



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 105 No. 53

Friday, May 2, 2014

50¢ Plus tax

**OMS students warned to stop 'sexting'**  
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**Teen accused of breaking into school bus**  
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**Corps explains CEPP delay**  
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**Project Prom helps teens**  
... Page 2

## Lake Levels

**13.07 feet**

Last Year: 13.40 feet



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



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

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

## National Day of Prayer

Okeechobee community members gathered on the Okeechobee Courthouse lawn to observe the National Day of Prayer on Thursday. Students from various Christian Schools like Faith Academy, Okeechobee Christian Academy, Peace Lutheran and Rock Solid performed God Bless America accompanied by Sandy Perry, director of the Okeechobee Community Choir. For more see, page 14. For National Day of Prayer photos online, see the Florida.newszap.com or click on the link on the Okeechobee News page on Facebook.

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Tabatha Henry battled back from a herniated disc in her back to finish fourth at last week's regional and will represent Okeechobee in the state finals Saturday at the University of North Florida in the 3,200 meters.

Henry missed about five weeks of training due to an injury this spring and she really isn't sure what caused the problem, "It might have been too many stadiums, a change in shoes, we have no idea."

Henry admits the injury was a scary experience as her running career is very important to her future.

At first she wasn't sure how long she would miss. She worked hard to return though, and has learned more about stretching and exercise that will keep her body in better shape for running. She also will be working to improve her upper body strength. She admits she gains weight when she trains because of the extra muscle and tends to lose weight when she isn't in training mode. Tabatha recently accepted a scholarship offered by the University of Central Florida. Henry recently visited the campus and was able to see a college track meet, meet the coaches and her future teammates and really is excited about next fall.

## School officials consider options

Valedictorian honors may be replaced with Cum Laude system

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Recognition of top graduates See **SCHOOLS** — Page 5

at Okeechobee High School, a combination of the Okeechobee Freshman Campus and Okeechobee High School for school grading purposes, and a change of start times at the high

## Telephone scam takes violent turn

Caller threatens pizza delivery will have bomb

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

What began as a common See **SCAM**— Page 14

phone scam took a violent turn when the con artist threatened an elderly man that he would come to his home disguised as a pizza delivery man and he would be armed with a bomb.

The man's wife, who asked that she and her husband not

## Henry ready for state track finals

"I'm so excited about it. I love the coach and my teammates, the track meet was a really awesome experience," she noted.

Henry competed in the state final last year and finished 14th. Her goal this year is to lower her time and improve her finish. She has not experienced any pain and is working out hard to lower her times at the state final.

"My goal is to lower my time by 20 seconds from the regional. I dropped 20 seconds between districts and regional and I hope to get under 12:30 in the state final," she added.

See **HENRY** — Page 14



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Tabatha Henry overcame physical problems this spring to qualify for the fifth state final.**

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# Project Prom helps 168 local teens with formal attire

Special to the Okeechobee News

In January a group of community members decided to do something to help Okeechobee High School students who wanted to go to the prom, but could not afford appropriate attire. They came up with "Project Prom," which would encourage area residents to donate old prom dresses and other formal clothing so that it could be given to area students.

They needed help getting started.

My Aunt's House, The Closet provided space to store the dresses. The Okeechobee News agreed to serve as a drop off point for donations.

Donations started to pour in. The initial goal for Project Prom was 100 dresses. After only six weeks, that goal had been reached with more dresses and suits still coming in every day.

The original plan had been to use space at The Closet for dress selection and fittings, but the project had outgrown the space.

The B.R.A.T. club stepped up and offered to help. The B.R.A.T. Club helped arranged for space for the clothing selection and fittings at South Elementary on April 19. Soon the dress count was up to 180. Some people even started to ship things from out of state

to Okeechobee's Project Prom.

By April 19, Project Prom had 250 dresses. South Elementary's cafeteria was filled with beautiful gowns of every size, length and color and well as 20 suits and a selection of ties for the young men. Donors also provided shoes and accessories.

The doors opened and a steady stream of high school students came in. As each dress or suit was chosen, the clothing was steamed and placed in a plastic dress bag. The bags were donated by Waste Management.

Exhausted by the end of the day, the group packed up and headed home. But Project Prom wasn't finished. Because they still had more than 100 dresses available, they planned a second day for students to choose formal clothing.

The next weekend at the Okeechobee County Library, Project Prom was again open for business. This time, it was expanded to help those who needed outfits for eighth grade formal, church formals or proms.

After two weeks, Project Prom was able to help 168 students.

Still available are 98 dresses and four suits.

Parents and students expressed their gratitude for the program.

"We are happy to help," said Kourtney Buhlmaier, a high school senior and co-coordinator to Project Prom. Other students who helped with the event included: Katie Hill, Anna West, Maggie Buccino, Taylor Henry, Maggie Congdon and Aimee Rumbaugh. Most girls worked both days. B.R.A.T. Club members who came out to help included Teresa Chandler, Allison Chandler, Courtney Moyett and Jasmine Moyett.

My Aunt's House helped store and collect dresses; they also helped transport the clothing to the fitting locations.

Many members of the community came together and donated to help the students have a dance to remember.

Project Prom would be nowhere without the Okeechobee County School Board, South Elementary and Okeechobee County Library.

"Project Prom will continue next year and hopefully every year," said Project Prom co-ordinator Tammi Kelly. "Just look for us to be taking donations at the beginning of every year. I don't know what we would do without the community — they really made this all possible."

Project Prom is no longer taking donations for this year.

However, students who still need a dress



Special to the Okeechobee News  
**Katie Hill, a senior, looks through the dresses to try and find the perfect gown.**

may call Mrs. Kelly at 772-708-6764 to make an appointment to see the available dresses.

## Water damage done in small fire

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

An estimated \$13,000 in property damage was reported after an apartment fire at 833 U.S. 441 S.E. on April 28, Okeechobee

### Okeechobee Forecast

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**Today:** Partial cloudiness early, with scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. High 89F. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

**Tonight:** Scattered thunderstorms in the evening. Partly cloudy skies overnight. Low 72F. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

### Extended Forecast

**Saturday:** Scattered thunderstorms in the morning, then mainly cloudy during the afternoon with thunderstorms likely. High around 80F. Winds W at 10 to 15 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Steady light rain in the evening. Showers continuing late. Low 66F. Winds N at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 70%.

**Sunday:** A few clouds early, otherwise mostly sunny. High 83F. Winds N at 10 to 15 mph.

**Sunday Night:** A mostly clear sky. Low 61F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph.

**Monday:** Sunny. High near 85F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.

**Monday Night:** Clear skies. Low 63F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

County Fire/Rescue reported.

Two fire crews and four firefighters responded just after noon and were on the scene for about two hours. There was no report of injury.

The fire report said the tenant, Rashekia Henry, apparently left something on the stove and forgot about it while she was speaking to a maintenance man at the apartment complex. When they returned downstairs they saw smoke and the fire on the stove.

The fire damaged the stove, and hood of the stove and charred the wall. The sprinkler system came on and put out the fire before firefighters arrived.

Fire reports stated there was 2 inches of water on the floor due to the sprinkler system. The State Fire Marshal was notified to investigate the cause of the blaze.

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## Blood donations urgently need

An explosion at a jail in the Florida Panhandle has injured hundreds of people, including officers. Local hospitals are calling for additional blood to treat the injured and OneBlood is urging all eligible donors to please donate as soon as possible.

To add to the situation, severe storms and flooding in the Panhandle are making blood collections difficult in parts of North Florida and the blood center has had to suspend some of its operations in that area.

To help off-set the impact from the severe weather, the blood center is calling on all donors living in areas not impacted by the hazardous weather to please donate as soon as possible to help ensure the local supply remains strong in the Panhandle and throughout the state.

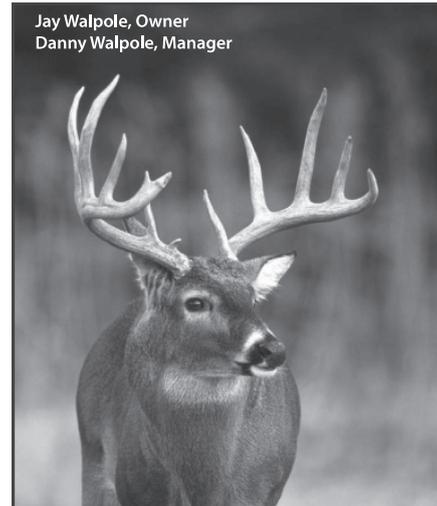
While all blood types are needed, people with Rh negative type blood are in the highest demand. In addition, platelets donors are also greatly needed.

Every two seconds someone needs blood. Blood that is donated today will likely be transfused within two to three days. The turnaround is that fast, the need is constant.

Generally healthy people age 16 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate blood. To learn more about the importance of blood donation and how donors can target the power of their blood type visit [www.oneblood.org](http://www.oneblood.org).

The Big Red Bus bloodmobile will be in Okeechobee on the following dates in May:

- Friday, May 2: Samboree at KOA, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.;
- Friday, May 9: Publix, 1 to 6 p.m.;
- Saturday, May 10: Walmart, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
- Thursday, May 15: SFWMD Field Station, S.R. 70 E., 1 to 5 p.m.;
- Friday, May 16: Platelet and whole blood drive at Wemmer's Orthodontics, U.S. 441 N., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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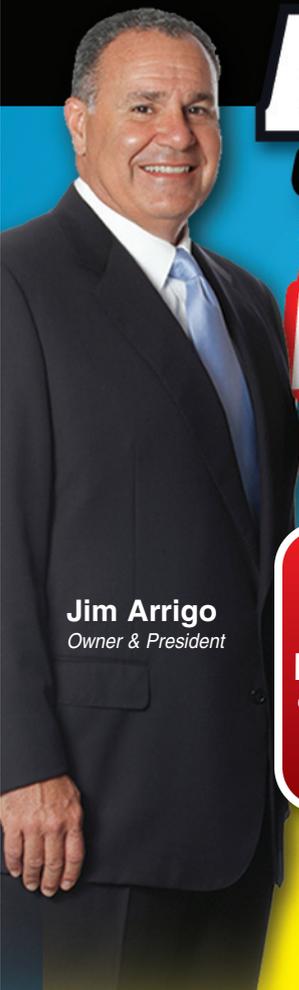
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## Public Forum/Speak Out

*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!*

### Puppy killed

• Anyone capable of hurting such a sweet harmless creature as a puppy is capable of hurting anything and anyone.

### Okee-Tantie

• Now that the sheriff's office dispute is settled and before we go back into negotiations for next year's budget, will the county commission finally do something about Okee-Tantie? Hasn't that been kicked down the road far enough already? I think it's time to use money from the capital outlay savings to start fixing up that park and getting the campground open again. Even if they have to do it in phases, get started on it. First, get that bait shop open again. That could bring in some income, even if they put it out for bids and let someone run it as a contractor.

• Better to wait until we as a people have the wisdom to elect representatives with the wisdom to plan an Okee-Tantie that lasts as a proper legacy for our progeny.

### Tax exemptions

• I've decided I will register as an ordained minister and turn my piece of dirt into a church property. To bad no one wants to attend my "Wednesdaay 3 a.m." services but at least I won't have to pay my fair share.

• I'm telling you I've had more "fun" (actually frustration) looking through the property appraiser's interactive map than I've had in a long time! I can't make rhyme nor reason for their appraisals, land values, ag values, etc ... You can take properties of the same size, in the same area, with around the same size buildings and the values are no where even close to one another. I brought up our acreage and zoomed in ... you can clearly see our cattle, being able to count every one and yet we receive no ag exemption. I pull similar acreage in the area, as a matter-o-fact even smaller parcels, that contain no cattle, sheep, goat, hay cutting, tree farm, or anything that might even resemble

agriculture use and yet they are getting an ag exemption ...

• Fraud is fraud. It's not victimless. It's a crime. It can be dealt with now with no changes in policy or officials.

### Invisible cows?

• It's who you know, not what you grow!

• Florida Statute 193.461, "No lands shall be classified as agricultural lands unless an application is filed on or before March 1 of each year. Only lands which are used primarily for bona fide agricultural purposes shall be classified agricultural." It's high time that someone checked each and every property in this county and take away the exemptions for those not running an agriculture industry on that property. It has to be actually on the property that gets the exemption. You can't just be planning to use it someday.

• After checking the tax assessor's website with the aerial maps it did not take me long to determine that I have been ripped off every year for a long time. I pay more in taxes on my little five acres than these big guys pay on hundreds of acres they bought as investments. And I have cows while they don't. I was told I don't get ag classification because the primary use of my land is not agriculture. I am fine with that. But why does a piece of vacant land get the agriculture classification and lower tax assessment?

• Perhaps some of these folks who are running for county commissioner would do us all a favor and make a list of the properties that have ag status and are not being used for bona fide agricultural industry. They could find plenty of tax money if everyone were actually paying their fair share.

### FCAT violations

• Because of one teacher, our school will suffer. There are a lot more kids who work really hard to pass this test. I don't agree with FCAT because our children are stressed out as early as first grade for a test they don't take until third grade! I know they have to be tested, but come on really. The 'No child left behind' act in Florida truly doesn't apply if they can't pass this test.

• And no diploma if they don't pass it.  
• The Department of Education needs to assign a team here for about six months and go through everyone of these schools and restructure them. There is no telling what the school grades will be this year. And to think how stressed out the 18 kids have been all year for their tests to be trashed.

## Letters to the editor

### Project Prom

I'm writing to compliment Tammi Kelly for her strong efforts in successfully collecting prom dresses, suits, shoes and accessories to help OHS students attend the prom. Tammi had an idea to help students who could not have afforded outfits to wear to prom and gave an opportunity for them to receive one FREE!

Over 250 dresses were collected and my compliments go out to Tammi and her team for noticing a need in the community and doing something about it! This community really pulled together to donate and the outcome was priceless. Way to go Tammi!

Sincerely,

**Teresa Chandler**

## CEPP is important to Corps of Engineers

### Guest Commentary

#### By Col. Alan Dodd

Commander, Jacksonville District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Last week, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Review Board (CWRB) decided to defer approval of an implementation report on the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). Since that decision, a lot of information has circulated regarding what this action means, and what happens next.

I am writing to assure you that CEPP and the entire Everglades restoration program are very important to the corps and we remain committed to making progress. We have a strong partnership with the state of Florida and other state and federal agencies in ongoing efforts to restore this significant and unique national ecosystem. The decision to defer approval of the CEPP report was made to enable the corps to complete a full review of the nearly 8,000-page document to ensure it complies with all applicable federal laws, regulations and policies. This kind of review must be completed for any national project report brought before a CWRB for consideration, and is a critical step before a project report can be released for state and agency review. Failure to do so could result in significant delays if problems or issues are identified later on that could have been discovered prior to releasing the report.

The progress we have achieved with CEPP is a significant accomplishment for the corps and our partners in the effort, especially for a project that is this large and complex. We have reached this point in the process in less than two and a half years, which is a reduction of several years in the traditional corps planning process. This is the result of a concerted effort by corps staff and our partners, and our ongoing efforts to transform

civil works planning processes nationwide.

We expect to complete the policy review of the CEPP report within the next few weeks.

If issues are discovered during review of the report, they will be addressed as quickly as possible to keep the process moving forward. The CWRB members will then reconvene to finalize their deliberations on the report before it's released for the required 30-day state and agency review.

Following the state and agency review, there are still several required steps that must happen before CEPP can become reality. First, the corps must address any comments raised during the state and agency review. The corps must then prepare a Chief of Engineers report to present to the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for approval and signature. That report is then forwarded to the Congress for information and to the Department of the Army and the administration for review. Once the administration clears the report it is sent to Congress for possible authorization and funding. These steps are required in law, must be accomplished sequentially and cannot be done concurrently.

In closing, let me say I understand the frustration many of you have expressed about the actions of the CEPP Civil Works Review Board. We, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, also wish to see CEPP move forward as quickly as possible and are fully committed to completing the review of the CEPP report as expeditiously as possible while continuing our role as a partner in Everglades restoration. However, as stewards of the public trust and of the federal tax dollars appropriated to us, we must ensure that CEPP—like all planned projects—fully complies with federal law and policies before it is presented to Congress for consideration.

# KEECHOBEE NEWS

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## 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

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## We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
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- 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.
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- 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.



# SCHOOLS

Continued From Page 1

school were among the topics discussed by the Okeechobee School Board during a workshop session Tuesday night.

## Valedictorian or Cum Laude?

Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy said the purpose of class rank was to inform students and parents about their relative performance among their peers, and provide prospective employers and institutions of higher learning a predictive device so each student is more likely to be placed in an environment conducive to success in college.

The valedictorian and salutatorian system currently considers quality points assigned for each course the student takes. All of the classes must be taken at Okeechobee High School.

By contrast, the university system Cum Laude would honor the top 1 percent as Summa Cum Laude or with highest honor, the top 3 percent as Magna Cum Laude, with great honor, and the top 5 percent as Cum Laude or with honor. For example this year four OHS graduates would earn Summa Cum Laude, seven students would honor Magna Cum Laude and seven students with Cum Laude. This means 18 students from the 2014 graduation class would receive honors. Normally, the top 15 students in the graduating class are recognized at graduation.

Does the valedictorian designation make any difference to colleges? Most colleges surveyed indicated that they consider GPA and SAT scores, not class ranking. In a survey of colleges like the University of Florida, Florida State University, Indian River State College, Florida Gulf Coast and others, most colleges said the valedictorian or salutatorian status is not considered for admission. Only the University of North Florida considered class rank as a factor in admission.

Mr. Kenworthy explained that with the Cum Laude system, the school board can elect the number of recipients honored, and it mirrors the college method of recognition. The drawback would be the elimination of a long held tradition at OHS with the valedictorian and salutatorian honors.

The current system of selecting a valedictorian has caused some stress and hurt feelings over the years, due to the formula used to rank the students. The formula gives extra points for honors, Level 3, dual enrollment and AP classes. Mr. Kenworthy recommended the board give more points for AP and dual enrollment, since these courses are more difficult than honors or Level 3 classes.

He also suggested they count all courses taken regardless of location.

Chairman Joe Arnold said he liked the Cum Laude idea because it would give the district an opportunity to honor more students.

Board member Malissa Morgan said she liked the idea of allowing points for classes taken off campus like night classes at IRSC.

The board will take up the matter again at their meeting on Tuesday, May 13, at 6 p.m.

## Combination of OFC and OHS

A suggestion to combine Okeechobee Freshman Campus and Okeechobee High School was also discussed at the workshop.

However, students and teachers would see no change from this merger. The change is suggested to help improve the district's rating with the state.

While other districts have the ninth grade in separate buildings from the 10-12 grades, Okeechobee is the only one to treat them as two separate schools when grades are reported to the state.

Mr. Kenworthy explained that because of this separation, the high school does not receive credit for students who pass the state-required tests in the ninth grade. This lowers the high school's state grade and hurts the district.

The merger would be in name only. There would be one principal, Toni Wiersma. OFC principal Carol Revels' title would be changed to senior administrator with the current salary schedule. The same level of staff would remain at both schools. They would merge internal accounts, and the student database.

Currently with many students being accelerated, the most talented students take important FCAT tests earlier and thus are not reflected in the high school grade.

School Board member Malissa Morgan questioned the main reason for this change. Mr. Kenworthy admitted the goal is to salvage the high school grade.

Mr. Arnold said Okeechobee High is not playing by the state rules and the state will find a way to penalize the school.

Mr. Arnold said his goal is to make the flagship school, OHS; an 'A' school because he feels that will set a great example and encourage the other schools to improve their grade.

Mrs. Riedel said a school grade has a very big impact on the overall community in terms of the economy, attracting new residents, staff morale and in other areas.

Mr. Kenworthy said they have some of their better teachers at the high school and they are doing an awesome job,

"The facts are the facts, you look at the class of 500, and whittle them away and cut the population with kids that aren't intellectually able to pass those end-of-course exams, your highest pass rate is sixth grade and the lowest is 11th grade," he said.

Students who pass the tests before entering tenth grade do not take these tests again, so OHS does not get credit for those students' scores.

OHS is the only high school in the state that doesn't consider ninth grade scores for their school grade.

A vote on this issue is scheduled for the May 13 meeting, which starts at 6 p.m.

## School start times

In other business at the workshop, school board also considered school start times.

Medical experts suggest that teen brains begin the cycle to fall asleep later than adults and young children, and continue into sleep mode until 8 a.m.

Research has also found improvements in student performance with the hour delay in start time for high schools. In Florida, the average number of points for high school grades with later start times in 2013 was higher than those who start earlier in the day.

The positive changes include better attendance in tardiness and better discipline. Negatives would be later start times for after school sports, impact on student employment and new transportation issues

and costs. Options include starting all the schools one hour later. This won't cost the district a dime in extra transportation costs. This would impact daycare in the morning. Athletes might lose instructional time.

The district could shorten the day at all schools, combine school students from elementary and middle schools on the same bus, shorten the school day to six periods, or make no changes.

Teachers who spoke at the meeting stated it is difficult to get students going early in the morning.

Parents said the later start time reduces automobile accidents. Kids with parental supervision are more likely to study and do homework. Older siblings often provide day care and supervision for their younger siblings.

Facilities director Dale Barrett stated hav-

ing different aged kids on the buses would increase disciplinary problems as older siblings protect their young siblings during disputes. Mr. Arnold said the costs would be too great to justify the small improvement in test scores.

"I think our community has built its schedule around the school schedule and right now is not the right time," he added.

The board opted not to pursue this start time change.

## Budget

The decrease in student enrollment will continue in Okeechobee next year with an estimated enrollment of 6,317 students, 60 fewer than the current school year. One estimate shows a property tax increase of \$388,000 with a total of just under \$9.4 million in local taxes.



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### Eagles serving dinners

The Fraternal Order Of Eagles Aerie #4137, 9985 U.S. 441 N., will serve your choice of a catfish or steak dinner on Friday, **May 2**, starting at 6 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Lisa from 7 until 11 p.m. The Eagles will host bingo on Tuesday, May 6, at 1 p.m. Bingo is at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7. All proceeds go to support charities of the Fraternal Order Of Eagles #4137. For information, call 863-763-2552.

### VFW to host karaoke

The North VFW, 300 N.W. 34th St., is hosting karaoke by Kathy and Danny on Friday, **May 2**, from 7 until 10 p.m. The kitchen will be open from 5 until 9 p.m. A Salisbury steak dinner will be served Sunday, May 4, from 1 until 3 p.m. For information, call 863-763-0818.

### Eagles offering steak dinner

The Cypress Hut Eagles will serve your choice of a ribeye steak or seafood dinner on Friday, **May 2**, starting at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Hard Country. Saturday, May 3, is the monthly birthday bash with Sloppy Joes served by the auxiliary. Entertainment will be provided by Lisa. Tuesday, May 6, is the weekly dart tournament with burgers being served. Proceeds from Tuesday go to support the Okeechobee Wolverines. Proceeds from the other events will go to various charities. For information, call the Cypress Hut Eagles at 863-467-1154.

### Run aids Special Olympics

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Florida will be held Friday, **May 2**. The run will start at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, 504 N.W. Fourth St., at 9 a.m. and will conclude at the Publix Supermarket parking lot, 3551 U.S. 441 S. Following the run, a barbecue will be held in the Publix parking lot. If you would like to run, be at the sheriff's office at 8:30 a.m. Friday and buy a T-shirt. For information, call Michele Bell at 863-763-3117.

### Trail Club planning benefit

The 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 on 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.

### Youth grid, cheer sign-ups set

Okeechobee Wolverines youth football and cheer travel league sign-ups will be held at W&W Lumber on S.R. 70 East Saturday, **May 3**, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The price is \$40. You must be 4-6 years old for flag football and cheer and 7-15 years old for tackle football and cheer. All players must have a physical and present a birth certificate before July 7. Games are on Saturdays only. They are asking for parent volunteers and coaching help. Contact Alan Hayes at 863-697-0398 or Leann Wester at 863-801-6157 for information.

### Martha's House hosting sale

Martha's House, 4134 U.S. 441 N., will host a yard sale Saturday, **May 3**, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. All clothing is \$1.

### Pitch, hit and run scheduled

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.

### Legion offering Sunday bingo

American Legion 64 will host Sunday night bingo on **May 4** at 6:30 p.m. Doors will open at 5 p.m. in the bingo area. The kitchen will offer a limited menu. Payoffs will be determined by player attendance. The event is open to the public. We will also host elections for new officers on May 6 from noon until 7 p.m. All proceeds benefit the American Legion veterans programs.

### Memorial honors officers

The annual Law Enforcement Memorial will be held Monday, **May 5**, on the steps of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office starting at 9 a.m. The memorial will honor those members of law enforcement who lost their lives in the line of duty.

### Moose plans special events

Okeechobee Moose Lodge #1753, 159 N.W. 36th St., will host Taco Day on Monday, **May 5**, from noon until 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, is Wing Night from 5 until 7 p.m. Bingo is Thursday, May 8, at 1 p.m. Lunch will be available for a small charge on Thursday. Proceeds benefit Moose Charities.

### Next sit & sew is May 6

ConKerr Cancer's next sit and sew will be Tuesday, **May 6**, from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church on Parrott Avenue. Bring your sewing machine and child-friendly cotton fabric and sew with other ladies in the community who want to put a smile on the face of a child stricken with cancer or another life-changing illness. Pillowcase kits will be available to sew at this meeting. For information or to donate material, call Joan at 863-467-0290.

### Activity Guide is coming

What activities have you planned for your children this summer? How about your teens? The Shared Services Network (SSN) will release the 2014 Summer Activity Guide on Thursday, **May 8**. A copy of the guide will be sent home with every student in the Okeechobee County School System. Our hope is that this guide will assist you in finding activities to keep your children safe, supervised and active this summer. If you would like a copy or information about this guide, call Sharon Vinson at 863-462-5000, ext. 257.

### Volunteer to help seniors

If you are 55 or older, join us on Thursday, **May 8**, from 9 until 10:30 a.m. for a free cup of coffee and light breakfast at the Brown Cow Sweetery, 103 S.W. Park St. Learn how you can volunteer to help other seniors in your community. For information, contact: Darlene Forage by calling 772-349-5073 or by e-mail at [dforage@youradrc.org](mailto:dforage@youradrc.org); or, contact Marco Cuevas by calling 863-484-2907 or by e-mail at [mcuevas@okeechobeevolunteers.org](mailto:mcuevas@okeechobeevolunteers.org). RSVP to Darlene Forage or Marco Cuevas as space is limited.

### Moose Rally is May 10

Okeechobee Moose Lodge #1753, 159 N.W. 36th St., will host its Moose Rally with food at the Tiki Hut on Friday, **May 9**, at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 10, at noon with food from 2 until 6 p.m. Proceeds benefit Moose charities.

### SSN board meets May 9

The Executive Roundtable of the Shared Services Network (SSN) of Okeechobee County will meet at 1:30 p.m. Friday, **May 9**, in the board room of the Okeechobee County School Board office. This forum provides a mechanism for dialogue and problem solving in our community through the collaborative efforts of our local decision makers. The public is invited. For information, call Sharon Vinson 863-462-5000, ext. 257.

### Veterans to be honored

Veterans Appreciation Day will be held Saturday, **May 10**, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Freedom Ranch, 11655 U.S. 441 S.E. There will be swamp buggy rides, military equipment display, free food and more. There will be no admittance charge. For information, call 863-763-9800.

### Food pantry needs freezer

The Okeechobee Presbyterian Church food pantry is in need of a large (25 cubic foot capacity) chest-type freezer. It must be in excellent running condition, and be a newer energy-efficient model. The pantry serves approximately 3,600 needy families a year and needs a freezer to store donated food. For information or to make a donation, call Kip Gardner at 863-357-0427 or 863-610-6659.

### Healthy Start group to meet

The Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition will meet Friday, **May 16**, from 2 until 4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Okeechobee's Fellowship Hall, 401 S.W. Fourth St. The meeting is open to the public. The coalition is made up of citizens interested in promoting healthy families and healthy outcomes for babies in Okeechobee. For information, contact Kay Begin at 863-462-5877.

## 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).*

### Robert J. 'Bob' Lee, 95

#### April 22, 2014

LIVE OAK — Robert J. 'Bob' Lee from Live Oak, Fla., was born on April 22, 1919.

The Shiloh, Tenn. native lived in Live Oak for 25 years and was a Veteran of WWII while serving in the Army. He raised chickens, owned a coin store, worked at Mac's Sports Shop and was an avid coin collector.



Mr. Lee is survived by his wife of 65 years, Clara Mae Lee, Live Oak; five daughters, Peggy Cashmore, Live Oak, Sally (Ralph) Beach, Okeechobee, Fla., Ann Lee, Live Oak, Marie Croft, Gainesville, Fla., Yolanda Lee, Elko, Nev.; three sons, Robert E. (Cheryl) Lee, Memphis, Tenn., Randy (Patty) Lee, Dallas, Texas, Jason (Julia) Lee, Hilton Head, S.C.; grandchildren, Kevin, Shannon, Ashley, Amanda, David, Elissa, Paul and numerous great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by George Cashmore, Richard Lee, Alan Gowan and Audrey Gowan.

The family wants to send a special thanks out to the wonderful care givers, nurses and Hospice staff. Please sign the guest book at [www.danielsfuneralhome.com](http://www.danielsfuneralhome.com)

Daniels Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. Live Oak & Branford, Fla. in charge of arrangements.

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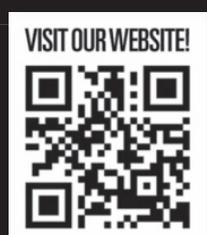
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## Okeechobee 4-H and FFA Livestock Show and Sale Herdsman Awards



Kimberly Tinajero (right) and Ethan Parriott (left) received the Herdsman Awards for the Swine Show at the 2014 Youth Livestock Show and Sale.



Cady McGehee received the Herdsman Award for the Dairy Show at the 2014 Youth Livestock Show and Sale.



Caleb Stewart (right) and Nathan Stewart (left) received the Herdsman Awards for the Steer Show at the 2014 Youth Livestock Show and Sale.



Zeke Bryan received the Herdsman Award for the Beef Breeding Show at the 2014 Youth Livestock Show and Sale.

## Luviano Roofing helps local woman with new roof

By Tammi Kelly  
Okeechobee News

In July 2013, Jamie Hans called the Luviano Roofing Company for a quote to get a new roof put on her home. Her old roof had many leaks. Osiel Luviano came out and gave her an estimate. She thought the price was fair. However, two weeks later she was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer and her health issues took priority over the new roof.

Weeks later, Mr. Luviano called Mrs. Hans to see if she wanted to make an appointment. Ms. Hans explained what all had taken place in a very short amount of time and that she would just have to get the roof when she had the money.

Time passed and soon Mr. Luviano was getting calls from friends, neighbors and even strangers asking if the roofing company could help Mrs. Hans.

The Luviano Roofing company has a history of helping in time of need. In April Mr.

Luviano called Mrs. Hans and told her they would like to put a new roof on her home — free of charge. Mrs. Hans said she was overjoyed, and she just could not believe it.

On April 28 Mrs. Hans's home received the much-needed new roof.

"Her roof was covered mostly in tarps, "We had to remove about four layers of damage just to begin repairs," said Mr. Luviano. In time for hurricane season, the Luviano Roofing installed a roof with an expected life of 40 years or more.

"It is greatly appreciated. I did not think I would get it for free, it is a huge weight lifted off my shoulders, I mean I was just counting down the days to hurricane season," said Mrs. Hans.

Mr. Luviano would like to thank the Okeechobee City Building Department for graciously waving the permit fee.

The Luviano Roofing Company has been in business for eight years in Okeechobee. This is the third time they have reached out to help someone in need.



Special to the Okeechobee News

When medical bills took the money Jamie Hans had set aside for a much needed new roof for her home, she was facing hurricane season with a tarp-covered house. The Luviano Roofing Company stepped in and put a new roof on her home free of charge.



Jamie Hans' home was badly in need of a new roof and she was dreading the approach of hurricane season, when Luviano Roofing came to her rescue.

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# Local teen accused of breaking into school bus

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News



Aaron Rodriguez

An Okeechobee teen is being held at a juvenile facility following his arrest for allegedly breaking into a school bus.

Aaron Rodriguez, 17, N.W. Fifth St., was arrested Wednesday, April 30, on felony charges of burglary of a conveyance, introduction of contraband into a county detention facility and tampering with physical evidence.

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

According to an arrest report by Officer Jack Boon, of the Okeechobee City Police Department, he responded to a call regarding a vehicle burglary around 3:55 a.m. Wednesday. While on the way to the scene he saw a young man matching the description of the person apparently seen on the parked Okeechobee County School District bus.

The officer asked the young man to return to the scene with him, and the teen reportedly agreed. Officer Boon had identified the teen as Rodriguez by this time.

A witness allegedly identified Rodriguez as the person they saw moving around inside the parked bus, stated the report.

Nothing was missing from the bus, stated Officer Boon, but some clothing that had been left on the bus by students then stored by the bus driver was strewn about the vehicle.

The officer also found a white pill on the driver's seat.

The bus driver told the officer she has a prescription for naproxen 350 mg and that the pill may be hers. She then went to the glove box on the bus to retrieve her bottle of pills but it was gone, continued the officer's report.

Officer Boon also found a red mountain bike leaning against the left front tire of the bus. When asked, Rodriguez reportedly admitted to the officer the bicycle was his, but he didn't know how it came to be leaning against the bus tire.

During a search of the teen's person at the Okeechobee County Jail, a corrections officer reportedly found 2.5 white pills in the teen's pants pocket.

"I did a visual inspection of the back seat of my patrol car and found a pill bottle cap and another white pill in the seat where Rodriguez was sitting. I also found an open pill bottle for naproxen wedged in the crack of the back seat," stated the officer in this report.

According to drugs.com, naproxen is an anti-inflammatory used to treat mild to moderate pain or inflammation due to arthritis, tendinitis and gout.

# OMS students warned to stop sexting

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

Some students at Osceola Middle School were warned this week by a sheriff's office deputy that if they don't stop sexting, they could be arrested.

According to Deputy Steven McKinley, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), he was made aware of both incidents Monday, April 28, by the school's dean.

Deputy McKinley, a school resource officer at OMS, was first summoned to the dean's office around 11:30 a.m. where he was told a female student was sending nude photos of herself to a male student at the school. When he talked to those students, they both told him the photos were sent "a few months ago" and that the girl sent them because "she trusted him."

The deputy went on to state the boy did not ask the girl to send the photos and the girl apparently told Deputy McKinley she had not sent the photos to anyone else.

Deputy McKinley asked the students if he could look at their phones and they both gave him permission to do so. He stated in his report he found no inappropriate photos on either cell phone.

A little over an hour later the deputy was again called to the dean's office where he was told about a male OMS student who was sexting nude photos of himself to a female student. The girl reportedly told Deputy McKinley she wanted the boy to stop sending her photos of himself, and that she did not ask the boy to send the photos.

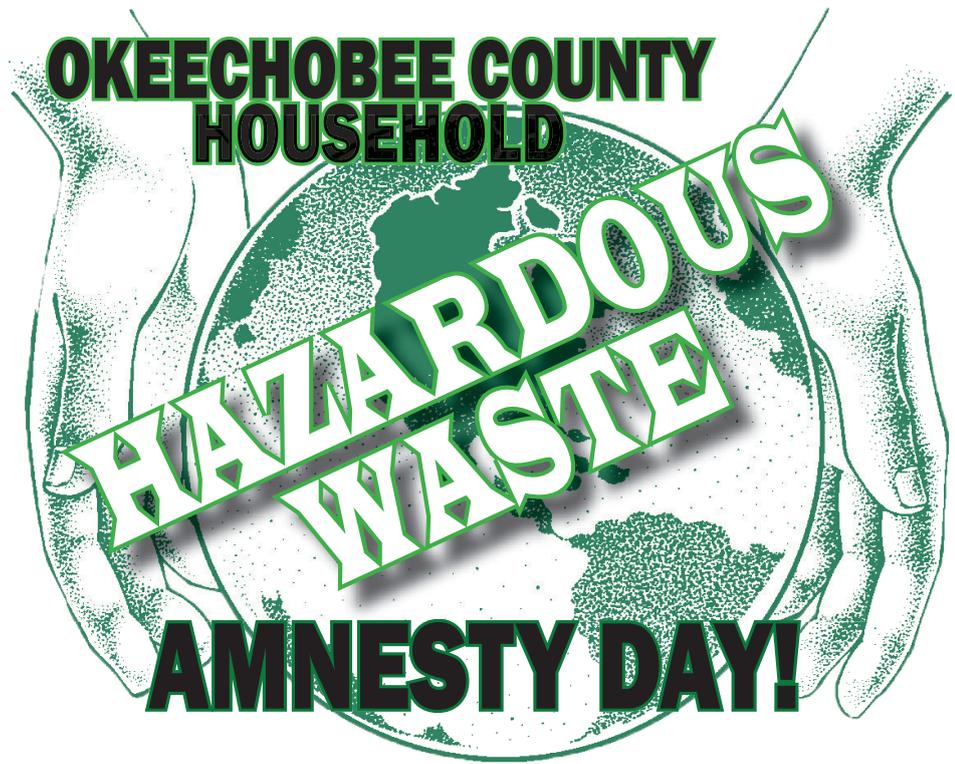
The deputy's report goes on to state when he spoke with the male OMS student the boy admitted to sending the photos to the girl "about a week ago." When the deputy asked him why he did it, the boy reportedly replied he "... was not sure."

Deputy McKinley checked the phones belonging to both the boy and the girl but there were no inappropriate photos on the phones, added the deputy's report.

In both cases, the deputy issued the students a warning and told them if the sexting continued "... they could be arrested for sending, possessing nude photos of anyone under the age of 18."

The deputy went on to state in his report that he would contact the parents of the students involved and tell them the same thing he had told the students.

Neither of the deputy's reports indicated if the school took any action against the students.



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## Okeechobee Sports News in Brief

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

• The Chobee Outlawz 9 and under **baseball** team defeated the Treasure Coast Crusaders 6-4, to advance in the league playoffs. The team moves on to play in Lake Worth next weekend.

Xavier Hernandez scored a run and had an RBI triple in the game for the Outlawz. He also threw three strong innings, allowed just one earned run, walked one, and struck out eight batters. Okeechobee jumped out to a 6-1 lead and held on for the victory. Emery Coleman had an RBI single in the first that scored Tucker Myers. The Outlawz added three runs in the fifth keyed by a bases-loaded walk and Hernandez triple.

• The OHS **flag football** team finished the season at 3-7 when they fell to the Martin County Lady Tigers 25-2, in the Class 1A-12 tournament on Monday at Jensen Beach High School.

The Tigers came up with two big interceptions that were returned for touchdowns in the game and were able to frustrate the Brahman offense, which played without quarterback Baylee Farless, who suffered an ankle injury. Okeechobee's points were keyed by a 40-yard punt by Kassidi Mott in the first half. The punt pinned the Tigers back at the 1-yard line. Okeechobee rushed three girls on the ensuing play and Mott was able to grab a flag with a nice lunge in the end zone.

Defensive coordinator Jimmy Mills said he was very happy with the performance of his defense in the game as they held the

Tigers offense until late in the second half. "I feel we could have won the game. Our offense struggled to put points on the scoreboard all year," he noted.

Part of the problem this season was injuries and inexperience on offense. Seven offensive players were new to the team this year and had to spend time learning the play book and schemes, running the right pass patterns and catching footballs. Four girls were lost to injury on the offensive side of the ball this year.

"We started the season with a set play book which we build on, so when we add new players in mid-season we never really get caught up because the season just isn't long enough," he noted. Martin County went on to defeat Treasure Coast 45-0, in the championship game on Tuesday.

Mills said that showed how talented the Lady Brahman defense was this year,

"For us to hold Martin County to one score has to tell you a little something about our team. I think the talent is there for us to win a district title for Okeechobee," he said.

The team only graduates one senior, Tiffany Bowers, and hopes to move up several players from an impressive junior varsity squad for next season.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we will be strong next year and some of the younger girls may press the returning varsity players for their position. OHS coach Robert Coleman and I were pleased with the girls' attitudes and the fact that they stayed positive for the entire season," he added.

• The Brahman **junior varsity baseball** team enjoyed a winning season, (6-5-1) as a new coach Eric Sprague joined the staff this spring. There were a number of strong performers this year on the offensive side. Jarrett Rodriguez batted .385 and drove in 10 runs, leading the team with 15 base hits. Cameron Morris earned a promotion to varsity after a season in which he batted .406, scored 13 runs and drove home five runs. Cody Louthan hit a solid .303 with 10 base hits and scored nine runs. Baron Stuart drove home six runs and batted .273. Arthur Woodruff batted .375 with OPS, slugging plus on base percentage of 1.024. The team batted .277 overall and scored 70 runs in 12 games. The pitching staff was led by Ryan Daniel who threw 27 innings and had a 1.52 earned run average. He also earned four victories. Other strong performances came from Alex Lopez who had a 2.40 earned run average. Baron Stuart picked up two saves out of the bullpen. The overall earned run average for the team was a solid 3.68.

"Our defensive skill improved tremendously from beginning to end. Early in the season one defensive miscue would lead to a snowball of miscues. They began to play the game one pitch at a time, continued to learn, and didn't dwell on their previous mistakes," said Sprague.

Sprague said he wants the players to commit themselves to improving their strength and skill in the off season so the junior varsity program can continue to improve.



Special to the Okeechobee News

### Yatchette Club donates to graduation party

Ellen Whelpley, treasurer of the Okeechobee Yatchette Club, presented a check for \$500 to Kristy Crawford at CenterState Bank to help support the free graduation night party at the KOA for all graduating seniors to have a fun, safe celebration. They could always use other donations such as food, money, prizes or to volunteer your time. Call Kristy Crawford at CenterState Bank, 863-763-5573, to help.

# Your Medical and Health Care Directory

Smoke-Free Housing



NOT JUST A GROWING TREND ACROSS THE U.S.  
A SMART BUSINESS DECISION!



**FOUR OUT OF FIVE**  
non-smokers would prefer a smoke-free building policy.

**TOBACCO SMOKE CAN MOVE**  
along air ducts and electrical and plumbing lines, through elevator shafts, and cracks in walls and floors.



At the end of a lease, smoke-free units require **LESS** TURNOVER TIME due to fewer preparation and repainting needs.



**#1** CAUSE OF FIRE DEATH, accounting for **17%** IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.

Smoking is a personal choice, but secondhand smoke can cause serious problems for others. In children, it can cause asthma, respiratory infections, or worse. If you or your children are being affected by secondhand smoke in your home, please contact the Tobacco Free Partnership of Okeechobee County, or visit [tobaccofreeflorida.com](http://tobaccofreeflorida.com).

Tobacco Free Partnership of Okeechobee County

PO Box 1595, Okeechobee, FL 34973  
863-801-8277 / [www.tfp-okeechobee.org](http://www.tfp-okeechobee.org)

### REHAB THERAPY/ NURSING HOME

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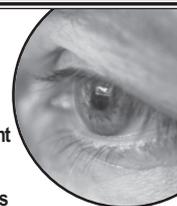
- Rehab, Physical, Occupational, Speech and Out-Patient Therapy
- Long-Term Nursing Care Available 7 Days a Week/24 Hours a Day
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**Okeechobee Health Care Facility**  
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★★★★★  
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State of the Art Complete Optical Laboratory  
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### UROLOGY

**DAVID A. SIGALOW, M.D.**



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Specializing in:

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215 N.E. 19<sup>th</sup> Dr. • Okeechobee  
**863-763-0217**

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# Your Medical and Health Care Directory

## Hip Replacement Surgery Helps Thousands Annually

The hip joint is one of the body's largest weight-bearing joints. It's a ball-and-socket joint. This helps the hip remain stable even during twisting and extreme ranges of motion. A healthy hip joint allows you to walk, squat, and turn without pain.

The most common cause of chronic hip pain and disability is arthritis. Osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and traumatic arthritis are the most common forms of this

disease.

Hip replacement surgery helps more than 200,000 Americans each year to relieve their hip pain, and get back to enjoying normal, everyday activities. Total hip replacement surgery almost always:

- Stops or greatly reduces hip pain. Even the pain from surgery should go away within weeks.
- Increases leg strength. Without hip pain, you'll be able to use your legs more. This builds up your muscles.



you require are available in your very own community.

If hip pain is keeping you from everyday activities and the weekend recreation you cannot live without, trust an experienced, Board Certified physician to help you love your joints again – sooner.

### ORTHOPAEDICS

Great Orthopaedic Care- Right Here in Okeechobee

## ORTHOPAEDIC SPECIALISTS AT RAULERSON



**Benjamin Epstein, D.O.**

Dr. Epstein is an experienced orthopaedic surgeon, who has been in practice for 20 years. Dr. Epstein is Board Certified by the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics.

Orthopaedic Specialists at Raulerson offers a full range of orthopaedic services including:

- Total Hip and Knee Replacements
- Arthroscopic Surgery & Sports Medicine
- Pediatric Orthopedics
- Work Related injuries

Most insurances and Medicare are accepted.



For more information or to schedule an appointment, call **863-357-0540**.

Orthopaedic Specialists at Raulerson is located at 1924 Hwy 441 North, Okeechobee (just north of the Hospital, in the blue-roof building)

### GYNECOLOGY

Caring Evaluation and Treatment of Women's Health Issues

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**JAMES E. BRADFIELD**

Gynecology - Board Certified

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- Hysteroscopy
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- Endometriosis
- Urinary Incontinence
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- Provides years of easier movement. Most total hip replacements last for many years.

Don't let hip pain keep you from what you enjoy doing. You may live for scenic walks, playing doubles with friends or swimming laps in the pool. Don't let hip pain stop you from moving! Get the treatment you need to comfortably move with ease.

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8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Friday**  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**(863) 467-2159**

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Affiliated with Raulerson Hospital



RaulersonPrimaryCare.com

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Okeechobee, FL 34972



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# CANCER?

15 Minute chat with Dr. Kumar, at no charge, to discuss Advanced Treatment options personalized just for you.

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Ramesh Kumar, MD • William Crook, MD • Julie Santelli, MD, Board Certified Radiation Oncologist

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

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## 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

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

## Employment

## Employment Full Time

**DRIVER WANTED**  
Class B, Hazmat & Tanker  
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- Read and interpret wiring schematics
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- minimum of 2 years driving experience
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Our package includes: 401K, paid training, safety bonuses, paid vacations, professional uniforms, uniform cleaning service, boot program & more!



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Moore Haven Correctional Facility in Moore Haven, Fla. PRN (as needed)

**APPLY ONLINE TODAY AT**  
[www.correctioncare.com](http://www.correctioncare.com)

EOE & Drug Free Workplace

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

## Employment Full Time

## Employment Full Time

**A. Duda & Sons, Inc.** in Moore Haven, Florida is currently looking for a **GENERAL OFFICE ASSISTANT** to help maintain an efficient office environment.

The ideal candidate will have organization and planning skills, work management and prioritizing skills, pays attention to detail, accurate and is dependable and reliable.

This is a full time position M-F; 8:00-5:00pm.

Competitive pay and benefits package.

For immediate consideration please email your resume [hrlb@duda.com](mailto:hrlb@duda.com). Or fax to (863) 674-0873.

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

**Established grower** and shipper of fresh produce seeking a proven and experienced individual with excellent maintenance skills and technical capabilities to manage our packing facility maintenance program. This position involves a high knowledge of mechanical, electrical, refrigeration systems and PLU systems. Seasonal demands during growing season, bilingual helpful. Please send resume to: positions@mackfarms.com

**SOD FOREMAN**  
Experienced, Self Motivated, Able to work on farm equip. Must have vehicle. Send resume to [priest032809@yahoo.com](mailto:priest032809@yahoo.com)

## Employment Full Time

**MECHANIC** to work on farm/ranch equipment, diesel and gasoline engines, fleet maintenance, fabrication and electrical. Computer skills preferred. Florida Driver License required. Pay based on experience. Drug-free workplace. Apply in person from 8am-11am & 1pm-4pm Monday thru Friday @ 109 Arron Drive, Lake Placid, FL 863-465-2821 or office@lpdcp.com

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

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

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

## Employment Part Time

### Retired Professional

Looking for a part time appointment generator, preferably mechanical exp., customer friendly, to work at sales booth in a big box store. Please call 863-385-2665 or send resume to [info@advancedairsebring.com](mailto:info@advancedairsebring.com)

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

## 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.

Shop here first!  
The classified ads

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

## Merchandise

### Miscellaneous

**Brand New** Briggs Stratton Generator, 5500 running watts, 8500 Starting watts. Asking \$400 Call 863-467-5652

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

## Agriculture

### Farm Equipment

**SELL OR TRADE** 3 POINT HYDRAULIC BUSHOG WILL BUY OR TRADE FOR SELF PROPELLED PULL BEHIND BUSHOG. CALL BOBBI 863-801-2363 OR 863-824-3329

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**2bd/1ba Fully** Furnished, w/d pool, tennis court, club house privileges. Linens, dishes. In Kings Bay close to Power Plant, long/short term lease. 863-634-8331

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### THE OAKS AT SHANNON'S CROSSING

US 441 South of city near Taylor's Creek. New affordable 1, 2 and 3 BR Apartments \$470 - \$649 a month or less! Income and Occupational Restrictions Apply Call Now! 863-467-0275 Bonus! Computer Lab, Dishwasher, Disposal & Storage. Now leasing to all Ag/Non-Ag Employees Handicap-Accessible Units Available Equal Housing Opportunity

Your new home could be in today's paper. Have you looked for it?

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

## Business Places

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## Condos/Townhouses Rent

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**Taylor Creek Condo** - 2br/1ba., screened in porch, pool, boat dock, Washer/Dryer, water included. \$800 mo. No pets. Move in now! \$700. 863-634-0663.

## Houses - Rent

**ADORABLE:** In Town, Okeechobee, 2BR, 2BA, Washer/Dryer, Screen Porch. Lawn Service. Non Smoking. Small pet okay. \$800 mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec. dep. (941) 504-3954

**FOR RENT** 1BD/1BA, LIVING & DINING ROOM KITCHEN COMBINATION. RANCH ON 4 ACRES, FT DRUM AREA \$600.00/MO. PLUS SECURITY CALL LIZ 734-637-2697

**NICE, CLEAN** 3BR HOUSE, FENCED YARD, PETS ALLOWED UPON APPROVAL. 375 SE 16TH AVE. \$800/MO. AND \$600 SECURITY. 863-610-0001

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Office Space Rent

Office Space Rent

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**First 2 Months Free**

**"Next to Court House"**



Commercial Space, 500 SF and up.  
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**WATERFRONT IN**  
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NICE 3/2, LARGE  
ROOMS, CENTRAL AIR,  
1 CAR GARAGE.  
\$850.00 PLUS SECURITY 1147 4TH ST.  
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Sell your used items in the classifieds

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**Mobile Home Rent**

**FORT DRUM** - 5 acres, small pond creek, 2BR, 2BA Trailer, \$1,000 down 1st, & security. \$700 monthly (772) 464-9226

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CALL 863-517-5111

**SMALL 1BD TRAVEL** trailer, all utilities included. \$425/month, + \$300 security. On Rim Canal. Call 863-697-0214.

**Mobile Home Sale**

**FOR SALE DOUBLEWIDE** MH, ON DBLE LOT, 3BD 2BA, 2 LIVING ROOMS, LAUNDRY ROOM AND LARGE CLOSED IN PORCH. IN LARKEE LAKES OFF 15A. \$50,000.00  
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Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."

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**Automobiles**

**2005 HONDA CIVIC** - Beautiful, blk. excel. cond. 56000 mi. 4-cylinder, automatic transmission, air conditioning, air bags, CD \$9,995  
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Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

**FOR SALE-2006 LINCOLN TOWN CAR-SIGNATURE LIMITED-24,887 MILES-ONE OWNER-FULLY LOADED WITH ALL THE EXTRAS-ASKING \$16,500**  
O B O  
(863) 447-0742

**Autos Wanted**

**CASH FOR CARS** No Title Needed, Any Condition. 268junk.com Located in Okeechobee Call (863)268-5865

It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

**Public Notices**

**Public Notice**

**PUBLIC NOTICE: CITY COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City Council for the City of Okeechobee, will meet in Regular Session on **Tuesday, May 6, 2015, 6:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website [www.cityofokeechobee.com](http://www.cityofokeechobee.com), to obtain a copy of the agenda.

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN** that during this proceeding, a Public Hearing will be conducted to consider a Grievance Appeal request by L. Parzygnat.

**ANY PERSON DECIDING TO APPEAL** any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceeding is made and the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any person with a disability as defined by the ADA, that needs special accommodation to participate in this proceeding, contact the City Clerk's Office no later than two business days prior to proceeding, 863-763-3372.

**BE ADVISED** that should you intend to show any document, picture, video or items to the Council in support or opposition to any item on the agenda; a copy of the document, picture, video, or item **MUST** be provided to the City Clerk for the City's records.

By: James E. Kirk, Mayor  
Lane Gamiolea, CMC, City Clerk  
465201 ON 5/2/2014

**Public Notices**

**Public Notice**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold it's **Regular Session on Thursday, May 08, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.** in the "Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom" at the Historic Courthouse, 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of such proceedings is made, which record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Administrator's Office not later than four (4) working days prior to the proceeding at 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Room 123 Okeechobee, Florida 34972, or call 863.763.6441. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-222-3448 (voice) or 1-888-447-5620 (TTY).

Frank Irby, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners  
Okeechobee County, Florida

Sharon Robertson, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners  
Okeechobee County, Florida  
/s/ Paula Poskon/ Deputy Clerk  
463197 ON 5/2/2014

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

2014TD060

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that **DAVID G MURRAY** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2086** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2010**

Description of Property: **INDIAN HAMMOCK H & R CLUB LOT 298**

**1-04-34-35-0010-00000-2980**  
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:  
**BARBARA J JOLLY  
WALTER C JOLLY**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **22nd day of May, 2014**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT  
Okeechobee County, Florida  
/s/ Robin R. Parrish  
Deputy Clerk

**NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990:** In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.  
463472 ON 4/11,18,25;5/2/2014

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

**ANSWER:**

**Public Notice**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

2014TD062

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that **JOHN BERAK** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **911** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2011**

Description of Property: **LOT E TRACT 13 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF S1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 13 24 345 33E**

**1-24-34-33-0A00-00013-E000**  
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:  
**MIKE DUFFY**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **5th day of June, 2014**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT  
Okeechobee County, Florida  
/s/ Gail Mewbourn  
Deputy Clerk

**NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990:** In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.  
464293 ON 4/25;5/2,9,16/2014

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

2014TD061

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that **KRINDA C CANNON** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1052** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2011**

Description of Property: **LOT K OF TRACT 30 E1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 30 25 345 33E**

**1-25-34-33-0A00-00030-K000**  
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:  
**ANN GRAND PIERRE  
NIXON CHARLCEUS**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **5th day of June, 2014**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT  
Okeechobee County, Florida  
/s/ Gail Mewbourn  
Deputy Clerk

**NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990:** In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.  
464294 ON 4/25;5/2,9,16/2014

**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION  
File No. 2014CP042**

IN RE: ESTATE OF  
**CHARLES FRANCIS GROGAN, JR.**  
Deceased.

**PETITION FOR ADMINISTRATION  
(Intestate Florida resident - single petitioner)**

Petitioner, Mary Ann Grogan, alleges:

- Petitioner has an interest in the above estate as the daughter of the decedent. Petitioner's address is 3224 Chaffin Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia 23513, and the name and office address of petitioner's attorney are set forth at the end of this petition.
- Decedent, **CHARLES FRANCIS GROGAN, JR.**, whose last known address was 1307 South Parrott Avenue, Lot #B30, Okeechobee, Florida 34974, and whose age was 78, and the last four digits of whose Social Security number are 2493, died on June 25, 2012, at the decedent's home. On the date of death decedent was domiciled in Okeechobee County, Florida.
- So far as is known, the names of the beneficiaries of this estate and of the decedent's surviving spouse, if any, their addresses and relationships to decedent, and the dates of birth of any who are minors, are:

NAME	ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP	BIRTH DATE [if Minor]
Sophie Grogan	3224 Chaffin Avenue	Surviving spouse	Norfolk, Virginia 23513

- Venue of this proceeding is in this county because decedent was a resident of this county on the date of death.
- Mary Ann Grogan, whose address is 3224 Chaffin Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia 23513, and who is qualified under the laws of the State of Florida to serve as personal representative of the decedent's estate is entitled to preference in appointment as personal representative because she is the daughter and only issue of the decedent and the surviving spouse has waived appointment and consented.
- The nature and approximate value of the assets in this estate are tangible personal property and personal effects valued at less than \$5,000.00 and potential forthcoming settlements in connection with a civil action suit pending in the Supreme Court of New York.
- This estate will not be required to file a federal estate tax return.
- After the exercise of reasonable diligence, petitioner is unaware of any unrevoked wills or codicils of decedent.
- Domiciliary or principal proceedings are not known to be pending in another state or country. Petitioner requests that Mary Ann Grogan be appointed personal representative of the estate of the decedent.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing, and the facts alleged are true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Mary Ann Grogan, Petitioner  
E-Mail Addresses: [sws@scrcnclaw.com](mailto:sws@scrcnclaw.com)  
Florida Bar No. 0051802 Stephen W. Scrcni, P.A.  
2600 N. Military Trail, Suite 410  
Boca Raton, Florida 33431 Telephone: (561) 300-3390

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION  
File No. 2014CP042**

IN RE: ESTATE OF  
**CHARLES FRANCIS GROGAN, JR.**  
Deceased.

**LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION  
(single personal representative)**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN  
WHEREAS, **CHARLES FRANCIS GROGAN, JR.**, a resident of 1307 South Parrott Avenue, Lot #B30, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 died on June 25, 2012, owning assets in the State of Florida, and  
WHEREAS, Mary Ann Grogan has been appointed personal representative of the estate of the decedent and has performed all acts prerequisite to issuance of Letters of Administration in the estate,  
NOW, THEREFORE, I, the undersigned circuit judge, declare Mary Ann Grogan duly qualified under the laws of the State of Florida to act as personal representative of the estate of **CHARLES FRANCIS GROGAN, JR.**, deceased, with full power to administer the estate according to law; to ask, demand, sue for, recover and receive the property of the decedent; to pay the debts of the decedent as far as the assets of the estate will permit and the law directs; and to make distribution of the estate according to law.  
ORDERED on 3-18-2014.

Gary L. Sweet, Circuit Judge

465209 ON 5/2,9/2014

**SUDOKU**

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Level: Advanced

# SCAM

Continued From Page 1

be identified, said the caller initially wanted money "to get their grandson out of jail." This type of scam is commonly known as the grandparents scam.

She explained their nightmare actually started last year when they received a call from New Mexico at 10:20 a.m. on July 18. The man on the other end told the couple, who are both in their late 80s, their grandson

was in jail on drug charges. Her husband, she added, did the right thing and hung up on the caller.

They then called their grandson, and were told by his wife that he was at work and not in jail.

"We didn't hear any more until we got this call last week," she said of the Thursday, April 24, call.

Like the first call, the scammer told the woman's husband their grandson was in jail in Mexico and if they didn't send \$2,000 he would have to stay in jail for eight weeks.

The scammer went on to tell the woman's husband a guard at the jail would be calling him with information on how to get them the money.

"The man called back and my husband took the call. He said 'I've had enough of this' and hung up on him," she said with a proud smile.

But, when she explained what happened next, her smile quickly evaporated and her voice began to quiver.

"The man called back, and my husband got into it with him. He said 'You're so smart! I'll come to your house disguised as a pizza delivery man and when you open the pizza box there'll be a bomb inside and it'll blow your damn head off!'" she recounted.

Now trembling with fear, she continued. "My husband hung up the phone. Then, about 20 minutes later, the doorbell rang and there was a pizza man and he had a big box. Don't think my knees didn't turn to water! I saw him standing there and I about fell to the floor!" the frail woman said, her eyes now wide and filled with tears.

The delivery man from a local pizza restaurant, now concerned about what was happening in front of him, asked the woman what was wrong. He had no idea why she was so upset.

"I told him what had happened. He said they just got a call to deliver the pizza here," she said.

The couple then called the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office and Deputy William Jolly responded. After getting the informa-

tion from the couple, the deputy spoke with the restaurant employee who took the call. The employee said the phone number was not from this area, but she couldn't remember the number.

"Usually, you can tell when it's a prank order but this guy had all the information which made it sound real," she reportedly told Deputy Jolly. "He told me he was going to pay cash. The only information I was given was the address and phone number."

The report went on to point out that after the driver had told her about the vicious prank, she called the couple and apologized.

When asked about this event, OCSO Detective Lieutenant Brad Stark praised the couple and the way they handled the caller.

"I thought they handled it appropriately," he said. "If you're concerned about a family member, you should reach out to that family member."

As for the incident with the pizza, the veteran investigator said it's his opinion this was more of a scare tactic than an actual threat.

"It was the bad guy saying: 'I know who you are. I know where you live,'" added Lt. Stark. "This is the first time I've heard of going to the extent of putting someone in danger."

According to the victims, they've not had any more calls about a loved one being in trouble since the last one.

And, pointed out the woman, she and her husband have not ordered a pizza.

# Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

### ACROSS

- 1 Extremely lame, in slang
- 10 "The Zoo Story" dramatist
- 15 One with breaking news
- 16 Conger cousin
- 17 African kingdom
- 18 Lite-\_\_: classic Hasbro toy
- 19 3 part?
- 20 Do followers
- 21 Ad lib
- 22 Scott who played the lead in 1976's "Bugsy Malone"
- 24 Maintain the status quo
- 26 Cádiz cycle
- 27 Old Colgate competitor
- 29 Spam producer
- 30 "Splendor in the Grass" screenwriter
- 31 One of the moveable feasts
- 35 Mitty creator
- 38 As you like it
- 39 Emma Frost portrayer in "X-Men: First Class"
- 41 Backwoods possessive
- 42 Letters before P, perhaps
- 43 State tree of Texas
- 47 Sch. where chapel service attendance is mandatory
- 48 Silk-spraying movie monster
- 51 It only makes sense when it's broken
- 52 Oil sources
- 54 Wine quality
- 56 Collection to burn
- 57 High fliers
- 58 Traumatic expression
- 60 Month abroad
- 61 Klondike product with a shell
- 62 V-shaped fortification
- 63 Postgame finger-pointer

- 3 Mimosa family member
- 4 AM radio abbr.
- 5 Liszt's "Harmonies du \_\_"
- 6 City on the Rhone
- 7 One of the five basic taste sensations
- 8 "Am I seeing things?"
- 9 Intention
- 10 Extent
- 11 Bereft, old-style
- 12 Outlaws
- 13 Causing agita
- 14 Good way of seeing
- 21 Nicklaus rival
- 23 Kind of lead a closer often has to protect
- 25 \_\_-Novo: Benin's capital
- 28 "Rubáiyát" rhyme scheme
- 30 "Soon"
- 32 Electronic control mechanisms, briefly
- 33 Tabloid scoop
- 34 Sun Bowl Stadium coll. team

- 35 '80s Shatner cop show
- 36 Mr. Clean's lack
- 37 Not appropriate du \_\_
- 40 He played Harold in "Harold & Kumar" films
- 44 Winter warmers
- 45 Cite as proof
- 46 Counselor at Troy
- 48 Elementary particle
- 49 Centrifuge component
- 50 "Cold \_\_": 1977 hit for Foreigner
- 53 First name in fashion
- 55 Hydroxyl compound
- 58 Short coolers?
- 59 Pontiac co-designed by John DeLorean

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

T	H	U	M	B	Z	A	H	N	I	C	B	M
B	A	R	R	E	O	M	A	N	C	H	A	I
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S	O	S	O	A	R	E	S	D	E	N	T	S

xwordeditor@aol.com

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By John Lieb  
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# HENRY

Continued From Page 1

The top four runners were able to reach the state final this year. The race did not include Henry's main rival from the Treasure Coast, Bethany Hardcastle of South Fork. She said she enjoyed running with Hardcastle over the past three years. Hardcastle won a district title in cross country and Henry won two district titles.

She noted she might have an edge over the younger, less experienced runners because she has been in the state final before and also has run at the track at the Jacksonville School. She knows she will feel more comfortable than last year when she was nervous and scared about the race.

"I'm really excited about it. I didn't think I would make it because I've just come back

from injury but I'm really happy about everything," she added.

Henry admits she had some trepidation when she returned to the track this spring. It took her awhile to get back into shape and the district meet was tough for her. She knew being out five weeks would be a lot to come back from and still be successful.

"I feel pretty good in training right now. I feel myself getting stronger and I'm ready to go. Last year was a horrible day with rain and nasty weather, and I hope it'll be better this year," she added.

If there is any disappointment, it's the fact that no other Lady Brahman will be in the state race again this year. Henry admits she does better when she has her teammates around to encourage and support her.

Henry also has a school record seven Most Valuable Player trophies for track and cross country.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

## Day of Prayer

Joy Jarriel, worship leader at Victory Baptist, and Bobby Huntley, worship leader at the Gathering, (left) sang the Star-Spangled Banner, at the National Day of Prayer observation held on the lawn in front of the Okeechobee County Courthouse on Thursday, May 1.

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**5071-H: Dixie Ranch Acres** Large 4/2 Modular home, 2,204 Total Sq Ft on approx. 1 acre. Spacious kitchen with hutch and dining area and living rm. and much more! \$175,000 MLS # 207917



**5030-H: Okeechobee Golf Estate.** 3/2 on 1/2 acre. 2,567 Total sq ft/1,485 under air. Spacious kitchen, split bdrm plan, walk-in closet. Family rm overlooks golf course and much more. \$180,000 MLS #207710



**4001-M:** 3/2 DW with 2,288 Total Sq Ft/1,288 under air. Split bdrm plan, attached carport, updated with new carpet and some appliances, screened back patio. Get ready to go fishing! \$59,000 MLS # 207823



**4003-C: Turtle Cove Lake Access,** beautiful Rim Canal view! Spacious, double carport & more on quiet cul-de-sac. Includes 2 extra lots, 1 with large shed & electricity. \$95,000 MLS # 208003



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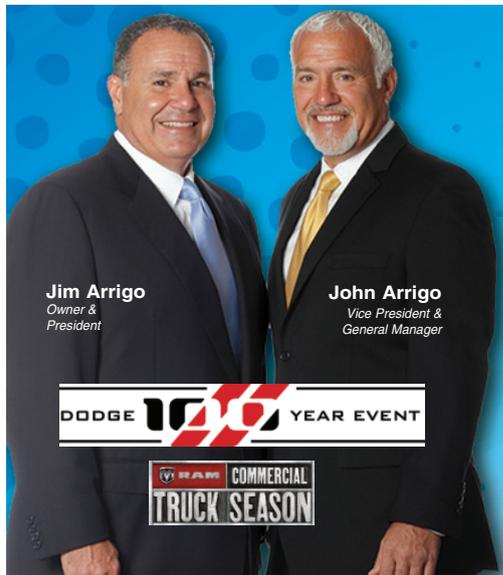
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DISCOUNTS & REBATES...-8,286

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DISCOUNTS & REBATES...-6,101

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