



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 105 No. 59

Friday, May 16, 2014

50¢ Plus tax

Woman tries to 'sic' dog on deputies

... Page 10

Wildlife habitat enhanced at landfill... Page 8

Fire at Praxair ... Page 2

Ring missing for 22 years returned ... Page 5

Lake Levels

12.82 feet

Last Year: 13.51 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

Three students were honored as Eagle Scouts at the school board meeting Tuesday. Left to right are Jonathan VanDeman, Timothy Shablom and Michael Shablom. A fourth Eagle Scout, Martin Brown, was unable to attend.

Schools to cut staff positions

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The selection of a new principal at Central Elementary, a merger between Okeechobee High School and the Freshman Campus, recognition

of 12 retiring educators, and cuts in school staffing highlighted the agenda when the Okeechobee School Board met for their regular monthly meeting Tuesday.

See SCHOOL — Page 14

Alleged rapist caught

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News



Conrad Thitchener

An Okeechobee man wanted in connection with the alleged rape of a West Palm Beach woman has been captured in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Information received Thursday, May 15, indicated Conrad Anthony Thitchener, 45, had been taken into custody by the Poughkeepsie Police Department. Also involved in Thitchener's May 13 apprehension was the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Marshal's Service Fugitive Task Force.

Circumstances surrounding the arrest were unknown as of newspaper deadline.

It was also not yet known when Thitchener, who also went by the name of Michael

See RAPE — Page 14

Narcotics Task Force operation nets 6 arrests

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Detectives with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force have had a busy week and have arrested six local people on a variety of felony drug charges.

Some of those arrests were made after the execution of search warrants on their homes in which cocaine, marijuana and suspected 'spice' (synthetic marijuana) was seized. The remainder of the arrests were due to the street-level sales of cocaine, marijuana, methamphet-

amine and prescription pills.

All of those arrested are being held on bond in the Okeechobee County Jail.

Those arrested were:

- Kenneth Burton McQueen Sr., 54, S.E. 14th Ave., possession of cocaine with intent to sell (two counts), sale of cocaine, possession of marijuana with intent to sell (two counts), sale of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He is being held in the county jail on \$225,000 bond.

- Catherine Lee Frost, 36, N.E. 16th Ave.,

possession of cocaine with intent to sell, possession of marijuana with intent to sell and possession of drug paraphernalia. She is being held in the county jail on \$25,000 bond.

- Jesstarius Dortch, 30, N.W. Third St., sale of a controlled substance (hydromorphone), possession of a controlled substance (hydromorphone) with intent to sell, sale of cocaine within 1,000 feet of a specified area and possession of a cocaine with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a specified area. He is being held

See DRUGS — Page 14

Car Accident?

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Crews spend five hours battling blaze

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

An estimated \$15,000 in property damage was done as several tanks caught on

fire at Praxair, 2534 N.W. 16th Blvd., in the Okeechobee County Industrial Park early Monday.

Crews from Okeechobee County Fire/

Rescue were alerted at 4:16 a.m. and were on the scene for nearly six hours putting the fire out and cooling additional tanks at the facility, Paramedic Peter Sullivan stated.

Four units and seven firefighters were on the scene which included the Okeechobee City Fire Department and their ladder truck, Medic Sullivan added.

The fire report said 12 tanks were on fire and that the chemical acetylene was the first that ignited. The immediate cause of the blaze was not determined.

The sprinkler system at the facility did a good job helping to put out the fire. Fire crews laid a line to a nearby hydrant and cooled off the remaining tanks in the facility to prevent the fire from spreading. The report said the cause was unintentional and propane gas was released from the tanks.

Medic Sullivan's report stated 450,000 gallons of water was used to control the fire. No injuries were reported.

Medicare training planned

Volunteers interested in helping others with Medicare are welcomed

FORT PIERCE — The Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs are offering professional, comprehensive training on the basics of Medicare in a three-day program to individuals interested in volunteering with the SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Program. The training will begin on June 3 at Indian River State College located at 4600 Kirby Loop Road in Ft. Pierce.

Volunteers are needed to provide services to Medicare beneficiaries, their caregivers, and family members. As a SHINE volunteer, you serve your community by performing at least one of the following functions: provide Medicare and health insurance information, counseling, and assistance in person or over the phone, deliver educational presentations or speeches, dis-

tribute educational and promotional materials in your community, provide training and leadership to other volunteers, or assist with general program support.

A defining moment in aging for many individuals is turning 65 because uncertainties about issues like Medicare become more important. The SHINE Program has nearly 500 volunteer counselors throughout the state, and could use many more to assist the more than 3.5 million aged or disabled Medicare beneficiaries in Florida.

The Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs will train interested individuals to provide information and personal assistance with Medicare through its SHINE program. Volunteering with SHINE will not only help you gain an understanding of the complex world of Medicare for yourself or your loved ones, but it will also empower you to help others in your community.

For more information, please call the local Elder Helpline at 866-684-5885.

CES speech contest winners

Central Elementary School held the Tropicana Speech Contest on Monday, May 12, for fourth grade only and we have some excellent writers in Central.

The winners were: first place, Kierstein Kennedy; second place, April Rose Salva; and, third place, Maddie Williams.

Mrs. Davis was the coordinator for this event.

Congratulations to all who participated.



Special to the Okeechobee News

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

The Okeechobee News will be closed Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day

WEDNESDAY, May 28 DEADLINE
Display Advertising.....3 p.m. Friday, May 23
Have a Safe Holiday!

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Cloudy skies early, followed by partial clearing. High 81F. Winds NNW at 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight: A few clouds from time to time. Low 59F. Winds N at 5 to 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 83F. Winds NNE at 10 to 20 mph.

Saturday Night: A mostly clear sky. Low 61F. Winds NNE at 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday: Plentiful sunshine. High near 85F. Winds NE at 10 to 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Clear skies. Low 63F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.

Monday: Sunny skies. High 87F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.

Monday Night: Clear. Low around 65F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.

Brahman Theatres III
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Adults \$6.50
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Fri., Tues. & Thurs 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., & Wed. 2:00, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon 7:00

II: "LEGEND OF OZ: DOROTHY'S RETURN"
Sat., Sun., & Wed. 4:15, Mon 3:00

III: "GODZILLA"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00, Sat., Sun., & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon 3:00 & 7:00

IV: "AMAZING SPIDERMAN 2"
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When is Candy Dangerous?



When it is Used to Flavor Tobacco!

Tobacco companies are using candy and fruit flavors to sweeten their products and make them more attractive to children and teenagers.

But this is a dangerous bait-and-switch, designed to addict younger and younger kids to tobacco, creating life-long customers.

Don't Let Kids Fall for the Trap.

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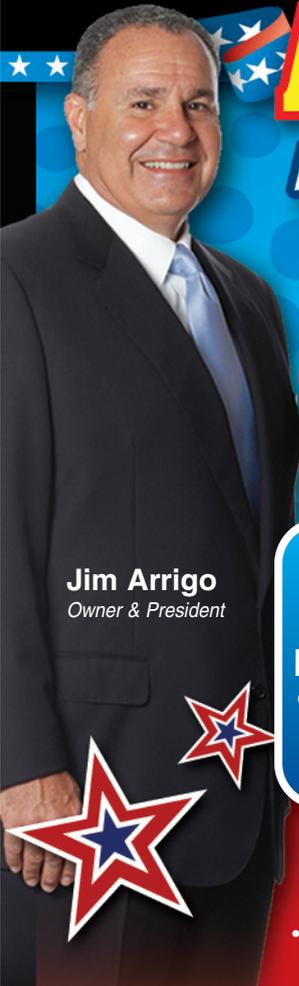
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Public Forum/Speak Out

Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, 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!

Crime news

- Whenever someone gets arrested, people are posting online saying what a nice person he or she is and how it couldn't be true. But the fact is the cops don't just make this stuff up. People are not arrested without enough proof to charge them. For the hundreds of arrests you see in the paper a year, maybe once or twice a year there is a notice that charges were dropped. Just because someone acts a certain way around you does not mean that person acts that way all the time. When mass murderers are caught, people always say they never suspected anything, the person always seemed so nice.

'You're going to die tonight'

- The article says that the man accused of raping and beating the woman and threatening to kill her was charged previously but, the State Attorney couldn't get the victims to show up to testify. Hopefully this one will follow through.

- It is a shame that there are so many victims from one animal. I hope his latest victim has the courage and support to press charges.

- It shouldn't be up to the victim, who has been traumatized, to press charges.

- So often when women are hurt, they refuse to testify against the man who beat or raped them. Sometimes they are afraid of their attacker and don't trust the justice system to keep him locked up. Sometimes they blame themselves for the violence. But if they don't testify in court, it is hard to get a conviction.

- I blame the system. Yes a lot of them (charges) are dropped because the victims would not testify. How he kept getting away with it is not excusable. Everyone will regret

that they didn't do something sooner if he actually kills someone. Please testify. You might be saving someone's life.

- Whether you're the wife or girlfriend, a man should never abuse a woman or anyone else for that matter.

County jail

- The county commission will save a little face if they go ahead and let the sheriff run the jail for the next year and during that year do their research and see what they can find out, then go to the sheriff and talk to him about it and come to a conclusion with him. I believe the sheriff is a reasonable man and would work with them to save the county money if that is truly what they have in mind. However, for them to just keep poking the sheriff like they have been for the past few years is not going to work. How can they expect the sheriff not to respond in the manner he did when they have cut him to bare bones and then sit there and tell him he will be cut again next year. All the while they are stockpiling money in reserves?

- Another day has passed, many more will come and go. Hopefully, someone will gather information and present an accurate and honest evaluation of the facts and the right decision will be made.

- I have to wonder how the county jail employees feel. The sheriff said he didn't think the jail was safe because of budget cuts. Now that the county will be running it, the budget is not likely to increase.

- The United States puts too many people in jail. We have the largest percentage of the population in jail of any developed country. We need to be smarter about this. Sure, lock up the violent ones who are dangers to the community. But it is costly and stupid to lock up so many people just for drug possession. Put them on community control or probation instead. The county can't afford so many people in jail. And for those who steal or destroy property, make them pay restitution. Keep them on probation until their debts are paid off.

Floridians warned of text message scam

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Better Business Bureau warns consumers that a familiar credit card scam conducted through text messaging has resurfaced according to concerned consumers.

In the past, consumers reported receiving suspicious text messages and it seems to have popped up again. Consumers contacting BBB today report receiving a text message from an unknown phone number claiming that their ATM credit card has been put on hold and instructed the consumer to call customer service at 205-637-2281. A recording then instructs the caller to enter their 16-digit ATM credit card number, expiration date, CVV code (card security code) and PIN. Inquiries into the phone number find other consumers who report similar experiences and suspicions. BBB called this number and received a busy signal.

"If you receive an email or text message from an unknown source or if you are just not sure, it's always best to call your bank or credit card company directly," said Karen Nalven, President of Better Business Bureau

Serving West Florida.

BBB advises all consumers receiving unfamiliar text messages requesting personal information (aka "Smishing") to disregard the warning and call your credit card company or bank directly. Other variations involve messages purportedly sent by major retailers claiming the recipient has won a prize and asking for personal information in response.

Tips for avoiding mobile phone scams:

- Don't respond to text messages or automated voice messages from unknown or blocked numbers on your mobile phone.

- Don't respond to unsolicited emails, texts or phone calls requesting personal, bank or credit card information.

- Treat your mobile phone like you would your computer—never open links, install apps or open attachments contained within unsolicited emails or texts; and do not open any links that appear suspicious.

- To check the reliability of a company and find trustworthy businesses, visit BBB.org.

SUDOKU

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Level: Advanced

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ANSWER:

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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

Website: www.newszap.com

To Submit News

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

E-Mail: okeenews@newszap.com

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Phone: (800) 282-8586

E-mail: readerservices@newszap.com

The Okeechobee News is available three times a week via home delivery and is on sale at rack and store locations throughout Okeechobee County. Call the office to find out if your home is within our present home-distribution boundaries.

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

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

Okeechobee News

USPS 406-160

Published 3 times a week: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday by Independent Newspapers, Inc.

107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D • Okeechobee, FL 34974
Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Okeechobee News
Circulation Administration
110 Galaxy Road • Dover, DE 19901

Staff

Editor: Katrina Elsen
Circulation Manager: Dee Gaudin
Publisher: Tom Byrd

Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge...

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

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



Kiwanis hosts Early Learning Coalition speaker



Special to the Okeechobee News
Jacki Jackson and J.D. Mixon at the monthly Kiwanis meeting.

Special to the Okeechobee News

One of the many services that the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) offers, is providing children and parents within the 0-150 percent of the poverty level the assistance needed to ensure children enter Kindergarten at a learning-ready level.

Jacki Jackson, the Executive Director for the ELC of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties spoke in front of the Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee about the organization's services. Ms. Jackson directs one of thirty ELCs throughout Florida.

ELC provides two major initiatives, school readiness and voluntary Pre-Kindergarten. In 1999, the Florida Legislature enacted the

School Readiness Act to bring early care and education together under one program.

The School Readiness Initiative uses very explicit guidelines as outlined in Florida Statutes.

- Serve families within the 0-150% of the poverty level.

- Parents must be working 20 hour weeks or be a full-time student.

- Primary focus group is 0-5 age group; up to age 13 if funding is available.

- Mandated to serve at risk children, homeless children and Career Source Resource Coast referrals.

The Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program was voted into law in 2002 and be-

gan in 2005.

- Allows resident 4-year-olds in the State of Florida free Pre-K.

- There is no income requirement for these services.

- Funding for this program is state funding only.

Other services include Child Care Resource and Referral. ELC collaborates with other non-profit organizations in all three counties to assist families with any needs they have.

For every \$200 donated to the Early Learning Coalition, ELC can match with state and federal dollars and serve a child for one year in a quality preschool.

IRSC celebrates National Small Business Week

FORT PIERCE — In recognition and support of National Small Business Week, the Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Indian River State College will present a unique Empowering Today's Entrepreneurs Seminar designed for entrepreneurs and business owners who want to grow business or start new businesses.

The Empowering Today's Entrepreneurs Seminar will be on Tuesday, June 3, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the IRSC Main Campus located at 3209 Virginia Ave., in Fort Pierce. The cost for the seminar is just \$19 and includes morning refreshments and lunch. Those in attendance will also have the chance to win a copy of Microsoft Office 2013 Professional Edition and

Windows 8 Pro.

Empowering Today's Entrepreneurs Seminar attendees will hear presentations from speakers on topics ranging from marketing, financial matters, profit mastery, international trade, business continuity, disaster planning and government contracting as well as have the opportunity to meet with presenters to ask questions and network with conference speakers, local business owners and entrepreneurs who attend.

To register for the Empowering Today's Entrepreneurs seminar hosted by the Florida SBDC at IRSC or for more information, visit www.irsbiz.com or call toll free 1-888-283-1177.

Class ring returned after being lost for 22 years

By Katrina Elskan
Okeechobee News

In 1998, Sue Clark found an Okeechobee High School Class of 1989 ring in the parking lot of the old Walmart store (now the location of Tractor Supply.) The ring was engraved with the letters "CMR." From size and design of the ring, it appeared to be a girl's ring.

Mrs. Clark tried to find the owner, but was unsuccessful. She even looked up the records at the school board office and found that only one girl with the initials C.M.R. was in that class — Candace Michelle Rowell.

Mrs. Clark called every Rowell in the Okeechobee phone book, but had no luck. As time passed, she forgot about the ring. She put the ring — and a note with the little information she had about it — in a jewelry box for safe keeping.

When she moved out of state, the jewelry box containing the ring went with her.

Recently, Mrs. Clark moved back to Okeechobee. As she was unpacking in her new home, she came across the ring and decided to try again to find the owner.

On Monday afternoon, she brought the ring to the Okeechobee News office, along with the note from her first search in 1998. Okeechobee News staffers photographed the ring and put the story on the Okeechobee News Facebook page, which has more than 5,500 "fans," including some members of the OHS Class of 1989.

Within an hour, the post had been shared more than 100 times, and the owner — now Candace Flores — was found. She now lives in Fort Pierce.

Okeechobee News put Mrs. Clark in contact with Mrs. Flores and they made arrangements for the ring's return.

"This is a miracle!" Mrs. Flores posted on her own Facebook page.

She said she lost the ring in 1991. She was pregnant at the time, and her fingers had swollen so she had been wearing the ring on a chain around her neck. When she realized she lost the ring, she searched for it, but had no idea exactly when or where the chain had broken.

"I thought it was lost forever," she stated.

Mrs. Clark was surprised at how quickly the Okeechobee News Facebook post was able to connect with the ring's owner.

"I have chills," she said.

"I know how much my own class ring means to me," she added. "I didn't want to give up on finding the owner."

The ring appears to be in good condition. There is no way to tell if it was in that parking lot for 7 years or if someone else found it and then lost it again.

It's a Facebook story with a happy ending, and apparently Facebook posters like happy endings. By Tuesday morning, the post had been shared 273 times, and read by more than 16,000 people.

The 52 messages left by Facebook posters included many happy to see social media used for something positive.

A few posters mentioned losing their own high school rings. If you find one, bring it to the Okeechobee News. Our Facebook friends would be happy to help again.



EPISCOPAL

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"Come worship with us"
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Eagles hosting steak dinner

Cypress Hut Eagles will serve choice rib eye steak or seafood dinners Friday, **May 16**, starting at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Carl Cable. Saturday, May 17, the entertainment will be Michael's Memories. Sunday is the Eagle Memorial starting at 1 p.m. with TAPS played by Carl Cable. Tuesday is the weekly dart tournament with hamburgers being served. The public is invited to the events. Proceeds from Tuesday goes to KOA Kid Cancer Research. All other proceeds goes to various charities. For information, call the Cypress Hut Eagles at 863-467-1154.

VFW bar bingo will be May 16

VFW Post 4423, 300 N.W. 34th St., will host bar bingo Friday, **May 16**, at 1 p.m. and karaoke from 7 until 10 p.m. The kitchen will open for dinner from 5 until 9 p.m. On Sunday, dinner is from 1 until 3 p.m. and will consist of chicken and dumplings. All of the proceeds go to local veteran organizations. For information, call 863-763-0818.

Moose serving tacos, wings

Okeechobee Moose Lodge #1753, 159 N.W. 36th St., invites you to join them for bingo on Friday, **May 16**, at 6:30 p.m. On Monday, May 19, they are serving tacos from noon until. On Wednesday, May 21, come for wing night from 5 until 7 p.m. Bingo is on Thursday, May 22, at 1 p.m. Lunch available for a small charge on Thursday. Bingo on Friday, May 23, starts at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit Moose Charities.

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. For information, contact executive director Kay Begin at 863-462-5877.

OHS hosting Hershey's event

The Hershey's Track and Field games will be held Friday, **May 16**, at 9 a.m. at the Okeechobee High School, 2800 N. U.S. 441. For information, call 863-763-6950.

BBQ aids deputy's family

A barbecue fundraiser will be held Saturday, May 17, at Geechee Mon's Smoked BBQ, 104 S.E. Sixth St., from open to close to help the family of former Okeechobee City Police Department officer and Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Captain Dixel 'Buster' Brock who died recently. All proceeds from the benefit will go to Capt. Brock's family to help with his final expenses. Whether you are dining in, taking your meal home or using the restaurant's drive thru, tell your server you want to help and a percentage of your bill will go to the family.

Lincoln Day event slated

You are invited to attend the Republican Party Lincoln Day Dinner and Clay Shoot. The keynote speaker will be Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam. The date is Saturday, **May 17**, at the OK Corral. Clay shoot begins at 1:30 p.m. and dinner is at 5:30 p.m. For tickets and information, call 863-532-2482.

Swim team plans fundraiser

The Okeechobee High School swim team will host a fundraising golf tournament Saturday, **May 17**, at the Blue Heron Golf Club, 1925 S.E. Ninth Ave., from 8:30 a.m. until noon. The goal of this fundraiser is to keep the cost as low as possible for the families involved in OHS swimming. For information, call 610-945-8337.

Historical group will meet

The Okeechobee Historical Society will meet Monday, **May 19**, at noon with a covered dish luncheon in the museum building on U.S. 98 N.

Cheerleader sign-ups set

OCRA STORM competitive cheerleaders ages 5-18 will hold sign-ups for the 2014-2015 season on Monday, **May 19**, through Thursday, May 22, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. All sign-ups will be held at the sports complex. Cost is \$100 and you must have a copy of the child's birth certificate. For information, call 863-697-3211 after 5 p.m. or 863-634-0515.

Benefit set for Eddie Cason

Okeechobee Quarters for a Cause is hosting its monthly quarter auction Tuesday, **May 20**, at the American Legion, 501 S.E. Second St., benefitting Eddie Cason who has stage-4 colon cancer. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Come out and help support and bring lots of quarters. We're looking for new vendors. For information, call Christy at 863-697-1247.

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Youth grid sign-ups slated

Okeechobee Youth Football and Cheerleading sign-ups will be held at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Ave., Saturday, **May 24**, from 9 a.m. until noon. Children ages 4 to 14 may sign up. The registration fee is \$75 per athlete. For information, call 863-801-9229.

Tobacco Free group to meet

The Tobacco Free Partnership of Okeechobee County meeting will be held Wednesday, **May 28**, at noon. in the Thompson Fellowship Hall at the United Pentecostal Church, 405 S.W. 10th Ave. This quarter we are highlighting a guest speaker, Mike Hopkins, an Okeechobee native and retired chief of Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue who is battling cancer from smokeless tobacco. This meeting is open to current partnership members and anyone interested in tobacco prevention. Lunch will be provided. For information call 863-801-8277.

Chicken BBQ benefits church

A barbecue chicken dinner fundraiser to help the Okeechobee Church of the Trinity and Trinity Christian Private School will be held Friday, **May 30**, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. The dinner will include one-fourth chicken (leg portion) and all the fixings for a donation of \$7.50. If meals are purchased in advance, you get 10 percent off your total order. For information, call 863-623-6500.

B.R.A.T. dance set for May 31

The Okeechobee B.R.A.T. Club (Building Relationships Among Teens) will host a Teen Dance Party at South Elementary School, 2468 S.W. Seventh Ave., Saturday, **May 31**, from 7 until 10 p.m., for students ages 12-16. The cost is \$7 and includes pizza, soda and chips. For information, contact Allison Chandler at 863-697-9096.

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing 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.

Dr. Frank H. Platt

OKEECHOBEE — Dr. Frank H. Platt died on May 14, 2014. He was born on Dec. 30, 1928 to Frank and Edna McClenithan Platt.

He was a graduate of DeSoto County High School. He served in the United States Army and later attended the University of Florida on the GI Bill. He later graduated from Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1955. He practiced in Okeechobee from 1957-1996. He served in various civic organizations throughout the years and was a member of the United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his loving wife, Reba; a daughter, Phyllis Bass; two sons, Kevin (Vicki) Platt and Michael (Theresa) Platt, all of Okeechobee. Ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, May 18, 2014 at The United Methodist Church. Visitation will begin at 3 p.m. with a service to follow at 4 p.m. in the afternoon.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105

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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Waste Management enhances Wildlife Habitat at Okeechobee Landfill

Special to the Okeechobee News

Waste Management has enhanced the Wildlife Habitat at Okeechobee Landfill with the planting of a pollinator garden. Landfill employees helped construct and plant the garden with direction from ATKINS Sr. Scientist, Tiffany Crosby.

Waste Management also recruited help from its neighbor, Faith Farm Ministries, to have their residents spread the mulch for the finishing touch. The garden is host to 15 different Florida native plants which attract the bee and butterfly population.

The local effort is part of a national Waste Management program in concert with the

Wildlife Habitat Council that protects animal and plant species on more than 28,000 acres across North America.

Waste Management continues to surpass its sustainability goal by earning Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) certifications at 116 sites. The "Wildlife at Work" program preserves land as wildlife habitats by providing food, water, shelter, cover and space "suitable to animal needs." A site must be actively maintained and monitored for a year before it qualifies for certification. The "Corporate Lands for Learning" promotes using "Wildlife at Work" certified land for hands-on environmental education by school and community groups. These certifications

recognize outstanding native habitat management and environmental education programs developed through partnerships with local organizations.

Waste Management Okeechobee Landfill is a certified Wildlife Habitat site with 2000 acres dedicated to wildlife and an additional 250 acres which are unmanaged but available.

"Okeechobee Landfill is honored to be a Wildlife Habitat Council certified site and the active engagement of our community volunteer groups helps with our growing enhancement program," said Community Relations Representative Teresa Chandler.

Arnold's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Okeechobee works closely with Okeecho-

bee Landfill in the release of rehabilitated animals back into their natural habitats.

Future plans for the site include ongoing monitoring and invasive control of the ground cover, planting of shrubbery for understory cover, and continued monitoring of existing bat and duck boxes on site.

Waste Management has been working with WHC since 2000. In 2008, the company was the first recipient of the organization's William W. Howard CEO Award, recognizing the company's efforts in conservation, education and outreach efforts.

To learn more about Okeechobee Landfill's program, please visit <http://wm.com/wm/community/whc/index.asp>.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SEMES

Seminole Students of the Week

Seminole Elementary would like to congratulate their Students of the Week for the week of April 25: Yaileen Hernandez, Ke'arah Small, Natali Ruiz, Lizbeth Rojas, Yahziel Torres, Zachary Skinner, Zander Lindley, Erick Lima-Toledo, Jessie Gomez, Kendrick Henry, Jacqueline Rivera-Hernandez, Anai Bustos, Yesenia Lara, Jose Alcoser, Chyanne Collins, Maria Landaverde, Annie Freeman, Diano Sixto-Sanchez, Anahi Toribio, Denny Mosso, Olivia Griffin, Yesica Olvera, Erik Roman, Cruz Ponce, Alexis Rosas, Brady Sperry, Charles Stevens and Cayden Collier-Manuel.



Special to the Okeechobee News/SES

South Students of the Week

Congratulations to the Students of the Week at South Elementary School for the week of April 25. They are: Rachel Thompson, Eduardo Guerra Rios, Kali Morse, Reagan Hummel, Caleb Click, Taylor Whipple, Ellie Gayford, Alexander Blower, Noah Hummel and Matlyn Staton. Included in this photo is principal Mike Radebaugh (back, left).



Special to the Okeechobee News

The "Wildlife at Work" program preserves land as wildlife habitats by providing food, water, shelter, cover and space.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Landfill employees, with help from residents at neighboring Faith Farm Ministries, completed this pollinator garden with direction from Tiffany Crosby.

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Woman allegedly ordered dog to attack deputies

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A woman is being held on bond in the county jail after she reportedly hit and kicked at deputies and ordered her dog to kill the deputies.

Loretta Joy Marr, 56, S.E. 27th St., was taken into custody Tuesday, May 13, on felony charges of battery on a person 65 years of age or older and resisting a law enforcement officer with violence. She was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of battery.

Marr is being held in the Okeechobee



Loretta Marr

County Jail on \$7,500 bond.

Deputy Leland Schoonmaker, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), was the first deputy summoned to Marr's home around 10 p.m. Tuesday. His arrest report stated Marr had slapped her husband several times and grabbed her mother by the throat and hit her in the mouth.

Both victims told Deputy Schoonmaker that Marr was in her bedroom behind a locked door. The deputy was also warned that she had a knife in the room with her as well as her dog, Tucker.

The deputy's report indicated he tried for about an hour to talk Marr into coming out of the bedroom, but she remained behind the locked door.

"I could hear Loretta telling her dog to at-

tack and kill us," the deputy stated.

He then called Sergeant Brian Hagan and asked him to respond. OCSO Deputy Lieutenant K.J. Ammons also came to the home.

Not long after Lt. Ammons arrived the deputies sprayed pepper spray under the locked door, "... but it had little to no effect."

In his report, Deputy Corporal Don Ellis stated he could hear Marr commanding her dog to "kill 'em, Tucker, kill 'em! Get 'em!"

Finally, Cpl. Ellis kicked the door down. He, Sgt. Hagan and Deputy Schoonmaker all entered the bedroom and the sergeant grabbed Marr by the back of her shirt and pulled her into the hallway.

When the deputies broke into Marr's

bedroom, Tucker ran down the hallway and did not attack the deputies.

As the deputies tried to handcuff her, Marr allegedly lashed out and tried to kick and hit the deputies but none were struck.

Marr was taken out of the home by Deputy Schoonmaker and Deputy Steven Pollock. When they put the woman in the back seat of Deputy Schoonmaker's patrol car she again lashed out and tried to kick Sgt. Hagan but she missed, added the report.

According to the report Sgt. Hagan climbed in the back seat of the car and held the woman down while the other deputies put leg restraints on her.

The dog was turned over to Marr's husband.

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).

- Jason D. Barley, 32, Pitching Wedge Way, Sebring, was arrested May 12 by Deputy Bart Potter on a Highlands County warrant charging him with the felonies of grand theft, dealing in stolen property (three counts) and giving false information to a pawnbroker (three counts). His bond was set at \$19,000.

- Justin A. Hoover, 30, U.S. 441 S., Okeechobee, was arrested May 12 by Deputy Leland Schoonmaker on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine). His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Maggie Lara, 41, S.E. 23rd St., Okeechobee, was arrested May 12 by Deputy Leland Schoonmaker on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felonies of failure to return leased property (five counts). Her bond was set at \$12,500.

- Holmes Eugene Boyd, 48, N.W. 160th St., Okeechobee, was arrested May 12 by Deputy Heath Hughes on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with burglary of a dwelling and grand theft. His bond was set at \$50,000.

- Corey Lee Taylor, 23, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested May 12 by Deputy Timothy Porter on a DOC warrant charging him with violation of probation - grand theft. He is being held without bond.

- Michael Wade Platt, 38, N.W. Sixth St., Okeechobee, was arrested May 14 by Detective Sergeant Bettye Taylor on a felony charge of interference with child custody. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Robin Stoner Fairbanks, 37, Sixth St., Okeechobee, was arrested May 14 by Detective Sergeant Bettye Taylor on a felony charge of interference with child custody. Her bond was set at \$1,500.

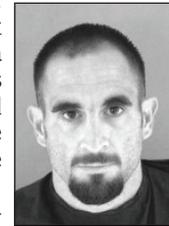
- Rick Clayton Lyon Jr., 26, 75th Lane N., West Palm Beach, was arrested May 15 by Deputy Yero Todman on a felony charge of grand theft-motor vehicle. His bond was set at \$5,000.

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.

Okeechobee's Most Wanted

The following person is on Okeechobee's Most Wanted list. There is an active warrant for this person. The criteria for making Okeechobee's Most Wanted list is based on the severity of the crime in conjunction with the age of the warrant.

- Brent Anthony Pignataro, 35, is 5'6" tall and weighs 155 pounds. He has brown eyes and black hair. He is wanted for violation of probation and



Brent Pignataro

failure to register as a career offender.

If you have any information on the whereabouts of any of Okeechobee's Most Wanted, can call the Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 1-800-273-TIPS (8477). If you call Treasure Coast Crimes Stoppers, you have the option of remaining anonymous. You can also go online to www.Tewatch.org.

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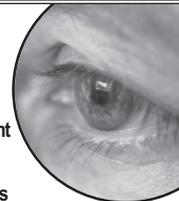
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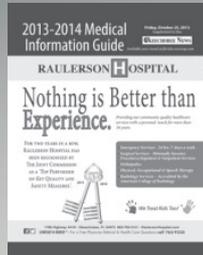
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Having a Primary Care Provider is important, even if you are healthy

When you are sick or need to see a doctor, you likely do not feel or act like your normal 'healthy' self. Whether you are experiencing fatigue, dizziness, nausea, or a host of other symptoms, your ability to thoroughly communicate about your condition and comprehend the doctor's medical advice may be compromised. This is just one reason why it is beneficial to have an existing relationship with a Primary Care Provider, before you actually need one.

Another benefit to having an existing relationship with a Primary Care Provider is having a baseline point of reference for your physical health (for example your weight, cholesterol & blood pressure). This knowledge, as well as you and your family's medical history, can help promote an accurate diagnosis and help proactively monitor patients' risk factors. Generally a patient's overall comfort level and confidence in their physician is increased when the patient has an existing relationship with the physician. With this increased confidence, comes trust. When patients know and trust their physician (vs. meeting the physician for the first time when

they are sick or need healthcare) patients can more easily and openly communicate ALL of their health and wellness concerns. Certainly patient outcomes benefit when physicians have the whole picture of their patient's health.

One of the reasons people give for not proactively seeing a doctor is their lack of time. If you think you are too busy to have your cholesterol levels checked, just imagine how your schedule will be affected if you suffer a heart attack? Another reason people give for not visiting a doctor annually is that they are worried about what the doctor, lab results or a screening may reveal. Ignorance is not bliss, when it comes to your health. Studies have shown that early detection and treatment are critical to a successful outcome, whether the diagnosis is breast cancer, diabetes or heart disease. A very popular reason for many people

to avoid scheduling a wellness visit is uncertainty regarding the cost and how to pay for the visit. Yet, many insurances, as well as Medicare, often include an annual wellness visit in their benefits. Contact your insurance

provider to learn if annual wellness visits are included in your health plan. If you have a healthcare question or need help finding a doctor, Raulerson Hospital provides a free 24/7 Consult-A-Nurse hotline: 863-763-9228

RADIATION ONCOLOGISTS

CANCER?

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

Limited Appointments. CALL NOW 863-467-9500

Big Lake Cancer Center

1115 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee

"Exceeding patients expectations~ every day!"

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

FAMILY MEDICINE

RAULERSON PRIMARY CARE

Dr. Zynab Hassan

Board Certified by the American Board of Family Physicians

Family Physician • Pediatrics
Physicals • Family Care & Medicine
Women's Health • Well-child visits
Welcome to Medicare visits



Monday - Thursday

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

Friday

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

(863) 467-2159

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

RAULERSON GYN, LLC

Caring Evaluation and Treatment of Women's Health Issues

DR. JAMES BRADFIELD

Gynecology - Board Certified

- Laparoscopy Hysterectomy
- Urogynecology
- Pelvic Prolapse
- Minimally Invasive Surgery
- Infertility
- Hysteroscopy
- Menstrual Abnormalities
- Endometriosis
- Urinary Incontinence
- Loss of Libido
- Sterilization
- Menopausal Disorders

863-763-8000

Accepting New Patients

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Paging all doctors and medical practitioners! Advertise your business here!

Call 863.763.3134 today for more info!

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Same Day Appointments
Affiliated with Raulerson Hospital



RaulersonPrimaryCare.com

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Okeechobee, FL 34972



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

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• Online for 4 weeks - 400 words + 4 photos
• Absolutely FREE!
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florida.newsrap.com
click on classifieds

Announcements

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

Cemetery Lots

SINGLE BURIAL PLOT IN EVERGREEN CEMETERY IN FIRST SECTION, UNDER A TREE ASKING \$650.00 O.B.O CALL JAN LONG 239-228-6995

Garage/Yard Sales

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

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

Services

FOR SALE - CLEAN FILL DIRT \$100/PER LOAD. CONTACT ROTOR VEHICAL. PHONE 863-623-8249 MOBILE 863-801-8921

Employment

Employment Full Time

Washington County School Program At Okeechobee Youth Development Center ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY PARAPROFESSIONAL (2)
(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 Human Resources and Employment click on Job Announcements
Create an account with a username and password, unless you have already completed this process. Complete your application for a CLASSIFIED POSITION and attach a resume, etc. Then, you **MUST APPLY** for this position.
APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 21st, 2014 (midnight)
"Reasonable accommodations are made for applicants as well as employee." "Pre-employment, reasonable suspicion, random (fitness for duty) and follow-up drug testing will be implemented as per the School Board's "Drug Free Workplace Policy"
An Equal Opportunity Employer

NOW HIRING A/C Service Technician with at least 5 years experience and competent in the following areas.

- Read and interpret wiring schematics
- Proficient in soldering and wiring units
- Have EPA certification
- Able to communicate and address issues with customers.

Please call 763-6742
208 SW 5th Ave, Okeechobee
EOE DFWP

CLASS A - CDL DRIVER must have DOT medical, drug free & clean driving history. 2.5 yrs. tanker endorsement. Call 863.467-9800. M-F 9:00 to 4:00.

DRIVERS: \$5,000 Sign-On Bonus! Great Pay! Consistent Freight, Great Miles on this Regional Account. Werner Enterprises: 1-855-517-2488

Employment

Employment Full Time

Now Hiring LOCAL & REGIONAL DRIVERS
Class A company CDL
• minimum of 2 years driving experience
• clean driving record
Our package includes: 401K, paid training, safety bonuses, paid vacations, professional uniforms, uniform cleaning service, boot program & more!
WALPOLE! EOE/DFWP

Call Donnie at (800) 741-6500 or apply online www.walpoleinc.com

NOW HIRING A/C Service Technician with at least 5 years experience and competent in the following areas.

- Read and interpret wiring schematics
- Proficient in soldering and wiring units
- Have EPA certification
- Able to communicate and address issues with customers.

Please call 763-6742
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Employment Full Time

NOW HIRING LOCAL & REGIONAL DRIVERS

Class A company CDL
• minimum of 2 years driving experience
• clean driving record
Our package includes: 401K, paid training, safety bonuses, paid vacations, professional uniforms, uniform cleaning service, boot program & more!
WALPOLE! EOE/DFWP

Call Donnie at (800) 741-6500 or apply online www.walpoleinc.com

Employment Part Time

Part time Sales Person to man Home Depot A/C & Heating booth, sales and trade show a plus, will train. Call 863-385-2665 or email info@advance-dairsebring.com

FOR RENT Rentals

Apartments

EFFICIENCY - 1BR furnished, for 1 person, Includes Utilities & Direct TV w/all movie channels \$550 per mo. 1yr lease & sec. dep. Available immediately Call 863-634-8885.

KINGS BAY Nice Twnhs. 2 br/1ba, Tiled floors. Incls Water. \$725/mo. + dep. Pool & Tennis Court. 863-801-7206 or 561-358-8128.

NW OKEE: 2 BR 1.5 BA, 2 BR, 1 BA. \$600, \$700. 1st, last & \$500 security. 561-346-1642.

Employment Full Time

NOW HIRING LOCAL & REGIONAL DRIVERS

Class A company CDL
• minimum of 2 years driving experience
• clean driving record
Our package includes: 401K, paid training, safety bonuses, paid vacations, professional uniforms, uniform cleaning service, boot program & more!
WALPOLE! EOE/DFWP

Call Donnie at (800) 741-6500 or apply online www.walpoleinc.com

Apartments

Newly Remodeled 2bd/1ba w/all new appliances, flat top stove w/over the range microwave, dishwasher, frig, ceramic tile and ceiling fans through out, W/D hook-up, small pet ok w/pet deposit \$725.00mo. w/1 year lease. Must pass background check, located near Court house. 863-634-8331

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

Condos/Townhouses Rent

2bd/1ba Fully Furnished, w/d pool, tennis court, club house privileges. Linens, dishes. In Kings Bay close to Power Plant and 15A, Debit Card accepted, long/short term lease. 863-634-8331

Affordable - 2br./1ba., screened in porch, pool, boat dock, Washer/Dryer, water included. \$750 mo. No pets. Move in now for \$875. 863-634-3604.

Condos/Townhouses Rent

Hotel Alternative, Ground Flr. - 1br/1ba., on water w/pool, fully furnished, includes Utilities. \$775 mo. Move in now for \$875. 863-634-3604.

OAK TREE Place - 2 br./1.5 ba. Patio, W/D, includes water, sewer & lawn mowing. \$750 mo. Small pet only. Home Realty Services, LLC. 863-801-4498.

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 CBS 1BD/1BA, LIVING & DINING ROOM KITCHEN COMBINATION. RANCH W/BARN, STALLS AND TACK ROOM ON 4 ACRE FENCED PASTURE, NICE IN FT DRUM AREA \$600.00/MO. PLUS SECURITY CALL WAYNE 734-548-1020 OR LIZ 734-637-2697

Office Space Rent

"Time To Move In Is Now" First 2 Months Free

"Next to Court House"



Commercial Space, 500 SF and up.
863-467-0651

Real Estate

Houses - Sale

LAKE OKEECHOBEE - Log Cabin, 2BR, 1BA, on Rim Canal. Boat dock. Community Pool. \$110,000 or best offer. (561)203-7482 or (561)401-3477

Real Estate Wanted

LAND WANTED - WILL PURCHASE 5 OR 10 ACRE TRACTS OF LAND FOR CASH. PRICE MUST BE A BARGAIN. CALL 863-763-6358

Mobile Homes

Mobile Home Rent

BHR - 3br., 1.5 ba. Florida rm., screen rm., on Canal. Fully furnished. \$800 mo. Home Realty Services, LLC 863-801-4498

Office Space Rent

Mobile Home Sale

Large used double wide Only \$36,900 includes setup, a/c, skirting and steps. call 863-357-4848

OLDER 3BD/1.5BA TRAILER IN 55 PLUS PARK, ON TAYLOR CREEK NEXT TO BOAT RAMP, COVERED CARPORT, NICE OUTBUILDING, MOTIVATED SELLER \$7,800.00 O.B.O. 863-623-4303 OR 731-333-4277

Palm Harbor Homes - limited time offer! \$5K towards any exterior package. We have 24 wide, 26, 28 & 30 wide homes. 3 stock units reduced 26K, Homes from the \$60's. plantcity.palmharbor.com or 800-622-2832 *Se habla espanol*

Recreation

Campers/RVs

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

Fifth Wheels

Monte Carlo 2013 Fifth Wheel, 37ft, Self contained, tri axle, 2 slides, 2 a/c's, many extras, will deliver. \$32,300 obo (847)489-6193

Automotive

Automobiles

1995 LINCOLN TOWN CAR, 4 DOOR, GOOD AIR CONDITIONING ASKING \$900.00 O.B.O. CALL 863-763-0429

Automobiles

2004 TOYOTA COROLLA 4DR LE, VERY GOOD CONDITION. NEW PAINT, NEW A/C, KEYLESS REMOTE, AUTO, 4CYL. 1.8 LITER, ABS, SUNROOF, AM/FM/CD/CASSETTE, SIDE AIRBAGS, 141,000 MILES, 32MPG. GREAT GRADUATION GIFT \$5,000. CALL 863-467-7539

Autos Wanted

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

Classic Cars

1927 FORD T-BUCKET HOT ROD - Pictures on newszap.com \$8,000 (863)610-1276

Commercial Trucks

FOR SALE 1995 FLD FREIGHTLINER WITH 2 FLAT BED TRAILERS, \$12,000.00 OWNER RETIRING CALL FOR MORE INFO 772-201-5498

Public Notices

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2014TD063
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **BE A MAN BUY LAND LLC** 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: **2270** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2012**
Description of Property: **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES LOT 9 BLOCK 11**
1-15-36-35-0040-00110-0090
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **MARKLEY T SEAY**
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 **19th day of June, 2014**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Lynn Shain
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 465004 ON 5/9,16,23,30/2014

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Auction will be held at Johns Towing Service storage lot located at 704 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 on **MAY 30, 2014** at 9:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage charges. Year, make, model and VIN are as follows.

1996 BUICK LASABRE
VIN #1G4HP52K7H418535

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right of final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL! NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE! Said automobiles will be sold in "As Is" condition with no guarantee's.
465411 ON 5/16/2014

Public Notices

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE: CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Okeechobee, will meet in Regular Session on **Tuesday, May 20, 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, cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.

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 Gamiotca, CMC, City Clerk
465420 ON 5/16/2014

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold its **Regular Session on Thursday, May 22, 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 Poskoni/ Deputy Clerk
465195 ON 5/16/2014

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

Your next job could be in today's classifieds. Did you look for it?

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. **472014CP000083CPAXMX**
Division: Probate
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF **OLLIE ARLENE RASHLEY**
Deceased,
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of OLLIE ARLENE RASHLEY, deceased, whose date of death was October 17, 2013 and whose Social Security No. is 266-44-1584, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this Notice is May 16, 2014.
George W. Rashley, Jr.
138 Cypress View Road
Goose Creek, SC 29445
By: George W. Rashley Jr. Petitioner
Attorney for Personal Representative
ALBERT J. GAMOT, P.A.
2701 PGA Blvd., Suite C
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
Telephone: 561-832-5500
By Albert J. Gamot, Jr.
Florida Bar No. 123165
465414 ON 5/16,23,20/2014

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

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

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 34S 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 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 34S 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 464294 ON 4/25;5/2,9,16/2014

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2014TD064
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **SABRINA BURAC** 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: **756** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2012**
Description of Property: **LOT O OF TRACT 19 WEST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF TRACT 19 SECTION 21 AS TO THE SOUTHERN COLONIZATION COMPANY PLAT OF TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH RANGE 33 EAST ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4 PAGES 3-3E INCLUSIVE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA**
1-21-34-33-0A00-00019-0000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **REINALDO G BURAC**
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 **19th day of June, 2014**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Lynn Shain
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 465003 ON 5/9,16,23,30/2014

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
2014TD064
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **SABRINA BURAC** 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: **756** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2012**
Description of Property: **LOT O OF TRACT 19 WEST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF TRACT 19 SECTION 21 AS TO THE SOUTHERN COLONIZATION COMPANY PLAT OF TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH RANGE 33 EAST ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4 PAGES 3-3E INCLUSIVE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA**
1-21-34-33-0A00-00019-0000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida
Name in which assessed: **REINALDO G BURAC**
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 **19th day of June, 2014**. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Lynn Shain
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 465003 ON 5/9,16,23,30/2014

Public Notice

Lutheran Services Florida
2210 Tall Pines Drive, Suite 220
Largo, Florida 33771
Request for Bid
HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START
Scope of Work: This request for bid is to solicit individuals/groups that operate high, quality licensed child care programs to potentially open and run a full day/full year Head Start/Early Head Start program that follows Federal, State, and County standards. The Head Start and Early Head Start program is a comprehensive program that provides child development and educational services, incorporating the curriculum and assessment tools which are used throughout the classroom and promotes socialization activities in accordance with the Head Start Act. The Agency is required to hold a Child Care license with the Florida Department of Children & Families, participation in the USDA Child Care Food Program, and Guiding Star Quality Rating Improvement System.
Request for: Head Start and Early Head Start Child Care Partners in City of Pahokee
Document Cost: \$0
Bid Bond: No
Application Due Date/Time: May 19, 2014/ 5:00 pm
Bid Package Information Date: will be held on the Friday, May 23, 2014 at 11:00 am.
Location:
Pahokee Public Library
525 Bacom Point Road
Pahokee, FL 33476
Phone: 561-924-5928
Contact:
Lynn Stone
Contracts Manager
Lutheran Services Florida Inc.
2210 Tall Pines Drive, Suite 220
Largo, Florida 33771
Phone Number: 727-547-5902
Application can be found at
<http://sf.bsehs.lsfnet.org/Pages/Head-Start-Early-Head-Start-Duval.aspx>
465339 OK 5/11,14,16,18,21,23/2014

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| ACROSS | DOWN | 29 Beach shelter | 49 Crinkly gauze |
| 1 Treat that comes in Mint Oreo and M&M's flavors | 1 Carp family member | 34 Bog fuels | 52 Old Vatican coin |
| 11 Ercoe's prop | 2 College hangout | 36 The moment after | 53 One of Hawaii's five counties |
| 14 One with a lot to be concerned about | 3 A/C measure | 40 Tennyson's "lily maid of Astolat" | 54 ICU personnel |
| 15 Ones place | 4 LAPD part | 42 Montreal daily top | 55 "Ecclesiastical History of the English People" |
| 16 Attract considerable attention | 5 Impossible to do | 43 "Congo" attacker | 58 Bulky center? |
| 17 Contemporary of Dashiell | 6 Fanatical devotion | 45 Revive, as a bad memory | 59 Old TV knob |
| 18 Fitness gurus?: Abbr. | 7 Pitts of silents | 47 Get a load of | |
| 19 His, to Jacques | 8 Nissan models | | |
| 20 Mandela's birth town | 9 Big name in outdoor gear | | |
| 22 Follies name | 10 Adviser once described as "a cross between Henry Kissinger and Minnie Mouse" | | |
| 23 It has a bonnet and a boot | 11 Scotts offering | | |
| 25 Top | 12 "Sure, let me try it" | | |
| 28 Court tactic | 13 Forecast word | | |
| 30 Ruin | 15 Brilliant fish | | |
| 31 Farrier's tool | 21 Theme | | |
| 32 Words from a follower | 22 Like an executrix: Abbr. | | |
| 33 Place known for its lines, briefly | 24 Fish eater | | |
| 34 Poe title stowaway | 25 Stick in | | |
| 35 Churchill's "so few": Abbr. | 26 Follows | | |
| | 27 Traverse | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

M	A	M	M	A	W	E	L	S	H	M	P	S		
I	T	E	M	S	E	R	A	T	O	E	L	K		
C	O	D	L	I	V	E	R	O	I	L	S	E		
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xwordeditor@aol.com

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SCHOOL

Continued From Page 1

The board appointed Vanessa McAllister as the new principal at Central Elementary. Randy Paulson will retire effective July 1.

The board appointed Joseph Stanley as coordinator of the K-12 Accountability and Assessment to replace Sharon Suits who retires this year.

The three-year project to restore a Ford 3000 tractor was honored by the school board. Yearling Middle School FFA students who took part included Preston Arnold, Justin Drawdy, Reed Jones, Brady Pearce, Jared Phares, Austin Waldron and Nate Wilcox. Freshmen campus students included Jared Corby and Robbie Jolly. OHS students included Tristen Anderson, Raybon Carrier, Zach Hunter, Carolanne Lundy, Jarred Morgan, Austin Parker and Josey Pearce. Jacqueline Phares was home schooled. The coach was Buddy Mills and the Flywheeler coach was Gordon Morgan.

Mr. Morgan said the students completed an essay on the history of the tractor, had to attend all of the shows presented by the Fly Wheelers and complete a tractor drive. The Florida Flywheelers contributed \$18,000 to the Yearling Middle School FFA.

Top elementary readers of the year were honored from each school. Ja'Bria Brinkley represented Central, Kase Myers Everglades, Yolanda Pelayo North, Adryauna Baker Seminole and Anna Robinson, South Elementary. Kase Myers and Yolanda Pelayo tied for the most points this year.

Martin Brown, Michael Shablom, Timothy Shablom and Jonathan VanDeman were honored as Eagle Scouts.

Senior Cody Walker was honored along with boy tennis coach Morgan Ungerott for the team's advancement to regional play this year as the district runner up.

Otto Ramirez was the recipient of the National Beta Club John W. Harris Leadership Award.

Teachers who retire at the end of the school year honored Tuesday included Cheryl Biebel first grade, Dan Biebel science at OHS, George Fuller physical education, Laura Keller kindergarten, Catherine Lehman second grade, Sharlene Moats language arts, Colleen O'Bannon second grade, and Rosemary Palmero, science teacher. O'Bannon served 34 years and Mr. Fuller 35 years for the school system. Non instructional employees who retire include Lorna Crockett, Lydia Entry, Margaret Friend, and Linda Tackett. Friend was the longest serving paraprofessional in the district having been hired in 1978.

In other actions, the board approved the merger of the Okeechobee Freshman Campus with Okeechobee High School for state school grading purposes. The campuses will remain separate. Staffing will not change. The title of employees would be subject to change. Carol Revels would retain hiring and supervisory powers at the freshman campus and each faculty would be treated separately. Revels would likely be reclassified as a senior administrator. Toni Wiersma would serve as principal over both schools.

The board continued until June 10 a hearing to consider a recommendation by the superintendent to suspend without pay and terminate board employee Elaine Murphy. The board did continue a suspension

without pay for Ms. Murphy until June 10.

The board approved staffing allocations that include the loss of five teaching jobs at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus, five at Yearling Middle, three at Osceola Middle, one teacher at the Okeechobee Achievement Academy, one teacher at Central, two teachers at Everglades, one educator at North Elementary, one at Seminole and one at South. Seventeen instructional jobs will be eliminated district wide, one administrative job, and three non instructional.

The proposed state budget could lead to additional money from the state of approximately \$850,000. Mr. Kenworthy said he fully intends to offer salary increases totalling \$800,000, or one step for all employees for the 2014-15 school years.

"I wanted to impact non classroom positions and that is why I've recommended these staffing allocations," he added.

Mrs. Morgan said she was concerned the dean position at Yearling Middle School will be cut.

"The demographics at that school are completely different from Osceola." In referrals, YMS had 3.4 per day, OMS had 4.2, "I truly believe that the dean has an important position because he's a positive role model, who is deterring referrals," she said.

Mrs. Morgan said this would add more duties to other administrators who are already inundated with responsibilities.

"I don't think it would be wise of us as a board to remove this position. Cuts can be made elsewhere to protect that school," she said.

Her comment was greeted by a warm applause from a group of employees from the school.

Teacher Lori Bandi said the position of dean should be preserved at the school. He said Yearling has a student-teacher ratio of 14.02 this year but will increase to over 16 students per teacher in 2014-2015. She noted the Okeechobee Achievement Academy has a dean. YMS already has lost a media specialist and could lose three more teaching positions, she noted.

"Too much cutting is doing more harm than good. This is crossing the line," she noted.

Board member India Riedel said hard decisions have to be made when it comes to cuts.

"When we start to cut teachers and deans that concerns me. What will happen to our students and to our schools?"

She pointed out the dean, Brent Stuart, would be given an opportunity for another job in the district but potentially would see a loss in compensation.

"I feel strongly it is the superintendent's obligation to present to this board what is right, just and equitable for our students, staff and our community," she added.

Mr. Kenworthy said Okeechobee has reduced administrative costs in the past several years. The district spent \$665.13 per student in 2011-2012 and \$646.81 in 2012-2013.

The board agreed to add the position of dean to the staffing formulas.

The board decided to change from the valedictorian and salutatorian system at OHS to the college-based cum laude recognition. The top 1 percent will be recognized as summa cum laude, the next 2 percent as magna cum laude and the next 2 percent as cum laude. Five percent of the graduation class would be recognized.

RAPE

Continued From Page 1

Anthony, will be returned to Okeechobee County.

"I am very happy this man is in police custody. I have confidence that our criminal justice system works and this man will be put away for a long, long time," said Sheriff Paul May of the arrest.

An arrest report by Detective Howard Pickering, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), indicated Thitchener and the victim did not know each other prior to Dec. 23, 2013, when the alleged incident occurred in the man's travel trailer. The trailer was parked in an RV park on U.S. 441 S.E.

According to the detective's report Thitchener and the victim met then went to his trailer. Once inside, the victim went to the bathroom to "fix her makeup."

When she came out of the bathroom Thitchener reportedly came up behind her and put his arm around her throat in a choke hold. He told her this was no joke and that he was serious, stated the detective's report.

The victim apparently told the detective she felt something hard against the back of her head and thought it was a gun.

The two began to fight and during their melee they broke the glass out of the oven

door so shards of glass were now scattered across the kitchen floor, the detective stated.

Detective Pickering's report indicated the woman began to scream, but Thitchener threw her to the floor and ordered her to "shut up, or I swear to God I'm going to kill you!"

The victim kept trying to get out the front door of the small trailer, but her attacker would allegedly grab her around the neck and pull her away from the door.

Thitchener then took the woman to his bedroom and raped her, indicated the report. He raped her a second time in the bathroom, added the report.

According to the report Thitchener sold the trailer a few days later and fled the county. He apparently went to New York where he has family. Detective Pickering went on to state the new owner of the trailer allowed OCSO Crime Scene Technicians Kathleen Watson and Jackie Moore to enter the trailer to gather evidence and DNA. The report indicated there was blood on the kitchen floor that apparently came from the victim when she was cut by the broken glass on the floor. Warrants were later issued for Thitchener that charged him with four counts of sexual battery, kidnapping and battery.

Thitchener was interviewed by OCSO detectives a few days after the alleged rape and then released. He fled the area a short time after that interview.

DRUGS

Continued From Page 1

on \$400,000 bond.

- Laron Savonte McNeil, 22, N.E. 15th St., sale of cocaine, possession of cocaine with intent to sell, sale of cocaine within 1,000 feet of a county park and possession of cocaine with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a county park. He is being held on \$260,000 bond.

- Devon Anthony Mitchell Jr., 26, S.E. 14th Ave., sale of marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, sale of cocaine within 1,000 feet of a specified area (two counts) and possession of cocaine with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a specified area (two counts). He is being held on \$500,000 bond.

- Juan Manuel Nieves, 23, N.E. 29th Terrace, sale of methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana under 20 grams. He is being held on \$103,500 bond.

Arrest reports show a search warrant was served on McQueen's home at 7:55 a.m. Monday, May 12. Although he was not home at the time, Frost was in the bathroom when the Special Response Team (SRT) from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) entered the home.

During that search, task force detectives reportedly found: two partially smoked marijuana cigarettes; one marijuana cigarette that had not been smoked that weighed 1.5 grams; rolling papers; a marijuana grinder; a cut straw containing a white residue; crack cocaine; one small baggie containing 4.4 grams of marijuana; one-half of a tablet that will be sent to the crime lab for analysis; a digital scale; and, a number of small plastic baggies.

All of the suspected marijuana and co-

caine were field tested, and those tests allegedly indicated a positive result for the presence of either pot or coke.

When McQueen was arrested, he was out of jail on bond. He was arrested Jan. 3 on misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana under 20 grams and no valid driver's license. Because of Tuesday's arrest his bond has been revoked and he is now being held without bond on those misdemeanor charges.

The next day, task force detectives and the SRT unit served a search warrant on the N.E. 29th Terrace home belonging to Nieves.

According to arrest reports, the detectives searched the home and found: five burnt marijuana blunts; a total of 5.8 grams of suspected spice; and, a total of \$690 in cash.

Detectives field tested the substance in the burnt blunts, and those tests allegedly indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana.

Dortch, McNeil and Mitchell were all charged with selling drugs to a confidential source during an undercover drug operation. Some of the charges filed against McQueen came about because he, too, allegedly sold to a confidential source during the operation.

According to arrest reports: Dortch sold both hydromorphone tablets and crack cocaine to the confidential source; McNeil twice sold crack cocaine to the confidential source; Mitchell sold both marijuana and crack cocaine to the source; McQueen sold marijuana and cocaine to the source; and, Nieves sold meth to source during the operation.

The task force reports also stated the suspected spice found in Nieves' home was seized and will be sent to a crime lab for analysis. If the seized substances are found to contain illegal material, Nieves will then be arrested on additional charges.

Detectives also indicated their current investigation and operation is continuing.

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4002-H: Buckhead Ridge Lake access concrete block furnished home, metal roof, screened patio w/bonus room that could be extra bdrm. Concrete seawall, boat slip, fish cleaning area. \$130,000 MLS #208051

NEW LISTING



4021-M: Palm Village 4br/2ba DW, 2,482 total sq ft/1,716 under air, open porch, Large Family room, fireplace and nice open kitchen. HOA includes Clubhouse, pool, lawn care and more. 55+ comm. \$80,000 MLS #208093

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