

# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 105 No. 49

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

50¢ Plus tax

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**Baseball team honors seniors ... Page 3**

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## Lake Levels

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Okeechobee News/Katrina Elskens



## Color Craze Run helps the Pregnancy Center

More than 500 runners and more than 200 spectators turned out Saturday for the Color Craze 5K Run fundraiser for the Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee. The runners followed a course laid out on the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center grounds. At various color stations along the route, volunteers threw colored powder at the runners. By the time they completed the course, the runners -- most of whom wore white -- were covered in yellow, pink, blue, green and orange. The day's celebration also included games such as the limbo (photo at left), group dances, face painting and a giant end-of-race color extravaganza. A Pregnancy Center spokesperson said the event was such a success they plan to make it an annual event. The organization has hosted 5K runs as fundraisers in the past, but adding the Color Craze angle attracted a lot more attention, she said. For more photos, look for the link on the Okeechobee News page on Facebook.

## County to plan future finances

A discussion of long-term financial planning is on the agenda for the Okeechobee County Commission meeting on Thursday, April 24. The board will receive a presentation from Burton & Associates on the general fund analysis. The commissioners will look at available options for the long-range plan for a sustainable budget.

See COUNTY — Page 5

## Jobless rate is still 7.6 %

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

March unemployment rates remained at 7.6 percent in Glades County and fell just slightly in Okeechobee, from 7.5 to 7.4 percent according to the U.S. Department of Labor and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

The report said 1,345 residents collected benefits in Okeechobee during March, which compared to 1,349 in February. In March 2013, 1,555 residents collected benefits, a rate of 8.4 percent.

Okeechobee was ranked 16th highest among Florida counties

See JOBS — Page 5

# Chamber of Commerce News

• On Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County will facilitate a Grand Opening for Dr. Joe Water Treatment, 1110 N.W. Park St. Along with a ribbon cutting, there will be several raffles and deals offered to celebrate. Come and have fun, free food, a chance to win a water softener and swim-

ming pool for the summer, and more prizes. Live entertainment!

• The Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly Chamber Business After Hours on Tuesday, April 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. at OK Corral Gun Club, 9449 N.E. 48th St. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know your local business people and build lasting relationships in a professional environment. So,

don't miss the opportunity. RSVP NOW via the chamber calendar online.

• Have you been considering starting a business, but getting it started feels overwhelming? Where do you start? How can you get started on the right path? We've assembled a team of area professionals to provide you necessary information to consider before starting a business. We'll provide you information on permits, insurance, accounting, human resources, legal issues, web site and marketing. Join us on June 5 at 9 a.m. and determine if starting a business is right for you. Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce, 55 S. Parrott Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34974. Please call Antoinette Rodriguez or Mariah Parriott at 863-467-6246 to RSVP!

That will conclude the chamber events for this month; however, we encourage you to check out our community calendar at [www.okeechobeebusiness.com](http://www.okeechobeebusiness.com) for more events as they become available in the community and in the chamber. Please remember to RSVP for each of the above events to reserve your spot. If you are interested in SPONSORING any of the chamber events, please contact Mariah at 863-467-6246 or [info@okeechobeebusiness.com](mailto:info@okeechobeebusiness.com).

I look forward to seeing you at our events!!

Executive Director  
**Antoinette Rodriguez**  
 863-467-6246  
[antoinette@okeechobeebusiness.com](mailto:antoinette@okeechobeebusiness.com)



Special to the Okeechobee News

## NES School helps the homeless

The NES Student Council recently prepared food, served food and had some good fellowship with the homeless people of Okeechobee and Big Lake Missions. The officers and fifth graders of the student council enjoyed this project of "service above self." Thanks to the Rotary Club of Okeechobee for sponsoring this grant and we look forward to making this an annual event. Thanks to Dowling Watford, Murrah Elmore, Cathy Rucks and Wade Lawrence for all their hard work.

## Okeechobee Forecast

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**Today:** A mainly sunny sky. High 88F. Winds WNW at 5 to 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Clear skies. Low 64F. Winds light and variable.

### Extended Forecast

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny early, then becoming mostly cloudy with thundershowers developing in the afternoon. High 88F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

**Thursday Night:** Showers likely along with a possible rumble of thunder during the evening. Becoming clear overnight. Low 67F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

**Friday:** Sunny. High 91F. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph.

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### Fundraiser helps OHS band

Papa John's restaurant in Okeechobee is helping the Okeechobee High School Band Boosters. Every Thursday, if you order from Papa John's, they will donate 10 percent back to Band Boosters. This is valid for carry-out or delivery. Please be sure to mention you are a supporter of Band Booster Okeechobee High School when placing your order with Papa John's. You can also order online using promo code: OCSD2014.

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

## OHS Seniors honored

(Above) Kutter Crawford (center) was flanked by his parents, Neal and Kristy, at the Okeechobee High School baseball team's senior night celebration, at the last home game of the season, played April 15. Okeechobee High School beat DeSoto, 8-1.  
 (Right) Christian Crews was flanked by his parents Shawn and Courtney Crews at the OHS baseball team's senior night celebration.

## VFW sends care packages overseas

The VFW Post 10539/American Legion unit 64 auxiliaries recently collected items to be shipped to Afghanistan to the unit of Pearl MacGregor's grandson. The ladies meet the second Monday of every month at Breweski's for food, fun and games. One of the main reasons these ladies meet is to find ways to better our community and help our troops. Mrs. MacGregor had mentioned that her grandson James was overseas and his unit had a difficult time obtaining day-to-day items as well as snacks. It didn't take long for the auxiliary members to jump into action. Several packages were sent and all of the personnel in James' unit were very grateful at the outpouring of items that these ladies sent. Other fundraisers have included adopting a family for Christmas and collecting back to school supplies for Everglades Elementary School for the past two years. Pictured, left to right, are First Sgt. James F. Kashch, MSgt. Sacha Martinez and SSGt. Mandy Hilton of the 455 ELRS.



Special to the Okeechobee News

## IRSC offers business and industrial education programs

Gaining the competitive edge in today's business world is more important than ever, and a degree from Indian River State College is the ideal platform for success in any career. Find out how business and industrial education programs offered by Indian River State College through the IRSC Dixon Hendry Campus in Okeechobee can prepare students for great careers at a special Business and Industry Information Session on Tuesday, April 29, at 6 p.m., room C-112 at the Dixon Hendry Campus, 2229 N.W. Ninth Ave., in Okeechobee.

Information on financial aid, scholarships, program options and registration will be available. Attendees will have the opportunity to find out more about careers in marketing, hospitality, insurance, real estate, customer service, finance, office administration and automotive repair and more.

For more information about the Business and Industry Information Session at the IRSC Dixon Hendry Campus, call 863-824-6000. For more information about IRSC programs,

degrees and offerings, call the IRSC Information Call Center, toll-free at 1-866-792-4772 or email info@irsc.edu.

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# Public Forum/Speak Out

*Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com), click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!*

## Weeds on roadway

• I have to continue to contact the commission to mow the grass along the sides of the road which pose a true danger to drivers. There is an 8 ft. canal just beyond the "weeds" and it is deceiving to drivers who may have to pull over in an emergency. Question of the day: If I'm visiting Okeechobee, drive down Berman Road, and get pulled over for speeding, do I get a ticket if I can't see the speed limit sign?"



Special to the Okeechobee News  
**High weeds obscure the speed limit sign on Berman Road. The high weeds also mean drivers who might need to pull off the road cannot tell where the ditch begins.**

## Sheriff's office

• You can't spend more money than you have. That's all there is to it. The taxpayers in this county are already paying high taxes and can't afford to go higher. We already have one of the highest foreclosure rates in the state. So the sheriff needs to find ways to be more efficient in using that money. The issue of take home cars has been discussed. Surely keeping the cars at the office when not on patrol would save a lot of gas. Another issue is staffing. Have they really cut all of the office staff that they can? Is everyone now employed a necessity?

• I believe, over all, the sheriff office is performing the best they can with what they have. I also believe they are so set in their ways that they need a fresh view to expose areas where they could save or improve. They have been operating the same for so long they can't see themselves. They say "if it isn't broke..." doesn't apply to law enforcement. They need to change some things just to see more clearly. Something simple as moving shifts around. Anything to get out of the easily anticipated day-in and day-out operations. To me, they need a makeover. But they have to be careful the egomaniacs in there don't try to insert their personal agendas. They may fear something new because it means they have to learn something new. This scares some of the leadership, but excites me.

• Deputies do report code violations. It's a great tool to gather intelligence. Not only do deputies report code violations so does FP&L, Glades Power, and USPS. Thats some of the leading sources, along with neighbors, in locating grow houses and meth labs. I think the sheriff's office needs to have open house so people can actually see how the daily operations occur.

• Those citizens that make claims of knowing how law enforcement works should ask for a ride along. See for yourself. I think you might find deputies are not afraid to go anywhere. Especially in this county. You will also find they make attempts to patrol areas that they get the best bang for the buck. They patrol, or at least should patrol, those areas known to provide the highest activity. There is no reason to patrol areas where nothing happens for the chance to catch a freak law breaker. So unless requested, you probably will not see a deputy sitting on the side of a desolate paved road waiting for a speeder. The reason you see the deputies in the city is probably because that is where the most people are. The crimes in the city, since the city is small, frequently bleed over into the county. Crimes in the county near the city lines bleed over into the city. It's not productive to patrol where nothing happens.

• Everyone I have talked to about this thinks the deputies should get more money, but no one wants higher property taxes. The sheriff's office already gets 100 percent of the county property taxes. The rest of county government is funded by other sources, such as the permit fees. Even if you rent, you would have to pay more if the property taxes go up because the landlord will raise the rent to cover the tax increase. So the question to ask is: Are you willing to pay higher taxes and/or rent so that more money can go to the sheriff's office?

## OPINION

# Letter to the editor

## Back HB 7005 relating to ignition interlocks

To: The Honorable Will Weatherford, Speaker, Florida House of Representatives, State Capitol, Room 420, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Speaker Weatherford,

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) respectfully asks for your support of two amendments to HB 7005. First, MADD asks you to amend HB 7005 to expand the use of ignition interlocks for first-time convicted drunk drivers with an illegal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or greater for a period of at least six months and, second, to rename the portion of bill relating to ignition interlocks the "Matthew Beard Act," after a victim who was killed by a drunk driver.

HB 7005 provides for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to conduct a study on the effectiveness of ignition interlocks as an alternative to driver license suspension. A study of the effectiveness of Ignition interlock devices has already been conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and MADD's advocacy efforts are grounded in this research. According to this research requiring or highly incentivizing interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers reduces drunk driving recidivism by 67 percent. Currently, 22 states require ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers, including all first time offenders.

MADD finds that ignition interlocks are the most effective countermeasure to stop the drunk driver from driving drunk. Currently, Florida requires ignition interlocks for all repeat and first-time convicted drunk drivers with a BAC of .15 or greater. HB 7005 would allow a judge to order an interlock for a first-time convicted drunk driver with a BAC of .08 to .14 for a period of six months for the offender in lieu of vehicle impoundment. This is an important step forward in the fight to eliminate drunk driving in Florida.

Other related DUI research from the CDC finds that "first-time" offenders are rarely first-time drunk drivers. Conservative estimates show that a first-time convicted DUI offender has driven drunk at least 80 times prior to the first arrest. And, that 50 to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers will continue to drive with a suspended driver's license. And, according to the Florida Department of Highway Safety Motor Vehicles, in 2012 there were 17,224 Florida residents convicted for driving on a suspended license which was suspended as a result of a previous DUI. MADD believes Florida needs a new approach to handle persons arrested for drunk driving as license suspension alone is no longer practical.

In consideration of MADD's request, we ask you to use the language below for the amendment giving a first offender the option to get an interlock in lieu of license suspension. This lan-

guage can be found in similar legislation.

The driver may apply for installation of an ignition interlock device in accordance with s. 322.271(7).

A person who applies for installation of an ignition interlock device in accordance with ss. 322.2615, or 322.2616, and complies with ignition interlock device requirements in accordance with s.316.1937, shall receive credit on a day-for-day basis for the time he or she holds a valid ignition interlock license toward any mandatory ignition interlock usage required for a conviction for violating s. 316.193 arising from the same incident.

The provisions within the proposed amendment above will help teach sober driving and has the opportunity to save lives in Florida as similar laws have in other states. Since New Mexico's interlock law was implemented in 2005, drunk driving fatalities are down by 38 percent. Since Arizona and Louisiana implemented their interlock law in 2007, drunk driving deaths have decreased by 43 and 35 percent, respectively. In Oregon, as a result of 2008 interlock law, DUI deaths are down 42 percent.

HB 7005 as amended gives judges the option to order interlocks for more first-time offenders and is a step in the right direction. MADD hopes you agree that the research and Florida data points to license suspension without an interlock option are ineffective. Therefore, we ask that you amend HB 7005 as proposed and take action to save lives on Florida's roads.

MADD believes that amendments allowing for twice-a-day testing or 24/7 sobriety programs are okay, but these programs should never replace the use of ignition interlock for a convicted drunk driver. If the 24/7 sobriety program is in lieu of ignition interlocks, MADD would oppose such legislation. 24/7 programs typically use twice-a-day alcohol testing or the use of alcohol ankle bracelet technology. MADD supports all offender ignition interlock laws because ignition interlocks separate drinking and driving. Alcohol ankle bracelets have a place in the adjudication process but are not proven effective in stopping drunk drivers. In fact, ankle bracelets WILL NOT stop a drunk driver from starting his or her vehicle. An ignition interlock will.

If you have any questions regarding MADD's support of ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers, please do not hesitate to contact Frank Harris at [frank.harris@madd.org](mailto:frank.harris@madd.org) or 877-275-6233.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,  
**Jan Withers**  
MADD national president

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## Staff

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# Man sought in bogus \$1 bill case

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

A local deputy is investigating the passing of a counterfeit \$1 bill late last week at a local convenience store.

Deputy Paul Jackson, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated in his report that he is looking for a white male who is thought to be in his mid-20s. The man is 5-feet, 10-inches, tall, has shoulder length brown hair and is described as skinny with a tan.

The deputy indicated the man entered

the store around 10 p.m. Thursday, April 17, and bought a can of instant tire repair for \$8.34. When he paid cash for the item, the clerk noticed that one of the dollar bills didn't feel right.

When the clerk checked the bill with a marker, the reaction of the marker with the paper indicated the bill was counterfeit.

The clerk then told the customer about the counterfeit bill and that she would have to keep it and notify the sheriff's office.

According to the clerk, the customer responded by saying: "Oh, sure, you keep it,"

stated the clerk.

He then left the store with another man. The clerk said they both got into a blue two-door car and drove south on S.R. 710.

Deputy Jackson went on to point out in his report that the bill appeared to be real, but the paper was not of the same quality as a real dollar bill.

If anyone has information about this case, they are asked to contact the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 863-763-3117.

# Chain ownership?



# Man accused of trying to bite, kick deputies

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News



**Antonio Vela**

A local man is being held on bond following his arrest for spitting at, and trying to bite and kick, local deputies who were initially searching for another man in an unrelated case.

Antonio Vela, 23, S.E. 36th Ave., was arrested Sunday, April 20, on a felony charge of resisting a law enforcement officer with violence. He was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of assault on a law enforcement officer (two counts) and disorderly conduct.

Vela is being held in the Okeechobee County Jail on a bond of \$10,500.

An arrest report by Deputy Adam Baker, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated he and fellow deputies Mark Margerum and Troy Garrison were looking for the other man who was apparently wanted on a charge of battery.

The deputies located that suspect lying in a yard in the 1700 block of S.W. Second Way.

As the deputies approached the suspect, Vela went to the other man and told him to "... run, the cops are after him," stated the arrest report.

Apparently when Deputy Margerum told Vela he was under arrest for obstruction of justice, the man reportedly told the deputy he didn't care if he went to jail. Then, as Deputy Margerum was putting the handcuffs on Vela, the man allegedly began to

shout obscenities at the deputies.

At one point Vela reportedly tried to spit in Deputy Margerum's face. He also tried to bite Deputy Baker and Deputy Margerum as he fought their attempts to arrest him, indicated the arrest report.

The report goes on to indicate the deputies were finally able to get Vela, who was kicking and screaming obscenities, into the back of Deputy Steven Pollock's patrol unit.

Deputy Margerum finally got Vela under control by using pepper spray, pointed out the arrest report. Vela then complied with the deputies and was taken to jail without further incident, added the report.

As for the other suspect, he was captured and arrested on a misdemeanor charge of battery.

# Cotton recognized at Capital Honors Convocation

Special to the Okeechobee News

COLUMBUS, Ohio—On April 17, LeAnna Cotton, a graduate of Okeechobee High School and member of the Capital University volleyball/softball team, was one of eight student-athletes to earn university or college awards Wednesday at the institution's Honors Convocation at Mees Hall Auditorium on campus.

Cotton, a nursing major, garnered one

of the school's most prestigious awards, which recognize outstanding performance in scholarship, extracurricular activities and/or other leadership roles.

Located in the Columbus, Ohio, neighborhood of Bexley, Capital University is a private, four-year undergraduate institution and graduate school. Capital prepares students for meaningful lives and purposeful careers through a relevant liberal arts core

curriculum and deep professional programs. Influenced by its Lutheran heritage, Capital places great emphasis on the free and open exchange of ideas, seeking out diverse perspectives, active participation in society, leadership and service. With a focus on rigor and experiential learning, the university capitalizes on its size, location, and heritage to develop the whole person, both inside and outside the classroom.

# COUNTY

Continued From Page 1

Later in the meeting, the county administrator will present an overview of the county's current finances.

Also on the agenda, Patrick Hoge of the Okeechobee County Extension Office will ask the county to designate the month of May to honor the 100-year anniversary of the extension service.

Roslind Brown will also ask the county to designate May as Prevent Teen Pregnancy Month in Okeechobee.

The county commission will meet in the Historic Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 N.W. Second St. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m.

The meeting will be available live online at <http://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/>.

in February. In March 2013, 387 residents collected benefits, a rate of 7.3 percent.

Glades County tied with Indian River and Gadsden counties for the 10th highest rate among Florida counties last month.

Glades County had 9.1 percent unemployment, ranked second in the state to Flagler County. St. Lucie had 8.1 percent, Indian River 7.6 percent, High-

lands 7.3 percent, Hardee 6.9 percent, Osceola 6.6 percent, DeSoto 6.5 percent, and Martin 6.5 percent.

The state rate stood at 6.4 percent in March, a slight increase from February's rate. The national jobless rate stood at 6.8 percent down from 7 percent in February.

# JOB

Continued From Page 1

during March.

The report showed 374 residents collected benefits in Glades County during March. There were 374 residents on the jobless roll

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## 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).

### John David Holt, 59

OKEECHOBEE — John David Holt died April 19, 2014. He was born July 20, 1954 in Okeechobee to John William and Evelyn Cone Holt. A resident of Indianatown and Okeechobee throughout his life, he was a retired control room operator with the power plant. He enjoyed shooting skeet, riding his Harley and spending time with his grandchildren. He was a member of Dunklin Memorial and the NRA.



Mr. Holt was preceded in death by his wife, Laura S. Holt.

He is survived by his son, Ian Holt; daughter, Laura Lee Holt; three grandchildren, Eli Braybon, Austin and Morgan McCrea; great granddaughter, Lyla Lee McCrea all of Stuart; sister, Ruth Ann Holt of Indianatown; four nieces, Christal, Suzette, Tessa and Alyssa; great niece, Hanna; great nephews, Braxton and Beni; best friend/dog, Peewee.

Memorial services will be held 4 p.m., Thursday, April 24, 2014 at Family Worship Center with Pastor Bruce Butler officiating.

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

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

### Tracy Dan Cook, 44

OKEECHOBEE — Tracy Dan Cook died April 19, 2014. He was born April 23, 1969 in Dothan, Alabama to Tommy Dan Cook and Rhonda Gayle Mixon. A resident of Okeechobee since 1980, he was a member of the Okeechobee High School Band until he graduated in 1988. Mr. Cook proudly served our country in the U.S. Air Force. He was a member of the Church of Our Saviour.

Mr. Cook was preceded in death by his grandparents, Gene Mixon "Big Daddy", Mildred Mixon "Big Momma" and Jewell Dean Cook "Sweet Momma"; and his stepsister, Shanda Altman.

He is survived by his mother, Rhonda Altman (Red) of Okeechobee; father, Tommy Dan Cook of Panama City; sister, Lisa Cook of Panama City; stepbrother, Shane Altman (Laura) of Okeechobee.

The family will receive friends 3 p.m. until services at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, PO Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

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

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

### Erwin Arthur Rowe, 88

OKEECHOBEE — Erwin Arthur Rowe died April 18, 2014. He was born November 6, 1925 in Skowhegan, Maine. He was raised on a dairy farm and grew up to run it. He enjoyed fishing, fixing things, feeding the squirrels and birds and painting.

Mr. Rowe was preceded in death by his wife, Witha Rowe.

He is survived by his daughters, Rebecca Campbell of Boca Raton and Rachel R. Piskura (Harold) of Okeechobee; and two grandchildren, Sarah and Steven.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Those wishing to leave a message of condolence may sign the register book at [www.OkeechobeeFuneralHome.com](http://www.OkeechobeeFuneralHome.com)

All arrangements are entrusted to the direction and care of the Buxton, Bass and Conway families of the Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 400 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, FL, 34972.

### Iva Pearl Godwin, 94

OKEECHOBEE — Iva Pearl Godwin died April 19, 2014. She was born February 2, 1920 in Person County, North Carolina to Thea and Esther Whitefield. A resident of Okeechobee since 1949, she was an L.P.N. and member of Grace Brethren. She was a member of Rebecca Lodge, Legion Auxiliary, Historical Society, Genealogy Society, and Past President of Florida State Fireman's Auxiliary Association.

Mrs. Godwin was preceded in death by her daughter, Ann Ebanks; and husband, Olen Godwin.



She is survived by her son, Jimmy Godwin of Ft. Pierce; two grandsons, Eddie and Justin; great grandchild, Lexie; brother, Clarence Whitefield of Durham, North Carolina; and sister, Lois Barrington (Leonard) of Grays Lake, Illinois.

Visitation was 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home with Brother Joe Bishop officiating. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, PO Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

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

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

### William Timothy McCullers, 54

VERO BEACH — William Timothy McCullers, 54, of Vero Beach, Florida lost his battle with lung cancer Friday, April 18, 2014 at his home surrounded by family. Timmy was born April 12, 1960 in Vero Beach, FL to BJ McCullers Sr. and Roberta Peterson McCullers. Timmy completed up to the 10th grade at Tabernacle Church. He then went to work for his father.



Timmy became a well-known local business man for over 30 years. He was a mud racer, loved to ski and loved the river. His main goal in life was supporting his family and raising his children. He became involved with the Vero Beach Senior High School band in 2002, which became another part of his life. He volunteered with local charities around Vero for the last 13 years. Timmy had a BIG heart and gave help whenever he was needed. He was also a member of The First Baptist Church of Vero Beach.

Timmy was survived by his wife of 28 years, Holly Romine McCullers; his three children, Allison McCullers Bartlett (Teresa), Joshua McCullers (Tracey) and Angela Joy McCullers, all of Vero Beach; siblings, Jimmy McCullers (Cindy) of Okeechobee, FL and Deborah Bryant (Doug) of Troy, AL. He was pre-deceased by two sons, Steven William and Gary Lee; as well as his granddaughter, Destiny Lee, who we believed took him home as she would have been five this month. We love and miss him dearly. He will always be in each of our hearts. Bless him and keep him.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fighting Indians Band Boosters, P.O. Box 5124 Vero Beach, FL 32961. Please make checks payable to Fighting Indians Band Boosters.

A Celebration of Life will begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 26, 2014 at Strunk Funeral Home in Vero Beach, FL.

### Benjamin Eugene Casey, 50

AVON PARK — Benjamin Eugene Casey, age 50 passed away Thursday, April 17, 2014 in Avon Park, Florida. Mr. Casey was born in Lake Wales, Florida to Hollis Edwin Casey and Willa Diane (Penny). Mr. Casey was a Correctional Officer for the State of Florida, he loved hunting and fishing and was a lifelong resident of Avon Park, Florida.



He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Casey of Avon Park; parents, Diane and Al Hawkins of Avon Park, and Hollis and Linda Casey of Frostproof; children, Makayla Casey of Wauchula, Jessica Brumley of Okeechobee, Brittny Brumley of Avon Park, Amber Clark of Avon Park, Ashton Clark of Avon Park, Jason Clark of Okeechobee and Brittny Casey of Avon Park; sisters, Kara Casey of Frostproof and Kathy Schmidt of Germany; step brothers, Stephen Hawkins and Alan Hawkins; one grandchild, Comer Rainer.

Visitation was held 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday, April 21, 2014 at Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home in Avon Park, Florida. Funeral services were 2 p.m., Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at the First Baptist Church in Avon Park. Pastor Jon Beck officiated.

Arrangements entrusted to: Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home of Avon Park, (863) 453-3101 [www.stephensonnelsonfh.com](http://www.stephensonnelsonfh.com)

### Johnie Martin Davis, Sr., 85

OKEECHOBEE — Johnie Martin Davis, Sr. died April 20, 2014. He was born June 25, 1928 in Highlands County, Florida to Luther and Sophia Prescott Davis. A lifetime resident of Okeechobee, he was of the Baptist faith and enjoyed cows, Civil War history and listening to Bluegrass. He proudly served our country in the U.S. Army.



Mr. Davis was preceded in death by his first wife, B.J. Davis; brothers, Marvin, Willie and Earl Davis; and sister, Bessie Bailey.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Judy Davis; two sons, Marty Davis (Robyn) and Jeff Davis; daughter, Melissa Jones (Jim) all of Okeechobee; nine grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren; and four stepchildren, Larry, Candy, Kathy and Steve.

Memorial services will be 2 p.m., Thursday, April 24, 2014 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home with Pastor John Glenn officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, PO Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

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

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

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# Area churches plan special events

**The 7th Day Christian Church**, 912 N.W. Park St., will host a sing, Friday, April 25, with Tina and Warren Green as featured singers. Services begin at 7:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome. For more information, call Doyle McDuffie at 863-763-2285.

**Okeechobee Presbyterian Church** will host a Theology 101 class on Sunday evenings, at 6:15 p.m., through May 16. All with a desire to learn more of divine truth are welcome.

**The Gathering Church**, 1735 S.W. 24th Ave., invites you to attend "The Story of Noah," being presented in Wachula, Fla., on Saturday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. Reserved seats and transportation is included in the fee of \$34 per person, leaving The Gathering at 4 p.m. the day of the event. The trip is sponsored by the Christian Singles of The Gathering and is not limited to singles or seniors—all of Okeechobee is invited. For information or to make a reservation, call Mollie Durbin at 863-610-1088, Sylvia Sievers at 863-801-0184, or Connie Phillips at 863-763-8929.

**Peace Lutheran Church** will have a free family movie on Friday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m. outdoors on the church grounds. It will be a big screen event with free popcorn and drinks and everyone in the community is welcome to attend. Bring a chair and blanket and enjoy a delightful family movie!

**The Gathering Church**, 1735 S.W. 24th Ave., invites you to attend "Living Free" a Christian recovery group for women on Tuesday nights at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Pastor Theresa Brown at 863-357-4418.

**The Gathering** hosts "Joy in the Mourning" a grief support group and bible study for anyone who has lost a loved one, through death or divorce. All are welcome to attend. The support group will meet every Monday at 6 p.m. and Tuesday at 2 p.m. at 1735 S.W. 24th Ave. For more information, call Gale at 863-623-8504.

Love Jesus? Every Monday morning, 8 a.m. at Hampton Inn, there is a **Bible study** held and you are invited. It is free if you don't eat, or you can have a great breakfast for only \$5. Brandon Tucker and Pastor Jim Benton are the speakers. More questions? Call 863-532-2482.

**Gathering in Grace and Prayer** meets every Wednesday at 7:45 a.m. in the park at the pavilion. All are welcome.

**Northside Baptist Church** invites all to join the church for old-fashioned preaching based on the Bible, God-focused prayer, hymns we grew up on, Southern-Gospel favorites, with piano and bass duets on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and Prayer Meeting on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Northside Baptist is located about 6 miles north on 441 at 51 NW 98th St.

There are many opportunities at **Peace Lutheran Church**, including the newly founded Peace Outreach, whose goals include getting everyone to discover their gifts and use them for the Glory of God. Another new opportunity is the Peace Garden



## Places of Worship

Club, focusing on church grounds beautification and growing vegetables in raised garden beds. All are welcome to attend the Peace Garden Club meetings on the last Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

**Okeechobee Mission Baptist Church** will host a discover youth program every Wednesday, from 7 to 8 p.m. For more information call 863-763-3681.

The AWANA Club at **Oakview Baptist Church** invites all children from pre-Kinder-garten, ages 3 to fifth graders. The club is from 5:45 to 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Come join in the fun as with the Cubbies, Sparks and T & T classes for Bible memory and game time fun! Call the church office for more details at 863-763-1699.

**Jesus Holy Ghost Crusade Ministry Soup Kitchen and Thrift Store**, 1401 N.E. Park St., is in need of donations of any type. All donations are tax deductible. Help is needed in putting a roof on the church and painting the building. The thrift store is open Monday-Friday from noon to 4 p.m. and the building fund yard sale will be the first and second Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The soup kitchen is under construction. For more information, call 863-634-9194.

**Church of God of Prophecy** has an Open Arms Ministry, at 102 N.W. 10th St. The Hurting Women's Ministry meets on the second and fourth Friday of each month at 7 p.m. This is a ministry for women of all ages who are going through or have been through crisis in their lives. For more information, please call 863-254-8304.

**The First United Methodist Church** Library would like to invite everyone to visit their Lending Library, Room 20, at 200 N.W. Second St., in Okeechobee. All are welcome to complete an application, no charge, to take advantage of wholesome reading, viewing and educational material for adults, children and youth. They have fiction and nonfiction in literature, philosophy, religion and Christian romance, social sciences, geography and history. They also have materials for home schooling, with over 200 DVDs, VCRs, cassettes, national magazines, etc.

Hours are Sunday, 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. For further information, call Doris Entry at 863-467-1548.

The **Peace Lutheran Church** Quilters meet every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who loves to quilt or wishes to learn is welcome to join the group at 11 a.m. Bring a snack for lunch break. Dessert and coffee is furnished.

*Note: An Okeechobee Church Directory is now available at FloridaNewszap.com with addresses and service times for local churches, or go to www.newszap.com/okeechobeechurches. Send additions or corrections for the online directory to okeenews@newszap.com, or fill out the form provided on the website. The Okeechobee News welcomes news from area churches for this weekly column. E-mail okeenews@newszap.com.*

## Community Events

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### Eagles host community dinners

On Wednesday, **April 23**, the Cypress Hut Eagles Auxiliary is serving spaghetti dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. On Thursday, April 24, tacos are served at the bar. The public is invited. Proceeds from these dinners go to various community and national charities. For information, call the Cypress Hut Eagles at 863-467-1154.

### Special Olympics benefit set

The Special Response Team (SRT) from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office will hold their annual Tip-A-Cop benefit to raise money for Special Olympics Florida on Wednesday, April 23, at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Ave. SRT members will be celebrity servers from 5 until 8 p.m. Advance tickets are \$11 and tickets at the door will be \$14.

### Foster care meeting slated

Please join us at our breakfast on Wednesday, **April 23**, at First United Methodist Church of Okeechobee, 200 N.W. Second St., to learn more about Devereux Community Based Care of Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast and our urgent need for foster families. This is not a fundraiser; but a call to action. If you have ever thought of being a foster parent, come to our breakfast. If you know someone who wants to be a foster parent, bring them. If you have ever wondered how you can help, just show up. You can RSVP online, or call Christina Kaiser at 772-528-0362.

### Moose hosting bingo

Okeechobee Moose Lodge, #1753, 159 N.W. 36th St., invites you to join them for bingo Thursday, **April 24**, at 1 p.m. and on Friday, April 25 at 5:30 p.m. Lunch is available for a small charge on Thursday. Sunday breakfast will resume in the fall. Proceeds benefit Moose Charities.

### Republican women to meet

The Okeechobee Federated Republican Women will host Major Noel Stephen, from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, as the keynote speaker for their 6:30 p.m. meeting on **April 24**. The meeting will be held in the private dining room at Cowboy's. For information or to RSVP, call 863-634-8474.

### Cattlewomen to host BBQ

Okeechobee Cattlewomen will host a barbecue Friday, **April 25**, at Eli's. For an \$8 donation you will get a brisket sandwich, a side, dessert and a soda. Delivery is available for an order of five or more dinners. To pre-order, call Melissa at 863-634-7712 or Janette at 863-801-4426.

### Relay for Life is April 25

Join the American Cancer Society in the world's largest movement to end cancer. Form a Relay for Life Team and sign up to start fundraising. Relay for Life will be held in Okeechobee on Friday, **April 25**, from 6 until 9 p.m. at the Agri-Civic Center, 4601 S.R. 710. For information, visit their website at [www.relayforlife.org/okeechobee](http://www.relayforlife.org/okeechobee).

### Project Prom to open April 26

Project Prom will host another day for students needing a dress or suit for their eighth grade formal, church formal or their high school prom. Parents are welcome to come and no financial questions are asked. It will be held at the Okeechobee County Library, 206 S.W. 16th St., Saturday, **April 26**, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. This is your last chance until next year to get a dress or suit. Contact Tammi Kelly at 772-708-6764 or by e-mail at [tammiphotos@gmail.com](mailto:tammiphotos@gmail.com).

### FFA alumni clay shoot slated

The annual Okeechobee FFA Alumni Sporting Clay Shoot will be held at Quail Creek Plantation on Saturday, **April 26**. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and the event starts at 10 a.m. Sponsorships are available. For information, call Buddy Mills at 772-519-0603, Darryl Boney at 863-634-0642 or Ray Annuez at 863-610-0219; or, e-mail at [okeechobeeffa.alumni@gmail.com](mailto:okeechobeeffa.alumni@gmail.com).

### Barbecue benefits church

A barbecue chicken dinner fundraiser to help the Okeechobee Church of the Trinity and Trinity Christian Private School funds, will be held Friday, **May 2**, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Dinner includes a quarter chicken (leg portion) and all the fixings for a donation of \$7.50. If meals are purchased in advance, you get 10% off your total order. For information, call 863-623-6500.

### Trail Riders Club plans benefit

Big Lake Trail Riders Club is a non-profit organization that puts on an equestrian 5 speed show event every third Saturday of the month at the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Arena on U.S. 441 N. We have been a part of history at that arena since 1986. Our club is having a quarter auction to help pay for our expenses. That auction be held Friday, **May 2**, at the Okeechobee Civic Center on U.S. 98 N. Doors will open at 6 p.m. There will also be a spaghetti dinner for \$6. For information, call Donna Munn at 863-447-9595.

### Pitch, hit and run tilt slated

Pitch, hit and run will be held Saturday, **May 3**, at the sports complex baseball field #4 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. For information, call 863-763-6950.

# Your Medical and Health Care Directory

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Special to the Okeechobee News/NES

## Students of the Week

North Elementary School would like to congratulate their students of the week for the week of March 31: Tydarias Thomas, Adliegh Schwrie, Juan Bucio-Diaz, Serenity Billie, Kiersten Payne, Korbyn Lewis, Dakota Hunt, Logan Penny, Savannah Yates, Reed Pung, Julio Alcantara, Isabell Fuentes, Mamie McCoy, Gustavo Jaenz, Cristian Gonzalez, Oscar Lambero, Zackery Thompson, Daniel Ruiz, Perry Hardee, Hunter Huffman, Aidyn Starr, Madi Hilliard, Sophia Tanguma, Edward Munoz, Blye Lutz, Ben Schott, Rosa Gomez, Jason Nieland, Madalyn Peterson, Katarena Cowart, Faith Davis, Elijah Busbin, Ricardo Hernandez, Decoby Chavis and Rachel Morales.



Special to the Okeechobee News/YMS

## Students of the Week

Yearling Middle School is proud to announce the students of the week for March 31: Natalie Saucedo, Madison Fisher, Erik Vallejo, Danielle Harper and Bethany Shirey.

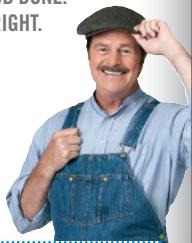
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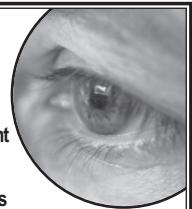
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# Second man charged for scrapping wire

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

A second supervisor on a construction site at Brighton Reservation has been arrested for allegedly selling stolen electrical wire for scrap at recycling facilities in Okeechobee.

Joseph Wayne Williams, 55, S.W. Conners Highway, was arrested Monday, April 21, on a felony charge of dealing in stolen property. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a \$10,000 bond.

Jail records indicate he has been released on bond.

John Adam Salmons, 37, N.W. Third St., Okeechobee, was arrested April 14 on felony charges of dealing in stolen property and giving false information to a secondhand metals recycler. He was booked into the county jail on a \$7,500 bond, and has been released on bond.

An arrest report by Detective Mark Shireman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated the copper wire was taken from a construction site on East Harvey Pond Road. The wire apparently was in a plastic barrel and was of various sizes, continued the report.

Detective Shireman stated in his report the wire was actually the property of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. He indicated the tribe purchases building supplies for jobs

being done on the reservation then gives those supplies to contractors to use. This helps reduce costs, added the investigator.

According to the arrest report Salmons and Williams, who were both supervisors on the job site, sold the copper wire to different recycling facilities in Okeechobee.

Detective Shireman pointed out Williams sold 1,651 pounds of wire and received a total of \$3,068.80. Salmons, continued the detective, sold 2,416 pounds of copper and received a total of \$4,183.40.

The detective went on to state that he could document Salmons selling wire for scrap on 14 occasions. While Williams, added the investigator, could be documented completing six transactions.

Neither man has been charged with the theft of wire since that alleged crime occurred in Glades County. Detective Shireman said he could only charge the men with purported crimes committed in Okeechobee County.

Some of the scrapped wire was allegedly identified by the site manager for the electrical contractor on the job. Some of the wire could not be identified because it had been



**Joseph W. Williams**



**John Adam Salmons**

stripped of its insulation, added Detective Shireman.

To bolster his case, the detective was able to get transaction forms from the recycling centers that indicated Salmons and Williams had sold the wire, indicated the arrest report.

The detective went on to state he also had Salmons' thumbprint on transaction forms, as well as photographs of him completing the transactions.

The detective pointed out both men were supervisors on the job site and one of their alleged responsibilities was to see that the wire was properly stored.

According to the investigator's report he was able to link the dates and times when Salmons and Williams were working with the dates and times the copper was scrapped.

"The dates and times indicate both men would leave the job site and drive directly to the secondhand metal recyclers, based upon drive time estimates," stated Detective Shireman.

## Okeechobee Arrest Report

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

- Edgar Ochoa, 58, N.W. 36th St., Okeechobee, was arrested April 17 on a South Carolina warrant charging him with the felony of being a fugitive from justice based on the felony charges of reckless homicide and leaving the scene of an accident with personal injury. He is being held without bond.

- Juan Macias Jr., 23, S.E. 34th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested April 17 by Deputy Fred Bradley on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the misdemeanor or violation of probation - driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Charles Robert Bartlett, 43, E. Riverside Drive, Jupiter, was arrested April 18 by Deputy Steven Pollock on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence and possession of marijuana under 20 grams. His bond had not been set as of newspaper deadline.

- Tonnette Marie Learn, 51, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested April 18 by Deputy Ben Lisle on a DOC warrant charging her with the felonies of violation of probation - uttering a forged instrument and violation of probation - forgery. She is being held without bond.

out bond.

- Phillip Morris Herrin, 42, S.W. Denton St., Port St. Lucie, was arrested April 19 by Deputy Yamil Astacio on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence and battery. His bond was set at \$2,000.

- Kayla Huff, 13, N.W. 53rd Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested April 21 by Deputy Cari Arnold on felony charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (two counts). She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

- Crystal Ann Rose, 20, N.E. 65th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested April 21 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (hydromorphone) without a prescription and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. Her bond was set at \$2,750.

- Eric Anselmo, 19, S.W. Second Way, Okeechobee, was arrested April 21 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - burglary (two counts) and violation of probation - grand theft (two counts). He is being held without bond.

*This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.*

## Clues sought in theft of trailer

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

A detective with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) is gathering information into the recent theft of a pull trailer from a U.S. 441 N. construction site.

The initial report by OCSO Deputy Ben Lisle states the theft occurred sometime between 5 p.m. Thursday, April 17, and 7:30 a.m. Friday, April 18. The construction site is located in the 4100 block of U.S. 441 N.

Deputy Lisle described the trailer as a 7-foot x 14-foot dual-axle dump trailer with a bumper pull, high sides and after-market load ramps on the driver's side. The trailer

was in like-new condition and was empty at the time it was taken, the deputy added.

According to the report there was a chain around the gates and it was secured with two locks. One of the locks was for Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue and was still attached to the chain. The second lock had to have been cut in order to be removed, added Deputy Lisle.

The case has been assigned to OCSO Detective Howard Pickering.

If anyone has information concerning this case, they are asked to contact the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 863-763-3117.

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# Henry qualifies for regional meet

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Tabatha Henry missed most of the track season due to a lower back injury but was still able to come back last week and qualify for the regional with a second place finish in the girls 3,200 meter finals.

OHS Lady Brahman track coach A.J. Mayernik said Henry felt pain earlier in the season while racing and she went through some extensive physical therapy to recover in time for the district meet.

Mayernik admits injuries were a problem for the Lady Brahman team this year.

"We had a lot of unexpected injuries that we couldn't prevent. It put a little damper on some our possibilities to qualify for the regional race," he added.

The regional will be held Wednes-

day, April 23, at Miami Northwestern High School.

The best hope to qualify was from the girls 4x800 meter relay team. However, two of the girls couldn't compete at districts and that put the Lady Brahman out of the running.

Mayernik said he was impressed overall in the dedication shown by the OHS track team this year.

"I think the season went well. We had a young team and the roster was small in number but the athletes were very dedicated to the sport," he said. "I never had to worry about them putting effort into their work."

Mayernik said he felt three girls had opportunities to qualify for regional but due to injury and other factors were unable to meet their potential last week in the district at Palm Beach Gardens.

He went on to point out that every athlete was able to run their best personal time this year which he thinks is very important.

"You really can't ask for a whole lot more than that. I have nothing to be unhappy about. The girls worked hard and did well this season," said the coach.

Mayernik said he thinks Henry has the ability to once again qualify for the state finals. She ran under 13 minutes, at 12:58.31 in her first race back after more than a month off, so she has the potential to make the state race again.

"It was her first meet without pain. For her to come back like that and make regional was more than I was expecting," he added.

Henry has signed a letter of intent to attend the University of Central Florida on a track scholarship.

## Brahman harriers set for regional event

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

The Brahman boys 4x800 relay team is looking forward to competition at the 3A-4 regional track, April 23-26, meet at Miami Northwestern.

The team consists of Emmanuel Garcia, Gerardo Saucedo, Isaac Garcia and Daniel Shelley.

Gaona also qualified to run in the 1,600 meter and the 3,200 meter races at the regional.

Boys track coach Tyrone Smith said this was a great accomplishment for his team. He noted they have worked hard all year and showed great improvement as time went on.

"Boynton Beach dominated almost everything at districts but it was great for us to see competition up in Vero Beach and Sebastian and a few teams from Miami. The coaches knew what we were getting into at districts," he noted.

Smith said it is a longshot that any of the boys qualify for state when he considers the times they are running right now but he still wants them to go to Miami and do their best.

"They're young, two sophomores, a freshman and a junior. I just hope they can run a personal best down there and Emmanuel can improve on his times in the mile and two mile," he added.

Shelley, a ninth grader this year, said he ran as hard as he could during the relay and plans to work hard at practice and do better at the regional.

"I came out to this track one year for the Hershey's Track meet and I thought I was pretty good so I thought to myself I might as well try the sport," he added.

Shelley also did well in cross country this past fall. He said he wants to continue to improve his running skills and is looking forward to the challenge at the regional.

His parents are Mitchell Gainey and Malina Shelley.

Garcia said the district meet was intense with some strong winds and fast competition. He said the team tried their best and kept telling themselves that they could qualify for regional.

"I was hoping to qualify and I was glad that we made it. I hope to get faster over the next two years and maybe get a college scholarship," he added.

Garcia said the relay team didn't get off to a great start at regional but made a late push and was able to get fourth place.

He thanked his coaches for all their assistance this year.

"I know we won't get first at regional and maybe not the top three but we will try our best and we won't go there to lose and we hope to do well," he added.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Daniel Shelley (left) and Isaac Garcia (right) will compete in the 4x800 relay race April 23 at Miami Northwestern High School.

His parents are Nicolas Garcia and Maria Cruz.

Smith also praised his field competitors this year. EJ Neal made real strides in the shot put while Devon Wigfall performed well in the shot put and discuss throw.

"We're young and, hopefully, going into next year we will have some more guys come in and build this thing up and see what happens," he added.

REBECCA BOLDT HAMILTON, P.A.

**Has Moved to a New Location:**

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**REBECCA H. BOLDT**  
Attorney at Law

**RICHARD W. SEYMOUR,**  
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**Employment**

**Employment**

**Employment Full Time**

**Employment Full Time**

**Washington County School Program At Okeechobee Youth Development Center ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY**

**Dean of Student Services**

(This school is located in a Department of Juvenile Justice Facility)

Position requirements are detailed at website:

Go to <http://www.wcsdschools.com>

Go to Administrative Services and click on

Job Announcements

Create an account with a username and password, unless you have already completed this process.

Complete your application for a CERTIFIED POSITION and attach a resume, etc.

Then, you **MUST APPLY** for this position.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Apr. 24th, 2014 (midnight)

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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.

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## Public Notice

## Public Notice

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**Cooks, prep-cooks, aides and dishwashers with good references may apply at 406 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Okeechobee**

**These are full-time positions with benefits for the right people. All perspective employees must be able to pass a drug test, physical and Level II background screening as a prerequisite to hiring. EOE/DFWP**

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**Public Notices**

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO: 2013-CA-000449 UCN: 472013CA00449XXCICI**

**U.S. BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF MID-STATE TRUST VII BY GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC, AS SERVICER WITH DELEGATED AUTHORITY Plaintiff,**

**VS. SERAFIN LEVYA; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SERAFIN LEVYA; Defendant(s).**

**NOTICE OF SALE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, PURSUANT TO THE JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE ENTERED IN THE ABOVE CAUSE, I WILL SELL THE PROPERTY SITUATED IN OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DESCRIBED AS:**

**EXHIBIT "B"**

**880696**

Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 7, Township 37 South, Range 35 East, run thence North 85°41'35" West along the South boundary line of said Section 7 for a distance of 70.02 feet. Thence run North 0°25'55" East parallel with the East boundary line of said Section 7 for a distance of 831.72 feet; Thence run North 36°23'35" West for a distance of 759.28 feet to the Point of Beginning. Thence continue North 36°23'35" West for a distance of 75.00 feet; Thence run North 85°41'35" West parallel with the South boundary line of said Section 7 for a distance of 140.57 feet; Thence run South 36°23'35" East for a distance of 140.67 feet to the Point of Beginning. Thence run South 85°41'35" East for a distance of 140.57 feet; Thence run South 36°23'35" West for a distance of 75.00 feet; Thence run North 85°41'35" East for a distance of 140.67 feet to the Point of Beginning. 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**Public Notice****Public Notice**

**IN CIRCUIT COURT, NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.  
CIVIL DIVISION  
CASE NO. 2012CA401**

HARBOR COMMUNITY BANK, a Florida banking corporation, as successor by corporate reorganization of First Bank and Trust Company of Indiantown, Plaintiff,  
v.  
JERRY E. OBERLEY and MARY V. OBERLEY, etc., et al., Defendants.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 2, 2014, entered by the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida, that certain case, the docket number of which is 2012CA401, wherein HARBOR COMMUNITY BANK, a Florida banking corporation, is Plaintiff, and JERRY E. OBERLEY and MARY V. OBERLEY, etc., et al., are Defendants, SHARON ROBERTSON, Clerk of Circuit Court, will, on the 21st day of May, 2014, at 11:00 o'clock A.M., or as soon thereafter as the sale may be held, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 North West 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida (Second Floor, Jury Assembly Room) the following described real estate, situate, lying, and being in Okeechobee County, Florida:

**A PARCEL OF LAND IN SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 38 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST AND IN SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, LYING SOUTHWESTERLY OF S.R. #15 (CONNERS'S HIGHWAY), OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:**

FROM A 5'X 5" CONCRETE MONUMENT MARKING THE NORTH-EAST CORNER OF SECTION 6, BEAR SOUTH 89 DEGREES 42'42" WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION A DISTANCE OF 4686.16 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF S.R. #15; THENCE SOUTH 51 DEGREES 30'19" EAST ALONG SAID LINE A DISTANCE OF 10.02 FEET TO A POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE PROCEED SOUTH 38 DEGREES 29'41" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 228.40 FEET TO THE CENTRAL & SOUTHERN FLORIDA FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT LEVEL LD-4 RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE; THENCE PROCEED NORTH 54 DEGREES 55'02" WEST A DISTANCE OF 200.18 FEET; THENCE PROCEED NORTH 38 DEGREES 29'41" EAST A DISTANCE OF 240.32 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF S.R. #15; THENCE PROCEED SOUTH-EASTERLY ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

THIS PROPERTY IS ALSO DESCRIBED AS: LOTS 3 AND 4 OF AN UNRECORDED SURVEY, PROPERTY LOCATED IN SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 38 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST AND IN SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND PREPARED BY W. L. WILLIAMS DATED JANUARY 1971.

TOGETHER WITH:

1977 FERN DOUBLE MOBILE HOME IDENTIFICATION NUMBER #TMGA5312FA & #TMGA5312FB  
1973 CNCR SINGLE WIDE MOBILE HOME IDENTIFICATION NUMBER #333422621  
1970 CRAN SINGLE WIDE MOBILE HOME IDENTIFICATION NUMBER #JCG4512C1N6440

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the date of the sale. DATED THIS 3RD DAY OF April, 2014

SHARON ROBERTSON  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
BY: Sandra L. Creech  
Deputy Clerk

FRANK H. FEE, IV, ESQ. of FEE, DeROSS & FEE  
426 Avenue A, Fort Pierce, Florida 34950 (772) 461-5020  
Fla. Bar No. 0576921 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. 46490 on 4/23,30/2014

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN  
AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION  
CASE NO.  
472013CA000055CAAXMX**

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
BRETT QUINLIN; et al;  
Defendants.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated **MARCH 19, 2014**, and entered in Case No. 472013CA000055CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for OKEECHOBEE County, Florida, wherein Nationstar Mortgage LLC, is Plaintiff and BRETT QUINLIN; KIMBERLY QUINLIN; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; are defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in THE JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, at 312 N.W. THIRD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, in OKEECHOBEE County, FLORIDA 34972, at **11:00 A.M.**, on the **7th day of May, 2014**, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:  
**LOT 3 AND 4, BLOCK 22, NORTH WEST ADDITION TO OKEECHOBEE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 25 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

A person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Dated this 27th day of March 2014.  
SHARON ROBERTSON  
As Clerk of said Court  
By: Sandra L. Creech  
As Deputy Clerk

Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540  
Notices to Persons With Disabilities - If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE  
COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CIVIL DIVISION  
CASE NO. 2012-CA-555**

TD BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
JAMES C. HESTER; TIFFANY D. HESTER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JAMES C. HESTER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TIFFANY D. HESTER; CONNERS GABLES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; and JOHN DOE and JANE DOE, unknown parties in possession,  
Defendants.

**NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 10, 2014 (the "Judgment"), entered in Civil Case No. 2012-CA-555 of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, in which TD BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, is Plaintiff, and JAMES C. HESTER, TIFFANY D. HESTER, CONNERS GABLES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., JOHN DOE n/k/a JAMES HESTER SR. and JANE DOE n/k/a REBECCA HESTER are Defendants.

The Clerk of Court will sell the Property as defined in the Judgment and as set forth below at a public sale on May 21, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. to the "highest bidder" for cash in the Jury Assembly Room at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center,

**Public Notice**

2nd Floor, 312 North 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, in accordance with Section 45.031, Florida Statutes.

The "highest bidder" for purposes of this Notice of Sale, is defined as the party who bids the largest amount of money to purchase the Property (as defined below) and who completes the sale in a timely fashion, as hereinafter set out. The one who bids the largest amount of money to purchase the Property (as defined below) shall be permitted to complete the sale by delivering to the Clerk, the balance of such bid, over and above the deposit, by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the sale.

The following property located in Okeechobee, Florida, is the subject of this Notice of Sale:

**Lot 6, less the North 63 feet thereof and the North 66 feet of Lot 7, Block 18, of a revised and addition to plat of Connors Gables, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 3, Page(s) 15, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida**

together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures ("the Property").

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens, must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

DATED on April 10, 2014.  
SHARON ROBERTSON  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
BY: Sandra L. Creech  
Deputy Clerk

465039 ON 4/23,30/2014

# SUDOKU

**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!

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

Level: Beginner

**Here's How It Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted to 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!

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

ANSWER:

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

Find it faster. Sell it sooner in the classifieds.

# OHS flag grid team eases by S.L. Centennial, 21-20

**By Charles M. Murphy**

Okeechobee News

Laporte Morris caught a 65-yard touchdown down with 15 seconds to play as Okeechobee stunned St. Lucie West Centennial, 21-20, in prep flag football action Monday at Brahman Stadium.

Morris added a 64-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter and Baylee Farless caught a short touchdown pass in the first half from Alyssa Coleman. Coleman had two touchdown passes for OHS.

Morris said her last-minute touchdown play was a great way to end the regular season/

"I'm glad we came back at the last minute and I'm proud of my team for working on defense and offense," she said.

Morris leaped just shy of midfield to catch the pass and then outran the Eagle defenders to the end zone.

"At first I thought I was going to miss it and I thought the defense was going to catch me. I knew I had to keep pushing myself so I wouldn't get caught," she added.

Okeechobee's defense played well when it had to with three interceptions in the final quarter -- two by Farless and the third by McKenzie Fountain. Heaven Feltenberger had a tackle for loss and Kelsie Chartier led the defense in flag pulls.

Tiffany Bowers accounted for the winning point as she caught a ball deflected by a teammate for the conversion. Sarah Hurst added a conversion point for OHS.

Coach Jimmy Mills said the game could have gone either way and there really wasn't much he could tell his team after Centennial took a 20-14 lead with a 30-yard touchdown play with 33 seconds left.

"That was kind of a rough situation. The game could have gone either way and it was kind of crazy for us to come back and win. It was quite the achievement," he added.

Mills said the Eagles speed in the backfield made it tough on his defenders and confused his rushers.

Okeechobee will meet Martin County in the district tournament next Monday at 5:30 p.m. at Martin County High School.



Tiffany Bowers was the lone senior on the flag football team this year. She was joined at senior parent night by her mother Ruth McKenna (left).



Baylee Farless had several nice runs for OHS. She also caught a touchdown pass in the Lady Brahman victory over Centennial.

# Waste Management honored for ethics

Special to the Okeechobee News

On March 26, Waste Management (NYSE:WM), a leading environmental solution for North America, has been recognized by the Ethisphere Institute, an independent center of research promoting best practices in corporate ethics and governance, as a 2014 World's Most Ethical Company®.

This is the seventh time that Waste Management has been honored with this award, which recognizes organizations that continue to raise the bar on ethical leadership and corporate behavior. World's Most Ethical Company honorees understand the correlation between ethics, reputation and daily interactions with their brand and that the award belongs as much to their associates as it does to them. Waste Management is one of only two companies in the Environmental Services industry honored this year.

"This recognition reflects our most fundamental commitment to keeping the environment—and our people and our neighbors—safe," said David Steiner, chief executive officer and president of Waste Management. "As an industry leader, we continue to develop strategies to extract value from waste stream to minimize our environmental im-

pact, while at the same time demonstrating a culture where safety and ethics are core beliefs."

"The entire community of World's Most Ethical Companies believe that customers, employees, investors and regulators place a high premium on trust and that ethics and good governance are key in earning it," said Ethisphere's Chief Executive Officer, Timothy Erblich. "Waste Management joins an exclusive community committed to driving performance through leading business practices. We congratulate everyone at Waste Management for this extraordinary achievement."

The World's Most Ethical Company assessment is based upon the Ethisphere Institute's Ethics Quotient™ framework.

Scores are generated in five key categories: ethics and compliance program (25 percent), reputation, leadership and innovation (20%), governance (10 percent), corporate citizenship and responsibility (25 percent) and culture of ethics (20 percent).

The full list of the 2014 World's Most Ethical Companies can be found at <http://ethisphere.com/worlds-most-ethical/wme-honorees/>.

# Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

## ACROSS

- 1 Parking lot attendant
- 6 False friends
- 11 Brillo competitor
- 14 St. Teresa's home
- 15 Just beginning to learn
- 16 Demolition need
- 17 High-maintenance Gonzales?
- 19 Native Nebraskan
- 20 Power co. service
- 21 Pitcher Maglie
- 22 Dove call
- 23 Off-the-cuff stuff
- 26 Took a chance on
- 28 Cinque e uno
- 29 Naps, say
- 33 Versatile bean
- 34 Fond du \_\_\_, Wisconsin
- 35 Like a blue moon, in old Rome
- 36 Hand-holding group dances
- 39 Sacred synagogue cabinets
- 41 Muse of poetry
- 43 Forum robe
- 44 Rahm Emanuel, vis-à-vis Chicago
- 46 Felipe or Matty of baseball
- 47 Outdated PC monitor
- 48 Curly tormentor
- 49 December drop-in
- 51 \_\_ to the city
- 52 Bee bites
- 55 One in the game
- 57 Curved part
- 58 Feverish
- 60 In need of sharpening
- 61 Round-bottomed cooker
- 62 Overeating bird tempting Sylvester?
- 67 Eden outcast
- 68 Spooky
- 69 "Sesame Street" roommate
- 70 "L.A. Law" co-star Susan
- 71 Sports page data
- 72 Sporty sunroofs

## DOWN

- 1 Airport shuttle, often
- 2 Many a Monopoly prop.
- 3 More than a fib
- 4 Respected village figure
- 5 President after Polk
- 6 Like "stewardess" nowadays, briefly
- 7 "I \_\_ what you did there"
- 8 Meadow moms
- 9 Storm-tracking device
- 10 In vogue
- 11 Bullwinkle pal who's been working out?
- 12 En pointe, in ballet
- 13 Waited in line, say
- 18 Harsh
- 23 Muslim religion
- 24 Stiller's partner
- 25 Fussy Disney mouse?

- 50 Way off base
- 52 Cut, as logs
- 53 Valuable stash
- 54 Driving hazard
- 56 Bright-eyed
- 59 Actress \_\_\_ Flynn Boyle
- 60 Salon supplies
- 63 \_\_\_ for tat
- 64 Record producer Brian
- 65 Gratuity
- 66 "Right!"

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



# BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

## AIR CONDITIONING

**EMORY WALKER CO. INC.**  
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration  
**7/24 SERVICE FOR OUR CUSTOMERS**  
208 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. • Okeechobee  
Serving the Lake Area for 40 Years! **863-763-6742**

CAC042747  
CAC014022  
CAC057129

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.FREE Estimates on System Replacements.  
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## ATTORNEYS

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[Rboldthamilton@aol.com](mailto:Rboldthamilton@aol.com) 180 NW 3rd Ave. Suite C, Okeechobee FL

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SATURDAY APRIL 26<sup>th</sup> 10AM-5PM

PREOWNED 2012 FORD FOCUS  
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