



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Celebrating Our Centennial!

Vol. 105 No. 99

Sunday, August 17, 2014

75¢ plus tax

County continues to struggle with sheriff's budget
... Page 13

School starts Monday ... Page 8

OHS volleyball team ready for new season
... Page 19

Trees can bring financial benefits
... Page 7

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Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen
A group of protestors gathered at the corner of S.R. 70 and U.S. 441 (Parrott Avenue) Friday afternoon, to draw attention to the case of a local teen who was reportedly beaten at a house party on Aug. 8.

Autistic teen beaten

'House party' turns violent; Man who kicked and punched teen reportedly handed phone to another boy to video it

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A recent prison releasee is back in jail and an adult woman has been arrested after a house party, where juveniles as young as 12 years old were drinking, turned violent.

Andrew Logan Wheeler, 18, S.W. 11th St., Okeechobee, was arrested early Aug. 10 for beating up a 16-year-old boy who reportedly suffers from autism. Wheeler is charged with one felony count of child abuse without great bodily harm and is being held on \$20,000 bond in the Okeechobee County Jail.



Andrew Logan Wheeler



Evadean Lydecker

Wheeler, state arrest affidavits, handed his cell phone to a 17-year-old boy at the party so that he could video the Friday night, Aug. 8, beating. The 47-second video clearly depicts the young boy covering and crying for Wheeler to stop his onslaught.

See **WHEELER** — Page 5

Local teen killed in car crash

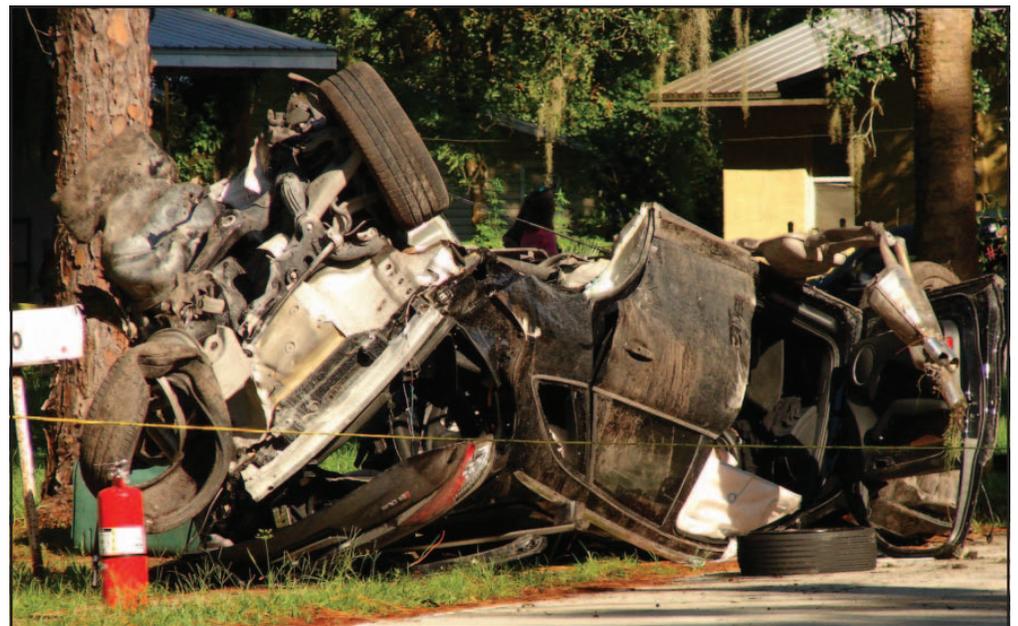
By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A 17-year-old Okeechobee girl was killed early Friday morning in a single vehicle crash in the 1700 block of S.W. Fifth Avenue.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol press release, Briana Kay Banuelos was pronounced dead at the scene of the Aug. 15 crash.

The driver of the 2014 Audi SQ 5 sports utility vehicle was 18-year-old Nathaniel Aaron Doctor of Okeechobee. The FHP release stated he received minor injuries and was tak-

See **ACCIDENT** — Page 5



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp
A local teenager was killed and three other occupants of this 2014 Audi sports utility vehicle were seriously injured in a Friday, Aug. 15, single vehicle crash in the 1700 block of S.W. Fifth Ave.

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Okeechobee schools prepare for 2014-15 year

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Elaine Murphy, who fought to keep her job with the school system after being accused of pulling the hair of a six-year-old ESE student, was reappointed to work as a paraprofessional at the Okeechobee Achievement Academy at Tuesday's School Board meeting.

The school board voted in July to suspend her without pay for the allegation.

Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy said Murphy will work with older students. There is no other position available at this time to offer Murphy.

Michelle Branham was appointed as Coordinator of Instructional Technology. The position was created when Tuuli Robinson was promoted to Assistant Principal at North Elementary.

Employees honored upon retirement included Kathleen McGee, 27 years, Joana Norris, 27 years, Debra Ronkko, 31 years, Foursight Jackson, 29 years, and Jane Sills, 34 years.

Two FFA students were honored upon their achievements at the state level. Brandon McKee was named 2014-2015 State President and 2014 Outstanding District Officer. Julie Sharpe was honored as a state champion in the FFA extemporaneous speaking competition. Neither student was able to attend the meeting.

The board also accepted the resignation of Mary Paulson, Assistant Principal at South Elementary, effective on Oct. 1, 2014.

One custodian position will move from Osceola Middle to Okeechobee Achievement Academy.

In other matters, the start time at Okeechobee High School was changed to 7 a.m. until 2:10 p.m. They also officially changed the start time at South Elementary School from 8:10 a.m. until 3:50 p.m. as mandated by the state due to low reading test scores.

Attorney Tom Conely said three pending motions were filed on behalf of Thomas Bonasera to compel discovery and a request to delay his termination hearing. He is accused

of trading prescription pain pills for the nude photos of a former teacher at Everglades Elementary.

Mr. Conely said he saw no reason to delay the hearing from Aug. 28 at 1 p.m.

The school board voted to deny the motions.

A pep rally was held Wednesday at Okeechobee High School. Nine teaching positions remain to be filled.

Okeechobee student ACT tests improved in every area except mathematics in 2014.

Top-tier students did well in math and science when compared to the state average. More students took the test, 27, and scores improved nonetheless, a positive for the system, Mr. Kenworthy noted.

Monday, Aug. 18 is the first day of the school year.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Partly cloudy with scattered storms. Highs around 95°F. Heat index around 121°F. Southwest wind 1 to 7 MPH. Precipitation 40 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with scattered storms. Lows around 75°F. South southeast wind 3 to 8 MPH. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Partly cloudy with isolated storms. Highs around 97°F. Heat index around 134°F. West southwest wind to 5 MPH. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Monday night: Partly cloudy with isolated storms. Lows around 75°F. East southeast wind to 6 MPH. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Kathleen McGee, language arts teacher at Yearling Middle School, was honored upon her retirement Tuesday night.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Foursight Jackson retired after 29 years as the custodian at Okeechobee High School.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jane Sills was honored for 34 years of service to the Okeechobee school system. She worked as food service assistant at Osceola Middle School.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Debra Ronkko, third grade teacher at Everglades, was honored for her 31-year career with Okeechobee schools.

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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!

You might be from Okeechobee

- If the buzzing of mosquitoes reminds you of home ... you might be from Okeechobee.

- If you buy "Mane and Tale" shampoo for your own hair, or have ever considered using "Cowboy Magic" to untangle your child's hair ... you might be from Okeechobee.

- If you've ever "buried" someone in the park on election night ... you might be from Okeechobee.

Special request

- To all kids returning to school this month, if you see someone who is struggling to make friends or being bullied because he or she doesn't have many friends or because they are shy or not as pretty or not dressed in the most "in" clothes — PLEASE step up. Say "hi" or at least smile at them in the hallway. You never know what that person might be facing outside of school. Your kindness might make a big difference in someone's life.

County reserves

- Reminder to the Okeechobee County Commissioners — capitalism requires capital — free it up!

- I was under the impression that the Landfill Trust Fund was to cover the expense of running the landfill should Waste Management choose to stop running it. If WM stopped then the county would be responsible for covering the cost. WM wouldn't provide insurance for that. The annual report defines it as: "The Landfill Trust Fund is used to account for a portion of solid waste host fees assessed to the private contractor operating the Okeechobee

Landfill committed to a reserve to provide this service should the landfill revert back to the County and, therefore, require some amount of funding to take over this service by the County. The County has established a minimum fund balance of \$8 million. Funds historically have been used to fund capital projects, grant matches and some operational components. At Sept. 30, 2013, total fund balance was \$8.0 million. In 2011 the County used a portion of the funds to pay off the Courthouse/Ag Center Loan, resulting in a fund balance less than the minimum. The County committed to replacing these funds within three years. The net increase in fund balance during the current fiscal year was \$600,000 due to the commitment to replace the minimum fund balance." If the county didn't have the funds to continue the operations we would be in a pretty nasty situation....

- I think if we end up agreeing that \$8 million should be kept on hand then it should require a referendum of the voters to use those funds for anything other than the landfill.

- More restrictions on the landfill fund would be a good idea. And offer the voters more say in how the money gets moved around.

Political forum

- The comments at the political forum led me to believe that at least two of those in the county commission panels did not understand how MSTUs work. Adding an MSTU to fund law enforcement would not broaden the tax base, it would shrink it. First, MSTUs have the same Homestead Exemption rules as ad valorem, so the people who are not paying ad valorem taxes would not pay the MSTU either. Second, an MSTU to fund the sheriff's office could only be levied on county residents. City residents would get a tax break and the county residents would have to pay more. So the county residents who are paying ad valorem now would see an even bigger tax bill. That is not broadening the tax base.

Reflections from the pulpit

"Good News Travels Slow!"

By Rev. Jim E. Benton, Pastor
Faith Farm Tabernacle

If you are like me at all, you get really tired of all of the negative news that dominates the newspapers, morning news magazines and the evening news. It has been said that bad news travels fast, and this is quite evident. But have you noticed how the evening news and the morning news programs try to end on a positive note? They try to end with a story of how a puppy was saved from a storm drain or something similar. I think it is because we can't handle hearing about all the bad stuff that is happening. We need good news!

Well, don't despair! I have Good News for you!

In 2 Timothy 2:2, the Apostle Paul was very clear in his reminder to the young Timothy, "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

Paul was Timothy's mentor who poured

the Good News of Christ into this young man. He let Timothy know that the good news travels through "reliable people" who can teach others.

In that same chapter, Paul summarizes the Good News; 11 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

The truth is that even when we are unfaithful, God is still faithful to us! He promised to return to the earth one day and take us home with Him to a place that He has prepared for us. That, my friend, is Good News!

I thank God for the many pastors in Okeechobee who are "reliable men and women" who share this Good News on a regular basis to those who need to hear it! If you need some more good news, don't wait for the end of the news program, but go to one of our local churches and discover the Good News that is found in Jesus Christ! He is what the Good News is all about!

Letter to the editor

Veterinarians

appreciate support

Doctors Paul Bryant and Jay Stinson would like to thank the Okeechobee community for the last decade plus of support. We would like to take this opportunity to inform the community that we plan to remain here local and continue to service the constituents of Okeechobee County and the surrounding areas. We have made this area our home and we so appreciate the outpouring of love and support from our community in our professional change. Dr.

Bryant is currently operating ambulatory as Arrow 5 Equine LLC. Dr. Stinson will take a little longer to reestablish a location. Please be advised that we are actively working to resolve the location issue. Keep your eyes and ears open for further developments! Once again thank you for the years of love and support!

Paul and Jay

Arrow 5 Equine LLC, 863-697-6611

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Like us on Facebook at Jay Stinson DVM

Chamber hosting online privacy seminar

On Aug. 19, the Chamber of Commerce of Okeechobee County will host a seminar called "The Ins and Outs of Facebook and Protecting your Privacy."

Learn to set up and use Facebook to market your business and much more. Have questions about setting up your Facebook page? Privacy settings? How to promote your Business? Join the group for a two-hour seminar where you can get your questions answered by a Social Media Specialist.

There is a fee of \$7 per person. For information, go online to www.okeechobeebusiness.com; or, call the Chamber at 863-467-6246.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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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.
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- 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.



Glades County considers raise for employees

By Charles M. Murphy

Special to the Okeechobee News

MOORE HAVEN — Whether to present a salary hike to county employees was the highlighted item on Tuesday's agenda of the Glades County Board of County Commissioners.

A raise of 38 cents per hour for all employees would cost the county \$858.81 per employee. There are 121 employees in the system. The projected total cost for one year is \$96,000 for wages, \$7,400 for insurance for all employees, both of the county and constitutional officers.

Commissioner Paul Beck and Chairman Donna Storter-Long supported the lump sum payment. Commissioners Crystal Drake and Tim Stanley supported an hourly raise.

With the absence of Russell Echols, the commission vote ended in a stalemate on the raise. They opted to table the matter until the next meeting on Aug. 25.

The effort to have expanded fire protection in the county remains on the table. Mr. Beck said there is a movement among conservation groups to put more land into conservation for the Everglades. He noted the county could lose more tax base making it more difficult on the taxpayer.

Resident J.C. Long said residents pay taxes for roads and some don't get their roads repaired. He said he didn't think people would move here and build expensive homes if there is not adequate fire protection.

"We do need to look at this," he said. "We have volunteers but they are only available at night."

Mr. Long said he also worried about the loss of life in a fire.

"I know we are a poor, poor county but we need service," he said. "We don't want to throw away \$30,000."

Carl Perry said people have lived and moved to Glades County for many years and will continue to do so whether or not there

is fire protection. He said government might have gotten too big in the county.

the commission drafted a letter to have Institute St. Onge voluntarily terminate their lease at the Glades County Business Park.

A no wake zone is ready for implementation at Harney Pond Canal in Lakeport. The county spent over \$8,000 on a survey to make the no wake zones legally enforceable.

They also provided 5,338 burn authorizations to farmers and ranchers to remove exotics and reduce the threat of wildfires in the past five years.

Commissioner Stanley reported a cell phone tower is being constructed on private property in Buckhead Ridge and has received the necessary permits. He said that will improve cell phone coverage to the community.

WHEELER

Continued From Page 1

But Wheeler continues to beat and knee the boy about the head and upper body, added the report.

That video also shows Wheeler pulling the boy across the floor of the home by his hair.

A family member of the victim Monday described the beating as "brutal — just brutal."

Arrested Friday, Aug. 15, was Evadean Lydecker at whose home the party was allegedly held. She was arrested on warrants obtained by Detective Sergeant Bettye Taylor, of the Okeechobee City Police Department. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and open house party.

She was booked into the county jail on a bond of \$1,750.

Arrest reports by OCPD Officer Ryan Holroyd state Lydecker not only purchased alcohol at a downtown convenience store, but she also stood by while the teen was being beaten. The beating reportedly started inside the home in the 600 block of S.W. Ninth St. then moved outside.

At some point the teen was beaten, choked to unconsciousness and left lying in a ditch.

"He (the victim) awoke to find Wheeler standing over the top of him and hitting him in the face while other people stood around and laughed," stated Officer Holroyd, who added that witnesses told him Lydecker also went outside and watched but said nothing.

When the attack ended the teen stumbled

away from the scene then collapsed onto the road. A woman found the boy in the 500 block of S.W. Sixth St. and called police.

The victim was taken to Raulerson Hospital where he was found to have facial and scalp contusions, a sprained neck and a concussion. He was later released to his family.

During his investigation of the incident, Officer Holroyd downloaded the video and stated he could see Lydecker and her 15-year-old daughter watching the teen being pummeled by Wheeler. As the battered teen cries and pleads for Wheeler to stop, Lydecker is heard saying "OK" and "all right" before telling them to go outside, stated the officer's report.

The officer's report also documents statements that as teens were drinking alcohol apparently purchased for them by Lydecker, a 12-year-old boy rode up on his bicycle and drank half a bottle of Bud Light® beer. The boy reportedly grabbed another Bud Light® and left the party.

Prior to Lydecker's arrest Friday, the aforementioned video was placed on the internet and has been viewed by people all across the U.S. The police department has fielded calls from California, New York, Michigan and other places across the nation.

Because there was such a time lapse from the time of the incident until Lydecker's arrest, many have taken to social media to accuse the police department and the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office of covering up the beating. The sheriff's office did not handle this case because it is inside city limits and in the police department's jurisdiction.

Sgt. Taylor said people have even gone so far as to call the police department and

threaten dispatchers.

She explained that she submitted Lydecker's arrest warrant Monday, Aug. 11, which then went to the State Attorney's Office for approval. The warrant was approved, then put in Judge Jerald Bryant's file in the Clerk of Courts office for him to sign. However, Judge Bryant left on vacation.

The warrants were found Friday morning by Circuit Court Judge Gary Sweet, who then signed them and gave them to Sgt. Taylor.

Lydecker was arrested around 10 a.m. Friday.

This was not her first arrest on these types of charges. In April 2011 Lydecker was arrested and charged with child neglect, two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and one count of delivery of a controlled substance to a minor. She was found guilty of those charges by Circuit Court Judge Sherwood Bauer and was sentenced to serve one month and 11 days in the county jail with credit for time served of one month and 11 days. She was also ordered to serve two years probation and one month on community control.

Department of Corrections records show Wheeler was released from prison on May 27 of this year. He was arrested Oct. 1, 2012, on felony charges of burglary of a conveyance and petit theft and placed on probation for 42 months. He was then arrested Dec. 17, 2013, for violating his probation.

On March 10, 2014, he was found guilty of violating his probation and sentenced to 18 months in prison, with credit for two months and 26 days.

According to OCPD detectives the house party investigation is continuing.

ACCIDENT

Continued From Page 1

en to Raulerson Hospital in Okeechobee.

Also injured in the 6 a.m. crash was Lacy Leigh Altman, 20, of Okeechobee and Zachary Blaise Wingfield, 19, of Okeechobee.

Ms. Altman was reportedly taken to Raulerson Hospital and was in critical condition. Mr. Wingfield was airlifted to Lawnwood Regional Medical Center in Fort Pierce and was in serious condition, stated the release.

Apparently the SUV was southbound on S.W. Fifth Avenue when the driver failed to negotiate a curve in the road and lost control. The Audi left the road, struck several

trees, mailboxes and a power pole before overturning.

All four occupants of the vehicle were ejected from the vehicle, continued the release.

The crash remains under investigation by FHP crash investigator Trooper Sergeant Michael Lanam and FHP homicide investigator Trooper Corporal Raymond Stuhr.

Your right to reply.



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We admit our errors promptly and we don't "bury" the corrections. (If error appears on the front page, that's where we print the correction.)

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Local blood drive dates set

Blood supplies are low right now as donor participation is slow. Please choose one of these drives and donate to Save Okeechobee Lives.

- Sunday, Aug. 17, at Golden Corral, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 26, at Raulerson Hospital parking lot, From 1 until 6 p.m.

VFW hosting bingo, dinners

Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528, 29012 E. S.R. 78, is hosting activities open to the public this week. The ladies auxiliary will host breakfast Sunday, **Aug. 17**, from 8:30 until 11 a.m. for \$6; plus \$1 bloody marys, screwdrivers and drafts until 11 a.m. Then it's five-card bingo at 5 p.m. Dinner on Wednesday, Aug. 20, is liver and onions from 5 until 7 p.m. for \$6. Thursday, Aug. 21, bingo and food at 1 p.m. Friday night dinner features pork loin, fish and/or shrimp for \$7-\$8 donation. Live music will be provided by Phil Eddings from 6 until 11 p.m. All proceeds benefit veterans programs and their families. Call 843-467-2882 for details.

Legion offers Sunday bingo

American Legion 64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host Sunday night bingo on **Aug. 17** at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the bingo area. The kitchen will offer a limited menu. Payoffs will be determined by player attendance. All proceeds to benefit the American Legion veterans' programs. The event is open to the public. The American Legion now has free WIFI for its lounge and dining room patrons.

Garden, Orchid clubs to meet

The Garden Club will meet Monday, **Aug. 18**, at 6 p.m. That will be followed by the Orchid Club meeting at 7 p.m. Both will be held at the Extension Center, 451 U.S. 98 N. Everyone is welcome. Bring a plant or orchid to show or a problem plant to discuss. For information, call 863-763-6469.

Community meeting planned

A community meeting will be held at the First Missionary Baptist Church, 906 N.W. Ninth St., at 6 p.m. Monday, **Aug. 18**. For information, call 954-203-3564 or 863-484-2350.

Youth soccer sign ups slated

Okeechobee Parks and Recreation will host youth soccer league registrations **Aug. 18** - 29 at the Sports Complex, 640 N.W. 27th Lane, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 :30 p.m. The fee is \$45 per player. You will need a birth certificate to register. For information, call 863-763-6950.

Benefit for Pilgrims slated

Okeechobee Quarters for a Cause will host their monthly auction Tuesday, **Aug. 19**, at the American Legion, 501 S.E. Second St., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. They will support Lee and Larry Pilgrim with their medical bills. Wear boots and pearls to be entered in a special prize giveaway. For information, call Christy at 863-697-1247.

Photo workshop planned

A free photo editing workshop will be held at the Okeechobee County Library, 206 S.W. 16th St., Thursday, **Aug. 21**, from 5:30 until 7 p.m. Learn to crop, brighten, or color correct the photos. For information, call 772-708-6764.

Enjoy 4-H night with the Mets

Come join your fellow Okeechobee 4-H club members for 4-H night at the Mets game on Saturday, **Aug. 23**, at 6:30 p.m. 4-H families and 4-H day campers from H20, history, cooking and horse camps, along with 4-H families from Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties are included. Tickets are just \$10 each and include admission, hot dog and drink. Please call the extension office at 863-763-6469 to RSVP and your ticket will be reserved for purchase at the gate. Be sure to wear your 4-H club shirt or camp shirt to the game.

OCRA sign up dates set

OCRA will hold football/cheerleader sign ups Saturday, **Aug. 23**, at the sports complex from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Any child between the ages of 5 to 12 is welcome to sign up. The cost for football is \$80 and cheerleading is \$60. Bring a copy of the child's birth certificate and payment to sign up. OCRA is also offering fall baseball/softball to boys and girls ages 5-13 (boys) and 5-14 (girls). The cost to sign up for fall ball is \$50 per child. Sign ups will be held Saturday, **Aug. 23**, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the sports complex. For information, call 863-634-0515 for football and cheerleading. For fall ball, call 863-234-8024.

Celebrate A Life

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

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

newszap.com

'60s reunion party planned

Buckhead Ridge Moose Lodge #2417, 1016 Linda Road, is hosting a '60s reunion party at 7 p.m. Saturday, **Aug. 23**. Come see musical performances on big screens along with '60s music DJ John Gallagher. Also there will be a \$25 bar tab for Best Women and Man outfits along with '60s TV theme trivia. Hamburgers and fries will be served for a donation. For information, call John Gallagher at 954-592-3111. All proceeds go to Moose charities.

Benefit angling tourney set

Skull Hill Steel Archery will host 'Something for Nothin' -- a bow and trash fishing tournament to benefit Tony Sudduth, at the Okee-Tantie airboat ramp on **Aug. 23** at 7 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person and \$10 per person for the 50/50 big fish entry. For information call Jacob Mayfield 561-635-7470 or email jmayfield113@yahoo.com.

Class of '15 photos scheduled

Attention OHS Class of 2015: Senior pictures are coming. Please visit prestigeportraits.com/fl to view your session options and FAQs. You can book your appointment online or call 800-749-2796, ext. 1.

Photo sessions will be held:

Aug. 26 (1 until 9 p.m.)

Aug. 27 (1 until 9 p.m.)

It is your responsibility to set up your appointment. For information, contact Mr. Pung at pungc@okee.k12.fl.us.

Caregiver seminar slated

IRSC will host a Fearless Caregiver Conference presented by the Area Agency on Aging at the Williamson Conference Center, 2229 N.W. Ninth Ave., Monday, **Sept. 18**, from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be included. For information, call 954-362-8126.

Exercise at Agri-Civic Center

Unless an event is taking place, the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center grounds are open to area residents for exercise activities such as walking, running, and bike riding on a daily basis. The gate on S.R. 70 is open from 7 a.m. until dusk for residents to access the roads and parking lots in the facility. The staff asks everyone to help keep the facility clean by not littering.

Help for vets is available

A rumor has been circulating that the Veterans Service Office has closed and to receive veterans' services you must drive to the reservation to see a representative. This is NOT true. Betsy Grinslade, county Veterans Service officer, is accredited with the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, American Legion, VFW and DAV and has been working in this capacity since October 1999. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The office closes at 12:30 p.m. for lunch. The office is located in the old courthouse at 304 N.W. Second St. The phone number is 863-763-6441, ext. 5. If you have any questions contact Betsy Grinslade.

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Submitted by Sara May
USDA-NRCS Soil Conservationist

Did you know the cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is the same as having 10 air conditioners operating 20 hours every day?

In addition to their cooling power, trees provide other benefits; whether you live in the city or in the country.

Trees growing along the banks of rivers and streams keep the soil and nutrients on your land and ensure the water running off is cleaner downstream.

These same trees also help prevent floods by slowing down water during periods of heavy rain. As the water slows, it helps recharge underground aquifers that supply fresh water for drinking wells and irrigation.

Aside from their benefits to the community, trees are a perfect tool for the frugal homeowner and farmer.

Plant a tree in your field to provide much-needed shade for any livestock (or people) out in the sun during the summer.

The trees will also help you retain water in your soil in periods of drought.

A native deciduous tree planted in the right location can keep your house or barn temperature regulated. In the hot summer months, the tree will have its full set of leaves to keep your building cool. As the tree loses its leaves during the fall, it will be ready to allow the greatest amount of sunlight to warm your house or barn during the day.

To maximize your energy savings, plant your large deciduous trees on the east, west and northwest of your building. Doing so can help you reduce your air conditioning needs by 30 percent and heating needs by 20-50 percent depending on your location.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service works with farmers and ranchers to plant trees as part of conservation work.

The agency helps people who own or lease land to restore forests and stabilize the soil in vulnerable places, and NRCS installed more than 198,000 acres of trees and shrubs in fiscal 2013 nationwide, including over 2,400 acres in Florida.

Stop by your local NRCS office, 452 U.S. 98 N., and learn more about how trees can help your land and how to get started.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service helps America's farmers and ranchers conserve the nation's soil, water, air and other natural resources. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions that benefit both the landowner and the environment. Learn more at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/fl/home/>.



Special to the Okeechobee News
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Trees are a perfect tool for the frugal homeowner and farmer.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

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

COWS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
800-1000	89.00	- 168.00	103.51
1000-1200	99.00	- 123.00	110.65
1200-1400	99.00	- 126.00	112.23
1400-1600	104.00	- 127.00	111.78

BULLS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
1200-1400	128.00	- 136.00	133.00
1400-1600	108.00	- 135.00	121.50
1600-1800	110.00	- 134.00	123.75
1800-2000	119.00	- 132.00	125.50

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	942	1125
COWS	219	226
STRS	13	25
HFRS	23	22
BULLS	14	17
YRLINGS	63	13
MIX	54	0
TOTAL	1328	1428

#1 STEERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	425.00	- 515.00	464.97
250-300	400.00	- 445.00	411.83
300-350	375.00	- 495.00	388.38
350-400	285.00	- 340.00	296.29
400-450	260.00	- 305.00	269.42
450-500	242.50	- 274.00	251.60
500-550	240.00	- 260.00	246.58
550-600	226.00	- 254.00	235.59
600-650	216.00	- 230.00	220.66
650-700	204.00	- 218.00	208.75

#1 1/2 - #2 STRS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	250.00	- 455.00	368.82
250-300	295.00	- 400.00	361.94
300-350	280.00	- 375.00	326.45
350-400	245.00	- 285.00	263.66
400-450	232.50	- 258.00	247.33
450-500	220.00	- 242.50	233.30
500-550	218.00	- 240.00	229.80
550-600	208.00	- 226.00	215.15
600-650	199.00	- 216.00	208.05
650-700	190.00	- 204.00	198.63

#1 HEIFERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	340.00	- 450.00	391.41
250-300	295.00	- 355.00	312.50
300-350	270.00	- 310.00	282.23
350-400	247.50	- 270.00	255.59
400-450	237.50	- 280.00	244.38
450-500	230.00	- 255.00	235.97
500-550	220.00	- 240.00	229.64
550-600	212.00	- 242.00	224.25
600-650	200.00	- 248.00	213.67

#1 1/2 - #2 HFRS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	235.00	- 390.00	314.31
250-300	242.50	- 295.00	269.23
300-350	235.00	- 270.00	250.85
350-400	220.00	- 245.00	233.67
400-450	210.00	- 237.50	225.71
450-500	210.00	- 230.00	222.60
500-550	188.00	- 220.00	204.68
550-600	180.00	- 212.00	197.40
600-650	178.00	- 200.00	187.00

If the market was any lower, you couldn't prove it by me! Russian sanction against NATO countries including meat and dairy products from USA toppled the commodities trading last week and indications were it would have an impact on local cattle prices. Trading seemed "business as usual" here this week with some classes on cattle a little lower. Having said that, we had a good little steer calf bring \$5.15 a pound! We also had a slaughter cow bring \$1.27 a pound! Can't complain about that!

As we all know, any negative news will be used to lower prices ... that's the way it's always been. Fundamentals are still in place for prices to continue to be strong.

Labor Day Rodeo is coming to town Sunday and Monday, Aug. 31 & Sept. 1. Please support your Cattlemen's Association by coming to the rodeo.

Joe Lott, Inc., Okeechobee, topped the calf market with a high of \$5.15 bought by Foy Reynolds.

Seminole Tribe, Okeechobee, topped the slaughter cow market with a high of \$1.27 bought by Central Beef.

October special sales:
Oct 3: Bred Heifer & Cow Sale
Oct 10: "44 Farms" Angus Bull Sale
Oct 17: "Little Creek Farms" Brangus Bull sale plus 50 head (registered & commercial) Brangus Heifers.
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II: "GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:10.
Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:10, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00

III: "TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES"
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Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00, Mon. 3:00 & 7:00

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Okeechobee County Schools host Open House



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Teacher Andrea Huff greets Madison Hargraves and her family at South Elementary open house.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jamie Butler, OHS alumna, begins her first year as teacher at Central Elementary School. She greeted Adriana Garcia at open house Thursday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Okeechobee public school students go back to school on Monday. The schools hosted open house events on Thursday. Erik Velez and his daughter Delani, accompanied by his son, Dominic, a new kindergarten student at South Elementary Open House Thursday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Irma Molina and Luis Antony were among a large crowd at Central Elementary open house Thursday.

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Tammi's "TOP" of the Lake



The Best of Lake Okeechobee

By Tammi Kelly
Okeechobee News

• **Toni's Chic Boutique**, 123 S.W. Park St., has brand new fashions and jewelry, all new inventory and they always have a sale going on! Most new clothing and gift items are proudly made in the USA. Stop by just to look around. They are always happy to help you find the perfect outfit for that special event. Be sure to check them out on Facebook! You can give them a call at 863-357-8664.

• **2nd Street Pizza**, 202 N.E. Second St., is the newest pizza restaurant in town. They have stupendous Italian cooking and a cheesecake recipe that dates back 108 years straight to Italy. I can honestly say it is incredible. They have over 20 different kinds of pizza and even one that is call "Okeechobee." Ralph Collins has been a chef for 22 years and if you haven't be in this place you should really go because you'll be so glad you did. Give them a like on Facebook and don't forget to tell them Tammi sent you! They can be reached at 863-763-5000.

• **Nature's Pantry, Health Food Store**, 417 S.W. Park St., is a great place to get all your health food and organic needs. Locally owned and operated, the store has a friendly staff. If you have a food allergy such as gluten free, explain your needs and these guys will help. Stop by and say hello or just look through the store! Give them a call at 863-467-1243.

Anyone paying attention to today's media

headlines might believe that newspapers are an endangered species. But the fact is, as folks in Okeechobee know very well, that's just not true. More than 160 million adults read newspaper content in print, online or via a mobile app in the last seven days. That's more than twice the population of the 150 largest cities in the U.S. and more than 50 percent more than the total viewers of the 2013 Super Bowl!

Something classic this week, a nice sweet treat to enjoy before school starts back.

Lemon Meringue Pie

Ingredients: 1 cup white sugar, 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour, 3 tablespoons cornstarch, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1 1/2 cups water, 2 lemons, juiced and zested, 2 tablespoons butter, 4 egg yolks, beaten, 1 (9 inch) pie crust, baked, 4 egg whites, 6 tablespoons white sugar.

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

2. To make lemon filling: In a medium saucepan, whisk together 1 cup sugar, flour, cornstarch, and salt. Stir in water, lemon juice and lemon zest. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until mixture comes to a boil. Stir in butter. Place egg yolks in a small bowl and gradually whisk in 1/2 cup of hot sugar mixture. Whisk egg yolk mixture back into remaining sugar mixture. Bring to a boil and continue to cook while stirring constantly until thick. Remove from heat. Pour

filling into baked pastry shell.

3. To make meringue: In a large glass or metal bowl, whip egg whites until foamy. Add sugar gradually, and continue to whip

until stiff peaks form. Spread meringue over pie, sealing the edges at the crust.

4. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes, or until meringue is golden brown.

Program teaches kids about bears

Special to the Okeechobee News

Giving schoolchildren a chance to learn all about Florida black bears is a great way to teach them about wildlife, while sharpening their skills in reading, math, science and problem solving.

For that reason, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has updated its Florida Black Bear Curriculum, and put it online for the first time at BlackBearInfo.com. The revised Florida Black Bear Curriculum is free, easy for teachers to use, and meets the new Florida Standards for educational curricula.

The curriculum offers 10 lessons on topics such as "The Black Bear Necessities" and "Oh Where, Oh Where is the Florida Black Bear?" and includes hands-on activities such as mapping and role-playing. There are also videos for students to watch such as the FWC's "Living with Florida Black Bears."

"The Florida Black Bear Curriculum takes children's curiosity about black bears into the classroom, where learning about black bears can improve kids' skills in ba-

sics like reading, math, science and problem solving," said Sarah Barrett with the FWC's black bear management program. "Whenever FWC staff talks to kids about Florida black bears, the response is overwhelmingly positive because kids are eager to learn and ask great questions about bears."

With more encounters today between people and bears in Florida than in the recent past, it is increasingly important for children to learn about the state's bear population.

The Florida Black Bear Curriculum was designed for children in grades 3-8 and has been in use since 1999, when it was created as a joint project of the FWC and Defenders of Wildlife.

Florida teachers who register on the Florida Black Bear Curriculum website can gain access to additional information, particularly in regard to how the material fits the Florida Standards.

But anyone is welcome to go to BlackBearInfo.com and take advantage of the educational material there.

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Jill Holcomb to represent school board District 5

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jill Clericuzio Holcomb is a familiar face in school hallways in Okeechobee.

The new school board member, who was the only candidate to file by the deadline for District 5, has spent countless hours as a volunteer in the schools. She also comes from a teaching family as her father, Roland Clericuzio, was the long-time principal at North Elementary from 1981-1999. He worked 28 years for the school system. Her mother, Joyce, served as secretary to the superintendent for 28 years.

Supervisor of Elections Diane Hagan said Mrs. Holcomb and Dixie Ball both were elected to the school board without opposition. Mrs. Holcomb will serve in District 5, the seat being vacated by the retirement of David Williams. Mrs. Ball took the seat vacated by Gay Carlton.

Mrs. Holcomb was born in Okeechobee and attended Okeechobee schools. She graduated with the OHS class of 1995. She attended Indian River State College before earning her degree from the University of Florida. She continues to work on a Mas-



Jill Holcomb

ter's Degree at the University of West Florida through an online curriculum.

She is also a former chemistry teacher at OHS and is currently a professor at Indian River State College.

"Education is in my blood. It was always the topic of conversation in my house. I love teaching and I love my college job. I will have a child in our school system for the next 11 years and it is very important to me that the county does well and our scores are high," she said.

Mrs. Holcomb said she has a lot of confidence in the system and its potential. Her goal is to see more opportunities for students and see more students succeed. She also applauds the high school for the college courses they offer because some students can get AA degrees without any financial burden on them or their parents.

"I'd like to see a higher graduation rate, more dual enrollment and AP classes and have success trickle down to our elementary schools," she noted.

Mrs. Holcomb also said she supports current Superintendent Ken Kenworthy but notes there is always room for improvement and she will not be a rubber stamp on all recommendations. "I think he's done some good things but there is room for improvement. I don't believe in blindly following things. I'm accessible, I'm open-minded and I listen to different views."

Mrs. Holcomb said she is also confident in the district administrators and its teachers.

Mrs. Holcomb said her work as a teacher, and being a daughter to a school administrator, should be a great asset when she considers school board business, "It's a huge advantage because I've worn a lot of different hats. I heard my parents talk about different topics in the schools for many years. I was a teacher at OHS, and now at IRSC and I see the products the high school produces. I'm also a parent. I want the school system to be well thought of and have all our children succeed."

Jill is married to Will Holcomb of the Wil-laway Cattle Company, who she met while tutoring math at Indian River State College. They have two children, Abby, 10, a fifth grader, and Jackson, 7, a second grader,

both at North Elementary School.

She was a member of the North Elementary School Advisory Council for five years and served as chairman for three years, a member of the Parent Involvement Committee at North, and a member of the District School Advisory Council for three years.

Mrs. Holcomb said she would like to thank Okeechobee for their confidence in her and promised to do the best that she can as a school board member, "I'd like to let them know I'm excited and honored, and can't wait to do a great job for them. Also, I'd like the citizens to not hesitate to call or contact me with any concerns or questions they might have, I'll be happy to help them."

Road Watch

Motorists are reminded to wear safety belts and drive with caution, courtesy, common sense, and patience as they travel through work zones. Remember, speeding fines are doubled in work zones. Travelers can visit www.FL511.com or dial "511" from their phone to learn about traffic conditions on major roadways across the state. Roadwork planned this week includes the following:

• **US 441 (North Parrot Avenue) from 290th Trail to NW 344th Street: Maintenance project:** Crews will repair concrete mitered end sections. There are no planned lane closures, but use caution and watch for workers close to the road.

• **US 98 from SR 70 to CR 68 (NW 160th Street):** Maintenance project: Crews will be repairing roadway shoulders. There are no planned lane closures, but use caution and watch for workers close to the road.

• **US 98 from SR 70 to NW 9th Street: Maintenance permit project:** Crews will install gas mains along the roadway. There are no planned lane closures, but use caution and watch for workers close to the road.

• **SR 70 east of Okeechobee/NE 34th Avenue to Williams Road/NE 48th Avenue:** Maintenance permit project: Crews are relocating utilities along the south side of the road.

WHERE DO YOU VOTE?

Precinct Number	Precinct location
01	Abiding Hope Worship Center 4550 Hwy 441 N
02	Basinger Community Center 20350 Hwy 98 N
03	Oakview Baptist Church 677 SW 32nd St.
04	Okeechobee Civic Center 1750 Hwy 98 N
05	Gracious RV Park 6500 Hwy 441 SE
06	Sacred Heart Catholic Church 901 SW 6th St.
07	Hampton Inn 1200 Hwy 70 E
08	KOA 4276 Hwy 441 S
09	New Testament Baptist Church 535 NE 28th Ave
10	Cornerstone Baptist Church 18387 Hwy 441 N
11	Palm Village Ranch Clubhouse 1200 SW 44th Blvd

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863-763-4014,

elections@voteokeechobee.com

or

www.voteokeechobee.com

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Thank you,
Diane Hagan, Supervisor of Elections

Dixie Ball to join school board

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Dixie Ball will take the oath of office as a new Okeechobee School Board member in District 3 in November. She was the only candidate to qualify for the seat which is being vacated by Gay Carlton, who decided to retire this year.



Dixie Ball

Ms. Carlton served five terms on the board and is the vice chairman this year.

Mrs. Ball is a former teacher for Okeechobee Schools. She currently works as a teacher at the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation.

Supervisor of Elections Diane Hagan said Mrs. Ball and Jill Clericuzio Holcomb both were elected without opposition. Mrs. Holcomb will serve in District 5, the seat being vacated by the retirement of David Williams.

Ms. Hagan said in her memory, there had not previously been a political candidate elected to an office for their first term without opposition.

Mrs. Ball said she was surprised she didn't have any opposition.

"I was extremely surprised and pleased and elated at the same time. It'll be an easier job for me running unopposed and I can enjoy my summer a little bit more," she said.

Mrs. Ball worked 18 years for the Okeechobee school system and was teacher of the year at Central Elementary School for the 2000-2001 school year. She also was a reading coach at Central Elementary. She has worked for the Seminole Tribe school system for the past 25 years.

She grew up in Okeechobee and was a member of the Okeechobee High School graduation class of 1985. Her parents are the late Marvin Wherrell, a former Okeechobee County commissioner, and Sandra Wherrell.

She attended Florida Southern University and graduated in 1989 with a degree in elementary education. She has two children:

Brittney, who is attending the University of South Florida; and Brandon, who just began his study of engineering at the University of Florida this summer.

Her husband, Billy Ball, is the assistant principal at Everglades Elementary School.

Mrs. Ball said someone came up to her and suggested she consider running for the school board shortly after Ms. Carlton announced she would not seek another term. She said she thought it might be fun and that her background in education and her experience, might give her an advantage.

"I will remain in the classroom because I work in Glades County and I hope being able to continue in education will help me to see some things that will help teachers and students. I will know the impacts these decisions will have and I hope that gives me an advantage," she said.

Mrs. Ball said she thought about it for three weeks before she decided to run for the office. She noted recent school board meetings have shown her just how difficult some decisions are.

"I kind of thought what am I getting myself into, the board has to make some serious decisions that impact the lives of children, like getting them home on the school bus early enough, putting older kids on the school bus with younger kids, they might seem like easy decisions, but when you look at the impacts, they are hard decisions," she offered.

Her platform emphasized her experience in the classroom and in education. She also supports teacher evaluations but admits some tweaks might be necessary. She said being a classroom teacher should help with this issue.

Mrs. Ball said she also thinks the school system has room to improve.

"There is always room for improvement and sometimes I feel the county's hand is tied financially," she said. "We could put more educational hours in a day for students but how do you pay for the teachers?"

Mrs. Ball promised to answer all phone calls and to be open to input, comments and opinions of all of her constituents. She said you should never close a door to input.

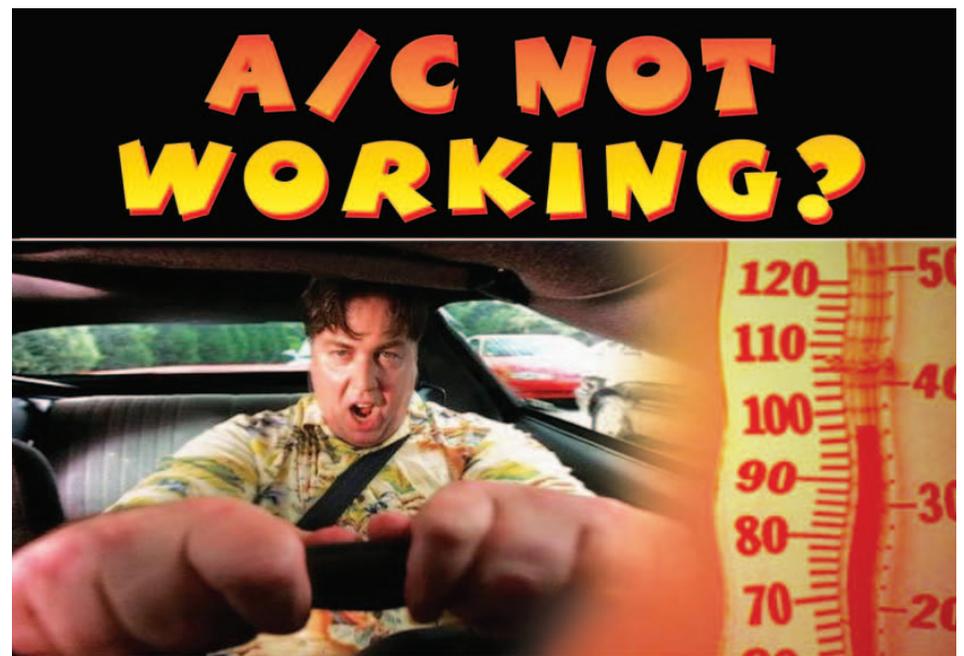
"We all need to have input on where our kids need to go and what is most beneficial for them," said the new board member.

Annual Friends of NRA Banquet & Fundraiser slated

The annual Okeechobee Friends of NRA Banquet and Fundraiser will be held Thursday, Sept. 11, at the Okeechobee KOA Convention Center, 4276 U.S. 441 S. Doors open at 6 p.m. The NRA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Proceeds from the event will support a wide range of firearm and hunter safety programs, youth and adult shooting sports programs, and programs that educate the public about firearms in their historic, technological, and artistic context. For information, to purchase tickets or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities call 863-634-8678; or, go to www.friendsofnra.org. Tickets also available at The Gun Shop, 2020 S. Parrot Ave.

Can you help Animal Rescue ?

The Okeechobee Humane Society Pet Rescue, 1203 U.S. 98 N., is looking for volunteers to assist with set up, break down and handling of dogs for the Labor Day Festival. If you are interested in helping a great cause call Kevin, volunteer coordinator, at 863-357-1104 to see how you can help.



Get your

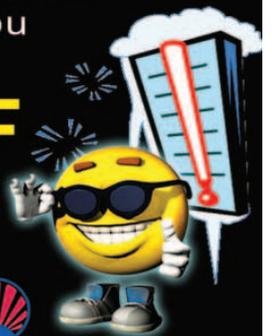
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Restaurant meals increase calorie intake

For adults, eating at both fast-food and full-service restaurants is associated with significant increases in the intake of calories, sugar, saturated fat, and sodium, according to a new study cited by the American Cancer Society. The study, appearing early online in Public Health Nutrition, finds on days when adults ate at a restaurant, they consumed about 200 additional total daily calories whether they ate at fast-food restaurants or at full-service restaurants.

Previous studies looking at restaurant food consumption have found that adults who reported eating fast food consumed more calories, fat, and sodium, as well as fewer fruits, vegetables and vitamins compared to those who did not report eating fast food. Studies have also linked meals

consumed at both fast-food and full-service restaurants with higher caloric intake.

For the current study, Binh T. Nguyen of the American Cancer Society and Lisa M. Powell of University of Illinois at Chicago used more recent data from more than 12,000 respondents between the ages of 20 and 64 taking part in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2003–2010 (NHANES). Participants were asked about visits to fast-food and full-service restaurants on two successive days.

The study found on days when eating at a fast-food restaurant, there was a net increase of total energy intake (194.49 kcal), saturated fat (3.48 g), sugar (3.95 g) and sodium (296.38 mg). Eating at a full-service restaurant was also associated with an en-

ergy intake (205.21 kcal), and with higher intake of saturated fat (2.52 g) and sodium (451.06 mg).

The study found Individual characteristics moderated the impact of restaurant food consumption. Net energy intake was larger for black adults compared with their white and Hispanic counterparts and greater for middle-income versus high-income adults.

“The United States is one of the most obese nations in the world, with more than one in three adult men and women defined as obese,” said Dr. Nguyen. “Just as obesity rates rise, there’s been a marked increase in total energy consumption consumed away

from home, with about one in four calories coming from fast food or full-service restaurants in 2007–2008. Our study confirms that adults’ fast-food and full-service restaurant consumption was associated with higher daily total energy intake and poorer dietary indicators.”

The researchers say the larger adverse effect they measured on energy intake for some lower socio-economic and minority populations has policy implications. They say efforts to improve diet and reduce energy intake from restaurant sources could actually help to reduce racial and socio-economic disparities in Americans’ diets.

Gaiser to chair March of Dimes

Special to the Okeechobee News

The March of Dimes is pleased to announce that Donna Gaiser will Chair the Okeechobee County March for Babies 2015. Ms. Gaiser will bring her extensive fundraising and organizational skills to March for Babies. She is retired from The Canvas Shop, which she owned and operated with her husband, Carl, but she certainly remains active in the Okeechobee community. She is an adjunct professor for Indian River State College, where she has taught criminal justice courses, and she is a board member and secretary of the Treasure Coast Crimestoppers. Ms. Gaiser is the immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Okeechobee, has served

on the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce, and is a recent graduate of the inaugural Leadership Okeechobee Class.

With six children, nine grandchildren, and a great-grandchild on the way, Donna is well-acquainted with pregnancy and infant health concerns. She looks forward to a successful March for Babies campaign.

For more than 75 years, moms and babies have benefited from March of Dimes research, education, vaccines, and breakthroughs. March for Babies 2015 will take place on Saturday, March 28, 2015, in Flagler Park. Save the date to participate in this fun and worthwhile event.

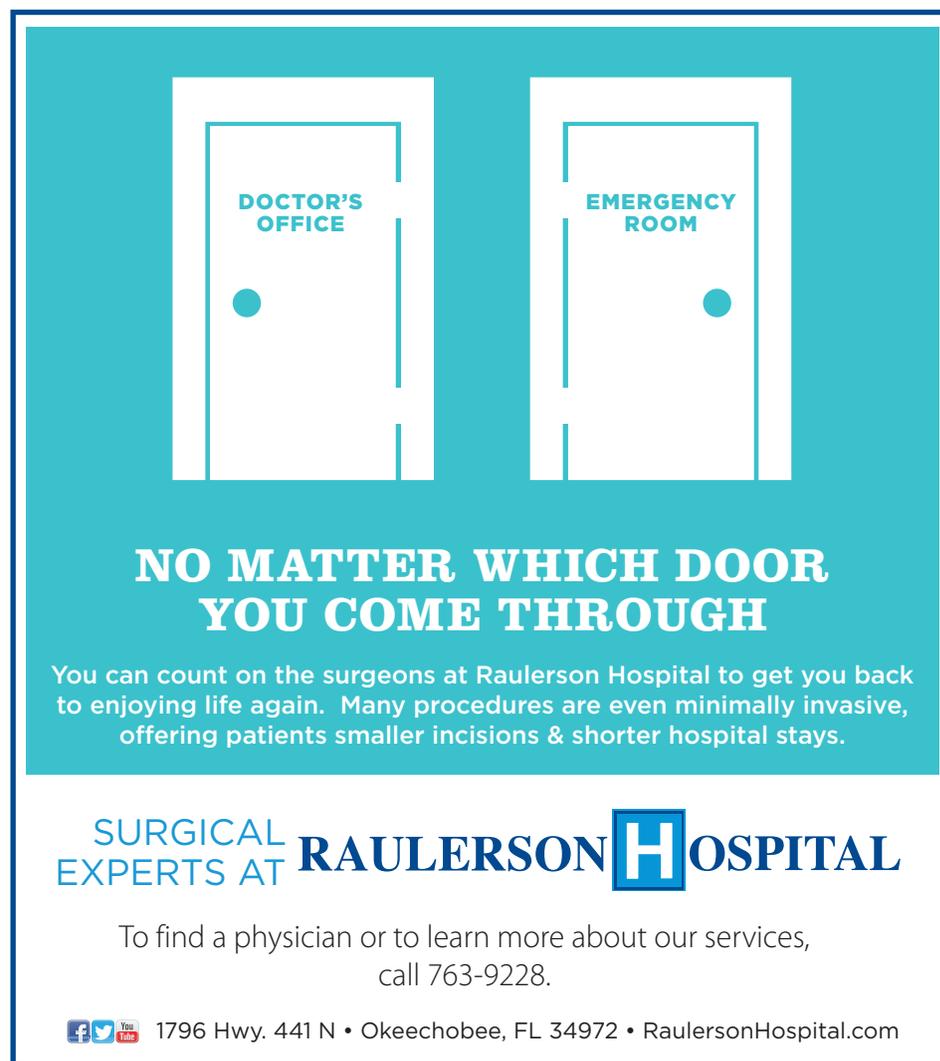
Local student competes in state speech contest

“Dig Deeper: What are the mysteries in the soil?” Students ages 15 to 17 from Okeechobee, Manatee, Gilchrist and Jackson counties competed at the state level in a speech contest to answer that question on July 26 in Ocala, during the annual Association of Florida Conservation District meeting.

Students had won first place in their local Soil and Water District contests and then their regions to earn a spot at the state-level

contest. Speeches were six to eight minutes long and judged on content, composition, and delivery.

The winners were: first place, \$500, Alisha Erozer of from Lakewood County; second place, \$250, Andrew Smiley of Okeechobee County; third place, \$150, Christine Rowe, of Gilchrist County; and, fourth place, \$100, Hailey McDaniel of Jackson County.



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Commission continues to struggle with budget shortfall

By **Katrina Elsken**

Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office budget was once again a topic of discussion and debate at the Thursday, Aug. 14, meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission.

The county commission must establish the millage rate by the Sept. 11 budget hearing.

The sheriff's requested budget for law enforcement, courthouse security and the county jail is \$14.8 million. The 2013-2014 budget was \$13.7 million.

Sheriff Paul May has stated at previous meetings that if the county does not fund his \$14.8 budget request, he will no longer be responsible for the county jail. The county has questioned if the sheriff can refuse to operate the jail and decided to settle the question in court.

County administrator Robbie Chartier said whether or not the court rules that the sheriff does not have to run the jail, the jail must be funded.

"In corrections, when the sheriff presented his budget, he showed a number of \$5,577,146 million, so that is what we have budgeted at this point, pending the outcome of the lawsuit," she explained. The corrections budget for 2013-14 was \$5,463,834."

The 2013-14 amended budget for law enforcement services was \$8,006,293 including 97 full-time law enforcement officers, six school resource officers and seven part-time employees.

The proposed budget is \$8,554,003 including 102 full-time law enforcement officers, six school resource officers and three part-time

law enforcement employees.

The budget includes \$173,727 from the school board for school resource officers. The county funds the remainder of the total cost of \$408,902.45 for SROs.

The Bryne Grant, which helps fund the Narcotics Task Force, provided \$109,682 in 2013-14; that grant has dropped to \$60,236 for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

County Commission Chairman Frank Irby said the request is a \$500,000 increase over the budget for the current year.

He asked how the actual expenses are running this year.

"There is a good possibility we will be very close or even over the current budget to the amended budget of \$13.7 million," said Sheriff May.

Mrs. Chartier said with the sheriff's office budget at this level, and considering the cuts already made to other budgets, if the county sets the ad valorem property tax rate at 10 mills, they will still be \$100,000 short.

Commissioner Bryant Culpepper said they could take money from the reserve funds to fund the sheriff's budget this year and look for ways to cut the budget in the future.

He said some parts of the reserve fund are designated for a certain purpose and cannot be reassigned, but some reserve funds can be changed by vote of the county commission.

"To totally fund the requested amount, at the rollback rate (8,8321 mills), you're talking about \$1.7 million borrowed," said Commissioner Joey Hoover.

"To fund everything that is requested, you're going to have to go borrow money, or are you going to say 'this is the amount of money that

we have' and adjust to that?"

"Are we going to borrow money, or are we going to live within projected revenues?" he asked.

Sheriff Paul May said comparisons that show the cost of the Okeechobee County law enforcement is higher per capita than law enforcement in other rural counties of similar size are misleading.

"We seem to get no credit at all for the increase in our county from 39,000 to 50,000 six months of the year," he said. Those visitors and winter residents do generate police calls, he said.

In any given Saturday in Okeechobee in the winter, especially if there is a fishing tournament, we probably have 65,000 people in Okeechobee County, the sheriff said.

He referred to a study that shows tourism creates 1,142 jobs and brings in over \$17 million a year in Okeechobee County.

"For six months out of the year, we're not a sleepy little village anymore," he said.

He said in a comparison of crime statistics showing Florida's most dangerous counties, based on number of violent crimes per 1,000 population, Okeechobee County currently ranks 33rd — not the worst, not the best.

If the seasonal population were included in the formula, Okeechobee County would have ranked in the top 10 safest counties, he said.

"You all know how busy this town was from October through March. Anybody who could afford to get out of the north, got out," the sheriff said.

"Even if we go to 10 mill, we're still \$100,000 short," said Commissioner Ray Domer. "What are we going to do next year? We're still trying

to justify a budget we can't afford."

"Back in '12-13 we had this same discussion," said Commission Chairman Frank Irby. "We agreed to add \$500,000 to the sheriff's budget, with at that time fair warning that this was a loan.

"It's a matter of what you can afford and how you are going to pay for it," he said.

"At some point, we are going to realize we have to reduce this thing," said Commissioner Ray Domer. "It has to be something we can sustain and live with, the budget that we can afford. If we go to 10 mills, I don't know what we are going to do next year."

"It's a matter of how high we want the millage," he said. "I don't know if we want to do a 10 mill and arrive at some cut for next year. I don't think it's a good thing to go to 10 mill."

Commissioner Irby said the county has less money in property taxes because property values dropped.

"During part of those years we had higher property values and we were \$2.4 billion in property values and now we have about \$1.4 billion," he said. "No matter what millage rate you use, that is a significant amount of money.

"I would hope that anything that we in government decide to fund is of value and of necessity," he said. "We collectively pay for that. I believe business owners pay a significant part of that.

"In most cases those are small businesses that pay to support whatever services the county provides," he said.

"My philosophy has always been you've got to live within your budget," said Commissioner

See BUDGET — Page 14

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My mission as your County Commissioner has been and will continue to be improving the quality of life of every family in Okeechobee, as well as creating new jobs and bringing back economic prosperity.

I have been honored to receive the endorsement of Sheriff and Mrs. Paul May and will strive to work with the Sheriff to create a safe County for our families.

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- Board Member of Treasure Coast Community Action Agency
- Wellington Regional Hospital Advisory Board
- Okeechobee County Executive Roundtable
- Alliance of Children Services Council
- Member of VFW 10539 Okeechobee Auxiliary
- Member of Vietnam Veterans Auxiliary of Okeechobee
- Past Chairman of the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District

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Awards

- VFW Firefighter of the year for a life saving attempt
- Gubernatorial appointment to Florida District 9 Human Rights Advocacy Committee
- Gubernatorial appointment to Florida Building Codes & Standards Board

Accomplishments

- Worked to rename Dark Hammock Rd. to The Clif Betts Memorial Highway
- Spearheaded approval and construction of new restrooms at the Adult Softball Park
- Replacement of No-Passing stripes on US 98 at Dixie Ranch
- Identified drainage blockages in the N.W. area of Okeechobee by flying in an airplane after Tropical Storm Isaac
- Worked with FDOT to replace collapsed culvert at Lofton Road and US 98
- Voted to stop construction of a new building for Driver's License Bureau, saving tax payers \$2.1 million dollars
- Fought to settle lawsuit of a \$25,000 well that cost the county approximately \$500,000 in attorney fees and professional consultants fees
- Spearheaded the replacement of the two collapsed culverts in the canefield area off Potter Road, restoring drainage
- Led the effort to fix drainage at Everglades Elementary
- Worked with FDOT to extend the bike lane/emergency access lane on State Road 70 East from St. Lucie County to the City of Okeechobee
- Spearheaded the reinstallation of the culvert that was removed from SW 70th in Four



Seasons, restoring proper drainage to the residents to the northeast

- Assisted in acquiring the Huey Helicopter for Veterans Park

VOTE!

BUDGET

Continued From Page 13

Hoover. "This is how much you can reasonably charge the taxpayers of Okeechobee County. Now you have to figure out how you can live within that budget."

Commissioner Culpepper suggested using money from the landfill trust fund.

"At the last meeting we went through every budget line by line and reduced every thing we could," Commissioner Margaret Helton said.

"Sheriff, did you go line by line and reduce anything at all?" she asked.

"We went over it before we turned it in," replied Sheriff May.

"We do not hold any money in reserves anymore," said the sheriff. "The county holds the reserves."

"I think if you take our department and make it any smaller, our danger ranking is going to creep up," he said.

"I don't want to be known as the most dangerous county in Florida."

He said most of the increase in budget was due to the insurance increases and retirement costs, the same as in the county's budget.

Adam Fetterman, counsel for Sheriff May said comparing Okeechobee to other counties is "apples and oranges" because 86 percent of the county is unincorporated with only a small

percentage served by a city police department, with many other counties have a larger portion of the county served by municipal police departments.

"When you have a rural county without municipal police department, the county bears a greater cost for law enforcement," he said.

He also pointed out that the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) only reports certain designated crimes.

"The UCR does not account for every call the sheriff's office handles," he said.

"The UCR does not account for the cow in the middle of the road."

"When the department heads came in and presented their budgets to this board, we challenged them on everything," said Mr. Irby. "They went back and modified things."

"We have to do this differently, because we don't have the money to do it like we have always done it."

"The people voted for \$50,000 homestead which meant they wanted some people to not have to pay taxes," said Commissioner Domer. "That's the rule we have to play by. What can we do besides establish other revenue sources, and it doesn't look like the board wants to do that."

"On law enforcement are we willing to establish an \$8.5 million budget?" asked Chairman Irby. "We have to determine how much we are going to spend and then determine the millage rate to fund that."

"I would be in favor of the rollback rate," said Commissioner Hoover. "There is no way in the world from an economic standpoint you want to be anywhere 10 mills. I would say stay at 8.8, a neutral position. At least you're not asking more from people who are already shouldering the burden."

He said that would mean a \$2 million shortfall in the budget requests.

"I would like to see us go to the rollback and work from there on a budget. I don't want to see us go to 10 mills," said Commissioner Helton.

"No matter where you start, we're short," said Chairman Irby.

Commissioner Domer said it would be premature to decide on the millage rate. He said they might want to consider the 9 mill option.

"At 9 mills we would have almost \$13.2 million," he said. "Last year the sheriff's budget was \$13.7 million."

"When we look at expenses and revenue, if we don't change, our general fund reserve will be gone in two years," said Chairman Irby.

"No other county uses all of their ad valorem for law enforcement; we're willing to use all of ours," said Commissioner Domer.

"It seems that we are struggling at what we are willing to approve. This budget has been a painful thing from the beginning. We're not getting any better. We are still fighting the same battle," he said.

"For a long time, we were pulling from the

reserves," said Commissioner Domer. "Then we started using the host fees. There was a time when we even used the sales tax. We used our best, strongest most secure revenue source."

The proposed budget for the jail is about \$100,000 more than the 2013-2014 budget.

"Until it is settled, we have to fund it," said Mrs. Chartier. She said she left that budget at the amount proposed by the sheriff.

"We will be asking the court to run the jail at that number, pending a final determination," said County Attorney John Cassels. "We have made that suggestion and offer to the sheriff through his attorney, that he continue running the jail pending final determination by the court, through the appeals process."

Mrs. Chartier said it is difficult to compare the expense for courthouse security to last year's budget because in the 2014-2014 budget, this budget included bailiffs.

She said she doesn't know how many staff the courthouse security budget number provided by the sheriff includes. The board agreed to budget the number the sheriff had requested at \$427,000.

Chairman Irby said if they fund the jail and courthouse security at the requested amounts, it totals about \$6 million.

If you subtract that from the amount the county can generate with ad valorem taxes, that leaves the law enforcement budget short, he said.

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Okeechobee Arrest Report

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

- Melvin J. Thomas, 59, S.W. First St., Fort Lauderdale, was arrested Aug. 14 by Deputy Leland Schoonmaker on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) and introduction of contraband into a detention facility. He was also charged with the misdemeanors of possession of drug paraphernalia, loitering or prowling and trespassing. His bond was set at \$21,500.

- Louis Anthony Sirna, 22, 20th St., Buckhead Ridge, was arrested Aug. 14 by Deputy Tammy Serafini on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of sale/delivery of a controlled substance (oxycodone) and possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone) with intent to sell/deliver. His bond was set at \$50,000.

- Bradley Justin Sheltra, 29, S.E. 25th Drive, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 14 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee

County warrant charging him with the felony of dealing in stolen property. His bond was set at \$50,000.

- Kelley Nicole Sherman, 26, S.E. Fourth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 14 by Officer Charles Green on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with the felonies of possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell/deliver, possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone), possession of a controlled substance (codeine) and possession of a controlled substance (hydrocodone). The warrant also charged her with the misdemeanors of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of new or legend drugs without a prescription. She is being held without bond.

- Tammy Genesse Hammock, 46, S.E. 35th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 14 by Deputy William Jolly on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with violation of probation - driving under the influence. She is being held without bond.

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

OCSO Investigations

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office responded to reports of the following crimes last week.

ASSAULT

- 700 block of N.E. 16th Ave.
- 14000 block of U.S. 441 N.
- 3200 block of S.E. 23rd St.
- 3300 block of S.E. 33rd Terrace
- 3600 block of S.E. 34th Ave.
- 7200 block of U.S. 441 N.

BURGLARY

- 200 block of S.W. 25th St.
- 3700 block of S.E. 25th St.
- 600 block of N.E. 28th Ave.
- 3300 block of N.W. 19th Ave.
- 4200 block of S.R. 70 E.
- 5700 block of S.R. 70 E.
- 200 block of S.W. 25th St.
- 7700 block of N.W. 96th Court
- 3700 block of S.E. 25th St.
- 800 block of N.E. 31st Terrace
- 3300 block of N.W. Second St.
- 800 block of N.E. 31st Terrace
- 17700 block of N.W. 280th St.
- 2400 block of N.E. Sixth St.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 2100 block of S.E. 32nd St.
- 1500 block of S.R. 70 E.
- 1500 block of S.R. 70 E.
- 3400 block of S.E. 26th St.
- 17200 block of N.W. 38th Ave.
- 17300 block of N.E. 38th Ave.
- 2700 block of N.W. Third St.

FRAUD

- 1400 block of N.E. 39th Blvd.

THEFT

- 6000 block of S.E. 97th Trail
- 3400 block of N.W. Fourth St.
- 2600 block of N.W. 35th Drive
- 13800 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 4800 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- 21100 block of N.W. 284th St.
- 3600 block of U.S. 441 S.
- 1300 block of S.W. 19th Terrace
- 1500 block of S.R. 70 E.
- 35100 block of N.E. Fourth Drive
- 8300 block of S.E. 57th Drive
- 400 block of S.W. 25th St.
- 900 block of S.E. 14th Court
- 1800 block of N.W. Fourth St.
- 400 block of N.W. Park St.

Sheriff's office fundraiser will benefit March of Dimes

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office March of Dimes March for Babies team is raising money with a giveaway. The winner will receive a set of corn hole boards and bags donated by Creech Construction and The Sign Guy. The drawing will be held Aug. 29. The winner can choose a custom design for the boards. For tickets, contact Lieutenant John Rhoden at 863-634-9188 or Anna Starnes at 863-801-4298.

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Free Automotive Classified Ads!
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Plus 8 Photos

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www.newszap.com click on Classifieds

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

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

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

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



· Online for 4 weeks - 400 words + 4 photos
· Absolutely FREE!
· Post your ads in our papers for as little as \$8 each
florida.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 *.

Auctions

PUBLIC AUCTION

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 29TH
SATURDAY, AUGUST 30TH
11AM BOTH DAYS
1491 WESTERN WAY, LABELLE, FL.**
2 tracts of land totaling 58.65 acres custom built home and barn, personal property offered separately **ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD ABSOLUTE.** trucks, tractors, tools, guns, antiques, RV, boat farming equipment, shop equipment, cattle, for complete list go to www.gulfcoastrealtyauctions.com
239-242-7661
ab1389/au415

Auctions

DeMott Auction Co.
Public Auction
Aug 23, 2014 9:00 am
Immokalee FL
(10778 CR 846
Clewiston 7 mi form Immokalee)
Tractors, Construction Eq, Farm Eq., and MUCH MORE
Consignments Welcome
800-985-5699
Terry DeMott
Auctioneer FL #AU1833-AB1285

Garage/Yard Sales

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

Services

MOHAWK CONSTRUCTION INC.
FILL SHELL, ASPHALT MILLINGS, SAND, STONE, MULCH, TOP SOIL. LARGE OR SMALL QUANTITIES DELIVERED OR PICK-UP, NEAR TOWN. JOSH 634-9486

Employment

Employment Full Time

RANCH FOREMAN needed, must have experience with Rotational Grazing, Electric fencing, Equip. maintenance & Pasture mowing. Housing is available. Apply at: Helpwanted4755@gmail.com or by mail to: Ranch Foreman c/o Okeechobee News 107 S.W. 17th St., Suite D., Okeechobee, FL 34974

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Employment Full Time

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

Established SW Florida heavy civil, underground utility and plant contractor has immediate, long term openings for **equipment operators, laborers and pipe layers** throughout the South Florida area. Come join our highly valued, experienced workforce where safety, quality workmanship and professional growth opportunities form the benchmark of our organization.

Send resume to LisaB6484@gmail.com

LOWBED DRIVER

J.W. Cheatham, LLC has a local job starting soon and is accepting applications for Lowbed Driver. Requires a Class A CDL, Valid Medical Card and acceptable MVR. Must have experience loading and chaining heavy construction equipment i.e. loader, dozer, grader, paver. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

To apply, please call 561-471-4100 ext 239 or fax resume to 561-471-8348. Drug Free, EEO, E-Verify

Needed 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 5:00.

Employment Full Time

MAGNOLIA PACKING INC,
a fresh vegetable packing house, is looking for a

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

with three (plus) years produce experience. Must be bi-lingual and be willing to work long hours during the season.

Email your resume to royboy01@bellsouth.net

MECHANIC

J.W. Cheatham, LLC has an immediate opening for a field mechanic. Must have experience troubleshooting shooting, repairing and performing preventative maintenance on heavy construction equipment i.e. roller, loader, dozer, excavator, etc. Requires valid drivers license, acceptable MVR and own tools.

Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Position is located in West Palm Beach, to apply please call 561-471-4100 ext 239 or fax resume to 561-471-8348. Drug Free, EEO, E-Verify

Employment Part Time

GIRL FRIDAY - for Parrot Farm. Sun. & Mon. Exp. req'd. Background Check 863-824-0015

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

Employment Full Time

Employment Part Time

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN -

Okeechobee Commons Apartments

Seeking experienced Maintenance Technician for small senior apartment complex. Must have general knowledge of plumbing, electrical, appliance repair, and painting background.

Part-time position - 20 hours a week.

Candidate must pass background check, have reliable transportation and their own tools.

Please respond to this ad with resume or letter detailing your work experience. You may also fax to 407-347-1036.

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Shop here first!
The classified ads

Financial

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

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

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

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 Services

BUSINESS LOANS to finance equipment or working capital \$25,000/\$100,000 in one week. No collateral required but must be an established business to qualify. 1-800-256-2988

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

Merchandise

Antiques

***ANTIQUES* CO-OP**
ANTIQUES- 50% OFF THROUGH AUGUST
1214 SW 2ND AVE (BEHIND DAIRY QUEEN)
TUES-SAT 10-4,
634-1552 OR 532-9138

Guns/Supplies

Gun & Knife Show
LaBelle Civic Center
481 W. Hickpochee Ave.
SR 80W
LaBelle, FL
Sat, August 23, 9-5
Sun, August 24, 9-4
Admission \$5.00
Free Parking
CWP classes \$50.
11 a.m. or 1 p.m. daily
Tel: 239-223-3370
GunShowsFlorida.com
Buy Sell Trade

FOR RENT Rentals

Apartments

Ground FL - 1br/1ba fully furnished with utilities. Move in now \$950, \$775 per month. 863-634-0663.

KINGS BAY Nice Twtnhs 2br, 1ba, Tiled floors. Includes Water. \$700 month + dep. Pool & Tennis Court. 863-801-7206 or 561-358-8128

NW OKEE: 2 BR 1.5 BA, 2 BR, 1 BA. \$650, \$700. 1st, last & \$500 security. Shown only 1 1 a m - 6 p m 561-346-1642.

Houses - Rent

On Rim Canal - Newly renovated Brick Home. 3br/2 1/2 ba. 1 garage. Boat dock & deck. \$950mo. 772-359-1640

Houses - Rent

Large, clean, 4bd, 2 story home, 2800sq.ft. under air (built in 2006) 2bath + on suite, double car garage, screened porch, large fenced yard, new appliances, large kitchen. \$1250/mo + sec. depCall: (863)467-9250 or (519)746-4844 or dhmcara@hotmail.com

OKA PARK: 2BR, 1BA for rent. \$800 mo. Call 863-467-1466

OKEE - ADORABLE In Town, 2 1/2 br., 1ba., W/D Hook up, Lawn Service. Non Smoking. Sm pet ok. \$800 mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec. (941)504-3954

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

OKEE/In town, 2br/2ba. Laundry rm with W/D, Screened porch. Lawn service. Sm. pet OK. Non Smkg. \$800 mo. 1st, last & \$500 security. 941-504-3954

Rental Needed

Christian couple looking for VERY CLEAN house, condo, single or doublewide, to rent Dec.-March. Non smokers, No pets. 765-621-2434

Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

Real Estate

Real Estate Wanted

WILL PAY CASH FOR 5 OR 10 ACRE TRACTS OF LAND, MUST BE ZONED FOR MOBILE HOME. MUST BE A BARGAIN CALL 863-763-6358

Mobile Homes
Mobile Home Rent

BUCKHEAD RIDGE
 3bd./2ba Dble Wide.
 \$600 mo. plus sec. No
 pets. Call 863-763-4031

TREASURE ISLAND:
 2 BR, 2 BA, Non smok-
 ing env. \$700 mo. 1st,
 last & \$500 sec. dep.
 Call (863)634-6114

Mobile Home Sale
 Palm Harbor Homes -
 limited time offer! \$5 to-
 wards any exterior pack-
 age. We have 24 wide,
 26, 28 & 30 wide homes.
 3 stock units reduced
 26K. Homes for 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

Public Notices

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR
 OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 PROBATE DIVISION**
 File No.
472014CP000132CPAXMX

IN RE: ESTATE OF
ROBERT NORTH CARTIER
 Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of
Robert North Cartier, deceased,
 whose date of death was **May 29,
 2014**, is pending in the Circuit Court
 for Okeechobee County, Florida, Pro-
 bate Division, the address of which is
 312 Northwest 3rd Street, Okeechobee,
 FL 34972. The names and ad-
 dresses of the personal representative
 and the personal representative's at-
 torneys are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and
 other persons having claims or de-
 mands against decedent's estate on
 whom a copy of this notice is re-
 quired to be served must file their
 claims with this court WITHIN THE
 LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE
 TIME 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 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 August 10, 2014.
 Personal Representative:
 Cheryl Lynn Alliger
 13801 U.S. Highway 441 SE, Lot 113
 Okeechobee, Florida 34974
 Attorney for Per-
 sonal Representative:
 Rachel G. Zetouni
 Attorney
 FBN 669946
 Florida Box Number: 741701
 The Karp Law Firm, PA,
 2875 PGA Boulevard, Suite 100
 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
 Telephone: (561) 625-1100
 Fax: (561) 625-0060
 E-Mail: klf@karp.com
 Secondary E-Mail:
 aharris@karp.com
 466717 ON 8/10,17/2014

Public Notice

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF A TEMPORARY USE PERMIT
NOTICE: A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the Okeechobee County
 Planning Board on **Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Health
 Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida to con-
 sider a TEMPORARY USE PERMIT for multiple three-day OKEECHOBEE MUSIC
 AND FIJINFEST events. The property owners and applicants are Sundance
 Trails, LLC, Hilo Lots, LLC and Clifford Rosen. The property is on the north
 side of NE 120th Street and is more particularly described as follows:
 All of the Plat of SUNDANCE TRAILS RANCH, according to the Plat thereof
 as recorded in Plat Book 7, Pages 69 through 82 inclusive, together with all
 of the Plat of SUNDANCE TRAILS RANCH REPLAT NO. 1, according to the
 Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 8, Pages 1 through 7 inclusive, togeth-
 er with all of the Plat of SUNDANCE TRAILS RANCH NO. 2, according to the
 Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 8, Pages 67 through 72 inclusive, all
 being of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida, and
 All that land lying in the South one-half of Section 4, Township 36 South,
 Range 36 East, Okeechobee County, Florida, that is not within the boundary
 of the Plat of SUNDANCE TRAILS RANCH, according to the Plat thereof as
 recorded in Plat Book 7, Pages 69 through 82 inclusive, and the Plat of
 SUNDANCE TRAILS RANCH REPLAT NO. 1, according to the Plat thereof as
 recorded in Plat Book 8, Pages 1 through 7 inclusive, and the Plat of SUN-
 DANCE TRAILS RANCH NO. 2, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in
 Plat Book 8, Pages 67 through 72 inclusive, all being of the Public Records
 of Okeechobee County, Florida.
 In the event that all items scheduled before the Board are not heard, the
 hearings shall be continued to Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in
 the Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee,
 Florida.
A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING to consider the Temporary Use Permit will
 be held before the Board of County Commissioners on **Thursday, Septem-
 ber 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee
 County Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.
ALL INTERESTED PARTIES SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD
AT THIS PUBLIC HEARING. Any person deciding to appeal any decision by
 the Board of County Commissioners or the Planning Board or Board of Ad-
 justments and Appeals with respect to any matter considered at these
 meetings or hearings will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the pro-
 ceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence
 upon which the appeal will be based. County Clerk and Planning and Devel-
 opment tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the
 Clerk and of the Planning Department.
 William D. Royce, Planning Director
 Petition R-2014-0268
 466686 ON 8/8,17/2014

Public Notice

**NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF
 PROPOSED ZONING RECLASSIFICATION**
NOTICE: A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the Okeechobee County
 Planning Board on **Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Health
 Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida to con-
 sider a request for a change in zoning from the existing classification of Ag-
 riculture (A) to the proposed classification of Public Service-Rehabilitation
 Facility (PS). The property owner and applicant is Okeechobee Ostrich
 Farm, Inc. The property address is 6742 NW 58th Lane and is more particu-
 larly described as follows:
 A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTIONS 35 & 36, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH,
 RANGE 34 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND BEING MORE PAR-
 TICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
 COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 35; THENCE
 N 89°58'16" E, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 35, A DIS-
 TANCE OF 786.21 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE WEST LINE OF
 THE EAST 4600.00 FEET OF SECTION 35; THENCE N 01°08'30" E, ALONG
 SAID WEST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 3874.28 FEET, TO THE INTERSECTION
 WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH 1500.00 FEET OF SECTION 35;
 THENCE N 89°46'14" E, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF
 3803.22 FEET, TO THE INTER- SECTION WITH A LINE THAT IS 968.00
 FEET SOUTHWESTERLY OF AND PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH- WESTERLY
 OF AND PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF
 STATE ROAD 700; THENCE S 39°13'45" E, ALONG SAID LINE 968.00 FEET
 SOUTHWESTERLY OF AND PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-
 OF-WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD NO. 700, A DISTANCE OF 898.48 FEET, TO
 THE INTERSECTION WITH THE CENTERLINE OF A 70.00 FOOT WIDE AC-
 CESS EASEMENT AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE S 34°47'26" W,
 ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, A DISTANCE OF 259.71 FEET; THENCE S 39°22'
 33" W, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, A DISTANCE OF 253.33 FEET TO THE
 POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHEAST AND
 HAVING A RADIUS OF 170.00 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID
 CURVE AND SAID CENTERLINE THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF
 48°50'05", AN ARC DISTANCE OF 14490 FEET, TO A POINT OF TANGENCY;
 THENCE S 08°32'38" W, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, A DISTANCE OF 278.53
 FEET, TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE
 NORTHWEST AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 95.00 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE
 ARC OF SAID CURVE AND SAID CENTERLINE THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE
 OF 76°01'02", AN ARC DISTANCE OF 126.04 FEET, TO A POINT OF TAN-
 GENCY; THENCE S 84°41'44" W, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, A DISTANCE
 OF 470.81 FEET, TO A POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO
 THE SOUTHEAST AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 310.00 FEET; THENCE ALONG
 THE ARC OF SAID CURVE AND SAID CENTERLINE THROUGH A CENTRAL
 ANGLE OF 24°20'06", AN ARC DISTANCE OF 131.66 FEET, TO A POINT
 OF TANGENCY; THENCE S 60°21'39" W ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, A DIS-
 TANCE OF 231.86 FEET; THENCE S 47°44'09" E, A DISTANCE OF 1690.45
 FEET, TO THE WESTERLY CORNER OF A 50.00 ACRE TRACT OF LAND;
 THENCE N 50°46'15" E, ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID 50.00
 ACRE TRACT OF LAND AND PERPENDICULAR TO THE SOUTHWESTERLY
 RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD NO. 700, A DISTANCE OF 1452.00
 FEET, TO THE INTER- SECTION WITH A LINE THAT IS 968 FEET SOUTH-
 WEST OF AND PARALLEL WITH SAID SOUTHWEST- ERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY
 LINE; THENCE N 39°13'45" W, ALONG SAID LINE, A DISTANCE OF 1473.18
 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING

In the event that all items scheduled before the Board are not heard, the
 hearings shall be continued to Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in
 the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee County Health Department Au-
 ditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.
A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING on the request for a change in zoning will
 be held before the Board of County Commissioners on **Thursday, Septem-
 ber 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee
 County Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.
ALL INTERESTED PARTIES SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD
AT THIS PUBLIC HEARING. Any person deciding to appeal any decision by
 the Board of Adjustments and Appeals with respect to any matter considered
 at this meeting or hearing will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the
 proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence
 upon which the appeal will be based. Planning and Development tapes are
 for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the department.
 William D. Royce, Planning Director
 Petition R-2014-0696
 466683 ON 8/8,17/2014

2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	9	6	7	4	2	4	8	3	5		
7	5	8	6	3	9	2	1	4			
8	6	7	2	9	1	5	7	3			
9	2	7	3	8	4	1	7	8	6		
3	4	1	8	6	5	7	9	2			
5	1	2	9	7	4	3	4	6	8		
4	7	8	1	5	1	6	9	2	7		
7	7	9	4	8	2	3	5	1			

ANSWER

Public Notice

**NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF
 PROPOSED ZONING RECLASSIFICATION**
NOTICE: A PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the Okeechobee County
 Planning Board on **Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Health
 Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida to con-
 sider a request for a change in zoning from the existing classification of Ru-
 ral Residential (RR) to the proposed classification of Agriculture (A). The
 property owner and applicant is Joseph Hutton. The property address is
 8550 NW 144th Trail and is more particularly described as follows:
 A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE
 33 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY
 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTH 1/4 CORNER OF
 SAID SECTION 22, BEAR SOUTH 89023'53" EAST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE
 OF SAID SECTION 22, A DISTANCE OF 144.24 FEET; THENCE BEAR NORTH
 00036'06" EAST A DISTANCE OF 1740.61 FEET FOR THE POINT OF BEGIN-
 NING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 00036'06" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 405.48
 FEET; THENCE BEAR NORTH 89025'32" WEST, TO THE INTERSECTION
 WITH THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER
 MANAGEMENT DISTRICT'S TIEBACK LEVEE AND ACCESS ROAD, ACCORDING TO
 THE S.F.W.M.D.'S R/W MAP FOR C-38, SECTION 3, SHEET 9 OF 28, A
 DISTANCE OF 1030.05 FEET; THENCE BEAR SOUTH 01007'16" WEST,
 ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF TIEBACK LEVEE AND ACCESS
 ROAD, A DISTANCE OF 405.49 FEET; THENCE BEAR SOUTH 89025'32" EAST,
 A DISTANCE OF 1033.73 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
 In the event that all items scheduled before the Board are not heard, the
 hearings shall be continued to Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in
 the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee County Health Department Au-
 ditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.
A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING on the request for a change in zoning will
 be held before the Board of County Commissioners on **Thursday, Septem-
 ber 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee
 County Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.
ALL INTERESTED PARTIES SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD
AT THIS PUBLIC HEARING. Any person deciding to appeal any decision by
 the Board of Adjustments and Appeals with respect to any matter considered
 at this meeting or hearing will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the
 proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence
 upon which the appeal will be based. Planning and Development tapes are
 for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the department.
 William D. Royce, Planning Director
 Petition R-2014-0695
 466684 ON 8/8,17/2014

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Crossword Puzzle

- Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Elevators, in Leeds</p> <p>6 Milo of "Ulysses"</p> <p>11 Squelch</p> <p>14 Classic soap</p> <p>15 Complete, for short</p> <p>16 Gold, in them thar ceros</p> <p>17 "Computer logic game named for a warship</p> <p>19 Novelist Umberto</p> <p>20 Place to pick up litter?</p> <p>21 "___ better to have loved...": Tennyson</p> <p>23 Radical '60s gp.</p> <p>24 "Loose-leaf organizer</p> <p>29 Electrical measure</p> <p>31 Formal talk</p> <p>32 Blue shade</p> <p>34 Fed</p> <p>35 Elevator innovator</p> <p>37 "Upscale golfwear brand</p> <p>40 Indochina country</p> <p>41 Elevated for driving</p> <p>42 "Draft Dodger Rag" singer Phil</p> <p>43 Entertainer</p> <p>45 Durable wood</p> <p>46 "Recruiting specialist</p> <p>49 eHarmony.com abbr.</p> <p>52 Leaves at Starbucks?</p> <p>53 Like herb gardens</p> <p>56 Serious hwy. violation</p> <p>58 Phoenix-based ballplayer, and what the start of each answer to a starred clue can be</p> <p>61 NASDAQ debut</p> <p>62 Like some seals</p> <p>63 Minolta competitor</p> <p>64 Mark, as a survey box</p> <p>65 PowerPoint unit</p> <p>66 WWII surrender celebration</p> | <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Favors one side</p> <p>2 Like some college walls</p> <p>3 Assortment in a formatting menu</p> <p>4 Cuatro menos uno</p> <p>5 Fed. Reserve, for one</p> <p>6 '90s "SNL" regular Cheri</p> <p>7 Polished look</p> <p>8 Old school dance</p> <p>9 Before, to Blake</p> <p>10 ___ valve: heart part</p> <p>11 Splits the tab</p> <p>12 Welding flash</p> <p>13 Slime</p> <p>18 Fishhook attachment</p> <p>22 Communicating regularly</p> <p>25 Endocrinologist's concern</p> <p>26 Give a little</p> <p>27 Estrada and Satie</p> <p>28 Legal thing</p> <p>29 Slim, as chances go</p> <p>30 Bowler, e.g.</p> <p>32 Without ___ in the world</p> <p>33 Entry at Bartleby.com</p> | <p>34 There's always a hole in one</p> <p>35 West of Hollywood</p> <p>38 Caesarean rebuke</p> <p>39 Fenway team, on scoreboards</p> <p>40 "Well, ___-di-dah!"</p> <p>44 Oakleys or Ray-Bans</p> <p>45 Elvis' middle name</p> <p>47 Under control</p> <p>48 Cut into</p> <p>49 Unemotional</p> <p>50 Book of Shadows religion</p> <p>51 Emmy-winning sportscaster Jim</p> <p>54 16th-century yr.</p> <p>55 Have ___ in one's bonnet</p> <p>56 New Jersey fort</p> <p>57 Press initials</p> <p>59 Suffix with adverb</p> <p>60 The 58-Acrosses, on scoreboards</p> |
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U	S	E	S	C	O	M	E	T	C	A	W	S		
Z	E	S	T	S	W	A	N	K	O	C	H	O		
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T	S	P	S	K	E	E	P	I	T	D	O	W	N	
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Vets backbone of OHS volleyball squad

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee hopes to build on a surprise run to the second round of the playoffs last year with a young, but talented volleyball squad ready to hit the court.

Coach Taylor Pritchard said she will rely heavily on veterans like Lexi Ward, Cheyenne Nunez, Baylee Farless, Makayla Root and Sarah Hurst this year. Add to that group, a talented group of freshmen led by Rachel Bryan and Megan Hargraves.

The team will also call up five players from last year's junior varsity team led by Raylee Coleman and Michaela Myers.

"Last year I was a new face and we had a lot of implementation to do to explain what we were all about. This year we are more organized, the girls know what to expect from us and there's a lot less explanation needed," she added.

Pritchard said the goal is to make it one step further to the regional final this year. They focused on defense last year and this year will spend more time on the attack and offensive strategies.

"We want to get our offense stronger and that will take us to the next level," she added.

Once again Jensen Beach stands in the Lady Brahman's way of a trip to the state fi-

nals. Pritchard said with more threats on offense and at the net, they should be able to pick up the pace of their game, and perhaps catch Jensen by surprise.

Pritchard also has tried to pump up the girls by helping them realize the potential and talent they do possess.

"There are a lot of things we can do if they are willing to be the best players that they can be. I think the girls take pride in what they are doing and I just want them to put in the work," she added.

With seven freshmen and sophomores in the mix, Pritchard is excited about the future of the team in the next few years.

Ward is one of two seniors on the team. She said her goal is to set a good example and be good both in sports and in school. She predicts the team can do big things this season.

"We can go far if we just work hard and stay focused. It is very competitive on the court and the girls compete every day at practice," she added.

Ward would like to attend Indian River State College next year. She is also an accomplished softball player.

Sarah Hurst is the other senior on the team. She predicts the team will take the next step this year as the players are more familiar with each other and the team has a

lot of depth.

"I think last year we had just enough players to make a strong team. This year the second and third string is strong. There is a lot of competition," she added.

Hurst said she wants to be remembered as a good leader who always gave all that she had on the court. She also wants to keep the team's attitude positive through the long season.

She said the victory at the regionals last year at Pembroke Pines Charter School really should help the team get ready for higher expectations this year.

"We didn't think we'd get there last year and when we did we thought we might as well just enjoy it. This year we will be coming with a lot more heat," she added.

After graduation she attends to go to Oregon and work at a bible school.

Another team to look out for in districts will be South Fork.

Assistant Coach for the second year is Robert Garcia. Janezka Koger will coach the Junior Varsity with assistance from her cousin Monica Koger.

The season will begin with a purple white game on Tuesday, Aug. 19. A faculty game which features former Lady Brahman players will be held at 6 p.m. and the inter-squad scrimmage will begin at 7 p.m. Honorary

coaches for the match will be principal Toni Wiersma and Assistant Principal Dylan Tedders. Donations will be accepted at the door to assist the volleyball program. The first match of the season is Tuesday, Aug. 26.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Senior leaders on this year's volleyball squad include Sarah Hurst and Lexi Ward (right).

OHS lady linksters set new goals for the season

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High school girls golf reached heights never before reached in 2013 as they reached the regional golf tournament in Plantation.

Coach Bruce Conrad enters his second year as coach and wants to see the girls achieve even higher goals and accolades this year.

"I'm real excited that my number one and number two players are back. I had four other girls that were real consistent last year and I need to find new ones this year," he said.

The team did lose several consistent players to graduation like Kirsten Doney, Danyelle Sheffield, Bethany Stuart, Kristen

Higgins and Jessica Wisener.

Conrad's main goal will be finding players to fill in those positions this year.

Returning golfers include Hannah Raulerson and Cameron White who both have enough ability to play college golf. Others in the mix include three-year lettermen Meredith Hilliard, and two-year letter winners Fernanda Grisales and Natalee Trimble.

Conrad said there are some girls with experience who have come to every practice and are working hard so he has high hopes they'll be able to contribute as starters this year. All he wants from these girls is steady play and decent scores.

Conrad said the regional golf meet was a good experience for the returning players. The pin placements were very tough and

that challenged the girls. He noted if they return this year they will know what to expect. He also looks forward to the Hawkins Crutchfield tournament in Sebring on Sept. 29. He said the girls can improve more if they play 18-hole tournaments. Official high school matches are nine holes.

Five freshmen were among the 21 girls that came out for the first day of practice on Aug. 4.

Other girls competing for positions include Denise Ihinger, Yasmine Vega, Sarah Leitner, Ashley Velasquez, Brianna Thomas, Brook O'Hagan, Janeer Snell, Jordan Lawlis, Marizol Jaimes and Taylor Amadon.

The team will hold four matches at the KOA Golf and Country Club this year in September. The first home match is against

John Carroll on Aug. 28.

Conrad said he truly appreciated the KOA for their work on behalf of the golf program.

Top opponents this year include Jensen Beach and Lincoln Park.

Conrad said he wants the girls to speed up their pace of play and that should help lower their scores this year.

"We're just working hard on the range and chipping and putting. It was frustrating last year to see girls make two nice shots to get on the green and then four put," he said. "We hope the hard work on the short game will cut strokes."

The team will participate in a free golf clinic at Keyser College in Port St. Lucie on Aug. 23.

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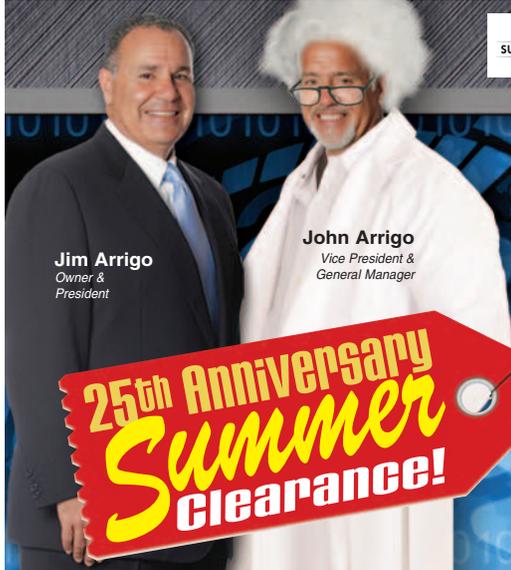
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