



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 276

Sunday, November 9, 2008

75¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Agri-Civic Center Halloween contest winner photos
...see page 9, 12

Okeechobee remains alive at volleyball regional

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee earned another shot at Jensen Beach Tuesday night when they defeated Merritt Island in the Region 4 Class 4A Quarterfinal match in Brevard County.

Okeechobee lost the first game 25-22, but rallied to win three straight, 25-15, 26-24, and 25-23, to earn their first playoff victory since 2003.

Okeechobee will play Jensen Beach next Tuesday night, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m. at Jensen Beach. It will be a rematch of the district championship game which Jensen won in straight sets.

Monica Koger had 12 kills and 28 digs. Courtney Marker had 13 kills. Rebekah Bryan had 17 digs and seven kills. Megan Clements had 40 digs in the regional victory.

Low cost spay/neuter available

Low cost spay/neuter vouchers for dogs and cats. Participating veterinarians in Vero Beach. For information, call United Humanitarians Port St. Lucie volunteer: 772-335-3786. Email: Petscry1@bellsouth.net. Okeechobee veterinarians are invited to participate. in this low cost spay/neuter program.

Look for more Homecoming pictures to follow in Wednesday, Nov. 12 Issue...

Drought Index

Current: 543
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

14.7 feet

Last Year: 10.38 feet

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

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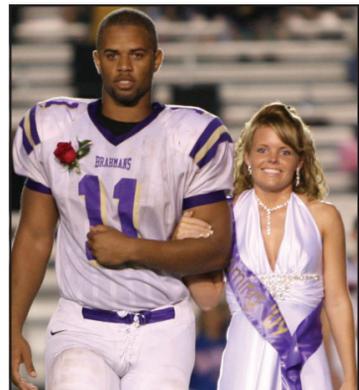
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Homecoming 2008: The grandest of nights



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce
Seniors Kareem Jones (center left) and Olivia Skeen (center right) were crowned the 2008-09 Homecoming King and Queen during halftime of the Homecoming game on Friday, Nov. 7. Left photo: Mr. OHS, Lonnie Pryor crowned Kareem Jones as the 2008-09 Homecoming King. Right photo: The 2007-08 Homecoming Queen Jessica Ziglar crowned Olivia Skeen as the 2008-09 Homecoming Queen during the game halftime.



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce
Left Photo: Seniors, Carson Williams and Katelyn Stuart were candidates for the 2008-09 Homecoming titles during halftime of the Homecoming game on Friday, Nov. 7. Center: Senior, Kareem Jones and Billie Jo Freeman took the field where Mr. Jones won the 2008-09 Homecoming King title. Right: Senior, Garrett Madrigal and Olivia Skeen took the field where Ms. Skeen won the 2008-09 Homecoming Queen title.



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce
Juniors, (left to right) Tyler Rhodes, Yolani Borroto, Jonathon Crawford, Janna Mullis, Matt Skipper and Kayla Stokes made up the 2008-09 Homecoming court for the Junior Class. Next year it's their turn.



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce
Sophomores, (left to right) Preston Wiggins Jr., Carliegh Alderman, Shawn Horvath, Mandi Harrison, Harrison O'Connor and Jamie McCoin made up the 2008-09 Homecoming court for the Sophomore Class.



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce
Freshman, (left to right) Tyler Finney, Taylor Fulford, Bryan Stokes, Allyson Matthews, Bradley Coleman and Allison Prewitt made up the 2008-09 Homecoming court for the Freshman Class.

Coke, cash seized in raid

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force Thursday ended a six-month investigation by arresting four people and seizing nearly a kilo of suspected cocaine, as well as over \$14,000 in cash.

Arrested were: Juan Manuel Molina, 28, S.W. 10th Drive; Alvaro Garcia Ortiz, 26, Okeechobee; Reynoso Marcelo DeJesus Aguirre, 18, S.W. 10th Drive; and Erandi Yanel Aguirre, 27, S.W. 10th Drive. All four were charged with trafficking in cocaine over 400 grams. They were all booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$100,000 each.

A detective with the task force said Ortiz has been living in Okeechobee even though his driver's license indicates a North Carolina address.

After executing a search

See Coke — Page 11

Recount may be planned

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The dirty word "recount" has been mentioned in connection with the Nov. 4 general election. Okeechobee County Supervisor of Elections Gwen Chandler said she and other election supervisors around the state are watching the close returns on amendment 3.

Amendment 3 allows a tax break for improvements to a house which increase the structure's resistance to wind damage.

A 60 percent vote is required to pass a proposed constitutional amendment. Results on Amendment 3 are currently 60.4 percent.

State law requires an automatic recount if the vote is within 0.5 percent of the required margin. A decision on a recount could be made by the Florida Election Canvassing Commission after the noon, Nov. 8, deadline for counties to submit their unofficial results.

Mrs. Chandler said her staff is doing preliminary planning for staffing a recount and for scheduling a meeting of the local canvassing board.

Train depot talks stalled

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

At the present time negotiations for ownership of the historic Okeechobee train depot seem to be at a lull.

Both Okeechobee Main Street (OMS) and the City of Okeechobee have been involved for some time in trying to gain possession of the depot in order to restore it.

The depot dates back to the 1920s when gasoline was .28 cents a gallon and a room for two at the Southland Hotel, a long demolished landmark, was about \$7.

The building is owned by

CXS Transportation, which also owns the railroad tracks serving the building. Passenger service is provided by Amtrak — a government subsidized organization.

Both the city and OMS have made contact with CSX and Amtrak. The last official action took place at the Aug. 5 meeting when the board approved a letter of understanding with CSX. The letter stated that CSX would donate the building to the city if certain conditions were met.

The Council, however, was not pleased with some of the conditions stated in the let-

ter. However, they viewed the document as conceptual and hoped for better terms in the final contract.

The letter of intent states that CSX will retain ownership of the building until a lease agreement is reached with Amtrak. It further states that the building must be renovated and in use within nine months of transfer of ownership. However, there is a provision for an extension if substantial progress is made.

Another provision calls for a fence and locked gate to prevent anyone from entering the tracks outside of Amtrak ser-

See Depot — Page 11



Okeechobee News/Teresa Matushek

Watch it burn!

OHS Seniors gathered on the football field and track at the Okeechobee High School to celebrate Homecoming Week with their traditional Bonfire. Students collect wooden pallets in order to make this tradition happen each year.

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Seminole participates in the PBS project

The Positive Behavior Support project aims to build effective environments in which positive behavior is prevalent. PBS emphasizes the use of preventative teaching and reinforcement-based strategies to achieve meaningful and durable behavior and lifestyle outcomes. The goal is to stop undesirable behavior by replacing it with a new behavior or skill, altering environments, teaching appropriate skills, and rewarding appropriate behavior.

At Seminole Elementary School our students are earning SEM Feathers when they exhibit exemplary behavior. These feathers will be used to "buy" their way into special events. Our first event is a field day on November 26. Students will have the opportunity to participate in various games and activities during the day. They'll also enjoy popcorn and drinks while they have fun playing games that relate to Thanksgiving, such as a pumpkin rolling contest.

We will be having a special event at the end of each nine week period. We look forward to having a movie and popcorn

event, a Snow Cone party, an ice cream party, a field trip to the Sports Complex, and other exciting activities. Each time a child "buys" their way into an event, the tickets are deposited into a barrel for a final prize drawing at the end of the year.

Please encourage your children to earn their SEM Feathers by exhibiting positive behavior.

Third grade news: As we begin to settle into our second nine weeks of school, the students are beginning to understand that school is their job. We have many exciting things that are and will be taking place in third grade. We will be having a mock election to choose our candidate for president. We are also beginning to earn our Seminole feathers. The students have the opportunity to earn Seminole feathers for good or outstanding behavior. These feathers can be used to take part in field day events, pizza parties, snow cone parties, etc. Keep up the good work students. We are also currently accepting food for our school wide canned food drive. The winning class will get a pizza party. The students have

made pledges to stay DRUG FREE and those pledges have been posted in the cafeteria in recognition of Red Ribbon Week. The students are continuing to earn steps for the 100 Book Challenge and AR, trying to get at least four steps a day. We would like to recognize our students of the week. For the week of October 21, 2008, we had Javier Hernandez from Mrs. Padgett's class, Damien Woodard from Mrs. Reed's class, Juan Pacheco from Mrs. Johnson's class, Alyssa Matheny from Mrs. McCranie's class, and Bethany Shirey from Mrs. Coldiron's class. For the week of October 27, 2008, we had Christyanna Aldridge from Mrs. Padgett's class, Diego Salcedo from Mrs. Reed's class, Guadalupe Mojica from Mrs. McCranie's class, Amy Holden from Mrs. Johnson's class, and Sandy Leon from Mrs. Coldiron's class.



ESE News: Congratulations to James Cummings and Kain Caron for earning Students of the Week for October 20 and October 27! James demonstrated being a focused student in reading and math and assisted other students. Kain has been trying his best at all his academics and he comes to school with a great smile and sense of humor! Laquavius Williams, James Cummings, Kellfonny Files have all reached their Book It! Goals to earn the Pizza Hut coupon. Keep reading students! Recently the students went on safari at the Book Fair to "hunt" for a good book to read. They all picked out books to enjoy and share with the class. Students measured (in inches), weighed (in pounds), and cut out pumpkins using a pattern in math. Finally, congratulations to Laquavius Williams for demonstrating Character Counts Pillar-Trustworthiness for the month of October. Laquavius has shown his peers and staff that he is reliable, honest, and is a good friend. He will join other students next week at a pizza party. Great job students in Ms. Kenney's class.

CES celebrates fall festivities

Kindergarten News: The Fall Festival and Halloween Parade were a great hit with Kindergarten. The children have enjoyed learning about the fall harvest and most classes are now working with scarecrows, Pilgrims, Indians, and turkeys.

Kindergarten students have been studying about the Pilgrim's trip to the New World on the Mayflower and colonization. They have enjoyed learning about fertilizing with fish, growing corn and other vegetables, hunting wild animals, and building homes with logs and thatched roofs.



Soon we will prepare and eat a feast just as the Pilgrims and Indians did. Each class will be preparing an item to include in the Feast. Then, as we work together, a feast for all Kindergarten will be shared on Tuesday, November 25th. Each class will choose whether to dress as Indians or Pilgrims as we sit together and enjoy our meal.

We have also been reading a lot and many children have now reached 100 steps in the 100 Book Challenge program. We are very proud of these students and are even more proud of their reading

skills and abilities.

On Friday, November 21st, Kindergarten students who have reached the set goal for behavior for November will be going to Dairy Queen. Good citizenship and behavior is our goal and we are proud of those who will attend.

Second Grade: Mrs. Greseth's class has been doing a super job in Reading! The students have been reading many different books and stories. They have been listening to A to Z mysteries and are really getting hooked. We may have some junior detectives soon. One small group has enjoyed learning about Sue, the T-Rex. They have also been straining their brains with brainteasers. The whole class has been doing a super job on subtraction with regrouping. We are still having a great time watching the one foot gardens grow. Keep up the super work!

Miss Miller's second graders had a blast learning about bats and the human skeleton! Although math has been challenging, we're getting the hang of two-digit subtraction with regrouping.

Congratulations to the following Students of the Week: Jasmine Lamb, Chris Rogel, Ryan Albers, Raeshel Bell, and Jayda Howell. Congratulations to Mariah

Raulerson for reaching 100 steps! :) Remember to read every night for 15 minutes to get more steps!

First Grade BASE: Mrs. Johns & Mrs. Rodriguez would like to congratulate the students that met their First Nine Weeks A.R goal! These students were rewarded by eating lunch at the Golden Corral: Natalie Saucedo, Cristian Suarez, Qwanaza Dingle, Blanca Gaona, Judele Root, Carlos Ayala, Miguel Sanchez, Kaitlyn McKay, Odalys Sanchez & Debrah Nichols. Keep up the Great Work and Keep Reading for A.R! Congratulations to the Students of the Week: Natalie Saucedo, Odalys Sanchez, Blanca Gaona, Jessica Rivas, David Solorzano, Brittany Roddenberry.

On October 31st our students participated in our school's costume parade. Children dressed as their favorite cartoon characters, scary creatures, as well as traditional attire that represented other countries. During this month they also learned in their Spanish class how other Spanish speaking cultures celebrate and honor their departed family members by cooking special meals, decorating their homes, and even adorning the cemeteries with thousands of colorful flower wreaths.

Our students have also enjoyed studying about "Bats". Did you know that there are over 900 species of bats or chiropters (Greek word meaning hand-wing)? Bats are the only flying mammal; their wings are created by their four boney fingers covered with a thin layer of skin and a thumb. The smallest bat is the bumble bee bat which weighs less than a penny; and the largest bat is the fox bat that has a wingspan of 6 feet. Students also learned that bats are grouped by their diet and in the way they sense to obtain their food.

Important dates to remember: Nov. 11th is Veterans Day and schools will be in session as this will be a make-up day for days lost during the hurricane. The other make-up day will be in Nov. 26th. Progress Reports go home on Nov. 13th, and Nov. 14th is Early Release Day.

Drug free week at OFC

Red Ribbon Week was celebrated Oct. 27-31, at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus (OFC). Students participated in Red Ribbon Week celebrating being drug free. They showed support by dressing up each day. On Tuesday, it was mix and match and crazy hair day. We had a lot of fun. Students were spiking their hair and mixing plaid with polka dots. The Student Council officers worked during both lunches and gave out footballs and basketballs to those who participated.

Thursday was team sport day, where you got to see students' team favorites, and you

also heard about the dislikes.

At the lunches, the Student Council officers again gave out prizes and footballs to the students. Friday was Halloween colors, black and orange. At lunch, pencils, stickers, footballs, ribbons, and bracelets were given out. It was a fun, spirited week. Thanks goes out to Ashley Hassan, Brittany Runyon, Erika Jones, and Jennifer Ranftle for taking charge of this project. It wouldn't have been possible without you!



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Okeechobee wallops Jensen Beach



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce

The Okeechobee High School Brahman football team takes the field before their big win over Jensen Beach at Friday's, Nov. 7, Homecoming Game.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

A solid defense and a big play offense fueled Okeechobee to a big win at homecoming, 44-14, over Jensen Beach to secure a playoff spot for Okeechobee in two weeks.

Lonnie Pryor rushed for 234 yards and three touchdowns, Erick McQueen ran for 77 yards and a touchdown, and Mike Minondo caught four passes, one of them a touchdown, to lead the Okeechobee offense.

The Okeechobee defense improved their play as they bent, but did not break against the youthful and talented Falcons, (4-5).

The game attracted the largest crowd in years to Okeechobee High School as the classes of 1969, 1979, 1989, and 1999 were honored.

Jensen Beach actually scored first on an eleven play, 77 yard drive to start the game. Kevin Drennan caught a 34 yard pass on the first play from scrimmage and the Falcons scored on a fourth and goal from the one on a short gallop by Gerald Footman.

From there Okeechobee scored 44 consecutive points, 27 of them in the second quarter. They tied the score on a 67 yard drive keyed by two long passes to Nate Pollard which covered 41 yards. Pryor rushed the final eight yard to tie the score at seven after one quarter.

Okeechobee exploded in the second quarter. After a fourth down stand on their 30 yard line, Okeechobee scored quickly on a 65 yard touchdown run by Pryor to make it 13-7. A fumbled snap killed another Falcons drive deep in Okeechobee territory. The Brahms then took advantage of several Falcons mistakes to put the game away. Erick McQueen returned a fumble 34 yards to atone for an earlier fumble to set up a 46 yard touchdown drive capped by a Garrett Madrigal's one yard run and a 20-7 lead.

Carson Williams recovered a fumble at the Jensen Beach 42 on the next series and that set up a 30 yard pass from Madrigal to Minondo for a 27-7 lead.

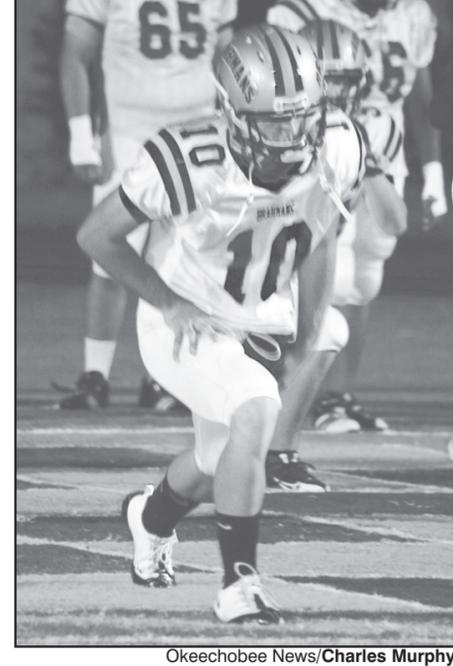
Minondo explained he made an inside move on the play, the defender bit, and he was all alone for the score. He praised Madrigal for throwing a nice pass on the play.

Another interception by McQueen gave Okeechobee good field position at the Falcon 46. Pryor caught a screen pass for a 46 yard touchdown but this play was called back by a penalty on Okeechobee. On third down and long Okeechobee used a little gadgetry with a hook and ladder. Minondo caught a short pass and then flipped it to McQueen who raced 52 yards down field for a touchdown to send the home crowd into a frenzy. Okeechobee took a 34-7 lead into the locker room.

Things slowed down in the second half as Okeechobee went to a more ball control offense. The only Brahman touchdown came on an 85 yard gallop by Pryor late in the third quarter. Okeechobee also got a 27 yard field goal by Alan Najara. Jensen Beach scored late in the game on a one yard touchdown pass from John Glenn to Mike Kissane.

Fridays game might have been the last for 16 Brahman seniors. Kerwin Givens said they were happy to win but sad because it could be the last game on there home field.

"It's time to move on and take it to the next level," he noted.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Curtis Everett's interception put the final dagger in Jensen's heart Friday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Tony Kibler continued to open up huge holes for Lonnie Pryor on Friday.

Game notes:

Kareem Jones was named Homecoming King at halftime. He had a big game pressuring the quarterbacks of Jensen Beach. He dropped Gerald Footman for a seven yard loss in the first quarter.

Terrance Allen had a huge pass defense play late in the first half that might have saved a touchdown. Nate Pollard also knocked a pass away for Footman in the end zone in the second half.

Carson Williams had an interception and a fumble recovery for Okeechobee. Curtis Everett intercepted a pass in the second half. He noted he wanted to get out there and make as many plays as he could. His block downfield helped free Pryor on a long touchdown run.

Okeechobee only punted once in the game and Jensen Beach didn't have to punt at all.

Final Score

Okeechobee	7	27	10	0	--	44
Jensen Beach	7	0	0	7	--	14

How they scored

First Quarter
Jensen Beach: Footman one yard run. (Meyers kick) 7-0. 6:28
Okeechobee: Pryor eight yard run. (Najara kick) 7-7. 3:58.

Second Quarter
Okeechobee: Pryor 65 yard run. (Najara kick) 14-7. 10:49.
Okeechobee: Madrigal one yard run. (Kick failed) 20-7. 4:23.

Okeechobee: Minondo 30 yard pass from Madrigal. (Najara kick) 27-7. 2:19.
Okeechobee: McQueen 52 yard run. (Najara kick) 34-7. 0:48.

Third Quarter
Okeechobee: Najara 27 yard field Goal. 37-7. 10:27

Okeechobee: Pryor 85 yard run. (Najara kick) 44-7. 2:49.

Fourth Quarter
Jensen Beach: Kissane one yard pass from Glenn. (Meyers Kick). 44-14. 1:28.

Team statistics	Jensen	Oke
First Downs	20	13
Third Downs	3-9	4-8
Penalties	4-25	6-70
Rushing yards	145	326
Passing yards	195	133
Punts	0-0	1-31
Punt returns	0-0	0-0
Kick returns	5-113	0-0
Fumbles/lost	4-3	1-1
Interceptions	0-0	3-25

Okeechobee	Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	TD	INT
Madrigal	15	10	133	1	0	
Okeechobee	Rushing	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Madrigal	4	-2	-2.0	2	1	
Pryor	15	234	15.6	85	3	
Taggart	4	6	1.5	4	0	
McQueen	7	77	11.0	52	1	
Givens	3	11	3.6	5	0	
Totals	33	326	9.9	85	5	
Okeechobee	Receiving	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Pryor	1	18	18.0	18	0	
McQueen	1	7	7.0	7	0	
Pollard	3	47	16.3	26	0	
Everett	1	4	4.0	4	0	

Jensen Beach	Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	TD	INT
Paonessa	7	4	55	0	1	
Glenn	16	7	81	1	2	
Tortorici	5	2	55	0	1	
Footman	1	1	4	0	0	
Totals	29	14	195	1	4	
Jensen Beach	Rushing	No.	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Paonessa	1	-12	-12.0	-12	0	
Footman	11	22	2.0	12	1	
Lauderdale	5	54	10.9	29	0	
Wilson	8	43	5.4	18	0	
Graham	2	9	4.5	5	0	
Hager	2	15	7.5	25	0	
Drennan	2	15	7.5	9	0	
Glenn	2	-1	-1.0	2	0	
Totals	33	145	4.4	29	1	
Jensen Beach	Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Paonessa	1	14	14.0	14	0	
Footman	2	16	8.0	9	0	
Wilson	2	44	22.0	22	0	
Graham	1	11	11.0	11	0	
Hager	1	25	25.0	25	0	
Drennan	6	91	15.2	34	0	
Gordan	1	25	25.0	25	0	
Kissane	1	1	1.0	1	1	
Totals	14	195	14.0	34	1	

Area scores

Pahokee	28	Vero Beach	10
South Fork	42	John I. Leonard	21
Sebastian R	31	Martin County	14
Treasure C	24	Spanish River	10
Port St. Lucie	38	Eau Gallie	23
SP Catholic	39	Lake Placid	14
Melbourne	20	John Carroll	17
Calvary Chr.	39	St Edward's	18
Sebring	14	Avon Park	13
Glades Day	53	Moore Haven	12
Clewiston	21	St. Andrews	7
Glades Cent	44	Suncoast	0
S. Ft. Myers	53	Labelle	7

District 13-4A Standings

Team	W-L	All	PF	PA
Westwood	4-0	8-1	262	125
Okeechobee	4-1	7-2	336	207
Sebastian River	3-2	5-4	164	158
Jensen Beach	2-3	4-5	187	258
Fort Pierce	1-3	2-6	158	238
Martin County	0-5	0-9	162	316

District player of the week, Garrett Madrigal of Okeechobee. The Senior QB completed 10-15 passes for 133 yards and a touchdown in the Brahms homecoming win over Jensen Beach. How Okeechobee opponents fared. Jupiter Christian did not report. Avon Park lost to Sebring 14-13. Sebring defeated Avon Park 14-13. Sebastian River defeated Martin County 31-14. Glades Day defeated Moore Haven 53-12. Fort Pierce Central did not report. Westwood did not report. Martin County lost to Sebastian River 31-14. Jensen Beach lost to Okeechobee 44-14. Clewiston defeated St. Andrews 21-7.

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We are sorry that economic circumstances have led us to this very difficult decision and apologize to our many honest members who must be inconvenienced.

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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. You can also e-mail comments to okeenews@newszap.com or call 863-467-2033, but online comments get posted faster and not all phone calls can be printed. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

OKEECHOBEE: How about balancing this with another viewpoint - If your kids actually know the Ten Commandments because they go to church with their entire family every Sunday, you might be from Okeechobee. If you donate countless hours a week of your time to work with 4-H programs even though all of your own children are grown, you might be from Okeechobee. If you visit your elderly neighbors just to bring them a homemade treat and make sure they are all right, you might be from Okeechobee. If you have surgery and come home from the hospital to find out that members of your church have cleaned your home and cooked dinner for you, you might be from Okeechobee. If your civic organizations work all year with fundraisers to send local children to college, you might be from Okeechobee. If you see people you know every time you go to the store, you might be from Okeechobee. If you're elderly and your church youth group shows up to clean up hurricane debris in your yard, you might be from Okeechobee. If you do the right thing even when no one is watching, you might be from Okeechobee.

HOLIDAYS: Please be careful during the upcoming holidays. So you know, the Christmas parade is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 13. Please use designated drivers if you drink. Please watch for others who do not and call 911 if you see drunk drivers. Guide the officers to your location and they'll do the rest.

BOMBS: How to make the bomb was on You Tube. I am sure it wouldn't be hard to find something about it. The crazy thing is that it just takes one child to start this and typically others follow. It takes a strong child to stand up and say that we shouldn't be doing this. Sad that there aren't too many out there who seem to be able to stand up to the peer pressure and do that.

ELECTIONS: I am so glad election season is over and we can discuss something else. Speak Out was getting boring because it was packed with so election comments. Now, has anyone seen the Skunk Ape lately?

HORSES: I was reading about people not being able to afford to feed their horses and not being able to sell them because there are no buyers. Well the animal rights people contributed to that. They forced the horse slaughterhouses out of business. The last horse slaughterhouse for human consumption in this country went out of business last year. The slaughter houses were what kept the prices up on the non-registered horses. When people went to a horse auction, you had to outbid the killer and he was bidding based on what he could get for that horse by the pound. So a lot of unwanted horses used to go to slaughter but now they are just on the market, cheap or else starving to death somewhere. I know some people will be all upset at the thought of a horse being killed. But can the horse rescues really taken in every unwanted horse?

EARLY VOTING: I just want to compliment the Supervisor of Elections on the early voting. That was really nice to be able to vote before election day. I stopped by the office on my lunch hour on Thursday and got in and out in 15 minutes. I still had time to eat lunch. Then I didn't have to worry about the long lines on election day. That is a very nice service for the public. Also, I had not been to their new office before. It looks very nice and professional.

YOUTUBE: Parents should certainly be supervising their children whenever the kids are online. Don't let them go online alone in their rooms. You have no idea what they might be exposed to. Anything they are going to do or look at online should not be anything they would be embarrassed for their parents to see. Keep the computer in the family room and remove the temptation. That way you can monitor what they are doing, and you might also learn a thing or two.

BIRTHDAYS: What is it lately? You plan a birthday party for your child and invite the whole class and maybe four or five kids show up. Are parents just too busy to take kids to the parties? When my child gets an invitation, I always make a point to RSVP and take him to the party. And invariably he is one of just a few children there. Once he was the only child at the party besides the birthday child. I was so glad I made the effort to bring him or that kid wouldn't have had anyone his age at his party. I feel terrible for the parents who buy decorations and food and so few show up. Maybe if Okeechobee had something like a Chuck-e-cheese people would actually take their kids to the parties.

YOU MIGHT BE FROM OKEECHOBEE: You might be from Okeechobee if you mother your friends' kids at the Saturday soccer game. You might be from Okeechobee if you know your neighbors are going to look after your house and collect your mail when you're out of town. You might be from Okeechobee if you know most of the people in the Christmas parade and they know you.

SCHOOL FUNDS: I completely agree with the callers who want the schools to stop sending home things for the kids to sell. We don't need any more overpriced candy, pizza, cookie dough or magazine subscriptions. We can't afford to keep buying all this junk. How about doing something that helps us save some money. A few years ago, a school group sold a discount card for \$5 or \$10 and you got discounts at local stores every time you used it. That card paid for itself in just a few weeks. I also remember someone sold discount cards for pizzas where if you bought one you got a free one. That card also quickly paid for itself.

KILLER DOGS: I too am in the area where one of the dogs was let out and it sure angers me that someone would do that knowing that the dogs may have been involved in the killing of someone. Why weren't these dogs taken into custody at that time? They seem to be able to make positive identification of one of the three and put it down. What gives here? Boy, there is still a lot we don't know about this story. We have dogs dropped off around here all the time. As a matter of fact, that is how we got the dog we have now. It just came up one day and decided to stay. We took it in after a week or so, had her fixed and now she is part of our family. We have also had many pit bull type dogs roaming and we always call the animal control if they look anything like a pit bull. People need to take better care of their dogs. My husband walks every day and the grandchildren play outside all the time. The husband always carries a stick as some people here have some pretty vicious acting dogs but never thought I needed to arm my grandchildren just to play in the yard. I would like to know why these dogs weren't picked up at the time the other dog was? *Editor's note: Animal Control officials started looking for both dogs as soon as Collier County officials alerted them that the dogs had reportedly been dumped in Okeechobee County. So far they only found one of them. Impressions of that dog's teeth were matched to bite marks on the victim, which is how they determined it was involved in the attack. That dog was euthanized. Officials are still looking for the other dog. The two dogs were dropped off in different locations.*

CODE ENFORCEMENT: I find it difficult to believe that Okeechobee County Code Enforcement allows human beings to live in some of the places that they do. It is also hard for me to believe that these places are even considered habitable? I would never in my life consider living in some of these places and like others have had some very rough spots in my life. I have a question that I would like a response to from someone in Code Enforcement to respond to. Has Okeechobee stooped so low that we allow human beings to live in places that aren't fit for animals? Or are there other political influences involved?

YOU MIGHT BE FROM OKEECHOBEE: You're sure to know you're from Okeechobee, if someone gives you directions, based on landmarks that no longer exist, and you understand what they are talking about. Such as, "the Free Fair is in the field next to where the City water tower used to be," or you refer to the "Lonesome Dove" to describe Dark Hammock Road, or you know the intersection of Ber-man Road and State Road 70 as "Posey's Corner."

Reflections from the Pulpit

Rev. Tommaso Pasquarella
Pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church

Today you will see that you need to answer the question and you need to know what saves.

What question must you answer? There are so many questions out there, and many people have answers. Does everyone have the right answer? "Sir, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30) The guard on duty when an earthquake hit and freed each of the prisoners asked a simple heartfelt question. "What must I do to be saved?" Man, I wish I were asked that question just once. That would be awesome. To see God grab hold over a man's heart to the point of begging for the gospel, begging for salvation. Can everybody be right about this question: "What must I do to be saved?" The answer is no. This jailer wants to know how to be right before the eyes of a holy God.

There are many religions in this world that seek to solve the problem humans have, this inadequacy in relation to whoever this Great Being is. In the time of the building of the tower of Babel in Genesis, the people sought to reach the heavens. "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:4) These sought to rid themselves of the problem of not being right with God by trying to make a name for themselves, by becoming their own gods. Religion is useless! Religion is man's way to get to God or in this case be God, but the Bible is God's way to redeem man. In Mark 12:24 the religious Jews were trying to trick Jesus with their religion, the system they had set up apart from the Bible, they were doing religion and Jesus tells them that "you do not know Scriptures nor the power of God." To be a Jew and be told that they do not know the Scriptures, the Word that they are supposed to hold dear, nor do they know God's power, must have stung. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (II Timothy 3: 5) They appear godly yet do not know the God who made them, we are warned to stay away from such people.

Works are useless apart from faith in Christ. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8) You are not saved by the things that you do. You are not saved because you earned it, but you are saved because God gave it as a gift. You can't earn it otherwise you can brag. This does not mean that you do not need to do right, because James says, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." (James 2:17)

This Philippian Jailer knew who to ask, he did not ask the priests and priestesses of the pagan temple he asked Paul and Silas. God had done a mighty work in Paul and Silas and through them and for them. These men seem to be experts in experiencing God, they were real followers of the one true God. Why must you answer this question about what must I do to be saved? If you are Christian your goal is to bring glory to God. How do you bring glory to God? You give people the gospel. You! Not the preacher only, not the evangelist only, not the deacons only, but you. If you aren't then you are not being obedient. If you are not being obedient then of course you are disobedient.

If you are not sharing the answer then you are not being faithful, which means you are unfaithful. Check where you stand. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Corinthians 13:5) Make sure you are a Christians because if you are not then you failed the test. Check where you stand because if you do not know the answer then how can you share it? If you do not know Christ you need to trust Him as Lord and Savior.

You need to know what saves? This is the question people have been trying to have answered all over the world and we have the answer. Let's say you have the cure for cancer, what do you do with it? This is a valuable commodity. Do you hide it under a mattress? Do you keep silent and do nothing? Do you sell it to the highest bidder? I would hope not. I would hope that you would tell others about it. Scream it from rooftops. You would want to say mom, dad, brother, sister "I have the cure so that you do not have to die." You would beg them to take the cure. "I love you, please take this gift of life, this cure for cancer and live." You would expect people to jump at the chance for a cure. You have the gift of salvation within you, what do you do with it? Keep it to yourself or share it with boldness or excitement?

I bet when Paul and Silas heard this man's question they were filled with excitement. They most likely could not contain themselves. "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31) They said believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved and your whole household as well. Is salvation just believing on the Lord Jesus Christ? This man had never heard the gospel of Christ, so what was this man believing in? He did not know, so that is why Paul and Silas do not just say believe but they do something odd. "And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house." (Acts 16:32) The man was ripe for the gospel. They speak the word of God. They speak the gospel of salvation. They speak the gospel of peace. They speak it to both him and his household, meaning servants and family members. That very night, that very hour, that very moment, they were baptized. Not only the prison guard was baptized, but all who were with him.

Baptism is an open expression of an inner devotion. If you have not been baptized and you have trusted Christ for salvation you need to be obedient. If you have been baptized before you trusted Christ you need to be baptized as well, because it is a sign of salvation and before it was only a bath. Due to this man's earnest request, "What must I do to be saved?" and the faithful preaching of the Word of God, this man and his whole family trusted Christ.

Jesus came as a babe and lived a sinless life. Yes, I said sinless. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (II Corinthians 5:21-22) He, Jesus, knew no sin, but became sin for us. He went willingly to the cross, no one forced him. "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." (John 10:18) He died and on the third day rose again. He then ascended

to the right hand and sent His Spirit to dwell in us as a seal for those who trust Him. This is the message they preached to the jailer, because it is the gospel.

When you preach the word to lost and dying people and they trust Christ, it not only changes them, but those around them. Salvation leads to a life transformed by the gospel. If your life has not been transformed and you look like you did before salvation, then you may not be His, because the salvation of God changes lives. How can you answer the ques-

tion "How can you be saved?" for someone else unless you have been saved yourself? If you do not know how to tell others the Gospel, check yourself, first make sure you stand with Him and then seek His righteousness and He will bring opportunities and the right words to say, but you have to be His. You must answer the question of salvation for those who ask, you must know what saves.

Community Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 9

A.A. meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. It will be an open step meeting.

A.A. open 12 step meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St.

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** weekend noon meeting open discussion. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

Monday, Nov. 10

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick open discussion 7 p.m. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

A.A. meeting will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. This will be an open meeting.

VFW #10539 Ladies Auxiliary lunch and bingo will start at noon at the Post, 3912 U.S. 441 S.E. Auxiliary members and their guests are invited. Please R.S.V.P. to 863-763-2308.

Okeechobee Senior Singers meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 North Parrott Ave. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited. For information or to schedule an appearance for your organization or group, contact Marge Skinner at 863-532-0449.

The Genealogical Society of Okeechobee will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Public Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. The meeting is open to anyone interested in tracing his or her ancestry. The annual membership is \$10 per person, and \$12 for a family. For information, call Eve at 863-467-2674; or, visit their web site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgso>.

Artful Appliquers is a recently formed chapter in Okeechobee. This chapter meets at the Turtle Cove Clubhouse, 10 Linda Road, Okeechobee on Mondays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Karen Graves, Chapter leader would like to extend a warm welcome to any interested persons to come by and see what they are about. For information call 863-763-6952.

Tuesday, Nov. 11

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **N.A.** Nowhere Left To Go Group open discussion at noon. **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick Group open discussion. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

The Lighthouse Refuge Support Group is for women who are hurting, homeless or have been abused. They meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month from noon until 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 401 S.W. Fourth St., and on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Red Cross, 323 N. Parrott Ave. For more information call Donna Dean at 863-801-9201 or 863-357-2106.

Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition meets the second Tuesday of the month, at 11:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, lunch is provided. For information contact Jim Vensel at 863-697-1792.

New Beginning's meeting of **Narcotics Anonymous** will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at Believers Fellowship Church, 300 S.W. Fifth Ave. It will be an open discussion meeting. For more information call Monika Allen at 863-801-3244.

Rotary Club of Okeechobee meets each Tuesday at noon at Golden Corral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Ave. The meetings are open to the public. For information, Call Maureen Budjinski at 863-484-0110.

New A.A. Meeting in Basinger: There is now an A.A. meeting in Basinger on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Basinger Christian Brethren Church on 700-A, north off U.S. 98. Beginners are welcome.

Christian Home Educators of Okeechobee will meet at the Grace Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 701 S. Parrott Ave. Anyone currently home schooling or interested in home schooling is welcome. For information, call Lydia Hall 863-357-6729 or Betty Perera 863-467-6808.

Al-Ateen - meeting will be held at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St., at 7 p.m. For more information, please call Amy at 863-763-8531 or Dan 561-662-2799.

Al-Anon meeting will be held at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St., at 8 p.m.

A.A. Closed discussion meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St.

Grief and Loss Support Group meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Hospice Building, 411 S.E. Fourth St., in Okeechobee. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact Brenda Nicholson at 863-467-2321.

Family History Center meets from 1 until 5 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 310 S.W. Sixth St. Anyone interested in finding who your ancestors are is welcome to attend. There is Census, IGI (International Genealogical Index), Social Security Death Index and military information available. For information, call Mim Kapteina at 863-763-6510.

Gospel Sing every Tuesday beginning at 7 p.m. The public is invited to participate with vocal and/or instrumental music. For information, contact Douglas Chiropractic Center at 863-763-4320.

Widows and Widowers support group meets at 8 a.m. at the Clock Restaurant, 1111 S. Parrott Ave., for breakfast. For information, June Scheer at 863-634-8276

The Gathering Church Overcomers Group meets at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall at 1735 S.W. 24th Ave. This is a men's only meeting. For information, call Earl at 863-763-0139.

Bible study at the Living Word of Faith Church, 1902 S. Parrott Ave., at 7 p.m. Informal and informative discussions bring many Bible truths to life. Everyone is invited.

Community Country Gospel will meet at 7 p.m. at the church next to Douglas Clinic on North Park St. Any individual or group that enjoys old time gospel music is invited to participate. For information, contact Dr. Edward Douglas at 863-763-4320.

A.A. meeting will be held from noon until 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. This will be an open meeting.

Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition meets every second Tuesday, at 11:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church. For information contact Jim Vensel at 863-697-1792.

The Lighthouse Refuge support group meets at Believers Fellowship Church, 300 S.W. Sixth Ave. from noon until 2 p.m. then from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. Women who need emotional support or someone just to care are welcome. For information call the hot line 863-801-9201 or 863-697-9718.

Compulsive overeaters are invited to a weekly meeting. **Overeaters Anonymous** (OA) meets at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue on Tuesdays, 6 until 7 p.m. (Use 4th Street entrance.) Overeaters Anonymous is not a diet club. There are no dues, fees or weigh-ins. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. For more information call Loretta at 863-763-7165 or 863-697-0206.

The **First United Methodist Church**, 200 N.W. Second St., will be hosting **God's Time** -- a morning of free organized Christian activities that includes play, instruction and interaction for parents and their pre-school children. The event will be held each Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Child care will be provided for infants during the class. For information, call 863-763-4021.

Heaven of Rest Church, 2947 S.W. Third Terr., holds meetings for persons with alcohol and drug related problems at 6 p.m. For information call 863-357-3053.

Okeechobee News

Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge ...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction to the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2

State files adult charges against teen

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee teen arrested in September for her alleged connection with three burglaries has been charged as an adult and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail.

Glynda Faye Dickerhoff, 18, N.E. 98th St., was originally arrested Oct. 16 and charged as a juvenile and taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Fort Pierce. And even though she turned 18 in September she was still treated as a juvenile.

Dickerhoff was re-arrested Wednesday, Nov. 5, after the state issued warrants charging her as an adult.

Dickerhoff was booked into the county jail on charges of grand theft - firearm (three counts), armed burglary of a dwelling and dealing in stolen property (two counts). Her bond has been set at \$8,000.

According to Detective Rick Durfee of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Dickerhoff was involved in at least three break-ins during the month of September. In those burglaries

three handguns -- a .25 caliber, .a 22 caliber and a .357 Magnum caliber -- were taken, he added. Also arrested in connection with these burglaries were Brock Tyler Sherill, 19, and Alecia Gilman, 18. Following her arrest, Gilman was released on her own recognizance. Sherill, however, was arrested Oct. 3 on warrants from the Department



Glynda Faye Dickerhoff

of Corrections. Those warrants charged him with violation of probation - burglary to a conveyance (11 counts), violation of probation - grand theft (seven counts) and violation of probation - criminal mischief (two counts). He is being held without bond.

When arrested in October, Sherill was on probation. Detective Durfee indicated in his arrest report that Sherill had been released from prison on March 19.

Detective Durfee stated in his report that the guns have been recovered.

Fifth woman charged with using fake social security to get job

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A fifth woman has been arrested by a state investigator and charged with using a fake Social Security number in order to gain employment in Okeechobee.



Jovita Duran-Lopez

Jovita Duran-Lopez, 27, N.W. 36th St., was arrested Wednesday, Nov. 5, by Detective William Hill of the state's Department of Financial Services/Division of Insurance Fraud and charged with submitting a fraudulent Social Security number for employment. The woman was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then released on her own recognizance, even though the charge levied against her is a felony.

Arrested Oct. 30, on the same charge were: Maria Udave, 36, N.W. 46th Ave.; Martha Romero, 52, N.W. 21st St.; Veronica Mojica, 31, N.W. 46th Ave.; and Yolanda Robledo, 36, N.W. 15th Ave.

All four women were housekeepers at local motels, said Detective Hill.

Like Duran-Lopez, the other women were booked into the county jail then released on their own recognizance.

Detective Hill said the arrests

were made due to the women getting employment by using "fraudulent documentation."

"This was kind of a spin-off case from a workman's compensation case," he said. "Unfortunately, the people we're arresting are also the victims. They got caught up in a vicious cycle."

He added that the women all used false documentation to get their jobs.

The detective went on to say all of the women are in the U.S. illegally.

"Most have been here for a number of years," he said. "One had been here for about nine years."

No charges will be filed against the women's employers.

"There will be no action against the employers at this time," Detective Hill said. "The employers provided us with all the documentation and were very cooperative."

He went on to say that the women were also cooperative.

Because this investigation is "small scale," the detective said it's unlikely that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will get involved in the case.

The women were working here and sending money back to family members in their homeland, the detective offered.

According to arrest reports, all of the women are citizens of Mexico.

Law Enforcement Calls

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office received the following calls from Friday, Oct. 31, through Nov. 6:

- Oct. 31**
 - vandalism at Lock 7
 - burglary in the 1600 block of S.W. Ninth Lane
 - theft in the 900 block of N.W. 23rd Lane
 - assault in the 3900 block of U.S. 441 N.
 - burglary in the 700 block of N.W. 23rd Lane
 - theft in the 2300 block of S.W. 28th St.
 - assault in the 22000 block of N.W. 266th St.
 - theft in the 2300 block of S.R. 70 W.
- Nov. 1**
 - vandalism in the 3400 block of S.W. 21st St.
 - burglary on U.S. 98 N. at Chandler Slough
 - burglary in the 21000 block of N.W. 252nd St.
 - theft in the 400 block of S.E. 35th Terrace
 - vandalism in the 1000 block of N.E. 13th Ave.
- Nov. 2**
 - vandalism in the 600 block of N.E. 62nd Ave.
 - vandalism in the 4000 block of N.W. 36th St.
 - vandalism in the 500 block of N.E. 62nd Ave.
 - vandalism in the 6300 block of N.E. Eighth Way
 - theft in the 3600 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
 - vandalism in the 3800 block of N.W. 18th St.
 - assault in the 500 block of N.E. 13th Ave.
- Nov. 3**
 - fraud in the 30000 block of N.E. 23rd Way
 - vandalism in the 900 block of N.E. 14th Ave.
 - burglary in the 3500 block of N.W. 39th Ave.
 - burglary in the 600 block of N.E. 17th Way
 - vandalism in the 1300 block of N.E. 103rd Ave.
- Nov. 4**
 - theft in the 3700 block of S.E. 19th Terrace
 - fraud in the 3500 block of S.E. 36th Ave.
 - theft in the 4300 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
 - assault in the 4100 block of S.E. 23rd Court
- Nov. 5**
 - burglary in the 3300 block of N.W. Fifth St.
 - vandalism in the 800 block of N.E. 15th Ave.
 - gang activity in the 500 block of N.W. 27th Lane
 - larceny in the 3300 block of S.E. 36th Ave.
 - fraud in the 7600 block of S.W. 13th St.
 - assault in the 900 block of N.E. 14th Ave.
- Nov. 6**
 - burglary in the 5800 block of N.W. 20th St.
 - vandalism in the 600 block of S.E. 26th Drive
 - vandalism in the 2700 block of N.W. 35th Drive
 - burglary in the 12000 block of S.R. 70 E.
 - burglary in the 2500 block of S.W. 21st Court
 - fraud in the 2800 block of U.S. 441 S.

Editor's Note: Only calls dealing with either a felony or a potential felony are entered into this column.

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Okeechobee's Most Wanted

The following five people are among Okeechobee's Most Wanted persons. There are active warrants for each of them. The criteria for making Okeechobee's Most Wanted top five is based on the severity of the crime in conjunction with the age of the warrant.



Alieta Aleen



Rigoberto Gama Chavez



David Yoder



Fernando Herrera



Estavan Villegas-Urbina

David Yoder, 26; FTA - Poss Methadone, FTA - DWLS.

Estavan Villegas-Urbina, 21; Robbery.

Fernando Herrera, 19, DOB 10/5/1989, 5'-5", 140 lbs, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

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Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing obits@newszap.com. Customers may also request photos and links to online guest books. A link to the obituaries is available at www.newszap.com.

Martin G.

Crawford Sr., 76

OKEECHOBEE — Martin G. Crawford Sr., of Okeechobee, passed away peacefully with family at his bedside Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008. He was 76.

He was born March 30, 1932, in Dundee. Martin moved his family to Okeechobee from Lake Wales in 1963, and spent the majority of his working life as General Superintendent of Rock-A-Way Construction in Okeechobee.

He was an avid Okeechobee baseball fan and after retiring spent the rest of his life supporting his grandchildren's sports and hobby interests with his attendance at their chosen events.

Mr. Crawford was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Eloise Crawford; his daughter, Shirley Mislan; four sisters; and one brother.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Evelyn (Osborne) Crawford; five children, Sonny (Carla) Crawford of Sebring, Sharon (Paul) Williams, Sue (John) Clements, Neal (Kristy) Crawford all of Okeechobee, David (Lisa) Crawford of Canton, Ga.; brothers, Miles and Charles (Janet) Crawford of Saginaw, Michigan and Sondra (Don) Bowen of Bartow; his great joys were his 13 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren and their families, Lanisha (Boromei) Weaver husband Steve and great-grandchild, Parker; Matthew Crawford wife Ashley and great-grandchild, Braydon; Jessica Williams, Melissa Williams and great-grandchild, Audrey Williams-Waldron; Jason Stanley, Becky (Stanley) Kirkland, Lara Stanley; Josh Stanley; Christopher Crawford, wife, Julie and great-grandchildren, John and Riley Crawford; Amy Mislan; Zander Crawford; Jonathon Crawford and Kutter Crawford.

Visitation will be 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008, until service time at 2 p.m. at Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home with Pastor Calvin Fryar officiating. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Okeechobee High School Baseball Team or Hospice of Okeechobee in memory of Roger Boromei.

Friends may sign the guest book at www.bassocheebefuneralhome.com

All arrangements are entrusted to the care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 N.E. 2nd St., Okeechobee.

Paul Michael Sopko, 79

OKEECHOBEE — Paul Michael Sopko, died Thursday, Nov. 06, 2008, in Raulerson Hospital. He was 79.

Born Sept. 10, 1929, he had been a resident of Okeechobee since 1997, and was a member of the Church of God.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Rita; and a sister, Pat Wesley.

He is survived by a son, Michael Sopko (Sheree), of Olympia Fields, Ill.; grandson, Sage, of Olympia Fields, Ill.; brother, William Sopko, of Taylor, Mich.; and sister, Mary Tadeo, of Sauk Village, Ill.

A memorial service will be 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008, in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 N.E. 5th St., Okeechobee.

Community Events

Ladies Auxiliary holds turkey drawing

The VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 9528, Buckhead Ridge will hold a Turkey drawing on Sunday, Nov. 9, from 2 p.m. until ? There will be 15 turkeys or gift certificates will be given in the drawing. Open face turkey sandwiches will be available for \$1. There will be door prizes and a bake sale.

North VFW to host Sock Hop

Come to the "Sun and Snowbird Sock Hop" Sunday, Nov. 9 for music of the 60s and 70s, or as you request at the North VFW Post 4423, N.W. 34th Ave. Hosted by Lisa, from 5 until 9 p.m., all members and guests are more than welcome.

Chamber luncheon planned

The new Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce luncheon will be on Wednesday, Nov. 12. Sean Moore with the Small Business Development Center will be speaking. Their services include Free, confidential one on one counseling for prospective or current business owners. They offer free, monthly, one day seminars on Steps to owning a Business, Business Plans, and Marketing. The Chamber is donating office space to the Small Business Development Center. Do you have a suggestion for a Chamber logo? If so email me at candace7@gmail.com.

Healthy Start Coalition to meet

The Board of Directors of the Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 11:30 a.m. in their office, located at 575 S.W. 28 St. within the New Endeavors School Building. This meeting is open to the public. For information contact Executive Director, Kay Begin at 863-462-5877.

Friends of the Library host book sale

Friends of the Okeechobee Library Book Sale will be held at the library on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Hardcover books are \$2, Paperbacks are \$1, Library discards are half price. On Saturday a bag of books is \$2 and a box is \$5. For more information please call the library at 863-763-3536.

OCEA has membership meeting

The Okeechobee County Education Association will have its second General Membership Meeting of the 2008-2009 school year on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center at Osceola Middle School, 825 SW 28th St. They will conduct business, report on the recent annual FEA Delegate Assembly, and also address issues of members. If you are not a member of OCEA, you may join at the meeting. Door prizes and refreshments will be given. Be informed!

Free memory loss screenings

Friday, Nov. 14 the Alzheimer's Association will be sponsoring free memory loss screenings at the Visiting Nurse Association, 208 S.E. Park St. Appointments are needed and available from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment please call Donna True at 800-861-7826, ext. 1. Screenings are for anyone - any age - concerned about memory loss. Screenings conducted by staff from St. Mary's Memory Disorder Center. Immediate results.

Shared Services Network to meet

The Executive Roundtable of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee County will conduct its monthly meeting at 1:30 on Friday, Nov. 14 at the Williamson Conference Center, Indian River State College, Okeechobee. The public is welcome to attend. For more information call 863-462-5000 ext. 257.

To all Veterans

Please join the staff and students of the Okeechobee Freshman Campus for a tribute to our Country's veterans on Friday, Nov. 14 at 8:20 a.m. at the First Baptist Church R.O.C. located on Fifth Avenue.

Annual Turkey dinner to be held

Saturday, Nov. 15, from 4 until 7 p.m. the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge will hold their Annual Turkey Dinner. Suggested donation is \$8 per adult and \$4 per child under 10. Proceeds will benefit the Lodge building fund. For more information call Jim Green at 863-634-4401; Jose Verano at 863-634-2071; or Kip Gardner at 863-357-0427.

Barracudas presents "Ride for the Troops"

On Nov. 16, Barracudas will present "Ride for the Troops." There will be a slow drag race, weenie bite contest, drawing prizes, live music, and more. Tickets are available at Barracudas for \$20, which includes: t-shirt, drawing ticket and ride. All proceeds will be donated to Military Order of The Purple Hearts. Run leaves Barracuda's a noon sharp. For more information call 863-801-6268.

Cowboys for Christ sponsors event

Nov. 20, Nashville Recording Artist Tommy Brandt will be at the Okeechobee County Basinger Civic Center. A covered dish supper will begin at 6 p.m. at 7 p.m. Christian Country Music Artist Tommy Brandt. This event is sponsored by Cowboys for Christ. For information call Doyle McDuffie 863-763-2285; Kim Davis 863-467-2855; or David Eng 863-634-3360.

The 17th annual walk around Lake Okeechobee

On November 22nd, hikers will gather at the Pahokee Marina to kick off the 17th Annual Big O Hike. Since 1992, the 109 mile Florida Trail circuit walk known as the Big O Hike has pumped tourism dollars into small towns around the lake while encouraging hiking for fitness, drawing visitors from as far away as Ontario and California. For nine days the participants walk from 9.3 to 14.7 miles, starting at sunrise and ending at their leisure, usually before noon. Although flat and open, the trail offers outstanding scenic views, especially at sunrise and sunset. The hike passes through five counties around Lake Okeechobee where hikers experience the quiet side of South Florida. As one of the Florida Trail Gateway Communities, Pahokee is an ideal kickoff point for the Big O Hike. Join us on November 22nd at the Pahokee Marina at 8 a.m., or at any point along the hike for an interesting and educational walk. Learn more, including details of stops along the way at Lox.floridatrail.org/big0.

Healthy Start Yard sale

Healthy Start of Okeechobee will hold their annual yard sale where they will have a variety of baby items for excellent prices on Wednesday, Nov. 26, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Health Department auditorium.

Habitat for Humanity holds fundraiser

Habitat for Humanity will hold a 50/50 drawing fundraiser. Tickets are available at Regions Bank, 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5. The winner will be notified on Dec. 1.

BHR VFD Winterfest 2009

Winterfest 2009 will be held on Jan. 31. There will be catfish, cotton candy, popcorn, crafts, music and more. For more information, call 863-532-9015 or John at 863-467-8220. Anyone interested in renting a booth for Winterfest 2009, please call John at 863-467-8220 or 863-532-9015.

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Wade B. Harrouff, D.D.S.
License #DN10761
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Girls' hoops have new leader



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jodi Raulerson is a strong aggressive defender for ladies varsity basketball.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Essence Williams could provide an immediate impact for varsity ladies basketball.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Dorothy Burkhardt will play more guard this year in ladies basketball.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jewel Buck will be counted on to provide a strong inside presence.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Tony Sherlock took over the Lady Brahmans basketball program this year and has set the bar high for achievement.

The former coach at Osceola Middle School hopes to lead the girls' hoops out of mediocrity and turn them into a winning program.

Okeechobee has had very competitive teams in the past couple of seasons but have not been able to get over the hump in district play and advance to the post season. Sherlock said he hopes to turn that around. He inherits a young team with just three returning players, but he mentioned he likes that scenario.

"I can set up my program the way I want it and the girls have responded very well from the beginning. They've been hustling," he noted.

Sherlock said the program is starting fresh and that he hopes to turn the program around and make it a consistent winner. "Execution is the biggest key with teams here in the past. If the girls

execute and hustle and show a little heart I think they'll do great this year."

Leading the charge will be veterans Monica Koger, Dorothy Burkhardt, and Jewel Buck. Koger is an all around player who is likely the team's best offensive player and defender. Burkhardt played at forward last year and is tough enough to play inside. This year they plan to let Dorothy play more guard so they can take advantage of her outside shooting. Buck is a physical presence inside who will be counted on for post scoring, rebounds and defense.

The team also has some younger kids with talent. Freshman Essence Williams was probably one of the best basketball players ever at Osceola Middle School. Her athleticism and quickness will be counted on for the varsity this year. Other players on the team are senior Shaneka Ash, Junior Graciela Varela, sophomore Calandra Youmans, junior Markeisha Youmans, junior Miesha Henderson and sophomore Jodi Raulerson.

"It's a good building situation," Sherlock noted, "We have some

young kids with talent."

Sherlock said he plans to have two teams this year, one for an up tempo pressing defensive team, and another for a half court offense. He said his entire roster will get playing time.

Top teams in the district this year include Jensen Beach and Fort Pierce Central.

Sherlock noted the team should have a home court advantage this year as a lot of parents showed up at the team organizational meeting in October. He said he expects to have good crowds for the eight home games that are scheduled.

The girls open up their schedule on Tuesday, Nov. 11, when they compete in a pre-season tournament at Sebring High School. The girl's first home game will be on Monday, Nov. 24, when they host Avon Park.

The Junior Varsity team will be coached by Shawn Hays. Members of that team include Cavel Campbell, Kiesha Cleckly, Mariah Charleston, Ashley Marshall, Lisandra Martinez, Sterlandra McNeil, Maranda Serrano, Janezka Koger, Brooke Karpew, and Gra-

OHS Volleyball wants another crack at Jensen

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The victory Tuesday at Merritt Island in the regional quarterfinal has really given Okeechobee the momentum they need to challenge Jensen Beach when the two square off Tuesday night.

Coach Jacque Robinson expects a tremendous amount of community and student body support Tuesday when they meet the Lady Falcons for the fourth time this year.

Despite a loss in their first three meetings, one of them an exhibition, Robinson said she is confident the team can be victorious. "We know that they try to do and we were confident we can beat them. Playing them so much could be to our advantage. We just have to get over some of our mental issues because we look like a different team every time we play them."

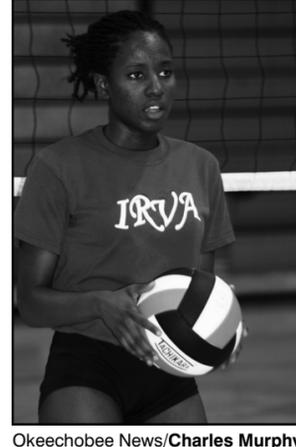
The victory in Merritt Island wasn't a big surprise to the team. Robinson noted others might look at it as an upset, but not her squad. "We always expect to win. For us, we don't see it as an upset. We are just really excited."

Megan Clements saved one of the best matches of her career for Merritt Island. She had 40 digs in the match. She said she knew her team could get far and they are proving how good they are.

"I knew we had it in us. We hadn't played to our potential."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Megan Clements is confident Okeechobee can beat Jensen Beach this time.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Monica Koger has had a tremendous year and is one of the reasons the team is in the regional semifinal.

Clements said Merritt Island was as good, if not better, than Jensen, so Okeechobee certainly has the skills needed to beat the Falcons.

"I think we'll be ready for them this time," she added.

LeAnna Cotton was praised for improvements in her serve. She had three service aces against Merritt Island and put a lot of pressure on their defense. Cotton thanked her coach for improving her skills.

"I think Jensen Beach is beatable if we play to our potential and play our game. As long as we

get ahead and stay ahead, we'll be fine," she noted.

Robinson thanked Okeechobee High School Principal Toni Wiersma for her support of the volleyball program. She said a lot of people in the community, on campus and parents have said they will be at Jensen Tuesday night to cheer the girls on.

"I have a fabulous team. They work hard, they listen, they're great students, and just phenomenal people. They like to play volleyball. I like to coach them. We want to prolong the season as long as possible so we can keep this special thing we have going," she said.

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PG
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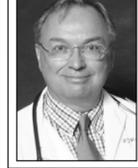


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HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3

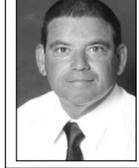
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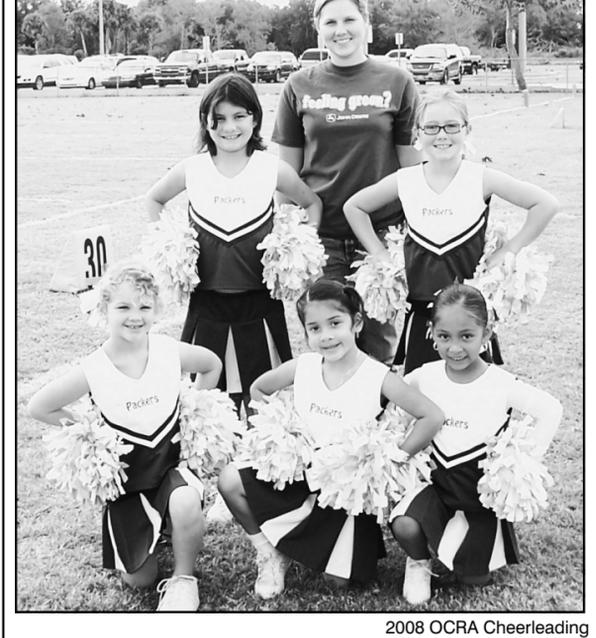
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--	--	--	--



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Mary Helen and her husband, Dean, at the beach in 1934

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Announcements 100

Giveaway 0140

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Employment 200

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Employment Full Time 0205

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Employment Full Time 0205

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Employment Medical 0210

Employment Medical 0210

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Financial 300

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Business Opportunities 0305

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Livestock 855

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Commercial Property 915

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Farm Property - Rent 925

House - Rent 930

Land - Rent 935

Resort Property - Rent 945

Roommate 950

Rooms to Rent 955

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FEMALE looking for female roommate for house in Oak Park. \$325/mo. All utils. incl. Call 863-261-5789

Condos/Townhouses Rent 0920

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Houses - Rent 0930

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OKEECHOBEE, 3br, 2ba, with garage. C/Air. Lazy 7 area. 1st, last & sec. 863-467-2541

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Real Estate 1000

1000

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Property Inspection 1060

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Waterfront Property 1080

Condos/Townhouses Sale 1015

WPB Condo-Very nice 2/2 will trade for home in Okeechobee. Call 561-662-4563

Houses - Sale 1025

TAKE YOUR PICK

4 bd/2ba CBS, tile floors, architectural shingles, dbl. garage, appliances \$215,000 including lot

Ready now FIXED RATE

Say bye-bye, Red Bays

By Dan Culbert
Extension Horticulture Agent

A few weeks ago I received a desperate call from the property manager of Indian Hammock. This community is located in northern Okeechobee County, and the community prides itself on maintaining natural vegetation around their homes. Some parts are typical pine flatwoods, while others are rich hammocks with a wide variety of native plants.

Last July I wrote about three kinds of Bay trees found in local hammock areas. I am afraid that soon I will have to re-write the story, as one of these outstanding trees has been found infected with a fatal fungus that clogs up the wood and is spread by bothersome boring beetles. This is the first confirmed case of Laurel Wilt in Red Bays in Okeechobee.

This disease has been spreading from Savannah Georgia since 2002 and has moved from there at a rate of 20 miles a year. Forest pathologists have found that the Red Bay Wilt is closely related to the Dutch Elm Disease. (Displaced northerners may recognize this pest which eliminated the grand old American Elm Trees that lined many city streets until the 1970s.)

Of concern to us in Florida is the potential extinction of the native Redbay tree (*Persea borbonia*), and that the disease can also infect avocado trees (*Persea americana*). In fact, the first incidence of Red Bay Wilt affecting avocados just turned up recently in Vero Beach. Other trees such as the native sassafras and exotic camphor tree may also be infected by this disease. A fungus feeding beetle

The fungus is spread by very small boring beetles. Known as Ambrosia beetles, the adults are about as big as the date on a Lincoln penny. Some of these beetles are native, while others have been recently found in the U.S., probably hitchhiking on wood packing materials from other countries.

The beetles bore into wood and create tunnels or galleries where they lay their eggs. While

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boring in the wood, the tunnels are infected with fungi carried in special pouches in the head. The larvae hatch from eggs and live in the tunnels where they feed on the fungi growing in these tunnels. These small grubs will turn into adults in a month or so. The exit holes may be shaped like the letter-D. As they push the sawdust out the holes, a "sawdust stick" may appear on the trunk of the tree.

Trees that are infested with the wilt can turn from healthy green to dead brown in a matter of days. Once the trunk is cut down, it is easy to notice the black discoloration of the outer sapwood that is caused by the fungal pathogen.

The local sample we collected was from a tree that turned brown in less than a week. UF Forest Pathologist Jason Smith confirmed the presence of the fungus known as *Raffaelea lauricola*. Three different non-native species of Ambrosia beetles were found, *Xyleborus affinis*, the Asian ambrosia beetle (*X. crassiusculus*) and the Black Twig borer (*X. ferrugineus*). It is curious that the insects associated with the local disease specimen were not the Redbay Ambrosia Beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*) which is often the primary vector.

Management options

What to do? There has been some work on using fungicides to protect valuable urban trees from the fungal pathogen. Other ideas are to collect and save seed from natural Redbay trees that can be grown out in disease-free areas to prevent the extinction of this species. As for avocados, certain varieties may be showing limited resistance to the wilt diseases, but this work is in its early stage.

Insect control: While some

claim that the use of insecticides may be effective at killing off the beetles that spread the fungal pathogen, at this time there are no reliable treatments for prevention or control of the insect vectors.

Fungicide: An experimental trial using a fungicide injected into the root-flare area of the tree has been conducted. The process involves getting the fungicide into the tree trunk to prevent its spread. Foliar sprays or application of chemicals for root absorption do not appear to be effective ways to get the pesticide into the tree trunk. The use of injections may be tried on high-value ornamental trees, but would be too expensive for use in natural areas. If persons are interested, you will need a tree service professional trained to use this method. (If you are a tree service professional, contact our office to learn about a training session to be held Jan. 20, 2009.)

Sanitation: This step is important if diseased trees are being removed. To avoid spreading the beetle and pathogen to new areas, wood or chips from infested trees should not be transported out of the local area where the trees were found. Dead Redbay or other susceptible tree species cut in residential areas should be chipped and left onsite as mulch, or disposed of as locally as possible.

The following is probably the most important rule to follow: Redbay firewood should not be transported.

I've placed more information and photos on our Okeechobee Extension web page, <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu>. If you need additional information on Laurel Wilt of Redbays and Avocados, please email us at: okeechobee@ifas.ufl.edu or call us at 863-763-6469. Local residents can stop by our office at 458 Hwy 98 North in Okeechobee, and visit our Okeechobee County Master Gardeners from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons. Happy Veteran's Day to all our Vets.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

October 27 and 28, 2008

Cows	Breaking	\$42.00	\$51.50
Cutter	\$39.00	\$45.00	
Canner	\$33.00	\$36.00	

Bulls	1000-1500	\$55.00	\$60.00
1500-2000	\$55.00	\$63.00	

	Monday	Tuesday
Calves	966	1192
Cows	268	173
Str	5	5
Hfirs	19	6
Bulls	17	54
Yrlings	133	43
Mix	0	0
Total	1408	1473

Med #1	Steers	Hfirs
150-200	165-190	
200-250	133-135	98-125
250-300	128-133	95-105
300-350		90-96
350-400	98-105	84-93
400-450	92-104	78-90
450-500	86-99	75-86
550-600	78-92	72-84
600-650	79-84	70-77

Med #2	Steers	Hfirs
150-200		70-78
200-250	108-123	60-100
250-300	105-125	65-93
300-350	82-108	65-89
350-400	80-98	72-83
400-450	78-92	60-80

Small #1	Steers	Hfirs
150-200		100-105
250-300		86-97
300-350	350-400	89-98
76-90		
450-500	78-86	71-79
550-600		64-65

Prices were mixed this week, cows and bulls were \$4-\$5 lower, and quality feeder calves were \$3-\$4 higher. Plain calves are still real low. Now that we know what we have to work with the next four years, things will stabilize a bit - I hope so!

Goodno of Miami, topped the calf market this week with \$2.00. Adams Ranch of Ft. Pierce, had the high cow price this week with \$1.50.

We will be closed Thanksgiving week, Nov. 24-28.

See ya next week, Todd



Sales:
Monday at 12 p.m.
Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Okeechobee Livestock Market

U.S. 98 North, Okeechobee (863) 763-3127



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1002-H: 3 bedroom CBS home with family and utility room, picket wood fencing. Close to everything in town, could be rezoned commercial. \$93,000
MLS# 201649



1011-M: In town fully furnished double wide Mobile home with attached carport. Nice and clean, ready for occupancy. Easy to show \$89,500
MLS# 201136

FORECLOSURE



4000-H Buckhead Ridge 3/2 CBS home, built 2006, French back doors, tile and carpet floors throughout. Great for a starter or a retirement home.
MLS# 201816

INVESTORS



5011-M Kissimmee River Estates 2 Mobile homes on 4 lots. Total lot size approx. 109X113. Can be a great fixer upper. \$40,000
MLS# 201799

FORECLOSURE



5030-H Basswood 3BR/2BA CBS home built 2007 with attached garage, appliances and paved driveway.
MLS# 201550

FORECLOSURE



5036-H Basswood 3BR/2BA CBS home built 2007 with attached garage piances and paved driveway.
MLS# 201550

ACREAGE / LOTS

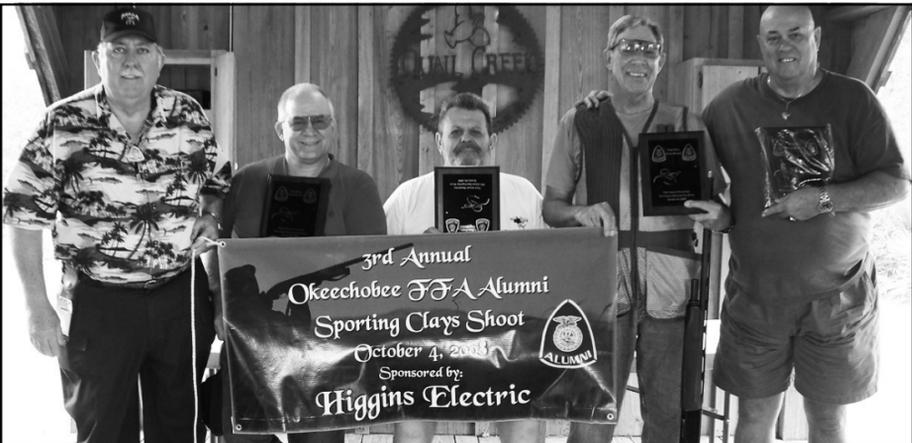
- Foreclosure 10+/- acres \$65,900 MLS# 201219
- Big "O" RV Park lots from \$25,000-\$65,000
- 5+/- acres @ NE 24th St. MLS# 201364
- 5+/- acres Sunset Strip Airpark @ SW 13th

- St. MLS# 201396
- Basswood lots from \$25,000-\$33,000
- 7 Acres HWY 68 \$110,000
- Dark Hammock 2 10+/- acre parcels with MH or without your choice

1200 South Parrott Ave.

www.century21okeechobee.com • Email: century21okeechobee@earthlink.net

Okeechobee Spotlight



Submitted photo

The first place team (Higgins Electric) of our 2008 Okeechobee FFA Alumni Sporting Clay Shoot, held at Quail Creek Plantation. Thank you Mariah Anuez FFA Alumni member.

Thanks for the support

Thank you to the 2008 Okeechobee FFA Alumni Sporting Clay Shoot Sponsors including: 3-D Ice Llc, A Child's World, Boyle Engineering, Brady Ranch, Burnham Farms, Butler Oaks Farms, C & P Growers, Domer's

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Ellis inducted into honour society

Golden Key International Honour Society inducts OHS Graduate Kimberly Marie Ellis

as scholarships and awards, career and internship opportunities, networking, service and leadership development opportunities. Membership into the Society is by invitation only, to students in all fields of study. Golden Key was founded in 1977 in Atlanta, Ga.

The Society is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS). For more information about Golden Key International Honour Society, please visit www.goldenkey.org. Kimberly Marie Ellis is a 2000 graduate of Okeechobee High School. She was on the OHS Tennis Team for 4 years and is the daughter of Dave and Glenetta Ellis of Okeechobee.

ATLANTA, Ga. — The Florida State University — Kimberly Marie Ellis of Okeechobee has accepted membership in Golden Key International Honour Society and was honored during a recent induction ceremony at the Florida State University.

"It is only fitting that a top academic achiever like Kimberly be recognized by Golden Key," said John W. Mitchell, Golden Key's Chief Executive Officer. "Our members are inspired and motivated not only to achieve exceptional academic accomplishments, but also to make a positive impact on our world through the Society's commitment to service."

Golden Key International Honour Society is the world's premier collegiate honor society, with more than 1.7 million members and over 360 chapters in the United States, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

The global nonprofit organization provides academic recognition to top-performing college and university students, as well

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Coke

Continued From Page 1

warrant on the home shared by Molina, Erandi Aguirre and Reynoso Aguirre members of the task force seized \$14,950 in cash and a large amount of a white powder, stated the detective.

The powder was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine, indicated the detective.

The detective said between what was found in the home and later in a pickup truck, a total of 1.9 pounds of suspected cocaine was seized in the Nov. 6 raid. A kilo weighs 2.2 pounds.

The detective indicated the suspected cocaine had an estimated street value of approximately \$30,000. Since the purity of the suspected cocaine was not known, the exact value of the drug could not be immediately determined, the detective added.

As members of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office SWAT



Alvaro Garcia-Ortiz



Erandi Yanel Aguirre



Juan Manuel Molina



Reynosa M. D. Aguirre

team entered the home, a task force detective indicated that a vehicle left the home. That vehicle was later stopped in the 3200 block of S.R. 70 W. near Garibaldi Plaza.

The detective said the 1998 black Ford F-150 pickup was being driven by Ortiz.

While searching the vehicle,

two separate bags of a white powder substance was found in the bed of the truck. The powder was wrapped in a blue shop towel, said the detective, and when field tested the powder indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine.

The task force detective said one of the packages found in the truck weighed 457.4 grams, while the second package weighed 58.6 grams.

No weapons were seized and all were arrested without incident.

Erandi Yanel Aguirre was booked into the county jail despite being five months pregnant, stated the detective.

The SWAT team entered the

home first to secure everyone no one was armed.

who was inside and to make sure

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Depot

Continued From Page 1

service hours. The letter of intent further states that if Amtrak discontinues service to Okeechobee, the city would either demolish the depot or move it. Here again, there was a provision for an extension of time for the city to negotiate with Amtrak.

CSX has not officially taken any action in response to the letter.

Several weeks ago Amtrak officials met with city and OMS officials to get an understanding of where the city was with CSX and to make sure everyone knew what Amtrak needed in order to have a contract with the city and OMS. According to Todd Stennis

of Amtrak, at this time the Amtrak real estate department is handling the contract and working directly with the city on details.

Amtrak officials have indicated they might be able to provide funding and other assistance in restoring the depot. Funding for restoration also might be available from the state, but the building must be available for public access before application can be made for those funds.

However, the good news is that unlike the old jail, which has deteriorated beyond the point of preservation, the depot appears to be in good shape structurally. Officials of CSX have allowed city and OMS officials to inspect the building.

Professional builder Elbert Batton, who has inspected the building, said that it is structurally sound and could be restored. He

said the walls look good, but it might need some roof work.

Mr. Batton sees the restored depot as being as asset to Okeechobee

It was the railroad that transformed Okeechobee from a sleepy little village to the beginnings of the modern city of today. As evidence of Okeechobee's railroad heritage, Flagler Park was named after railroad baron Henry Flagler. The main north-south thoroughfare, Parrott Avenue, was named for the president of the railroad J. R. Parrott.

In 1912 the railroad formed the Model Land Company, which laid out the plat for the City of Okeechobee.

The first railroad depot, which was at the western end of Flagler Park, is no longer standing. It is pictured in a mural on the side of the Jeff Robinson building.

The current depot, which is considered an excellent example of mission style architecture, was

built by the Florida, Western & Northern Railroad -- a subsidiary of the Seaboard Air Line Railway. It was designed by the architectural firm of Henry Stephen Harvey and Louis Phillips Clarke, who also designed the depots at Deerfield Beach and Delray Beach. Both of those structures are listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Okeechobee is served by Amtrak's northbound and southbound Silver Star trains that run between Miami and New York City. According to figures furnished by Amtrak, 2,858 people got on or off trains in Okeechobee in fiscal year 2006. In 2007 that figure rose to 3,067.

Currently, when people get off the train they are greeted by the sight of the dilapidated, boarded up depot which has not been used for many years. The only facility for train travellers is a Plexiglas shelter similar to those used as bus stops.

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Submitted photo

Door prize winners
Mike Sturgis and Nick McCabe were the lucky winners of the Seacoast door prizes at the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Fun Shoot on Sat. Nov. 1.

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Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 52. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. North northwest

wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 58. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

Veterans Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. North northeast wind between 5 and 10

mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 84. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Friday AM in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 3-2-2; **Play 4:** 5-6-6-1; **Mega Money:** 12-14-18-40 MB 1; **Fantasy 5:** 6-18-20-21-29. Numbers selected Friday PM in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 1-4-3; **Play 4:** 0-9-4-6.

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RIVER AND LAKE ACCESS Very nice well-kept DWMH on a canal that goes directly to the Kissimmee River. Well-established park. Close to town but not to close. This is country living at its best. **MLS#200067, \$125,000.** Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.



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Submitted photos/Teresa Chandler

Halloween Prize Winners

Main Street Halloween event brought out many creative costumes! The winners for the 0-2 age group were: First place is Cody Cabezas (left), Second place - Kimber Ferrell (center) and Third place - Delaney Fuchsanz (right). Prizes were donated by Seacoast National Bank. Congratulations to our winners!

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Anniversary

David Jr. and Lisa Bockoras

Last month David Jr. and Lisa Bockoras of Okeechobee were married 25 years. On Oct. 4, the couple celebrated with friends and family by renewing their marriage vows at Abundant Blessings Assembly of God. The couple marched down the aisle with Lisa carrying a blue and white bouquet. She wore a street length, royal blue satin dress overlaid with silver and black netting, and a sheer black shawl covered her shoulders. Pastor John Hodge conducted the ceremony. Twelve-year-old Caleb, the couple's youngest son, presented the wedding rings, and David's sister Darlene Miller sang, "There is Love." It was the same song she sang at their wedding 25 years ago. A reception followed



Submitted photo

David Jr. and Lisa Bockoras. with finger foods, punch and a three-tier cake, made by Lisa's sister Beverly. The couple left the reception on the "groom's" Suzuki Hayabusa, after Lisa pulled on a pair of black leggings to keep her decent. They spent this honeymoon at St. Augustine, where they went on their honeymoon 25 years ago.

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Wedding

Runyon - Collins

Connie Jo Runyon and Eric Lee Collins were joined in marriage on Oct. 25. The bride is the daughter of Billy and Frances Runyon of Okeechobee. The groom is the son of Donnie and Carol Hunt of Hayneville, Ga. The wedding ceremony was held at the Holiday Inn in Okeechobee. Sam Vuleta of More 2 Life Ministries officiated at the Ceremony. The bride was given away by her father, Billy Runyon. The hall was decorated with candlelights and light blue, royal blue, and white roses. The bride wore a white satin strapless, a-line empire waist dress with a hand embroidered design around the bust and around the bottom of the dress and beading around the bust area. Also light blue satin lined the top of the bust and the waist area flowing to the back and down the train with light blue satin tie back ribbons. The bride had on a two-tier white lined veil and a white and blue crystal tiara. The matron of honor was Brandy Varnon of Trenton,



Submitted photo

Connie Jo and Eric Lee Collins Florida. Bridesmaids were Shannon Wolf of Okeechobee; Melanie Wilson of Okeechobee; and Britany Runyon of Okeechobee. The best man was Nathan Campos of Ortona. Groomsmen were Kevin Schick of Okeechobee, and Eric Collins Jr. of Okeechobee. The flower girl was Kattie Runyon of Okeechobee, daughter of Frankie and Rebecca Runyon. The ring bearer was Cameron Runyon of Okeechobee, son of Steven Runyon. Following the ceremony, a reception was held with dinner and dancing. After a honeymoon the couple is at home in Okeechobee. The groom is employed as a Heavy Equipment Operator with Mulliniks Recycling, Inc. The bride is employed as a driver and sample collector with Big Lake Labs/Florida-Spectrum Environmental Services, Inc.

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Submitted photo/OFC

New lab

On Monday Nov. 3, the Okeechobee Freshman Campus celebrated the grand opening of its new computer lab. Teachers were invited to attend a party where the school's principal, Carol Revels, cut the ribbon for the new facility. The lab contains 25 desktop computers and a laser printer and can be used by any class at the school. The new lab joins the school's other technology resources, such as the business systems technology classroom and portable laptop carts. Students will be able to do word processing, search the internet, and create presentations and multimedia projects in the lab.

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