

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 104 No. 72

Sunday, June 16, 2013

75¢ Plus tax



Tips for helping an aging parent
... Page 8

New system to track fire safety inspections
... Page 7

Lake Levels

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Murder charge linked to drug sale

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man being held in the county jail on drug charges has been arrested for allegedly selling heroin to a local man who then died of an apparent overdose.

Beau Asher Emley, 29, Knott's Landing, was arrested Friday, June 14, on one count of first degree felony murder.

His bond had not been set as of newspaper deadline, but the arresting detective was going to request that Emley be held without bond.

Emley was arrested by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on Wednesday, June 12, on felony charges of sale of heroin and possession of heroin with intent to sell. His bond on those charges has been set at \$200,000.

Those charges, however, are unre-

lated to Emley's latest arrest.

Detective Javier Gonzalez, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated in his arrest report that the 26-year-old Okeechobee man's death was a direct result of the heroin he purchased from Emley. He purchased a total of \$100 of heroin from Emley, added the detective.

See MURDER— Page 19



Beau Asher Emley

County privatizes building department

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County will let a private company handle building permits under a proposal discussed at the June 13 meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Under the proposal, fees will stay the same and the permitting process should be faster.

County Administrator Robbie Chartier explained that the county's building official is retiring and the county has not been successful in finding qualified staffers for that department.

The county has been advertising for inspectors for some time, and qualified applicants have been hard to find, she explained. With the resignation of the building official and with limited time to seek a qualified applicant, it is

"No longer will those with more political clout than understanding of the building codes be able to influence the process."

— Mark McCree, architect

important for the county to solve the problem so that contractors can continue to do their business, she continued.

She said they contacted Independent Inspectors Ltd. (IIL) and SAFEbuilt for proposals. SAFEbuilt, however, felt they could not provide the staffing levels they determined would be required at the current revenue levels.

Under the proposal from IIL, the permitting

fees will remain the same as they are now. The contractor will receive 85 percent of the fees. The county will keep 15 percent of the fees. IIL will provide personnel for the building office.

Office hours will remain 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the current location of the County Building Department. The county will provide office space, computers and desks, desk chairs, file cabinets, local phone service and use of a photocopier and fax machine.

"I would call this an emergency purchase under our circumstances and limited time we have," said Mrs. Chartier.

IIL could give permit applicants better service than they currently receive from county personnel, she said.

See BUILDING — Page 10

School classified employees contract settled

School board votes 4-1 to remove automatic salary step hikes from contract

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board settled a near 12-month contract dispute with their classified employee unit in the Okeechobee County Educators Association Unit 1604

by voting to remove automatic step salary hikes for employees after a two-hour hearing Wednesday night.

The vote was (4-1) with Board Member Malissa Morgan opposed. She stated that current employees have had to absorb more of a work load due to the loss of employees and need to have the incentive to do their jobs well.

"They do their job well and we can be fiscally sound and plan for these increases," she explained.

Board member Joe Arnold said the district

should remain conservative in tough financial times. He said if the money is available, the district will give it to employees.

Board member Gay Carlton said she felt the salary issue should be negotiated each year.

Chairman David Williams said he hasn't given raises at his business since 2009 and said his employees are glad to have a job. He defined the district fund balance as their livelihood.

Board member India Riedel said she did not

See CONTRACT— Page 19

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Blood Roundup honors volunteers

Okeechobee Blood Roundup volunteers were feted at a luncheon at One Blood Center in Orlando on June 16. The luncheon is held annually to thank the 405 volunteers across Florida who, in 2012, donated 28,157 hours to help save lives through blood transfusions. Roundup Chairman Raye Deusinger (816 hours), received the Presidential Gold Award Certificate and letters from both the President and The Corporation for National and Community Service. Bronze Award Certificates and both letters were awarded to Maureen Bradley (266-1/2 hours), Richard Haynes (63-3/4 hours), Marie Kirchhoff (137 hours) and Joan Shults (123-1/2 hours). Other volunteers attending the luncheon were awarded certificates of appreciation. Pictured above are: (back row) Joan Shults, Donald Shipley, Raye Deusinger, Allen Murphy, Joan Roden, Maureen Bradley; (front row) One Blood District Coordinator Russell Colwell, Marilyn Hadley, Terry Haynes, Nancy Murphy, Marie Kirchhoff, Richard Haynes and Linda Hazellief.

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More than 1 in 10 Americans over the age of 70 have some level of dementia.

"Dementia is devastating, and the prevalence doubles every 20 years," said Dr. Frank R. Lin, an ear surgeon at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Dr. Lin's findings appear in the Archives of Neurology. In regard to hearing loss he says, "The risk [of dementia] increases three-fold for those with moderate hearing loss and five-fold for severe impairment."



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Today: Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and a chance of rain. High of 91F. Winds from the North at 5 to 10 mph shifting to the South in the afternoon. Chance of rain 20%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy in the evening, then clear. Low of 73F. Winds from the ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain in the afternoon. High of 91F with a heat index of 97F. Winds from the ESE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain. Low of 73F. Winds from the SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20%.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain. High of 91F with a heat index of 99F. Winds less than 5 mph. Chance of rain 60% with rainfall amounts near 0.2 in. possible.

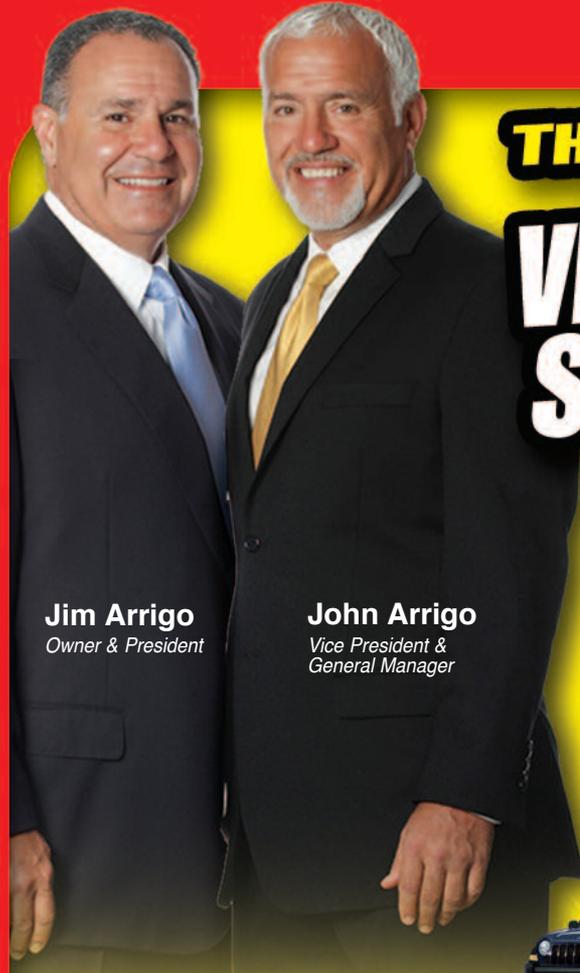
Tuesday Night: Clear with a chance of a thunderstorm. Low of 73F. Winds less than 5 mph. Chance of rain 50%.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Trip down memory lane

One hundred three-year-old Kathleen Garlen of Ft. Pierce, Fla. visited the Okeechobee Historical Museum on June 5. Jim Rou and her caregiver, Jessie Smith brought her to see the old Tantie school which brought back memories of her as a child going to school in a one-room school similar to the Tantie school. She was delighted to tour the museum with Zelda Mixon, director, who gave her history of early Okeechobee, the mural, and special items in the museum such as the treadle sewing machine like she remembered using. Ms. Garlen taught school in Michigan in earlier times. Her father was a veterinarian in Michigan, and her mother worked in the post office for 83 years.



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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!

School board

- How can the school board consciously sit on a "rainy day fund" of 16 percent (when the state only requires a 5 percent fund) and not give its hard working employees a few cents an hour raise? Even a small raise for school employees would then filter into the local economy, therefore benefiting all Okeechobeeans. Given an opportunity to make the lives of these employees a little better, the school board chairperson could only reply, "People should be happy they still have a job." We desperately need a school board that cares about the school system employees and doesn't treat them as enemies.

- Like very other profession in this area, everyone is vastly underpaid.

- Other schools have graduation on the football field. I really think that would be nicer than the Agri-Civic Center. At least it's grass instead of dirt. And there is a breeze. Sure they say what if it rains. Well when it rains at the Agri-Civic Center is it all muddy and the wind blows the rain in so that is not a great choice either. When they built the Agri-Civic Center the public was sold a bill of goods by the county commission. We were led to believe they would build something that would be a nice public facility like other communities have, something that could be used as a hurricane shelter and that could be rented out to make money. They talked about having different flooring that could be put in or taken out for various events. Instead we got an big barn that is open all around and costs a fortune in maintenance and has a dirt floor. No one likes it. Not even for rodeos. The Cattleman tried it, didn't like it, and when their five-year contract was up decided to go back to the old arena.

- Unreal isn't it? Having a 16 percent "rainy day fund" and having their seniors graduate out of an AG BARN! Years from now they will be asked where the graduation was held and you know what their go-

ing to have to say? A BARN! It isn't funny but what is how they seem to think it's O.K. No, it is not. These kids have worked hard, with FCAT, sports, and other extra-curricular activities and to be rewarded with a barn to graduate in? It's unacceptable. Chobee land USA is always 25 years behind the curve. Rent somewhere nice for the night and have their graduation. Not an AG barn in June in Florida with no air conditioning and with dirt floors. Okeechobee county, the commissioners and school board should be so ashamed of themselves.

Dogs and fences

- I wish all people who had those big, biting dogs had those good fences to keep their dogs in their own yards. We've had problems with Dixie Ranch Acres with aggressive dogs coming after people on the street.

- If you have big dogs you should have a fenced yard. Big dogs need room to run around. I would not have dogs if I did not have a fenced yard. My dogs only leave my property if they are on a leash. But I know it is a problem that people do let their dogs roam and that is not good for the neighborhood and it is not good for the dogs. Responsible dog owners keep their pets safely at home or on a leash if they take them out and about.

Arcades

- The recent state law to close and keep closed local arcades game rooms may not be such a great game plan. Let's take a look. Okeechobee is a famous fishing location, sportsmen/spouses/girlfriends, return each November through March. Snowbirds are the lifeblood of Okeechobee in winter months. Just ask local business, from big box stores to flea markets, and everything in between. Now then, the wives/girlfriends don't all fish. Many shop or visit, yes arcades, you get the drift. Arcades buy thousands of dollars of local restaurant/Walmart/ and various gift cards each week. Many of these people are seniors. It's their entertainment. Okay it's gambling, so is lottery tickets, and such, there are worst vices. And not everybody wants to go to the casino. These arcades employ people and the money circulates. Then there are the folks, local residents, who support these services year round. It's shut these people off completely. I don't even fish, but I have eyes.

Reflections from the Pulpit

Meet me at the fountain

By Calvin H. Fryar, pastor
Brighton Baptist Church

Revelation 21:6—"And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."

Jeremiah 2:13—"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

Many years ago when D. L. Moody was still busy in this country, there was an industrial exposition in Chicago. There was on the exposition ground a fountain which became the rendezvous for folk who arranged to meet each other. One would say to another, "Will you meet me at the fountain?" The answer was, "All right, I will meet you at the fountain." P. P. Bliss, the gospel song writer, was fascinated with this meeting place. And he wrote the gospel song based on it, lifting the thought from the meeting place in the exposition ground to that higher meeting place, when he wrote this: "Will you meet me at the fountain, when I reach the gloryland? When you meet me at the fountain, shall I clasp your friendly hand? Other friends will give you welcome; other loving voices cheer; there'll be music at the fountain—will you, will you meet me there?—Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations.

God has promised us a fountain of living water and He will give us that water from that fountain. But our world has carved out broken cisterns for themselves instead of going to the fountain—why? There is, in my mind, no answer!

THEY HAVE FORSAKEN THE FOUNTAIN and hewed themselves "broken cisterns that can hold no water."

Blessed with a keen sense of humor, Charles G. Finney had a constant struggle to confine it to proper occasions. Once he was asked by one of his students why he never preached on the text which compares the wicked to those who forsake the fountain of living waters and hew broken cisterns that can hold no water (Jer. 2:13). He replied that the picture was so ridiculous and that the folly of a man's forsaking a living fountain and spending his time and energy trying to get water by working a creaking, leaky pump in an empty cistern was so great, that he did not dare trust himself before an audience with it.—Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations.

According to a tradition current among the natives of Puerto Rico, there was an island of the Bahamas group which had upon it a marvelous fountain, whose waters produced perpetual youth. For this elixir of eternal life, Juan Ponce de Leon, the Spanish navigator, sought long and

hard, yet in vain.—Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations.

The world seems to have an appetite for any and everything but the truth. I wonder why men fall prey to such things and chase after an illusion their entire life. All we ever wanted and all we ever needed in found in the name of Jesus Christ. But instead of turning to Him for the answer to our problems, we are turning away from His Holy Name. Satan is good at diversions and he knows man will search for anything but the truth.

THE LORD HAS PROVIDED A FOUNTAIN. In Revelation 21:6 He said, "I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely..." These words were spoken by Jesus the Apostle John.

When a large religious service was being conducted at the Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco, many people quickly became aware that the minister delivering the main address was not thoroughly orthodox. Although a gifted speaker, he began to direct most of his eloquence against the power of the blood of Christ. Ruth E. Marsden relates that when his fluent oratory ended, a timid, elderly lady stood up in the midst of the crowd and softly began to sing a great hymn by William Cowper as a touching rebuttal to the modernist's remarks. A hush fell over the assembly as they heard those faint but familiar words: "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains."

Before she could begin the second stanza, approximately a hundred people rose to join her. By the time she reached the third verse, nearly a thousand Christians all over the audience were singing that blessed song of faith. The triumphant, thrilling strains rang out loud and clear: "Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose its power, 'til all the ransomed church of God be saved to sin no more." Many were deeply moved as that humble believer stood up for her Lord and with the light of Heaven upon her face.—Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations.

Some years ago several congressmen, who were devout Christians, were taking a walk one evening. Their conversation drifted to the subject of religion and the state of the world. They were not enthusiastic about the outlook and were just about to agree that the whole world was on the toboggan and rapidly sliding down the hill when they chanced to pass a little chapel. From within came the words of a familiar hymn: There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn from Immanuel's veins; and sinners plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains.

As his face lighted up, one said to the others, "As long as people get together and sing that song, there is hope for the world, after all."

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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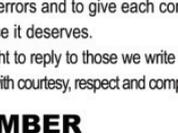
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- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
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MEMBER

OF:



Letters to the Editor

Budget time

Once again it's budget time as the county begins thinking about the budget for the next fiscal year. If recent years are any indication, this year's budget hearings could be interesting. Up until several years ago the budget hearings were dull, uninteresting affairs. Many times the reporter for the Okeechobee News was the only one in attendance. A few years ago, with the coming of an economic downturn, that changed. The budget hearings became lively and often spirited, attracting an audience and public comment, especially when the sheriff's budget was discussed.

The sheriff has made public his new budget which is an increase of about 6.5 percent over his current budget. The new budget also contains a 3 percent cost of living increase. The sheriff stated that his rank and file employees have not had a raise since Jan. 1, 2009. It remains to be seen how the commissioners will react to this budget. It has also been several years since county employees have had a raise and, in recent years, commissioners have been making a concerted effort to reduce the budget.

Will the dreaded "A" word (apportionment) come up again this year? Apportionment was a major topic of discussion in recent years' budget hearings. The budget shortfall was divided proportionally between the constitutional officers and the county with each entity being requested to cut their budget accordingly. If apportionment comes up this year how many constitutional officers will comply? After all the discussion about apportionment last year, the sheriff was the only constitutional officer to cut his budget the requested amount.

As with commission meetings, the philosophical differences between Commissioner Bryant Culpepper and Commissioner Joey Hoover should produce some interesting and sometimes amusing budget hearings. Mark Twain said that difference of opinion is what makes a horse race. Difference of opinion also produces interesting commissioner discussions.

The Internet makes it easier to be an informed citizen. Budget hearings and regular commission meetings can be watched on your computer at your convenience and in the privacy of your own home. Some of the meetings are more fun than watching television. I have always said the commissioners provide the best free show in town.

Pete Gawda

Woman seeks information on 1945 murder case

My name is Jerrina Gay, great granddaughter of a woman who was killed in Okeechobee in 1945. Bertha May Johnson was her name.

The Jan. 10, 1945 Okeechobee News article, "Negro woman was killed in fray in Cypress Quarters" stated that my great grandmother was confronted by a woman named Jessie Lee Howard about a man. The women got into a heated confrontation and a fight broke out. Howard then leaves and comes back with her sister and stabbed my great grandmother in the chest. An article in the March 9, 1945 edition states the case went to court and ended in mistrial.

Is there is any way at all that anyone can help me find out whatever happened to Jessie Howard? I have contacted the Okeechobee Clerk of Courts and they were unsuccessful at finding out anything pertaining to this matter.

As a kid I heard of the story as to what happened to my great grandma and now that I'm an adult I wanted to research it for our family so that we can know and try to find out more information about the life of Bertha.

We don't even know where Bertha's final resting place is. Just knowing where she is buried will be good enough for us. We can visit her grave and make sure we take flowers and tend to her grave site. At the time of death, Bertha had one child, a 9-year-old daughter, (Lillie Claude Rinters) who happens to be "my" grandmother. I know this may seem impossible, but if anyone has information or articles even an obituary for Bertha, can you please share this information with us. You can contact me, Jerrina, by phone at 678-365-8823 or email jerrina_jones@yahoo.com

Jerrinda Gay Jones

From the Okeechobee News, January 10, 1945:

Negro Woman Was Killed in Fray in Cypress Quarters

A Cypress Quarters Romeo is the sole untouched member of an eternal triangle which exploded last Sunday afternoon with dire results. A coroner's jury put Jessie Lee Howard and her sister Louisa Sanders in the jail-house to await circuit court jurisdiction.

Bertha May Johnson was put underground to await the judgement of the High-est Court.

Isadore survives.

According to eyewitnesses, Jesse Lee, who is of a pugnacious disposition and has frequently been locally apprehended on charges of fighting, and Bertha May had a short but noisy argument on Sunday afternoon, with Jessie getting the worst of it. Whereupon, it is alleged, Jessie Lee retired for reinforcements in the shape of a sharp knife, returned to the fray, and ended the argument as far as Bertha was concerned, quite effectively, about seven thirty in the evening.

Now Jessie and her sister, arrested as accessory, have time to savor the fruits of victory for a while in solitude. A grand jury will eventually decide upon their degree of guilt, if they are found guilty. If the alleged killing was premeditated, the charge will be murder. If in the heat of wrath without previous planning, the charges could be some degree of manslaughter. Probably Bertha May won't care which degree.

Isadore gets off without a scratch.

Swim lessons and memories

As president of the Okeechobee County Education Association I have sat at the school board meetings for 9-1/2 years and watched retirees get recognized and always wondered what I would say, or even if I would say anything, when my time came to retire from teaching. I knew there were many things I could say—but I decided to focus on my 31 years teaching in Okeechobee (of 35 years total)—all at Yearling Middle

School in the same room—the gym. I would like to share with you what I said Tuesday night, June 11, 2013.

For many years, until Osceola opened, every student had two full years of Physical Education no matter whether they took vocational or Band. We PE teachers shared all our kids—no matter whose roll they were on. So the 4 PE teachers knew every student quite well.

When the Sports Complex opened in 1990 I was very excited to be able to teach swimming to the students of YMS which I have done for 23 years.

Here's some information all of you should know if you don't already: The Sports Complex was a joint effort between the county and the school district. After trying to raise funds to supplement the grants that the county and district procured, time was running out. Both entities decided to use the combined grant money and build what they could. Thus, the pool doesn't have a deep end. There is a blue print for a diving well to be located at the south end of the pool. Anyone want to take that on?

Because of this combined venture it was agreed back then that the school district would fund half of the upkeep each year for the Complex. The amount of money the school district pays the county runs between \$175,000 and \$200,000 each year. This is why the school district has priority at the Complex during school hours. I hope the swim program of Water Safety in PE classes at YMS that I started years ago is continued. And, I wish more school district classrooms would use the Complex.

Over the years I have been proud to teach so many good students who have grown up to be productive adults in this community. I have been lucky to become friends with former students and it's especially nice when I get to teach their kids. Please indulge me for a moment. Among the wonderful people who I was fortunate to teach include:

- The woman who recently shared with me that the year I asked her to be my student aide was a turning point in her life and part of the reason she chose to go down the "right" road in life was because of the positive attention I gave her that year. Her daughter was also a student of mine.

- The woman who was very afraid of the water and allowed me to teach her to swim in my IRSC class after teaching her at YMS years previously.

- The man who was in my first PE class as a ninth grader back in 1982. That was the last year ninth grade was housed there.

- The woman who was a student aide for me, is now my special neighbor and her daughter who was also an aide for me.

- The wife who I taught at YMS and her husband who I taught at IRSC. They are also special neighbors.

- The women who were students of mine while at YMS and their daughters who were my students also.

- The people who I taught at YMS and again for IRSC when they took my Fitness, Wellness, Swimming, or Coaching classes.

So, in conclusion, I thank all my students for the opportunity to touch your lives and appreciate how much you have touched my life.

Thank you,
Candice Black Walker
Physical Education Teacher at
Yearling Middle School 1982-2013

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Father's Day breakfast set

Buckhead Ridge VFW Ladies Auxiliary's Father's Day Breakfast is by Renee, on Sunday, **June 16**, from 9 -11 a.m. There will be a special Father's Day menu. Fathers eat free—all others pay a \$6 donation. For information, call Renee at 863-457-2882.

Legion offers Sunday bingo

American Legion Post 64 will once again host Sunday night Bingo beginning on **June 16** at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the bingo area. The kitchen will offer a limited menu. Payoffs will be determined by player attendance. All proceeds to benefit the American Legion veterans' programs. The event is open to the public.

Class of 2014 formal pictures

The Okeechobee High School senior class of 2014 will have formal pictures taken on **June 24 and 25** at Okeechobee High School. Visit the high school's web site or like "OHS Journalism" on Facebook for information.

Moose Father's Day dinner

Okeechobee Moose will host a Father's Day dinner on Sunday, **June 16**. Featuring spaghetti, salad, garlic toast & dessert. Dinner is served from 3 to 5 p.m. Music by D & K Dance on Wednesday begins at 4 p.m. with dancing, fun, requests & food! Bingo is every Thursday at 1 p.m. Lunch is at 12:30 p.m. The Friday Night Bingo Bonanza starts at 6:30 p.m. Food is available. Thursday Night Pool has been moved to 2 p.m. Sunday. Breakfast is cancelled for the summer. All proceeds go to support Moose charities programs.

Amplified telephones offered

On Wednesday, **June 19**, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of the Treasure Coast, Inc. will be in Okeechobee distributing Free amplified telephones to deaf, hard of hearing, speech impair and deaf/blind individuals—by appointment only! For information, call 772-334-2233.

Historical Society to meet

The Okeechobee Historical Society will have its last meeting before the summer break on Monday, **June 17**, beginning at noon in the museum building. Everyone welcome, we just ask that you bring a covered dish to share. There will not be a July or August meeting and the museum will also be closed during those months as the Tantie Quilters are also having a summer break. If any group wishes to have a special tour, we ask that you contact the museum or Betty Williamson, president, for scheduling.

Elks to celebrate Flag Day

The Lake Okeechobee Elks Lodge 2871 will celebrate one of our cherished ceremonies honoring Flag Day on Saturday, **June 22**, at 1 p.m. at the VFW South in Treasure Island. We will "commemorate the birth of the American Flag." Light refreshments served. For information, call Marcia Anderson at 863-623-4305, or Stan Breedlove at 863-467-6240.

Be a child advocate

Volunteer to be a Child Advocate. A Guardian ad Litem gives a voice to an abused, abandoned, or neglected child in dependency court. Our next training session is Saturday, **June 22** and 29, from 10 a.m.—4 p.m. at the Okeechobee Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. To register or for more information, please call 1-866-341-1425 or 772-785-5804.

Republican Women to meet

The Republican Womens Club will host a guest speaker on Tuesday, **June 25**, at 6 p.m. at Cowboy's in the private dining room. His name is Daniel Burke and he is from the Oath-keepers. This is a national organization, and he is the closest local affiliate located out of Sebring. He will speak about the importance of upholding our Constitutional rights. The public is invited to attend, as well as join the club. For information, contact 863-634-8474.

B.R.A.T. Club Splash Party

The B.R.A.T. Club will host a Summer Splash Party on Saturday, **June 29**, at the Okeechobee Freshmen Campus from 5 - 9 p.m. There will be a bubble tent, Slip and Slide, cotton candy, pizza, soda and chips with games, music, prizes, dunk tank and a small kids area (parents are welcome). Admission is \$7 and appropriate dress is required. Parents must sign consent forms upon arrival. Everyone is welcome! For information, contact Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996, or Matt Buxton at 863-634-3706.

DeMolay meets in Okeechobee

Big Water DeMolay meets at 105 N.W. Fifth Ave. on the first and third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. for young men 12 to 21. Call L. Keith Tomey II at 863-763-8072.

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by emailing obits@newszap.com. A link to the obituaries is available at florida.newszap.com

Dwight McCorts, Sr., 59

OKEECHOBEE — Dwight McCorts, Sr. passed away June 7, 2013 at his home.

He was born May 1, 1954 in Ft. Pierce and came to Okeechobee in 1994.

He was employed by Frank DeCarlo, who was like a brother to him. His family would like to thank the people of Okeechobee that helped to make him the kind and generous man he was. He loved fishing. The ocean was his life and his ashes will be spread there.

Mr. McCorts was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Jaclyn McCorts; sister, Carolyn Hazelgrove; three grandchildren, Deloan Tindall IV, Robert Tindall and Devin Tindall; brother, Thomas McCorts and father-in-law, Robert E. Mitchell - whom he considered to be his Father.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Cathy McCorts; daughter, Chrissie McCorts; son, Charles Dwight McCorts, Jr. (Michele) all of Okeechobee; daughter, Melissa Farless of Sebastian; son, Michael McCorts; eight grandchildren, Tracy, Katelyn, Deanna, Bradley, Alyssa, Charles Dwight III, Kaila and Zachary.

No services will be held.

Those wishing to leave a message of condolence may sign the online register book at www.OkeechobeeFuneralHome.com

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



David E. 'Mr. Dave' Evans

OKEECHOBEE — On May 23 2013, David Evans was called home to be with his savior Jesus Christ.

Born in Bowling Green Florida, he spent his youth in rural Central Florida along with suburbs of Tampa and Miami. As a young adult, Dave moved to Okeechobee where his interest in electronics prompted him to open a television repair shop with his lifelong friend and cousin William "Doc" Anderson. Later relocating to Ft. Pierce he partnered with the late Jack Sizemore of Sizemores TV as the first provider of residential satellite dishes in St. Lucie County. In 1967 Dave, with the help of his late wife LaGracia Evans began his 40+ year relationship with Motorola Inc, as Daves Communications. He provided communications hardware, repair and service throughout St Lucie, Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee counties to various health institutions, government entities, emergency operation providers, business owners and the private sector. Daves Communications services would include but not be limited to communications towers, two way radios, computer consoles, cellular telephones and of course, "Daves Pager Express" his extensive paging network connecting beeper patrons throughout the state. Over the span of his career at the helm of Daves Communications, he was endeared to many as "Mr. Dave"; known for his authentic smile and superior service and products delivered with steadfast integrity. Originally a family business, over the years Daves Communications employed hundreds of Treasure Coast residents; relatives, friends and strangers alike...everyone knew "Mr. Dave" was willing to go that extra mile or lend a "hand up" to all who crossed his path.

In years past, Dave served on the St Lucie County Fair board, donated the use of two way radios to many local organizations and charitable events, enjoyed fly fishing, remote controlled boats and airplanes, repairing violins and tinkering with countless projects in the "back room" of his shop in Ft Pierce. If a topic interested him, he'd research a book to fully acquaint himself with every detail. However, those close to him, knew his passion- Bluegrass Music -was what really made his heart beat. Many a bluegrass festival saw Dave in attendance!

Dave is survived by his wife, Dorothy of 18 years of Ft Pierce; sons Roy S. Evans (Karen), Michael K. Evans of Ft Pierce; and daughter Carole L. Brown (Tony) of Lakewood Park; stepsons David Simpson (Donna) and Jacob Simpson (Amy) of Port St. Lucie; beloved cousins Carole and Doc Anderson of Okeechobee. Mr. Evans is survived by ten grandchildren; nine step grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild along with numerous friends and business associates.

Please join us as we honor a truly good man, "Mr. Dave" for a memorial service on Saturday June 22, 2013 at 1 p.m. at Yates Funeral Home Chapel in Port St Lucie, 7951 S.US 1, 34952

Memorial contributions may be made to The Humane Society of St Lucie County @ HSSLC.org or P.O. Box 14199 Fort Pierce, FL, 34979 or The National Parkinson Foundation @ 800-327-4545



Richard Lee Kellar, Sr., 71

OKEECHOBEE — Richard Lee Kellar, Sr., died at Raulerson Hospital, Friday June 14, 2013.

He has been a resident of Okeechobee for 40 years and was a member of the Eagles. Mr. Kellar was well known as the "Singing Mailman". He loved music being a member of the Touch of Class band, and he enjoyed gardening also.

Mr. Kellar is survived by his wife of 53 years Lily Mae Kellar of Okeechobee; son, Richard Kellar, Jr. of Okeechobee; and his three daughters Deborah Carter of Lake City, Tenn., Patricia Hoon (Danny) of Okeechobee and Janice Floyd (Tony) of Okeechobee. Also surviving are his nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 from 11 to 1 p.m. with services beginning at 1 p.m. all in the Buxton-Seawinds' Chapel. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery. Pastor Jim Gilbert will officiate.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his name to Hospice of Okeechobee PO Box 1548 Okeechobee, FL 34973

Friends may leave condolences at www.buxtonseawinds.com

All arrangements are under the direction and care of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home and Crematory. 3833 SE 18th Terrace, Okeechobee, FL.



Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

JUNE 10 & 11, 2013

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

COWS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:	MONDAY	TUESDAY
800-1000	70.00	- 90.00	78.88	79.85	513	610
1000-1200	70.00	- 90.00	77.64	77.47	145	201
1200-1400	70.00	- 86.00	80.40	81.40	37	35
1400-1600	70.00	- 86.00	79.33	77.55	31	7
					20	20
					26	18
					0	36
					772	927

BULLS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
1200-1400	85.00	- 104.00	91.67	88.71
1400-1600	82.00	- 103.00	91.43	98.33
1600-1800	94.00	- 106.00	100.00	93.00

STEERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
150-250	200.00	- 240.00	208.33	185.00
250-300	175.00	- 215.00	185.00	175.00
300-350	160.00	- 185.00	168.08	170.83
350-400	155.00	- 178.00	170.55	165.42
400-450	150.00	- 172.50	158.40	159.90
450-500	145.00	- 160.00	147.84	150.02
500-550	135.00	- 150.00	143.44	136.35
550-600	130.00	- 140.00	132.93	133.09
600-650	125.00	- 136.00	128.64	131.67
650-700	128.00	- 135.00	132.00	132.00

HEIFERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
150-250	175.00	- 195.00	185.00	172.50
250-300	160.00	- 180.00	167.17	160.63
300-350	147.50	- 150.00	148.75	156.67
350-400	135.00	- 137.50	135.71	147.92
400-450	130.00	- 135.00	131.25	136.25
450-500	125.00	- 132.00	128.50	126.93
500-550	120.00	- 122.00	120.46	120.83
550-600	115.00	- 128.00	119.04	118.33
600-650	120.00	- 133.00	126.50	120.20

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

Computer program to track regular safety inspections

By Katrina Elsen
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County businesses will soon be paying a little more for their safety inspections and Fire/Rescue will have a new tool to ensure safety equipment is regularly inspected.

At the June 14 meeting of the Okeechobee County Board of Commissioners, the county approved a plan proposed by Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue officials to use a private company's program to monitor and track inspections.

The Compliance Engine by Brycer is a management tool for Life Safety Inspections, explained Karl Holtkamp of Okeechobee Fire/Rescue. It manages reports given by contractors on safety inspection issues such as fire extinguishers, fire sprinkler systems, fire alarms and commercial hood extinguishing systems.

This system will notify Fire/Rescue if there are deficiencies at a business that must be addressed. It will also notify Fire/Rescue if a business' fire and safety equipment has not been inspected in a year.

The inspection contractors who do the safety equipment will be charged \$10 annually for inspection reports per address.

"Fire alarms and sprinkler systems are required to have annual inspections," Mr. Holtkamp explained. "This gives the contractor a place to input reports electronically. It automatically refers us about any deficiencies. It

also tracks when inspections are due. When somebody is out of date, we will already know they are out of date. There is no cost to us. Somewhere down the road there will be some cost to the businesses because each contractor who makes the reports is charged \$10 for their annual reports. At some point they will pass that along to the customer.

"After a full year of this in place, we will automatically get notices of anyone who has not had inspections," he continued.

"Overall I think it will be very good for the community," he said.

Under the current system, Fire/Rescue is notified of safety equipment deficiencies by letter but there is no system to track if a business' inspections are up to date.

He said using the computer system will notify Fire/Rescue about deficiencies in a more timely manner.

"Even on a kitchen hood system, even if the system is not working, they (the contractor conducting the inspection) have to put a tag on it that they did the inspection," he said. "Until I walk through the door and say 'You need to fix this. You are out of compliance,' they may not do anything."

He estimated there are about 1,100 occupational licenses in Okeechobee County.

He said the type of safety equipment a business must have depends on the business. For example, lawn services are required to have fire extinguishers in case of a lawn mower fire.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/NES

North Elementary School Annual Talent Show

North Elementary held it's annual Talent Show May 29 and 30. So many kids showed off their best talents from singers, piano players, gymnastics, tap dancing, tumbling/cheering, guitar, cup stacking, steel drums and so much more!

Up coming blood drives

While you are planning your vacation, many are facing a long time in a hospital or recovery center. Help them with a donation of blood to speed their recovery. Be a life saver during this month's blood drives.

- Sunday, June 16 - Golden Corral, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Monday, June 17 - Wal Mart, 1 - 6 p.m.
- Friday, June 21 - Seacoast National Bank, South, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Friday, June 21 - Okee County Health Dept., 1 - 4 p.m.
- Friday, June 21 - Publix. 5 - 7 p.m.
- Friday, June 28 - Wal Mart, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tips for helping an aging parent

When an adult child must step in to assist their mother or father with everyday activities like financial matters, medical issues and taking care of the house, traditional parent/child roles are reversed—often causing anxiety for both parties involved.

People are living longer than ever before and Mental Health America reports that nearly half of all Americans between 45 and 55 years old have living parents and children under the age of 21. Dealing with your own busy schedule while helping your aging parents can be stressful, even if they do not live with you.

Caring for your parents isn't easy, but the following tips may help ease the burden:

1. Know your parents' doctors, medications, and medical history. Keep a list of your parents' doctors' phone numbers handy and keep a chart that lists which medications and dosages should be taken throughout the day. Remind them to schedule and keep all necessary doctors' appointments (or schedule them yourself) and help them find a system that reminds them to take their medications. If you aren't with your parents continuously, a divided pill tray with slots for times of day is a good way to ensure that medications are taken at the right time.

2. Help with chores and projects around the house. If your elderly parents still live alone, even light chores like vacuuming, dusting and taking out the trash can become tough. Help them clean each week or hire someone to take this on. Many cleaning services are reasonably priced.

3. Watch their finances. Paying bills and doing taxes isn't easy for most people, particu-

larly senior citizens that may not understand or even use modern-day features like debit cards and online banking. Help take care of your parents finances to ensure they aren't overspending and be sure to read the fine print when filling out forms and applications. Be aware that many people do not like to talk about their money with relatives, especially if they are having financial problems.

4. Make sure they are eating healthy meals. Good nutrition is important at any age, but it's not uncommon for seniors to skip meals to save money, forget to eat, or eat snacks instead of proper breakfasts, lunches and dinners. If possible, help your parents grocery shop and stock their pantry with healthy foods that are easy to prepare. A meal delivery program, such as Senior Services, may be able to bring food to your parents if you're not able to do so.

5. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Working and taking care of your children can make helping your aging parents even harder. Your parents may not be ready to live in a nursing home yet still need more help than you can provide. They may be resistant at first, but the Family Caregiver Alliance offers a wealth of information about hiring in-home help for seniors.

Raulerson Hospital understands that seniors have special needs. If you're worried about a parent's health, our free Consult-A-Nurse® service is a great reference whenever you have questions. Our registered nurses can answer health-related questions and help you schedule an appointment with a physician for your loved one. Contact Consult-A-Nurse for a healthcare question or physician referral at 863-763-9228.

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Okeechobee County School Board recognizes retirees



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Geri Thomas, data processor at Yearling Middle School, retired after 34 years with the school district.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Pat Grant, migrant advocate at Yearling Middle School, retired after 35 years of service to the school system. She was among those honored by the Okeechobee County School Board at their Tuesday, June 11 meeting. The awards were presented by Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy (left).



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Theda Bass, guidance counselor at Okeechobee Achievement Academy, retired after 33 years.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Deanna Brewer, teacher at South Elementary School, retired after 11 years with the district.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy (Photo at right)
Candice Walker, physical education teacher at Yearling Middle School, retired after 31 years in the district.

Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy (Photo at left)
Sharon Coker, guidance counselor at Okeechobee High School, retired after 35 years of service.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Roberta Wagoner, custodian at Osceola Middle School, retired after 34 years of service to Okeechobee schools.

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BUILDING

Continued From Page 1

"Some of the inspections are dragging behind because of our staffing level," she said. "There were complaints driven from the inspections not happening quickly enough."

"When we have one inspector and he goes on vacation or goes to school, things tend to fall behind," said assistant administrator Jim Threewits. "With the independent inspector, they have the ability to fill in with someone else."

He said the contractor could also bring in additional help if there is enough business to require it.

The contract would guarantee turnaround times for various permits. Mr. Threewits said the county makes no such guarantees currently.

Architect Mark McCree said he thinks using a municipal service provider is a good move.

He said he currently does business in 17 counties in Florida and has worked with ILL before.

"I have dealt with this provider in other municipalities and I have never had a problem," he said.

"I feel it would be the correct decision to go with this municipal services contractor.

"In a nutshell it's going to de-politicize the office," he said. "The office of building department has been a political football for years."

He said this move will even the playing field.

"No longer will those with more politi-

cal clout than understanding of the building codes be able to influence the process," he explained.

"It's a good option," Mr. McCree continued. "I have permits waiting right now.

"It's about business, about getting plans through the review system.

"If this is written as a municipal service contract, a lot of the baby talk and whining back to the commission will stop," he said.

Tom DeLacy, of ILL, said he is looking for a building official within an hour drive.

"My intent is to have one building inspector here except for vacations and days off," he explained.

Sandra Long, with Neil Long Construction, said her company has no problem with this plan but added that she is concerned about current county employees.

Mrs. Chartier said the county has recommended the staffers to ILL.

"We have not made any promises to our employees," she said. "I believe they will interview them and make their decision."

"I like the idea that you can provide the necessary personnel to keep up with the workload," said Commissioner Bryant Culpepper. "Our staff being what it is, if there are several large projects, it can slow down permitting for other contractors. If you can provide the staff to move the permits through in an expeditious manner, I think the contractors will appreciate it.

"One of the largest components I am aware of in the ability to lure new business to the area is the ability to move a permit through the system," he added.

Commissioner Ray Domer asked who would collect the permitting fees.

Mr. DeLacy explained that the ILL permit

tech in the building office would collect the money. All of the checks will be made to the county and turned over to the county at the end of each business day.

"At the end of the month, we would submit an invoice with all of the permits listed and bill for 85 percent," he explained.

Independent Inspections, Ltd., a corporation licensed to do business in the State of

Illinois, Wisconsin and Florida incorporated in 1979 (FEIN 39-1584023) and has been owned and operated by Thomas DeLacy since March 16, 1998. Their business has been expanding and continually improving municipal building departments for over 33 years. They provide complete building department services to municipalities in Illinois, Wisconsin and Florida.

School board honors staffers



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Kati Lawson (right), Osceola Middle School teacher, was the winner of the Golden Mouse Award for the final nine weeks of school. The award is given to teachers who use technology well in their classrooms.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Assistant Superintendent Mary Hurley (right) was given a standing ovation as she retired from the school district. The presentation was made at the June 11 meeting of the Okeechobee County School Board. She received the honor from Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy.



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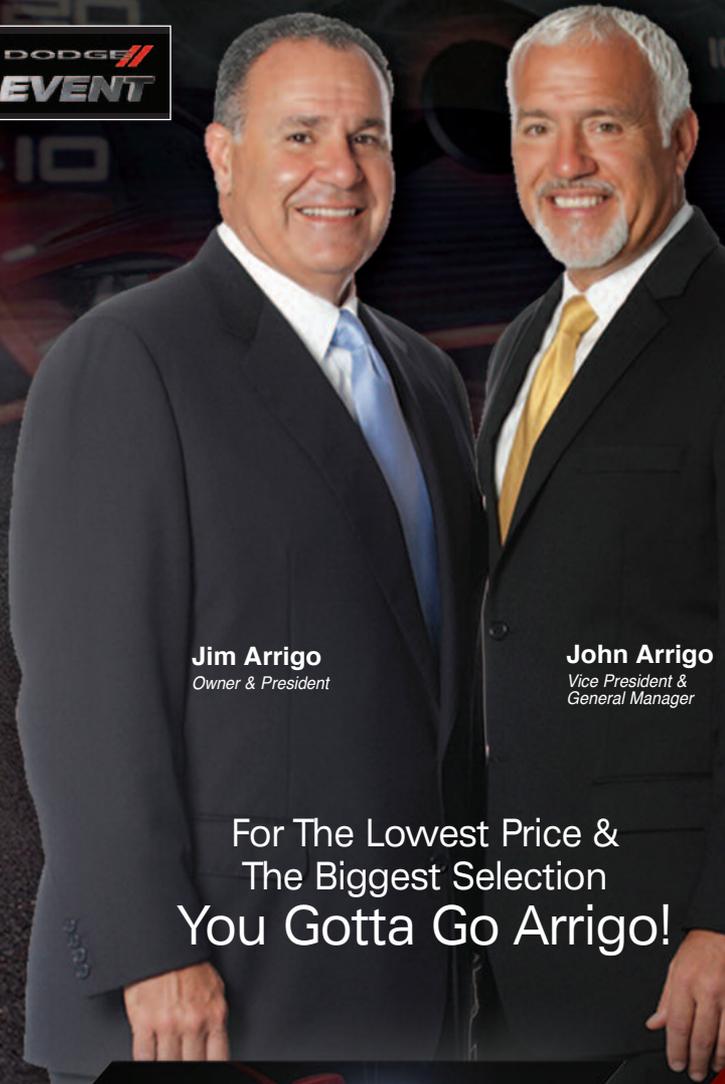
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Okeechobee Arrest Report

The following individuals were arrested on felony or driving under the influence (DUI) charges by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the Department of Corrections (DOC).

- Leon Sears Moses Jr., 56, Hamiton Ave., Live Oak, was arrested June 11 by Deputy William Jolly on felony charges of domestic battery by strangulation and false imprisonment. His bond was set at \$10,000.
- Beckie Ane Dailey, 18, N.E. 31st Way, Okeechobee, was arrested June 12 by Deputy Cody Hurst on a felony charge of battery on a law enforcement officer. Her bond was set at \$2,500.
- Antoine Maurice Patterson, 28, Starks St., Orlando, was arrested June 12 by FHP Corporal A. Monroig on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$750.
- Jennifer Platt, 36, N.W. Sixth St., Okeechobee, was arrested June 13 by Deputy Matthew Grumblin on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felonies of violation of probation - grand theft and violation of probation - resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. She is being held without bond.

• Antonio Agular Ramirez, 28, N.W. Third St., Okeechobee, was arrested June 13 by Deputy Megan Holroyd on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of possession of methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a school and the misdemeanors of driving while license suspended, resisting a law enforcement officer without violence and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$9,000.

• Kenneth Shawn Hammett, 26, S.W. Connors Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested June 13 by Deputy Megan Holroyd on a Martin County warrant charging him with the felony of grand theft of a controlled substance. His bond was set at \$7,500.

• Joseph William Inman, 30, N.W. 43rd Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested June 13 by Deputy Matthew Grumblin on an amended Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - burglary of a structure and violation of probation - dealing in stolen property. 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.

OCSO Investigations

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

ASSAULT

- 3800 block of N.W. Seventh St.
- 3100 block of S.E. 37th Ave.
- 3500 block of N.W. 163rd Court
- 3600 block of U.S. 441 N

BURGLARY

- 3000 block of N.E. Seventh Lane
- 17500 block of N.W. 38th Ave.
- 3700 block of N.W. 22nd Ave.
- 3300 block of N.W. 27th Ave.
- 5000 block of N.E. 122nd Drive
- 3600 block of N.W. 22nd Ave.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 9100 block of S.E. 59th Drive
- 2400 block of S.E. 49th Ave.
- 500 block of N.E. 28th Ave.

- 2100 block of N.W. Third St.
- 3300 block of N.W. 27th Ave.

FRAUD

- 3300 block of S.W. 18th St.
- 3000 block of U.S. 98 N.
- 5600 block of S.E. 116th Place

THEFT

- 3100 block of S.E. 37th Ave.
- 1400 block of N.W. 43rd Ave.
- 200 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 22200 block of N.W. 270th St.
- 3000 block of U.S. 98 N.
- 3700 block of U.S. 441 N.
- 2300 block of S.E. 27th St.
- 2000 block of S.E. 24th Blvd.
- 3000 block of U.S. 98 N.
- 20600 block of N.W. 176th Ave.
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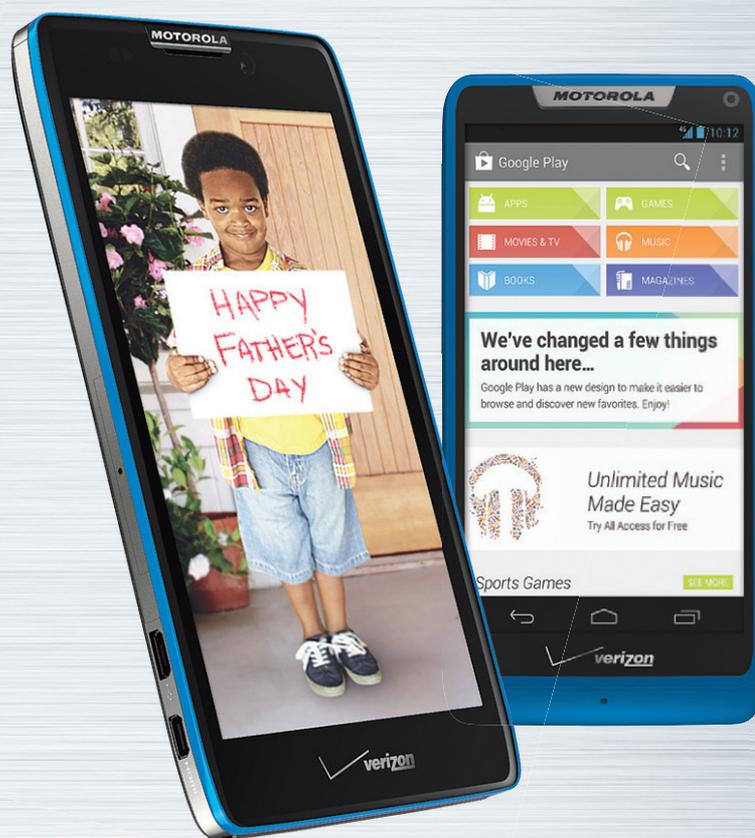


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RoadWatch Report

RoadWatch for Okeechobee County

The Florida Department of Transportation reports that road work is planned in Okeechobee County this week. Motorists are advised to use caution in areas where road work is underway.

• SE 40th Street (Everglades Boulevard), Railroad construction project: Work is underway to replace the flashing lights and gates, add LED lighting and replace the railroad signal cabinet adding an updated motion detection device. Early work includes equipment delivery, excavation, and placement of construction signs. Work is anticipated to be completed by the end of June 2013. Motorists are advised to use caution while in the area and expect possible delays.

• U.S. 441 north between NW 36th Street and NW Ninth Street, Maintenance permit project: Work has begun to install a gas line paralleling the south bound side of the roadway. No lane closures are expected, however, motorists should use caution while traveling through the work zone. The project is estimated to be completed in early July.

• U.S. 441 from SR 15/CR 68, east to NW 344th Street, Maintenance project: Crews are repairing the shoulders near the roadway. Motorists should expect intermittent lane closures and use caution when traveling through work area.

• U.S. 98/US 441 from NW 36th Street to NW 9th Street, Maintenance project: Crews are edging and sweeping along the sidewalks and curbs in the area. No lane closures are expected however motorists should drive with caution.

• SR 710 from north side of SR 710 between SR 70 and NE 34th Avenue, Maintenance project: Crews are repairing the drainage structures. No lane closures are expected, but motorists are advised to be aware of work vehicles entering and exiting the roadway and to use caution driving in this area.

• SR 70 between SW 72nd Terrace and SW 8th Avenue, Maintenance project: Crews are repairing drainage structures. No lane closures are expected, but motorists are advised to be aware of work vehicles entering and exiting the roadway and to use caution driving in this area.

• SR 70 from SW 24th Street to US 98/US 441, Maintenance project: Crews are edging and sweeping along the sidewalks and curbs in the area. No lane closures are expected motorists are advised to be aware of work vehicles entering and exiting the roadway.

Work in **Highlands County** will include the following.

• SR 70 from U.S. 27 to Highlands/Okeechobee County Line, Maintenance project: Crews are repairing shoulders around guardrails. Motorists should use caution when traveling through this area, and expect lane closures in various locations from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., (Monday through Thursday), weather permitting.

• U.S. 98/SR 700 over the Kissimmee River at Highlands/Okeechobee County Line: Bridge maintenance project: Motorists should expect intermittent lane closures from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., on June 17, for routine bridge inspection. Use caution and watch for flaggers directing traffic.

Work in **Glades County** will include the following.

• Harney Pond Road from Park Area to SR 78, Construction project: Crews will construct one mile of bike path and sidewalk near the parking area at Harney Pond. There are no anticipated lane closures during the project, however, motorists are advised to use caution in the parking lot. Work is anticipated to be completed, by end of August 2013. Dickerson Florida, Inc. is the contractor.

• U.S. 27 from Moore Haven to north of SR 78 (Ortona Road), Maintenance project: Work continues from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to place new sod in the center median. Motorists can expect lane closures and should use caution and watch for vehicles entering and exiting the work area.

• SR 78 (Ortona Road) from Hall City Grade to the County Landfill Road, Maintenance project: Work is underway from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to clean the roadside ditches. No lane closures are expected, but motorists should use caution and watch for vehicles entering and exiting the work area.

• SR 78 (Lakeport Road) just north of Roberson Drive, Maintenance project: Work is underway from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to repair guardrail. Motorists can expect lane closures and should use caution and watch for vehicles entering and exiting the work area.

• SR 29, at the intersection of US 27, Maintenance project: Work continues from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to place new sod in the center median. Motorists can expect lane closures and should use caution and watch for vehicles entering and exiting the work area.



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5001-M: Rim Canal, 3bd, 2ba DWMH on 1 acre! Circular drive, garden tub in master bath, open patio in the back! Covered front porch, screened back porch and more. **\$150,000** MLS #206890



5010-H: Great view from 2-story Rim Canal house on 1.98+/- acres. 2/1 downstairs. 1/1 upstairs. Kit., Lvg rm on both floors, Lg pole barn, fenced, boat ramp. **\$140,000** MLS #206826



5036-M: Off of 710 2BR/2BA Mobile home on 1.48+/- acre. 924 total sq ft. Large front deck, Island Kitchen, fireplace, fenced in back yard and shed. **\$45,000** MLS #206799

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Business Opportunities

NOTICE

Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.



Services

Apartments

Basswood 2BR/1BA
Cute brick home, NW 34th Ave. Ctr. Heat/Air, new carpet, paint and bath \$675/mo. Move in \$675 plus \$600 security Negotiable
561-723-6355.



Merchandise

Musical Instruments

Drum Set for sale, 4 drums/1 high lat/1 set of symbols (with foot pedal) GP Brand \$400.00 o.b.o.
863-467-4650

Tools

For Sale Delta Rockwell Drill \$115.00, Craftsman Work Bench & Compact Position Toolbox \$ 85.00. Bench Grinder \$ 75.00 Call M-F 863-467-9800.



Agriculture

Lawn & Garden

COMPOST for Organic Gardening and Farming - Okeechobee Recycling Facility, enter at Waste Management, 10800 NE. 128th Avenue. Pickup or Delivered *Public Welcomed* Please call. (216)956-0949



Rentals

Apartments

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

DARK HAMMOCK - 1BR, 1BA, W/EAT-IN KITCHEN. CHARMING MEXICAN CLAY TILE FLOORS THROUGHOUT. NEW INTERIOR, SITUATED ON "FIRST CLASS" RANCH PROPERTY. \$565 PER MONTH, INCLUDING ALL UTILITIES AND LAWN CARE. NO PETS CALL M-F 863-467-9800

NW OKEE: 2 BR Apts available on quiet street. Pets welcome. \$600mo., and \$650mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec. 561-346-1642.

Oak Tree Place - 2br, 1ba., 2 story apt. with screened porch, washer/dryer hookup, pets allowed, \$650 1st, last & \$500 sec. 863-634-3312.

Condos/Townhouses Rent

2bd/1ba Townhome with w/d, completely furnished, short or long term lease, with or without utilities. Located in Kings Bay. Call 863-634-8331

Oak Lake Villa #49 2/2 \$900/mth 1st, last, \$600 Sec. BRAND NEW INSIDE. References required. 863-634-3312.

Houses - Rent

1 & 2 BEDROOM NICELY FURNISHED HOUSES - WITH OR WITHOUT UTILITIES - LONG OR SHORT TERM LEASE - (863)447-0742.

3/2 & 2/1, Unfurnished, 1st, last & security. Call 863-467-4371

Adorable (In Town Okee.) 2br./2ba. WD-laundry rm., Screened Porch, lawn service included. Non smkg. Envmt. Sm. Pet OK. \$800 mo., 1st, last, & Sec. 941-504-3954.

IN OKEECHOBEE CITY: 4 Br/ 2Ba, \$1,000 mo. + 1st, last, sec. & refs. Call Barry for more info. 772-216-1461

OKEE 2bd/1ba Clean CBS House, furnished, enclosed porch, w/d, large yard, by 15-B. \$700 mo. plus security. Call 786-201-0306

Office Space Rent

FOR RENT: Store front on Park St., nice show room or office area & warehouse.
FOR RENT: Office space \$250.00 mo. includes utilities also has office equipment and file cabinets. Call for details 863-634-7781

Rooms To Rent

Room For Rent \$50.00 per week. Separate bed & bath, share kitchen & living area. Mature Female preferred. Call 863-467-4650

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



Real Estate

Houses - Sale

HOUSE FOR SALE TAYLOR CREEK AREA 8 ROOMS, 2 CAR GARAGE, ASKING \$20,000, WOOD FLOORS, 12X12 BOAT DOCK, CAR PORT. CALL BILLY CLARK 321-213-3046

Owner Financing- 3 bdrm 2 bath 8 year old house on 1 acre \$3,500.00 down \$931.42 a month. Call Beverley 863-634-2820

Lots - Sale

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

BUCKHEAD RIDGE 2bd/2ba Dble Wide, central air, yearly lease. \$500 monthly plus security. No pets Call 863-763-4031

Mobile Home Rent

Treasure Island Furnished Trailers for rent. Nice clean 1bd/1ba includes DIRECTV and Internet \$125 weekly plus security. 863-517-5111

TREASURE ISLAND Lrg. 3BR/2BA. \$800 month. \$2100 move in. **Lrg. 2BR/2BA.** DW. \$800 month. \$2100 move in. Yearly lease required. 863-634-9119.

Treasure Island Water Front Nice clean newly renovated 2bd/1.5ba, \$550/monthly includes DIRECTV, Internet and water, security required. Call 863-517-5111

VERY NICE, CLEAN D/W FOR RENT, GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD, A/C/H. 1ST, LAST & SECURITY. FAMILY OR ELDERLY PREFERRED \$750.00 MONTHLY FIRM 863-532-2348

Mobile Home Sale

Palm Harbor Homes Check us out at: <http://www.palmharbor.com/model-center/plantcity/> New Modular Homes are here!!! John Lyons 800-622-2832 ext 210



Recreation

Campers/RVs

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

Find it faster. Sell it sooner in the classifieds

Automotive

Autos Wanted

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

Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO. 47-2013-CA-000133
FIFTH THIRD MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff,
VS.
PAULSON, JEFFREY R., et al. Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, TRUSTEES OF JEFFREY R. PAULSON, DECEASED
Whose residence(s) is/are unknown.

YOU ARE HEREBY required to file your answer or written defenses, if any, in the above proceeding with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney, Law Offices of Daniel C. Consuegra, 9204 King Palm Drive, Tampa, FL 33619-1328, telephone (813) 915-8660, facsimile (813) 915-0559, within thirty days of the first publication of this Notice, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

THE EAST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF TRACT 16, SECTION 9, THE WEST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF TRACT 16, SECTION 9.
TOGETHER WITH THE DOUBLE WIDE MANUFACTURED HOME DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
MAKE: HOMES OF MERRITT MODEL: UNKNOWN SERIAL NUMBER: FLHMBC170747656B
FILE NO. BUILT: 2001 WIDTH AND LENGTH: 16 BY 64 CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO.: FLA 716158 AND FLA 716159

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Jennifer Rediker
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE
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 adaptacion 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 dias antes de que tenga que comparecer en corte o inmediatamente despues de haber recibido esta notificacion si es que falta menos de 7 dias para su comparecencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva o de habla, llame al 711.

KREYOL: Si ou se you moun ki kokobe ki bezwen asistans ou aparyey you ou ka patise nan prosedu sa-a, ou gen dwa san ou pa bezwen peye anyen you ou jwen on seri de id. Tanpri kontakte Corrie Johnson, Co-ordinator ADA, 250 NW Country Club Drive, suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 O'mwen 7 jou avan ke ou gen pou-ou pant nan tribunal, ou imediatman ke ou resewava avis sa-a ou si le ke ou gen pou-ou ale nan tribunal-la mwens ke 7 jou; Si ou pa ka tande ou pale byen, rele 711.

When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 13-000192-CA
JAMES B. NUTTER & COMPANY, Plaintiff,
VS.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST RICHARD G. GEARY A/K/A RICHARD GILBERT GEARY, DECEASED, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST RICHARD G. GEARY A/K/A RICHARD GILBERT GEARY, DECEASED
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for foreclosure a mortgage on the following described property:
LOT 3 AND 4, BLOCK 22, NORTH WEST ADDITION TO OKEECHOBEE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 25, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOOK 1105 NW 5TH ST, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Kahane & Associates, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 8201 Peters Road, Ste. 3000, Plantation, FL 33324, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the 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.

Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540
Notices to Persons With Disabilities
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.

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WITNESS my hand the seal of this Court this 4th day of June, 2013.
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Jennifer Rediker
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013 AT 9:00 A.M. AT 17429 NW 242ND STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972 (FIELD OFFICE). A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE UNDERSIGNER. IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING; THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PRECEEDINGS 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
445967 ON 6/16/2013

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO. 472013CA000055CAAXMX
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff,
VS.
BRETT QUINLIN; KIMBERLY QUINLIN; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
To the following Defendant(s):
KIMBERLY QUINLIN (RESIDENCE UNKNOWN)

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:
LOT 3 AND 4, BLOCK 22, NORTH WEST ADDITION TO OKEECHOBEE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 25, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOOK 1105 NW 5TH ST, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972

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Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540
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WITNESS my hand the seal of this Court this 4th day of June, 2013.
SHARON ROBERTSON
As Clerk of the Court
By: Jennifer Rediker
As Deputy Clerk

Notice of Hearing Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate

The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Faye Huffman at the Planning and Development Department, 1700 NW 9th Ave., Suite A, Okeechobee, Florida, 34972, (863) 824-3001.

All interested parties shall have the opportunity to be heard at this public meeting. Any person deciding to appeal any decision by the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. Code Enforcement tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Department.

Faye Huffman, Secretary to the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate
445778 ON 6/16/2013

Grab a bargain from your neighbor's garage, attic, basement or closet in today's classifieds.

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Faye Huffman, Secretary to the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate
445778 ON 6/16/2013

Grab a bargain from your neighbor's garage, attic, basement or closet in today's classifieds.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Programmer's banes
 - 5 Hollywood tree
 - 9 Soup base
 - 14 Subj. to bone up on?
 - 15 Airline with blue-striped jets
 - 16 Washer cycle
 - 17 Poor boy seller
 - 18 *Radioactive decay measure
 - 22 Baa nana?
 - 23 "___ Mio": classic Italian song
 - 24 Treasure-___
 - 26 Question of identity
 - 29 Pre-euro Spanish coin
 - 31 *Aviation display
 - 33 Reykjavik-born one-named singer
 - 36 Iron-rich green veggie
 - 37 Repeatedly ... and a hint to the answers to starred clues
 - 42 Beret perch
 - 43 Choir part
 - 44 *Military hobbyist's pastime
 - 47 It makes Tom frisky
 - 52 "Little Women" sister
 - 53 Alimentary route
 - 56 "Seinfeld" specialty
 - 57 ___-fi
 - 58 *Prom time, to prom-goers
 - 60 *Modern
 - 64 Fireworks reaction
 - 65 Knocks for a loop
 - 66 1804 duelist
 - 67 "___ arigato": Japanese "thank you very much"
 - 68 Provolone alternative
 - 69 Part of a.k.a.
 - 70 Paradise
- DOWN**
- 3 Winemakers
 - Ernest and Julio
 - 4 Put the kibosh on
 - 5 Salton foot treatment, briefly
 - 6 High, as a kite
 - 7 "Today" co-host
 - 8 Diamond org.
 - 9 Stout maker
 - 10 Bat mitzvah, e.g.
 - 11 "Come ___ My House": Rosemary Clooney hit
 - 12 "Have you no shame?"
 - 13 Laugh syllable
 - 19 First name in jeans
 - 21 Leave alone
 - 25 Like bourbon barrels
 - 26 "Kapow!" cousin
 - 27 Links target
 - 28 Run a tab, say
 - 30 Double-platinum Steely Dan album
 - 32 Deal with moguls?
 - 34 Quite a lot
 - 35 66, notably: Abbr.
 - 37 Nine of diamonds?
 - 38 "Just doing my job"
 - 39 "Little Women" sister
 - 40 Mythical big bird
 - 41 Get fit
 - 42 "Up, up and away" carrier
 - 45 The "A" in RAM
 - 46 Principal
 - 48 Vacuum tube type
 - 49 Call after a missed field goal
 - 50 Like some health care
 - 51 Slithering squeezer
 - 54 Kamez ___ - Jabbar
 - 55 Perjurers
 - 57 Grounded fleet: Abbr.
 - 59 Pita sandwich
 - 60 Jammies
 - 61 Obey the coxswain
 - 62 Actor Wallach
 - 63 Sched. question mark

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

F	I	Z		C	R	A	T	E		A	N	D	S					
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xwordeditor@aol.com

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68																			70

By Patti Varol
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Okeechobee Police Pension Fund Trustees and their responsibilities

By Ray Worley
Special to the Okeechobee News

Recently trustees of the Okeechobee Police Department Pension Fund were in Tallahassee for Annual Training on Pension Fund Trustee Duties and Responsibilities. The job comes with a whole lot of both. Trustees are responsible to see that members' retirement income is protected. We promise to protect this income and deliver the checks and the banks will honor these checks. We are providing retirement security for the people who have provided us with physical security. We do this because it is our job to protect our members in their time of vulnerability as they have protected us in our time of vulnerability, this is our social responsibility. Ms. Trish told us that we are all stars. The trustees at the school are responsible for the retirement of 150,000 policemen and firemen who do the job of protecting us. For those who do the job, their pension is not an entitlement but an earned benefit. The school this year was a little different. Patricia Shoemaker the administrator for the fund is retiring after more than forty years on the job. All our Okeechobee members were in attendance and were fortunate to have an opportunity to be in a picture with Ms. Trish. When asked about her experience with ad-

ministration of the fund, Ms. Trish had this to say.

"It has been my honor and pleasure to have worked in the Municipal Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund Office over the past 40 years. I started as summer help in the MPF pension office while in high school, and then continued working part-time while attending Florida State University. Upon graduation, I was offered a full-time job in the pension office and accepted it until I could find a teaching position well, forty years later I am happy to say I found a career in the pension office. I have truly enjoyed working with the cities and districts and helping them to provide retirement and disability benefits for their police officers and firefighters. I truly appreciate and am thankful for the dedication, service, and sacrifice that the police officers and firefighters provide to their local communities, the State of Florida, and this country. I consider myself lucky for the privilege of being able to work with such a great group of people."

For us that had the benefit of Ms. Trish's leadership, we will truly miss her and say thank you for all the dedication over the years. Thanks for all you have done for the trustees and members of the Police and Fire Pension Funds of Florida. Patricia Shoemaker will be missed but not forgotten.



Special to the Okeechobee News
The names of our group are (left to right): Ray Worley, Detective Bettye Taylor, Patricia Shoemaker, Chief Denny Davis, Sgt. Russ Cale and Bill Bartlett, Okeechobee Police Pension Fund Trustees.



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MURDER

Continued From Page 1

According to the detective's arrest report the decedent met with Emley and purchased the drugs. He then drove to a local convenience store where he got out of his car and entered the store's bathroom.

Because customers started complaining about the bathroom being tied up for a long period of time, a store clerk used a paper clip to unlock the bathroom door and found the young man slumped over the toilet.

The clerk then called out to OCSO Detention Deputy Roy Bass, who was a customer in the store at the time, and he started performing cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the man. Detective Gonzalez said the man had no vital signs but Deputy Bass continued performing CPR until paramedics from Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue arrived.

The paramedics began performing CPR at 6:06 p.m. They pronounced him dead at 6:13 p.m.

Detective Gonzalez went on to state that OCSO Crime Scene Technician Jackie Moore was called in to work the crime scene. She reportedly found five small plastic baggies floating in the toilet, a syringe, a spoon and a black nylon belt.

The belt, stated the detective, was apparently used by the decedent to wrap around his arm prior to injection.

Detective Gonzalez said the syringe and spoon have been sent to the Indian River Crime Laboratory in Fort Pierce and he is awaiting the lab result.

As for the bags found in the toilet, the detective said the bags were open so whatever had been in them was now gone.

Detective Gonzalez has also charged Emley with possession of heroin with intent to sell and the sale of a controlled substance (heroin) in connection with him allegedly selling the drugs to the decedent.

CONTRACT

Continued From Page 1

want budgets in the red and that the schools should have the right to negotiate salary hikes each year.

Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy continued to stress that fund balances have declined, revenues have declined, and that the fiscal cliff has hit Okeechobee Schools, during his presentation.

While the governor allocated a 4.6 percent increase for the school system for 2013-2014, just over \$1.9 million, that still is less than the over \$2.5 million taken out of the fund balance in the previous 12 months, he said. Overall fund balance has declined by 26 percent in recent years.

He said the school board has projected an over \$500,000 budget shortfall for 2013-2014 even with the new state dollars.

"Expenditures exceed revenue. The fund balance is being used to balance the budget. Recurring expenses are taken from non-recurring funds, and our salaries are comparable with other districts," he added.

He encouraged the school board to remove automatic step pay adjustments from the contract. He contended the numbers used by the union were misleading.

While he said the fund balance is currently healthy, he contended that employees got their raise for this year, along with longevity pay. "Nothing has been given up. We negotiate wages on an annual basis. If it is that simple, why is she fighting so hard to keep it (step) in the contract?"

Mr. Kenworthy said the lengthy negotiations this year were ridiculous. He noted this school year is over and dragging out the dispute all year was not good for anybody.

Union President Candy Walker said steps are not automatic in the classified employees because the employee must get good evaluations first.

Union officials pointed out that the step increases range from \$190 to \$797 per year, depending upon the job classification.

"Nobody is getting rich by being paid step. They don't even keep up with the cost of living," Union Representative Dianne Falvo said.

She presented in many jobs like food service, paraprofessionals and book keepers, Okeechobee schools did not pay competitive salaries with like size counties or contiguous counties, she contended. She said mechanics in the school district can make considerably more money elsewhere. Bus drivers and custodians were also in the bottom third in this region in salary. She said most classified positions were below the state average.

"This is occurring with step being paid each year. What do you think will happen if there is no requirement that you pay it? What do you think will happen to employees in this district?" she asked.

Ms. Falvo said the district step increase, if awarded, would amount to \$385,346 less than 2011-2012. She claimed the current fund balance is 15.4 percent, or three times the amount that would be appropriate. She also pointed out that 37 positions have been cut in recent years due to retirements and attrition.

"Sixteen percent is an extremely high fund balance. The district has done a good job in prediction of revenue. In 2013, the predicted increase is \$290,000. The district has a long and consistent history of under spending what they budget," she said.

In 2005-2006, the district spent \$2 million less than anticipated, \$5 million in 2009-2010, \$7 million in 2010-2011, and \$4.5 million in 2011-2012, she claimed.

"You over projected what you would spend and you have significant money left over from that process. Given that data, how many people in this room actually think the district will spend the \$48.7 million they have budgeted," she said. She said the district's prediction of an economic catastrophe should not be given credence, "This is not reality. There is no reason for these dire predictions in fund balance and financial urgency."

Ms. Falvo said they have been at impasse for two years and blamed Mr. Kenworthy for the disputes. Ms. Falvo said she supports the district's desire for sound finances. She said she was quite shocked that the district was not willing to pay the step increase this year.

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