



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 104 No. 78

Sunday, June 30, 2013

75¢ Plus tax

**Helicopter to be part of July 4 event ... Page 9**

**DOT plans area road work this week ... Page 7**

**Commission sets priorities for road work ... Page 2**

**Early cancer detection helps save lives ... Page 10**

## Lake Levels

**13.99 feet**  
Last Year: 11.79 feet

Sponsored By:  
  
**Pogey's Family Restaurant**  
1759 S. Parrott Ave.  
763-7222

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

 Find us on Facebook

See page 4 for information about how to contact this newspaper.

**florida.newszip.com**  
Free Speech Free Ads



# FRBA lawsuit alleges fraud

## Telecommunications equipment provider names local officials in lawsuit

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

A telecommunications equipment provider has filed a \$25 million lawsuit in Hardee County against the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance (FRBA), the Florida Heartland Regional Eco-

nomics Development Initiative (FHREDI) and some of its board members.

Area officials who sit on FHREDI's board include Okeechobee County Commissioner Joey Hoover, Glades County Economic Development Council Executive Director Tracy Whirls, Glades County Economic Development Council member Paul McGehee and Hendry County Commissioner Al Perry.

FHREDI Chief Executive Officer Gina Reynolds is also named as a defendant in the complaint.

The suit, filed April 18 by Tampa-based

Rapid Systems, Inc. (RSI), goes on to name a number of other individuals and groups.

The lawsuit alleges that FRBA and some of its purported accomplices failed to pay RSI for services in connection with the development and management of a new broadband infrastructure that connects Rapid Systems Hardee County to several surrounding areas in rural Florida.

FRBA, states the suit, was awarded federal grants to install broadband infrastructure

See LAWSUIT—Page 12



Okeechobee News/Tamara Kelly

## Beating the heat with water exercise

The Okeechobee Sports Complex pool is great for hot summer days and also un for birthday parties. The pool offers an early morning time water exercise class. For people 40 and up, they do a range of exercises from water jogging to water jumping jacks. The class was designed for people who just have a hard time working out on land. Water makes it easier on the joints to move. The class normally has about 30 people in it. The water exercise class is every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. The fee is \$2 per day per person. For more information, call 863-467-7667.

# State land has little effect on local taxes

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

Even though the state owns over 48,000 acres of property in Okeechobee County—about 10 percent of the land in the county—putting that acreage back on the tax rolls would do little to help with the county's budget woes.

According to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (TIIFT) owns 48,300 acres of property in Okeechobee County. Approximately 38,300 acres of that land is shared ownership with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), said DEP Press Secretary Patrick Gillespie in an e-mail.

Mr. Gillespie went on to point out that those

See LAND — Page 12

**QUALITY A/C**  
and Heating of Okeechobee  
"Our Focus Is To Make You Comfortable"  
**467-1545**

**TRANE YOUR HOUSE TO SAVE YOU MONEY!**  
**\$1,500<sup>00</sup>**  
RECEIVE UP TO  
IN FPL & FED. TAX REBATES  
 **TRANE**  
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.  
Call today for details!  
OR **0%**  
FINANCING AVAILABLE

  
**www.QualityACokee.com**  
LIC# CA0029420

# Okeechobee County prioritizes road work

By Katrina Elsen

Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners Thursday set priorities for road work. The commissioners approved rankings for county projects for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

"FDOT is seeking our list of county projects for their various programs in order for them to complete their five-year work program process," explained county administrator Robbie Chartier. "We need to submit our priorities by July 1, 2013."

She said some of the projects are within the five-year work plan.

The county prioritized:

1. S.R. 70 East, from N.E. 34th Ave. to N.E. 128th Ave. (Berman Road);
2. S.R. 70 and U.S. 441, main intersection; reconstruct;
3. S.R. 710; extension to U.S. 441 north and reconstruct;
4. N.E./N.W. 144th Street and U.S. 441 north, Potter Road/Dark Hammock Road; Add left turn lanes in all directions;
5. S.R. 70 West, from U.S. 98 North to S.W. 24th Ave.; widen to four lanes, sidewalks and safety enhancements;
6. N.E./N.W. 14th Street from U.S. 441 North to U.S. 98 North; corridor study - expansion (continuance) of 710 extension;
7. S.E. 18th Terrace corridor study - extension to connect U.S. 441 S.E. to S.R. 70 East, bridge crossing of Taylor Creek;
8. S.W. 32nd Street, Durrance Road and U.S. 441 South; modify intersection to full opening, relocate Tractor Supply/Winn Dixie traffic signal and then change current Tractor Supply/Winn Dixie intersection to left turn only intersection;
9. N.W. 102nd Street and U.S. 441 North; add left turn lane;
10. N.W. 240th Street, Eagle Island Road; add left turn lane 10.

The county also prioritized projects for Local Transportation Enhancement (LTE) funding as follows:

1. Lock 7: Bike and pedestrian pathway across U.S. 441 southeast; creating a safe and direct connection from U.S. 441 South to Lock 7 Trailhead;
2. Nubbin Slough; Trailhead on the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST),

pavilion, restroom, parking and storm-water system.

Priorities for the Small County Road Assistance Program and Small County Outreach Program are:

1. N.W. 160th Street, C.R. 68 West, from U.S. 441 North to U.S. 98 North; widen and add shoulders, super elevate curves, widen bridges, guard railing, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements;
2. N.E. 224th Street, C.R. 68 East, from U.S. 441 North to St. Lucie County line; widen and add shoulders, super elevate curves, widen bridges, guard railing, resurface, stripe safety enhancements;
3. N.W. 160th Drive, Micco Bluff Road, from U.S. 98 North to the end; widen and add shoulders, super elevate curves, guard railing, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements;
4. S.E. 28th Street, Treasure Island, Everglades Boulevard, from U.S. 441 S.E. (34th Ave.) to S.R. 710; widen and add shoulders, resurface, stripe, super elevated curves, widen bridge, guard railing and safety enhancements;
5. N.E. 36th Boulevard, Cemetery Road, from U.S. 441 North to the end; widen and add shoulders, super elevate curves, widen bridge, guard railing, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements;
6. S.E. 18th Terrace, Taylor Creek Isles, from S.E. 24th Avenue to U.S. 441 S.E.; widen and add shoulders, sidewalks, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements;
7. N.E. 304th Street, Cemetery Road, from U.S. 441 North to the end; widen and add shoulders, super elevate curves, widen bridges, guard railing, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements;
8. N.W. 30th Street, Mitchell Road; from U.S. 98 north to the end; widen and

add shoulders, sidewalks, guard railing, resurface, stripe, RPM's and safety enhancements;

9. N.E. 34th Avenue, FP&L road, from U.S. 710 to S.R. 70 East; widen and add shoulders, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements;

10. N.W. 23rd Lane., from U.S. 441 north to N.W. 10th Terrace; widen and add shoulders, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements;

11. N.W. 34th Street, from U.S. 441 North to N.W. 12th Ave.; widen and add shoulders, sidewalks, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements;

12. S.W. 16th Ave., Ferrell Road, from S.W. 32nd Street to S.R. 78; widen and add shoulders, sidewalks, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements;

13. S.W. 32nd Street, Durrance Road, from U.S. 441 South to S.W. 24th Drive; widen and add shoulders, sidewalks, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements;

14. N.W. 128th Ave., Platts Bluff, from S.R. 70 west to N.W. 56th Street; widen and add shoulders, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements;

15. N.W. 144th Ave., Lamb Island Road North 1.1 miles; widen and add shoulders, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements;

15. S.E. 24th Boulevard, Taylor Creek Isles, from S.E. 27th Ave. to the end (cul-de-sac); widen and add shoulders, sidewalks, super elevate curves, guard railing, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements

17. S.E. 27th Street, from S.E. 18th Terrace to S.E. 27th Ave.; widen and add shoulders, resurface, stripe and safety enhancements.

## Fourth of July community celebration planned

The Okeechobee Fourth of July celebration will get under way at 4 p.m. at Okee-Tantie park with no admission charge. There will be a public safety expo as well as a number of games and competitions—including a hot dog eating contest, a pie eating contest and an ice cream eating contest. There will also be a frozen T-shirt contest that should be really cool for the participants, as well as a baking contest. The winner of that baking competition will receive \$25. Dairy Queen is sponsoring the Kids' Fun Zone that will include bounce houses, face painting, a dunk tank and, of course, ice cream. Non-profit vendors will also be on hand selling various types of foods. Even though there is no admission charge and the events are free, there will be a cost for food. The finale will begin at 9 p.m. with the Zambelli fireworks show. The fireworks will be set off on the levy of the Kissimmee River directly across from the Okee-Tantie Marina. If rain should put a damper on the event, it will be staged Friday, July 5. Entry forms for the baking contest can be found at: the Sheriff's Office, 504 N.W. Fourth St.; or online at [www.okeechobeeop.com](http://www.okeechobeeop.com); or, by calling Cpl. Hazellief at 863-634-5255 or Mr. Mixon at 863-634-1778.

## Okeechobee Forecast

Brought to you by:

**QUALITY A/C**  
and Heating of Okeechobee  
"Our Focus Is To Make You Comfortable"

[www.QualityACokee.com](http://www.QualityACokee.com) 467-1545



**Today:** Partly cloudy with thunderstorms and rain showers. High of 88F with a heat index of 95F. Winds from the SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain in the evening, then overcast. Fog overnight. Low of 70F. Winds from the South at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30%.

## Extended Forecast

**Monday:** Mostly cloudy in the morning, then overcast. High of 88F. Winds from the SSW at 10 to 15 mph.

**Monday Night:** Overcast with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain in the evening, then mostly cloudy. Low of 70F. Winds from the SSE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20%.

**Tuesday:** Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain in the morning, then overcast. High of 88F. Winds from the SSE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20%.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm. Fog overnight. Low of 70F. Winds from the SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20%.

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm. High of 86F with a heat index of 91F. Winds from the SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Roofing with the name you trust!

**BIG LAKE**  
ROOFING & REPAIRS  
Residential Commercial

**FREE Estimates**

Licensed and Insured St. Lic. CCC046939

**Don't make a Mistake!**  
**Call Big Lake**  
**863-763-ROOF (7663)**

## NOTICE OF VACANCIES

### OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CITIZEN BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Board of County Commissioners of Okeechobee County, Florida is seeking residents of Okeechobee County interested in serving on the following Citizen Boards and Committees:

- Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
- Children's Services Council
- CSBG Advisory Board (Treasure Coast Community Action Advisory Board)
- Library Advisory Committee
- Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals
- Tourist Development Council

Descriptions of the Citizen Boards and Committees, along with eligibility requirements, current membership and other information, may be viewed at [www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/committees](http://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/committees).

Applications for appointment to a Citizen Board or Committee may be obtained from the County Administrator's office in the Historic Courthouse at 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 123, Okeechobee, Florida, phone (863) 763-6441, or downloaded from [www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/committees](http://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/committees). Please submit applications to the County Administrator's office along with proof of residency in Okeechobee County and evidence of meeting any applicable requirements for the desired Citizen Board or Committee appointment by noon on Friday, July 19, 2013.

The Board of County Commissioners appreciates the time and assistance members of the Citizen Boards and Committees volunteer to the Board of County Commissioners and to the citizens of Okeechobee County.

Frank Irby, Chair, Board of County Commissioners

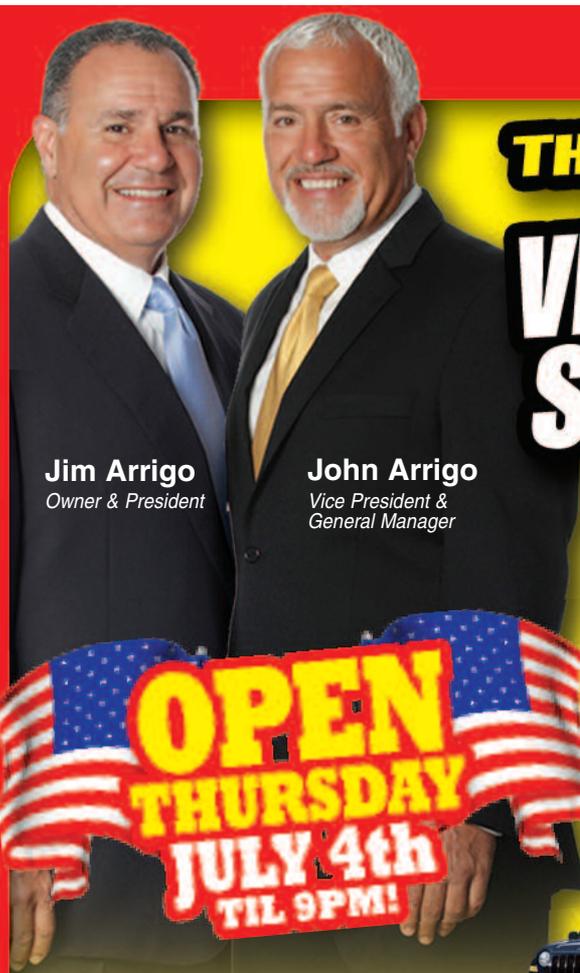


[florida.newszip.com](http://florida.newszip.com)

Check out these new features:

- Daily Local News Updates
- New interactive and easy to navigate format
- Plus much, much more!

Come see for yourself!



**Jim Arrigo**  
Owner & President

**John Arrigo**  
Vice President & General Manager

**THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
**VEHICLES TO BE SOLD FOR**

**\$999**

**CARS ORIGINALLY PRICED AT ~~\$12,000~~ WILL SELL FOR <sup>AS LOW AS</sup> \$9,000**  
**CARS ORIGINALLY PRICED AT ~~\$9,000~~ WILL SELL FOR <sup>AS LOW AS</sup> \$6,000**  
**CARS ORIGINALLY PRICED AT ~~\$6,000~~ WILL SELL FOR <sup>AS LOW AS</sup> \$3,000**

**SOME CARS WILL SELL FOR <sup>AS LOW AS</sup> \$999!**

**— ALL MAKES & MODELS INCLUDING —**

- Jeeps • Dodges • Fords • Cadillacs • Nissans • Lexus • Hyundais • Acuras • Audis • BMWs • Mercedes • Toyotas • Hondas • Volvos



**OPEN THURSDAY JULY 4th TIL 9PM!**

**PUSH, PULL OR TOW IT IN!**  
**WE WANT YOUR TRADE IN!**

**100% GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL**  
*If You Make \$1,500/Month, Have A Valid Florida Driver's License & Can Prove Income & Residence... You Are Approved!^*  
**Get Pre-Approved Online @ [GottaGoArrigo.com](http://GottaGoArrigo.com)**

**\$0 DOWN DELIVERS ANY VEHICLE!**  
*WITH APPROVAL*

**UNCLAIMED VEHICLES BANK REPOSSESSIONS AUCTION VEHICLES LEASING VEHICLES CREDIT UNIONS RENTAL VEHICLES**

**SATURDAY • JUNE 29TH**  
**SHOWROOM & GATES OPEN AT 8:30AM**  
**SALE STARTS AT 9AM!**

**SUNDAY • JUNE 30TH**  
**SHOWROOM & GATES OPEN AT 11:00AM**  
**SALE STARTS AT 11:30AM!**

**CHRYSLER**  
**Jeep**  
5851 S US #1. • FT. PIERCE  
JUST SOUTH OF MIDWAY ROAD  
**1-855-883-4323**  
**GottaGoArrigo.com**

**ARRIGO**  
**PRE-OWNED SUPERMARKET**  
Ft. Pierce • West Palm • Sawgrass

**DODGE** **RAM**

**STORE HOURS:**  
Monday-Saturday  
8:30 AM - 9:00 PM  
Sunday: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
**SERVICE PARTS HOURS:**  
Monday-Friday  
7:30 AM - 6:00 PM  
Saturday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Sunday: Closed  
*Se Habla Espanol*

^Severity of credit rating may affect down payment and terms. Tax, Title Motor vehicle & fees are additional. See dealer for details. \*Stk#PL10427A 2004 Hyundai Elantra. \$Stk#140115A 2006 Toyota Corolla Was \$12,000 now \$9000, Stk#513320A 2004 Lincoln Aviator Was \$9,000 now \$6,000. Stk#513667A 1999 Ford F-150 S/C Was \$6000 Now \$3000. Photos used for illustrative purposes. Must take same day delivery from dealer stock. All offers expire 6/30/13.

## 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. You may also comment using your Facebook login in the comments section after stories posted on that site. Those who do not wish to comment online may email comments to [okeenews@newszap.com](mailto:okeenews@newszap.com) or mail comments to Okeechobee News, 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D., Okeechobee, Florida 34974, or drop written comments through the mail slot in the office door. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!*

### NSA scandal

• In regard to the NSA scandal, this type of spying began many years ago and came to light in 2005 but was explained away as “protecting American citizens” and everyone bought it ... but those who didn’t were labeled “conspiracy nuts,” so it rocked on. In 2008 two whistle blowers once again tried to warn Americans what the NSA was doing and once again citizens were promised it would be “fixed.” Now here we are in 2013 and once again a whistle blower (Snowden) has come forward to once again attempt to warn the people that our government is still spying on innocent people and violating our 4th Amendment rights ... and once again we are promised “it’s for our own good” ... yeah, right! Gonna tell us “it’s gonna be fixed” again?

• Personally, I do not care if the NSA is listening to me, but I am mind boggled they would be wasting their time and tax payers money to spy on me. We have learned the whistle blowers spent many of their hours listening to innocent Americans, many soldiers, calling home discussing personal talk with their partners or “pillow talk” that was stored/catalogued forever in government data banks. I have to wonder how many real terrorist calls were missed just because somebody hollered out in the com center “Hey y’all, you gotta hear this phone sex call I’ve intercepted here,” and everyone within ear shot pulled up the call, forgetting about their real purpose of listening for terrorists.

• I find the whole idea sickening and a total violation of our Fourth Amendment rights. If I were doing something that brought me to the attention of the NSA then okay, I would understand. But to indiscriminately listen, track, and permanently store data on every single one of us is “Men in Black” material!

• I know there are a lot of wasted hours listening to normal conversations but if you don’t listen how are you going to find the ONE that would save lives or stop an attack. There is always going to those out there that abuse the law but perhaps there should be some stricter guidelines for them to follow. You can’t rule out people here in America because as we all know we have home grown terrorists here.

• The NSA gave a briefing for senators and only 47 percent showed up. The NSA Chief and the Director of National Security were there and there were more empty seats than full ones. How can the populace be expected to be offended when the senate won’t even attend a briefing to see what is happening?

• The Patriot Act and the NSA were originally supposed to only target the info that was intercepted moving internationally. Now, like any government group, they start out with one plan but always expand it without letting the people of the U.S. know about it. Knowledge is power and the more knowledge they can gather and store on it’s citizens the more powerful the government is. Just imagine if you are in charge and can gather all kinds of info on your competition, enemy or anyone who opposes you. Once you gather this info you could use it to control those that try to oppose you. Now look at all the current scandals. You use the NSA to gain the info you can use as a weapon then you attack them with the IRS and EPA.

• The government wants their hand in anything and everything. They create new agencies that really are useless all in the name of creating jobs for their buddies, on the backs of the American people.

• If the people actually carrying out the law are not honest, that is the problem. The IRS, the NSA, the “anything,” are being run by people who want to quash anyone else’s ideas if they aren’t in agreement with their own. “Do the right thing” in your personal and career life was missed by them but please do not let it be missed by you. We will turn this around somehow. Prayer changes things.

## Reflections from the Pulpit

### Acquaintance of the Holy Spirit

By Pastor Jim Waters

Life Community Church of Okeechobee

An innocent or basic acquaintance on the part of a person is needed for a meaningful and lasting relationship with the Holy Spirit. This relationship is initiated by the Holy Spirit and can only become real to the person through surrender.

The perfect completed sacrifice of Jesus Christ is key to beginning the all-important everlasting dependant relationship with the Holy Spirit. For this lasting acquaintance to begin and ultimately continue requires the person, through belief, to accept the truth of Jesus Christ’s virgin birth, sacrificial death, magnificent resurrection from the dead and His glorious ascension into heaven. With this faith-surrender in place and fully acknowledged within the new believer and the separating sin-issue resolved, the Holy Spirit commences.

The Holy Spirit has instantly proceeded into the newly cleansed soul of the believer. This action of the Holy Spirit is infinite within the soul of the saved believer (the Christian). With this awesome initiative of God, the believer has unlimited acquaintance with the eternal Person of the Spirit of God. An instant dialogue or conversation begun at the

blinking-of-an-eye is eternally guaranteed and faithfully carried out by the all-indwelling Holy Spirit.

This very brief declaration of the eternally enduring and powerful presence of the Spirit of God in the believer is ultimately documented and proven in the Books of the Holy Spirit-inspired Scriptures of God...the Holy Bible.

See the following Scriptures as a first step toward your life as being acquainted with the Spirit of the Lord. Genesis 1:2; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12; John 16:13; 14:26; Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:25; Acts 13:2; 16:7; 2 Corinthians 13:14. I urge you to seek a Bible believing church where you can be encouraged in these Holy Spirit-initiated-and-inspired truths. If you have never heard these following words of Jesus Christ, hear them now for the first time: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) and “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor (Comforter) to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth.” (John 14:16).

These are Jesus’ confirmation of His everlasting love for you that you will have and embrace His eternal acquaintance with Him through the ever-present and guiding Holy Spirit.

## Letters to the Editor

### Beware Fourth of July scams

With the Fourth of July around the corner, scammers will be trying to use consumers’ patriotism against them. Holiday phishing scams, deceptive sales, and counterfeit tickets to fireworks shows are among the list of scams that may affect individuals.

Scambook took a look at three 4th of July scams in particular to break down the underlying scams:

• Phishing: Patriotic eCards and social media messages may carry viruses.

Scammers capitalize on eCards, social media, and other sharable content to infect consumers’ computers with Trojan viruses and other dangerous malware to steal personal and financial information for identity theft, drain the victim’s bank accounts or hijack their social media accounts.

• Deceptive Deals: Fourth of July sales us-

ing shady tactics: “Act now or miss out” sales during 4th of July weekend may cause many individuals to purchase without reading the fine print, making them unaware of contract fees and final-sale restrictions. Many fake retailers also create online websites that offer incredible holiday savings on electronics and other goods, while proving to be a trap for stealing credit card information.

• Fizzled fireworks and events: Many communities organize special fireworks shows. Once tickets run out, con artists attempt to sell counterfeit tickets on Craigslist or at the venue itself. Dealing in cash, money orders, or wire transfers, there is no recourse for getting money back from scammers in return for missing the show.

For more information please visit Scambook.com.

Lisa Inouye

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

### To Reach Us

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

Website: [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

### To Submit News

The Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

E-Mail: [okeenews@newszap.com](mailto:okeenews@newszap.com)

### To Place A Display Ad

Phone: 863-763-3134  
E-Mail: [okeeadsales@newszap.com](mailto:okeeadsales@newszap.com)

### To Place A Classified Ad

Call 877-353-2424 to place a classified advertisement from home.

Fax: 877-354-2424

E-Mail: [classads@newszap.com](mailto:classads@newszap.com)

### Billing Department

E-Mail: [billteam@newszap.com](mailto:billteam@newszap.com)

### To Start or Stop A Paper

Phone: (800) 282-8586  
E-mail: [readerservices@newszap.com](mailto:readerservices@newszap.com)  
The Okeechobee News is available three times a week via home delivery and is on sale at rack and store locations throughout Okeechobee County. Call the office to find out if your home is within our present home-distribution boundaries.

Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.

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

Okeechobee News  
USPS 406-160

Published 3 times a week: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday by Independent Newspapers, Inc.  
107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D • Okeechobee, FL 34974  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Okeechobee News  
Circulation Administration  
110 Galaxy Road • Dover, DE 19901

### Staff

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

### Our Purpose...

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

### We Pledge...

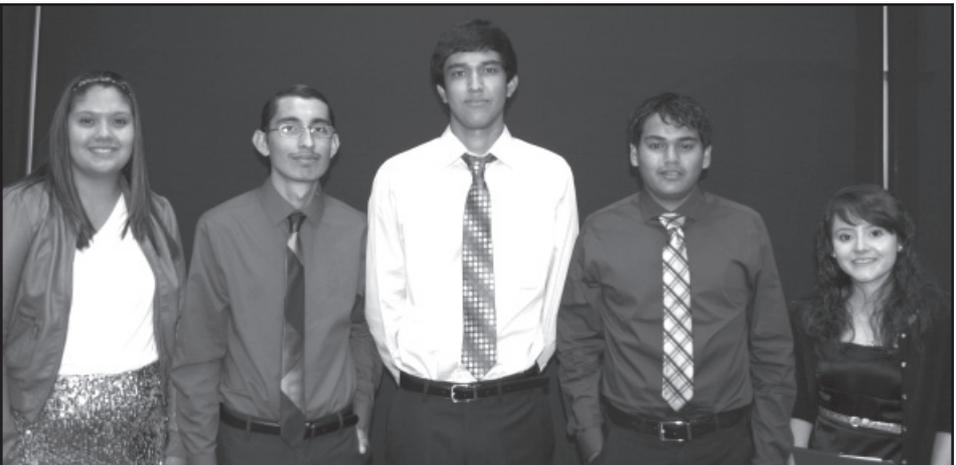
- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.

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

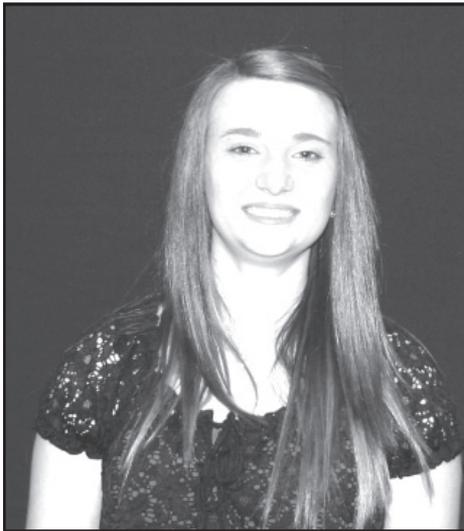
### MEMBER



# Students honored at OHS Scholarship Night



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The El Centro Santa Fe Scholarship was presented to Esteben Rodriguez, Estrella Hernandez, Francisco Sanchez Jr., Monica Hernandez and Christian Garcia. Not pictured are Sergio Vargas, Marisol Olivera and Daniel Ruiz.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The Quality AC- MT Memorial Scholarship was presented to Katelynn Schaeffer.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The Palm Beach Atlantic University Scholarship was awarded by Linda Koff to Amanda Jackson.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The Palmdale Oil Scholarship was presented to Elise Scott.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The Raulerson Hospital Medical Staff Scholarship was presented to Kylie Shirley and Maribel Santamaria.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The Hamrick Memorial was presented to Kathryn VanBeek, D.J. Washington, Audrey Metcalf, Kylie Shirley and Vanessa Watt.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The Kathy Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship was awarded by OCF/R Chief David McCain to Diego Rodriguez and Cheyenne Thibodeau.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The Lincoln College of Technology Scholarship was awarded by Linda Koff to Victor Pineda.



Special to the Okeechobee News  
The Los Cocos Scholarship was presented to Jennifer Arellano.

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

**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.  
• Thursday, July 4 – Fireworks Festival at Okee Tantie, 4 – 8 p.m.  
• Monday, July 8 – Publix, 2 – 7 p.m.  
• Tuesday, July 9 – Raulerson Hospital, 1 – 6 p.m.  
• Thursday, July 11 – SFWMD Field Office, Hwy 70E, 12 – 5 p.m.

## 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).

### Kenneth M. Hull, 81

OKEECHOBEE — Kenneth M. Hull passed away June 27, 2013.

He was born to George and Louise Hull in Lake City, Mich..

Mr. Hull was preceded in death by his wife, Elaine Mary.

He is survived by his daughter, Kimberley Ann Duffield (Eric) of West Palm Beach; stepdaughter, Nancy J. Klein of Okeechobee; grandsons, Tommy and Bryan Borck; granddaughters, Vanessa and Wendy Klein; brothers, Duane and Larry Hull; sister, Arvilla Williams; and many nieces and nephews. Many friends and his family will miss him dearly.

No services will be held.

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

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

### Robert W. Hales, 84

OKEECHOBEE — Robert W. Hales passed away June 26, 2013.

He was born Nov. 12, 1928 in Baltimore, Md.

but spent most of his life in Southeastern Pa. Mr. Hales joined the US Air Force after high school. He retired from the construction industry in 1984.

He came to Okeechobee in 1991. He was a Boy Scout leader and a church volunteer. He was a qualified scuba diver and received the "Diver of the Year" award.

Mr. Hales is survived by his wife, Doris; daughter, Trudy Fisher (Charles); son, Robert Lee Hales (Lisa) both of Delaware County, Pennsylvania; sister, Dorethea Miller (Fred) of New Holland, Pennsylvania; four grandsons; and two great granddaughters.

No services will be held at this time.

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

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

View obituaries from the past month at <http://www.legacy.com>

## Community Events

Brought to you by:



**"Your Air Conditioning and Plumbing Specialist"**  
**863.763.6461**

### Legion offers Sunday bingo

American Legion 64 will once again host Sunday night bingo beginning on June 30 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 benefit the American Legion veterans programs. The event is open to the public. The American Legion now has free WIFI for its lounge and dining room patrons.

### ConKerr Cancer hosts event

ConKerr Cancer's mission is to provide children with cancer or other life changing illnesses a feeling of warmth and love through the simple gift of a pillowcase. The next "sit & sew" will be held on Tuesday, July 2, from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church on Parrott Avenue. Bring your sewing machine and fabric and sew with other ladies in our community who want to help make a difference to a sick child. We will also have some kits available for you to sew. All of our pillowcases will be donated to St. Mary's Hospital, Palms West and Lakeside Hospital in Belle Glade. If you have child-friendly cotton fabric you would like to donate call Joan at 863-467-0290.

### VFW pavilion open July 4

On Thursday July 4, the pavilion will be open at the VFW #10539, 3912 U.S. 441 S.E. from 1 to 7 p.m. Hotdogs will be \$2 and burgers will be \$3, from 2 until 4 p.m. Music will be by Carl Cable. On Friday, July 5, the pavilion will open at 2 p.m. Washer toss is set for 3 p.m. On Saturday, July 6, the VFW will serve barbecued pulled pork by Don for \$6. All proceeds go to veterans' programs.

### Eagles Club plans events

Eagles Aerie and Auxiliary #4137, 9985 U.S. 441 N., had to change their next regular meeting from July 4 to July 11. The Auxiliary will meet at 6 p.m. and Aerie at 7 p.m. They will host a turkey shoot on July 6 at 11 a.m. Food is available for a small donation. The will hold a yard sale on July 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations are welcome. Donations for the yard sale can be dropped off at the club. If you need someone to pick up a donation please call Miriam at 863-634-4193. or Julie at 863-697-9477. Auxiliary 4137 will host a Country Hoedown on July 20 starting at 6:30 p.m. with dinner and dancing. Saddle Tramp will play from 8 until midnight. A donation of \$10 per person is requested. Advance tickets will be on sale July 1. The public is welcome. For information, call 863-763-2552.

### Lodge plans celebration

The Okeechobee Moose Lodge, 159 N.W. 36th St., will host a Fourth of July celebration and membership drive, at 1 p.m. with \$2 hamburgers and \$1 hot dogs. Music will be by D & K in the main hall. There will be karaoke, dancing, games and fun for all. Children are welcome. The event is open to the public. There will be Friday night bingo as usual. Bonanza starts 6:30 p.m. and food will be available. Proceeds go to support moose charities programs.

### Eagles host turkey shoot

Eagles North, 9985 U.S. 441 N., will serve steak or fish Friday, July 5, from 5:30 until 9 p.m. The dinner will be followed by music with Michael's Memories. On Saturday, July 6, the Eagles will host a turkey shoot at 11 a.m. and yard sale at 10 a.m. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served. On Tuesday, July 9, the Eagles will host bingo at 1 p.m. On Wednesday, July 10, bingo will be at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds go to the FOE 4137 community benefit fund.

### Stop smoking class offered

A free quit smoking class is opening nearby. It will be held at Okeechobee County Library, at 206 S.W. 16th St., on Wednesdays. There will be six sessions starting on **July 10**, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 7, and 14 at 5:30 p.m.

### Commissioner hosting coffee

Coffee with the Commissioner will be hosted by Commissioner Frank Irby on Tuesday, **July 2**, from 10 a.m. until noon, at the Brown Cow Sweetery, 103 S.W. Park St. Citizens wishing to participate are asked to call 863-763-6441 to schedule an appointment.

### Hospital hosts info session

A free, informational session about plastic surgery will be presented by Dr. Cromwell on July 11 at 5 p.m. in the Raulerson Hospital cafeteria. Please RSVP to reserve a seat, 863-763-9228.

*Celebrate A Life*

with — an — Online Guestbook

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

Visit:

[www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

For a complete list of Obituary Notices, click on your community, then click on "Obituaries".

[newszap.com](http://newszap.com)

# Your paper, not ours.



We pledge to operate our newspaper as a public trust.

We believe journalists are nothing more than guardians of every citizen's right to a free press. We have no authority to compromise, bargain away or dishonor the principles underlying the First Amendment.

We don't play loose with the facts. We give notice to your opinions, not ours. We encourage vigorous discussion of public issues, but try to keep everybody's comments within the bounds of fair play.

How are we doing?

Let us know by emailing [feedback@newszap.com](mailto:feedback@newszap.com) or calling your editor.

**OKEECHOBEE NEWS**

*Community Service Through Journalism*

# FDOT Road Watch

The Florida Department of Transportation advises motorists to take care in areas where road work is under way. Work planned in Okeechobee this week includes the following:

• **US 441 north between NW 36th Street and NW 9th 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.

• **US 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.

• **US 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.

• **SR 78 over the Okeechobee River** will be reduced to one lane with flaggers directing traffic, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, July 1 through Wednesday, July 3 while crews replace a steel bridge deck and repair grating. Motorists should use caution and be prepared to stop.

Roadwork planned in Glades County includes 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.

• **US 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 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.

**Highlands County road work will include the following:**  
**SR 70 from US 27 to Highlands/**

## Livestock Market Report

JUNE 24 & 25, 2013

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

COWS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
800-1000	70.00	- 95.00	77.54	79.49
1000-1200	70.00	- 95.00	80.69	82.60
1200-1400	72.00	- 94.00	84.40	83.86
1400-1600	77.00	- 89.00	83.40	79.64

BULLS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
1200-1400	84.00	- 84.00	84.00	90.00
1400-1600	92.00	- 98.00	96.00	92.14
1600-1800	90.00	- 98.00	94.00	92.33
1800-2000	87.00	- 111.00	99.00	99.00

STEERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
150-250	205.00	- 230.00	218.33	202.50
250-300	185.00	- 190.00	187.50	191.25
300-350	175.00	- 195.00	185.23	182.06
350-400	165.00	- 185.00	172.10	169.72
400-450	155.00	- 165.00	159.84	159.88
450-500	145.00	- 160.00	150.56	150.71
500-550	140.00	- 150.00	142.50	142.32
550-600	135.00	- 143.00	138.86	137.00
600-650	130.00	- 134.00	132.73	130.50
650-700	127.00	- 133.00	128.43	128.60

HEIFERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:	LAST WEEK:
150-250	165.00	- 170.00	167.50	182.50
250-300	155.00	- 165.00	158.75	160.25
300-350	145.00	- 167.50	153.68	154.26
350-400	135.00	- 152.50	139.46	139.14
400-450	130.00	- 141.00	134.18	134.71
450-500	125.00	- 134.00	127.27	129.63
500-550	120.00	- 134.00	124.58	126.52
550-600	118.00	- 130.00	124.30	124.90
600-650	118.00	- 125.00	121.25	118.92

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

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	504	906
COWS	190	259
STRS	0	137
HFRS	1	45
BULLS	9	10
YRLINGS	0	29
MIX	0	54
TOTAL	704	1440

Prices better this week on most all good quality cattle. Calves \$1-2 higher, especially Steers. Heifer Calves steady. We had better quality on most all calves this week. Slaughter Cows & Bulls \$2 higher on bigger better cattle.

Mark your calendars for our special sales:

October 4th - Bred Heifers  
October 11th - Angus Bulls  
October 18th - Brangus Bulls  
Craig Francisco, Ft. Pierce, topped the calf market with a high of \$2.30 bought by D & S Cattle.

Barry Lewis, Okeechobee, topped the cow market with a high of 95.00 bought by Central Beef.

See ya next week,  
Jeff

**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.

**SR 70, west of US 27:** Maintenance contract project: Crews are removing and replacing concrete ditches. No lane closures are expected but motorists are advised to use caution when approaching work zone and be aware of equipment and personnel.

Travelers can visit [www.FL511.com](http://www.FL511.com) or dial "511" from their phone to learn about traffic conditions on major roadways across the state.

**OKEECHOBEE LIVESTOCK MARKET**  
Sales:  
Monday at 12 p.m.  
Tuesday at 11 a.m.



**1055 U.S. 98 North**  
**(863) 763-3127**

*"Always on Top of the Job"*

**LUVIANO ROOFING**

Re-Roofing Specialists

- Metal & Shingle Roofs
- Flats & Leaks Repair

**FREE ESTIMATES**

State Lic. #CCC1327338

**863-357-3838**

**HOLIDAY DEADLINES**

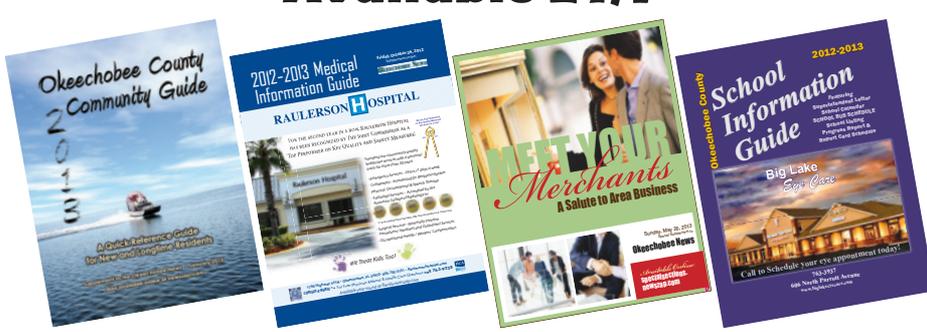
The Okeechobee News will be closed Thursday, July 4th for Independence Day

**FRIDAY, JULY 5<sup>TH</sup> DEADLINE**  
Display Advertising.....3 p.m. Tuesday, July 2  
Classified Advertising. 11 am Wednesday, July 3

**SUNDAY, JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> DEADLINE**  
Display Advertising...3 p.m. Wednesday, July 3

*Have a Safe Holiday!*

**Available 24/7**



<http://specialsections.newsrap.com/SS/Tiles2.aspx?sortby=type&type=Florida>

View all our online sections in the comfort of your own home or on the go!

# St. Lucie Battery & Tire picks a winner

Special to the Okeechobee News

Drawing from a few thousand entries stemming from their Okeechobee County Fair sponsorship, St Lucie Battery & Tire drew a winner at their corporate headquarters in Fort Pierce for their much

publicized "Cooper Tire" give-a-way.

Winner, Bobby Johnson of Okeechobee and owner of Riverside Lawn Maintenance was recently awarded his new set of Cooper tires at the Company's Okeechobee store located at 198 US

Highway 98 North.

"We had much fun with this as we looked for ways to give back to our customers," said location manager C.J. Boone. "We plan on offering regular and exclusive deals to our Facebook followers as well.

Additionally, starting this summer, we will be promoting our "PREFERRED CUSTOMER" program offering huge discounts and deals for regular customers and patrons," said Boone.

St Lucie Battery & Tire, a complete car care & truck center has been serving the Okeechobee community for over 17 years

providing everything from farm tractor tires, marine batteries, to general auto repairs, oil changes and diagnostics.

St Lucie Battery & Tire, a home town company, now has 12 locations serving the Treasure Coast & the Palm Beaches has built a reputation on providing "Honest & Reliable" service for over 40 years to its customers.

For more information on the company visit their website at [www.SLBT.com](http://www.SLBT.com)



Left to right are St. Lucie Battery & Tire general manager Jeff Deans, tire give-away winner Bobby Johnson and Okeechobee location manager C.J. Boone.



Special to the Okeechobee News

#ON0713

## Summer big deals

**St. Lucie BATTERY & TIRE**  
COMPLETE CAR CARE CENTERS  
*Home of Honest, Reliable Service*

TAKE **\$10 OFF!** Your Next Oil Change! with this ad -OR- **\$50 OFF!** Any Set of In-Stock Tires! with this ad

**HURRY!** this is a Limited Time Offer

ASE  
COOPER TIRES  
MICHELIN  
TOYO TIRES driven to perform

BRAKES • ALIGNMENTS • TUNE-UPS • A/C SERVICE • DIAGNOSTICS

A/C Recharge Special **\$59<sup>95</sup>** with this ad

**\$20 OFF** Your Next Tune-Up! with this ad

**CUSTOMER GUARANTEED SATISFACTION**

Okeechobee  
198 US Highway 98 N  
**863-357-2431**

Like our Facebook page for exclusive promotions

12 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS SERVING THE TREASURE COAST & THE PALM BEACHES [www.SLBT.com](http://www.SLBT.com)

\* Must present this ad to redeem offer. Our "\$50 off" offer is good toward the purchase of any 4 new tires in stock. May not be combined with any other offer. NO CASH VALUE. Offer expires 7/31/2013

## Hear better... Live better.

### Open House Event

**JULY 1-10 2013**

**Meet Bill Smith:** Audibel Hearing Aid Specialist and National Board-Certified Hearing Instrument Specialist

- ✓ **FREE** 10-point hearing evaluations
- ✓ **FREE** demonstrations of the latest in 100% digital hearing aid technology
- ✓ **30-DAY** in-home trials with money-back guarantee
- ✓ **FREE** batteries for 12 months with any new aid purchase
- ✓ **\$500 OFF** a pair of award-winning Anthem™ XT best-in-class hearing instruments or save \$250 per aid
- ✓ **0% INTEREST** financing on select purchases for 1 year (WAC)
- ✓ **FREE** in-office hearing aid repairs (parts not included)

**(863) 467-5333** **AUDIBEL HEARING CARE CENTERS**  
3545 US HIGHWAY 441 SOUTH • OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34974

TOLL-FREE: 877-498-HEAR (4327) • OPERATORS STANDING BY 24/7 • IN-HOME TESTING NIGHT & WEEKEND APPOINTMENTS • SE HABLE ESPAÑOL • [WWW.AUDIBELHCC.COM](http://WWW.AUDIBELHCC.COM)

# Huey helicopter to be on display at Okee-Tantie

## Veterans on motorcycles to provide escort

By **Katrina Elsken**  
Okeechobee News

Plans have been confirmed to display a Vietnam War era Huey helicopter at the Okeechobee Community Fourth of July festivities at Okee-Tantie.

There will be a dedication ceremony for the helicopter near the Veterans Memorial in Flagler Park, at the intersection of U.S. 441 and State Road 70, on July 4 at 10 a.m. After the ceremony, the Huey will be transported on a trailer to Okee-Tantie. It will be escorted by 16 members of the Buckhead Ridge VFW on motorcycles, as well as local law enforcement.

Details for the plan were confirmed at the Thursday, June 27, meeting of the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners.

"This helicopter was acquired through the federal surplus," explained county administrator Robbie Chartier.

Commissioner Bryant Culpepper, who was involved in obtaining the surplus helicopter from the Department of Defense, apologized for any problems created by his involvement in obtaining the surplus equipment on behalf of the county without putting the matter before the whole board first. "I apologize to other board members if,

in any way, I slighted them in the process we went through," said Mr. Culpepper. "We were in uncharted waters.

"When this all came about approximately six months ago, the opportunity to acquire this helicopter presented itself," he said.

Mr. Culpepper said if the county had not acted quickly, they might have lost the chance to get the helicopter for display in the Veterans Memorial park.

"There are a lot of requests for this type of equipment," he said. "I was afraid that if we didn't move quickly we would lose this."

The helicopter is currently at the Okeechobee County Airport and has been repainted.

The paint job was donated, said Mr. Culpepper.

Mr. Culpepper said the Fraternal Order of Police, sponsors of the Fourth of July festivities at Okee-Tantie, have \$1 million insurance coverage. The trailer used to transport the helicopter also has \$1 million liability coverage.

"This is a huge event for the FOP," said Mr. Culpepper.

He said the helicopter is a piece of history.

"This is an opportunity for veterans and FOP to teach children about the helicopter and about Vietnam," he said. "It's a history lesson."

At Okee-Tantie, the helicopter door will be open so spectators can see inside but the helicopter will be roped off so that no one will be allowed to go inside of the helicopter,

he said. Veterans and members of the FOP will be on hand for security and to answer questions.

The helicopter blades will not be mounted until it is installed for permanent display in Flagler Park.

"I had a brother who served in Vietnam. I had friends I lost in Vietnam," said Commissioner Margaret Helton. She said while she is happy to see the helicopter added to the memorial, she is concerned about the county's liability.

"Our job is protect the county," she said. After the Fourth of July fireworks show, the helicopter will be moved back to the Okeechobee County airport.

Installing it in Flagler Park will require the help of the Okeechobee City Council.

County attorney John Cassels said the helicopter is currently in the possession of Okeechobee County and should remain on county property. In order to display it in Flagler Park, it should be transferred to the City of Okeechobee.

The Department of Defense agreement to transfer surplus property requires that the property stay in the possession of a government for five years.

"Offer it to the city contingent on federal approval," advised Mr. Cassels. "If you are going to be responsible for it for five years, it should be on county property."

He said the helicopter should stay at the airport until the Department of Defense approves the transfer and the city accepts it.

Mrs. Chartier said they have spoken with DOD and with the city administrator and this should not be a problem but the Okeechobee City Council must approve the transfer.

She said the request has been submitted to DOD.

Mr. Culpepper said many years ago when the DOD gave surplus equipment to nongovernmental agencies, there were problems later with parts being sold. DOD changed their policy so that the equipment can only be transferred to a government and that government must maintain ownership for at least five years.

Mr. Cassels said the county has to be concerned about liability.

"We have a claim about a boat ramp accident. We get claims on skate board accidents. That's why we have insurance," he said. "That's why there are sovereign immunity laws."

He added the potential danger of moving the helicopter may have been exaggerated.

"We move bat wing mowers and front loaders all the time. They are probably more dangerous than this thing without blades," he said.

"If city doesn't accept it, we will have to go back and figure out plan B," said Mrs. Chartier.

All of the costs of moving, painting and mounting the helicopter are covered through private donations, Mr. Culpepper said.

## FREE QUIT SMOKING CLASSES

If you're ready to quit tobacco, we're ready to help with a six-session program.

There is **no charge** for materials including free nicotine replacement therapy patches.



To register or for more information:

**877-819-2357**

[www.eahectobacco.com](http://www.eahectobacco.com)

**You can do it!  
We can help!**



## Allure

### Institute for Plastic Surgery

## Aldo A Lombardo, M.D.

Board Certified Plastic Surgeon

Improve your appearance, your confidence, and your self esteem. Enhance your breast, flatten your tummy or shed unwanted fat. Let us help you look and feel your very best!



- Tummy Tuck
- Breast Augmentation
- Breast Lift/Reduction
- Endoscopic Brow Lift
- Face Lift
- Nasal Surgery
- Eyelid Surgery
- Liposculpture
- Botox and Fillers

**(561) 747-1232**



# Early detection important for colorectal cancer survival

Colon cancer has one of the best survival rates if it's caught early. Health experts urge proper screening to detect colon cancer before symptoms appear. In its earliest stages, the cancer is limited to the inner layer of the intestine or colon and may not cause symptoms. A colonoscopy is one of the best tests used to check for cancer. Early detection led to the decline in colon cancer deaths over the past 15 years.

While there is no single reason that some people develop colon cancer, many times the cancer begins as benign polyps, which can turn into cancer. Researchers have found several risk factors that increase the odds of developing colorectal cancer. Some factors that increase the chances of getting colorectal polyps are beyond our control:

- Age: More than 9 out of 10 people with colorectal cancer are older than 50.
- History of polyps: If your doctor has found adenomatous polyps, you may be more likely to get cancer.
- Inflammatory bowel disease: Diseases that inflame the colon, such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease raise your risk of colon cancer.
- Family history of colorectal cancer or inherited gene: You're at higher risk for colon cancer if immediate family members have also been diagnosed with the disease.
- Being of African American descent: Experts aren't sure exactly why people of

certain ethnic backgrounds are more susceptible to colon cancer.

Luckily, there are many risk factors you can control through lifestyle changes and diet. Follow this advice to reduce the risk of developing colon cancer:

- Avoid red meat and processed meat.
- Exercise—being sedentary is unhealthy.
- Lose weight—obesity increases your risk.
- A low-fat and high-fiber diet may be beneficial.
- Stop smoking.
- Drink alcohol in moderation only.
- Manage your diabetes and keep blood sugar under control.

There may also be a link between having testicular cancer and developing colorectal cancer. Health experts aren't certain whether this is because of exposure to cancer treatments such as radiation therapy. Colonoscopies should be a part of your yearly exam after age 50, and depending on your risk factors your doctor may recommend that you start earlier.

Talk to your doctors about health screenings that might benefit you. For more information, visit RaulersonHospital.com or call our Consult-A-Nurse® line at 763-9228 to speak with a registered nurse for answers to your health questions or a free physician referral.



Special to the Okeechobee News

## Foster home needed

Sammy needs a foster home during his treatment for heartworm disease, or he will die. If you have a quiet home to foster Sammy in during his treatment please call 863-357-1104. His treatment will take about three months. Contributions for his medical treatment may be sent to the Okeechobee Humane Society/Pet Rescue P.O. Box 233, Okeechobee, Florida 34873.

### 2013 BRIDAL EXPO

Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

HOSTED BY

*GB's Ladies & Men's Formal Wear* and **HIGHLANDS TODAY**



Palms Court Catering will be providing hors d'oeuvres during the event

- Fashion Shows for Men & Women
- Hair Demos
- Make-Up Demos
- Live DJ
- Travel
- Fitness
- Cake Decorators
- Catering
- Door Prizes\*

\*Must be present to win!

Get Your **\$5 Advance Tickets** at GB's Ladies & Men's Formal Wear at 207 Circle Park Drive, Downtown Sebring **OR** call 863-386-5836 and reserve your ticket. It will be available at Will Call the day of event.

**\$8 Tickets** available at the door.

**HIGHLANDS TODAY CENTER** Highlands County Fair Grounds  
781 Magnolia Avenue  
Sebring, FL 33870  
**863-386-5836**  
[www.highlandstoday.com](http://www.highlandstoday.com)

## KID-FRIENDLY CARE 24/7

Because even **SUPERHEROES** get bumps and bruises!





Lowwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute  
Raulerson Hospital  
St. Lucie Medical Center



**RaulersonHospital.com**

**Care you can trust:**

- Experienced physicians, nurses and staff trained in Pediatric Advanced Life Support
- High quality, personalized care
- Short wait times
- Hugs and smiles

For average ER wait time text ERKids to 23000. Message & data rates may apply

State Lic # CAC023499

# 863-763-8391

312 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street - Okeechobee

## OKEECHOBEE Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, LLC

Serving South-Central Florida

www.OKEEAC.com



**Stay Cool! Take Advantage of Our Summer Special!**



- Sales, Service & Installation
- FREE Estimates & 2<sup>nd</sup> Opinions on System Replacements
- Trade in your old A/C system up to \$500

GO GREEN FINANCING AVAILABLE



# RAULERSON HOSPITAL

1796 Hwy 441 North Okeechobee, FL 34972  
For Free Physician Referral & Health Care Questions call **763-9228**

Coupon valid through June 30, 2013

## \$50.00 OFF SERVICE REPAIR

Coupon must be presented at time of service

\*EXCLUDES DIAGNOSTIC / TRIP CHARGES, NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNTS

**OPEN SUNDAY  
11AM-6PM**

**G R I E C O N I S S A N . C O M**



**"I'm Mike Grieco.  
I'll Save You Thousands!  
I Guarantee It."**

**Michael Grieco, Jr.**



# FREE 4 DAY TRADE-IN CLINIC!

**OVER \$5 MILLION SET ASIDE TO PURCHASE TRADES!**

**HELD OVER!**

**THURS. JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> - SUN. JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>**

- ✓ MEET ONE-ON-ONE WITH CERTIFIED TRADE APPRAISERS.
- ✓ YOU WILL RECEIVE AN OFFER (IN WRITING) FOR YOUR TRADE.
- ✓ WE WILL BUY YOUR VEHICLE EVEN IF YOU DON'T BUY OURS.
- ✓ GET TOP DOLLAR REGARDLESS OF YEAR, MAKE, MODEL OR CONDITION.

**TRADE-UP TO A BRAND NEW NISSAN TODAY!**

BRAND NEW 2013 NISSAN **SENTRA S**



LEASE FOR ONLY  
**\$149** /MO.  
\$1,999 DOWN PAYMENT

OR **\$15,999**

STK#N42970 · MODEL 12013 · VIN 732288

**ONE OR MORE AT THIS PRICE**

BRAND NEW 2013 NISSAN **ALTIMA 2.5**



LEASE FOR ONLY  
**\$169** /MO.  
\$1,999 DOWN PAYMENT

OR **\$18,999**

STK#N31920 · MODEL 13013 · VIN 292534

**ONE OR MORE AT THIS PRICE**

BRAND NEW 2013 NISSAN **ROGUE S**



LEASE FOR ONLY  
**\$169** /MO.  
\$1,999 DOWN PAYMENT

OR **\$17,999**

STK#N36580 · MODEL 22113 · VIN 529635

**ONE OR MORE AT THIS PRICE**

BRAND NEW 2013 NISSAN **PATHFINDER S**



LEASE FOR ONLY  
**\$239** /MO.  
\$1,999 DOWN PAYMENT

OR **\$23,999**

STK#N38533 · MODEL 25113 · VIN 683954

**ONE OR MORE AT THIS PRICE**

PRIOR SALES EXCLUDED. ALL OFFERS WITH APPROVED CREDIT PLUS TAX, TAG, TITLE & DEALER FEES. \*ALL LEASE PAYMENTS: 36 MOS., \$1,999 DOWN, 12K MILES/YEAR. PRICES & PAYMENTS INCLUDE ALL REBATES AND INCENTIVES. MUST FINANCE WITH NMAC. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. DEALER NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS. OFFER ENDS 6/30/13



**CALL: 1-888-728-4235**  
SHOP 24/7 FOR THE BEST DEALS

**CLICK: GriecoNissan.com**

**VISIT: 4815 SOUTH US HWY 1, FORT PIERCE  
JUST NORTH OF MIDWAY ON US-1**



**SALES HOURS:**  
MON-FRI: 8:30AM - 8:00PM  
SAT: 8:30AM - 7:00PM · SUN: 11AM-6PM  
**SE HABLA ESPAÑOL**

# LAWSUIT

Continued From Page 1

in rural areas but did not pay RSI for their work. Some of the counties in this area designated to receive the infrastructure include Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, Hardee, Highlands and DeSoto.

FHREDI, along with some of its board members, were named because "... FHREDI was a managing member of FRBA," states the suit.

When contacted, Mr. Hoover said he doesn't know why he was named in the suit because he wasn't on the board at the time. He said he did not "rotate" to the board until recently. Ms. Whirls said she had not read the lawsuit and chose not to comment at this time.

A phone call seeking more information on FHREDI's alleged involvement was made to Ms. Reynolds, but she did not return the call.

Daniel A. Nicholas, of the Tampa law

firm Nicholas and Bell, also did not return phone calls. The Nicholas and Bell firm is representing RSI in the action.

According to the suit FRBA was formed in March of 2010 by FHREDI, Opportunity Florida and others to build and provide broadband services to rural areas of "... critical economic concern located throughout 15 counties ..." in Florida, as well as the tribal lands of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

FRBA was awarded a federal grant of \$23,693,665 on Aug. 1, 2010, and on Dec. 1, 2010, they entered into a consulting contract with RSI, the suit states.

RSI, continued the complaint, went on to install roughly \$2 million in equipment on the Hardee County Broadband Network and then operated the network. RSI claims the installation and operation of this equipment was its "in-kind contribution" as required for matching funds in the public/private partnership project.

In January of 2013 FRBA terminated the contract with RSI and put a lien on its equipment. This lien, claims the suit, was done to

"hijack" the network and then not pay RSI.

The complaint accuses FRBA of embarking on "... a clandestine, fraudulent course of conduct, including self-dealing and double-dipping, intended to misappropriate monies from the grant award." This "conduct" allegedly enriched the "FRBA conspirators"

The suit also alleges that FHREDI and Opportunity Florida -- both non-profit groups -- paid themselves \$8,500 a month in fees that were "... cloaked as administrative and community outreach funds." It also accuses those two groups, as well as the FHREDI board members mentioned above, of perpetuating a fraud against RSI and misappropriating federal grant money and double dipping.

RSI is asking for a jury trial.

Mr. Hoover said work on the broadband network is continuing.

"We hope to be operational in Okeechobee County in July," he said. "We're still looking pretty good."

# LAND

Continued From Page 1

"... lands are typically those above the mean high water mark."

He also explained that DEP is actually serves as staff to the Board of Trustees.

That board, he added, is comprised of the governor, attorney general, commissioner of agriculture and consumer services and the chief financial officer.

There is a total of 495,321.6 acres of land in Okeechobee County, with 117.63 acres being under water.

While neither the DEP nor the SFWMD pay taxes on any of that property, they are required by state statute to make a payment in lieu of taxes (PILT). However, in the overall scheme of things, those dollars are a mere pittance.

In his e-mail, Mr. Gillespie broke down the state's payments to Okeechobee County for TIFT lands.

Those amounts are: 2006-07, \$2,181.49; 2007-08, \$2,181.49; 2008-09, \$2,181.49; 2009-10, \$1,828.22 (pro-rated due to funding deficit); 2010-11, \$2,097.42 (pro-rated due to funding deficit); 2011-12, \$2,181.49;

and, 2012-13, \$2,181.49.

Randy Smith, from SFWMD's media relations office, said his agency's PILT for fiscal year 2014 to Okeechobee County is estimated to be \$11,315.98.

That means the two state agencies are paying the county approximately .28 cents an acre.

It should be noted that local property being utilized by water management for dispersed water storage is still on the tax rolls. Mr. Smith explained that this property is still owned by an individual and not his agency, so that property owner is required to pay the taxes. These areas are used to hold water briefly to slow its flow into Lake Okeechobee in order to remove nutrients.

Also, in cases where the district is leasing its property, the lease holder is required to pay the taxes on that acreage.

Mr. Smith went on to point out that those acres being used by water management as a Storm Treatment Area (STA), where storm-water is held for a longer period of time, is not on the county tax roll because that property is owned by the district.

Figures from the Okeechobee County Property Appraiser's Office indicates the property owned by the state has a value of

approximately \$11.6 million. At the current millage rate of 8.5470 that property, if returned to the county, would put \$99,173.16 back into county coffers.

One mil equals \$1 for every \$1,000 in assessed value.

The total taxes (including schools, etc.) paid to the county on that property would come to \$203,346. Of that total, over \$38,000 is fire tax.

County figures show that the 2012-13 mill rate is projected to raise \$12,400,993.

When asked if the state could return the property in question to Okeechobee County, Mr. Gillespie said that would be up to the governor and his cabinet.

"Any purchases, sales (or) leasing of state-owned land has to be approved by the Board," he stated in an e-mail. "Any request for changes in state-owned land has to go to the Board of Trustees. Also, consider that any land the state has purchased was purchased for a reason (i.e., conservation), so a determination would have to be made to show that (there) is no longer a reason to keep the land."

# Investigations

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

## BURGLARY

- 1600 block of S.R. 70 E.
- 2600 block of N.W. 53rd Terrace
- 900 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 2700 block of N.W. 53rd Terrace
- 1000 block of N.E. 342nd Trail
- 3200 block of N.W. 21st Ave.

## CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 2800 block of N.W. 37th Ave.
- 3100 block of S.E. 27th St.
- 2500 block of S.E. 38th Trail
- 14000 block of N.E. 18th Ave.

## FRAUD

- 3200 block of S.E. 25th St.

## THEFT

- 3000 block of S.E. 27th St.
- 6400 block of S.E. 55th Lane
- 1500 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 2000 block of N.E. 304th St.
- 1300 block of N.W. 106th St.
- 3800 block of N.W. 18th St.
- 400 block of U.S. 98 N.
- 3400 block of U.S. 441 S.
- 4400 block of U.S. 441 S.
- 9200 block of N.W. 240th St.
- 14700 block of N.W. 266th St.
- 1300 block of N.W. 141st St.
- 4100 block of S.W. 11th Way
- 12000 block of N.E. 120th St.

## Newspaper welcomes community submissions

The *Okeechobee News* welcomes submissions of news and photos from community clubs, organizations, government agencies, churches, businesses and individuals.

Email your news to okeeneews@newszap.com. Please include photos at jpg attachments. Photos should be at least 6 inches wide and at least 200 dpi resolution. In the email, please give as much information as possible about photos, including when and where the photo was taken and the names of those in the photo (left to right).

**Choose how you want your news published**

**Put yourself in print! 100 words and one photo for only \$25!**



**Newszap.com**

**Publish Your News today!**

Just visit [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com), click on your community, and then on the link for Publish Your News.

*Always on the go?*

Stay in the know with an

**KEECHOBEE NEWS**  
E-subscription

Buy a Home Delivery subscription for  
**\$6 a month**  
and receive an E-Subscription **FREE\***

**Call (863) 763-3134 today!**

\*When you enroll in our EZPAY subscription plan



Your local news  
available right at your  
fingertips!



# rich creamy delicious

Classic vanilla. Or lush chocolate.  
The pure organic ingredients let the flavor shine through.

## 2/\$7.00

Publix GreenWise  
Organic Chocolate or Vanilla Ice Cream

**Save up to 2.98 on 2**

Price effective 6/27-7/10/13

### Publix®

WHERE SHOPPING IS A PLEASURE®

# Call a PRO *Professional*

## An affordable way to advertise your business

Sales • Service  
Installation



**QUALITY A/C**  
"Our Focus Is To Make You Comfortable"  
**467-1545**  
Your Mobile Home Specialists  
www.QualityACokee.com

**UNIQUE SERVICES**



Process Service PS-06-17 Bail Bonds

**Gregory Gernat**  
588 NE 28th Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34972  
863-357-2888 or toll Free 877-568-3864

*Pio* the barber  
MASTER BARBER



909 S Parrott Ave.  
Okeechobee, FL 34974  
**863-261-2538**  
WALK-INS WELCOME  
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

**M&M Auto Brokers, Inc.**

Buy Here! Pay Here! We'll Work with you!

As low as **\$500 Down**  
Easy Payment CASH FOR JUNK!



Call Mitch (863) 763-0330  
Cell 954-214-8877  
mandmautobrokersinc.com

**3565 Hwy 441 N., Okeechobee**

A FULL SERVICE REPAIR FACILITY

**Choice Automotive**  
& Custom Exhaust

Computer Diagnostics  
NOW OFFERING New and Used Tires



**863-467-6633**  
704 NE 2nd Ave.  
Okeechobee, FL

Don't Make the Wrong Choice!



ASSISTED LIVING BY THE VNA

License AL11944  
Job Acuff  
Administrator

203 SE 2nd St.  
Okeechobee  
Phone: 863-824-6770 www.grandoaks.org

Dependable Professional

**Pete's**  
Professional Power Washing



Power Washing  
Sealing  
Painting -  
Interior & Exterior

**(863) 801-8377**  
John Davito  
Licensed

**MJR's Lawn Service**

Lawn Maintenance • Cleanup • Special Services

**863.484.3821**  
**863.484-2430**



m.ritchie3045@gmail.com • www.MJRLawnService.com

An affordable way to advertise your business

COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL - REPAIRS

**ECHOLS**  
SINCE 1975  
PLUMBING & AIR CONDITIONING

2233 Hwy 98 North  
Okeechobee, FL 34972

Phone (863) 763.6461  
Fax (863) 763.3231

Acuatica Solutions  
Well Drilling



**863-532-8355**

Licensed & Insured Justin Entry

**Rebecca Boldt Hamilton, P.A.**  
REBECCA H. BOLDT, Attorney at Law

RICHARD W. SEYMOUR, Attorney at Law

Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer, "AV" Rated

**CRIMINAL CHARGES**

All Felonies	All Misdemeanors
• Drug Crimes	• DUI/BUI
• Theft Crimes	• Domestic Violence
• Violation of Probation	

**863-467-1894**  
107 NE 4th St. Okeechobee FL

Rboldthamilton@aol.com

JUST CALL ME  
**"JERRY"**  
Your Hometown Injury Attorney



Law Office of  
Gerald Lefebvre  
1910 S. Parrott Ave.  
Okeechobee, FL

**763-3333**  
accidentattorneyoffice.com  
PHONE ANSWERED 24/7 SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

**JONES EQUIPMENT** Est. 1989

4558 US Hwy 441 S.E.  
Okeechobee, FL

**1-888-683-7853 863-763-5342**

Cargo • Auto • Utility Trailers & Parts

An affordable way to advertise your business

**St Lucie BATTERY & TIRE**

Home of honest and reliable service  
**C J Boone**

198 Hwy 98 N. Okeechobee, FL 34972  
(863) 357-2431 • 800-432-1064 • FAX (863) 357-6723  
www.slbatterytire.com

An affordable way to advertise your business

Carpet Restretches, Repairs & Installation Licensed & Insured

**Carpet • Laminate • Vinyl**  
Flooring Sales and Installation  
"Shop at Home"

**Scott A. Concannon Inc.**  
25 Years Experience **863.801.3677**

**Ron's Old Coins**  
Gold & Silver Coins



Buying & Selling  
• Estates  
Dealer & Appraiser  
(In the Flea Market)

**(863) 261-4714**  
**(863) 261-2078**

3100 S. Hwy 441, Bay# 113  
Okeechobee, FL 34974

**"All" UPHOLSTERY**

Auto - Boat - Airplanes  
In Okeechobee 26 Years



Doug Ray Sharon Ray  
In Business 53 years

**(863) 763-4211**  
Mon- Thurs. 7 am - 2 pm

3169 Hwy 441 South East  
Right Over The Taylor Creek Bridge  
Okeechobee, FL 34974

# Fire department begins annual swimming pool inspections

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The Center for Disease Control reports 10 people die each day from unintentional drowning in the United States. The State of Florida has the highest rate of drownings among children under five in the country. The City of Okeechobee realized the risk years ago and began a regular inspection of backyard pools in the city limits to make sure they meet all city code and safety requirements.

Fire Chief Herb Smith said his officer takes this task seriously and notes that this is

the time of year a lot of above ground pools start showing up in Okeechobee.

Children ages 1 to 4 have the highest drowning rates in the country. It was the main cause of death of children in that age group, accounting to 30 percent of the deaths. Most drowning deaths occur in home swimming pools. Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional death among children age 14 and under in the country. It is a quick and often quiet death and children can drown in as little as two inches of water.

Chief Smith said all swimming pools must have a barrier, a fence or for above ground pools, the pool wall itself. He notes

it is required that the steps to these pools be removed when the pools are not in use.

He noted it only takes a few seconds for a small child to get into one of these pools and that can lead to disaster.

The main contributors to drowning are a lack of swimming ability. Research shows that participation in formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning among children under 4 years old.

Other factors in drowning cases are the lack of barriers. A four-sided isolate fence can reduce the risk of a child drowning by 83%. The lack of close supervision is another big factor.

The CDC reports that the percentages of drownings in natural water setting like lakes and rivers increase with age. More than half the drowning among those 15 years and older occur in these natural water settings.

Chief Smith said you should supervise children when they are in or around water. In preschool children the supervision should be hands on and supervisors or parents should be close enough to touch the children at all times. He said parents and others should not be involved in distracting activity like texting, cell phone calls, reading books or other materials, or mowing lawns while their young children are swimming. He also encouraged parents to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation, CPR and to not rely on air filled or foam toys as safety devices in the pool. Over one in four drownings occur with a parent or supervisor nearby but preoccu-

pled in Florida.

The fence around pools should be at least four feet high. They should have a self-closing or self-latching gate that is out of the reach of children. Alarms and other barriers to the pool are also recommended.

Chief Smith said there have been no drowning deaths reported in the city in recent years and he wants that trend to continue this summer.

The Florida Department of Health has promoted the "Keep your Eyes on the Kids" drowning prevention project. They note the best prevention is to closely supervise children. The project originated in Arizona. The parent of adult supervisor of children swimming wears a water watcher tag around their neck. The tag officially designates an adult to watch children. The DOH reports many times adults assume that someone else is watching kids when in fact no one is watching them.

Every year, about 300 toddlers drown in residential swimming pools. Overall, more than 800 children ages 14 and under die from drowning, and more than 4,000 go to the emergency room after near-drowning incidents.

Chief Smith would like to challenge the parents and caretakers of our youth here in the city by being or becoming proactive and determined to keep their children safe this summer and in turn this action will ensure a great summer for the children as well as the parents.



Okeechobee News/Tamara Kelly

Water exercise class at the Okeechobee County Sports Complex lets participants stay cool while getting some exercise.



Okeechobee News/Tamara Kelly

Playing water basketball in the pool at the Okeechobee Sports Complex is one way to beat the heat.

**Free**  
**Automotive Classified Ads!**  
**4 Lines + 8 Photos**  
**Online for 2 Weeks**  
**Absolutely FREE!**



Place your **FREE AD** online: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at...

**www.newszap.com** click on  
Classifieds

# Online Classifieds



florida.newszap.com

Free Speech & Free Ads

## Create Your Own Ads Online! Four weeks FREE . . . It's Easy!

### Submit Your Free Online Classified Ad Today at FLORIDA.NEWSZAP.COM - Click on Classifieds

Post your ads in any of these newspapers for as little as \$8 each:

Okeechobee News • Caloosa Belle • Clewiston News • Glades County Democrat • Immokalee Bulletin • The Sun

• Online for 4 weeks - 400 words + 4 photos  
• Absolutely FREE!  
• Post your ads in our papers for as little as \$8 each  
florida.newszap.com  
click on classifieds

### Announcements

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against the INI USA. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to INI USA style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk \*.

### Garage/Yard Sales

**We Buy Estates**  
Antiques, Collectibles, Household, Tools, Jewelry and etc.  
Call 863-697-8906

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifieds.

### Services

**NEED A DAY OFF?**  
HOME - YARD CHORES, ECT. CARE PROVIDED FOR ANIMALS, TRANS., SHOPPING FOR ELDERLY, FLEXIBLE. CALL JIM 561-577-1964

Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful people!

### Employment

**Employment Full Time**

### Employment

**Employment Full Time**

**TRIPLE E EQUIPMENT**  
Florida's premier source for heavy equipment sales and rentals

**YARD HELP**

Heavy Equipment Company seeks Yard Person. Various duties include; Pressure Wash., Cleaning, Oil changes, ect. Some heavy equipment knowledge helpful.

**TRIPLE E EQUIP**  
6600 HIGHWAY 70 EAST  
Okeechobee, FL.  
863-467-8300

**Drivers:**  
\$1,000 Sign-On Bonus! Great Pay! Consistent Freight, Great Miles on this Regional Account. Werner Enterprises: 1-888-567-4854

**Drivers Needed** must be 25 or older, have clean driver license and pass Federal, State & Local background. Must work day or night. Call 863-634-8720

**Wanted EXPERIENCED**  
Drywall Spray Texture Help. Our office is located in Lake Worth. Please call 561-968-3746 License #GCG061260

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

Time to clean out the attic, basement and/or garage? Advertise your yard sale in the classifieds and make your clean up a breeze!

**REGISTERED NURSE**  
Clinic Setting, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, Excellent Benefits. Spanish speaking preferred.

Please apply MyFlorida/People First website at: <http://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>

The state of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Employer/ Affirmative Action Employer and does not tolerate discrimination or violence

**Employment Part Time**

**PT HELPER**  
3 Days a week. Call Sarah between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 863-467-6377

Shop here first! The classified ads

### Financial

**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.

### Merchandise

#### Collectibles

I buy pre-1920 Florida origin handwritten material - letters, documents, business records, etc. Will make offers. Joe Rubinfine, P. O. Box 1000, Cocoa, FL 32923. (321)455-1666 [Joerubinfine@mindspring.com](mailto:Joerubinfine@mindspring.com)

#### Miscellaneous

**5 in 1 Bare Back Saddle!** \$250., new never used, pad, harness, bridle, spurs, all black, call 863-763-0477.

### Pets/Supplies

**Lost dog**, reddish color coat, blind with bad hearing, name is Dusty, lost around SW 24th Ave and 16 St. Reward \$100. Call 863-467-1730

### Rentals

#### Apartments

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

**3-1 Duplex** behind McDonald's, quiet, tiled, no pets, low move in \$700.00

**2-2Basswood Home**, no neighbors, tile, no pets, low move in \$800.00 Call Dave 634-9899

**Beautiful Samantha's Garden Apartments** 2BR/2BA, in town, W&D, \$800 mo. + \$500 sec. Call (863)467-9250 or (863)634-5780

**TAYLOR CREEK** Condos 1br/1ba, Partially Furnished \$650 mo. 1st, last & sec. dep. (561)352-4243

### Houses - Rent

**Adorable** (In Town Okee.) 2br./2ba. WD-laundry rm., Screened Porch, lawn service included. Non smkg. Envmt. Sm. Pet OK. \$800 mo., 1st, last, & \$ 5 0 0 . S e c . 941-504-3954.

**FOR RENT - NICELY FURNISHED 1 & 2 BEDROOMS - WITH OR WITHOUT UTILITIES - LONG OR SHORT TERM - 863-447-0742.**

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

### Houses - Rent

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

### Real Estate

#### Houses - Sale

**CBS - 3BR, 2BA, C/A & heat**, single car gar, W/D & refrigerator, fenced backyard. \$61,000. 863-634-7517.

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

**Lot For Sale**  
Treasure Island SE 25th Street  
Mobile Home Ready \$11,500.00  
CALL 863-357-7409 OR 863-447-0616

### 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

**Ft. Drum - Cemetery Rd./304th St., 2BR,** \$500/mo. 3 mo. sec. dep. 917- 836-8628

**Okeechobee: Nice**  
Clean Renovated Two/Three Bedroom Units in private adult park. Nice large yards. Rent starting \$550.00 mo. Security required. 239-246-6301 or 863-517-5111

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.

#### Mobile Home Sale

Palm Harbor Homes liquidation sale <http://www.palmharbor.com/model-center/plantcity/> \$39K off select 2012 models (3) John Lyons 800-622-2832 ext 210

### Recreation

#### Boats

**FOR SALE** 2004 18FT. CREST PONTOON BOAT WITH A 2004 50HP. EVINRUDE MOTOR, EXCELLENT CONDITION READY TO GO, NO TRAILER \$5,500.00 O.B.O. 863-467-8209 OR 863-634-4345

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

#### Campers/RVs

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

### RV Space Rent

**RV SITE LOCATED ON RIM CANAL ON 441 - MINIMUM 6 MONTHS OR LONGER 863-447-0742**

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

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Turn your trash to treasure with an ad in the classifieds.

### Automotive

#### Autos Wanted

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

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

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

#### Pickup Trucks

**For Sale-** Very Nice Show Truck/Hot Rod. 1989 Chevrolet with 454 cu. in. Must See This GORGEOUS Custom Built Beauty! Asking \$12,000.00 (863)357-7409 or (863)447-0616

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

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

**Public Notices**

**Public Notice**

**Public Notices**

**Public Notice**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE AMENDING THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**NOTICE:** The City of Okeechobee Planning Board, acting as the Local Planning Agency, will conduct a Public Hearing on **Thursday, July 18, 2013 at 6 PM** or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, FL, to consider and receive input concerning proposed amendments to the City's Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements and forward its recommendation to the City Council.

The Hearing is for the following proposed ordinance: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, UPDATING THE FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS MANDATED BY FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 163.3177(3)(b); PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

The amendment may be reviewed on the City website or at the Office of the City Clerk, during normal business hours, at the address above. All interested parties are encouraged to appear and be heard regarding the proposed update of the Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements and may submit written or oral comments before or at the Hearings.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons requiring special accommodations to participate in this proceeding because of a disability or physical impairment, should contact the General Services Office at 863-763-3372 ext 218 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. 446872 ON 6/30/2013

**NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT**

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 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 UNDERSIGNED. 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 PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, IS MADE. ANY PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING MUST HAVE THEIR NAME AND TOPIC PLACED ON THE AGENDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING. ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S OFFICE BY CALLING (863)- 763-460 1 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.

THE PROPOSED 2013-2014 BUDGET WILL BE PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED.

WILLARD M. BYARS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
17429 NW 242ND STREET  
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972  
(863)763-4601 OR (863)634-3166  
446800 ON 6/30/2013

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**

The Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast (DBA, Workforce Solutions) - Region 20 announces the meeting of the Treasure Coast Job Training Consortium to which all persons are invited:

**Date & Time:** Monday, July 1, 2013 - 9:00 a.m.  
**Place:** St. Lucie County Annex Building 2300 Virginia Avenue - 3rd Floor Fort Pierce, FL 34981

**PURPOSE:** To discuss matters concerning the Workforce Investment Act, Workforce Employment Opportunities, the Welfare Transition Program, One-Stop Career Centers and the Workforce Development Board (DBA, Workforce Solutions). A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting:

Workforce Solutions  
584 NW University Blvd., Suite 100  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

Should any person wish to appeal any decision made by the Consortium with respect to any matter considered at the above referenced meeting, they will need to ensure a verbatim recording of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based, in order to provide a record for judicial review. 446739 ON 6/30/2013

**READING A NEWSPAPER HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORLD AROUND YOU.**



# Okeechobee County crime rate down slightly

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The number of crimes reported dipped from 1,599 to 1,586 from 2011 to 2012 in Okeechobee County according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) annual report released earlier this year.

The FDLE reported that the state crime rate dropped by 6.5 percent and the total number of crimes dropped by 5.7 percent.

Violent crimes were also down in the state by 4.3 percent.

The FDLE report for Okeechobee listed 27 forcible rapes, 17 robbery cases, 157 aggravated assaults, 493 burglary reports, 857 larceny cases, 48 motor vehicle thefts in 2011. The report listed 19 forcible rapes, 30 robbery cases, 150 aggravated assaults, 550 burglary incidents, 786 larceny cases and 51 motor vehicle thefts in 2012.

It should be noted that, on the surface, there appears to be a lot of violent crimes. However, the statistics mentioned only reflect what may have initially been reported to the sheriff's office.

For instance, while the FDLE report lists 27 forcible rapes in Okeechobee County last year that number only indicates the initial complaint to the sheriff's office. The report does not show how many cases were unfounded or how many were designated as something else as a result of the follow-up investigation.

Okeechobee saw a decline in arrests from 2,262 to 2,018. The report had 1,854 adult arrests and 164 juvenile arrests. The most common crimes arrested for were aggravated assaults (81), burglary (96), larceny (146), drugs (237), simple assaults (282) and DULs (100).

The OCSO made 1,433 adult and 135 juvenile arrests last year. City police made 248 arrests, with 223 of those adult arrests. The FWC made 99 arrests, and FHP reported 95 arrests in Okeechobee last year.

Okeechobee County Sheriff Paul May said he was not surprised with the crime statistics for his department this year.

"This is about where I thought it would be. It is a little bit low, it went down a little bit, but burglary and larceny-type crimes continue to hurt us," he said.

The sheriff noted that of the 580 burglaries reported last year, 445 of them had no forced entry. That means the doors to the home or vehicle were left unlocked.

"If you lock your doors to your homes and cars we can knock down these crime rates even more. For Pete's sake, if you don't want something stolen, lock them up," he said.

Sheriff May said drug use and abuse still drives a lot of the local crimes. He estimated that 90 percent of theft-type crimes are driven by the need for a fix for a drug user.

"We have made some headway on drugs with the new laws on pills but they are still out there and there are people still willing to buy and sell drugs," he added.

Cheaper drugs are making a comeback due to the statewide crackdown on prescription pill abuse. Heroin is among the new drugs of choice. Sheriff May said it can be a vicious circle.

"Heroin and other stuff are making a comeback and we hate to see that. When you make laws to curtail one drug another comes and rears its ugly head. You need to cut that off too," he added.

Sheriff May said one things that may have helped crime stats is the arrest of problem and career criminals then sending them to prison. He said many times a criminal is convicted of one burglary when, in fact, they may have committed 15 to 20 burglaries.

Violent crime rates also went down in Okeechobee. Until the past month there had not been a homicide in Okeechobee since 2010.

Sheriff May said protect your home and property and you can help law enforcement in the fight against crime.

"There are people that are willing to take chances and they are desperate, my advice is don't leave things outside when you go to town," he added.

## Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- |  |                                  |                            |                                     |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>  | <b>DOWN</b>                      | 37 "I can't believe this!" | 52 Bret who wrote gold rush stories |
| 1 The NFL's Montana and Favre, e.g.  | 1 Uneasy feeling                 | 39 "Feed me," in Siamese?  | 53 Ran with ease                    |
| 4 ___-wip: "real cream" brand  | 2 Prickly bush                   | 40 Champagne word          | 54 Fruit yielding oil               |
| 9 Rap's ___ Rhymes   | 3 18-wheelers                    | 43 Cover completely        | 55 Some cellar contents             |
| 14 Suffix with script  | 4 Automaker's ban                | 45 Prepare, as flour       | 56 Union underminer                 |
| 15 Apply, as pressure  | 5 Lead-in for skeleton           | 48 Red Sox pitcher         | 57 Head-turning Turner              |
| 16 Not cool, man   | 6 Bank statement abbr.           | 50 Brat                    | 61 Mex. neighbor                    |
| 17 Marksman's skill  | 7 Laundry appliance              | 51 Little fights           | 62 Trite                            |
| 18 *Duplicator in an office  | 8 "Be that as ___ ..."           |                            | 63 Originally called                |
| 20 Former boxer Ali  | 9 Tampa Bay athlete, briefly     |                            |                                     |
| 22 Musician's gift   | 10 Opens, as a gate              |                            |                                     |
| 23 Makes a decision  | 11 Marine salvage crew's job     |                            |                                     |
| 24 *Great Chicago Fire scapegoat   | 12 Glass darkener                |                            |                                     |
| 28 Apt. complex unit   | 13 Big galoots                   |                            |                                     |
| 29 Ohio rubber city  | 19 Latin art                     |                            |                                     |
| 32 Canonized Fr. women   | 21 Throws softly                 |                            |                                     |
| 35 Grand Coulee, for one   | 25 Old Norse works               |                            |                                     |
| 37 Thief-turned-sleuth Lupin   | 26 Biochemist's gel              |                            |                                     |
| 38 Nonpro sports org.  | 27 Singer Vikki                  |                            |                                     |
| 39 *Classic chocolate treat  | 30 "... ___ and for all!"        |                            |                                     |
| 41 "Proud Mary" pop gp.  | 31 Bookish type                  |                            |                                     |
| 42 Throbs  | 32 '90s-'00s NFL Pro Bowler      |                            |                                     |
| 44 Watchdog's warning  | 33 Bull: Pref.                   |                            |                                     |
| 45 Prog. listing   | 34 Speakers at memorial services |                            |                                     |
| 46 Spot on TV  | 36 Chow mein additive            |                            |                                     |
| 47 Aptly named fruit   |                                  |                            |                                     |
| 49 *Take a path of least resistance  |                                  |                            |                                     |
| 56 Narrow cut  |                                  |                            |                                     |
| 58 Film's Farrow   |                                  |                            |                                     |
| 59 Short vodka order   |                                  |                            |                                     |
| 60 Seller's assurance of payment, and a hint to what the last words of the answers to starred clues can have in common |                                  |                            |                                     |
| 64 Sewing kit item   |                                  |                            |                                     |
| 65 Starts the pot  |                                  |                            |                                     |
| 66 Army base near Petersburg, Va.  |                                  |                            |                                     |
| 67 12/24 or 12/31  |                                  |                            |                                     |
| 68 Iraq's main port  |                                  |                            |                                     |
| 69 Ritual celebrating the Jews' liberation from Egyptian slavery   |                                  |                            |                                     |
| 70 ___ Moines  |                                  |                            |                                     |

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

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

xwordeditor@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14			15					16					
17			18					19					
20			21				22			23			
24					25	26			27				
			28						29		30	31	
32	33	34			35	36		37					
38					39			40			41		
42			43					44			45		
46								47		48			
			49								53	54	55
56	57				58					59			
60					61			62	63			64	
65								66				67	
68								69				70	

By Mike Peluso  
(c)2011 Tribune Media Services, Inc.



Special to the Okeechobee News

### Their weight in donations

Some of the children who attended the "Everywhere Fun Fair!" Vacation Bible School at the First United Methodist Church last week, show off what they brought for an offering: canned goods for the Presbyterian Food Pantry, baby items for the Pregnancy Center, school supplies for Big Lake Missions, toiletries for the nursing home residents and craft supplies for the ARC. Each child was able to choose their own charity and be a "cheerful giver." After all, neighbors ARE giving! Being a good neighbor and just who is "our neighbor", was the theme for the week.

### OHS Class of 2014 formal Senior photos scheduled

Members of Okeechobee High School Class of 2014 can schedule senior photo appointments for July 8 and 9. Photos will be taken at Okeechobee High School. Call 800-749-2796 ext. 1 or 772-463-0457 to schedule an appointment. Visit the Okeechobee High School web site or like "OHS Journalism" on Facebook for more information.

**Closed for Vacation!**

**Starting June 30 and Reopening July 30**

*Thank you, everyone! We look forward to seeing you upon reopening!*

**Los Cocos Mexican Restaurant**

**JUST CALL ME "JERRY"**

*Your Hometown Injury Attorney*

Law Office of  
Gerald Lefebvre  
1910 S. Parrott Ave.  
Okeechobee, FL

**763-3333**

**accidentattorneyoffice.com**  
PHONE ANSWERED 24/7 SE HABLA ESPANOL

Super Lawyers

IT'S AMAZING WHAT WE'LL DO TO TEST TRANE'S TOUGHNESS.  
YOU'LL BE EQUALLY IMPRESSED WITH OUR REBATE PROGRAM

**TRANE**

*It's Hard To Stop A Trane.*

**RECEIVE UP TO \$1,500<sup>00</sup> OR 0% FINANCING!**

**IN FPL & FEDERAL TAX REBATES!**

**SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC. MINING OPERATIONS**  
11515 CLICK DRIVE LAKEPORT, FL 33471 (OFF SR 78)

**SHELL • STABILIZER • SAND • FILL  
TOP SOIL • CAP ROCK • COBBLESTONE  
LARGE DECORATIVE ROCKS**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

**CALL FOR COMPETITIVE PRICING**  
**(863) 763-5020 EXT. 15201**

HOURS OF OPERATION  
MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:00AM - 4:00PM  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY PLEASE CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

Call today for details!

**QUALITY A/C**  
and Heating of Okeechobee

*"Our Focus Is To Make You Comfortable"*

**467-1545**

See your independent Trane dealer for eligibility, dates details and restrictions. Instant rebates from \$100 up to \$1,500 in FPL and Federal Tax Credit, valid on qualifying Trane systems only. Void where prohibited. Special terms apply regarding 0% financing on qualifying purchases charged with approved credit. See your Trane dealer for details.

**www.QualityACokee.com**

LIC# CAC029420

# Lake Okeechobee level holds steady as rains continue

By Katrina Elskan  
Okeechobee News

Water is coming into Lake Okeechobee almost as fast as it is going out, according to a report given by Gary Ritter of the South Florida Water Management District at the Thursday, June 27, meeting of the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners.

"Lake Okeechobee is at 13.9 feet and the Corps (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) is

making discharges to the coastal estuaries right now," he said.

The goal for the lake level at the start of hurricane season is 12.5 feet, he explained. That leaves room for water from rainy season.

The goal for the start of the dry season is 15.5 feet.

He said the lake is a little higher now than they would like it to be, "but our folks in our operations aren't very concerned."

The Kissimmee River is all navigable right now, he said, Rainfall in the basin is feeding the river.

"There is almost as much water coming down as we are letting out," Mr. Ritter told the commissioners.

The SFWMD office is getting calls from Okeechobee residents about the Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area wondering why the water levels have been so low, he continued. The scenic STA is a popular place for people to walk and they have been wondering where the water went.

"We went in and drained it," he explained. "We did some major planting of new vegetation."

The water is going back into that STA, he said.

In other business, the board approved the purchase of 16 sets of new bunker gear for Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue.

Fire/Rescue Chief David McCain explained that the department has two sets of gear for each full-time firefighter -- primary and reserve -- and one set for each volunteer. He said safety standards require the bunker gear be replaced every 10 years.

"Every firefighter has to have this bunker gear to engage in any fire fighting activity," he said. "With this purchase we are trying to rotate our gear to stay in compliance with that 10-year cycle."

## SUDOKU

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

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:



## 1,430 Acre Ranch in Eastern Okeechobee County

Offered Exclusively by:  
The Tucker Group, LLC  
Call Brandon Tucker (772) 201-8722

### \$3,750 per acre

104 NW 7th Ave.  
Okeechobee

863-763-4010  
or  
888-874-2945

Lic. RE Broker  
Auctioneer# AU2579.



### Northern 1300 Acres SOLD 8/24/2012

**Hazellief & Prevatt Realty Inc.**  
(863) 763-2104 • Se Habla Español

David Hazellief, 863-610-1553  
Betty Hazellief, 863-610-0144  
Sharon Prevatt, 863-634-7069  
Dee Reeder, 863-610-2485

<b>REDUCED</b> 	<b>1003-M:</b> Seminole Cove 55+ comm. w/ clubhouse amenities. Great lake view, 2/2 DWMH w/addition, 2 car carport, 1023 sq ft under air/1957 Total sq ft. <del>\$69,900</del> NOW \$67,500 MLS #206023	<b>LAKE ACCESS</b> 	<b>2003-M:</b> Taylor Creek, MH w/addition, lg wrkshp attached, screen front porch, lg covered back deck, seawall, furnished, roof under 5 years old, A/C 2 years old and fireplace. Could be a 3/2. \$69,000
<b>LAKE ACCESS</b> 	<b>4000-M:</b> Buckhead Ridge Move in ready, roomy w/lg family rm overlooking water, plenty of storage. 1200 Total Sq Ft. Some appliances, new seawall, shed and more! \$99,000 MLS #206632	<b>LAKE ACCESS</b> 	<b>5001-M:</b> 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
	<b>5010-H:</b> 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		<b>5036-M:</b> 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

• Indian Hammock Two 2+/- acre parcels \$35,000 Make Offer! • Lot behind SunTrust Bank \$18,000 • Potter Rd (NW 30th Ter) 5+/- acres \$38,000 • 319+/- acres on Hwy 441 N \$4,000,000 • 55+/- acres on SR 710 \$330,000. Make Offer!  
• Foreclosure Taylor Creek Captive Lake Residential Lot \$13,650 • In town SW addition Residential Lot \$3,900 • Okeechobee Pk (NW 4th St) Residential Lot \$6,000 • Foreclosure Ft. Drum area 5.68+/- acres \$22,900 • Okeechobee Estates (SE 9th CT) in town Residential Lot \$18,000 Make Offer! • Fenced 5+/- acres (NE 12th St) Short Sale. \$35,000

century21okeechobee@earthlink.net • 1200 S. Parrott Ave. • Century21okeechobee.com

**ALMOST 15 ACRES OF BEAUTIFUL LAND with POND, BARN AND COWPENS, FENCED AND CROSS FENCED:**

CBS home with new updated kitchen cupboards, 2008 new roof, 2009 updated electrical, 2008 new A/C, 2009 New water system with reverse osmosis, 2009 new drainfield and septic, 2009 painted inside and out; 2009 hurricane impact windows, has cattle shoot and barn.

BRING YOUR HORSES AND ANIMALS - THIS IS THE PLACE.

**Vicki Anderson**  
Lic. RE Broker  
863-634-4106  
For more Information

Our Priorities are simple...They're Yours!

**Lori Mixon**  
Lic. Real Estate Broker  
(863) 634-1457  
LMixon@MixonGroup.com

Visit our website...  
[www.MixonGroup.com](http://www.MixonGroup.com)  
to view our  
**Over 100 Listings**

COUNTRY HILLS--Horse lovers paradise! 4Bd/ 2Ba CBS home. 1568 SF under air- 2270 TLA. Open concept, vaulted ceilings, split plan. Spacious kitchen, 12X56 Screened lanai w/ Spa. 20X40 Wkshp/carport. Commercial above ground pool. Riding arena, 4 stalls-water & elec., hotwire fencing. Fenced/ cross fenced. MLS 206809 **EXCEPTIONAL \$227,000**  
Call Lori (863) 634-1457

Office: 863-763-6000

CHRYSLER

Jeep

ArrigoFtPierce.com

DODGE

RAM

**ONLY ARRIGO GIVES YOU UP TO \$8,000 OVER BOOK FOR ANY TRADE!** **OR ARRIGO WILL DOUBLE YOUR DOWN PAYMENT UP TO \$8,000**

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY EVENT



**2013 200 Touring**

SALE PRICE.....22,695  
YOUR DOWN.....-5,000  
WE MATCH.....-5,000

YOU PAY AS LOW AS **\$12,695\*** 6 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE

**2013 Town & Country**  
SALE PRICE.....30,990  
YOUR DOWN.....-4,000  
WE MATCH.....-4,000

YOU PAY AS LOW AS **\$22,990\***  
OR **\$279** Per Mo. LEASE FOR AS LOW AS 4 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE

**2013 300**

SALE PRICE.....30,990  
YOUR DOWN.....-5,000  
WE MATCH.....-5,000

YOU PAY AS LOW AS **\$20,990\*** 6 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE



UP TO AN ADDITIONAL \$1,000 OFF SAVINGS THRU 6/30/13  
Included in price shown

**OPEN THURSDAY JULY 4th TIL 9PM!**  
**GRAND SLAM SAVINGS EVENT!**

**ARRIGO Advantage**

**#1 VOLUME DEALER IN THE WORLD!**  
**3 GIANT LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU BETTER!**  
**OVER 3,500 VEHICLES AVAILABLE EVERY DAY!**

- Family owned/operated for 22 years!
  - The Largest Volume Dealer in the World!
  - Free 2-Year Maintenance Plan!
  - Free Roadside Assistance Plan!
  - Saturday Service Hours!
  - No Service Appointment Necessary!
  - 90 Service Bays!
  - Child Playroom Area!
  - Free WiFi
- AND SO MUCH MORE!**

**JUST ARRIVED!**  
**Brand New 2013 Viper**

**CREDIT AMNESTY FOR ALL!**  
Bankruptcies... Divorce... Slow Pay...  
Repossessions... Foreclosures... 1st Time Buyer...  
**IF YOU WORK... YOU DRIVE!**  
GET PRE-APPROVED CREDIT  
**ArrigoFtPierce.COM**

**#1 VOLUME DEALER IN THE ENTIRE WORLD!**

RAM



**2012 Ram Cargo C/V**

SALE PRICE.....23,355  
YOUR DOWN.....-4,500  
WE MATCH.....-4,500

YOU PAY AS LOW AS **\$14,355\*** 4 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE

**2012 Ram 3500 SLT Dually Crew Cab Diesel**  
SALE PRICE.....49,105  
YOUR DOWN.....-8,000  
WE MATCH.....-8,000

YOU PAY AS LOW AS **\$33,105\*** 4 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE

**2013 Ram 1500**

SALE PRICE.....26,065  
YOUR DOWN.....-4,500  
WE MATCH.....-4,500

YOU PAY AS LOW AS **\$17,065\*** 6 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE



DODGE EVENT



**2013 Journey SE**

SALE PRICE.....20,585  
YOUR DOWN.....-3,500  
WE MATCH.....-3,500

YOU PAY AS LOW AS **\$13,585\*** 4 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE

**2013 Avenger**  
SALE PRICE.....19,990  
YOUR DOWN.....-4,000  
WE MATCH.....-4,000

YOU PAY AS LOW AS **\$11,990\*** 6 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE

**2013 Dart SXT**

SALE PRICE.....20,905  
YOUR DOWN.....-3,500  
WE MATCH.....-3,500

YOU PAY AS LOW AS **\$13,905\*** 12 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE



Jeep



**2013 Compass Sport**

SALE PRICE.....21,420  
YOUR DOWN.....-3,500  
WE MATCH.....-3,500

YOU PAY AS LOW AS **\$14,420\*** 4 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE

**2013 Patriot Sport**  
SALE PRICE.....17,985  
YOUR DOWN.....-3,500  
WE MATCH.....-3,500

YOU PAY AS LOW AS **\$10,985\*** 2 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE

**2013 Wrangler Sport**

SALE PRICE.....24,185  
YOUR DOWN.....-2,000  
WE MATCH.....-2,000

YOU PAY AS LOW AS **\$20,185\*** 6 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE



CHRYSLER Jeep

5851 SOUTH US HIGHWAY 1., FT. PIERCE  
JUST SOUTH OF MIDWAY ROAD  
**1-855-374-5019**  
ArrigoFtPierce.com

**ARRIGO**  
**DODGE·CHRYSLER·JEEP·RAM**  
Ft. Pierce • West Palm • Sawgrass

DODGE RAM

**STORE HOURS:**  
Mon-Sat 8:30 AM - 9:00 PM  
Sun: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
**SERVICE HOURS:**  
Mon-Fri 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM  
Sat: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM • Sun: Closed



ALL OFFERS FOR WELL QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS. NOT ALL CUSTOMERS WILL QUALIFY. CUSTOMER MUST QUALIFY FOR ALL REBATES & INCENTIVES. DEALER RETAINS ALL REBATES & INCENTIVES. ALL VEHICLES SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE. MUST PRESENT AD AT TIME OF PURCHASE TO RECEIVE ADVERTISED OFFERS. OFFERS EXPIRE DATE OF PUBLICATION. DEALER NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS OR OMISSIONS. VEHICLE ART FOR ILLUSTRATION ONLY. OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT OR VARYING MODEL MAY BE SHOWN. OFFERS NOT IN CONJUNCTION. OTHER RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. PREVIOUS SALES EXCLUDED. VEHICLE STOCK QUANTITIES VARY DAILY. RANKINGS BASED ON REGISTERED SALES FOR CHRYSLER CORP. \*PRICES PLUS TAX, TAG, TITLE. ALL FACTORY, ALLY BANK AND ARRIGO DISCOUNTS REBATES AND INCENTIVES APPLIED INCLUDING OWNER LEASE LOYALTY REBATES IF QUALIFIED. \*\*WE WILL BEAT ANY LOCAL, VALID, PRINTED ADVERTISEMENT FROM ANOTHER AUTHORIZED DODGE CHRYSLER OR JEEP DEALER WITHIN THE SE BUSINESS CENTER ZONE ON ANY NEW IDEENTICALLY EQUIPPED IN STOCK VEHICLE. CUSTOMER MUST PRESENT COMPETITORS AD AT TIME OF PURCHASE AND SUPPLY ACCURATE VIN NUMBER. COMPETITORS AD MUST BE DATED SAME DAY AS THE CUSTOMERS PURCHASE. IF WE BEAT THE COMPETITORS PRICE, YOU MUST BUY THE VEHICLE FROM ARRIGO. DEALER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE VEHICLE FROM THE OTHER DEALER. OTHER RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. 136 MONTH LEASE, 10K MILES PER YEAR, \$3000 CASH OR TRADE EQUITY DUE AT SIGNING PLUS TAX, TAG, TITLE, SECURITY DEPOSIT. ALL FACTORY, ALLY BANK AND ARRIGO DISCOUNTS REBATES AND INCENTIVES APPLIED INCLUDING OWNER LEASE LOYALTY REBATES. PAYMENT PLUS TAX EACH MONTH. OFFER VALID ON SELECT MODELS TO QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS WITH MINIMUM 730 CREDIT SCORE AND APPROVED TRU ALLY. RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS APPLY TO MAINTENANCE PLAN AND ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE.