



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 117

Friday, September 28, 2012

50¢ Plus tax

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Lake Levels

15.43 feet

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Empty school used for SWAT unit training

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Special weapons and tactical teams from two area sheriff's offices carried out a training exercise Thursday in which they served a search warrant on a criminal who was thought to be armed.

Taking part in the one-day training session at the empty New Endeavor High School was the S.W.A.T. unit from the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office (SLCSO) and the Special Response Team (S.R.T.) from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO)

OCSO Deputy Lieutenant Gary Bell, who heads up the S.R.T. squad, told the teams

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Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

Members of the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office S.W.A.T. unit make their way down the hallway of the now-empty New Endeavor High School during a training exercise conducted Thursday, Sept. 27, with the Special Response Team from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO).



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Mitey Mite football

Jay Quavious Thomas #23 and the Brahmans had a tough time finding holes in the Mitey Mite Division game with Avon Park Saturday. For more local sports news, see page 23.

City council approves new tax rate

2012-2013 budget is lower than current year

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

In a meeting lasting about 20 minutes on Tuesday, Sept. 25, the Okeechobee City Council approved a new budget and endorsed, in concept, a landscaping proposal from Okeechobee Main Street.

The council unanimously approved a millage rate of 7.7432. One mil equals one dollar for every one thousand dollars of assessed value. Since overall property values in the city have decreased some taxpayers will see a lower tax bill this year.

The budget the council unanimously approved includes total general fund expenditures of \$5.5 million. The budget, which is a 3.9 percent decrease from the current budget, contains no pay raises for city employees, just longevity or step increases.

The median strip on Parrott Avenue could soon have an improved appearance thanks to action taken by the council. The council passed a resolution authorizing Okeechobee Main Street to apply for a Florida Department of Transportation Beautification Grant at no obligation to the city. Since the deadline for grant application is very soon, the resolution was passed with the understanding that Okeechobee Main Street will be coming back to the council at a later date with specific plans for the beautification program.

Turning to other business, the council ratified the reappointment of Bettye Taylor and Denny Davis to the Police Pension Fund Board of Trustee with terms to expire Sept. 30, 2016. They also reappoint-

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Steve Hoskins

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CASTLE hosts grand opening reception event

On Tuesday Sept. 25, CASTLE hosted a grand opening reception of their new Okeechobee office at 1835 Hwy 441 SE Okeechobee.

With a host committee of eight of Okeechobee's community members and the CASTLE staff ready to welcome their guest, the evening turned out to be a huge success. All were greeted and asked to sign a white flag that is the symbol for children who have died as a result of abuse.

Seacoast National bank manager Jon Geitner began the ceremony by sharing why Seacoast has been so proud to be a supporter of CASTLE for many years. He went on to say that they could not be more proud to have CASTLE located in their facility. He proudly accepted a retired flag from the CASTLE's Memory Field. Adding to the excitement, the chamber president JD Mixon along with several dignitaries were on hand

to assist with an official ribbon cutting.

Executive Director Theresa Garbarino-May shared the importance of CASTLE and all the programs that are directly benefiting local families. More than 1,000 people in Okeechobee will receive assistance from CASTLE this year either through in-home counseling, divorce services, and positive parenting classes. Theresa went on to say that CASTLE is a life line for children who are suffering from abuse and for parents who need help. We are thrilled to be here today and hope that this is the beginning of great things for CASTLE of Okeechobee.

Anyone interested in volunteering with CASTLE you can contact the local office at 863-467-7771 or visit their website at: www.castlctc.org



Special to the Okeechobee News/CASTLE
Present at the recent CASTLE grand opening reception from left to right are: Jon Geitner, Gwen Chandler, Al Jacks, Tabitha Trent, Theresa Garbarino-May, Sheriff Paul May, J.D. Mixon, Dowling Watford and Libby Maxwell.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OREA

OREA members attend district meeting

Eleven members of the Okeechobee Retired Educators attended the District IX meeting in Fort Pierce on Thursday, Sept. 20, at which time they participated in workshops, round table discussions and received annual awards. Once again Okeechobee County received several awards. With 88% of our members participating in volunteer hours, we received the Unit Volunteer Award and a Literacy Award Membership Merit Award. Pictured here are ten of the participating members in attendance showing off our awards. Not pictured: Marion Davis. In the back row are: Kay McCool, Hazel Parnis, Pam Trent, Magi Cable; middle row: Judith Mix, Phyllis Koff, Charlotte Delagall, Doris Entry, Verna VanDeman; in the front row are: President Gay Carlton with our many patches.

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, 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 and join the fun. If you are interested in finding out more information related to joining this wonderful cause on any level please contact Missy Fipps 863-634-8674 or Lacey Summerall 863-634-7765.



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Okeechobee Forecast



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

Local Forecast

Friday A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 90. Calm wind becoming east northeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.

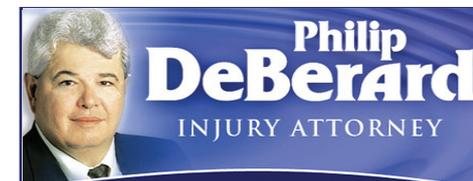
Friday night A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Saturday A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 90. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday night A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71. East southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Sunday A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m.



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SFWMD budget supports water resource priorities

75 percent of \$567.3 million budget is for flood control and Everglades restoration

At a public hearing Monday night, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board adopted a \$567.3 million budget for Fiscal Year 2013 (Oct. 1, 2012 – Sept. 30, 2013). The annual budget funds the agency's core flood control and water supply missions as well as its continued progress to restore the South Florida ecosystem, which includes America's Everglades.

"We remain committed to achieving our mission-critical goals without increasing the burden of additional taxes on the people of South Florida," said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Joe Collins. "Mindful of continuing economic challenges, this prudent budget allows the District to move forward with critical flood control operations and important long-term projects to increase water storage and improve Everglades water quality."

The approved \$567.3 million budget

contains a significant investment in South Florida's environment, including \$27 million appropriated by the Florida Legislature in support of Everglades restoration.

A full 75 percent of the district's FY2013 budget is dedicated to benefit restoration, protect water resources and enhance flood control operations including:

- \$182 million to operate and maintain South Florida's regional flood control system, including \$50 million to refurbish the extensive network of canals, levees and water control structures; and,
- \$245 million to restore the Everglades ecosystem, including \$87.6 million to implement the first phases of Governor Scott's landmark plan to improve water quality to achieve ultra-low nutrient standards.

With restoration investments of more than \$1.16 billion in the past three years, the district is bringing important restoration projects to construction completion and beginning operations to deliver meaningful environmental returns to South Florida's ecosystem.

Projects include: expansions of Stormwater Treatment Areas (Compartments B

and C); C-111 Spreader Canal; Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase I; and Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area. The district has invested close to \$392 million toward these projects to date, with \$2.7 million included for FY2013 to complete construction.

Another \$11.4 million is dedicated in FY2013 to support continued federal partnership construction to restore the Kissimmee River and implement Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects, including Picayune Strand, the Indian River Lagoon-South C-44 Reservoir and the Fran Reich Preserve adjacent to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

Building on a \$10 million investment to date, the district is increasing water storage through partnerships with ranch owners to benefit the northern Everglades while maintaining working landscapes and jobs and keeping land on the tax rolls. The district will invest \$8.7 million in FY2013 toward its Dispersed Water Management program.

As part of its budget development, the district last year established a spend-down plan to dedicate accumulated reserves and cash

balances toward restoration and water supply priorities. The FY2013 budget includes \$148.8 million in fund balances primarily to implement critical water resource projects.

The district's annual budget is funded by a combination of ad valorem (property) taxes, and other revenues such as state and federal sources; licenses and fees; agricultural taxes; balances; and investment income. About 47 percent of the total FY2013 budget comes from property taxes.

The approved millage rates for FY2013 represent 42.89 cents per thousand dollars of value in 15 of the district's 16 counties (the Okeechobee Basin). For a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 (assessed value of \$150,000, less the \$50,000 homestead exemption), the SFWMD portion of the property tax bill would total \$42.89. In Collier County and mainland Monroe County (the Big Cypress Basin), the tax rates represent 33.90 cents per thousand dollars of taxable value. For a similar home in this area, the combined SFWMD and Big Cypress Basin portion of the property tax bill would total \$33.90.

IRSC provides fast track to teaching career

The Educator Preparation Institute (EPI) at Indian River State College provides a fast track to a teaching career for anyone who holds a Bachelor's Degree in a field other than education. Participants can complete the program in less than a year with convenient Saturday, evening and online classes. EPI students are well-prepared to become a highly-qualified teacher with professional state certification. An information session about the program will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 3, at 5 p.m. in Building E, Room 108 at the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce.

Building E is on the 35th Street side of the campus.

Dozens of people from all walks of life have completed the program and have been hired by school districts. Tom White, who served as a Green Beret and always had an interest in history, is now teaching world history at Forest Grove Middle School. Another graduate, Jessica Kolibas, is teaching English at Martin County High School.

"We invite you to share your knowledge, give back to the community and positively

impact the future as a teacher," said Kelly Amatucci, who coordinates the program at IRSC.

IRSC is actively involved with the recruitment and education of teachers for Treasure Coast classrooms, and the EPI was developed to help combat the teacher shortage. EPI assists with certification in all subject disciplines with a special emphasis on attracting teachers in math, science and Exceptional Student Education (ESE).

For more information, call IRSC at 1-866-792-4772.

Ghost stories sought

"Going Out: A guide to area entertainment and attractions" will feature area ghost stories in the October edition. If you have a story to share, email okeenews@newszap.com.

OHS senior/parent informational workshop planned

A special night has been scheduled for the graduating class of 2013 and their parents. All parents of seniors are urged to attend on Thursday, Oct. 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the lecture hall at Okeechobee High School.

Parents will be given information about senior expenses, graduation requirements,

discussion of the college admissions process, details about visiting colleges, work programs, information about Florida Bright Futures Program, SAT/ACT information, scholarship information, questions you should ask when visiting different post-secondary institutions, and important tips that

parents and seniors need to know to have a successful senior year and a successful first year at a post-secondary institution.

This is an excellent opportunity for parents to ask questions that are pertinent for all seniors.

MOVIE LISTINGS

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II: "HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **[PG]**

III: "TROUBLE WITH THE CURVE"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00 **[PG-13]**

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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!

Tax the wealthy?

- If you put more pressure on the wealthy they will never pay it or absorb it, They will just raise the cost of items we pay for day in and day out. They also, in efforts to save money, seek production in less regulated foreign soil with lower operating cost.

- There should be a set tax rate for everybody, no exceptions, every one should pay the same percentage no matter how much you make. It is discrimination the way it is now, a chosen few pay less.

- I say big money should pay more money!

- Why should big money people pay more? Why should they be targeted or burdened any more than the average Joe Shmoe .. just because they are successful? I say flat tax everyone and can't see penalizing the wealthy at higher rates just because they are more fortunate than some .. the tax codes should be a level playing field for all.

- If you're really serious about everyone paying the same amount then we need to get rid of tax shelters, off shore accounts, etc... the ways many of the rich can avoid paying the same as everyone else.

- If they can afford to take care of their families and all their expenses and have money to burn why not have them help our economy a little more. I am saying straight from the heart if I had a vast wealth and my family was taken care of I would have no problem paying more if it would help everyone in the long run.

Medicare

- There are too many people scamming Medicare who did not pay in.

- We need to cut all benefits to Congress and put in term limits, If they don't show up for work they should not get paid and if they miss too many days they should get fired, They forget real quick who they work for.

- The only ones who are scamming Medicare without paying in are those with bogus Social Security disability cases; anyone else who draws Social Security or Social Security Disability are those who have worked/earned their quarters within the last prior 10 years before reaching 65 or became disabled. Those never working or paying into the Social Security/Medicare system are possibly (potentially) eligible for S.S.I./Medicaid, which is contingent upon income and assets.

Social Security

- I didn't do or check the math on this, but I think that people really need to stop calling Social Security an entitlement like it is a dirty word. I think of it more as repaying a loan that the government borrowed from us.

Hungry students

- New rules on school meals inspired by Michelle Obama were intended to wipe out hunger and malnutrition among American students - but some are complaining they have had the opposite effect. High schools are now forbidden from giving pupils more than 850 calories for their lunch - even if they are fast-growing teenagers or even student athletes. One enterprising group of adolescents channelled their anger at the policy into a parody YouTube video promoting their cause entitled, "We Are Hungry."

- It has been my experience that teenagers need more calories than adults. They are growing children. They don't need empty junk food calories. They need good nutritionally balanced meals. But they need larger portions than adults who are trying to either lose weight or else just maintain a healthy weight. We always send sack lunches with our kids along with money to buy milk. But their friends who do eat school lunch frequently complain about the small portions. Even the teachers complain about the small portions. And now the federal government wants to make the portions smaller? For kids, I think the answer to childhood obesity is more exercise, not cutting back on lunch portions.

- I agree more exercise would be best. However, exercise will not happen, so I agree with the 800 calories. If more food is needed, bring it from home. Don't make it easy. The kids now only know how to sit in front of electronic devices.

Letters to the editor

Seniors vs. Crime

Many residents are not aware that there is an organization devoted to assisting Floridians of ALL ages who believe they have been victimized by improper practices, scams or other economic crimes. It is called Seniors vs. Crime, and it is a Special Project of the Florida Attorney General.

Our organization is non-profit, and we never charge a fee for our services. Our mission is to assist the Florida Attorney General in preventing crimes against the elderly; to educate and to alert seniors about consumer frauds, con games, scams, identity theft and other criminal acts that target senior citizens.

As part of our outreach to the community, we have also established a Speakers Bureau which has qualified individuals who will offer a presentation, without charge, on a variety of topics such as identity theft, the current scams and many more of interest. To arrange for a speaker for your organization or group or to file a complaint if you feel you are a victim of a scam, please contact our Okeechobee office at phone 863-763-7924, or email to okeesvcl@gmail.com or our Website Seniors Versus Crime Project and go to Request Help on the Home Page.

Al Payne
Deputy Regional Director

AAA offers safe driving 'prescription' for seniors

More than 80 percent of drivers age 65 and older regularly take medications, yet only half have talked to a medical professional about possible safety issues related to driving. With 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day, AAA promotes Roadwise Rx to help seniors understand how medications may affect their ability to drive safely.

Developed by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Roadwise Rx is an online tool that details common side effects of prescription and over-the-counter medications. The tool generates personalized feedback on how medications, herbal supplements and foods, and their interactions with each other, can impact safety behind the wheel. Drivers are encouraged to discuss the confidential results with their doctor or pharmacist to learn how to mitigate possible crash risks.

With seniors often visiting primary and specialty doctors regarding their different health care needs, it is important for each provider to know all medications being consumed," said Michele Harris, director, AAA Traffic Safety Culture, The Auto Club Group. "Roadwise Rx lets users move beyond the old-fashioned 'brown bag' review with an easy way to virtually pool together

their pill bottles and talk to their doctors."

Due to chronic medical conditions, older adults often take multiple medications. Certain types of medications, like antidepressants, have been shown to increase crash risk by up to 41 percent. Ingredients like Diphenhydramine, commonly found in over-the-counter cold and allergy medicines, can have the same effect on driving as being above the legal limit for blood alcohol concentration.

"Earlier research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that nearly one out of five older drivers use five or more prescription medications. With medical conditions typically on the rise as people age, and treatment often dependent on medicinal interventions, there was a critical need to develop a tool to help older drivers understand the safety risk," said AAA Foundation President and CEO Peter Kissinger. "Roadwise Rx is the only tool of its kind that looks at medications and associated driving hazards."

SeniorDriving.AAA.com provides convenient, online access to a wealth of interactive resources including Roadwise Rx at no cost to all seniors and their families.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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

We Pledge...

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

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

MEMBER OF:





Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

Deputy Lieutenant Gary Bell (left), head of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team, briefs Deputy Sergeant Brian Hester (center) and Deputy Sergeant Rob Pettit (right), both from the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, on the scenario to be played out as the two units conducted a training exercise Thursday at the former New Endeavor High School.

TRAINING

Continued From Page 1

they would be serving the warrant on a suspect who has "an extensive criminal history" and could possibly be armed. The suspect's previous arrests were weapons related, he added.

During their briefing sessions the deputies were told to treat the school as if it was a single story, long apartment building.

To make the training exercise even more intense, S.R.T. leaders were assigned to lead the S.W.A.T. unit, while S.W.A.T. leaders were assigned to head up the OCSO unit.

"This is to take them out of their comfort zone," explained OCSO Deputy Sergeant Robert Coleman, a senior team leader.

The training consisted of a team making their way down a long, dimly lit hallway to 'apartment 006B.' On their way down that hall the teams encountered an 'innocent civilian', played by OCSO Detention Dep-

uty Chris Dodd. To be safe, Deputy Dodd was taken to the floor and searched. Once cleared, he was released.

Once at the apartment door, a team member pounded on the door and yelled "sheriff's office" and ordered whoever was in the apartment to open the door. But, no one did.

When the deputies made their way through the narrow doorway they found themselves in a large room that was divided into several smaller rooms, and only one of those small rooms was illuminated.

As the teams made their way toward the back of the room a suspect, played by OCSO Detective Augustin Saucedo and an S.R.T. member, fled out the back door. Another suspect, Deputy Sergeant Clif Gill, was taken into custody.

Once a team had completed their portion of the training, they met with team leaders and discussed how the operation could have been done better and more safely.

The two teams spent the entire day at the school training on different scenarios.

Local recyclers jailed on felony charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A husband and wife who own a local recycling center are free on bond following their felony arrests for allegedly trading scrap for an operating forklift that was reportedly worth well more than the scrap metal.

The owners of Atland Recycling - Oscar Rodriguez, 40, and his wife Lizabeth, 35, 77th Lane North, Loxahatchee -- were both arrested Tuesday, Sept. 25, on one felony count each of dealing in stolen property.

They were booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on \$5,000 bond each. Jail records show that they have since been released on bond.

Detective Mark Shireman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), indicated in his arrest report that the 1972 Hydro Cat forklift in question was first stolen in St. Lucie County. That portion of this case is being worked by detectives with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.

According to Detective Shireman the forklift is very unique in that it uses an air-cooled Volkswagon engine. Also, no serial or model number could be located on the forklift.

The detective's arrest report states that the piece of equipment was apparently purchased by Oscar Rodriguez, who reportedly told the detective that he traded the forklift to another man. Oscar told the detective he "traded scrap for scrap," con-

tinued the report.

Allegedly included in that deal was a trailer on which the forklift was carried.

Detective Shireman's report indicates that Oscar traded 700 pounds of scrap for the forklift.

The man who traded for the forklift later decided that it didn't fit his needs so he sold it to a local equipment sales company for \$1,000.

The value of the forklift was estimated to be between \$4,500 and \$6,500, pointed out the detective.

Detective Shireman's report indicates that the forklift was insured for \$6,000 and the trailer was insured for \$2,000 by their owner.

The couple was arrested because "they purchased both items and should have known they were stolen," said the OCSO investigator.

It was also pointed out in the arrest report that Atland Recycling "did not possess a license to sell items once purchased as scrap, and the forklift should have been scrapped if purchased by the company."

When asked by investigators, Lizabeth said the trailer was in good condition and that it was kept by the company so it could be sold later.

The detective also stated in his report that the recyclers purchased the trailer and forklift "... with no documentation and no serial numbers that could be located, and then sold the forklift to another person and changed the appearance of the trailer and made statements they intended to sell this vehicle as well."

The owner of the equipment, who is also the victim in the initial offense, was contacted and took possession of the forklift and trailer.

Detective Shireman said his investigation is continuing.



Oscar Rodriguez



Lizabeth Rodriguez



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

Deputy Sergeant Paul Ferrell (left) and Deputy Lieutenant Gary Bell (right) go over the scenario for Sgt. Ferrell's team during Thursday's training exercise. Taking part in the exercise were teams from the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office and the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office.

CITY

Continued From Page 1

ed John Koepke to the Fire Pension Board of Trustees with a term ending Sept. 30, 2016.

The council also changed their meeting dates through January. They decided to meet only once a month on Oct. 16, Nov. 13,

Dec. 4 and Jan. 15. Since the newly elected council members will have to be sworn in January before the meeting on the 15th, the council will hold a special swearing in ceremony at a date and time earlier in the month to be announced later.

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

Annual Boots and Pearls Gala planned

The Seventh Annual Boots and Pearls Gala will be held on Friday, **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 including sponsorship.

Single Ticket - \$50 - Purchase at Eli's Western Wear or by calling the Hospice Office at 863-467-2321.

There will be a live auction for pieces of art work by a local artist.

A silent auction will feature an array of items donated by local businesses and individuals.

Community Events

Feathers & Furs 4-H holds Rabbit & 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. Contact: Cathy Arthur, 863-763-1512.

BHR Moose Lodge to host Senior Olympics

Buckhead Ridge Moose Lodge #2417 will host "Senior" Olympics, on Saturday, **Sept. 29**, starting at 2 p.m. Featured events include Cane Toss, Wheelchair Drag Races, Walker Races, Bedpan Pong, and Diaper Corn Hole. Prizes will be awarded. Come out and join the fun. All proceeds go to Moose Charities.

ConKerr Cancer "sew-a-thon"

Conkerr Cancer will have a "sew-a-thon" on Tuesday, **Oct. 2**, from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church. Bring your sewing machine (or serger) and child-friendly fabric and sew with other ladies in our community who want to help put a smile on the face of a sick child. The group had a very generous donation of Christmas fabric this month so we have pillowcase kits that will be available for our sew-a-thon. Also, please turn in all pillowcases that you have sewn up this month so they can go towards our total for September's (MOPS) Miles of Pillowcase Smiles campaign.

County Fair Board meeting date changed

The Okeechobee County Fair Board meeting will be held on Oct. 2 at 5:30 p.m. at the Chamber Building.

Eagles North announces special weekend events

Eagles North will host steak night Friday, **Sept. 28**, at 5:30 p.m. followed by The music of Jake Haire and the Flatland Band. Great music to dance to. On Saturday, Sept. 29, at 5 p.m. is Card Bingo. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund. The F.O.E. is located at 9985 U.S. 441 N.

Eagles North to start serving Sunday breakfast

The Eagles North Lodge, 9985 U.S. 441 N., will have bingo on **Oct 2**, starting at 1 p.m. On Tuesday, Oct. 3, bingo will start at 4:30 p.m. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 community benefit fund. On Sunday, Oct. 7, Eagles North will start having Sunday breakfast again. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. 4137 Auxiliary benefit fund.

Healthy Start Coalition will meet Wednesday, Oct. 3

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.

Farm Bureau to hold annual membership meeting

Okeechobee County Farm Bureau Annual Membership Meeting is being held Thursday, **Oct. 4**, from 6- 8 p.m. at the Civic Center on U.S. 98 N. Members are being asked to bring a covered dish of salad, vegetable or dessert. Steaks, drinks and rolls are being provided by the Okeechobee County Farm Bureau. Please RSVP by Sept. 28 to the Farm Bureau Office by calling 863-763-3101.

'Fun day' to help injured teen

A benefit fun day fundraiser is set to help the Kaleb "Fred" 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 food, games and more! 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.

Equine therapy for veterans

Winston Churchill said, "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man." We are looking for veterans who would be interested in joining us to groom, lead and ride horses. We understand how much a veteran can benefit from this interaction. This service is free of charge and here in Okeechobee. If you are interested, please call Bobbi by Friday, **Oct. 5**, at 863-467-2614.

Putt for a Cure tournament planned

The Relay for Life Honey Do'er's Team and Dream Team will host a best ball golf tournament on Saturday, **Oct. 6**, at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Fee for 4-man team: \$200, Hole Sponsorship: \$100. The team will have 50/50 and raffle tickets. If you have any questions about participants, sponsorship, or donation of a raffle item please call Lawrence Fipps 863-801-0901 or Missy Fipps at 863-634-8674.

Minimal Regatta sets sail in October

Grab your boats, paddles and all the creativity you can muster. The Kiwanis Club's Adam Bryant Minimal Regatta homemade boat race is coming up on Saturday, **Oct. 6**, starting at 9 a.m. Come out for bounce houses, obstacle course, great food, and wild boat races. Admission is FREE. There are still a few racer spots open, but you will need to hurry. Call J.D. Mixon at 863-634-1778 or visit www.MinimalRegatta.com for more information."

Coffee with the Commissioner

Coffee with the Commissioner will be hosted by Commissioner Bryant Culpeper on Tuesday, **Oct. 9**, from 10 a.m.–noon, and in the meeting room at the Lodge at the Lake Restaurant, 1111 S. Parrott. Citizens wishing to participate are encouraged to call 863-763-6441 to schedule an appointment.

Obituaries

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

Peggy Jean Nigro, 85

OKEECHOBEE — Peggy Jean Nigro, died Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012, at the Hamrick Home.

She was born August 19, 1927, to Weldon A. and Laveene Quackenbush Pickard in Greensboro, N.C. Formerly of Ft. Lauderdale, she retired after 32 years of service with Sears as an Auditing Supervisor. She moved to Okeechobee in 1991 and was a member of Buckhead Ridge Baptist Church. She enjoyed oil painting and tending to her flowers.

Peggy was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Phyllis Marie Pickard.

Survivors include her brother, A. Neil (Martha) Pickard of Greensboro, N.C.; a nephew, Todd A. (Angie) Pickard of Lawrenceville, Ga.; two great nieces and two great nephews.

In honoring her wishes, no local services will be held. The burial of her cremains alongside her parents and sister will take place in Guilford Memorial Park in Greensboro, N.C.

The family would like to give special thanks to Hospice of Okeechobee for their wonderful care and also to a special angel on earth, her caregiver, Pat Curran.

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.



Relay for Life Kickoff celebration planned

Please come and join us at Luncker's Sports Grille on Thursday, **Oct. 11**, 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 and join the fun. If you are interested in finding out more information related to joining this wonderful cause on any level, please contact Missy Fipps 863-634-8674 or Lacey Summerall 863-634-7765.

Friends of NRA plan banquet

The Okeechobee Friends of NRA plans to hold a banquet on **Oct. 11**, at 6 p.m. The banquet will be held at the Okeechobee Shrine Club, 1855 S.W. 53rd St. Tickets and sponsorship information are available at The Gun Shop, Okeechobee Shooting Sports, The Hunters Den, by calling 863-634-8678, or online at www.friendsofnra.org. Please join your local business owners, friends, neighbors, and community leaders as we work together to ensure the shooting sports for the next generation.

Albert 'Al' J. Griecius, Jr, 70

OKEECHOBEE — Albert 'Al' J. Griecius, Jr., died at home surrounded by family on Monday, Sept. 24, 2012.

Al was born in Kentucky, lived in Clearwater, Fla. and moved to Okeechobee six years ago. Al served his country as a member of the US Air Force for four years. He enjoyed reading, working crossword puzzles, diving and skiing.

He is survived by his wife of ten years, Evelyn Griecius of Okeechobee; son, David Kyle Griecius of Boynton Beach, Fla.; daughter, Tina Marie Griecius of Ridgefield, N.J.; and a sister, JoAnn (Jay) Kisz of Palm Harbor, Fla.

The family will hold a Celebration of Life at their residence on Saturday, Oct. 6, 2012, at 3 p.m. 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.

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Okeechobee organics recycling facility honored

Waste Management's Okeechobee Organics Recycling Facility has been named the winner of the 2012 Sustainable Florida Best Practice Award in the large business division at the organization's annual awards ceremony in Palm Beach Gardens.

The Sustainable Florida award is the premier state-level recognition for accomplishments and leadership in sustainable development. For more than 15 years, the award has become a respected measure of best performance standards in the integration of environmental, social and economic factors for the long-term sustainability of Florida.

The Okeechobee Organics Recycling Facility features the most advanced aerated composting technology to process food residuals in South Florida. The facility opened in November 2011 as a result of a forward-thinking partnership between Waste Management, Publix, Florida Power & Light and Garick.

"The Sustainable Florida awards honor those who have demonstrated a real sense of care for the environment, recognizing that sustainability is important for economic development," said Joe Kilsheimer, an Apopka city commissioner who sits on the Sustainable Florida Board of Directors. "The program is about building for the future, and Waste Management has demonstrated that its focus is clearly on a sustainable future."

Located adjacent to Waste Management's Okeechobee Landfill, the eight-acre Okeechobee Organics Recycling Facility uti-



Special to the Okeechobee News/Waste Management
Accepting the Sustainable Florida Best Practice Award for Okeechobee Organics Recycling Facility are WM Project Manager Karen Sussman, WM Director of Organic Waste Operations Eric Myers, Publix Recycling Manager Kim Brunson, WM Florida Area Vice President Tim Hawkins, WM National Accounts Manager LeighAnn Hayes and Okeechobee Landfill Senior District Manager Tony Bishop.

lizes a forced aeration system with computer controls to regulate airflow and air treatment to process pre-consumer food waste from Publix and Whole Foods stores—including produce, bakery and floral items—with yard waste into organic compost products.

"As the nation's largest environmental solutions provider, our customers are asking us to help them meet their sustainability goals," said Tim Hawkins, area vice president for Waste Management. "We're very pleased to be honored by Sustainable Florida for our work in developing the Okeechobee Organ-

ics Recycling Facility."

The Okeechobee facility is permitted to accept up to 30,000 tons per year, including 15,000 tons of food waste and 15,000 tons of yard waste, and is part of Waste Management's strategy to expand organics recycling in Florida and throughout North America.

Garick, a subsidiary of Waste Management and leading manufacturer, marketer and distributor of organic lawn and garden products, is producing the lawn and garden products from the Okeechobee composting facility.

Home Depot to host free fire safety event

The Home Depot will hold a Fire Safety Event, free to the community **Oct. 20**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be a free kids workshop and representatives from Okeechobee County Fire Rescue, Okeechobee County Sheriff Department, 4-H, the American Red Cross, the Okeechobee County Health Department, the OSCO K-9 Unit, McGruff the Crime Dog and more.

IRSC awarded grant to expand job training

Indian River State College in Fort Pierce has been awarded a national grant in the amount of \$589,401 for the development and expansion of innovative training programs that lead to jobs in manufacturing, science, technology, engineering and math.

The four-year federal grant is part of the U.S. Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Initiative (TAACCCT). IRSC will share in \$15 million received by the Florida TRADE consortium of 11 Florida state and community colleges. Grant funds will be used to develop business and education partnerships and create training programs to prepare students for industry certifications, internships and high-skills, high-wage jobs.

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Community Service Through Journalism

County approves contract for special code magistrate

Okee-Tantie campground to close Oct. 16; park's bait shop to close Sept. 30

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The Thursday, Sept. 27, meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission was shorter than many commission meetings and was taken up with routine business.

Commissioners approved a contract with Deborah Hooker, an attorney with Conley & Conley, to serve as code enforcement special magistrate for two years from Nov. 1, 2012, to Oct. 31, 2014. For 7 years she served as a General Magistrate for the 19th Judicial Circuit. Compensation will be at the rate of \$300 for hearing agendas up to a maximum of 2.5 hours and at the rate of \$120 per hour for any time in excess of the 2.5 hours and the rate of \$120 per hour for legal research and administrative purposes. It is estimated this contract will cost the county between \$2,820 and \$3,720.

In other action, the board approved the N.E. 80th Avenue culvert project so advertisement for bids can begin and ratified an emergency approval of a change order for the S.W. 87th Terrace bridge repair project in the amount of \$31,365.95.

County administrator Robbie Chartier said that Okee-Tantie would close Oct. 16. However the boat ramps, marina and restaurant would remain open. Currently the park has two full time and four part time personnel. Mrs. Chartier said one employee would be retained for maintenance at the park and

other county facilities. She said she was concerned about security at the closed park and was considering several security options.

Deputy county administrator Jim Threewitts added that the bait shop will close Sept. 30. The inventory of shop and the assets of the park will be redistributed to other county facilities where practical. Snack items will be transferred to the concession stands at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center and some of the golf carts from the park will be transferred to the Okeechobee Agri-Civic center.

Mrs. Chartier informed the board that several of the proposed constitutional amendments on the General Election ballot dealing with additional homestead exemptions, if passed, would have an adverse affect on the county's revenue stream. She said the county might want to look at other revenue options in the future other than ad valorem taxes.

During the public comment time, Gary Ritter, director of South Florida Water Management District's Okeechobee Service Center informed commissioners that next month the last phase of the Kissimmee River Restoration would begin. It will involve the section of the Kissimmee from above River Acres to above Lorida. He said that with the high level of Lake Okeechobee, all the locks on the lake were open except the Taylor Creek lock which is closed for renovation. It was originally scheduled to reopen in October. However, Mr. Ritter said the project was behind schedule and would not be completed until Mid November or early December.

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

Man accused of fondling child

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A man accused of molesting an 8-year-old girl is being held on bond in the Okeechobee County Jail following his arrest Tuesday, April 25.

Leonzo F. Paz, 53, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested on one felony count of lewd or lascivious molestation of a child - offender over 18, victim under 12. He is being held on \$25,000 bond.

Detective William Suggs, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office



Leonzo F. Paz

(OCSO), stated in his arrest report that despite the child's protestations Paz would rub her thigh. The child reportedly told the detective that she would tell the man to stop but he "... kept grabbing her and grabbing her."

The man's arrest stemmed from an incident where Paz grabbed the child, hugged her then touched her inappropriately, the detective stated.

Chamber of Commerce offers victim awareness class

The Chamber of Commerce will host a "Refuse to be a Victim®" crime prevention seminar on Saturday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the chamber building. This class is designed primarily for women by the National Rifle Association to provide common sense information geared toward awareness and avoidance of criminal attack. The class will be conducted by Laurinda Garner who is a certified NRA instructor. The cost of the class is \$35 which includes the workbook and the instruction on carjacking prevention, self-defense training options and other helpful hints for personal security. To sign up for this class, you can access the chamber web site at www.okeechobeebusiness.com. Click on the event calendar, search for Oct. 20, then click on register on-line. You may pay via credit card on-line or via cash or check prior to the date of the class. For information or assistance in signing up, call Mariah at 863-467-6246.

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Two Okeechobee teens accused of forging checks

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An alert cashier probably saved a Port St. Lucie business owner a lot of money when she contacted law enforcement about an 18-year-old who was cashing checks weekly for \$500 to \$1,000 per check.

After Joseph Thornton had cashed several of the checks the cashier at a local supermarket became concerned, stated an arrest report. The cashier called the bank on which the checks were drawn and was told the instruments were valid. When she was finally able to contact the business owner, she learned the checks were apparently stolen and being cashed without the owner's permission.

On Tuesday, Sept. 25, Thornton, N.W. 84th Court, Okeechobee, and Edgar Austin Ochoa, 16, N.W. 96th Court, Okeechobee,



Joseph Thornton



Edgar Austin Ochoa

were arrested. Thornton was charged with nine felony counts of uttering a forged instrument and six felony counts of grand theft. He is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on \$15,000 bond.

Ochoa was charged with one felony count of uttering a forged instrument. He was booked into the county jail then released into the custody of a family member.

An arrest report by Deputy Cari Arnold, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, stated that Thornton would go into the store and cash checks drawn on the Port St. Lucie company. The cashier, on Sept. 23, put a "do not cash" order on the cash register to alert other cashiers.

However, one of the cashiers did not see the sign and cashed a \$500 check presented

her by Thornton, stated the arrest report. That check was reportedly drawn on the same PSL company.

The first cashier finally contacted the business owner who told her he did not know Thornton and that Thornton did not have permission to cash his checks, Deputy Arnold pointed out.

Then, on Sept. 25, Thornton and Ochoa entered the supermarket and Ochoa allegedly gave the cashier a \$500 check drawn on that same company. Telling the juvenile that she had to go get cash, stated the report, the cashier went into the office and called the business owner who said he did not know

Ochoa. At that point, the cashier called the sheriff's office.

According to Deputy Arnold the business owner is missing an entire book of checks as well as five additional instruments. He has since filed a complaint with the Port St. Lucie Police Department about the missing checks.

In all, Deputy Arnold said Thornton received a total of \$3,000 from checks he cashed at the supermarket.

Deputy Arnold said this case has been turned over to the OCSO Criminal Investigations Division and the investigation is continuing.

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).

- James David Gruber, 22, N.W. 132nd St., Salt Springs, was arrested Sept. 24 by Deputy Matthew Hurst on warrants charging him with the felonies of amended violation of probation - criminal use of personal identification (five counts), amended violation of probation - grand theft (six counts) and amended violation of probation - burglary of a conveyance (three counts). He is being held without bond.

- Lee Crowell, 27, N.W. 24th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 24 by DOC's Michael White on a charge of violation of probation - lewd and lascivious molestation - offender over 18, victim 12-16 years of age. He is being held without bond.

- Ethan Anthony Cappiello, 21, S. Bridge St., LaBelle, was arrested Sept. 25 by Deputy Fred Bradley on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - burglary of a structure, violation of probation - grand theft and the misdemeanor violation of probation - criminal mischief. He is being held without bond.

- William Harvey Gulkis, 24, Hines Drive, Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 25 by Deputy Fred Bradley on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon (two counts). His bond was set at \$200,000.

- Brandon Nolan, 23, U.S. 441 S., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 25 by Deputy Matthew Hurst on a warrant charging him with the felony of violation of probation - possession of marijuana over 20 grams. He

is being held without bond on that charge. Gulkis was also arrested on three misdemeanor counts of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. His bond on those charges was set at \$5,000.

- Vickie Lynn Johnson, 44, Ninth St., Buckhead Ridge, was arrested Sept. 25 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of possession of methamphetamine and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. Her bond was set at \$6,000.

- Justin Brown Chism, 23, N.E. 48th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 26 by Deputy Steven Pollock on Palm Beach County warrants charging him with the felonies of failure to appear - dealing in stolen property and failure to appear - giving false verification of ownership to a pawnbroker (two counts). He is being held without bond.

- Gregorio Nicholas Hunt, 19, N.E. Fifth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 26 by Deputy Matthew Hurst on a warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - possession of oxycodone with intent to sell/deliver, violation of probation - possession of alprazolam with intent to sell/deliver and violation of probation - possession of marijuana with intent to sell/deliver. He is being held without bond.

- Heath Aubrey Phillips, 25, S.E. 35th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 26 by the OCSO Street Crimes Unit on a Pennsylvania fugitive warrant charging him with the felonies of criminal conspiracy - robbery, robbery, robbery of a motor vehicle, simple assault and theft by unlawful taking. He is being held without bond.

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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Pastors Mark & Madonna Smith

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Pastor : Thomas Dees

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Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863-763-4962



Special to the Okeechobee News/RSCA

In recognition

Students, teachers, and parents at Rock Solid Christian Academy gather for prayer at the flag pole in recognition of "See You at the Pole." The recognition event is held each year. This year's annual commemoration ceremony was held on Wednesday, Sept. 26 as a student prayer day remembered around the world.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OCA

See You At The Pole

Students at Okeechobee Christian proudly participated in See You At The Pole, an annual global day of student-led prayer, on Wednesday, Sept. 26.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Bobbi Poole

Junior Rodeo

Katie, the daughter of Terry and Melissa McKay was one of the youngsters competing in pole bending during the Florida Junior Rodeo event held last weekend at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.

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IRSC gets designation as military friendly school

Indian River State College has been designated a Military Friendly School by Victory Media, which honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses and to ensure their success as students.

"Inclusion on the 2013 list of Military Friendly Schools shows the commitment of Indian River State College to providing a supportive environment for military students," said Sean Collins, Director for G.I. Jobs and Vice President of Victory Media.

IRSC provides a wide range of services for veterans including assistance obtaining financial aid and certifying enrollment for the Montgomery GI Bill, VRAP and Vocational and Rehabilitation Employment Program. The College holds orientation sessions to explain veterans education benefits and college processes, provides referrals to state and federal agencies and offers free career planning, advisement and tutoring services. IRSC student veterans benefit from joining the Student Veterans Organization. The Veteran's Business Institute offers students the opportunity to earn a business certificate in

a cohort group with other veterans, and to continue their education with an Associate Degree and Bachelor's Degree in a supportive environment.

Now in its fourth year, the 2013 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of more than 12,000 VA-approved schools nationwide. More information can be found at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com. For more information about IRSC programs for veterans call 1-866-792-4772.

Indian River State College is a public, comprehensive college serving Florida's Research Coast with campuses in Fort Pierce, Okeechobee, Port St. Lucie, Stuart and Vero

Beach. IRSC has earned a statewide and national reputation for quality, innovation and responsiveness to community needs, inspiring over 32,000 people to enroll in courses each year. Every aspects of IRSC is focused on enhancing student success with small classes, one-stop student services, convenient campuses and online courses, resulting in the College's ranking as the 10th top public regional college in the South by U.S. News & World Report. Tuition is affordable, and IRSC students benefit from many opportunities for scholarships and financial aid. IRSC was designated as the 5th Most Affordable College in the country by the US Department of Education.



Special to the Okeechobee News/CES

CES Students of the Week

Central Elementary School is pleased to announce the names of students selected as Students of the Week for the week of Sept. 17 including: Alex Castanida, Juan Landeverde, Leo Edouard, Jose Garcia, Bryan Guzman-Portillo, Kalea Whalen, Cayden Durrance, Josaiah Harris, Brandy Sumner, Landon Arrants, Milagros Santibanez, Vincent Cantalini, Isaiah Pippin, Priscilla Velazquez, Rye Dioquino, Kaylen Yarbrough, Edith Morales, Janessa Whidden, Alex Medina, Dylan Gabor, Sofia Zapata, Vanessa Johnson, Chloe Carter, Cristina Trejo, Saul Antunez, Joshua Jenkins, Casen Yates, Stephanie Yanez and Lauren Sills.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

SES Students of the Week

Congratulations to the Students of the Week at South Elementary School for the week of Sept. 10-14. They are: Thalia Svatora, Taylor Whipple, Island Hebel Hoover, Emma Jimmerson, Chase Russell, Tamarion Kinsler, Isabelle Wildey, Carson Click, Anna Robinson, Jasmine Desai, Dyllen Halcomb, Victor Navarro, Skyler Varnadore, Joy Whipple, Lizette Sanchez, Sarah Dodd, Victoria Garcia, Kayla Dean, Yesenia Leon, Cameron Campbell, Tristan Robinson and Carmela Garcia.

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Your Medical and Health Care Directory

Jose Villarreal, D.O., board certified in Family Medicine

Courtesy Raulerson Primary Care
Jose Villarreal, D.O., member of the Raulerson Primary Care team and graduate of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, is certified in Family Medicine by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians.

He treats all ages from newborn to the elderly. Dr. Villarreal tries to give the best care possible to his patients and can refer them to a specialist if necessary. He does sport physicals and preventive care.

Dr. Villarreal treats such medical conditions as high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol.

About one in every four Americans suffers from high blood pressure, according to WebMD. High blood pressure can threaten healthy arteries and contribute to heart disease and stroke. One thing that makes high blood

pressure so dangerous is that you may not know you have it because there are generally no symptoms. Therefore, you should have your blood pressure checked regularly.

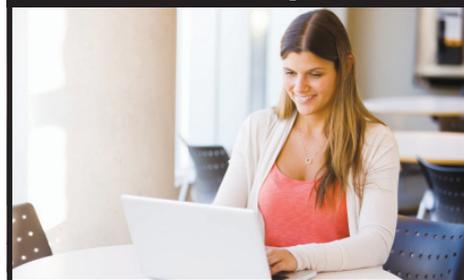
Diabetes can be prevented through a healthy lifestyle of exercise and eating well balanced meals in the proper amounts.

A variety of factors including diet, exercise, age and heredity can affect cholesterol levels.

Dr. Villarreal's office is located at 202 N.E. Second Ave, and the hours are Monday through Thursday from 8am to 5pm and on Friday from 8am to 4pm. The office is closed for lunch every day from noon to 1pm. For an appointment, please call 863.467.2159.



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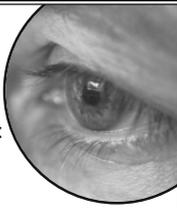
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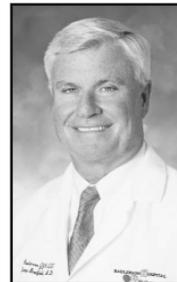


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Public Notices
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NOTICE
On October 13, 2012 @ 10:00 AM, there will be sold to the highest bidder At the premises of SABAL PALM SELF STORAGE, 14040 Hwy 441 N, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 (Landlord) the contents of storage spaces rented by Tenants, for failure to pay rent due on the spaces. Sealed bids will be accepted until the day of the sale. The contents of the spaces consist of personal property including household goods, furnishings, clothing, boxes, bags, and notes, and other miscellaneous property. The names of the tenants whose property will be sold are: 1. Darine Vayda - minimum bid \$375
Sabal Palm Self Storage 863-357-1110 426955 ON 9/21,28/2012

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

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Public Notice
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD165
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH ZACHARY GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **1438** Year of Issuance: **May-30-2008**
Description of Property: **LOT M OF TRACT 32 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF S1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 32 36 34S 33E**
1-36-34-33-0A00-00032-M000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **CFS PROPERTIES INC**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **1st day of November, 2012.** SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 426426 ON 9/21,28,10/5,12/2012

Public Notice
NOTICE OF OUA MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at 8:30 A.M., at the Okeechobee Utility Authority Offices, 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.
The needs of hearing or visually impaired persons shall be met by contacting the Executive Director's Office at 863-763-9460 at least 48 hours prior to the Public Hearing by any person wishing assistance.
Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Authority with respect to such meetings, he or she will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made; which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Such person may provide a court reporter, stenographer, or tape recorder for such verbatim record.
BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY
John F. Hayford Executive Director 427281 ON 9/28/2012

Public Notice
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD160
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **618** Year of Issuance: **May-30-2008**
Description of Property: **LOT F OF TRACT 32 E1/2 OF W1/2 OF S1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 32 20 34S 33E**
1-20-34-33-0A00-00032-F000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **CHL HOLDINGS INC**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **1st day of November, 2012.** SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 426413 ON 9/21,28,10/5,12/2012

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

ANSWER:

Public Notice
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD161
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **627** Year of Issuance: **May-30-2008**
Description of Property: **LOT G OF TRACT 5 W1/2 OF E1/2 OF S1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 05 21 34S 33E**
1-21-34-33-0A00-00005-G000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **CHL HOLDINGS INC**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **1st day of November, 2012.** SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 426418 ON 9/21,28,10/5,12/2012

Public Notice
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD158
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **427** Year of Issuance: **May-30-2008**
Description of Property: **LOT K OF TRACT 6 E1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 06 15 34S 33E**
1-15-34-33-0A00-00006-K000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **CHL HOLDINGS INC**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **1st day of November, 2012.** SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 426404 ON 9/21,28,10/5,12/2012

Public Notice
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD155
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **75** Year of Issuance: **May-30-2008**
Description of Property: **LOTS K & L OF TRACT 1 E1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 1 & W1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 1 09 34S 33E**
1-09-34-33-0A00-00001-K000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **CFS PROPERTIES INC**
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **1st day of November, 2012.** SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Robin R. Parrish Deputy Clerk
NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 426401 ON 9/21,28,10/5,12/2012



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Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD162
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate No: **704** Year of Issuance: **May-30-2008**
 Description of Property: **LOT C OF TRACT 10 E1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 10 22 34S 33E**
1-22-34-33-0A00-00010-C000
 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
 Name in which assessed:
CHL HOLDINGS INC
 Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **1st day of November, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
 SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 Okeechobee County, Florida
 /s/ Robin R. Parrish
 Deputy Clerk
 NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
 426416 ON 9/21,28;10/5,12/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD157
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate No: **249** Year of Issuance: **May-30-2008**
 Description of Property: **LOT G OF TRACT 19 W1/2 OF E1/2 OF S1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 19 12 34S 33E**
1-12-34-33-0A00-00019-G000
 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
 Name in which assessed:
CHL HOLDINGS INC
 Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **1st day of November, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
 SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 Okeechobee County, Florida
 /s/ Robin R. Parrish
 Deputy Clerk
 NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
 426403 ON 9/21,28;10/5,12/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD163
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate No: **767** Year of Issuance: **May-30-2008**
 Description of Property: **LOT J OF TRACT 5 W1/2 OF E1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 05 23 34S 33E**
1-23-34-33-0A00-00005-J000
 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
 Name in which assessed:
CHL HOLDINGS INC
 Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **1st day of November, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
 SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 Okeechobee County, Florida
 /s/ Robin R. Parrish
 Deputy Clerk
 NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
 426419 ON 9/21,28;10/5,12/2012

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD164
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH ZACHARY GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate No: **1431** Year of Issuance: **May-30-2008**
 Description of Property: **LOT M OF TRACT 31 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF S1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 31 36 34S 33E**
1-36-34-33-0A00-00031-M000
 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
 Name in which assessed:
CHL HOLDINGS INC
 Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **1st day of November, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
 SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 Okeechobee County, Florida
 /s/ Robin R. Parrish
 Deputy Clerk
 NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
 426422 ON 9/21,28;10/5,12/2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2012TD156
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH FREDERICK GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate No: **198** Year of Issuance: **May-30-2008**
 Description of Property: **LOT O OF TRACT 21 W1/2 OF E1/2 OF S1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 21 11 34S 33E**
1-11-34-33-0A00-00021-O000
 Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
 Name in which assessed:
CHL HOLDINGS INC
 Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **1st day of November, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
 SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 Okeechobee County, Florida
 /s/ Robin R. Parrish
 Deputy Clerk
 NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
 426402 ON 9/21,28;10/5,12/2012

NOTICE OF ANNUAL LANDOWNERS AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL OWNERS OF LANDS LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT THAT, PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE LAW, A MEETING OF THE LANDOWNERS OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE ADMINISTRATION ANNEX BUILDING, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, 455 HIGHWAY 98 N., OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:
 1. ELECT ONE SUPERVISOR;
 2. RECEIVING ANNUAL REPORTS AND TAKING SUCH ACTION WITH RESPECT THERETO AS THE LANDOWNERS MAY DETERMINE; AND
 3. TRANSACTING SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD.
 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A BOARD OF SUPERVISOR MEETING AT 9:30A.M. A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE UNDERSIGNED. IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING; THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, IS MADE. ANY PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING MUST HAVE THEIR NAME AND TOPIC PLACED ON THE AGENDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING. ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.
 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRECEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S OFFICE BY CALLING (863)763-4601 AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING.
 NOTICE: COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT HAS AN ONGOING AQUATIC SPRAYING PROGRAM, DISTRICT WIDE.
 WILLARD M. BYARS
 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 17429 NW 242ND STREET
 OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972
 (863)763-4601 OR (863)634-3166
 426694 ON 9/21,28/2012

When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds. Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
 1 Chuck E. Cheese's order
 6 Disaster response gp.
 10 Eric the Red's birth year, roughly
 13 Lets go
 14 Conscious
 15 "A likely story!"
 16 Celtic quaffs?
 18 Old cereal box letters
 19 __-Caps
 20 Anderson of Jethro Tull
 21 Pyle portrayer
 23 Composer Stravinsky
 25 Words of affection from Luigi
 26 Club ingredient
 28 Astronaut Grissom
 29 Seed alternative
 30 Caribbean baby animal?
 32 Impudent
 34 Senescent
 35 Refinery input
 36 Escape to Vegas, maybe
 37 " __ life!"
 38 Arabian guy?
 40 Withdrawal concern
 41 911 response initials
 42 Hardly local
 43 '70s TV cop played by Robert Blake
 45 Assorted: Abbr.
 46 Farewells overseas
 47 Dinghy thingy
 48 Electrical sound
 51 Lighting brand
 52 East Asian "pet"?
 56 " __ you nuts?"
 57 Matching
 58 Agony and ecstasy
 59 Dorm agts.
 60 640 acres: Abbr.
 61 Opposite of lanky
- DOWN**
 1 Cpl.'s subordinates
 2 " __ (So Far Away)": 1982 hit for A Flock of Seagulls
 3 Reset
 4 Letter from London
 5 " __ was saying ..."
 6 McGregor of "The Men Who Stare at Goats"
 7 Feb. sentiment
 8 Circus sites
 9 French Oscar
 10 Y for men only?
 11 Iberian bridge?
 12 Capital ENE of Kathmandu
 14 Way out yonder
 17 Shrek's love
 22 Like much Hawaiian lava
 23 Complaint while groping
 24 Some Chinese restaurant decore
 25 Dice and ice, often
 26 Mesopotamian savings plan?
- 27 Earhart et al.
 28 Spiritual leaders
 30 It may be tipped
 31 One commonly follows "said"
 32 Naval acronym
 33 Japanese dough
 39 Stone monument
 41 And those following, in footnotes
 43 King with a trunk
 44 Old TV parts
 45 Knight's protection
 47 Ventura County resort
 48 Contemporary of Mao
 49 Operatic slave
 50 It's behind us
 53 Elemental suffix
 54 MLB execs
 55 Chantilly crower

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	P	A	D	E		M	A	L	T	A		R	A	G	
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xwordeditor@aol.com

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59						60				61			

By Scott Atkinson
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PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO BE VOTED ON NOVEMBER 6, 2012 NOTICE OF ELECTION

I. Kenneth W. Detzner, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that an election will be held in each county in Florida, on November 6, 2012, for the ratification or rejection of proposed revisions to the constitution of the State of Florida.

Continued from the previous page

lic service for the benefit of Florida's citizens, their communities and economies, the people hereby establish a system of governance for the state university system of Florida.

(b) STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. There shall be a single state university system comprised of all public universities. A board of trustees shall administer each public university and a board of governors shall govern the state university system.

(c) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES. Each local constituent university shall be administered by a board of trustees consisting of thirteen members dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The board of governors shall establish the powers and duties of the boards of trustees. Each board of trustees shall consist of six citizen members appointed by the governor and five citizen members appointed by the board of governors. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of five years as provided by law. The chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

(d) STATEWIDE BOARD OF GOVERNORS. The board of governors

shall be a body corporate consisting of seven members. The board shall operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system. These responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, defining the distinctive mission of each constituent university and its articulation with free public schools and community colleges, ensuring the well-planned coordination and operation of the system, and avoiding wasteful duplication of facilities or programs. The board's management shall be subject to the powers of the legislature to appropriate for the expenditure of funds, and the board shall account for such expenditures as provided by law. The governor shall appoint to the board fourteen citizens dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of seven years as provided by law. The commissioner of education, the chair of the advisory council of faculty senates, or the equivalent, and the chair of the council of student body presidents, which council shall be organized by the board of governors and consist of all the student body presidents of the state university system president of the Florida student association or the equivalent, shall also be members of the board.

Amendment 4 would addresses Homestead Exemption rules

By Rodney L. Clouser
University of Florida

This is one 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.

Introduction

Adoption of the constitutional amendment requires a vote in favor of the amendment by a minimum of 60 percent of those voting. Voters are reminded, however, that because the proposed amendments are subject to legal challenges by various individuals, groups, and organizations, they could still possibly be removed from the ballot if challenged successfully.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment 4

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 4 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. 4
Reference: Article VII, Sections 4, 6 & Article XII, Sections 27, 32, 33

Sponsor: The Florida Legislature
Ballot Title: Property Tax Limitations; Property Value Decline; Reduction for Nonhomestead Assessment Increases; Delay of Scheduled Repeal

Ballot Summary: (1) This would amend Florida Constitution Article VII, Section 4 (Taxation; assessments) and Section 6 (Homestead exemptions). It also would amend Article XII, Section 27, and add Sections 32 and 33, relating to the Schedule for the amendments. (2) In certain circumstances, the law requires the assessed value of homestead and specified nonhomestead property to increase when the just value of the property decreases. Therefore, this amendment provides that the Legislature may, by general law, provide that the assessment of homestead and specified nonhomestead property may not increase if the just value of that property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding January 1, subject to any adjustment in the assessed value due to changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property which are assessed as provided for by general law. This amendment takes effect upon approval by the voters. If approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, it shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or if approved at the 2012 general election, shall take effect January 1, 2013. (3) This amendment reduces from 10 percent to 5 percent the limitation on annual changes in assessments of non-homestead real property. This amendment takes effect upon approval of the voters. If approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, it shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or, if approved at the 2012 general election, takes effect January 1, 2013. (4) This amendment also authorizes general law to provide, subject to conditions specified in such law, an additional homestead exemption to every person who establishes the right to receive the homestead exemption provided in the Florida Constitution within 1 year after purchasing the

homestead property and who has not owned property in the previous 3 calendar years to which the Florida homestead exemption applied. The additional homestead exemption shall apply to all levies except school district levies. The additional exemption is an amount equal to 50 percent of the homestead property's just value on January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional homestead exemption may not exceed an amount equal to the median just value of all homestead property within the county where the property at issue is located for the calendar year immediately preceding January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional exemption shall apply for the shorter of 5 years or the year of sale of the property. The amount of the additional exemption shall be reduced in each subsequent year by an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of the additional exemption received in the year the homestead was established or by an amount equal to the difference between the just value of the property and the assessed value of the property determined under Article VII, Section 4(d), whichever is greater. Not more than one such exemption shall be allowed per homestead property at one time. The additional exemption applies to property purchased on or after January 1, 2011, if approved by the voters at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, or to property purchased on or after January 1, 2012, if approved by the voters at the 2012 general election. The additional exemption is not available in the sixth and subsequent years after it is first received. The amendment shall take effect upon approval by the voters. If approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, it shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or if approved at the 2012 general election, takes effect January 1, 2013. (5) This amendment also delays until 2023, the repeal, currently scheduled to take effect in 2019, of constitutional amendments adopted in 2008 which limit annual assessment increases for specified nonhomestead real property. This amendment delays until 2022 the submission of an amendment proposing the abrogation of such repeal to the voters.

Effects and impacts

Constitutional Amendment No. 4 has several potential changes recommended:

- For homestead properties, the proposed amendment allows the legislature by general law to prohibit an increase in the tax assessment of the homestead if the just value is less than the just value assessed the prior year, except in cases where there were changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to the property.
 - For non-homestead properties, the proposed constitutional amendment limits the annual assessment increase in a year to five (5) percent (rather than 10 percent) on non-homesteaded property. The change also allows the legislature by general law to prohibit an increase in the assessment of the non-homestead property if the just value is less than the just value assessed the prior year.
 - The third component allows for an additional homestead tax exemption under the conditions that the owner is entitled to the homestead exemption within one year of the property purchase, has not owned property in the three (3) previous calendar years, and has not received a homestead exemption. The additional exemption is applied to all taxing units except for school district tax levies.
- If passed, the additional exemption allowed by the amendment is equal to 50 percent of the homesteaded property just value in the year the homestead was established. The additional exemption cannot exceed the median just value of homesteaded property in the county and the additional exemption is applied for a period of five years or until the property is sold. The ad-

ditional exemption decreases over the five-year timeframe by 20 percent annually of the initial exemption, or the difference between the just and assessed value, whichever is larger. Only one exemption is allowed per homesteaded property and the proposed changes are only applicable for property purchased on or after January 1, 2012. The effective date of the amendment is identified as January 1, 2013.

Amendment 4, if passed, would have impacts that would be felt at the local level of government (county, city, school board, and special districts) and at the individual taxpayer level. The state estimates (at current millage rates) that state-wide impacts would range from a decrease in tax revenue of \$156.2 million in state fiscal year (FY) 2013-2014 to a decrease of \$565.8 million in FY 2015-2016. In addition, the state estimates additional tax impacts from the "recapture provision" (point 1 above) would be an additional decrease of \$6.2 million for school property tax revenues beginning in FY 2013-2014, with a recurring (yearly) impact of \$17.7 million, and for non-school property tax revenue a decrease of \$10.3 million in FY 2013-2014, with a recurring impact of \$32.5 million.

Units of local government and individuals concerned with the quantity and quality of local government services might argue that this amendment results in further inability to provide needed services at the levels desired. Local governments also might suggest that they have had several years of declining property values that impact local revenues to fund local services, coupled with increased federal and state mandates they have been required to fund, and they cannot continue to operate effectively with continued financial stress.

Some Floridians may believe changes proposed in this amendment represent a "classic example" of problems with the state's current property tax structure: piecemeal policy changes that are not fair, that provide "tax breaks" to special interest groups, and although made for short-term problems, have long-term impacts. Owners of non-homesteaded property may see changes proposed in this amendment differently since the amendment lowers the annual assessment increase allowed. Relative to the existing law, this could potentially lower their tax bill if property values rise rapidly at some point in the future.

It may be assumed that any property owner who had been impacted by the "recapture provision" that resulted in his/her property's market/just value declining but his/her assessed value for tax purposes increasing is supportive of this amendment. In the popular press, it is clear that a group of individuals championing passage of the amendment is involved in the real estate industry. Naturally, these individuals are concerned with the poor performance and unemployment conditions that have existed in the industry during the recession and still linger post-recession. They would argue that anything to stimulate the real estate and housing industries is beneficial and necessary. However, other individuals believe that the real estate sector is slowly improving like most other sectors of the economy and it should continue that recovery without government intervention that carries with it a long-term fiscal impact.

Finally, it needs to be recognized that the state analysis on revenue change is based on the assumption that units of local government would not change the current millage rate level. However, if local governments did change the tax millage rate to offset the changes proposed in this constitutional amendment, those not eligible to benefit from the proposed changes would have higher local property tax bills because of a shift in the relative tax burden.

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2012TD154
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **JOSEPH ZACHARY GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate No: **30** Year of Issuance: **May-30-2008**
Description of Property: **LOTS A & B TRACT 14 E1/2 OF E1/2 OF N1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 14 & W1/2 OF E1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 14 08 345 33E**
1-08-34-33-0A00-00014-A000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed:
CFS PROPERTIES INC
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **1st day of November, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk
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426400 ON 9/21,28;10/5,12/2012

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Certificate No: **490** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**
Description of Property: **LOTS K & L OF TRACT 11 E1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 11 & W1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 11 17 345 33E**
1-17-34-33-0A00-00011-K000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed:
CFS PROPERTIES INC
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **1st day of November, 2012**.
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426408 ON 9/21,28;10/5,12/2012

OHS looks to end skid when host M.C. Tigers

Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Martin County (2-2) comes to Okeechobee High School tonight with a completely different opinion of themselves than they had two weeks ago.

The Tigers lost to South Fork 46-0 and to Vero Beach 48-15 in the first two weeks before they rebounded and defeated Eau Gallie 10-6 and Clewiston 35-0 last week.

They are led by quarterback Nolan Mullen who has struggled in the first four games with just 12 completions. Running back Dan Fillhaber has been a big part of their single wing offense with 412 yards rushing, over



6.3 yards per carry. He has three touchdowns. Mitchell Patterson is a dual threat with 5.2 yards per rush and 108 yards in receptions. Nate Simmons leads the defense. He had a blocked field goal return last week for a touchdown.

Okeechobee (1-3) has a three game losing streak. Quarterback Jack Radebaugh was questionable this week after a neck injury suffered at Sebastian River. He has thrown for 374 yards and two touchdowns this year. If he can't go, LaVonte Spivey gets another start. He leads the Brahman in total offense with 281 total yards.

Coach Chris Branham is frustrated with the team's play in the red zone. He said they must start making plays near the goal line.

He said the team has not been rewarded by the fact they have played close games this year.

"We can't give up. We have been in position to score but we have to start making plays. There are no moral victories here," he added.

The Tigers will use an I-formation and a power run game tonight. The two teams are pretty familiar with each other as they attend camps together in the summer and face off in 7-on-7 passing league games.

Branham said the rivalry means a lot in this game. He remembers when Okeechobee was (8-2) one year and had to go to overtime to defeat Martin County. He said

you can throw out the records when these two teams play.

The Tigers' domination of Clewiston was a surprise. Clewiston drove down the field with ease in the first half but had their field goal try blocked, then came a lightning delay. Despite amassing over 300 yards in offense, Clewiston was held scoreless.

Branham said he will have some different formations tonight which includes a scheme he has dubbed the Mad Cow Formation. He expects to have D.J. Washington play some at quarterback. Dee Shockley might also see time under center. Radebaugh returned to practice Thursday and would also be available.

OHS swimmers swamp Panthers in home meet

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee swim teams swept Fort Pierce Westwood in an impressive performance at the Okeechobee sports complex Monday as the girls prevailed 114-55 and the boys 84-79.

The Lady Brahman won all 11 races which included relays. Top performances were put in by Hunter Bosworth, Katie VanBeek, and Sage Douglas who all won two races. Jordan Bolan won the 100 yard free and Aubrie Reister took second place in the 100 yard back stroke. The 200 medley relay team of Reister, Macy Gamiotea, Bosworth and Douglas finished first and the Lady Brahman second team of Lexi Manson, Trisha Lara, Courtney Murphy, and Neresa McLaren took third place. Bolan took second in the 50 free, and Gamiotea took second in the 100 yard breast stroke race.

It was an exciting afternoon for the Lady Brahman who were cheered on by a nice turnout of local fans. The Brahman boys had a tougher time but hung tough in the close win over the Panthers. Dalton Hodges won the 200 free and the 500 yard free, Lucas Penido finished second in both the 200 and 500 yard free and Michael Muros finished

third in the 200 free style. Nathanael Bean won the 200 yard IM. Brandon Ball won the 50 yard free and the 100 yard free and Will Castillo finished second in the 100 yard butterfly.

Cameron Whitlock took third place in the 100 yard back stroke and Muros took third place in the 100 yard breast stroke race.

The Brahman also did well in the relay races as the 200 medley relay team finished third. Relay members included Danny Usry, Byron Byrd, Trey Howard and Whitlock.

In the 200 freestyle relay, the OHS boys team of Castillo, Muros, Ball and Hodges won first and the OHS team of Howard, Byrdm, Penido and Bean took third.

The 400 yard free relay was won by the Brahman team of Penido, Castillo, Ball and Hodges. The team of Howard, Bean, Usry and Muros took third place.

Swim coach Stephen Neafsey said the girl's squad won due to a number of great swims which highlighted the team's depth. He was the boys race came down to the last event and was very exciting.

The swim teams will host John Carroll on Monday, Oct. 1, at 5:30 p.m. to replace a meet that was postponed by weather earlier this month.



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Okeechobee Sports News in Brief

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

• The Lady Brahman golf team lost to Martin County 184-219 but defeated Centennial in a tri match held Monday at the PGA in St. Lucie West. Okeechobee played without seniors Kailey Hoover and Katelyn Hammond who were out with injuries. Hannah Raulerson shot 44 to lead Okeechobee (5-3). Martin County is (7-2).

Thursday's golf match versus Lake Placid has been postponed until a later date.

• The OHS boy's bowling team played well in a 5-2 victory over Fort Pierce Westwood on Monday at St. Lucie Lanes. Brian Chapman bowled a 219 and George Marshall a 211 as Okeechobee won the first match by 210 pins. Westwood won the second game by three pins despite strong performances by Chapman 171, Marshall 179, and Samuel Rogers 166. Okeechobee won the third game by 80 pins behind Austin Walker who shot a 216, and Rogers who shot 188.

Coach George Marshall said he was very pleased with the team's performance and felt they persevered as a team and kept their spirits up for the entire match. Steven Alvarez continued to show improvement and Allen Perry was unable to play due to an

injury. The boys next home match is Oct. 4 at 3:30 p.m. against Fort Pierce Central. The girls also will bowl against Fort Pierce that afternoon.

• The Yearling Middle School soccer team fought to a 3-2 victory over Sebastian Middle School in a tight match Monday in Okeechobee. Jose Orozco and Alberto Diaz scored goals for Yearling (4-1). Gabriel Hernandez played an excellent match while Giovanni Garcia had two assists. Javier Hernandez added an assist. Coach Erick Rios said his team played with a lot of courage against Sebastian, "It was a very good soccer game and both teams fought until the end to obtain the victory. Yearling proved to be the more aggressive team."

• The Osceola Warrior soccer team fell at home to Oslo 4-2 on Monday. Adoniel Martinez scored the first goal in the first half, and Jose Jaimes scored the second in the second half for OMS.

• The Okeechobee junior varsity football game scheduled to Tuesday at Martin County was rescheduled for Thursday, Sept. 27 at 6 p.m.

The Okeechobee Youth Football League will travel to Frostproof on Saturday to play five games. The Brahms were swept by Avon Park last Saturday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Lindsey Major #33 was one of the more reliable runners for Okeechobee in the Pee Wee football contest Saturday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Medina Voropayeva #6 practices a dig as Aubrie Holmes #11 looks on before the volleyball match between Osceola and Oslo on Monday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Daniel Ruiz competes for possession of the ball on the Oslo side of the field Monday afternoon. Osceola fell to Oslo 4-2 in a competitive match.

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Total Savings.....\$2,725



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Hold Back.....\$672
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USAA.....\$750
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Total Savings.....\$3,103



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Payments are based upon 72 months financing and a 750+ beacon score.

2009 HONDA CIVIC

ONLY 30,000 MILES!

MSRP When New.....\$22,600

Sale Price.....\$12,984

Any Old Trade Worth.....\$3,000

Stock #3360973

Many others to choose from at similar savings

Payments are based upon 72 months financing and a 750+ beacon score.



SALE \$189 per month
\$9,984

NEW 2012 JEEP UNLIMITED SPORT

MSRP.....\$27,765
LaBelle Savings.....\$836
Hold Back.....\$806
VPA Bonus.....\$400
Military Discount.....\$500
Cash or Trade in.....\$3,000
Total Savings.....\$2,542



YOU CAN BUY FOR \$22,223
Stock #2181774

OWNER DEMO 2011 TAHOE LTZ

Stock #187167



MSRP When New.....\$55,790
Belle Glade Savings.....\$3,206
Hold Back.....\$1645
USAA.....\$750
GM Final Pay.....\$4,500

YOU CAN BUY FOR \$45,689

Many others to choose from at similar savings

2007 DODGE DAKOTA 4X4 CLUB CAB

ONLY 71,000 MILES!

MSRP When New.....\$25,700

Sale Price.....\$11,784

Any Old Trade Worth.....\$3,000

Stock #3179386

Many others to choose from at similar savings

Payments are based upon 72 months financing and a 750+ beacon score.



SALE \$149 per month
\$8,784

NEW 2012 DODGE JOURNEY SE AVP

MSRP.....\$20,985
LaBelle Savings.....\$205
Hold Back.....\$600
VPA Bonus.....\$400
S.E. Bonus.....\$500
FFA Bonus.....\$500
Military Discount.....\$500
Cash or Trade in.....\$3,000
Total Savings.....\$2,542



YOU CAN BUY FOR \$22,223
Stock #2181774

OUR PROMISE TO YOU!

We price our cars, not our customers. You don't need negotiating skills to make your best buy. Our pricing philosophy make car buying fast and easy. You'll shop the way you do at a department store. Every car has the lowest price on the windshield, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Our customers drive from all over Florida because we have guaranteed lowest price and commitment to 100%customer satisfaction.

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*All lease payments are based on a 39 month lease a FICO score of 800 and \$2,499.00 to \$2999.00 due at lease inception. **Payments based on 75 month term with a FICO score of 800. Plus all taxes & tag fees up front.