

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 104 No. 45

Sunday, April 14, 2013

75¢ Plus tax

**County youth basketball teams undefeated**  
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**21 arrests made in Operation Dry Spring**  
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**Taxi license rules questioned**  
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## Lake Levels

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

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## Teen has BB gun on school bus

**'Pow! Pow!': 15-year-old accused of threatening student with BB gun**

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

An eighth-grade student at the Okeechobee Achievement Academy was arrested after he allegedly pointed a BB gun pistol at another student on a school bus and went "Pow!

"Pow!"  
And when the student got up from her seat, Shane Zachary Wilkinson, 15, allegedly told her: "I can still shoot you from here."

Arrest reports state the gun was not loaded.

Wilkinson, S.E. Eighth Ave. was later arrested on Thursday, April 11, on a felony charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon with no intent to kill. He was booked



Shane Wilkinson

into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

An arrest report by Deputy and School Resource Officer Donnie Holmes, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that when he searched Wilkinson on bus #28 he saw the pistol in the waistband of the teen's pants.

Deputy Holmes said the pistol was a .177 caliber Colt Defender.

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## Does SHIP hurt or help home buyers?

By Katrina Elsken  
Okeechobee News

Does the county's participation the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program hurt or help low income residents?

Statistics discussed at the April 11 meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission showed a high rate of foreclosures for those who participated in the program which is designed to help low income residents buy a home.

The commissioners considered the data from those who participated in the SHIP program 2006-2011 and found that during the reported time frame of those who received SHIP funding to help purchase a home, 38 percent of very low income homeowners defaulted,

62 percent of low income homeowners defaulted and 25 percent of moderate income homeowners defaulted.

"There are some arguments about whether it helps or not," said county administrator Robbie Chartier.

She said the SHIP funds can be used to

rehabilitate existing homes or to help low income residents buy a home. She said it might be more helpful to the county to use the money for rehab.

"If you are doing the rehab, you are making

See SHIP — Page 10

Number of units	Purchase Assistance			Rehabilitation			Defaults and Foreclosures		
	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Very Low	Low	Moderate
2011	1	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
2010	2	3	1	1	3	0	2	2	1
2009	4	4	3	3	2	0	2	3	0
2008	5	5	4	2	3	0	2	4	0
2007	5	4	5	3	2	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Man in blue van trying to pick up kids

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

Local law enforcement is asking parents to have a heightened awareness of where their children are due to an unidentified man trying to coax young children into his van.

According to information released by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the man approached at least two children in different areas of the county Thursday, April

11. Fortunately, neither child got in the van.

OCSO Public Information Officer Michele Bell said the man is described as white or Hispanic. He is approximately 5-foot-9-inches with a thin build. A witness said the man has a full beard with no mustache, blue eyes, black hair and a crew cut. He was last seen wearing a pink-, blue- and green-striped shirt and tan pants.

The witness told OCSO deputies he spoke

in broken Spanish but had a Middle Eastern accent.

He was last seen in the DeBerry Gardens area in an older model blue van with a taxi sign in the windshield on the driver's side. The make and model of the van are unknown at this time.

"Our children are our number one asset. Their safety is very important to all of us," said

See VAN — Page 12

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# Okeechobee Main Street honored

TALLAHASSEE—Secretary of State Ken Detzner announced Thursday that Okeechobee Main Street is the Florida Main Street Program of the Month for April 2013. The selection for this award is based on the Okeechobee program's involvement and active participation in the Florida Main Street Program.

"While Okeechobee is known for its great fishing and hunting grounds, Okeechobee Main Street has helped build community spirit for the downtown area and revitalized many projects," said Sec. Detzner. "Main Street has played a critical role in preserving and supporting the community of Okeechobee with revitalization efforts and community festivals."

Okeechobee Main Street hosts some of the biggest events in Okeechobee, including the Speckled Perch Festival and Pageant and the Top of the Lake Art Festival. The Speckled Perch Festival is the city's longest running festival. Since its start in 1965, the festival has provided entertainment for residents

and visitors of all ages, including a parade, rodeo and pageant.

Since its designation as a Main Street community in 2004, volunteers have also donated more than 51,000 hours of their time to meetings and events.

To learn more about Okeechobee Main Street, contact Cindy Birdshaw at 863-357-6246.

Florida Main Street is a technical assistance program of the Bureau of Historic Preservation, managed by the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources. The bureau conducts statewide programs aimed at identifying, evaluating and preserving Florida's historical resources.

Main Street, with its emphasis on preservation, is an effective strategy for achieving these goals in Florida's historic retail districts. Since 1985, the bureau has offered manager training, consultant team visits, design and other technical assistance, as well as the benefit of experience gained by other Florida Main Street programs.



Special to the Okeechobee News

## Inaugural year of Okeechobee County Ag Venture a success!

Newly appointed Okeechobee County Ag Venture board members are: (left to right) Lindsay Mann, secretary, Cindy Birdshaw, treasurer, Melissa MontesDeOca, vice president, and Diane Davies - existing president. The new officers were attending to details of the upcoming Ag Venture presented by TD Bank. Approximately 500 Okeechobee County fourth graders will attend the event.

## Okeechobee Forecast

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**Today:** Partly cloudy with a chance of rain, then a chance of a thunderstorm and a chance of rain in the afternoon. High of 88F. Winds from the SE at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 30%.

**Tonight:** Overcast with a chance of a thunderstorm and a chance of rain in the evening, then mostly cloudy. Fog overnight. Low of 66F. Winds from the SE at 5 to 10 mph.

### Extended Forecast

**Monday:** Overcast in the morning, then partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain. Fog early. High of 86F. Winds from the SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20%.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain. Fog overnight. Low of 66F. Winds from the ESE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30%.

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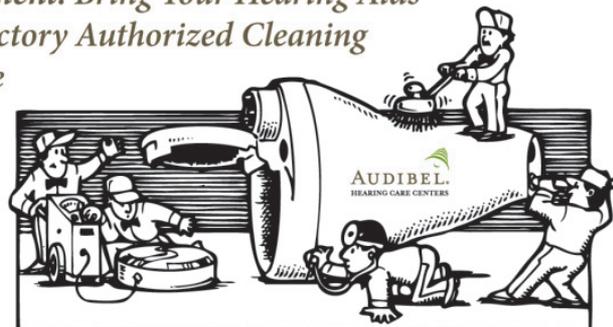
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# Rancher honored by Audubon Society

On Sunday, April 7, Audubon Florida and Hendry-Glades Audubon celebrated the first Everglades Day in a special event on the north side of Lake Okeechobee and Light-

sey's Restaurant. Last year the Florida Legislature designated April 7 as Everglades Day in honor of the birthday of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, a legendary Everglades advocate.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
Audubon's Eric Draper and Charles Lee present the award to Jimmy Wohl.

The main event of the day was presentation of Audubon's first ever Sustainable Rancher of the Year Award to Jimmy Wohl of Rafter T Ranch. This award recognizes a rancher who has exemplified commitment to stewardship and conservation on lands in the Northern Everglades. Wohl has set an example in working to store and clean water on his ranch through participation in the Florida Ranchlands Environmental Services Program and now the Payment for Environmental Services program. His outstanding work shows how ranchers can make simple adjustments on working landscapes to maximize benefits for the environment.

As part of the day's festivities, attendees went on a tour of Lake Okeechobee's marsh. There was an impressive fleet of airboats, thanks to generous donation of airboats and their captains from the South Florida Water Management District, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and of course, Audubon Florida's own Dr. Paul Gray.

Everglades Foundation board member Nathaniel Reed implored the audience to take decisive steps to protect our lake's health. Audubon Florida's Executive Director Eric Draper, Hendry Glades Audubon President Margaret England, Ernie Barnett from the SFWMD, Col. Dodd of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Okeechobee County Commissioner Bryant Culpepper all spoke to the importance of Lake Okeechobee for the region and for the communities surrounding the big lake.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

## Students of the week

Congratulations to the Students of the Week at South Elementary for the week of March 18 - 22. They are: Br'shiya Williams, Emilee Resendiz, Rosio Aguilar, Alex Blower, Caleb Murphy, Alley Popovich, Jasmine Desai, Kora Lemmerman, Erin Prieto, Joy Whipple, Kyler Morgan, Madyson McGuinness, Lonna McClenithan, Justyn Scruggs and Shea Hummel.

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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](http://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!*

### IRS reading your e-mail

• I'm betting that had this been done under a Republican Administration, the Lame Stream Media would be conducting something close to a proctology exam. But it isn't, so they sorta kinda ignore it. Surprised. From the news. "The Internal Revenue Service doesn't believe it needs a search warrant to read your e-mail ... An IRS 2009 Search Warrant Handbook obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union argues that "emails and other transmissions generally lose their reasonable expectation of privacy and thus their Fourth Amendment protection once they have been sent from an individual's computer." The handbook was prepared by the Office of Chief Counsel for the Criminal Tax Division and obtained through the Freedom of Information Act."

### Turn signals

• In response to the calls about turn signals, one place that using turn signals is absolutely essential is at the 4-way stops. When several cars pull up to a 4-way stop, you need to indicate to the other drivers which way you plan to go. If you don't use a turn signal, they are going to assume you are going straight. Have a little consideration for the other drivers and give them a clue what you plan to do.

### Trash cans

• Once again the trash was all over the neighborhood this week. Folks, you simply can't put your trash cans out the night before unless they have locking lids. And don't blame the neighborhood dogs. There are raccoons, opossums, skunks, foxes and coyotes in most areas of the county. You might be surprised to find how many wild animals live within prowling distance of your home. They can smell the garbage and they will go after it. These animals are nocturnal. They are prowling at night when you are asleep in bed.

### License to operate a business

• It's a sad day in Okeechobee once again when doing the right thing as a business owner doesn't apply to all businesses in this town. Each business has to have a license to operate to perform specific services. Each business has to carry insurance and workers comp specific to the services performed. So, tell me how can an outside job be performed on a commercial building being built on Highway 441 (just outside the city limits) by a business who isn't licensed, qualified or insured to perform that job. There are at least 10 listings in the phone book of licensed, insured and qualified businesses. I guess none of those were available. It wouldn't matter who was awarded the job as long as they were QUALIFIED and LICENSED to do the work. Once again, this isn't the right way to conduct business in this small town, but it's happening right under our noses. We as a community need to demand equal treatment for all businesses in order for our community to grow and new enterprises to form. It shouldn't be based on the adage, IT'S ALL IN WHO YOU KNOW. My dealings with this business will be moved to another local business, who will appreciate me as a customer.

### False insurance claim

• If a man is in this country illegally, using a false Social Security number to work and arrested on charges of filing false workman's comp charges, why on earth was he released on bond?

## Correction

The Friday, April 12, edition of the Okeechobee News contained an error. In the photo headlined "May 1 is Law Day," Attorney Glenn Sneider was identified as the president of the Okeechobee County Bar Association. This was incorrect. Mr. Sneider is a member of the association and was at the meeting as its representative, but he is not the president. According to the Florida Bar Association, Deborah M. Hooker is the president of the Okeechobee County Bar Association. We regret the error and any confusion that it may have caused.

## Reflections from the pulpit

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

Psychologists report that one of the questions people often ask of themselves is "How do I measure up?" This question is paramount in regard to how we see ourselves and how we see the world around us. Friends, media, music, peers, job performance and family all influence our perspective of who we are and whether or not we have what it takes in life to succeed. The most important voice in our life, however, should be that of our Creator. Ultimately it is what He says and thinks about us that matters the most.

As we examine the Scripture we find that God does in fact "so love the world." Not only did He send His Son to save us from hell but God also, through Christ's death on the cross, made us complete and eternally successful. Here are just some of the truths about who we are in Christ: We are complete in Him Who is the Head of all principality and power (Colossians 2:10); we are alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:5); we are free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2); we are free from oppression, and fear does not come near me (Isaiah 54:14); we are born of

God, and the evil one does not touch us (1 John 5:18); we are holy and without blame before Him in love (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:16); we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5); we have the Greater One living in us; greater is He Who is in me than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4); we have received the gift of righteousness and reign as a king in life by Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17); we have received the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus, the eyes of our understanding being enlightened (Ephesians 1:17-18); we can do all things through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:13).

Our identity should come from the one who made and formed us. It should come from the one who loves us so much that he sent His only Son to give us eternal life. But not only did He give us eternal life He also gave us a new and glorious identify. This is what His grace is all about. It is the unmerited favor of God that gives us the power to live as God has called us to live. May we never doubt how much God loves us, may we never doubt how special He has made us to be and may we never take His grace for granted.

## Need more time to file your income tax?

The April 15 tax-filing deadline is fast approaching. Some taxpayers may find that they need more time to file their tax returns. If you need extra time, you can get an automatic six-month extension from the IRS.

Here are five important things you need to know about filing an extension:

1. Extra time to file is not extra time to pay. You may request an extension of time to file your federal tax return to get an extra six months to file, until Oct. 15. Although an extension will give you an extra six months to get your tax return to the IRS, it does not extend the time you have to pay any tax you owe. You will owe interest on any amount not paid by the April 15 deadline. You may also owe a penalty for failing to pay on time.

2. File on time even if you can't pay. If you complete your return but you can't pay the full amount due, do not request an extension. File your return on time and pay as much as you can. You should pay the balance as soon as possible to minimize penalty and interest charges. If you need more time to pay, you can apply for a payment plan using the Online Payment Agreement tool on IRS.gov. You can also send Form 9465, Installment Agree-

ment Request, with your return. If you are unable to make payments because of a financial hardship, the IRS will work with you. Call the IRS at 800-829-1040 to discuss your options.

3. Use Free File to request an extension. Everyone can use IRS Free File to e-file their extension request. Free File is available exclusively through the IRS.gov website. You must e-file the request by midnight on April 15. If you e-file your extension request, the IRS will acknowledge receipt of your request.

4. Use Form 4868 if you file a paper form. You can request an extension of time to file by submitting Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return. You must submit this form to the IRS by April 15. Form 4868 is available on IRS.gov.

5. Electronic funds withdrawal. If you e-file an extension request, you can also pay any balance due by authorizing an electronic funds withdrawal from a checking or savings account. To do this you will need your bank routing and account numbers.

For information about filing an extension and the various methods of paying your taxes, visit the IRS website at IRS.gov.

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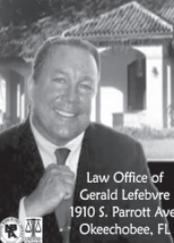
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### Legion opens Sunday bingo

American Legion 64 will once again host Sunday night Bingo beginning on **April 14**, at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. The kitchen will offer a limited menu. Payoffs will be determined by player attendance. All proceeds to benefit the American Legion veterans' programs. On April 21 and 28 there will be no bingo because of the spring festival. The event is open to the public.

### Breakfast benefits Drill Team

Please help Bits and Spurs 4-H Drill team get to the state finals with a home cooked breakfast for \$6 sponsored by Masonic Lodge 237 on Sunday, **April 14**, from 8-11 a.m. at 107 N.W. Fifth Ave. For information, call 863-801-3599.

### The Orchid Club to meet

The Orchid Club will meet on Monday, **April 15**, at 7 p.m. at the Extension Center, 451 U.S. 98 N. The Garden Club meets at 6 p.m. Discuss your problem plant or bring a plant to show. For information, call 863-763-6469.

### Historical Society to meet

The Okeechobee Historical Society will hold their regular membership meeting on Monday, **April 15**, beginning at noon in the Museum Building on U.S. 98. Anyone interested in joining the society is welcome to attend—just bring a covered dish to share. Dues are \$10 per year.

### Medicare seminar planned

The Heritage Assisted Living Facility will hold a Medicare benefits seminar on Tuesday, **April 16**, at 7 p.m. located at 608 N.E. Second Ave. (behind Rita's furniture). The speakers will be Jennifer Adams and Laurie Green, licensed sales agents. We care about your unique needs and want you to have a great health care experience. The public is welcome. Adult day care services are available at no cost. For information, call 863-763-1700.

### Big 'O' Basin meeting slated

A meeting to discuss the Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Plan is set for Tuesday, April 16, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Okeechobee Service Center, 3800 N.W. 16th Blvd., Suite A. The discussion will include Indian Prairie, Taylor Creek and Nubbins Slough. For more information, go online to <http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/LakeOkeechobee/>, or contact Beth Alvi at 850-245-8559, or Elizabeth.Alvi@dep.state.fl.us.

### Shrine holds spaghetti dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, at 1740 S.W. 53rd St., will hold a spaghetti dinner on Tuesday, **April 16**, from 4 - 7 p.m. and reservations are not required. The Shrine Club is please to offer smoke free dining. For your listening and dancing pleasure, music is provided 5 - 8 p.m. The complete dinner is available for a donation of only \$6. All proceeds benefit Shrine charities. For more information, contact: Kip Gardner at 863-357-0427; Dr. Randall Mims at 863-763-9200; or, the Shrine Club at 863-763-3378.

### Hospice holds final yard sale

Hospice of Okeechobee's next yard sale is on Wednesday, **April 17**, and Thursday, April 18, from 8 a.m. until noon. This will be their last yard sale until September. For information, call 863-467-2321 or see our web page [www.hospiceofokeechobee.org](http://www.hospiceofokeechobee.org) and click on Events tab.

### Florida storyteller at Library

For all ages, storyteller Katie Adams will give a program on Florida folktales at the Okeechobee County Library on Thursday, **April 18**, at 5 p.m. The backwoods of old Florida will meander through your mind as Katie Adams tells stories from Florida's cracker heritage. For information, call 863-763-3536.

### Democratic Committee to meet

The Okeechobee Democratic Executive Committee will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, **April 18**, beginning at 6 p.m. in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's. Reports will be made on the State Democratic Meeting at this time. All interested Democrats are invited to attend.

## Obituaries

*Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing [obits@newszap.com](mailto:obits@newszap.com). Customers may also request photos and links to online guest books. A link to the obituaries is available at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com).*

### Darryl J. Rogers, 61

OKEECHOBEE — Darryl J. Rogers passed away April 6, 2013. He was born July 4, 1951 in Ohio.

He was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 32nd Degree Mason of 25 years, Twice Worthy Patron of Eastern Star, member of Shriners and Scottish Rite.

Mr. Rogers was predeceased by his brother, Richard "Dick" Rogers.

He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Brenda Rogers; parents, Kenneth and Martha Rogers of Middletown, Ohio; and best friend, Joe Hutton.

No local services will be held.

Those wishing to leave a message of condolence may sign the online register book at [www.BuxtonFuneralHome.com](http://www.BuxtonFuneralHome.com).

All arrangements are entrusted to the care of Buxton Funeral Home, 400 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee Florida 34972.

### Milo 'Mike' Richard

#### McCranie, 68

OKEECHOBEE — Milo "Mike" Richard McCranie died Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at the Hamrick Hospice House of Okeechobee.

Mr. McCranie was born on Aug. 13, 1944 in Lakeland, Fla. the son of Julius Bruton and Melba Lippett McCranie. Mike worked for the Okeechobee county School Board for 31 years in the capacity of Teacher, Principal and Director of Programs. Mike received his Bachelor's Degree from LaGrange College in LaGrange Ga. and his Master's Degree from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. He was a member of the Episcopal Church of Our Savior in Okeechobee, Fla.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Pamela McCranie of Okeechobee; son, Major Michael Brian McCranie (Marcy) of Hawaii; brother, James B. McCranie (Gail) of Vero Beach; two granddaughters, Kylie and Ella McCranie of Hawaii; a niece and nephew of Vero Beach.

A Memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2013 at the Episcopal Church of Our Savior, 200 NW 3rd St., Okeechobee, FL.. with the Father Edward Weiss officiating. Reception to follow in Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Hamrick Hospice House, PO Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

### Elks host Spring Fling

The Lake Okeechobee Elks Lodge will host a Spring Fling Italian buffet and dance at the VFW South Post, 3912 S.E. 38th Ave., on Saturday, **April 20**, from 6 to 10 p.m. Tickets are on sale at Jones Supply, 801 S.W. Park Street. For information, call 863-467-2658.

### William 'Bill' Rennie, II, 80

OKEECHOBEE — William "Bill" Rennie, II passed away at the young age of 80 on April 10, 2013. Born March 24, 1933 in Buffalo, N.Y. to the late Dr. William and Mrs. Selena Rennie, Sr.

A dedicated and loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend to many. Bill enjoyed tending to his rose bushes and orchids, playing cards, and deep sea fishing. He obtained a Bachelor Degree in Engineer from Buffalo State SUNY. Bill retired in 1995 as a State of California Building Official to South Florida with his wife.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dianne Rennie.

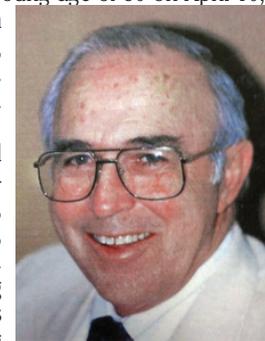
He is survived by his four children, William Rennie, III of Nevada City, Calif., Susan Rennie Ashton of Pocatello, Idaho, Geoff Rennie (Donna), of Auburn, Calif., and Matthew Rennie of Nashville, Calif.; seven grandchildren, Jennifer Ashton, Samantha Hartley (William), Jessica Ashton, Micah Ashton, Rosanna Rennie, Michael Rennie, and Amanda Rennie; five great-grandchildren, Danny Spears, Chase Hartley, Ryder Hartley, Adrien Armstrong, and Isabella Armstrong; and brother-in-law, Tom Burrell.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation can be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718 to help fight back against cancer.

A private burial ceremony will be held in Williamsville, NY.

Those wishing to leave a message of condolence may sign the online register book at [www.BuxtonFuneralHome.com](http://www.BuxtonFuneralHome.com).

All arrangements are entrusted to the care of Buxton Funeral Home, 400 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee Florida 34972.



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# Orange crop estimate down

LAKELAND—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wednesday, lowered its estimate of the 2012-2013 Florida orange crop by one million boxes to 138 million boxes.

The Valencia variety accounted for the decline going from 72 million boxes in March to 71 million this month. Early-mid varieties remained at 67 million boxes.

The USDA makes its initial estimate in October of each year and revises it monthly as the crop takes shape until the end of the season in July. The USDA's October orange estimate was 154 million boxes.

"This is not unexpected," said Michael W. Sparks, executive VP/CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual. "We have experienced unprecedented fruit drop as a result of dry weather and severe disease challenges from HLB, or citrus greening. Those factors have contributed to the current situation."

Visit [www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Florida/Publications/Citrus/cpfp.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Publications/Citrus/cpfp.htm) for the complete USDA estimate. During the 2011-2012 season, Florida produced 146.6 million boxes of oranges. The 2012-2013 Florida grapefruit estimate held at 17 million boxes. Tangerines decreased to 3.5 million boxes while tangelos stayed at 1 million boxes. The yield for from concentrate orange juice (FCOJ) remained at 1.61 gallons per 90-pound box. The Florida citrus industry creates a \$9 billion annual economic impact, employing nearly 76,000 people, and covering about 550,000 acres.

# Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

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

	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
<b>COWS:</b>				
800-1000	62.00	- 82.00	73.03	71.40
1000-1200	62.00	- 82.00	72.65	72.04
1200-1400	68.00	- 79.00	73.31	76.59
1400-1600	63.00	- 76.00	72.50	75.71
<b>BULLS:</b>				
1200-1400	71.00	- 96.00	88.00	94.80
1400-1600	70.00	- 101.00	87.33	85.50
1600-1800	96.00	- 98.00	97.50	93.20
<b>STEERS:</b>				
150-250	215.00	- 250.00	232.50	235.27
250-300	200.00	- 220.00	210.25	207.69
300-350	185.00	- 200.00	191.73	193.13
350-400	175.00	- 190.00	183.40	181.07
400-450	165.00	- 182.50	170.56	173.00
450-500	160.00	- 172.50	164.33	164.38
500-550	150.00	- 162.50	156.39	158.32
550-600	135.00	- 145.00	140.50	149.80
600-650	127.00	- 134.00	129.71	133.88
650-700	123.00	- 135.00	129.14	126.67
<b>HEIFERS:</b>				
150-250	185.00	- 205.00	192.00	193.33
250-300	170.00	- 180.00	176.67	178.33
300-350	162.50	- 167.00	164.90	164.69
350-400	150.00	- 160.00	153.44	155.42
400-450	140.00	- 147.50	142.93	145.75
450-500	135.00	- 140.00	138.18	136.71
500-550	125.00	- 137.50	130.00	133.07
550-600	121.00	- 126.00	124.00	122.33
600-650	120.00	- 121.00	120.50	121.50

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	287	475
COWS	114	172
STRS	47	18
HFRS	60	6
BULLS	14	7
YRLINGS	15	63
MIX	5	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>741</b>

Not much going on this week. Slow. Prices were fairly steady. Lackluster slaughter cow market. Calf prices still fairly strong but not quite at the level everyone has been hoping for. Room for improvement!

Gary Dymmek, Kissimmee, topped the calf market with a high of \$2.50 bought by D & S Cattle.

Bar Crescent S, Okeechobee, topped the cow market with a high of \$2.00 bought by Central Beef.

Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association has started a fundraising effort to restore their arena on Hwy. 441. You can look for information on their website at [www.OkeechobeeCattlemensAssociation.com](http://www.OkeechobeeCattlemensAssociation.com).

See ya next week,  
**Todd**

Prices reported are higher end #1 Quality. For #2's and Brahma type calves adjust down by \$10-\$30.

## OKEECHOBEE LIVESTOCK MARKET

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Tuesday at 11 a.m.



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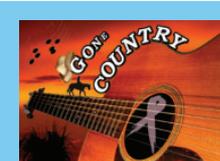
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## School board honors students and staff



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Okeechobee students were honored at the April 9 meeting of the Okeechobee County School Board. Left to right, OHS English teacher Jim Leidy gave awards for creative writing to Cody Walker and Ryan Tedders, who also won contests with IRSC this year for their grade level.**



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**(Photo at left) North Elementary School Principal Pat McCoy (right) was honored for her work on behalf of United for Families and Foster Children on the Treasure Coast. Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy presented the award Tuesday.**

**(Photo at right) Linda Davis (left) won the Golden Mouse Award for the third nine weeks of the year. The award honors teachers who use new technology in their classroom. Superintendent Ken Kenworthy presented the award to Mrs. Davis.**

# Consult-A-Nurse provides free health information

Consult-A-Nurse is a free community service provided by the HCA Hospitals in your area. It is designed to help you find the doctor who fits your specific needs. Finding the right physician can be challenging. Whether you are new to the area or just exploring your options, there are many things you will need to consider before establishing a relationship with a physician, including:

- The right medical skills and experience;
- Someone you and your family feel comfortable with;
- Office hours and a location to fit your schedule;
- Participation in your insurance plan or healthcare network.

In addition to Consult-A-Nurse's physician referral services, Consult-A-Nurse can be contacted for information on free community healthcare programs and screenings, like Raulerson Hospital's Dine with the Doctor program, Better Breathers class, and more. Consult-A-Nurse's staff provide up-to-date details on community events at HCA hospitals near you.

Even if you are not seeking a doctor or a health-related community event, you may still want to keep Consult-A-Nurse's phone number handy because they provide live

registered nurses 24/7 for consultation and prompt answers to your health-related questions. Consult-A-Nurse nurses do not diagnose conditions, but provide health information in an effort to help callers find an answer to their health questions. Consult-A-Nurse is fast, convenient and free. Call Consult-A-Nurse at 863-763-9228.

### Blood drives planned

The Big Red Bus bloodmobile will be in Okeechobee this month as follows:

Friday, April 12 – County Health Dept, NW 9th Ave., 1 – 4 p.m.

Friday, April 12 – Publix, 1 – 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 14 – Knights of Columbus, St. Theresa Catholic Church, Buckhead Ridge, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Thursday, April 18 – Wal Mart, Noon – 5 p.m.

Friday, April 19 – Samboree at KOA, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Friday, April 19 – Seacoast National Bank, South 441, 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 19 – Walgeen's, 1 – 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 21 – Golden Corral, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 27 – Wal Mart, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.



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Special to the Okeechobee News/YMS

## Students of the week

Yearling Middle School is proud to announce its choices for Students of the Week for April 4, as follows: front -- Kevin Gonzalez-Velasquez, Mariah Spelts, Cecilia Ceja and Alejandra Platero; back -- Ricky Perez and Guadalupe Mojica. Not pictured is Jamie Nott.



Special to the Okeechobee News/EES

## Students of the week

Everglades Elementary students achieving excellence in the classroom for the week of April 8-12 include: kindergarten students, Gaven Collier, Patryk Jaskot, Jevon Peters, Diego Luviano Navarro; first grade students, Abigail Medrano, Janeesha Cooper, Hailey Carter, Susanna Garcia, Jose Ortega; second grade students, Kristin Horn, Justin Conti, Claudia Alvarado, Kaylee Reichert, Kaylee Connelly, Tessa Quinlin, Reed Mattson; third grade students, B'ellana Schlosser, Kimberly Hight, Francisco Hernandez, Mason Tarr, Westyn Boone, Cynthia Serrano; Fourth grade students, Balin Webb, Kayla Morgan, Destiny Kirkland, Joshua Baldwin, Mason Turner; fifth grade students, Gloria Seca, Juan Leon, Taylor Lacertosa, Zoe Croft and Taylor Jennings. Congratulations to our many outstanding students.

## Federated Republican Women's Club forming

The Okeechobee County Federated Republican Women's Club has been established and is inviting new members to join. The club meets at Cowboy's in the private dining room on the last Tuesday of every month. Membership paperwork can be picked up at a meeting or by sending an e-mail to OkeechobeeCFRW@gmail.com. Any other information can be obtained by contacting the club president, Josie Weeks-Elliott, at 863-634-8474.



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# SHIP

Continued From Page 1

the homes better and stronger and we do have a better quality housing in the county," she said. If the money is used to help purchase a home, and the home goes into foreclosure, the SHIP funding has not helped anyone.

The Local Assistance Housing Plan, or LHAP, is the document that sets forth the strategies and criteria for administering the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program. Okeechobee County's current LHAP expires June 30, 2013. To maintain eligibility to receive SHIP funds, an updated LHAP must be submitted to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation on or before May 2, 2013.

The 2013 legislative session indicates SHIP funds will be available for the upcoming funding cycle. The county recognizes there would be a need to hire an individual to administer the program should the county receive funding for the upcoming cycle. Administration funds are limited by the state and cannot exceed a certain percentage of the total amount awarded.

Commission Chairman Frank Irby said participation in SHIP requires a 15-year commitment from the county to oversee the use of the funds.

Commissioner Joey Hoover said funding for SHIP comes from doc stamps and if the county does not apply for the funding, someone else will receive the money that was collected in Okeechobee County.

"They will still collect doc stamps whether

we take them or not," agreed Mrs. Chartier.

"I am concerned with plummeting housing values," said Commissioner Bryant Culpepper. "We have people who can't pay their taxes and may lose their homes. This is continuing to bring our property values down."

He suggested the county look into a Section 8 program, which provides rental assistance for low-income residents.

"Every month we are getting foreclosures," said county attorney John Cassels. He explained that if a SHIP home goes into foreclosure the county is involved as a subordinate lien holder. He said the banks often drag foreclosures out, especially if there are code enforcement issues because they don't want the expense of cleaning up the property.

"We've had foreclosures we've been dealing with since 2009," he said. The derelict houses bring down neighborhoods.

The county has a cost in staff time to deal with the foreclosures, said Mrs. Chartier, but beyond the loss of the grant money and the cost of defending these foreclosures, the county does not have a financial risk. After a foreclosure, the property usually ends up back with the bank.

Commissioner Ray Domer wondered if the county should stop participating in SHIP.

"We have a significant amount of defaults," said Mr. Irby. "If we get them into a home and they default, we're hurting them."

"The question I always think of when I am looking at these is did the county actually help or did the county make them reach father than they should have," said Mr. Cas-

sels. "Perhaps the house was too much for them. I see over and over again, they just can't seem to hold onto it."

Mrs. Chartier said the SHIP funding allows the applicants to buy a home if the payments are less than 30 percent of their income. Maybe 30 percent is too much, she said. Mr. Domer said many houses are more affordable now due to the economic downturn.

"You can buy a house that was out of your reach now at \$60,000 when it was \$200,000 a few years ago," agreed Mr. Cassels. "But can you afford to maintain all of the things that go with that more upscale house?"

Commissioner Margaret Helton said she was concerned about the 15-year obligation to monitor the houses in the program.

Mr. Domer asked if a housing authority would step in and take it over if the county decided to stop handling SHIP. Mrs. Chartier said the county would still have to apply for the funding and then pass it along to a housing authority to administer.

Mr. Hoover said applying for the funding puts the county's "name in the hat," but does not obligate them to accept the funds.

The commissioners agreed to continue the discussion at their next meeting. Should they choose to pursue the funding, they could still make the May 1 deadline.

# GUN

Continued From Page 1

According to Deputy Holmes the teen said he took the BB gun to school so he could sell it, although he said he didn't show it to anyone at school.

After Wilkinson reportedly pointed the pistol at the female student, the report indicated that she got up from her seat and moved to the back of the bus "... because she didn't want to make a scene."

"She stated that she was in fear of her life because she did not know if the gun was real or not," stated Deputy Holmes.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Joani Ard said the district is still gathering information on the incident to be sure it has been fully investigated. She said district policy addresses different levels of weapons, but a BB gun is considered a dangerous object.

"What can increase the consequences is if the dangerous object is used in conjunction with a threat," she said. "That's why there's a lot of investigation that needs to be done."

Deputy Holmes's report states that Wilkinson said he "... was just playing around."

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# 21 arrests made in Operation Dry Spring

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

Local deputies worked extra hard to see to it that local youth were safe and had a 'dry spring' during their recent spring break.

From March 4 to April 7 the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), along with the Florida Sheriff's Task Force, staged Operation Dry Spring. This five-week operation was aimed at stopping underage youth from buying and using alcohol, tobacco and different types of synthetic drugs.

The local operation led to 21 arrests, as well as the seizure of 18.5 grams of marijuana and prescription medication.

According to OCSO Detective Corporal Shane Snyder, who led the operation locally, there were four instances of local businesses selling alcohol to minors, and three incidents where tobacco products were sold to minors.

There were also: four juveniles arrested on misdemeanor marijuana possession charges; four juveniles arrested for possession of alcohol; three juveniles arrested for possession of tobacco; one juvenile arrested on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone); and, one juvenile was arrested at a local school by a school resource officer on a misdemeanor pot possession charge.

"Your sheriff's office is taking a firm stance against selling these products to our underage youth," said OCSO Major Noel Stephen. "These businesses will be tried and inspected regularly. This will aid us all in regard to the youth possessing and using these substances."

The goal of Operation Dry Spring was preventing potential emergency-related incidents linked to alcohol and drug use. In 2010, nearly 190,000 people under the age of 21 visited an emergency room for injuries or conditions connected to underage drinking.

In addition, the use of synthetic drugs such as bath salts and Spice is on the rise with over 7,000 reported incidents in 2011, compared to some 3,000 in 2010.

"Through Operation Dry Spring the Florida Sheriff's Task Force has addressed an important issue in our state—the safety of our youth," said Highlands County Sheriff Susan Benton, who is also the president of the Florida Sheriff's Association (FSA). "The Florida Sheriff's Association is extremely proud of the hard work and dedication from all those that participated in Operation Dry Spring."

The Florida Sheriff's Task Force pools resources from the 67 sheriff's offices in the state to address specific areas of concern. That task force is also the point of contact for statewide initiatives, which includes helping to staff the State Emergency Operations Center and coordinating sheriffs' offices responses to storm-ravaged communities during hurricanes and other disasters.



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# Airport hanger zoning questioned at county meeting

By Katrina Elsken  
Okeechobee News

Stan Curren came before the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners at their April 11 meeting with questions about the lease for his hanger at the Okeechobee Airport.

Mr. Curren owns the hanger but the airport land belongs to the county.

With eight years left on the lease, Mr. Curren explained that he may sell the hanger or he may refinance it.

But before he can do either, he must resolve some problems with his lease with the county.

"I have three people who want to buy the hanger and a bank that wants to refinance," explained Mr. Curren. "When I had a survey done, the legal description does not match the lease."

"Over the years when I signed the leases, the bank required a survey and we used meets and bounds," he said. "The banking regulations have changed."

He said that although the hanger has been

used as a business since the 1970s, there is a zoning issue as it is not classified by the county as a commercial hanger.

Because of the zoning issue, the tenants cannot get an occupational license, he continued.

County attorney John Cassels said more research will be required into the issues involved.

"Your legal description issue is something I think we can deal with," said Mr. Cassels. "We'll look into commercial versus what it is now and the issues it is causing."



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# VAN

Continued From Page 1

OCSO Major Noel Stephen on Friday morning. "Please be aware of where your children are and what is going on around you. If you see this man, vehicle or anything suspicious, please call us immediately."

Mrs. Bell said the mother of a 4-year-old boy in the Douglas Park area was working around her house and thought her son was watching television. But, when she went to check on her son he wasn't there. She stepped outside and saw him riding his bicycle down the street.

She went to her son and asked him why he was so far away from his home, and he told her that a man had tried to get him into a van so he rode away.

The mother then called the sheriff's office.

Mrs. Bell said that the incident took place around 11:53 a.m.

Just a few hours later, an 11-year-old girl stepped off her school bus at its stop in DeBerry Gardens. As she walked up the driveway to her home the blue van followed her.

Mrs. Bell said the girl walked to a neighbor's home and asked the woman there to pretend to be her mother. The girl's mother was not home at the time.

The woman went to the van where she actually spoke to the man. Mrs. Bell said the man told the woman he was selling women's clothing, purses and perfume. But when she asked to see his wares, he replied

he didn't have any with him. He then told her that he would return with samples the next day (Friday, April 12).

Mrs. Bell said neither child was harmed. She added that the man never got out of his van and never touched either child.

Once deputies had gathered information regarding the man OCSO Deputy Sergeant Mark Roberts, who heads up the OCSO School Resource Officer (SRO) program, notified SRO deputies in local schools.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Joani Ard said once the schools had the information it was immediately passed on to school bus drivers in case they saw the van near a bus stop. After that, all of the administrators were contacted. But, as of Friday afternoon, students had not been told about the incidents.

"It's a tricky situation. We want to make sure students are safe, and in this heightened sense of problems around the nation, you don't want to frighten them if it's not necessary," said Mrs. Ard.

She did add, however, that the information was placed on the school district's Fa-

cebook page Friday afternoon, as well as its web site.

"And, an automatic e-mail will go out to parents and guardians," she said.

Mrs. Bell, who is also a member of the OCSO sex offender unit, said there are currently 100 sexual offenders and predators in Okeechobee County. She said it's not known if the man in the blue van is one of those offenders, or if he came here from another county.

No one saw the license tag on the van, she added.

She said if anyone encounters this man they are asked not to engage him in any manner, but to immediately call 9-1-1.

Until then, she said OCSO personnel "are searching diligently for that blue van."

## Hershey's Track and Field games set for May 10

Hershey's track and field games are coming to Okeechobee County Parks and Recreation on Friday, May 10, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Okeechobee High School stadium/track, 2800 U.S. 441 N. Signup deadline is Friday, **April 19**. For information, go to [www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/parks](http://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/parks) or call 863-763-6950.

# Assistant OHS principal charged with battery

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

An assistant principal at Okeechobee High School was arrested after she allegedly slapped a former boyfriend who refused to return the couple's child to her because she appeared to be intoxicated.

Traci L. Brown, 35, S.W. 28th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Thursday, April 11, on a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery. She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a \$2,500 bond.

An arrest report by Deputy Justin Akins, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that the ex-boyfriend took the couple's child to Brown's home per an agreement between them. The report indicates that when the man arrived he found Brown "... on the couch passed out."

The man then left and took the child home with him.

Some time later Brown reportedly showed up at the man's home and wanted to take her child home with her. But the man would not let her take the child because she was intoxicated, added the report.

At that point Brown allegedly slapped the man in the face.

Deputy Akins stated that the child was in the home at the time and did not witness the incident.

According to the deputy he could smell

alcohol on Brown's breath, and her eyes were bloodshot and her speech was slightly slurred.

The arrest report goes on to indicate that when he told her she was under arrest she refused to cooperate and Deputy Akins stated he had to "... push her against the car and use the car to subdue her into handcuffs."

At that point he gave the former boyfriend the keys to Brown's car and took her to jail.

When contacted, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Joani Ard said the school district was still gathering information about the incident and no decision had been made on Brown's future with the school district.

"Right now, the case is in the hands of the sheriff's office and the state's attorney," said Mrs. Ard in a phone interview Friday afternoon. "As far as consequences, they will be in accordance with our policies and state statute."

She went on to add that, with any arrest, they are required to contact the state who could also have sanctions.

Mrs. Ard said Brown has no prior arrests. "We would not have hired her if there was anything that would have given us the impression she had a history that this was something in her personality," said Mrs. Ard.

Brown has been with the school system for two years.

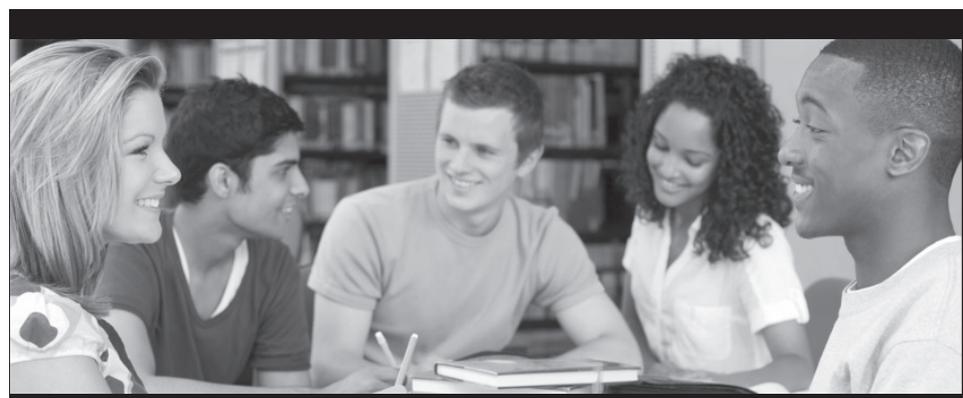


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# County takes no action on taxi licenses

By Katrina Elskan  
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County commissioners showed no interest Thursday in a suggestion that the county should draft taxi regulations.

Brian Runyon of Runyon Taxi Service in Okeechobee was on the agenda for the April 11 meeting of the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners with a request that the county adopt taxi regulations similar to those of the City of Okeechobee.

Currently, the city requires that taxi companies have a business license. The county does not.

"Anybody and everybody can go and start a business without having the proper documentation," said Mr. Runyon. "You could have people who are child molesters, people who are rapists, driving around and picking people up."

He said it is not unusual in Okeechobee County for parents to call a taxi to transport a child.

"We're just trying to make it more safe for the people in the community," he said.

Mr. Runyon said in order to obtain a city business license, a business must pay for background checks for drivers and must carry commercial insurance on the vehicles.

Many of the taxis based outside the city limits just have regular car insurance, he said.

County Commissioner Bryant Culpepper

said he is concerned about non-uniformity between the county and the city rules.

He said a taxi owner can escape the city rules by opening their business in the county even if they drive the taxi into the city limits.

"If you're going to have a set of rules make them uniform and fair," he said.

In the county, "all you have to do is get a minivan and you're in business," he said. "My feeling is that we have a responsibility to protect the public."

Deputy county administrator Jim Threewits said they have only had one complaint about a taxi driver in the county and it was referred to the sheriff's office.

Commissioner Joey Hoover said requiring a county business license could open the county to more liability.

"If we do regulate it then we do become liable because we are telling people that we have done a background check," he said.

Mr. Hoover said he is not in favor of passing more business regulations.

"Why am I making a law to regulate something that is not presenting itself as a problem?"

"If a deputy or highway patrol sees you driving around with bald tires or a tail light out, they're going to stop you anyway," he said.

"To me it's an enforcement issue," said Commission Chairman Frank Irby. "Who would enforce it?"

He said if they ask to see proof of insur-

ance, how do you know they don't drop the insurance a week later?"

"A much larger industry in Okeechobee County is the fishing guide business," said Mr. Hoover. "They take people on their boats with people who don't know them."

"The fishing industry in Okeechobee county is an integral part of our livelihood. If the county commissioners, both sitting and prior, don't have cause to regulate a major industry such as that, why would we get involved in a minor industry such as taxi cabs?"

"There hasn't been a problem—why add government regulation?" he asked.

"We feel it needs to be done," said Mr. Runyon.

"You can be proactive or reactive," said Mr. Culpepper. "We have become a society that has become reactive instead of proactive."

"I'm a firm believer in protecting the citizens," he said. "I think a bass boat going out on the lake is totally different."

Mr. Culpepper added that if a taxi is in an accident and does not have sufficient insurance, it does cost the county.

"If these people get hurt and they don't pay, guess where they go. They go to Raulerson Hospital to be treated and if they are indigent the bill comes back to the county," he said.

The board took no action on Mr. Runyon's request.

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# Main Street to landscape city medians

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

The median strips on S. Parrott Avenue from the intersection with Park Street southward to Walmart will soon be looking better thanks to the efforts of Okeechobee Main Street.

Main Street recently received notification that a grant they applied for last summer from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has been approved. The grant application required detailed plans for landscaping. The plan submitted by Main Street included several varieties of palms and na-

tive grasses and an irrigation system.

Maureen Burroughs, of Main Street, said that within a few days she expects to receive instructions on how to proceed with the project which must be completed by June of 2014.

The \$100,000 grant requires \$17,000 in matching funds which will be supplied by the City of Okeechobee. According to City Administrator Brian Whitehall, after the project is completed the city will enter a maintenance agreement with the department of transportation.



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**Build your dream home** on a beautiful lot adjoining the golf course in The Oaks of Blue Heron. \$25,000.00 Call 863-634-2820

**Large fenced lot** with oak trees in Treasure Island - Zoned for houses or mobile homes. \$18,000.00 Call 863-634-2820

Mobile Homes

Mobile Home Rent

**Mobile home on canal,** 2bd/1ba, \$125. week, \$500. dep, water and trash incld, Treasure Island. 863-634-9990

Mobile Home Sale

**55+ Park** For Sale or Rent w/option to buy. 9441 Hwy 78 West, Adult Park, 3BR/1.5BA, Fully furnished, W/D, Big Florida room, Lots of updates. \$15,000 OBO (219)384-3407

**Palm Harbor Retirement Community Homes** \$8,500 off, 2/2 & 3/2 from \$39,900 Call John Lyons 800-622-2832 ext 210 for details <http://www.palmharbor.com/model-center/plantcity/>

**3bd/1ba 2005 Mobile Home** located in Clewiston at Tropical Mobile Home Village. has 10x16 shed w/electric, asking \$28,000 Call 863-228-5415

Recreation

Campers/RVs

### Okeechobee KOA RV SHOW

4276 US Highway 441 South Okeechobee, FL 34974

Friday, April 17th - Saturday, April 20th  
9am - 6pm

"Many Nice New and Pre-Owned Certified RV's, we beat any ones prices. Free Trade Appraisal at the Show"

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

Automotive

Autos Wanted

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

Pickup Trucks

**1970 FORD TRUCK** REDUCED TO \$500.00 CALL 904-502-4171

Recreation

Campers/RVs

### Okeechobee County Schools Drug Testing Committee Meeting

Okeechobee County School District will hold a Drug Testing Committee meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, in the School Board Meeting Room #303, 700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, to discuss a possible random student drug testing policy. The meeting is open to the public. Questions may be directed to 863-462-5000, Ext. 226.

Ken Kenworthy  
Superintendent  
440926 ON 4/14/2013

Public Notice

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO.: 47-2013-CA-000074**

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO CHASE MANHATTAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
JOHNNY J. HERNANDEZ A/K/A JOHNNY HERNANDEZ, et al., Defendants.

**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
TO: **JOHNNY J. HERNANDEZ A/K/A JOHNNY HERNANDEZ**  
Last Known Address: 9160 SE 63RD DR., OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974  
Also Attempted At: 3116 E KINDERMAN DR, AVONDALE, AZ 85323; 5311 W STATE AVE, GLENDALE, AZ 85301-1936 AND 8451 SW SPRINGHAVEN AVE, INDIANTOWN, FL 34956  
Current Residence Unknown

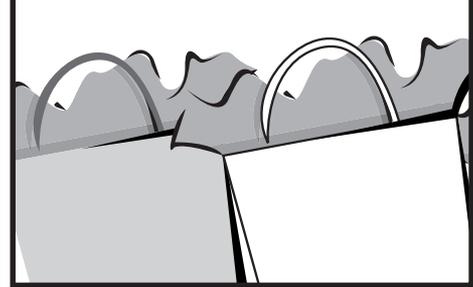
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: **LOTS 1 AND 2, BLOCK 9, OKEECHOBEE HAMMOCK, SECTION 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 43, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.** has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Choice Legal Group, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1800 NW 49TH STREET, SUITE 120, FT. LAUDERDALE FL 33309 within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the (Please publish in THE OKEECHOBEE NEWS) and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptación para poder participar de este procedimiento o evento; usted tiene derecho, sin costo alguno a que se le provea cierta ayuda. Favor de comunicarse con Corrie Johnson, Coordinadora de A.D.A., 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 por lo menos 7 días antes de que tenga que comparecer en cone o inmediatamente despues de haber recibido esta notificación si es que falta menos de 7 días para su comparecencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva o de habla, llame al 711. (KEY): Si ou se yon moun ki kokoba ki bezwen asistans ou aparye pou ou ka patisipe nan prosedur sa-a ou gen dwa sazi ou pa bezwen peye anyen pou ou jwenn on seri de ed. Tanpri kontakte Corrie Johnson, Co-ordinator ADA, 250 NW Country Club Drive, suite 217, Pont St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 mwen 7 jou avan ke ou gen pou-ou par& nan tribunal, ou imediatman ke ou resewva avis sa-a ou si 16 ke ou gen pou-ou ale nan tribunal-la mwens ke 7 jou; Si ou pa ka tande ou pale byen, rele 711. WITNESS my hand and the seal of this 9th day of April, 2013.

SHARON ROBERTSON  
As Clerk of the Court  
By: Tina Espinosa  
As Deputy Clerk

440945 ON 4/14,21/2013

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Public Notices

Public Notice

**Public Notice**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No. 472013CA000003CAAXMX  
Bank of America, N.A. Plaintiff  
Vs. DEANNE HARDEN, STANLEY L. HARDEN, JR., MICHAEL SADLER, TRACY HARDEN SADLER, et al Defendants  
**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
To the following Defendant: **BASSWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.** C/O THOMAS L TAYLOR, 3101 N.W. 37TH AVE OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972  
**MELISSA SADLER** 1663 BRANDYWINE RD., APT 5114, WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33409  
9742 SW 61ST DRIVE, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974  
1021 OHANA WAY, UNIT 104 NORTH PORT, FL 34289  
1845 SW 53RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

**Public Notice**  
For Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: **LOT 24, BLOCK 51, BASSWOOD UNIT 5, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 51, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. A/K/A 2625 NW 34TH AVENUE, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972**  
Has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Udran Law Offices, P.C., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 4651 Sheridan Street, Suite 460, Hollywood, FL 33021 within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in **The Okeechobee News** and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You have 30 calendar days after the first publication of this Notice to file a written response to the attached complaint with the clerk of this court. A phone call will not protect you. Your written response, including the case number given above and the names of the parties, must be filed if you want the court to hear your side of the case. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case, and your wages, mon-

Public Notice

Public Notice

ey, and property may thereafter be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or a legal aid office (listed in the phone book). This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No.2.065. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 3rd day of April, 2013. SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT As Clerk of the Court by: Linda F. Young As Deputy Clerk 440416 ON 4/7,14/2013

Public Notice

## Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**  
1 Extraterrestrial factor in creating much of Earth's carbon-14  
11 '90s TV toon therapist  
15 "The Defense Never Rests" co-author  
16 You may bid on it  
17 Circulation aid  
18 Five-time Wimbledon winner  
19 American Fur Company founder  
20 Firenze field  
21 "\_\_\_ to Canaan": Carole King hit  
24 Harris trickster  
27 Sin tax, e.g.  
29 Take-charge type  
30 \_\_\_ Genevieve: Missouri county or its seat  
31 \_\_\_-ovo-vegetarian  
32 Cry of delight  
34 Low life?  
36 Remote drivers?  
40 Attached, as some decals  
42 Certain elephant  
43 Dander  
46 Pro  
47 Miss Hungry of 1936, familiarly  
48 Where Massenet's "Don Quichotte" premiered  
51 Grate  
52 Obscured  
53 Edge  
55 Desert antelope  
56 Insolvent bailout beneficiary  
57 Michelle Phillips was one in the '60s  
58 Man in the street  
59 Hot times in 48-Across  
64 Coconut-flavored cocktail

- 35 "Never Wave at \_\_\_": 1952 film  
37 "\_\_\_ With a Z": 1972 TV special  
38 Miss  
39 Breeze  
41 Crew members  
43 Arrival  
44 Find very funny  
45 Catalytic protein  
47 Group of signs  
49 Gulf state  
50 47-Down member  
54 Block brand  
56 Reheat, in a way  
57 Duct opening?  
58 Grammy-winning Steely Dan album  
59 Doze  
60 Mauna \_\_\_

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

C	A	M	P	O	H	A	D	J	A	T	V	S			
O	P	I	U	M	I	D	E	A	G	O	A	T			
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Z	A	P	S	G	E	L	T	A	E	T	N	A			
E	R	T	E	G	E	L	A	S	N	E	E	R			

xwordeditor@aol.com

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63							64								

By Barry C. Silk  
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# Do Your Part! RECYCLE

# Youth Basketball Champions



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The 10 & Under Okeechobee County Parks & Recreation Youth Basketball League Undefeated Champions are the Hawks sponsored by J & E Fencing: (back row) Coach Preston Baker, Pherian Baker, Sergio Montalvo, Ramone Baker, Lane Edwards, (front row) Wilton Williams, Emerson Billie, Quayton Billie and Chadrick Williams.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The 12 & Under Okeechobee County Parks & Recreation Youth Basketball League Undefeated Champions are the Pistons. Pictured are: (back row) Even Neil, Luzana Venzor, Jayla Newton, Coach Eddie Neil, (front row) Simiya Washington, Elton Pelt, Mark Youmans and Devante Lullman.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The 14 & Under Okeechobee County Parks & Recreation Youth Basketball League Undefeated Champions are the Celtics, sponsored by G & K Tractor Service. Pictured are (back row) Coach Javaris Johnson, Austin Campbell, LaQuavius Williams, Juanyae Ford, Christyann Aldridge, Logan Ortiz, Donnie Watson Jr., Coach Oscar Ford, (front row) Kobe Crews, Antawyn Fludd, Preston Arnold and Rafe Edwards.

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