



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 279

Sunday, November 16, 2008

75¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Corrections
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What's your opinion of the election?

When you come, be sure to sign in for your organization, club, RV park, church, etc. The organization which brings in the greatest number of donors will receive a prize of \$500, with other awards of \$300, \$200 and \$100. What does the recent presidential election mean to you? Okeechobee News readers are invited to share their thoughts, opinions, hopes and fears in letters to the editor. Letters may be emailed to okeeneews@newszap.com or mailed to Letters to the Editor, Okeechobee News, 107 S.W. 17th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974.

Letters should be 350 words or less due to space limitations. The editor will not edit or change anything in your letter without prior approval, so please include a contact phone number in case there is any problem. All letters must be signed. Unsigned letters will not be published. Shorter, anonymous comments may be made to Speak Out. These can be emailed to okeeneews@newszap.com or posted on the forum at www.newszap.com.

Collaborative Council to meet

The Community Collaborative Council of the Okeechobee County Shared Services Network will conduct their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 10 a.m. in the board room of the Okeechobee School Board Office. Guest speakers will be: John Romano - New Horizons; Nedjje Joseph - New Horizons; and Jessica Ports - American Red Cross. The public is invited to attend. For more information, please call Sharon Vinson at 863-462-5000 ext. 257.

Drought Index

Current: 571
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

14.61 feet
Last Year: 10.34 feet

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

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Public warn of cable TV scam

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Law enforcement has issued a warning about a new scam in the area that has already accounted for the identity theft of at least one local citizen.

Detective Ted Van Deman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), said the new scam uses the confusion caused by new television broadcasting laws to steal a person's identity. So far, he said, con artists have been targeting people in the im-

migrant community.

"They use the name of the local cable company, Comcast, and say they are going to update the victim's TV somehow," he explained.

After saying they will update their cable system, the scammer then asks for the potential victim's name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and credit card number. If the victim gives out this information, their identity will then be stolen.

Detective Van Deman said the public needs to understand that

their personal information is a commodity that may be stolen without their knowledge.

"To protect yourself, you must never give any personal information over the phone -- especially to someone who initiated the call and is claiming to be a government agency or a business," he continued. "Government agencies and businesses do not initiate such calls -- just because of identity theft issues."

The detective suggested doing the following if you receive such a call:

- do not provide the caller with any personal information or credit card numbers until you have confirmed with the agency or company that the call is legitimate;

- write down the phone number listed on your caller ID, if you have this feature;

- ask the caller for their name and where they work;

- ask for a call back number and tell the caller you will call them back;

- try to confirm the caller's identity through the agency or

business they claim to represent by calling the phone number found in the telephone directory; and,

- should you receive such a call, contact local law enforcement and report it.

Detective Van Deman said immigrant victims of this scam should contact victim's advocate Joan Johnson at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, 863-763-3117.

Young scientists: Students learn about plants



Submitted photo/NES
North Elementary students, Gabe Greseth and Andee Garcia prepare slides using a red onion. The students in Mr. Stanley's Science Class are learning about plant cells.



Submitted photo/North Elementary
In science, at North Elementary School, Mr. Stanley's fourth grade class including students, William Rexroad, Nancy Olvera and Dylon Eubanks learn about plant cells. They made and labeled models of plant cells. The students also made slides using a red onion letting them look at an onion at a cellular level.

Writer paints colorful tale in fourth children's book

By D. Hamilton
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee resident, Jan Day, the author of several children's books, paints a colorful tall tale in her latest "Kissimmee Pete and the Hurricane."

The book's hero, "Kissimmee Pete," and his friends find adventure as he and his herd of wild cattle are blown by a hurricane across the "Big Lake." They encounter adventure at every turn and rise above the danger to save the day.

Mrs. Day, an eight-year resident of Okeechobee, originated from Cuba, Ill., a small town in the midwest where she played in cornfields and dreamed of far off adventures. She has lived in

many other places over the years and always dreamed of adventure.

Her first book, "The Pirate, Pink" was reflective of her dreams of seafaring adventures. It was selected for the Children's Book Council's Children's Choices 2002 program. The book's main character, Pink, thinks that she wants to be a "real pirate" and search for gold until she actually gets the chance. She finds that being herself is always best.

Pink sets sail once again in Ms. Day's second book, "Pirate Pink and Treasures of the Reef," searching for underwater treasures. Pink and her friends make discoveries learning that sea life on the reef is the greatest treasure of all.

Colorful scenes in "Caribbean colors" were illustrated by her friend and award-winning marine illustrator, Janeen Mason of Stuart, whom she met by fate, she said at a convention.

Jan Day's books took a new turn with her third children's book, "Kissimmee Pete, Cracker Cow Hunter."

"I was inspired by where I live," said Mrs. Day about how the new character was developed. "Pete" is a frontier cowboy and his adventures are set out as a tall tale about a cow poke and his dog. The two pair up and forge their way through prairies and swamps with courage and clever ingenuity bringing their

See Author — Page 2

School board to consider policy updates

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 6 p.m. for their regular school board meeting and reorganization meeting for the new fiscal year. They will also consider amendments to the Bullying and Harassment policy and salary schedules for non-union bargaining unit members.

The board will elect the chair, vice chair and establish the regular meeting date, time and place for meetings for the next fiscal year. There were no changes to the School Board

during the election process as the members were unopposed.

The board will consider policy changes that were created by a committee that was charged with reviewing all of the literature on bullying and harassment and any supplemental literature deemed necessary. The committee collaboratively developed a draft policy prohibiting bullying and harassment of any student or employee and submitted it to the superintendent for approval.

Superintendent of Schools
See Policy — Page 2

City looks at land use rules

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

When they meet Tuesday evening the Okeechobee City Council is expected to spend a good portion of the meeting considering actions dealing with land development.

They will consider two petitions submitted by Elbert Batton and Frannie Watford on behalf of property owners Abdul and Yasmin Cumber. In order to use their 1.92 acres on N.E.

If you go ...
What: Okeechobee City Council
When: 6 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18
Where: Council chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.

Fourth Street for commercial purposes, the owners have requested a change in the future land use map from single family to commercial and a zoning

See City — Page 2



Okeechobee News/D. Hamilton
Jan Day, a local children's book author will be signing copies of her new book, "Kissimmee Pete and the Hurricane" on Nov. 18, from 5 until 7 p.m. at Syble's Flowers and Gifts.

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Policy

Continued From Page 1

Dr. Patricia Cooper is recommending approval of the policy changes that would bring the Okeechobee School district into compliance before the Dec. 1, deadline.

The policy was developed to focus on victims, bullies, bystanders, encouragers, and those who allow it to happen.

Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) Criteria for Bullying and Harassment Policies were followed and a model policy was also used to create the local policy.

The previous policy for bullying and harassment was only a paragraph long and had not been revised since 1998. The newly revised policy is not eight pages and adequately covers the required specifics concerning bullying and harassment.

In other business the board will consider approval of the salary schedules of non-bargaining unit members and the Superintendent's contract.

They will also consider bids for telephone system replacement from CML Communications, Inc. at North Elementary, Seminole Elementary and Everglades Elementary which will cost a total of \$180,860.

They will also consider a bid

by Ocean Gate General Contractors, Inc. for the Okeechobee High School calf barn replacement project in the amount of \$175,000.

The expenditures of the School Recognition monies for Seminole, South, Osceola and Yearling are also up for approval. Distribution of school recognition funds was determined at the school level for bonuses for employees at each site and other student incentives such as educational trips and educational equipment and materials.

In unrelated business the board will also consider:

- ratification of the memorandum of agreement with the Okeechobee County Education Association for the Florida Atlantic University FIAT programs;
- Literacy First agreement for professional development and web-site license and services at Seminole Elementary School;
- the parent improvement plan;
- the district plan for services to English Language Learners;
- designations and appointments to various committees and councils of the school board members for the fiscal year;
- revisions to personnel allocations and employment of personnel; and
- the donation of a 1995 Blue Bird Bus to the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office.

Magistrate to hear code cases

If you go ...
What: Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearings
When: 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18
Where: Health Department Auditorium, 1798 N.W. Ninth Ave.

By Pete Gawda
 Okeechobee News

Special Magistrate Lois Nichols is scheduled to hear two new cases, consider imposition of fines in 11 cases and consider a fine reduction Tuesday afternoon.

According to code enforcement officer Beth Albert, Ethel Jackson has a derelict, condemned structure on a N.E. 14th Avenue lot.

Lot 42 Crystal Lake LLC was cited for the same offense because of a partially collapsed structure on U.S. 441 S.E. Lawrence Szarfaniec could be fined up to \$250 a day if he has not removed weeds and overgrowth from his S.E. Second Street lot.

Titus Sweat is facing a fine if he has not removed all equipment stored outdoors on his N.W. Sixth Street lot.

At the October special magistrate hearing, Elbert Kline was given a month to bring his N.E. 16th Street property into compliance including removal of accumulated household goods and derelict RVs or face a fine.

If Kenneth Goyens has not gotten the required permits and inspections on his N.E. 11 Street property, he could be fined up to \$250 a day.

Last month Stephanie and

Charles Crates were ordered to remove the equipment stored outdoors on their U.S. 441 S.E. If they have not complied they could be fined up to \$250 a day.

N&A Real Estate is facing a fine if they have not either removed or repaired a derelict structure on their S.R. 70 W. property.

The case against Edward Boyd was not heard last month because of lack of proper notification. If he has not removed the derelict block structure from his U.S. 441 N. property, he could be fined up to \$250 a day.

The Abdul and Yasmine Cumber Trust could also be fined if the derelict structure has not been removed from their N.E. 15th Avenue property.

Andres Sanchez and Yudaisy Miranda were ordered to obtain the necessary permits and inspections for their N.E. Third Drive property. If that has not been accomplished, they could be fined up to \$250 a day.

Timothy Crews and Angela Cross are facing a fine if they have not removed the derelict mobile home from their N.E. 12th Lane property.

Everett Lawson could be fined if he has not obtained the necessary permits and inspections for

the metal building on his N.E. 22nd Avenue lot.

Turning to fine reductions, Gina Villarreal and Ida Harrel have accrued a total of \$113,625 in fines

on two different properties. They have requested a fine reduction. However, the application did not give an amount of reduction or a reason for reduction.

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City

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change from residential single family to light commercial for the property. The planning board has recommended approval.

Next, the city will take up a rezoning request from Roland and Michele Mossel to rezone 0.321 acres on N.W. Ninth Street from industrial to residential single family. At the Nov. 4 council meeting city planner Bill Brisson told the council that the property is nonconforming and contains a residence. The owners want to re-finance but the lending institution is requesting the zoning change.

Under the heading of new business the council will hold the first reading and set a final public hearing date for an ordinance rezoning 0.162 acres on S.W. Second Avenue from residential single family to heavy commercial. The owner, Gianinna Mitchell, wishes to use the property for a professional office.

The council will also hold the first reading and set a final public hearing date on a zoning change submitted by David and Anita Nunez. The request deals with a portion of the property on N.W. Seventh Avenue at the Taylor

Creek Bridge where the Nunez' are planning to build a commercial complex. They are requesting a zoning change from residential single family and holding to heavy commercial for the property in question.

The council is also expected to adopt a resolution listing issues to be presented to the Okeechobee Legislative Delegation for consideration during the 2009 legislative session. Those issues include canal cleanup, stormwater retrofit, municipal building improvements, support of Okeechobee Utility Authority's request for wastewater treatment funding, and intersection improvements.

In other action the council is scheduled to:

- consider a resolution to update various forms used in conjunction with the land development regulations;
- consider an ordinance to increase fees and charges imposed in connection with land development regulations;
- approve the certified election returns and declare James Kirk and Mike O'Connor to be city council members to take office the first Monday in January for four year terms; and
- ratify the appointment of Betty Clement to the general employee/OUA pension board.

Author

Continued From Page 1

herd to safety.

Mrs. Day stated that she enjoys learning about area history and incorporates what she learns into her stories.

"The history included in the Kissimmee Pete adventures helps to prepare young readers for Florida history lessons mandated for students in fourth grade and encourages writing in young children," she said.

Mrs. Day added that she will be doing school presentations in the spring, bringing the characters in the stories to local elementary school students.

All of Mrs. Day's children's book selections are geared for 4 to 8-year-old readers and will be highlighted at an upcoming book signing set to take place as part of the Main Street Mixer. She and local fellow writer, Nancy Dale, will sign copies of their books on Tuesday, Nov. 18, from 5 until 7 p.m. at Syble's Flowers on Parrot Ave.

Another new book, "The World's Greatest Explorer," load-

ed with adventures for young readers, will be out in February 2009.

Mrs. Day's books are available through Pelican Publishing and are available at Barnes and Noble and online and locally at Eli's Western Wear on State Road 70.

She is active locally as a peer

leader for the Life Long Learning Institute at Indian River State College and is offering three classes this semester on writing fiction. She is also on the Friends of the Library of the Okeechobee Library Board and is also a facilitator for Friends of the Okeechobee Library Book Club.

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Okeechobee News

Published by Independent Newspapers, Inc.

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 Website: www.newszap.com

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

Okeechobee News
 USPS 406-160
 Published Sunday, Wednesday and Friday by Independent Newspapers, Inc. 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D Okeechobee, FL 34974
 Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Okeechobee News Circulation Administration PO Box 7011 Dover, DE 19903

Lotteries

The Florida Lotto — Here are the numbers selected Friday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 7-4-5; **Play 4:** 2-0-3-6; **Fantasy 5:** 2-12-18-21-32; **Mega Money:** 2-8-29-34; **Mega Ball:** 4. Numbers selected Saturday were: **Cash 3:** 7-0-6; **Play 4:** 3-0-4-0.

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OFC honors local veterans



By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

"In Flanders Field the poppies blow between the crosses row on row."

On Friday, Nov. 14 students at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus honored the men and women who made history. On that date the school held a Veterans' Day Program at the First Baptist Church ROC. The first few rows were filled with veterans from World War II and more recent conflicts.

"Time and again ordinary people have served our country in extraordinary ways," Principal Carol Revels said in her welcoming comments. "Thank you for all you have done to preserve our freedom."

"We probably would not be at this assembly without them fighting for our freedom," said FFA Jr. Treasurer Brittany Serrano.

The students were challenged by agriculture teacher Brian Dryden to take advantage of all

the opportunities that are theirs because of the sacrifices of veterans.

Vicki Lopez, FFA Jr. Reporter, read the poem "Flanders Field" which honors those killed in World War I.

"Veterans are like the super heroes of the U.S. without the cape, said Taylor Fulford, FFA Jr. Parliamentarian. She urged the students to pray for veterans and not take for granted what they did.

To make the holiday more meaningful and personal, the students watched a slide presentation of photographs of their family members and teachers' family members who served in the military.

The Okeechobee High School JROTC posted the colors and the JROTC drill team performed. Joshua Lea, FFA Jr. Advisor, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Makenzie Tomlinson and Ashley Hassan sang the National Anthem. The veterans were intro-

duced by Ashley Hassan, FFA Jr. President.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Taylor Fulford, FFA Jr. Parliamentarian, was one of the speakers at the Veterans' Day ceremony sponsored by Okeechobee Freshman Campus.

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It still fits!

Vergil Hayes, who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II can still get into his uniform. He wore it proudly as the Okeechobee Freshman Campus celebrated Veterans' Day on Friday, Nov. 14 at the First Baptist Church ROC.

Golden Corral restaurants hold Military Appreciation Monday

On Monday, Nov. 17 from 5 until 9 p.m. all 485 Golden Corral restaurants across America will offer any person who has served in the United States Military (including National Guard and Reserves) a free dinner buffet and beverage - no identification required and no questions asked.

This will be the eighth annual free "thank you" meal to our nations heroes from Golden Corral restaurants. Golden Corral restaurants with their local media partners and the Disabled American Veterans Organization

have raised over \$2,540,000 for disabled veterans while serving over 1,835,000 complimentary meals to military personnel over the history of the event.

For the second year, Golden Corral's guests and restaurant teams may send personal greetings to America's military personnel on active duty serving overseas. From Sept. 1 through Nov. 17, special postcards will be available at all Golden Corral restaurants to send a message of thanks and encouragement to the troops overseas. They will be

delivered to our troops prior to the holidays. In 2007, over 55,000 post cards were delivered to military troops overseas.

The DAV is an 87-year-old, non-profit organization dedicated to provided services - free of charge through its nationwide network - to disabled veterans and their families. Founded in 1973, privately held Golden Corral Corporation is headquartered in Raleigh, N.C. Theodore M. Fowler, Jr. is President and CEO. Golden Corral restaurants are located in 41 states.

New sentence meted out for Ramirez

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A man convicted in the 2007 death of an 8-year-old Fort Myers girl in a car crash was back in Okeechobee Circuit Court this week.

Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright said an appellate court had ruled that the sentences handed down for Arnulfo Ramirez, 31, were incorrect. With the adjusted sentences, Ramirez will serve a total of 17-1/2 years in prison plus 2-1/2 years of probation.

Ramirez was originally convicted of driving while license suspended (DWLS) or without - death or serious injury, driving while license suspended (DWLS) or without - death or serious injury, DUI manslaughter, DUI with serious injury, DUI with damage to property or person and attaching a tag license plate not assigned.

Mr. Albright explained that one set of charges was for Precious Santana, the girl killed in the crash, while the other set was for her dad, Anthony Santana. Mr. Santana, 32, who was injured in the crash and airlifted to St. Mary's Medical Center.

"The appellate court said we couldn't enhance the DUI and DWLS for the same victim," said Mr. Albright. "We couldn't do manslaughter and DWLS with death. The court kicked it back to adjust the charges."

With the changes, Ramirez was sentenced Wednesday by Circuit Judge Lawrence Mirman on

DWLS for Mr. Santana, and DUI manslaughter for Precious.

"I asked him (Judge Mirman) to dismiss the DWLS charge (for Precious) because it coincided with the DUI manslaughter charge," explained Mr. Albright. "The DWLS for the father and the DUI with serious injury coincided, so he was charged with DWLS because it has stiffer sentence."

He said the DWLS -- in the case of Mr. Santana -- carries a prison term of five years, while the DUI with serious injury has a sentence of five years probation.

"I asked him to dismiss the probationary DUI charge," said Mr. Albright.

Prior to the adjustment of charges, Ramirez was sentenced to 20 years in prison and five years probation.

The crash occurred Dec. 9, 2007, on S.R. 70 E. when the 1993 Ford Ranger pickup driven by Ramirez crossed the center line, stated an accident report by FHP Trooper Corporal Katherine A. Casella.

Ramirez first crossed into the path of a 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe driven by Timothy Bessenbacher, 35, of Okeechobee. Mr. Bessenbacher was able to swerve to the right to avoid a collision. The right rear of his SUV did, howev-

er, strike a guard rail. That impact slightly injured two youngsters riding in the back seat.

Mr. Santana, however, was unable to avoid colliding with the small pickup. His 2004 Chevrolet Impala was struck in the front by the front of the pickup. Precious was seated in the right rear seat of the car.

She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Mr. Albright said Ramirez had already started his prison sentence and was returned to prison following the Nov. 12, 2008, hearing in front of Judge Mirman.

In other court actions Wednesday:

- Evi Serrano entered into a plea agreement with the state and was adjudicated guilty of grand theft. He was sentenced to five years in prison to be followed by two years probation. He must also pay court costs and fees totaling \$1,095, as well as \$798 in restitution to a local business.
- Lorrie Barber Rodriguez entered into a plea agreement with the state and was adjudicated guilty of two counts of forgery and two counts of uttering a forged instrument. Judge Mirman ordered her to serve two years probation, plus pay all court costs and fees. She must also pay \$826.85 in restitution to a local business. The judge ruled that her probation can terminate after a period of one year if all costs, fees and restitution have been paid. Rodriguez was looking at a total prison term of 20 years.



Arnulfo Ramirez

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.

If you have any information on the whereabouts of any of Okeechobee's Most Wanted you can call the Treasure Coast

Crime Stoppers at 1 (800) 273-TIPS (8477). If you call Treasure Coast Crimes Stoppers, you have the option of remaining anonymous. You can also receive a reward if the information results in an arrest.

Alieta Aleen, 31, aka Brian White, Manford Clifford White; Black male; No known address; Wanted for failure to appear on bail - robbery with other weapon.

Rigoberto Gama Chavez,



Alieta Aleen



Estavan Villegas - Urbina



Rigoberto Gama Chavez



David Yoder

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

Estavan Villegas-Urbina,

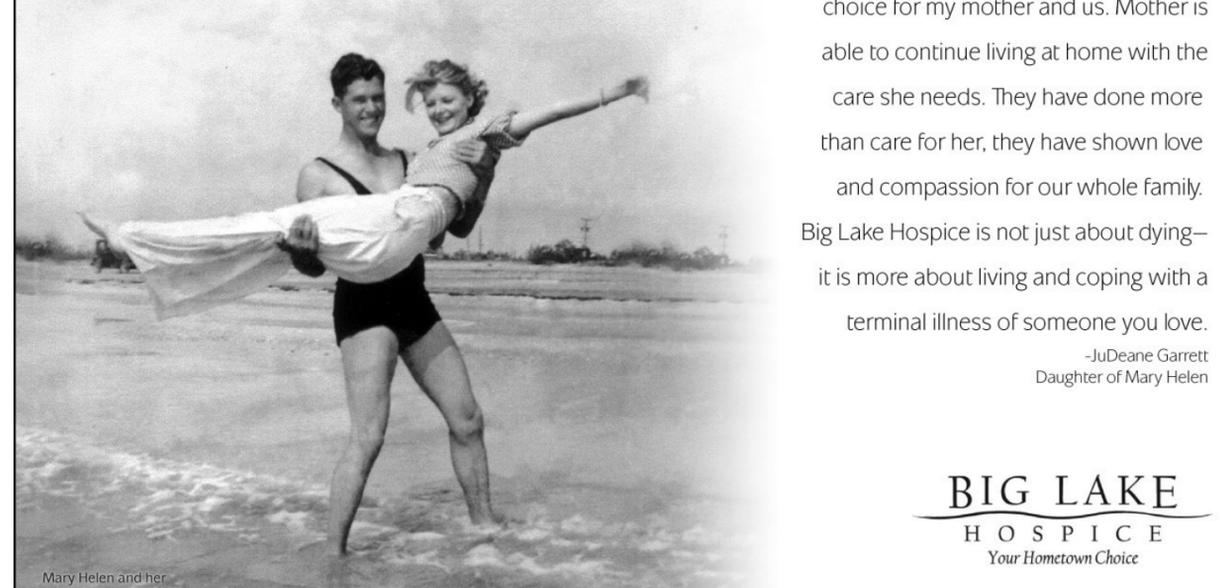
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CHOOSE LOVE



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

BIG LAKE HOSPICE has been a wonderful choice for my mother and us. Mother is able to continue living at home with the care she needs. They have done more than care for her, they have shown love and compassion for our whole family. Big Lake Hospice is not just about dying—it is more about living and coping with a terminal illness of someone you love.

-JuDeane Garrett
Daughter of Mary Helen

BIG LAKE HOSPICE
Your Hometown Choice

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!

PRESIDENT: Hey hey hey, what about the President? The new president of Okeechobee and all Americans. Thank you Jesus, Thank you Lord.

LIBRARY: We have a real nice library here in Okeechobee. We go there and sit for a while and read or study or get on the computer or whatever, researching. But when we want a cold drink of water all we can do is go out and listen to the water fountains run. They run constantly and never get the water cold. Think we could maybe get something done about that?

OBAMA: How about we give Obama and his new cabinet a chance. Some here think he's already failed when he's not even taken office yet. How can anyone condemn a party or a man who was voted in by the people when he's not even taken office yet? I am excited about the next four years. Too bad Hillary didn't get it, but just the same we are a part of unprecedented historical times. It's a shame when people only use a party as a guiding light good bad or indifferent and not vote for the better person based in their track record and what they are bringing to the table to help you and me out of this nightmare that the Bush Administration brought us in the last 8 long years. I don't respect Bush whatsoever. What has Bush actually done for our economy except throw us deeper into a debt we can't possibly repay back to China, start fights with any and all who disagree with him. Can we say America is now known as the bully? Bush has the lowest rating of any U.S. president in the history of the great nation and that is worldwide opinion as well.

AUTO INDUSTRY: If people would buy American, there would be no problem. Ol' Bill Clinton opened the doors to foreign countries to bring their factories here.

BAIL OUT: Why should the government bail out the auto makers? No one bailed my husband out when his company had to close down and people were laid off. Of course, his company was just a little construction company in Palm Beach, but it was our livelihood & that of his employees. Does the government care that these people are not able to make ends meet now? I don't care so. Let the auto makers sink or swim on their own. The "LITTLE" people have to.

CARS: I don't think the government should bail out these companies that pay their CEOs millions. The CEOs should have to take pay cuts and keep the business going. If they can't do that, they don't need to be in business. Small businesses have had to cut back. People have taken pay cuts to keep from losing their jobs altogether. Expecting the government to bail out a large company is not the answer.

NEWSPAPER: I find it interesting that the newspaper prints letters and comments from people who criticize them. How many businesses would put a customer's complaints up on their wall or on their web site? I think it takes guts to publicly accept criticism and answer your critics and I commend the paper for doing that. I know our little small town newspaper has faults and makes mistakes, but I give them credit for trying.

PETS: If you are thinking about getting the kids a puppy or a kitty for Christmas, consider instead taking them to the Animal Shelter to adopt a pet. You could do it before the holidays as an early present or give them a certificate on Christmas to go there right after Christmas. There are so many animals there that need homes and most of them will be put to sleep if no one adopts them. Imagine what a great present that would be, saving an animal's life. I see the photos in the paper for pet of the week and you can see there are nice animals there who just need a home.

DEATH: Regarding the death of the boy at EYDC, I wonder what the autopsy will show. I guess we have to wait and see. But it is not unknown for a teenager to just drop dead. You just never know when your time is up. Sometimes there is a heart defect no one knows about. It is sad for his family and I am sure the EYDC staff and clients are upset. But that is how things go and you just have to be ready to meet your maker at any time.

BUSH: I think McCain lost because people associated him with Bush. I think any Republican would have had a hard time in this election year because people are so fed up with the Bush administration. I don't think that anything McCain or Palin did cost them the election. I think George Bush cost them the election.

DOGS: I hope all dog owners realize how many unwanted dogs are being euthanized every month in Okeechobee. Get your dogs spayed or neutered. We don't need to produce more puppies when there are hundreds of unwanted dogs put to sleep every month!

YMCA: How great to see in the paper that there are plans for a YMCA here. That would be wonderful! I think there are plenty of families who would buy memberships and support it. We had a YMCA in my hometown when I was a kid and it was great. We took swimming lessons, tennis lessons, gymnastics and dance lessons. I would really love it if they would include an indoor skating rink in the YMCA. Since the old rink closed, that has really been something missing in Okeechobee. We already have a pretty nice swimming pool at the Sports complex and since pools are so expensive to build and maintain, maybe they could offer other recreational activities.

RECYCLING: I live in the Lazy 7 area and we don't have curb side recycling. Before the election, some of the county officials were saying they would try to expand curb side recycling to our area but nothing has happened. How about at least putting some recycling bins in the area? It's hard to even find a place to drop off items to recycle. We try to teach our kids that we should recycle, but the county doesn't make it easy. Some parts of the county have curb side pickup and some don't. It is not fair to those who don't have this service, because we pay the same taxes and the same garbage pickup rates as everyone else.

GAY MARRIAGE: I do not believe I will live to see the acceptance of gay marriage sweep across this country. One by one, each state is joining the effort to make marriage defined as one man and one woman. States that originally thought what the hey, have reversed their decision, in some cases ending some same sex marriages.

SPAY PROGRAM: What we need in this town is a low cost program for pet owners, for those of us who have more than one animal it gets costly running from county to county. Can anyone answer the question on how can animal control get it all done so cheap and when we go it's over \$200 for the spaying and all shots that are done? We need a local vet to offer something like that, that is easy to do. I am glad that Animal Control gets the discounts and can adopt the animals at a reasonable price. Maybe people will go there instead of buying dogs that came from puppy mills.

COURTS: I think the court system needs some new rules about all these appeals. It costs a lot for these guys to keep going back to court trying one thing after another to try to get out of the sentence the judge gives them after a jury finds them guilty. And who pays for that? We do. The taxpayers pay for that.

ELECTION: The election was over more than a week ago people. It's time to get all those signs down. If your man lost, we need to accept the election results and move on. If your man won, it's over. Take the signs down and put them away. Besides, it's nearly time to start decorating for Christmas.

VETERANS DAY: I think the Veterans Day programs at the schools were wonderful. It made the kids stop and think about who veterans are and what they did for us. I think it actually is better for the kids to go to school on Veterans Day because then they learn about veterans. If they had stayed home, they would have just watched cartoons or played video games.

FOOD: The price of food is getting outrageous. We need a food co-op here like people had in the 60s and 70s. The price of gasoline has come down, but food prices are still way higher than they were a year ago. Most people did not get a raise this year because businesses are struggling. We are lucky to even have jobs at all. Something needs to be done about the food prices.

Reflections from the Pulpit

By Elder John T. Garner
More 2 Life Ministries

Well, another presidential election has come and gone. And I, for one, am glad that it's over. I don't know about you, but I get weary of all the campaign rhetoric and media hype that goes along with the selection and election process. Doesn't it seem like every election that same things are said and the same dire consequences are predicted if the wrong person is put into office? Of course, on the flip side, there is also the rosy picture that is painted about the utopia that will result if the right person is voted in. And, the fact is that we are all guilty of this to some extent.

In all the noise that makes up a presidential contest, the one thing that always seems to invariably get lost, or at least, "misplaced" or is that "misspoke," is the truth. So what truth was lost in all the chest-thumping and posturing in this election? The one thing that always seems to be forgotten as the candidates rant about their qualification and their opponents' shortcoming - which is the truth that God is still the deciding factor when all is said and done. You see, God wasn't surprised with the outcome of the election. He knew all along that Barak Obama was going to be the winner. No one rises to power without the approval of the ultimate power, God Himself.

Which brings me to the point of this article. Now that Barak Obama has been elected as the nest president of the United States, what should my response be as a Christian? Thankfully, God has spelled out for me exactly what my response must be in the Scrip-

tures. First Timothy 2:1-2 makes it very clear that I am to dedicate myself to pray for the one that God has allowed to be placed in authority over this nation (over me). First Peter 2:13-17 declares that I have an obligation to submit to those in authority over me and to honor them. Does this mean that I have to always agree with all that they do or say? No, but we must be careful to show them the honor and respect that is their right given to them by the process of a democratic election and, more importantly, by God.

When I think back to the time when Bill Clinton was in office, I am bothered at how he was treated by many evangelical Christians. Yes, there were policies that President Clinton pursued that were in opposition to the views of many in the Christian community and there were incidents in his presidency that placed a black mark on his administration. I'm not seeking to minimize that ideological differences that divided the country back then and even to a greater extent, still do today. They are real and need to be debated vigorously. However, these issues did not give Christians the freedom to heap on President Clinton the invective he received from the evangelical community. At a time when the President was at his greatest need for the prayers of the church, the response of the Christian community was not to pray and to show him honor but to ridicule him publicly as well as privately. Don't misunderstand me, I was no fan of President Clinton. I strongly disagreed with him on many occasions, as I am sure I will with President elect Obama. But, I still owed the man the loyalty that comes with being

a citizen of this great country and a child of God.

I will be honest and confess that I did not vote for Mr. Obama. I will confess that I was disappointed when I found out that he had won by such an overwhelming victory. But, with all that said, I am resolved to submit myself to his leadership and to honor him with the things I say about him. For as God has seen fit to place him in the highest office in the land so He has also called me to be his loyal subject. I realize this is a sentiment that is out of step with many in the evangelical commu-

nity today. I realize that many will say that those on the "other side" don't play fair, so why should we? But, if we wish for those in government to adhere to the dictates of God's Word, then we must be willing to adhere to them as well. We must not allow the world around us to set the standards in this area. We must follow God's Word and in doing so set the standard for the world to follow.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.

Community Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 16

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 Savior, 200 N.W. Third St.

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street Okeechobee, FL 34972 (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** weekend noon meeting Open Discussion meeting. *The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

Monday, Nov. 17

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.

Okeechobee Senior Singers will meet at 9 a.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 North Parrott Ave. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited to join the group. For information or to schedule an appearance, contact Patsy Black at 863-467-7068.

The **Okeechobee Historical Society** meets at noon at 1850 U.S. 98 N. Join us with a covered dish for lunch, followed by a business meeting. The dues are \$10 per person, per year, and are due in September. For information, call Betty Williamson at 863-763-3850.

Artful Appliquers is a recently formed chapter in Okeechobee. This chapter meets at the Turtle Cove Clubhouse, 10 Linda Road, in Buckhead Ridge 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.

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee meets at 101 N.W. Fifth Street (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.

Artful Appliquers meets at the Turtle Cove Clubhouse, 10 Linda Road, Okeechobee on Mondays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Turn left at the Moose lodge and go around the curve just past the church. Bring a lunch and join us for a fun day of applique. Everyone is welcome. For more information please contact Karen Graves at 863-763-6952.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

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, contact Maureen Budjinski at 863-484-0110.

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.

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street Okeechobee, FL 34972 (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.

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 Savior, 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 Savior, 200 N.W. Third St.

The Lighthouse Refuge Support Group is for women who are hurting, homeless or 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.

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.

The **Camera Club** meets every other Tuesday from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. Learn types and uses of film; speeds and technology; and, how to see your world and capture it on film. Class is basic through extensive. Registration is \$20, and each class is \$10. Call Bobbi at 863-467-2614 for information. Some of the proceeds will go towards Big Lake Mission's Outreach.

Widows and Widowers support group meets at 8:30 a.m. at the Clock Restaurant, 1111 S. Parrott Ave., for breakfast. For information, June Scheer at 863-634-8276

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.

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

The **Okeechobee Lions Club** meets at 7 p.m. at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Ave. Anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome. For information, contact Elder Sumner at 863-763-6076.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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 preschool 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.

Haven 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.



Submitted photo/Thomas Markham/www.tommymarkham.com

Looking back ...

This photo from Okeechobee's past shows Okeechobee's 1953 Halloween Queen Onnie Jean Williams. Do you have an old photo to share? Email it to okeenews@newszap.com or bring it by the newspaper office in Fountain Square, 107 S.W. 17th Street (next door to the Brahman Movie Theater).

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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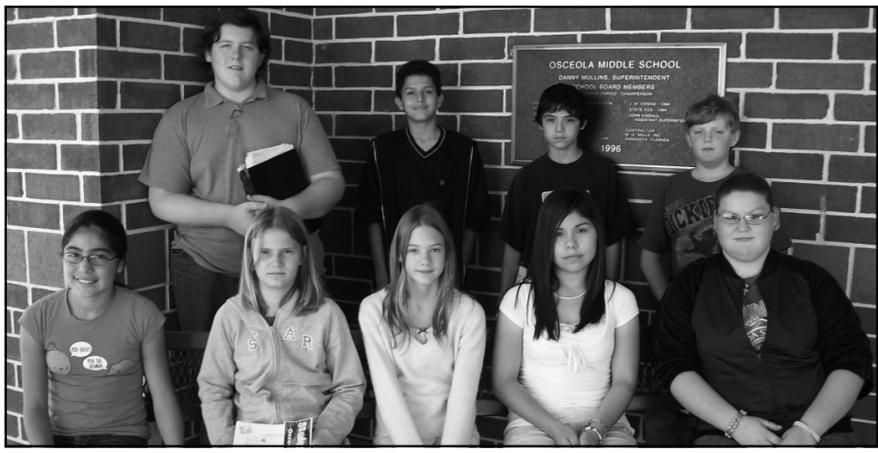
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For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2



Submitted photo/OMS

Students of the Week

Students are achieving excellence everyday at Osceola Middle School: Students of the week are: **Jessy Bailey, Alex Gaitan, Jesus Perez, Joshua Ferris, Ruth Palacios, Sierra Shuey, Lynn Romer, Thania Liberato, Victoria Holt.**

CES students learn to multiply time and money

Third Grade: At Central Elementary School this week we are reading Stone Soup. Monday we have a guest reader. Tuesday and Wednesday we will have the Kaplan test. In science, we are learning about simple machines. Please continue to practice your multiplication, it needs to be memorized. Remember to read every night to keep getting your 100 book challenge steps.

Lindsay!
Ms. DelPrete is proud of her class. They are working hard to meet their nine weeks goal. We just finished reading Sarah, Plain and Tall and watched the movie. We found the similarities and differences in the two. We're ready to begin Unit 3 in the new reading series. In Writing, we are working on an expository writing about what we're thankful for. In Science, we are learning about Rocks and Minerals, and in Math, we are finishing up the chapter on Telling Time. Remember parents to have your child read every day to practice those skills we're learning in the classroom. Congratulations to our recent "Students of the Week," Cole Melton and Haley Bryner.



Ms. Cowden's class is working hard on Multiplying, Time, and Money in Math. In Science, we just learned about Simple Machines and now we are talking about Rocks and Minerals. Social Studies, we have discussed maps and learned how to use Maps. We also held our own election in the school and learned about how you become the President. We have worked on Author's Purpose, Summarizing, Fact and Opinion, and worked on Main Idea and Details in Reading. We are extremely happy to congratulate the following Students of the Week: Mashiya Corde, Armando Santibanez, Sara Bishop, and Ethyn Johnson. Also, I wanted to Congratulate Mr. Paulson for receiving the Principal Achievement Award. Thanks for all you do.

Students in Ms Enfinger's class have sailed across the Atlantic with the Pilgrims as they learned of the voyage. They are discovering days in the 1600's. Students have also made turkeys in various forms. They are learning the calendar and elapsed time. They must learn their multiplication facts before Christmas so get out those cards and practice every night. We have all earned a free pizza from Pizza Hut. Thanks you Pizza Hut for sponsoring this reading program! Also a big thank you to Mrs. Flowers for thinking of our class and providing goodies and encouragement. Our students of the week are, Teodolo Yanez, Sabrina Wells, and Alyssa Purviss. Birthday wishes go out to Devan Resendez and Ashley Valesquez. don't forget to read!

In Mrs. Snyder's third grade classroom we are working hard on trying to reach our AR goal to go to Golden Corral. We just started multiplication and are having fun making sets to get our answers. In Science we have learned about rocks and minerals and how they are formed. Our only November birthday was Alyssa Baird on the 12th, Happy Birthday!. Students of the Week for November were: Melissa Rosalino, Jonathan Bustos and Emily Harrison. Way to go! I would like to say Thank You to all the parents who are signing the agenda books nightly. This is the best way to be able to communicate daily. Don't forget to have your child read for at least 15 minutes a night and to sign their 100 Book Challenge Folder. Lindsay Lipscomb is already in her second folder. Way to read

Mrs. Norman's class is staying very busy! We are working with time and calendars in math, and learning about rocks and minerals in science. The students had a great time making their own sedimentary rock this week. We have

also been working on writing expository essays and interviews. The students had the opportunity to interview each other and write a paragraph about the person they interviewed. Our students of the week have been Kiara Hernandez, Felix Pineda, and Tommi White. Congratulations you guys, and keep up the good work.

Thank you parents and family for all of your help! The students enjoyed all of the snacks at our Oktoberfest extravaganza. It would not have been such a success without your help. You are the greatest.

Fourth Grade: In fourth grade we have been working hard on learning our multiplication facts and hopefully November is the month were every child masters them! It is very important to have them memorized to make all the multiple step problems go quicker. We need all of our parents to help with this. Please practice so these facts with your children so the facts become memorized.

In our Florida studies, we reviewed the different tribes who lived in Florida and we also learned about their customs and culture. Several classes have written biographies and others have written poetry. Writing is still a major focus for us in the fourth grade. We presently are working on expository writings, but will soon switch to narratives. We are using dialogue, figurative language and great adjectives to spice up our writings.

Mr. Goff's students are very amazed that the second quarter is already half over. Time sure flies when you are having fun. Mr. Goff is very proud of his class for all of the effort they have put into their work and he is also very proud of the great behavior they have shown this quarter. In math we just wrapped up chapters 6 and 4, which dealt with graphs. In reading we have read some really good stories lately. Our favorite story this quarter is How Benjamin Franklin Stole the Lightning. We were also working hard so we could meet our Accelerated Reader goal so we could go to Golden Corral at the end of the quarter. We had four students earn this privilege first quarter and we want at least half the class to earn it for the second quarter. We are also busy recording our 100 book challenge steps so we can get to 200 steps very soon. In science we finished chapter 4 which was on energy and electricity.

Specials: In P.E. news students at Central are learning the skills necessary to play Badminton. Skills include forehand, backhand, overhead smash and serving. Also students will be climbing the ropes the week of Thanksgiving.



Submitted photo/OMS

Veterans Day speaker

Wilbur Douglas was the guest speaker in Ms. Hughes and Mr. Weigand's fifth grade class room on Veterans' Day.

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Community Events

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.

S.A.L. Sponsor steak dinner

The Sons of the American Legion will sponsor their monthly ribeye steak dinner on Sunday, **Nov. 16** from 3 until 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post 64. Dinner includes: steak, baked potato, salad, roll, iced tea or coffee and dessert for \$12 donation. Steak cooked to order by Dan Hood. Live entertainment provided for your enjoyment. The public is welcome.

"Controlling Garden Pests" workshop planned

Are Bugs bugging you? There are over ten thousand insects in Florida but only about ten that are harmful to plants. Small in number, but they can cause lots of destruction. Come to our garden pest workshop on Monday, **Nov. 17**, from 1 until 2:30 p.m. or from 5:30 until 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Extension Service, 458 Highway 98 North and learn easy and sensible ways to control the terrible ten without poisoning the planet. The program will show you how to prevent pests and also good ways to deter them when they do show up. The workshop will be presented by Angela Sachson, Florida Yards & Neighborhoods. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call 863-763-6469 to sign up.

Guest reader day at CES

Central Elementary School is synonymous with "Achieving Excellence through Literacy." On **Nov. 17**, local members of Okeechobee are invited to read a book to a child. Would you like to read a book to a child? For further information, contact Mrs. Sherion Jennings or Mrs. Peggy Friend at 863-462-5077. Please state the grade level or name of classroom teacher and time. Spanish speaking persons are invited to participate also during this important literacy event.

Cowboys for Christ sponsors event

On **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.

Winter book discussion list posted

Friends of the Library Book Club List for Spring. The Friends of the Okeechobee Library Book Club will meet at the Okeechobee Library in the board room this winter and spring at 6 p.m. to discuss the following books: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Thursday, **Nov. 20**, Playing by Pizza by John Grisham, Thursday, Dec. 18; The Doctor Prescribes Dancing at Daybreak by Connie Titus, Jan. 22; Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe, Feb. 20; A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hossiani, March 26; Luncheon of the Boating Party by Susan Vreeland, April 23. For more information please call Jan Fehrman at 863-357-9980.

Farm City Week Luncheon to be held

The Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee and the Okeechobee Area Agri-Council will be co-hosting the 15th Annual Kiwanis/Ag Council Farm City Week Luncheon at the Okeechobee KOA. The luncheon is scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, **Nov. 20**. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Farm Credit 863-763-6466, Berger Insurance Services 863-763-6411, or Farm Bureau 863-763-3101. They can also be purchased at the door on the day of the luncheon.

Clerk of Circuit Court office to be closed

The Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court will be closed from noon until 1 p.m. on Friday, **Nov. 21**, for our annual Holiday Lunch.

Turkeys available for Thanksgiving

The Masonic Lodge is selling holiday turkeys. Place orders at Porter's Cleaners, 1700 S. Parrott Ave. for your fully cooked whole roasted turkey 18-20 pounds. Turkeys are \$30 each. Order by **Nov. 22**, pick up on Thursday, **Nov. 27**, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge. (Limited to the first 75 orders).

Order of the Eastern Star holds breakfast

Sunday, **Nov. 23** from 8 until 11 a.m. the Okeechobee Chapter No. 128 Order of the Eastern Star will sponsor a breakfast at the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth Ave., Okeechobee. Breakfast menu is as follows for a \$7 donation: Homemade biscuits and sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, hash brown casserole, sausage and bacon, grits, orange juice and coffee.

Okeechobee Orchid Club to meet

The Okeechobee Orchid Club will meet on Monday, **Nov. 24** at 7 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension Office, 458 Highway 98 N. following the Garden Club at 6:00pm. Club member Dera Muszick will speak to the group on growing orchids in your yard. This will be followed by a repotting and dividing workshop. If you would like help repotting bring your orchid, medium, and tools. Club president and local grower, Harry Hoffner, and others will assist. For more information please call the Cooperative Extension Office at 863-763-6469.

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.

Christmas trees are headed to Shrine Club

The Okeechobee Shrine Club will have Live Christmas Trees, snow-fresh from Michigan. Douglas Fir and Scotch Pine will be available beginning Friday, **Nov. 28**, (day after Thanksgiving) in Flagler Park. 5-8 ft. trees will be available. All proceeds will benefit the Okeechobee Shrine Club and Amara Shrine Temple. For more information call the Okeechobee Shrine Club at 863-763-3378; Kap Gardner at 863-610-6659; or David Pittard at 863-801-1678. Come early for the best selections.

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**.

AARP Driver Safety Class offered

Tuesday, **Dec. 9** and Wednesday, **Dec. 10**, Nell Bostwick will be instructing an AARP Driver Safety Class at the Okeechobee County Extension Office, 458 Hwy 98 W., from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. each day. Tuition fee is \$10 per person to cover work books. There are no tests, but you must attend both days to obtain your certificate. Contact your insurance company to see if you qualify for a discount. Most all insurance companies in Florida do. Please bring a check or money order for \$10 please no cash. You do not have to be a member of AARP to attend these classes. For information or to sign up for the class please call Nell Bostwick at 863-763-4134.

YMS collecting printer cartridges

Yearling Middle School (YMS) is collecting empty printer and copy toner cartridges. They are sent in for credits that go toward school supplies to be used by all students. To donate empty printer or toner cartridges, they can be dropped off at YMS, 925 N.W. 23rd Lane or at the Stitchin' Post, 620 S. Parrott Ave. Or call Miss Webb at 863-462-5056 or Linda at 863-467-1484 for free pickup.

Sour Orange Fest has new date

Lakeport will have the Sour Orange Festival on Saturday, Jan. 10, (new date for 2009). They are looking for vendors, volunteers, and patrons. If interested call 863-227-4323 or attend the next Lakeport Community Association meeting on Tuesday, **Nov. 4**, at 7:30 at the Community Center.

OHS reunion - 1950 through 1959

A reunion will be held for those that graduated or were in Okeechobee High School in the 1950s. The event will be held Nov. 8 at the Shrine Club. If you know someone who should be invited send that name to Betty Williamson, P.O. Box 248, Okeechobee, FL, 34973. Also if you are eligible and have changed your address in the past five years please let them know so you can have more information sent to you. The occasion is sponsored by the Okeechobee Historical Society and any profit will assist with projects such as two \$500 scholarships given each year to a deserving senior female and male student.

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.

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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.

Charles W. Eichlin Jr., 70

EAGLE LAKE — Charles W. Eichlin Jr., of Eagle Lake, died Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008, at home of cardiomyopathy. He was 70.

He is survived by his wife, Diana Eichlin, who was editor of the Okeechobee News from 1984-86; his son, Jim Eichlin of Winter Haven; daughter, Elaine Box of Lancaster, Pa., and five grandchildren.

Mr. Eichlin operated the C.A.R. Shop in Okeechobee before moving to Winter Haven. He also had been a member of the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge.

Burial was in Rolling Hills Cemetery, Winter Haven. Memorials may be sent to 615 S. Lakeside Ter., Eagle Lake, FL 33839.

Ralph B. Hazellief, 75

FORT PIERCE — Ralph B. Hazellief, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2008. He was 75.

Ralph was born in St. Lucie County on Aug. 20, 1933. He was a member of the 20th Avenue Church of God in Vero Beach, before retiring, he worked for Dandy Bakery in Fort Pierce, for 35 years, DOT for 10 years and John's Island security for 10 years.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Martha Hazellief; and brother, Doyle Hazellief.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Jeanette Hazellief, of Fort Pierce; daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Jack Weaver, of Vero Beach; daughter and son-in-law, Dorothy and Mark Hair, of Okeechobee; son and daughter-in-law, Alfred and Cheryl Hazellief, of Franklin, N.C.; son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Amanda Hazellief, of Fort Pierce; 100 year old father, Wilson Hazellief, of Okeechobee; brother and sister-in-law, Clarence and Helen Hazellief, of Vero Beach; brother and sister-in-law, Earl and Louise Hazellief, of Okeechobee; sister and brother-in-law, Elaine and Edward Brown, of Interlaken; brother and sister-in-law, Allen and Francis Hazellief, of Okeechobee; brother and sister-in-law, Woody and Jan Hazellief, of Okeechobee; brother and sister-in-law, Tommy Joe and Kay Hazellief, of Mo.; sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and Calvin Fryar, of Okeechobee; sister-in-law, Sybil Hazellief, of Okeechobee; grandson, Daniel Weaver, of Jacksonville; granddaughter and spouse, Alicia and Jarrod Taylor, of St. Cloud; granddaughter and spouse, Stephanie and Daniel Pelham, of Okeechobee; grandson, Mark Hair; granddaughter, Rebekka Hair, of Okeechobee; granddaughter and spouse, Joe Palladino, of Sebastian; granddaughter, Christine Hazellief, of Franklin, N.C.; granddaughter, Elizabeth Hazellief, of Franklin, N.C.; grandson, Michael Hazellief, of Fort Pierce; granddaughter, Kimberly Hazellief, of Fort Pierce; and seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17, 2008, at Aycock Funeral Home. A funeral service will be 2 p.m. Monday. Burial will be held at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Fort Pierce. Services will be presided over by his pastor, Joe Brooks, of 20th Avenue Church of God.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice, 5090 Dunn Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34981.

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Students go, 'North to Safari Adventure'

There will be tigers creeping all over North Elementary on Friday, Nov. 21. A safari will be taking place to find great books and have fun at the North Elementary Fall Festival! Join the action on Nov. 21, from 5-8 p.m.



There will be fun for all ages with games, contests, prizes, horse rides, a cake walk, face painting, piñatas and a silent auction!

Bring the family for dinner. We will have hot dogs, hamburgers, and BBQ sandwiches. There will be popcorn, soda, cotton candy

and snow cones for you to enjoy. Tickets go on sale on Monday, Nov. 17. Tickets are 50 cents each or forty (40) for \$20. Buy your tickets before Friday! Everyone who purchases \$20 worth of tickets before Friday, the 21st, will receive 10 tickets free and have his/her name entered in a drawing for a free book!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in full swing in the library all week. Come celebrate the chang-

ing of the season and support North Elementary.

First Grade News

On Oct. 31, the first grade students from North Elementary School enjoyed a trip to the Bowling Alley. This trip was sponsored by the school, and was an award for all their hard work and effort in achieving the Accelerated Reader Program goal for the first nine weeks. We would like to thank the parents and family members who helped us, and the Bowling Alley for having us. We had a wonderful time. Keep on reading those books! (pictures are included)

Fifth Grade News

As part of their Social Studies class, several fifth graders at North Elementary were busy in October doing research on famous Hispanic Americans to help celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The students learned how to do research on the internet and take notes on their subject. They then created a poster highlighting each person's life and gave an oral presentation so that the whole class could also learn about each notable person. In November, they will continue learning about various people and cultures by working on Native American projects. Each student will research to find information about a specific North American tribe, write

a written report, create a diorama depicting the chosen tribe, and give an oral presentation on their topic. We are looking forward to

seeing all of the hard work come together as the students complete their wonderful projects and share them with the class!

OFC students have fun with Algebra

Mrs. King's Algebra IB classes have been solving Systems of Linear Equations by the "graphing" technique. To help her students better understand the spatial sense of graphing Slope and y-intercept, Mrs. King moved all the desks aside and taped a Cartesian Coordinate Plane on the floor of

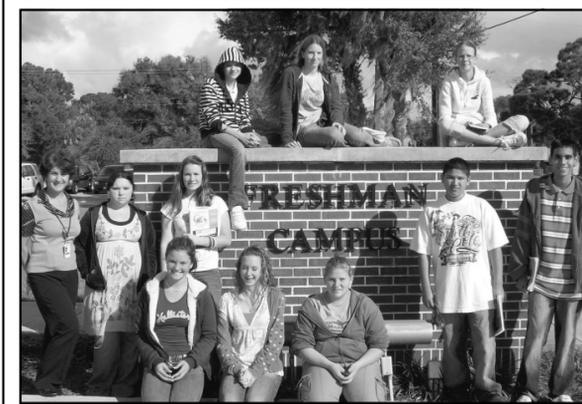
her room. At the front of the room she placed cards which contained the parts of a linear equation. As the students modeled a system of equations (two linear equations), they found the slopes and y-intercepts, respectively, and plotted them on the floor using the students, themselves. Once the

plots were in place for each line, ropes were stretched tight and the solution was arrived at. If the lines crossed, that point was the solution to the system. If the lines

were parallel, there was NO solution to the system, and if the line fell on top of the other line, there were MANY solutions to that system of equations.



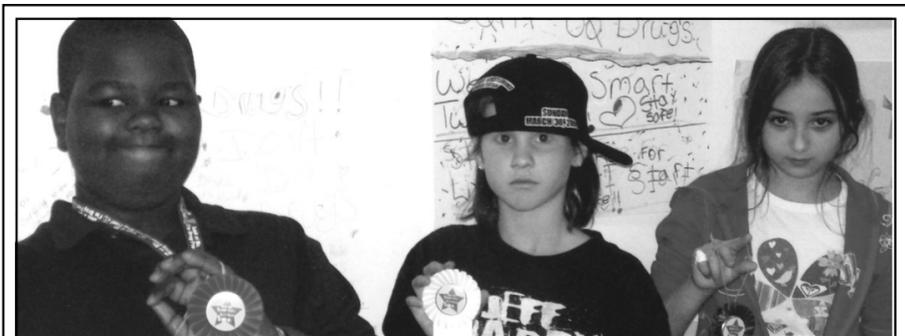
Freshman Campus students, Nicole Johnson form a life-sized linear equation. Nicole is the y-intercept "2" and Rigo Ruiz is the slope - 2/4.



Submitted photo/OFC

Top 12

Okeechobee Freshman Campus Assistant Principal, Matt Koff, drew names to determine the most recent Top 12 students for the 2008-2009 school year. The students were entered into the drawing if they received five positive signatures in the last three weeks. The winning students from the class of 2012 received a book or t-shirt and candy. In the top row from left to right - Amber Holbert, Brittany Ball, Amber Hembree. In the middle row from left to right are: Mrs. Silles, Katherine Peterman, Jennifer Corwin, Ernarn Martinez, Diego Fonseca. In the bottom row from left to right are: Gabby Carden, Ashleigh Ezard, Christian Bernhard. Not pictured are Erica Frederick, Abigail Robledo.



Submitted photo/NEHS

Fourth grade winners

During Red Ribbon Week students from the Alpha Program at New Endeavors High School made posters supporting being drug and alcohol free. Winners from the fourth grade are: First place - Isa Ortega; Second place - Kelvin Ford; Third place - Emilea Hullett. Congratulations!

Holiday Briefs

Main Street has Holiday ham sale

Main Street is once again offering Honey Baked Hams for the holiday. Spiral hams, boneless hams, whole smoked turkeys, side dishes and desserts are available. The pick up date is Tuesday, Nov. 25, after noon at Syble's Flowers, 119 South Parrott Ave. To place an order or for more information call 863-763-2225 or 863-357-6247.

Moose Lodge selling Koeze Nuts

The Okeechobee Loyal Order of Moose, Legionnaires are again holding their annual Koeze Nut Fund Raiser for Food Baskets for the less fortunate. Order forms and catalogs may be picked up at The Stitchin' Post, 620 S. Parrott Ave. See Paul at the Lodge, 159 NW 36th Street, or call 863-763-4954. You can also call Paul Diamond P.G. Fund Chairman, 863-467-1484 to order.

Tree lighting ceremony Dec. 2

The City of Okeechobee's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be Dec. 2, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the City Hall Park. Okeechobee County Schools' Chorus Group will perform. Santa will arrive to visit with children.

Santa in the Park

Kiwanis will sponsor Santa in Flagler Park 4 on Dec. 6, 13, 19, 20, 22, 23 & 24 from 6 to 8 p.m.

City Hall Park hosts Santa

Santa will be at City Hall on Dec. 2, following the Lighting Ceremony; December 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. Stop by for a picture with Santa!

We want your holiday news

Is your club, organization or church planning a holiday event or fundraiser? Email your news to okeeneews@newszap.com for this list of community holiday events.

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Graduate University of New Hampshire in Zoology and Temple University Dental School. US Air Force Medical Corp. Served as Chair of Council on Dental Health. Formerly of West Palm Beach, he has merged his practice with Dr. Harrouff.

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Graduate University of Tennessee 1977. Author, lecturer who has appeared on TV, radio and print (WPBF/ABC, Palm Beach Illustrated and more) as the authority on implants as well as general dentistry. Member of International Congress of Oral Implantology, American Academy of Implant Dentistry & Misch Institute of Advanced Implantology.

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Graduate of Louisville School of Dentistry in 1989. Practiced privately in Boca Raton and has recently joined Dr. Harrouff's group. Past Vice President of South Palm Beach County Dental Association.

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USDA Announces amended Farm Bill provisions

Deadline to sign up is Nov. 26

GAINESVILLE — Owners and operators of farms with 10 or fewer base acres have the opportunity to receive payments for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. On Oct. 13, President George W. Bush signed a bill that made amendments to the 2008 Farm Bill.

These amendments apply to farms with crop acreage bases of 10 acres or less. These changes and clarifications allow some producers more flexibility in farming practices and create new sign-up opportunities with new deadlines for some farms. The amendments also apply to the new Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program.

10-Base Acre Limit Changes
As originally enacted under the 2008 Farm Bill, direct and counter-cyclical payments (DCP) could not be made with respect to farms with crop acreage bases of 10 acres or less. The new law makes that provision inapplicable for the 2008 crop year. Related to this, producers on a farm with 10 acres or less of base may now, under the new law, enroll their farms until **Nov. 26**, in the 2008

DCP program. This extension of the original Sept. 30, deadline only applies to producers who were previously excluded because of the minimum acreage requirement. USDA began issuing payments to producers on farms with 10 base acres or less who had already enrolled in the DCP program soon after the President signed the new law.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will now resume allowing reconstitutions for farms with 10 acres of base or less according to normal reconstitution rules and policy. Eligible producers may sign up for DCP at any FSA office or enroll on the FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp click on Access eDCP Services.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Changes
Under SURE in the 2008 Farm Bill, producers seeking disaster benefits must generally have obtained crop insurance or coverage under the Non-insured crop disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all crops on all farms. Under the new law (P.L. 110-398), producers with crops that had 2009 crop insurance sales closing dates before Aug. 14, may pay a fee through Jan. 12, 2009, to participate in SURE. Producers may make their SURE participation fee

payments to their local FSA office at this time.

The SURE program fee is equal to the fee for catastrophic coverage. Payment of the SURE program fee will not make the producer eligible for insurance coverage.

Producers also have a new minimum loss threshold under SURE. Under the new law, to qualify for payments, there must be a production loss of at least 10 percent for at least one crop of economic significance on the farm.

Under the SURE program, the new law provides that when a second crop is planted after the first crop was prevented from being planted, or if such first crop failed, the second planting will not count toward the SURE program guarantee or total farm revenue. This is true except in areas where double-cropping is a normal practice. Producers also are not required to purchase crop insurance or a NAP policy for the second crop.

By provision of the new statute, the purchase of insurance or a NAP policy for grazed acreage is no longer a requirement for the SURE program. However, such insurance is required as a condition for payment for the livestock feed

program, tree assistance program and the emergency livestock, honeybees and farm-related fish programs.

In addition, the new law amends SURE eligibility so that crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage.

Producers can contact their local FSA office for more information regarding SURE program implementation.

NAP (Non-Insured crop disaster Assistance Program) Application Deadline Changes

NAP application closing dates for the 2009 crops have been extended to Dec. 1. This extension for 2009 NAP applies to those crops having an application closing date prior to Dec. 1. This extension was authorized due to the late enactment of the 2008 Farm Bill and to accommodate those applicants wanting to participate in disaster assistance programs under the 2008 Act's Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance for their 2009 crops.

FSA's news releases are available on the Web at FSA's home page: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Fla. Farm Bureau recognized for outstanding programs

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation honored Okeechobee County Farm Bureau for outstanding programs at the Federation's annual meeting Oct. 8-10, at The Peabody in Orlando.

Okeechobee County Farm Bureau was recognized in all five program categories: Public Relations/information, legislative/policy implementation, education/agriculture promotions outreach, organization and management and leadership development. Okeechobee County Farm Bureau President Trey Whitehurst accepted the award from Florida Farm Bureau President John L. Hoblick.

"We are pleased to recognize so many of the 61 county Farm

Bureaus in Florida for their good work on behalf of their members," Mr. Hoblick said. "The County Recognition Program allows counties to be recognized in front of their peers."

Okeechobee County Farm Bureau is headquartered in Okeechobee and serves more than 1,100 member-families. It is affiliated with the Florida Farm Bureau Federation, headquartered in Gainesville. More than 400 leading farmers and ranchers attended the annual meeting in Orlando. Florida Farm Bureau has approximately 140,000 member families. Farm Bureau is a nonprofit trade organization that advocates on behalf of agriculture and agricultural producers.



Submitted photo
Okeechobee County Farm Bureau President Trey Whitehurst receives a plaque recognizing achievements during 2008 from Florida Farm Bureau President John L. Hoblick at the state annual meeting Oct. 8-10, at The Peabody in Orlando.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

County Farm City Week

At their meeting on Nov. 6, Okeechobee County Commissioners proclaimed the week of Nov. 21-27, to be Farm City Week in Okeechobee County. Commission chairman Cliff Betts, right, presented the proclamation to Trey Whitehurst, left, of the Okeechobee County Farm Bureau.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Farm City Week

At the Okeechobee City Council meeting on Nov. 4, Acting Mayor Dowling Watford proclaimed the week of Nov. 21-27 to be Farm City Week in the city. He presented the proclamation to Trey Whitehurst.

Livestock Market Report

November 10 and 11, 2008

Cows	Monday	Tuesday
Breaking	\$45.00	\$48.00
Cutter	\$38.00	\$47.00
Canner	\$28.00	\$40.00

Bulls	Monday	Tuesday
1000-1500	\$50.00	\$60.00
1500-2000	\$55.50	\$62.00

Monday	Tuesday	
Calves	724	1346
Cows	81	230
Str	1	15
Hfns	8	9
Bulls	16	42
Yrlngs	40	145
Mix	0	10
Total	870	1797

Cows and bulls are still down—lots of supply. Good quality feeder calves are still selling pretty good. Off colored and plain calves are cheap.
Murray Logan, West Palm Beach topped the calf market with a high of \$1.85. Seminole Tribe, Brighton topped the cow market with a high of 49.50.
Don't forget we will be closed Thanksgiving Week, Nov. 24 thru 28.

See ya next week, Todd

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

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Tuesday at 11 a.m.

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WATERFRONT PROPERTY. Well maintained DWMH. Beautiful backyard nicely landscaped w/waterfall, bridge over stream running through backyard. Two nice sheds, fish cleaning station w/dock. Large private well stocked lake. **MLS #201595, \$94,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.**

WELL BUILT CBS HOME on a beautiful waterfront corner lot. A fenced in area on side yard. Large stone fireplace and a wagon wheel chandelier. Mural painted by Egretta Wells '81. Great starter home. Needs a little TLC. Vacant lot is included in sale. **MLS #201596, \$120,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.**

LARGE WATERFRONT HOME. It has mature oaks and a nice boat dock. The home is a well maintained home and ready to move in. **MLS #201606, \$150,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.**

WELL-MAINTAINED MOBILE HOME close to the rim canal and locks. This package comes complete with a boat. It is a nice large lot with an assortment of trees. **MLS #201939, \$107,578. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.**

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Members may pay their bill by mail, take their payment to a GEC office (located in Moore Haven, Okeechobee and Lake Placid) pay by check or money order at a drop box location (listed in Florida Monthly Magazine) or by Western Union Speed Pay®.
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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"CORNER LOT"
Perfect place to raise a family. CBS 3/1 situated on a corner lot, nice Oak trees, fenced backyard, great for the kids or pets. High ceilings in the living room w/taux wood beams. Backyard has shed for additional storage. **201743 \$95,000**

"BHR DELIGHT"
CBS 3/2 home on canal with seawall, dock, attached 1 car carport and 12x8 storage building. Bring your boat and enjoy the outdoors. New Air-Conditioner as of Feb 2008 **#93430 \$129,900**

"LOTS OF ELBOW ROOM"
4/2 DWMH in Treasure Island with over 2000 sq ft of living space. New wood front porch, fenced yard, living & family room w/fireplace, lg kitchen, walk in closets, garden tub in master ba.w/little retreat. Owners are motivated! **#200924 \$117,500**

"LOOK NO FURTHER"
Looking for a great place to live...here it is. Great location on a dead end street, close to schools. 4/2 with a lot of charm. Storage shed on property 10x20. **#201528 \$195,000.**

"SOUTHERN CHARM"
Southern style 4/2/2 energy efficient home by the golf course. Home has Hardy Plank siding, whirlpool tub in master bath, His/her walk-in closets. Upgraded Schrock kitchen cabinets, 10' ceilings in main part of home, plant shelves and lots of other upgrades. This home looks like a model home. **#201263 \$249,000.**

"ROOM TO ROAM"
2000 3/2 DWMH on 5 fenced and crossed fenced acres. Home has new kitchen cabinets, new wood flooring, garden tub, and is just outside of town! Call today for your showing!! **#201613 \$192,000**

"NEAT AND TIDY"
3/1/1 Home is neat and clean on 1 1/2 lots. Kitchen has been upgraded. Ready for a new family. Tenant occupied at present time. **#201419 \$159,900**

Flat Stanley returns to South Elementary



Submitted photo/SES South Elementary Students who were part of the Flat Stanley Class are: Darius Houze, Jaylen Boswell, Mason Adams, Chandler Pearce, Maggie Congdon, Jeny Hernandez, Shelby Kirton and Ashton Coffey.

Flat Stanley has been around the world and is coming home! As was reported a few weeks ago, third grade is learning about different places around the world by sending our paper friend, Flat Stanley, to visit people in faraway places. The hosts take him to places of interest in their areas and send him home with photos, souvenirs, and a journal from this trip. So far we have received dozens of parcels from dozens of great places.

Shelby Kirton's Flat Stanley collected seashells in Japan and returned wearing a kimono. He brought back candy and play money for the whole class.

The Stanley that Darius Houze sent picked cotton in Georgia and visited the home of the author, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and

visited the University of Florida. He brought back a bagful of souvenirs for Darius.

Stanley picked tomatoes and worked in a barber shop in Tennessee during his trip to stay with Maggie Congdon's grandparents.

Julia Dupree's Uncle Matt, Aunt Kim and little cousins enjoyed his company in Louisiana. They took him to a revival, a fair, and even for a helicopter ride. They said he was a very polite guest and cleaned up after himself.

Mason Adam's Flat Stanley went to Atlanta, Ga. In Atlanta, Stanley visited the Georgia Aquarium, Georgia Technical Institute and the World of Coke. He saw the stadium lights and thousands of people at Turner Field where the Atlanta Braves play.

Another Stanley, the one Jeny

Hernandez sent, stayed with an Indiantown family. He had a blast traveling with bikers to Key West and to Maggie Valley, N.C. He brought back a photo album of his travels, souvenirs and a very colorful story. Stanley has a new appreciation for bikers.

Mackenzie Johnson's flat Stanley went to North Carolina too where he visited many exciting tourist attractions like the coal mines and rock museums. He even went white-water rafting.

Jaylen Boswell sent his Flat Stanley to Murray, Ky., home of the Murray State Racers. Murray is close to the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. He learned about the Jackson Purchase, and saw the leaves changing colors. He brought back souvenirs from the college, maps, and popcorn for the whole class because movie popcorn is grown there.

Lauren Coffey's Stanley went to New Jersey and saw Atlantic City. He looked at the casinos and walked on the boardwalk. He learned some history of Smithville and brought back some bookmarks.

Baillie Shurley's friend headed south to Marco Island. He hunted for treasures on the beach and explored local shops.

Valentin Perez sent his to a former SES teacher, Miss Gilbert, in Illinois. While there, he helped her plan her wedding. He said he was glad to be home and away from all that girlie stuff.

Zachary Mullins sent his friend to Illinois too. Zack's grandmother took him to work and said he was very helpful.

Brianna Jewell's grandparents hosted Flat Stanley in Virginia. He went to the mall and got to meet Hello Kitty.



Finally, Colton Goggans' Flat Stanley went to Michigan to stay with Miss Rackley's mom. He got to enjoy more colorful leaves and the cool weather. It got so cold he saw snow for the first time and had a blast catching snowflakes on his tongue. Flat Stanley wasn't dressed for the Michigan weather so Miss Rackley's mom knitted him a vest, scarf, and mittens to keep him warm and toasty. Students are looking forward to more Flat Stanleys returning in the mail so we can learn about more of the world.

Tuesday, Nov. 11, there was short play and assembly at 1:50 p.m. in the courtyard at South Elementary in observance of Veterans' Day. The Spirit Committee collected red hands with the names of Veterans in our students' families. These hands have been posted in the Cafeteria.

Upcoming dates to remember: Make Up Day - There will be school on Tuesday, Nov. 25 and on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

Progress Reports - Progress Reports went home with students on Nov. 13.

Nov. 18-19, Kaplan testing in grades 3 and 4.

There will not be after school tutorial on Nov. 25. There will not be school on Nov. 27 and 28 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.



Submitted photo/South Elementary

Great students

Students who earned the Student of the Week Award at South Elementary School for the week ending Nov. 7 were Omar Soto, Hayle Padgett, Faith Vest, Liberty Kuschel, Colby Rivero, Juan Navarro, Aubrie Hataway, Kasandra Salmeron, Taylor Shatzer, Kamakshi Dhillon, Darius Houze, Maya Kneidel, Genesis Gaucin, Taylor Henry, Joshua Rhoden, Jose Hernandez, Daniel Hotmire, and Trevarian Boswell.



Submitted photo/South Elementary

Veteran's Day respect

A Veteran's Day assembly was held in the open courtyard at South Elementary on Nov. 11, at 1:50 p.m. The Student Council, sponsored by Guidance Counselor Drema Brewer, performed a short play explaining who Veterans are and why they have a day designated to honor them. The South Singers, led by music teacher Shelby Schutt, then sang one of several songs they had rehearsed. The Pep 'N' Drill team, sponsored by Kindergarten teachers Carrie Heinen and Shera Shaw, performed a cheer for the Veterans. The entire student body, staff, parents and guests watched in the courtyard. South Elementary is proud to salute all the Veterans of the community.

Correction

In the Friday, Nov. 14, Okeechobee News there was an error in a story on page 3, under the headline "Two juveniles charged in break in." The alleged burglary occurred at the Migrant Head

Start offices, not the Okeechobee County Health Department as stated in the article. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the error.

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ADVERTISE and Get Results

Okeechobee pounds the Clewiston Tigers

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee just keeps on rolling. No matter who they play.

The Brahms improved to (8-2) Friday night with an impressive 38-14 win at Clewiston, their first win there in nearly 20 years.

Lonnie Pryor rushed for 181 yards and two touchdowns and also caught a touchdown pass, but it was some other unsung hero's like Shane Taggart and Mike Minondo that helped Okeechobee dominate the game.

"I'm very proud of my teammates," Taggart said, "The offensive line blocked well and the defense stepped up and only allowed 14 points. We had a big pass rush, we stopped the run, and we played hard." Taggart had a career high 59 yards rushing which included a big 27 yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

Minondo came to the rescue of the offense on more than one occasion. He got Okeechobee out of a second and long situation with a 25 yard reception in the first half and also caught a touchdown pass on the Brahms first scoring drive.

Okeechobee drove 67 yards in eight plays to open the game. Key plays included runs of 17 and 13 by Pryor. Garrett Madrigal found Minondo on a 23 yard crossing pattern for a touchdown to give Okeechobee a (7-0) lead.

Clewiston responded with a long drive of their own to tie the score. They went 80 yards in 12 plays. Darris Hughes (131 yards rushing and two touchdowns) showed why he is one of the best backs in Florida as he pounded out 41 of those yards. A key defensive holding penalty on fourth down gave Clewiston a first down at the Brahms 13 and Hughes carried the rest of the way on the following play.

Okeechobee appeared to be poised to score again on their second possession but Taggart was stripped from behind after a 12 yard gain on a swing pass and the Tigers took over.

The score remained tied until late in the first half. Okeechobee was backed up after two offensive holding calls at their own 12 yard line and faced a second and 24. Madrigal pulled a rabbit out of the hat with a brilliant toss to Minondo on a sideline pass. The play covered 25 yards and got Okeechobee out of a huge hole. From there the Brahms drove down field for the go ahead score. Clewiston was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct to help the drive along. Pryor also had to convert a fourth and two situation with a four yard run. The Brahms were fortunate on the touchdown play as Clewiston tipped a pass from Madrigal to Pryor in the flat. The deflection caught Clewiston off guard temporarily and Pryor found a crease and ran 21 yards for a touchdown. Okeechobee led at the half 14-7.

Okeechobee's defense took over in the second half as they picked off four Clewiston passes. After an ill advised on side kick was recovered by Clewiston at midfield, the Brahman defense showed their mettle as they held Clewiston without a first down. The offense, mostly without Pryor, moved the ball 80 yards in 11 plays to go ahead 21-7. Key plays included a 25 yard pass to Minondo, and a 16 yard run by Pryor. Lonnie carried the final three yards for the touchdown to give Okeechobee a two touchdown advantage.

A 46 yard kick return by Clewiston gave the Tigers life at midfield and Hughes rumbled 28 yards to put the ball at the Okeechobee 21. However QB Isandro Marquez overthrew his receiver in the end zone and Nate Pollard was there to make a nice over the



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Terrance Allen warms up before Friday's game. He had an interception in Okeechobee's victory.

shoulder interception to stop the drive.

The defense made another big play late in the third quarter when Erick McQueen stepped in front of a Marquez pass and returned it 25 yards to the Tiger 33 yard line. Taggart took over from there and on second down and four, found a hole up the middle and rumbled 27 yards for his longest run of the year. The touchdown gave Okeechobee a 28-7 lead.

Offensive guard Kyle McGee, who helped open a lot of holes this season, praised his offensive line coach Cary McKee for his assistance this year. "He's been a real blessing to us this year. We all finally started to work together as a team. The offensive line has done their job. We do good things when we work as a team."

Clewiston responded with a touchdown drive to stay in the game. They drove 53 yards after an interception by John Williams on a deflected pass at the line of scrimmage. Hughes carried the final five yards for the score to make it 28-14.

Okeechobee responded with a 75 yard drive to put the game away. Pryor, Kareem Jones and Taggart continuously ran the ball up the middle to keep the Clewiston offense off the field. Pryor broke loose on a sweep for a 45 yard touchdown to put Okeechobee up 35-14.

Okeechobee's final score came after an interception by Terrance Allen. Alan Najara kicked a 34 yard field goal from the left hash mark to put an exclamation point on the victory.

"I feel real good. This is my first year playing. I wish I'd come out early. I want to thank God because we are a family. Most teams don't appreciate that, but we do. We know what family is. Team work can get you a long way."

Game notes
Okeechobee earned a spot in the playoffs and will once again meet Dwyer for the second straight year in the first round of the playoffs next Friday at Dwyer. Clewiston moves on to host Mulberry in a playoff game next Friday.

Lonnie Pryor had a pass defense for Okeechobee. Kareem Jones constantly had pressure on the Clewiston QB in the first half. He stopped their fullback Leonard Newton for no gain in the first quarter. Shane Taggart stopped Newton for no gain on the same drive. Taggart also stopped Hughes cold for no gain in the third quarter.

Damion Smith recovered a fumble for Clewiston. Lemarcus Thacklin knocked down a pass for Clewiston. Terrance Allen had an interception for Okeechobee.

Pryor also had a 13 yard touchdown run that was called back by a holding penalty. Leland Schoonmaker and Sam Dixon shared a sack in the final minutes.

Okeechobee	7	7	7	17-38
Clewiston	7	0	0	7-14

How they scored:
First Quarter
Okeechobee: Minondo 23 yard pass from Madrigal. (Najara kick) 8:23. 7-0.
Clewiston: Hughes 13 yard run. (Marquez kick) 2:00 7-7.
Second Quarter
Okeechobee: Pryor 21 yard pass from Madrigal. (Najara kick) 0:23. 14-7.
Third Quarter
Okeechobee: Pryor three yard run. (Najara kick) 5:09 21-7.
Fourth Quarter
Okeechobee: Taggart 28 yard run. (Najara kick) 10:58 28-7.
Clewiston: Hughes five yard run. (Marquez kick) 7:59. 28-14.
Okeechobee: Pryor 45 yard run. (Najara kick) 4:24. 35-14.
Okeechobee: Pryor 34 yard field Goal 1:51. 38-14.

Team statistics	Okee	Clewiston
First Downs	16	13
Third Downs	7-11	3-7
Penalties	7-60	5-40
Rushing yards	261	156
Passing yards	146	64
Punts	1-25	3-80
Punt returns	1-1	0-0
Kick returns	2-42	1-46
Fumbles/lost	2-1	0-0
Interceptions	4-56	1-10

Okeechobee	Passing	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	INT
Madrigal	20	11	146	2	1	
Rushing	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	
Madrigal	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0	
Pryor	26	181	7.0	45	2	
McQueen	4	9	2.3	5	0	
Taggart	11	59	5.4	28	1	
Jones	4	13	3.3	6	0	
Totals	46	261	5.7	45	3	
ReceivingNo.	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD		
Pryor	1	21	21.0	21	1	
McQueen	2	9	4.5	7	0	
Taggart	1	12	12.0	12	0	
Pollard	2	12	6.0	8	0	
Minondo	4	84	21.0	25	1	
Jones	1	8	8.0	8	0	
Totals	11	146	13.3	25	2	

Clewiston	Passing	Att	Comp	YDS	TD	INT
Marquez	17	6	64	0	4	
Rushing	No.	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	
Marquez	1	-7	-7.0	-7	0	
Hughes	18	139	7.7	31	2	
Newton	4	2	0.5	2	0	
J. Smith	3	14	4.6	12	0	
Cordova	1	7	7.0	7	0	
Totals	27	156	5.8	31	2	
ReceivingNo.	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD		
Hughes	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0	
J. Smith	1	17	17.0	17	0	
Cordova	1	22	22.0	22	0	
D. Smith	1	8	8.0	8	0	
Ramos	1	10	10.0	10	0	
D. Allen	1	10	10.0	10	0	
Totals	6	64	10.7	22	0	

Area scores	Avon Park	Port Charlotte	American Her. Delray	Martin County	Port St. Lucie	Treasure Coast	Olympic Heights	Lake Placid	Lake Mary Prep	Labelle
Palmetto	31	27	41	35	53	40	56	34	32	48

St. Edwards 13 Merritt Island Chris 12 Moore Haven 58 Central Fla Christian 20 Westwood, Fort Pierce idle. Jupiter Christ. 28 Glades Day 13 Pahokee vs. Glades Central played Saturday.
How Okeechobee opponents fared: Jupiter Christian defeated Glades Day 28-13, Avon Park lost to Palmetto 31-0. Sebring defeated Port Charlotte 27-24. Sebastian River defeated American Heritage Delray Beach 41-17. Glades Day lost to Jupiter Christian 28-13. Fort Pierce was idle. Fort Pierce Westwood was idle. Martin County lost to South Fork 35-10. Jensen Beach defeated Port St. Lucie 35-10. Clewiston lost to Okeechobee 38-14.
District 13-4A player of the week, Cortez Ash of Sebastian River. He rushed for 114 yards and three touchdowns and also

threw for 93 yards in the Sharks victory over American Heritage Delray.

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