595				\$ 11,000		\$ 335,595
LAW ENFORCEMENT	\$ 1,962,012			\$ 31,003	\$ 50,272	\$ 500	\$ 2,043,787
FIRE PROTECTION	\$ 1,320,331			\$ 18,750	\$ 24,632		\$ 1,363,713
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 1,067,746	\$ 620,823		\$ 16,950	\$ 59,021		\$ 1,764,540
CAPITAL PROJECTS-VEHICLES LEASE PURCHASE					\$ 361,970		\$ 361,970
LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL FUND						\$ 2,608	\$ 2,608
CDBG GRANT FUND			\$ 831,327				\$ 831,327
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 5,483,580	\$ 620,823	\$ 831,327	\$ 66,703	\$ 509,095	\$ 3,108	\$ 7,514,636
OPERATING TRANSFER-OUT	\$ -	\$ 398,000	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 568,580	\$ -	\$ 967,080
FUND BALANCE/AND TRANSFER/RESERVES	\$ 3,360,118	\$ 266,089	\$ 32	\$ 10,047	\$ 5,914,033	\$ 500	\$ 9,550,819
TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES, TRANSFERS, RESERVES & BALANCES	\$ 8,843,698	\$ 1,284,912	\$ 831,359	\$ 77,250	\$ 6,991,708	\$ 3,608	\$ 18,032,535
THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED, AND / OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.							



Special to the Okeechobee News/A Child's World

Grandparents Day honored

A Child's World Preschool and Daycare held a welcoming Grandparents Day luncheon on Friday, Sept. 7. Children and their grandparents had some great visit time while they enjoyed their lunch.

Ryder and his grandma "Lollie" Laura Johnson (left) sit together during the Grandparents Day luncheon held at A Child's World on Friday, Sept. 7.



Special to the Okeechobee News/A Child's World

Matthew was joined by his grandparents, Fil and Debbie Conroy during the Grandparents Day luncheon held on Friday, Sept 7.



Special to the Okeechobee News/A Child's World

Abby gets to enjoy her Friday lunch with her "Poppa" Darrell Hazellief during the Grandparents Day luncheon held at the school to honor grandparents.

CASTLE calls for volunteers for safe parenting program

If you have a few hours to spare and share your great parenting techniques, call CASTLE today. Teaching Safe Parenting, CASTLE's mission is to stop child abuse before it even happens by empowering parents with the education necessary to create successful, loving, and nurturing families. We are currently seeking volunteers for our Safe Families Program. We're making a difference, one family at a time. Call 772-465-6011 or e-mail hr@castletc.org for more information.

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DAILY EVENT CALENDAR

MONDAY



PUBLIC SERVICE NIGHT

20% Off Food
For police, firefighters
and those in the
medical field
4pm - Close

TUESDAY



PLAY CORN HOLE

9pm - Close

KIDS EAT FREE
All Day, Every Tuesday
w/ adult meal purchase

WEDNESDAY



GIRLS NIGHT OUT

\$1 Well Drinks
1/2 Price
Perfect Margaritas
\$3 Mojitos
8pm - Close

KARAOKE at 8pm

THURSDAY



TRIVIA NIGHT

Exercise Your
Mind While
You Drink

8pm - 10pm

FRIDAY



TEACHERS LOUNGE

20% OFF
For All Teachers
4pm - 7pm

CLUB APPLE
9:30pm - Close

SATURDAY



CDA BAND

8pm

on the patio!

SUNDAY



Join us to watch



and
NASCAR



Applebee's
Okeechobee

Okeechobee Applebee's

1210 Highway 70 E, Okeechobee
(863) 357-0141

Drink Responsibly.
Drive Responsibly.



Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

Students of the Week

Everglades Elementary students achieving excellence in the classroom for the week of Sept. 10-14, include: kindergarten students, Taryn Vest, Alton Azcona, Tatyana Youngblood; first graders, Anahi Toribio, Joshua O'Shields, Lindsey Hamilton, Manuel Mora, Reyna Bell, John Mowery; second grade students, Jasmine Corona, Taryanna Pryor, Lorenzo Santiago, Derrell Davis, Wiley Vaughn; third graders, Maria Campos, Riley Carver, Victoria Coursion, Blake Joyner, Westyn Boone, Kaley Smith; fourth grade students, Jace Selph, Ronald King, Bryan Dersa, Mason Turner fifth grade students, Hailey Macrae, Gage Lowery, Luz Rivera and Kaitlyn Broaderick. Congratulations! to our many outstanding students.



Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Students of the Week

Central Elementary School Students of the Week for the week of Sept. 3, include: Rafael Jimenez, Shnora Fludd, Heaven Platt, Natalie Rebolgar, Adrian Orozco, Kaleb Moran, Alex Boswell, Skylar Anderson, Emmett Sumner, Gaury Duran, James Hazen, Carla Colavini, Tyrone Hayes, Paisley Norman, AJ Olvera, Rosalinda Caballero, Shanitria Warner, Diana Rodriguez, Logan Botari, Giovanni Garcia, Stephanie Alvarado, Magalie Pineda, Morgan Tucker, Emily Gonzalez, Faith Casselton, Yuliana Licea, Julissa Sanchez, Victoria Simmons, Kai Ichimura and Zoyee Ramirez.

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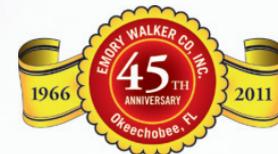
CES kids enjoy fabulous 'Football Friday'



Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

Central Elementary School students enjoyed "Football Friday" activities last week. Thank you to all the teachers, Coach Spearow, Coach Eldred, Mrs. VanBeek, Mrs. LaFlam, Mr. Boom and all the parents/volunteers for helping the students on Football Friday. Everyone had a great time and the students really enjoyed themselves.

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Questions about rehabilitative therapy services answered

Recently Christine Sanchez, PT, Director of Rehabilitative Services at Raulerson Hospital, answered some questions regarding local therapy services available to the community.

Question: Describe one of the most unique assets of Raulerson Hospital's Out-patient Rehabilitation Program.

Answer: Many patients require three disciplines of therapy and at Raulerson Hospital we are able to provide licensed therapists for Physical therapy, Occupational therapy & Speech Language Pathology all at one location for infants through adults. For example, a patient recovering from a stroke may receive Occupational Therapy to regain hand function, Speech or Swallowing Therapy from the Speech Pathologist, and balance retraining & walking with Physical Therapy. Similarly a child with Cerebral Palsy may

require Occupation Therapy for activities requiring use of the arms for coloring or self dressing, Physical Therapy to learn to walk with braces, while also benefitting from Speech Therapy.

Question: Does Raulerson Hospital offer one-on-one patient therapy?

Answer: Yes. Our patients receive one-on-one Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy by licensed therapists. Our therapists are motivated to help our patients attain or regain their functional abilities while providing them with the tools to manage their conditions during their activities of daily life. I know that our patients will receive great care because our therapists are kind and caring, and we have a team approach to brainstorm the most effective approach for our most challenging cases.

Question: Is Raulerson Hospital's Out-

patient Therapy Department able to offer wound care or burn care?

Answer: Yes. We have been providing the community with wound care and burn care services on an outpatient basis for more than ten years. Much of this type of care is rendered by therapy and focuses on wounds or burns that require:

- sharps debridement of necrotic tissue,
- attention to compression bandaging to decrease swelling and enhance venous return of blood (promoting healing & wound closure),
- Patients require a doctor's order before they begin treatment.

Question: Are there any services available for people suffering with vertigo?

Answer: Yes. We perform Vestibular Rehabilitation therapy for Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPPV), which can be caused by calcium deposits which break loose in the inner ear. This can cause patients to feel dizzy, light headed, off balance, and nauseous. It can occur suddenly without warning or in some cases can be a chronic, recurrent problem. Our trained Physical Therapists conduct various positioning strategies to relieve the symptoms of vertigo for our patients. Examples of these positioning strategies include: The Epley Maneuver and The Semont Maneuver. The goal of these maneuvers is to move the calcium deposits back to where they belong – preventing the sensation of dizziness. We also work on balance with our patients and give them home programs of positions and exercises to con-

tinue their treatment independently, to help prevent recurrence. The therapy we perform for patients suffering with Vertigo has been very effective.

Question: Explain one Rehabilitation service that most people may not realize is available.

Answer: There are several medical conditions which leave people with swallowing problems. If such swallowing issues are not addressed, some patients can be at risk for aspiration which means that food or drink can actually be inhaled into the lungs instead of being swallowed. Most people can recall a feeling of having food or drink "go down the wrong pipe," but for certain people with compromised postures or conditions this problem can result in recurrent pneumonia, pneumonitis, choking and even death.

Part of swallowing therapy may include a Modified Barium Swallowing Study. During this procedure our licensed Speech Pathologist accompanies the patient to the Radiology Department and provides the patient with different textures of food and drink mixed with a substance that allows them to view the material through an x-ray machine. These items are given to the patient to ingest and are viewed radiologically as the swallowing occurs to see if the food is going down properly. Based upon the findings, recommendations can be made to help correct the problem and prevent harm. The patient may need guidance on proper posture to assure proper swallow or an altered diet for food that can be safely eaten.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Okeechobee Historical Society

Historical Society

The Okeechobee Historical Society had a booth in the park during Labor Day that was staffed by Wilma Williams and Zelda Mixon. Zelda shared her stories of life with her great-grandparents, Peter and Louisiana Chandler Raulerson, the first white settlers of Okeechobee as well as offering a taste of old fashioned bread pudding. The Historical Society will have their first meeting, after the summer break, on Monday, Sept. 17, beginning at noon in the museum on Highway 98 N. Anyone who is interested in joining the group, just bring a covered dish and dues of \$10.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/OKMS

The mural will also include a depiction of the inside of the old Okeechobee Hardware Store.

OKEE-TANTIE

Continued From Page 1

Office has a building there which is used for search and rescue operations and Citizens Observation Patrol. The sheriff's office and the Coast Guard Auxiliary will now have to pay their own utilities. The facilities maintenance department will be tasked with maintaining the restrooms for day use of the park. It has yet to be determined who would handle boat slip rental.

Commissioner Bryant Culpepper noted that Okee-Tantie is not self sustaining and revenues have been on a decline in recent years. "To be fiscally responsible I don't see how you could justify keeping something open that loses money," he said.

"It's obvious that for years we've not cared about Okee-Tantie," said Commissioner Frank Irby. He felt that the campground should be closed until the county was ready to improve it and spend the savings on other things such as drainage.

"I still think with some work you could still make a profit," was the opinion of Commissioner Ray Domer.

A private developer has presented a plan to the county to rent the park and operate it as a business venture. Action on that proposal is waiting permission from the state to allow the county to lease the park. County attorney John Cassels stated that if the county decides to lease the park to a private developer, it would be better to close it sooner rather than later.

Commissioners unanimously approved a tentative millage rate of 8.5470 and a tentative debt service millage of 0.3450 mills to be allocated to the jail repayment fund. One mil equals \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 of assessed value.

By a 4 to 1 vote commissioners gave approval to a tentative budget of slightly over \$86 million which is 6.29 percent less than the current amended budget.

Commissioners approved the tentative budget as proposed which included the operation of Okee Tantie with the understanding that the budget could be amended later as necessary to take into consideration the closing of the campground.

The lone dissenting vote was cast by Commissioner Domer who was opposed to taking \$500,000 from landfill host fees to bal-

ance the budget. After the meeting he said that he felt the county should cut spending to be in line with revenues and not use landfill host fees to balance the budget.

Dowling Watford thanked the commissioners for their efforts and said that as a business owner he appreciated the fact that the proposed millage rate could give business owners a tax break.

Final adoption of the millage rate and budget will come during a public hearing to be held in the Commission Chambers at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27.

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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Special to the Okeechobee News/OKMS

Left to right are Okeechobee Main Street Arts and Cultural Chair Bridgette Waldau, artist Joseph Seiert, mural sponsor Mary Beth Cooper and Maureen Burroughs.

MURAL

Continued From Page 1

Beaches, where he now resides. He is also a successful fine art painter who has exhibited

his paintings in London, New York, Florida and South Korea. Okeechobee citizens will be familiar with his most recent work which is the massive mural installation on the old Okeechobee bank building.

The completion of the new mural is expected by Jan. 15, 2013.

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BIG MO to perform at Okeechobee Church of God

North Okeechobee Church of God will have BIG MO from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, on Sunday at 6 p.m. and weeknights at 7:30 p.m. He will perform at the church at 15949 N.W. 30th Terrace.

MO, known to most as BIG MO, first started singing at the tender age of 3, standing on a chair in the church where his father was the pastor. Since that time, his musical talent and calling from God has taken him much farther than any little boy could ever dream.

In 1977, BIG MO began his professional career in gospel music. In 1979 he moved to Nashville, Tenn. and joined a well-known gospel group and began playing guitar on many recording sessions. But it was in 1983 that he formed his own group called BIG MO and Chosen. That was when his gospel music career really began to take shape.

BIG MO has sung on most every major concert stage in America, including the Grand Ole Opry, and singing to as many as 45,000 people at once. He has made numerous television appearances on countless christian TV shows.

Now, with more than 40 hit songs to his credit, BIG MO travels and performs with his wife, Sharon and their son, Jeremy, who is also becoming known for his christian comedy. Sharon, the wife of Big Mo, runs the product table and the sound and is the all-around anchor that holds the ministry on course. Together, this family is touching thousands with the great gospel message of

Jesus Christ.

This family desires nothing more than to please God. After every concert or service, you will hear people saying words like,

“touching, powerful, great songs, wonderful voice,” but the word used most often is “anointed.” That is the word BIG MO treasures most!



BIG MO

SUDOKU

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

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

ANSWER:

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
- Trail Boss - \$3,000
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- Single Ticket - \$50 - Purchase at Eli's Western Wear or call the Hospice Office at 863-467-2321, for details. There will be live and silent auctions.

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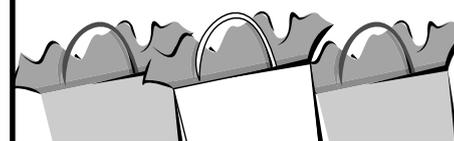
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OHS Brahmans lose to St. Lucie West Eagles

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

St. Lucie West Centennial survived a second-half Brahman surge to win their seventh straight game over Okeechobee, 21-13, in a tense, physical battle Friday night at Brahman Stadium.

Okeechobee fought to the final bell with two scoring chances inside the Eagles 20-yard line in the game's final minutes but were unable to crack the Centennial defense.

Greg Green rushed for 143 yards and a touchdown for Centennial, (1-2). AJ Villareal added 93 yards rushing and a touchdown for the Eagles. Okeechobee was led by D.J. Washington who rushed for 64 yards and a touchdown. Fabian Howard rushed for 73 yards and a touchdown. Elijowan Williams added 70 yards rushing and LaVante Spivey had 123 yards in offense and a 32-yard kick return in a losing cause.

Okeechobee Coach Chris Branham was frustrated after the game because his team had chances to score but didn't make plays in the red zone.

"It was a great effort by both teams tonight. I told my players to fight until there was no time left and to never give up," he stated.

He praised his offensive line which did a good job stopping Division I recruit Jaynard Bostwick. Okeechobee had 344 total yards and 16 first downs their best offensive effort of the year. However, they had two costly interceptions and could force just one Eagle turnover. The Eagles had 347 yards in total offense and 13 first downs in a very even ball game.

Green said he felt his team worked hard all week to run the football and diligently practiced every running play to make sure it would work in the game.

"I think we did well. The line blocked well. I thought this game would be tougher than it was. I watched Okeechobee on tape and I told my teammates we can't take these boys easy," he added.

Green's 24-yard run in the fourth quarter gave Centennial their final score. His first quarter runs helped fuel an 80-yard drive that was capped off by a three-yard touchdown run by Villareal.

Centennial Coach Ron Parker said his team made a few mistakes and must fix them if they intend to play ball control and win games.

"The win feels good. We made some plays. We just can't give up big plays like that that keep teams in the game," he added.

Every time Centennial would score, Okeechobee somehow battled back Friday. It was a no-quit attitude from the first play from scrimmage. After the Eagles took a (7-0) lead, Okeechobee drove 80 yards in only four plays to tie the game. LaVante Spivey threw an option pass for 33 yards to Al Morris and Howard followed with a 43-yard run behind offensive tackle Cody Walker and left guard Corey Vickers.

Centennial turned an interception by Drevion Johns into a 78-yard drive late in the half that ended when QB Kevin Lowe found Ricky Rodriguez in the end zone for a 20-yard touchdown pass.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jack Radebaugh is sacked for an eight-yard loss in the first quarter of Friday's game between Okeechobee and Centennial.

Okeechobee started the second half with an inside kick that was recovered by the man who kicked it Jose Garcia. Radebaugh found Zach Wingfield for a 38-yard pass on fourth down to set up a three-yard rushing touchdown by Washington. Okeechobee missed the extra point and trailed 14-13. Backup QB Dee Shockley helped drive the Brahmans downfield on their next drive thanks to a 28-yard run by Spivey. On third down Spivey caught a swing pass for 24 yards and an apparent first and goal but the play was called back by a costly holding penalty. After the Eagles went up by eight points Okeechobee drove 65 yards to the Eagles 15. Williams 26-yard run on fourth and one brought the Brahmans into the red zone. Two incomplete passes later, Radebaugh appeared to have a chance to run for a first down on a scramble but threw a pass after he crossed the line of scrimmage to end the drive. Coach Branham said that was a key point in the ball game, "There comes a point in the ball game when you have to make a football play and we didn't do it. We had a couple of shots and we didn't get the plays."

Okeechobee had one last chance in the last two minutes and drove from the 20-yard line to the Centennial 20 in less than a minute. Washington threw an option pass to Spivey for 33 yards and ran on a sweep for 20 yards. Radebaugh followed with an 11-yard scramble. However, Radebaugh couldn't find open receivers and threw four incomplete passes to end Okeechobee's final chance to score.

Coach Branham said despite the loss the team is coming along and is still fighting and looks forward to another battle when they open up district play in Sebastian.

"Our offensive line did a fantastic job and were exhausted but they kept fighting, I've been very proud of that group from day one. The bottom line is we have to start making some plays. I don't know what else to say. I'm at a loss right now," he added.

Game notes

The Brahmans used their entire roster it seemed in the physical battle. Greg Hernandez, Ethan Parriott and Cade Stokes played well all night on the offensive line. Okeechobee had just three penalties. Wingfield had an interception and a 25-yard return for the Brahmans, (1-2). Al Morris had a sack for the Brahman defense. Tyler Leo had an interception for Centennial. Elijowan Williams had a tackle for loss. Devin Clements kicked three kickoffs into the end zone for Centennial. He missed a 38-yard field goal attempt in the fourth quarter.

Game statistics can be found on Newszap at: florida.newszap.com/okeechobeenorthlake/sports/.

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OHS volleyball team loses to John Carroll

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School lost to another tough volleyball team Thursday as the Lady Rams of John Carroll swept Okeechobee 25-13, 25-21, and 25-16 in one of the more lopsided home losses for Okeechobee in recent years.

Sarah Davis had 10 assists and four kills. Maci Thomas had 16 digs and Krista Ward added 14 digs for the Lady Brahms, who fell to (1-2) John Carroll improved to (3-1).

John Carroll controlled the match from the start as they jumped out to early leads in game one. The second game was competitive throughout as the Lady Brahms held 4-1, and 12-8 leads. The Lady Rams jumped out to a 10-4 lead in the third game and the Lady Brahms never threatened.

Coach Todd Jones said Okeechobee purposely scheduled tougher opponents this year because they know they have got to raise the level of play to compete in the post season.

"We shouldn't have lost on Tuesday (Sebastian River). We worked on our rotation

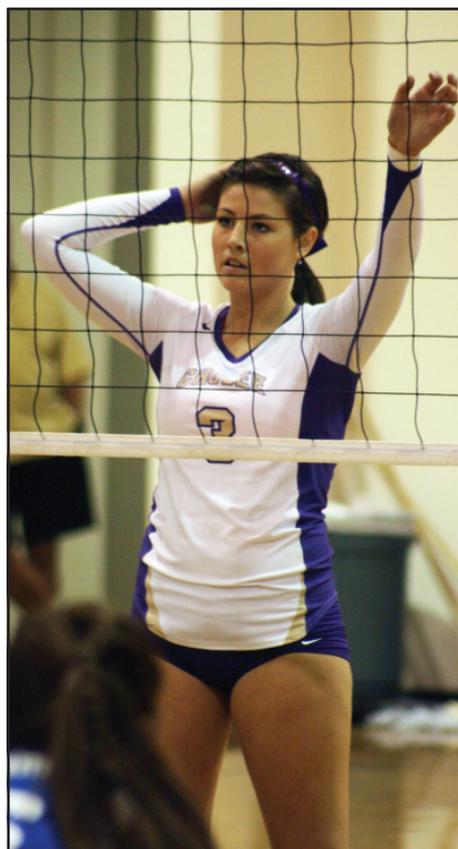
and made adjustments. I was much more pleased with our performance tonight. John Carroll was tall, strong, and they attacked the ball at the net. No doubt about it, they are a strong team."

Jones and the Lady Brahms competed this weekend in the East Coast Challenge which included top teams like Dwyer, Jensen Beach, Merritt Island, Martin County, Cardinal Gibbons and Cardinal Newman. He expected the Brahms to get a lot of work in this tournament.

"Our offense needs improvement. We need to put the ball away. We are not a strong blocking team without height. We dig the ball well but given the opportunity we have got to put the ball on the floor and get more kills," he added.

The JV Brahms won a tough match 23-25, 25-20 and 19-17. Delaney Osceola had 12 digs and 16 kills. Sarah Hurst had seven service points and 20 assists. Jacie Harvey had seven service points and 18 assists. Makayla Root had 10 kills. Jacalyn Sutton had eight kills.

The Lady Brahms changed the date of a match with South Fork from Sept. 25-20.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Darby Jones had seven kills and several digs in a losing cause as OHS lost to John Carroll Thursday night.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Lexi Ward (left) and Sarah Davis (right) await a John Carroll serve during the second game of Thursday's match. Okeechobee fell to (1-2) with a three-set loss to the Lady Rams.

FWC announces plans for wild hog hunt

Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission announces they will issue permits for two wild hog hunts on Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area, west of U.S. 27. The control hunts will be on Oct. 20-21 and Oct. 27-28. Twenty-five permits will be issued for each hunt to those 16 years of age or older. Permit distribution is at Fisheating Creek WMA check-station at the FEC Campground in Palmdale on Saturday, Oct. 13, beginning at 10 a.m.



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