



Vol. 99 No. 284

Friday, November 28, 2008

50¢ Plus tax

Briefs**AARP Driver Safety****Class offered**

Tuesday, Dec. 9 and Wednesday, Dec. 10, Nell Bostwick will 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 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.

Red Cross plans Health and Safety classes

The Okeechobee Branch of the American Red Cross will hold the following the following Health & Safety classes in December:

Monday, Dec. 8, - Infant/Child CPR at 6 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 10, - Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 15, - First Aid Basics at 6 p.m. All classes are held at their Branch office located at 323 N. Parrott Ave.

To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

Drought Index

Current: 607
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels**14.33 feet**

Last Year: 10.30 feet

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

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See Page 2 for information about how to contact the newspaper.

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Beware 'badge-related' scam

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

When contacted, many people give freely when they think they are helping police or firefighters but they shouldn't — in most instances it's just another scam.

In fact, this is called "badge-related" fund-raising fraud.

The public services offices of the police department, sheriff's office or fire department do not call and solicit money, even though they sometimes depend on public donations for some of

their worthwhile endeavors.

It should be noted that there are companies soliciting funds for public service agencies that are legal — but just barely. Even though they are collecting for these agencies only a small fraction of the amount collected actually goes to the police department, sheriff's office, Florida Highway Patrol or fire department.

One way to find out if the solicitor is legitimate is to call the agency for whom they are collecting money.

"They can contact the people for whom the funds are supposedly raised — call them directly — and ask if they (the solicitors) are legitimate," said Sandi Copes, of the Florida attorney general's office.

Ms. Copes also pointed out that the attorney general's office in September presented a check for \$22,856.12 to Miami-Dade County Fire/Rescue that represented money scammed from residents of Miami-Dade County.

The attorney general's office obtained a court judgement

against Vince Corelli for falsely collecting charitable donations for the Dade County firefighters. The judgement called for Corelli, of Miami, to return the money he collected to real firefighters.

Corelli, stated a press release from the attorney general's office, was collecting the money but keeping it for himself.

That money will be used by Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue for community outreach and public education programs, the release added.

If you are contacted about

giving money to a public service agency, following are some tips from the attorney general's office on what you should do.

- Call your local police or fire department and ask if they are aware of the fundraising campaign and if they will benefit from the funds raised.

- Ask the solicitor for written information — including the non-profit's name, address and telephone number — on how the money will be used and what the group's mission is.

See Scam — Page 9

Gang Free: Rally on the River



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

Car enthusiasts ogled the hot rods on display at the Saturday, Nov. 8, Gang Free Florida Rod Run and Motorcycle Rally held at Okee-Tantie. The event, billed as the Rally on the River, helps to raise awareness and money to help combat the recruiting of youngsters into gangs.

Rally raises over \$12,000

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

within the Florida Gang Investigators Association (FGIA).

The two-day event, billed as the Rally on the River, was aimed at raising awareness and money to help combat the recruiting of youngsters into gangs.

Sgt. Stark said over 1,500 motorcyclists took part in the event, that included a poker run, live music, burn-out pit, motorcycle and car show, donut eating contest and special games and events for kids.

"It's a great location out there. It was beautiful," said OCSO's Michele Bell, who helped Sgt. Stark organize the second annual event. "I think people liked it out there more."

Last year's event was held at the Okeechobee County Agri-

Civic Center.

To help with their fundraising efforts, rally organizers moved the event to Okee-Tantie where they were given free use of the field. Last year they paid Okeechobee County \$2,600 to use the Agri-Civic Center.

"Based on the generosity of Susie Hughes (Okee-Tantie manager) we didn't have to pay for anything," said Sgt. Stark.

Mrs. Bell said Ms. Hughes "was a pleasure to work with."

Sgt. Stark also said that without the generosity of contributors, as well as other sponsors of the event, the ability to carry out their mission would be severely hampered.

"A very special thanks goes

See Rally — Page 9

knee.

The fire report from Lt. Robert Mears said firemen could see a glow in the air as they responded to the blaze. They put out the fire with assistance from the City Fire Department.

The building was unoccupied. The registered owner is John Holliday, Mears reported.

The heat from the blaze was so intense that an adjacent trailer at 4036 S.E. 26th Street was damaged; \$2,500 was the estimate of damage to the trailer's melted siding.

See Fire — Page 9

Third fire on same street ruled arson

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The first two fires they still aren't sure about but the third fire is arson.

State Fire Marshalls were investigating an arson fire on S.E. 26th Street this week.

There have been three fires on the same street in the past ten days.

The latest fire Monday night around 6:30 p.m. broke out at 4036 S.E. 26th Street. The fire resulted in \$150,000 in property damage and minor injuries to a county firemen. The unnamed firemen suffered a bruised

knee.

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See Fire — Page 9

Couple awarded \$1 million in damages

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee couple was awarded a \$1 million judgement by a local jury after the wife was permanently injured in a 2004 automobile accident.

The jury on Nov. 20, awarded Shirley Ann Wildes \$829,000 in damages and her husband, Donald Wildes, \$171,000.

Mrs. Wildes was perma-

nently injured when her vehicle was struck by a vehicle driven by Robert Carl Frazer, stated an accident report by Officer Matthew Hurst of the Okeechobee City Police Department. Mr. Frazer was issued a citation for failure to obey a traffic light.

Gerald Lefebvre, the attorney for the Wildes, said Mrs. Wildes now has a frozen shoulder, two

See Damages — Page 9

New Horizons, Red Cross provide needed services

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

way Road in Fort Pierce. They also have an office in Okeechobee.

Mr. Romano said they are a very busy organization. They normally have 28 to 32 patients per day at the crisis unit. They also have a detox unit for drugs and alcohol that averages 18 patients per day.

New Horizons also has an around the clock screening unit. A 20-bed children's crisis unit is now under construction. The unit is needed because if there is a crisis with a minor

they must send them to West Palm Beach or Melbourne.

The state sent New Horizons some seed money for their capital campaign. Ground was broken on the project, to be built on Midway Road, earlier this month.

Mr. Romano said Okeechobee services include a child and adult therapist, a substance abuse counselor, a child psychiatrist, and a nurse practitioner. The hours of these specialists

See Services — Page 9



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Community Collaborative Council members show off the donated items from their Christmas gift drive for My Aunt's House.



**NEEDED
TECHNICIANS AND
SERVICE ADVISORS**

Planning board meeting turns down housing project

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Twelve units per acre was a little more than neighbors wanted. After 40 minutes of debate, Planning Board members agreed and turned down an application from one of the county's newest industries.

Royal Professional Builders went before the Okeechobee County Planning Board Tuesday night in search of a special exception to allow a multi-family housing project.

The property at 3494 N.W. 18th Street, was rezoned to residential general in recent months. The current zoning would allow up to 26 units on the five acres. The application requested up to 62 units on this property.

Planning Board member Bill Royce said the applicant requested that the item be tabled for the past two months so they could provide additional information. Royce noted he met with the applicant but did not receive any new information. He recommended that the application be denied. In his report, Mr. Royce said a density greater than five units may be reasonable, but that staff also believes that 12 units to the acre may be extreme.

"It's been tabled twice, that is more than enough, it's time to take action," Royce noted.

The project would be located near the new Royal Concrete plant off U.S. 98. The housing would primarily meet the needs of existing workers.

Representative of Royal Concrete Burton Smith told the board he felt any differences with staff could be worked out. He said proper buffering and a six-foot high masonry wall on the west property line would be included. He also said they would provide additional setbacks from nearby

residential areas.

"This project would accommodate some of the employees. They can walk to their place of employment. We feel it's been done right," he added.

The apartment complex would consist of two-story concrete units, each with two bedrooms and one and a half to two full bathrooms. The preliminary plan also includes a recreation area.

Planning Board member Mac Worley asked questions about who would rent the units. He said the project needs more open space, "If you're creating housing

for all these single men, and they sit out here and play dominoes, it seems to be inadequate green space," he said. "If you have families with young children, I would hate to see them playing in the parking lot."

Mr. Smith said the project wouldn't be limited to Royal Concrete employees. He said they would be willing to provide playground equipment for the children.

Board member Joey Hoover said he had concerns about parking spaces and drainage retention. He said the plans call for a

lot of pavement. Mr. Hoover also said the density proposed was too high for this neighborhood.

Residents in the neighborhood were opposed to this project. They said families with children would not have enough room. Many complained that the residue from the concrete plant has impacted their health and their homes.

Lisa White claimed the concrete dust leaves the property on a daily basis. She reported that two of her neighbors have had trouble with their air conditioners. Other concerns from residents were

traffic and neighborhood safety.

Some residents said the access off N.W. 18th Terrace would also create hazards for school kids waiting for the school bus.

Resident David Sheedy said the new plant has created drainage problems on his property. He noted that for 38 years he had good drainage on his property.

"If they don't care about their neighbors, I don't care about them. I don't want to live next door to 62 people, do you? If that's the kind of neighbors we got, we don't need any more," he said.

Mr. Sheedy urged the County

to make the company fix the problems they've created before they approve any new projects.

In other actions the board tabled until January a special exception which would allow 8 Seconds to have package sales of alcoholic beverages at 3751 N.E. Fourth Trail. The new store would be open during the week from Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The board opted to table the matter so they can hear from Sheriff Paul May at their January meeting.



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elskens

Show Jumping continues

The First Coast Invitational Grand Prix Show Jumping event continues this weekend Nov. 28-30, at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. Produced by World Wide Horse Show Services, the First Coast Invitational will feature a \$30,000 Level 7 Grand Prix as well as jumping events for children and adults.

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Undelivered stimulus checks Deadline nears

FT. LAUDERDALE—The Internal Revenue Service is reminding taxpayers with undeliverable economic stimulus checks that they have until Nov. 28, to update their address to get the payment this year.

More than 29,000 economic stimulus checks sent to Floridians were returned by the U.S. Postal Service due to mailing address errors. These checks totaled almost \$17 million with an average undeliverable stimulus payment of \$564.

"We want to get this money to the people it belongs to as quickly as possible," said Mike Dobzinski, IRS spokesperson. "All we need is an updated address. As soon as we receive a correct address, we can reissue the check."

Nationally, the IRS has been looking for more than 279,000 taxpayers who are missing economic stimulus checks totaling about \$163 million.

"It is crucial that taxpayers with an undeliverable stimulus payment update their addresses with the IRS by Nov. 28," said Mr. Dobzinski. "By law, economic stimulus checks must be sent out by Dec. 31, of this year."

Mr. Dobzinski said there are two self-service tools available to people who did not receive their check. "Where's My Stimulus Payment?" is the quickest and easiest way for a taxpayer to check the status of a stimulus check and receive instructions on how to update their address. Just go to the IRS web site at www.irs.gov.

Taxpayers without access to the Internet who think they may be missing their economic stimulus payment check can call the IRS Economic Stimulus Payment Hotline at 1-866-234-2942. It is an automated service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Taxpayers who have moved can ensure the IRS has their correct address by filing Form 8822, Change of address, with the IRS. The form is available at IRS.gov or by calling 1-800-829-3676.

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Loud music leads to man's arrest

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A loud music complaint ended Sunday morning with a man being booked into the county jail after he allegedly told a local deputy that he, too, was a law enforcement officer.

Dharamdas Dharampaul, 46, N.W. 20th St., Coral Springs, was charged with the felony of impersonating an officer. He was also charged with resisting a law enforcement officer.

enforcement officer without violence, a misdemeanor.

Dharamdas Dharampaul was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$5,500.

Deputy Steve McKinley of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCOSO) stated in his arrest



report that he went to a residence on N.W. 102nd St. around 10:14 a.m. on Nov. 23, due to a loud music complaint. He said in his report that this was the second time he had gone to the home because of a similar complaint.

The OCOSO deputy met with Dharampaul, who reportedly told Deputy McKinley that he understood because he was a Broward County Sheriff's Office road patrol deputy – even though he could not produce a badge or ID card.

After a check by OCOSO dispatch, Deputy McKinley was told that Dharampaul "is not and has not ever been a law enforcement officer," stated the OCOSO report.

According to the OCOSO report the man was charged with resisting because even though Deputy McKinley had handcuffed the man's left hand, Dharampaul would not allow his right hand to be cuffed.

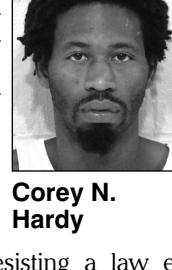
Dharampaul was eventually handcuffed and taken to jail.

Convicted drug dealer jailed after traffic stop

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local man released from state prison in May of this year is back behind bars following his arrest on felony drug charges.

Corey N. Hardy, 27, N.W. 12th St., was arrested Nov. 23 on felony charges of possession of cocaine and possession of a controlled substance.



Corey N. Hardy

He was also charged with the misdemeanor of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence.

Hardy was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$11,000.

According to Department of

Corrections (DOC) records Hardy was released from the Fort Pierce Work Release Center on May 13, 2008. He was sentenced to two years in prison following his Nov. 6, 2006, conviction for the sale of cocaine and possession of a controlled substance.

An arrest report by Sergeant Tom Tarner of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD) states that during a traffic stop early Sunday, Nov. 23, Hardy was in the back seat of a car being driven by a woman. Sgt. Tarner stated there was another woman in the front passenger seat.

After stopping the car for doing 37 mph in a 25 mph zone, the officer's report states that Hardy opened the rear door of the car and got out — despite being told to stay in the car. Sgt. Tarner said the man appeared to be very nervous.

Sgt. Tarner stated that he told

the man to get back into the car several times but the man ignored the commands and suddenly took off running. Backup OCPD officers P.C. Eddings and Kelley Muller began chasing after him on foot.

The sergeant then joined in the pursuit and Hardy was soon found hiding behind a garbage can at a residence on N.W. Third Ave., added the report.

Once Hardy was placed under arrest, Sgt. Tarner said the area where the man was hiding was searched. During that search the officers reportedly found two small baggies that each contained a white powder. The powder from each bag was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine, the report said. The suspected crack cocaine weighed .0146 grams.

While being searched at the county jail, Sgt. Tarner's report went on to state that some yellowish-colored pills were found in Hardy's pants pocket by a corrections officer. Those pills were later identified as alprazolam, a schedule 4 controlled substance, added the report.

DOC records indicate that Hardy was first sent to prison in April 2001, after being convicted of selling a substance instead of drugs and the sale of cocaine.

He was sent to prison on April 25, 2001, and was released Jan. 1, 2002.

Local man charged in vehicle theft

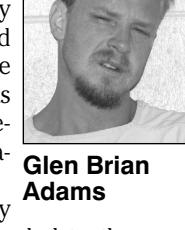
By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man was arrested after it was learned that the vehicle he was driving had been reported stolen out of Greenacres.

Glen Brian Adams, 34, N.E. 207th St., was arrested Tuesday on a felony charge of grand theft auto. He was also charged with the misdemeanors of driving while license expired more than four months and driving while license suspended with knowledge.

Adams was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$11,000.

An arrest report by Deputy Paul Jackson of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCOSO) states that an off-duty OCOSO deputy called to report a suspicious vehicle parked in his yard. By the time Deputy Jackson arrived



on the scene, the truck was gone. However, the off-duty deputy had recorded the tag number as well as the vehicle identification number.

Deputy Jackson responded to the scene and had OCOSO dispatch run a check on the 1996 Ford pickup truck. As a result of that check, the deputy learned that the truck had been reported stolen out of Greenacres on Sunday, Nov. 23.

Deputy Jackson later stopped the truck in the 2900 block of S.W. 24th Ave. The vehicle was being operated by Adams, states the deputy's arrest report.

The deputy's report states that the steering column had been broken, apparently for the purpose of starting the vehicle.

Arrest Report

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

• Jose Jimenez-Rodriguez, 37, N.W. Seventh St., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 22 by Deputy Corporal Chris Hans on a felony charge of driving while license suspended - habitual offender. His bond was set at \$1,500.

• Esteban Moreno-Esteban, 51, S.W. Ninth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 22 by Deputy Brian Cross on a felony charge of dealing in stolen property. He was also charged with the misdemeanor of farm theft. His bond was set at \$5,500.

• Richard Heath Chandler, 38, N.W. 180th Road, Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 23 by FWC Officer Jason Godwin on a charge of armed trespass. His bond was set at \$2,500.

• Mark David Large, 53, N.W. 24th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 23 by Deputy Howard Pickering on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with driving under the influence. He is being held without bond.

• Luis Juarez, 31, N.W. 35th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 25 by DOC's Joseph Cracchola on charges of violation of probation - aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and violation of probation - attempted burglary of a dwelling. He is being held without bond.

• Robert Cohran, 37, Albany Road, Fort Myers, was arrested Nov. 25 by Deputy Lieutenant Keith Murrish on Okeechobee County warrants charging him with amended violation of pro-

10 year old charged with misdemeanor

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A 10-year-old Okeechobee girl has been arrested after she reportedly punched, slapped and kicked her mother.

An arrest report by Deputy Raul Marrero of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCOSO) said he arrested the girl Tuesday, Nov. 25, on a misdemeanor charge of battery.

Following the child's arrest, she was taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

Deputy Marrero stated in his

report that the child began kicking her mother after having an argument with her. That escalated to the point that the child reportedly hit her mother in the stomach and chest and tried to hit her in the face.

The child also threw a shoe at her 28-year-old mother and hit her, continued the report.

The girl then reportedly slapped her mother and began kicking her again until a third party intervened.

Deputy Marrero's report adds that the youngster continued to batter her mother until his arrival.

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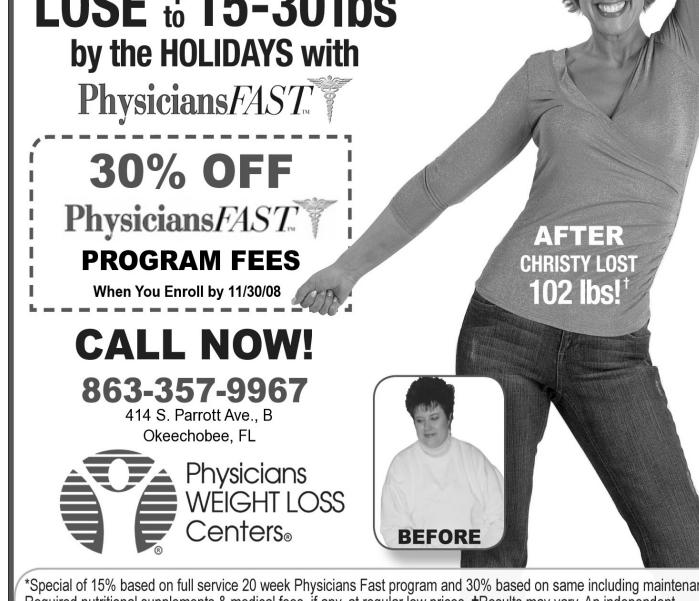
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Speak Out/Public forum

Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

TEN COMMANDMENTS: The real reason that we can't have the Ten Commandments posted in a courthouse is this: You cannot post 'Thou Shall Not Steal,' 'Thou Shall Not Commit Adultery,' and 'Thou Shall Not Lie' in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians. It creates a hostile work environment.

COACH: Who do you think will be the new OHS football coach? Do you think they will give it to a local or do you think they will give it to a outsider? I just hope that whoever gets it that they have the passion for football and the nohow to do the job. Even though we will be losing some great talented seniors there is still a group of very talented kids that will be on that team next year. I really hope that they give it to someone who has been around these kids that knows their full potential. I know that Ken and the school board will do their best to find the right person for the job. They just need the right person to apply for the job. I have seen a new era of sports here in Okeechobee with the youth leagues to the high school level. First time state champions to district champions and district runner ups in baseball and girls softball. Of course I'm sure it would be football in the lower leagues if we could get anyone to play us in All stars. Then we have the high school football team in the mix for two years in a row and beating Clewiston two years in a row in our house then in theirs. I personally am very proud in our youth and coaches for taking it to the next level. My hats off to all of you great job and I will be looking forward to seeing more from you in the future I know you will not disappoint.

HUNTING ACCIDENT: The story about the boy accidentally shooting his brother while hunting is just heart-breaking. My prayers are with that family. I can only imagine how horrible it was for that 13-year-old boy to see his own gun go off and kill his brother. And the poor father having to take the boat with his son's body back to the dock to call for help. That whole family is going to need a lot of prayers and support. I know they are not from Okeechobee and they don't know us, but we can still pray for them.

THANKFUL: On Mike Huckabee's show last night, speaking of things we had to be thankful for, he mentioned traveling to some 3rd world country. There he met up with folks who didn't have to worry about paying the electric bill, because they had no electricity, they didn't have to worry about paying a water bill because they walked for miles to fill up a jug with water and carry it back home on their shoulders, and they didn't worry about the price of gas because they would never own an automobile in their life. I thank God for people like Huckabee and wish he could be our president.

SHOES: Have you ever noticed a shoe in the road? It's usually near the center of the road. I always wondered just how those shoes get in the road. Does someone have their foot stuck out the window? Or maybe they put their shoes in the back of the truck and one fell out? Or are the shoes placed there on purpose, and if so, what does that mean?

SKUNK APE: Does anyone know if the Skunk Ape will be in the Christmas parade? I think he should be in every Okeechobee parade. He is sort of becoming our mascot.

HORSES: The show jumping at the Agri-Civic Center was just beautiful. If you didn't get out there to see it last weekend, stop by this weekend. They will be jumping Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Those horses are really something special to see. And there is no charge. It's free to spectators. Just bring a chair if you don't like to sit on the grass.

TERM LIMITS: Should local elected positions like county commission and city council have term limits like the president and the governor? Should they be limited to two consecutive terms? I would like to see some discussion on this because I think that might be a good idea. Maybe it would be good to have different ones at least every eight years.

ADOPTION: A judge in Miami has ruled that a Florida law that forbids gay couples from adopting children is unconstitutional and so they must allow gay couples to adopt as long as they follow all of the guidelines required of straight couples or single parents. I wonder what affect that will have on the adoption rate.

CHANGE: If voting could really change things, it would be illegal.

HOLIDAYS: There are a lot of local families who are going to be hurting this holiday season. I know most of the churches are already collected food for gift baskets and food pantries. Even if you have already given, try to find it in your heart to give a little more. When you give to a food pantry or a toy drive, you might just save Christmas for a needy family. My family has talked about it and we are going to cut back what we buy for each other at home so that we can do a little more to help those who are really hurting. Isn't that really what the Christmas spirit is about, to take care of those who need our help?

HUMANE SOCIETY: The Humane Society Pet Rescue is still getting it up off the ground, slowly but surely we are getting there for the good of the animals. We have placed many messages on the forums asking for volunteers, etc. We do not have our facility yet, we are using a volunteer foster home plan of many willing citizens here in Okeechobee. They go to the foster home after the animals are temperament checked, and vet checked, then can be re-homed after spay or neutering, and if they are socialized enough. You will be hearing a whole lot more about us after the holidays. If you know of anyone willing to loan us a building office or warehouse to hold meetings and volunteer training sessions please let me know. For more information, contact Humane Society Pet Rescue FL, Inc, P.O. Box 233, Okeechobee, FL 34973-0233.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: I am fully convinced that Okeechobee is extremely fortunate to have Sheriff Paul May and his narcotics task force team. Nothing pleases me more than when I read our Okeechobee News, that they have arrested these drug dealers. Whether we want to admit it or not - substance abuse is at epidemic levels and has substantial, adverse effects on the user and their families. It affects us all, whether it is in our immediate families or those of our friends and neighbors. The larger percentage of crimes committed, whether it be thefts, assaults, murders, and auto accidents can be traced back to substance abuse. We all, as a community need to get involved by reporting any suspicious activities to the Sheriff's Department immediately. By staying mute on this severe problem, only encourages our youth in our community to experiment and form an addiction. Acknowledge a youth, or for that matter anyone, of any age, when they do anything positive or any acts of kindness or considerations of others. So one does not resort to finding acceptance with those that will destroy their lives and live of others.

JUST A MAN: Just keep in mind that Obama is just a man, not the messiah. If this country gets back on track, he will not have been the one to solely do it, it will have been the dream team, which is nearly identical to the Clinton team. Again, he is not a saviour, just a man, and it is very scary when people talk about him like he is. He may be an answered prayer, that remains to be seen, he has a lot to prove. I think Donald Trump put it best last night when he said (something to this effect) that Obama has no choice but to be a great president because if he fails this country will be lost for a long time.

COMMISSIONER: Now that Commissioner Helton is on the Library Board, maybe she'll be able to see that we get some cold water at the Library. It runs all the time, but doesn't even get cool anymore.

CONCERT: I am calling in regards to the 'Beginnings and Beyond' concert at the Episcopal church this past Sunday evening. What a wonderful musical experience for our community. I just think the whole program was just a wonderful performance from all of the performers. It was so well done. Thank you Church of our Savior for bringing a little bit of culture to Okeechobee.

Letters to the Editor

Are we forgetting to give thanks to God?

The importance of giving thanks to God has been established since colonial times. People of different cultures and faith still sit together to bless their food for the accomplishment and being able to be alive.

Sharing food and prayers is very traditional among Americans. From the welcoming to the neighborhood, to a job place, or meeting with new friends, people always find opportunities to eat and pray together.

All faiths are accepted and any Christian denomination is welcome to pray. This holiday everything is settled to celebrate Christmas: the music in the radio, Wal-Mart displays, the newspaper. We have forgotten to celebrate Thanksgiving. We must be grateful to God for health, job, friendship, family, reaching our goals, for the food things that we have, and for the problems or any difficulties or illness we have had overcome. Thank God for the good things and the strengths to overcome and succeed.

Ana Vazquez

Baby boomers have last shot at retirement

I am a registered representative and life insurance agent here in Okeechobee and recently I have had calls from clients and friends asking my opinion of the stock market.

The first thing to address when investing or reviewing your investment, is the question of when do you plan on needing the money? If you are of retirement age or plan on retiring in the next five years then put your money somewhere safe like an annuity or a CD and relax because this article does not apply to you.

Community Calendar

Friday

Tops Take off Pounds Sensibly #669 meets at 9 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. The public is invited. All persons interested in a sensible approach to losing weight and becoming a part of a caring group are welcome to come and see what we are all about. For information, contact Ollie Morget at 800-932-8677.

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

A.A. meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. It will be an open speaker meeting.

Highlands Social Dance Club welcomes the public to their dance every Friday, from 7 until 10 p.m. at the Sebring Lions Club on Sebring Parkway, one mile east of U.S. 27 in Sebring. Tickets are \$5 for members and \$6 for guests. For information, call 863-471-0559 or 863-385-6671.

Compulsive overeaters are invited to a weekly meeting. **Overeaters Anonymous (OA)** meets at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue on Fridays, 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.

Saturday

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** weekend noon Open Discussion; **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick Group Step Study 7 p.m.; **N.A.** Nowhere Left To Go Group Open Discussion 8 p.m. *The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

A group class in **ballroom dancing** is being offered in Okeechobee at Church of Our Saviour Parrish Hall, 200 N.W. Third Street on Saturday afternoons at 4 p.m. The cost for the hour lesson is \$10. Private instructions are also available. Come and enjoy the fun with or without a partner. For more information call 772-794-9040.

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.

I am not saying the market will be higher in the next month or even next year. What I am saying is that history has shown that these types of declines have rewarded investors who took the risk and invested their money in good strong US companies. If you are currently investing in the market then you may want to increase your annual contributions. According to the US Department of Labor, the average boomer has less than \$50,000 in their retirement accounts. This may be the last time to buy in the market at a discount before your retirement.

Investors who have a long time horizon have been rewarded more by purchasing stocks than any other investments. This is a real risk that all of us have experienced who have owned stocks/mutual funds that have dropped more than 35% in the last year. Historically, we have been rewarded over the long term by having higher average returns than any other investment vehicle. These returns are important so that you can maintain the lifestyle you choose through your retirement years.

I know people are scared. We have not experienced market swings like this in such a short period of time in 70+ years. Financial institutions that we have all grown to trust and love are failing or being gobbled up by others. It is easy to say, when we see our accounts dropping daily, I need to stop the bleeding and get my investments somewhere safe. However, history says this is the worst thing you can do. Often times it leads us to sell low and then buy back high at a later date. This is the reverse of sound investing which is of course to buy low and sell high.

Warren Buffett says one simple rule dictates when he decides to buy stocks: "Be fearful when others are greedy, be greedy

when others are fearful." Most people agree that the stock market moves usually 6-12 months before the economy. This causes most investors who are timing the market to miss out on substantial gains. He also warns against people that have their money in cash accounts. These people feel secure right now, but inflation is rising and going to get higher due to all of the new debt created by the bailout plan. This will cause their money to lose purchasing power which in turn is equal to loosing money.

As a generation you are living longer than your parents and any generation before you. Most boomers expect to live to their 90s or beyond. You have to take a steady active approach to investing both now and in retirement so that your money can allow you to live without a paycheck for the next 30 years. This is a time when you should speak to your advisor, reevaluate your goals on an annual basis, and make a solid plan from those goals to meet your individual needs.

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Community Events

Ministerial Association holds 5th Sunday Service

The Ministerial Association of Okeechobee will hold a fifth Sunday service on Sunday, **Nov. 30** at 6:30 p.m. at the Osceola Middle School gym. It will be hosted by More 2 Life Ministries. Come join them for praise and worship. Speakers will be Rev. Cary McKee, Senior Pastor, and Rev. Loy Mershimer, Pastor, Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, and more. For more information call Rev. Dr. Paul E. Jackson Sr. at 863-824-0887.

Manufactured housing installation course

Dec. 4, from 8 a.m. until noon a Course for Manufactured Housing Installation will be held at the Okeechobee County Civic Center. The event will be sponsored by the Okeechobee County Building Department. There is no charge for this course. John O. Priester, Jr. is the instructor from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. To R.S.V.P. or for more information call Faye Huffman at 863-763-5548 ext. 3001.

OCA holds annual spaghetti dinner

Okeechobee Christian Academy will hold its 13th Annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Friday, **Dec. 5** from 11 a.m. till 2 p.m. (drive thru only) and Saturday, Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. (eat in, drive thru, bake sale) Dinner includes spaghetti, green beans and roll, (tea or coffee dine in only) for a \$5 donation. A silent auction will be held on Saturday from 3 until 6 p.m. and their first Chapel Quilt Show will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. For information call 863-763-3072.

Bowl for a cure

You can help the concerned citizens of Okeechobee by bowling for a cure for cancer at Bowl-A-Thon on Saturday, **Dec. 6**, at Stardust Lanes from 7 until 10 p.m. Entry fee is \$15 per person or \$60 per team (4-persons), includes shoes and three games of bowling. Lane sponsorships are available for \$100. For more information contact Frank Riddle at 863-447-1174. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

Annual Tour of Homes to be held

The Annual Holiday Tour of Homes, sponsored by Raulerson Hospital, will take place on **Dec. 5 and 6** from 6 until 9 p.m. A bus tour is available on Friday evening Dec. 5. Tickets are now on sale at the hospital and Suzie's Hallmark Gift Shop in the Publix Plaza. The self tour tickets are only \$15 and the bus tickets for those who would like to "LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US," are only \$25. The event benefits the United Way of Okeechobee. For more information, please call Bill Casian at 863-824-2702.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrated

The feast of our Lady of Guadalupe will be held on Friday, **Dec. 12** at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 901 S.W. Okeechobee. Outdoor procession will take place in the parking lot before the 8 p.m. Mass. There will be a special celebration beginning at 9 p.m. on the grounds of the church. We will have ethnic food and everyone is welcome. Admission and parking is free. For more information call 863-763-3536.

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**.

Annual craft bazaar and luncheon planned

The Third Annual craft bazaar and luncheon at Buckhead Ridge Christian Church, 1167 Linda Road (BHR) will be held on Saturday, **Dec. 6** from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information call 863-357-6500.

Local authors visit library program

On Friday, **Dec. 12**, at the Okeechobee Library, mystery author, Deborah Sharp, and children's author, Jan Day, will discuss how and why they write books set in rural Florida. Ms. Sharp, a former USA reporter, set her mystery in a little town north of the lake, just like Okeechobee. Book signing and reception to follow. For more information please call the library at: 863-763-3536.

Holiday Happenings

Holiday Cookie Sale planned

The Okeechobee Presbyterian Church will have their annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, **Dec. 13**, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. The church is located at 312 N. Parrot Avenue.

Hospice hosts annual Festival of Trees

Hospice of Okeechobee are set to host this year's Annual Festival of Trees in the blue volunteer building next to the Hamrick Home, 411 S.E. Fourth Street in Okeechobee. The event will open on Friday, **Nov. 28** and run through Sunday, Dec. 7. You may view this Christmas wonderland weekdays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The event is free to attend. For more information, call Cathy at 863-467-2321.

Christmas Country Store set to open

The Christmas Country Store will open on Friday, **Nov. 28** at 9 a.m. at Hospice of Okeechobee's blue volunteer building, next door to the Hamrick home, 411 S.E. Fourth Street. Toys, decorations and unique items for Christmas will be for sale. Come see and enjoy the holiday splendor. For more information, please call Cathy at 863-467-2321.

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; Kip Gardner at 863-610-6659; or David Pittard at 863-801-1678. Come early for the best selections.

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.

City Hall Park to hosts Santa

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

Santa in the Park

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

Third Annual craft bazaar and luncheon to be held

The Third Annual craft bazaar and luncheon at Buckhead Ridge Christian Church, 1167 Linda Road (BHR) will be held on Saturday, **Dec. 6**, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information call the Church at 863-357-6500.

Christmas window contest open.

Okeechobee Main Street has announced their Third Annual Christmas Window Decorating Contest. Businesses will need to have windows decorated before the City's Tree Lighting ceremony on **Dec. 2**. Judging will be on Dec. 13. The winner will receive a plaque. For information please contact Okeechobee Main Street 863-357-MAIN (6246).

Christmas parade planned

Chamber of Commerce Lighted Christmas Parade will be **Dec. 13**, with line up at 5:30 p.m. A craft show will be in Flagler Parks 2 and 3. For more information, contact the Chamber at 763-6464.

Christmas gift drive

My Aunt's House anticipates an overwhelming number of requests this year for assistance, please help if you can. Suggested items: puzzles, books, balls, board games, watches, dolls, cars, and socks. Items can be brought to the Okeechobee County School Board office. The Community Collaborative Council collects items for the gift drive which My Aunt's House distributes to local families. For more information contact Sharon Vinson 863-462-5000 ext 257.

VFW 9528 holds Toy's For Tots Bike Run

Bikes will leave the VFW Post 4423 (34th Street off 441 North.) at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, **Dec. 7** and will arrive at the VFW 9528 in Buckhead Ridge by 1 p.m. Entry fee is one new unopened toy. This event will benefit Toy's For Tots. A hog roast with swamp cabbage will be held at 2 p.m., there will be music and a good time for a \$5 donation. For more information call 863-467-2882.

Santa on fire truck

The City Firefighters will host Santa on the fire truck visits on: Dec. 18 in the N.W. & N.E. sections of the city; Dec. 19 in the SE section of the city; and Dec. 20 in the SW section of the city.

We want your news

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Five Year Work Program

The Florida Department of Transportation and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise announce public hearings to which all interested persons are invited. Specific notice is provided to the Lee County, Sarasota/Manatee, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda and Collier Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Polk Transportation Planning Organization, Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Alliance, West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations Chairs Coordinating Committee, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority and the county commission chairpersons of Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Polk and Sarasota Counties.

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2008
Time: 9:30 a.m. or soon thereafter
Place: Central Florida Regional Planning Council Meeting
605 E. Main Street
Bartow, Florida

Date: Friday, December 19, 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m. or soon thereafter
Place: Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council Office
1926 Victoria Avenue
Fort Myers, Florida

PURPOSE: The public hearings will consist of presentations by the department on the FDOT Tentative Five Year Work Program for fiscal years 2009/10 – 2013/14, followed by a public testimony period. The public is invited to review the work program. Department staff will be available for informal discussion and assistance. A court reporter will be available to accept comments for entry into the public record.

The hearings will be conducted pursuant to Section 339.135(4)(c), Florida Statutes, as amended, and are being developed in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or family status may file a written complaint to the FDOT District One Title VI Coordinator or the FDOT Equal Opportunity Office as shown below:

DISTRICT ONE
Gina Gilbreath
District Title VI Coordinator
Florida Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1249
Bartow, FL 33831

CENTRAL OFFICE
Charlotte Thomas
State Title VI Coordinator
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

Persons with disabilities who may require special accommodations at the public hearings in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Cindy Clemons-Adente, Florida Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, FL 33831, (863) 519-2362, or by e-mail to cindy.clemons-adente@dot.state.fl.us. A copy of the hearing agenda may be obtained from Ms. Clemons-Adente.

Written comments will be accepted by the department at the public hearings or if received by January 20, 2009. Comments should be mailed to:

Stanley M. Cann, P.E.
District Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation
P.O. Office Box 1249
Bartow, FL 33831

For information about additional public meetings in your area, please contact:

Cindy Clemons-Adente
Florida Department of Transportation
District One Headquarters
801 N. Broadway
P.O. Box 1249
Bartow, FL 33831
(863) 519-2362

Debbie Tower
Florida Department of Transportation
Southwest Area Office
2295 Victoria Avenue, Suite 292
P.O. Box 1030
Fort Myers, FL 33901
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Fri. @ 7:00 & 9:00 Sat. Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00 Mon. @ 3:00 & 7:00 Tues. & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00.

THEATRE III "FOUR CHRISTMAS"
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Donny Arnold, Bariatric Program Manager
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Public Is Invited

Start eating healthier by hunting locally

By Teresa Mataushek
Okeechobee News

With the economy deflated, waistlines continuously inflating and the holidays quickly approaching, people are looking for ways to save money, eat better and simplify their lives.

With all of the food safety scares that have been happening as of late, with meat, spinach, tomatoes, etc., now is the best time to pay attention to where our food comes from and try eating locally harvested foods.

According to James Earl Kennamer, Ph.D., senior vice president of conservation programs for the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), there is no better way to support the local economy and to get a jump on your New Year's resolution to eat better and know the food you eat is fresh, than by hunting locally and eating your catch.

"Hunters have hunted local game and provided savory, fresh turkey, venison, elk, and fish for their families for hundreds of years," Kennamer said.

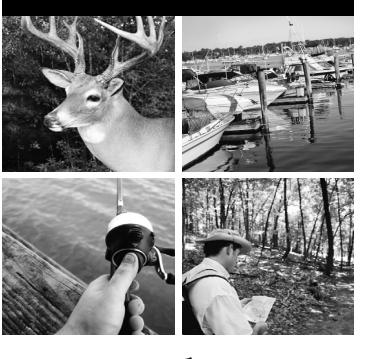
Mr. Kennamer has given nine reasons on why to hunt locally and eat your catch.

- Wild game is all-natural. For example, wild turkeys feast on acorns, grasses, fruits and a variety of other plants instead of growth hormones or supplements, which are fed to many farm-raised turkeys.

- Hunting and eating local food promotes regional uniqueness. You can buy frozen foods anywhere, but locally harvested wild game such as a turkey, deer, elk or fish will have a flavor all its own.

- Heading outdoors to hunt and fish is great family time. Enjoying the outdoors as a family provides opportunities to mentor youth, carry on the outdoor tradition and create memories to last a lifetime.

- Wild game is healthier. Because wild game scavenges in the wild for its own food, it gets more exercise than animals raised for commercial sale and is lower in fat. For example, wild turkey meat has roughly 2 percent more protein, a half percent less fat and slightly less cholesterol than



Outdoors

purchased by hunters and anglers fund conservation programs that help state agencies continue improving conditions for all wildlife and access to the outdoors.

- Hunting locally saves money. You don't have to travel far to enjoy a day outdoors and harvest your own wild game.

- Wild game is more flavorful. Eating just-caught fish or fresh venison after proper processing will let you enjoy its natural flavor at the peak of freshness – minus any artificial flavorings or preservatives.

- Heading outdoors is good exercise. You can burn 285 calories per hour by heading afield to hunt, or 175 calories per hour by casting a line – and you can hunt or fish near home.

So get out there this holiday season, hunt, eat healthier, and have some fun!

Then send photos of your catch to okeenews@newszap.com and look for it in the Outdoors Column on Fridays.

• Hunting supports wildlife conservation efforts. License fees

farm-raised turkey meat due to its lower fat content.

• Hunting stimulates your local economy. Every dollar you spend while hunting and fishing in your area helps support not only hunt-specific jobs like meat processors and hunting guides, but also area businesses such as gas stations, restaurants and grocery stores.

• Hunting supports wildlife conservation efforts. License fees

prohibits vehicles, airboats and other public access, except by special permit. Conservation Area 2A, from the L-35B levee north to the east-west airboat trail remains open.

The order is necessary because of high water levels that have jeopardized wildlife, particularly deer.

People participating in the statewide migratory bird hunt or frogging may operate vessels to take part in hunts, and must maintain a minimum distance of 100 yards from any tree island or surrounding levees to minimize disturbance to wildlife.

FWC reopens Everglades wildlife management

Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) Executive Director Ken Haddad has issued an executive order reopening the Everglades and Francis S. Taylor, Holey Land and Rotenberger wildlife management areas to duck hunters and froggers. Taking other game continues to be prohibited, as set forth in an executive order signed in August.

The order, which takes effect Friday, Nov. 14, at 1 a.m., also

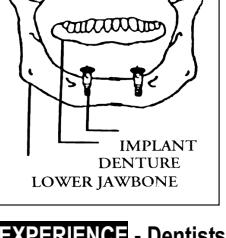
This order does not apply to persons operating boats (other than airboats) within the established canal systems and within 1 mile of adjacent marshes in the wildlife management areas.

In addition, the general gun-vehicle season and the second general gun-walk season are cancelled.

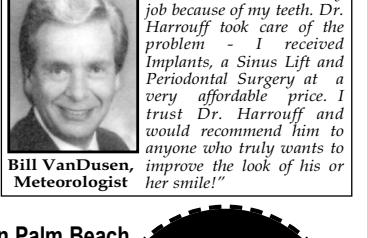
To report a violation of this order, any wildlife law violations or a boating emergency, call the toll-free Wildlife Alert number: 1-888-404-3922.

Email all of your outdoor news to mataushek@newszap.com or fax to Teresa Mataushek at 863-763-5901.

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Submitted photo/Jeannie Bartlett

Donation for nature

Tuckahoe Motorcycle Club recently held their Ninth Annual Open House event. Proceeds from this year's event were donated to Arnold's Butterfly Haven. Motorcycle Club President, Johnny Estes and club Treasurer/Secretary, Paul Bramlett, presented the check for \$500 to Sue Arnold of Arnold's Wildlife to help maintain the half acre butterfly haven. For more information on visiting the Butterfly Haven at Arnold's Wildlife, visit: www.arnoldsbutterflyhaven.com.

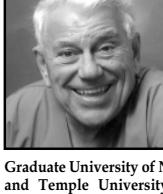
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D.D.S.
License #DN1847

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 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.

Graduate 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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New Horizons Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Friends and family of New Horizons gathered at the Pelican Yacht Club on Oct. 25, to celebrate the organization's 50th Anniversary. "It was a golden evening for New Horizons," said Pat Daum, Director of Development. "We used the theme Honoring our Past, Celebrating the Present and Creating our Future" and we were pleased that Vern Melvin, Circuit 19 Administrator of the Florida Department of Children and Families, served as our master of ceremonies."

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2008 Horizon Award to Dr. Robert Vinson, a retired pediatrician from Vero Beach. Vinson was an early crusader for mental health services in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie Counties. He was honored for devoting more than 40 years of his career as a champion of the mental health community.

Throughout the evening, Dr. Vinson and other guests were treated to a video presentation featuring a collection of news headlines and photos from New Horizons historical archives.

Celebration Sponsors included



Submitted photo

Okeechobee friends joined with guests from four counties in the festivities at the Pelican Yacht Club. Phil Rebholz, Beth Gessner, Cathy Blair, Linda Rebholz, Jo Norris, Cathy Barber.

Willis HRH, gold; GEO Care Inc., silver; Jackson Drugs, O'Haire, Kmetz, Nuttall, Elwell, CPA's and Port St. Lucie Hospital, bronze. VIP Sponsors were Akerman Senterfitt Attorneys, Burt Hill/Po-

lock Krieg Architects, and Grimes Heating and Air Conditioning.

The St. Lucie Friends of New Horizons planned and organized the golden evening to remember. Committee Members

included: Dzidra Anderson, Pat Daum, Coach Fenn, Terry Fesler, Beth Gessner, David Hall, Debbie Hawley, Kathryn Hensley, Franzie Hutchinson, Dan Kurek, Alice Lee, Robert Lowe, Michael Mead,

Claire Melville and Johnny Moore. "We had an awesome committee," said Daum, "and through their efforts we raised more than \$27,000 for the Children's Crisis Center Building Fund."

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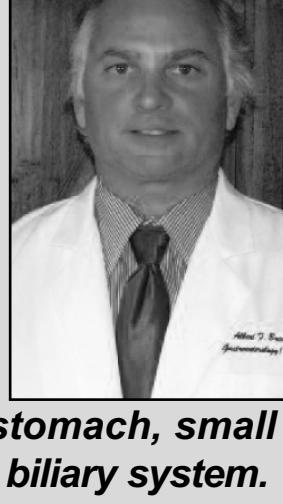
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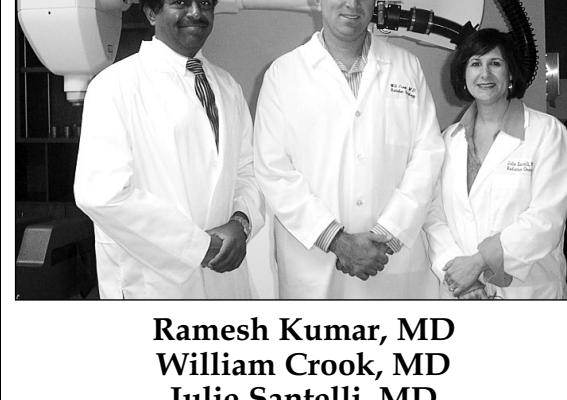
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Use this interactive site to browse through articles and advertisements on our updated Newzap website

Public Notice 5005

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2008-CC-206

PATRICIA DURRANCE, as Manager of TOWN AND COUNTRY MOBILE HOME PARK, Plaintiff vs. DONALD PETERS and FREDERICK PETERS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO DEFENDANTS, DONALD PETERS and FREDERICK PETERS:

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Eviction, Back Rent, and Damages concerning the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida:

Town and Country Mobile Home Park
Lot 5
4425 SW Highway 441 South
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

has been filed against you and are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Jeffrey A. Fadley, PA., the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 8907 South West 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974, or before 12/24/2008, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

DATED on November 18, 2008.
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
By: /s/ Stasia L. Rhoden
Deputy Clerk
301484 ON 11/21/28; 12/05/12/08

IN THE CIRUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No.: 2007-CA-184 Division: Civil

EMMA BOOKER
Plaintiff,
vs.
CARL CALVIN JR.
ALTA FAYE BLAIR, et al., Defendants.

CLERK'S NOTICE OF SALE UNDER F.S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion for Order to Sell Property dated October 30, 2008, in the above-styled cause, Plaintiff will sell the same and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, at 312 North West 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, 34974 on December 3, 2008 @ 11:00 a.m., the following described property:

Lot 5 and the West ½ of Lot 4 in Block 6, GRANADA TERRACE, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 63, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

Site address: 1848 North East 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.

Parcel Identification Number:

14-17-35-0010-00060-0050

Any person claiming an interest in the property from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated: 11/18/2008

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served on Jeffrey A. Fadley, Court House Box, and John R. Cook, attorney for the Defendant, Court House Box, on this 18th day of November, 2008.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk
301470 ON 11/21/28/08

ANSWER:

Public Notice 5005

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2008-CC-232

WELLS FARGO BANK, NA,
Plaintiff

vs.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH UNDER, OR AGAINST, SHEILA DIANE UTT A/K/A SHEILA A. HALL, DECEASED, et al.

Defendant(s).

AMENDED NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST, SHEILA DIANE UTT A/K/A SHEILA UTT A/K/A SHEILA A. HALL, DECEASED

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

THE UNKNOWN PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF SHEILA DIANE UTT A/K/A SHEILA UTT A/K/A SHEILA A. HALL, DECEASED

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEIRS NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in OKEECHOBEE County, Florida:

LOT 3, BLUE HERON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, PHASE I ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGES 50 AND 51, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on DAVID J. STERN, ESQ. Plaintiffs attorney, whose address is 801 S. University Drive #500, Plantation, FL 33324 no later than 30 days from the date of the first publication of this notice of action and file the same with the Clerk of this Court or either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

This notice shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks of your receipt of this NOTICE: IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED, CALL 1-800-955-8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1-800-955-8770.

301382 ON 11/21/28/08

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

Sharon Robertson
Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ Linda F. Young
As Deputy Clerk
301456 ON 11/21/28/08

Public Notice 5005

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2007-CA-232

NATIONAL CITY BANK SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO HARBOR FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK,
Plaintiff

vs.
AMY T. CODING, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S)

NOTICE OF ACTION CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

TO: AMY T. CODING: UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF AMY T. CODING whose residence is unknown if he/she be living, and if he/she be dead, the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisee's, grantees, assignees, liens, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the Defendants, who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:

LOT 3, BLUE HERON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, PHASE I ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGES 50 AND 51, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on DAVID J. STERN, ESQ. Plaintiffs attorney, whose address is 801 S. University Drive #500, Plantation, FL 33324 no later than 30 days from the date of the first publication of this notice of action and file the same with the Clerk of this Court or either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

This notice shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks of your receipt of this NOTICE: IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED, CALL 1-800-955-8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1-800-955-8770.

301382 ON 11/21/28/08

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

Sharon Robertson
Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ Linda F. Young
As Deputy Clerk
301456 ON 11/21/28/08

Scam

Continued From Page 1

Ask how much of your donation will go to the program you want to support, how much will cover the charity's administrative costs and, if a professional fund raiser is used, how much is kept by the professional fund raiser.

Watch out for similar sounding names which might lead you to think you are dealing with a long-standing, familiar organization when, in fact, you're not.

Be wary if a fund-raiser suggests you'll receive special treatment for donating. No legitimate fund-raiser would guarantee that you won't be stopped for speed-

made a pledge when you know you haven't.

Beware of any solicitor who offers to collect your donation immediately by sending a courier to your home or business.

Watch out for similar sounding names which might lead you to think you are dealing with a long-standing, familiar organization when, in fact, you're not.

Be skeptical if someone thanks you for a pledge you don't remember making and be on the alert for invoices claiming you've

made a pledge when you know you haven't.

Don't feel intimidated about declining to contribute. A caller who uses intimidation tactics is most likely a scam artist.

Brochures providing more information on badge-related fund-raising fraud are available from the Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20580; by calling 202-326-2222; or, on the FTC's web site at <http://www.ftc.gov>.

If you have been contacted about donating to a local public

service agency you can contact that local department by calling

the: Okeechobee City Police Department at 863-763-5521, the Okeechobee City Fire Department at 863-763-4423; Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 863-763-3117; and, the Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue Department at 863-763-5544.

Contact Eric Kopp at ekopp@newszap.com. Post your opinions online on the Local Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Click on "Okeechobee."

Fire

Continued From Page 1

Detective Anthony Stafford of the State Fire Marshall's Office said they still list the earlier two fires as undetermined. He noted that they are taking a closer look at the earlier fires because of this latest blaze.

"We are cooperating with the Sheriff's Office and hope to beef up patrols in that area, knock on doors, meet people and get some information," he stated.

One possibility is placing a reward on information leading to an arrest of the arsonist.

Power surges were looked at as a possibility in the earlier two fires. On Nov. 18, a trailer home

at 4023 S.E. 26th Street suffered \$160,000 in property damage. The trailer is owned by Frank Mayo of Belle Glade. About two hours earlier a trailer at 3927 S.E. 26th Street suffered about \$20,000 in damages. The property was owned by David Conroy of Plantation.

Detective Stafford said all three fires could be tied together but he wasn't ready to confirm that. "We

will dig a little deeper. We think it may be a little more than power surges," he said.

Stafford urged the public to come forward with any information they have about these fires. The information can be made to County Fire Rescue at 763-5544, the Sheriffs Office at 763-3117, and the State Fire Marshall's Office at 561-640-6704.

hit her near her left-front corner panel with his right-front corner," said Mr. Lefebvre.

Mr. Frazer was east bound on S.R. 70.

The accident report indicates that an estimated \$8,000 in damages was done to the 2004 Dodge automobile driven by Mrs. Wildes. Mr. Frazer's 2003 Ford car sustained an estimated \$2,000 in damages, added Officer Hurst's report.

Mr. Frazer was not injured.

Damages

Continued From Page 1

herniated discs in her lumbar spine, a hip injury that now forces her to limp and a neck injury. Because of those injuries she can no longer complete the work duties that she could before the Aug. 11, 2004, crash.

"She and her husband owned Oscar's Septic Service and they would put in septic tanks and drain fields," explained Mr. Lefebvre. "She would do the field work

and her husband would operate the front-end loader. She would do the shoveling and leveling off of dirt."

The couple's attorney said she also took care of the company's bookkeeping duties.

Now, due to her injuries, all she can do is take care of the company's books.

Court files state that Mrs. Wildes, 58, suffered bodily injury, pain, disability, disfigurement and the ability to earn a living. The jury also found in favor of Mr. Wildes because he lost the

services, comfort, society and attentions of his wife and now must take care of her.

Mr. Lefebvre said Mr. Frazer was working for Continental Florida Materials at the time of the accident.

According to the attorney, Mrs. Wildes had been to the post office and was waiting at the stop light to turn left onto S.R. 70 E. She was in the inside lane and there was a truck next to her. When the light turned green they both proceeded to turn west on S.R. 70.

"Mr. Frazer ran the light and

Some of the money will also go to the FGIA for training. Founded in 1993, the FGIA's main goal is to effectively and positively impact and ultimately eliminate the effects of gang violence and gang-related crime perpetuated by gang members whose actions adversely affect and constitute a threat to the public.

concert hosted by a local church. Residents also donated 68 packs of diapers for Healthy Start clients.

Communities in Schools announced they would hold a career expo for Okeechobee students at the new Williamson Center at Indian River State College on Jan. 30. They will also hold a block party for teens on Feb. 14, at the Okeechobee skate board park.

The Okeechobee County Library announced it would host two authors Jan Day and Debra Sharp on Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.

Okeechobee Weather

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Calm winds will become south around 5 mph.

Friday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. Calm winds will become south southwest around 5 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. South southwest winds will be between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. South southwest winds will be around 5 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79 and a chance for scattered showers. Southwest winds will be between 5 and 15 mph with a 40 percent chance of rain.

Lotteries

The Florida Lotteries - Numbers selected Tuesday are: **Cash 3: 3-3-1; Play 4: 1-5-4-4; Fantasy 5: 1-9-25-33-34; Mega Money: 6-13-30-41; Mega Ball: 19.** Numbers selected Wednesday are: **Cash 3: 9-4-6; Play 4: 4-9-7-5.**

Service Club News

The American Legion Post 64

501 S.E. Second Street, Okeechobee Office 863-763-2950 - Lounge 863-763-5309

We can accommodate meetings, weddings and parties of any size.

The public is always welcome unless it's a members only event.

Our kitchen is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 1 to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Sunday: Open 1 to 8 p.m. - Regular Bingo from 6:30 p.m.

Monday: Open 11-8 p.m. - Social Bingo 1 P.M.

Tuesday: Open 11-8 p.m.

Wednesday: Open 11-8 p.m. - "Taco Day" 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tacos - \$1.50

Music with Jim Elders 2-6

Thursday: Open 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. - Social Bingo 6 p.m.

SAL Steak Dinner third Sunday each month \$12 donation.

Legion and Auxiliary meet the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

The fourth Tuesday meeting includes a carry in dinner at 6 p.m.

SAL Meet the third Tuesday at 7 p.m.

• Friday night dinners resume on Nov. 7.

• Christmas Basket Drawing to be held - tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. New Years Eve Party tickets on sale now! \$20 per couple, \$10 per single "buy now to avoid the rush" Members - Guest only.

Am-Vets #2001

• Am-Vets No. 2001 will hold a regular informational meeting on the first Saturday of the month at the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post #9528, 2002 U.S. 78 W., at 10 a.m. Applications for new members are available. Call Helen James at 863-824-7644 or Lou Eder at 863-357-0467.

• Am-Vets Ladies Auxiliary meetings are the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. Contact the Post at 467-2882 for information.

Eagles Aeries #4137

Eagles Aeries #4137 is located at 9983 U.S. 441 N. For information on events, call 863-763-2552

• Every Tuesday bingo at 1 p.m. Food will be available for a donation.

• Wednesdays: bar bingo starting at 4 p.m. Food will be available.

• Every Thursday: washer toss at 1 p.m.

• First and third Thursday: Auxiliary at 6 p.m.; Aeries at 7 p.m.

• Fridays: steak night (16-oz.) starting at 5 p.m. for a \$12 donation. Music will be by Jimmy Harper.

• Saturdays and Sundays: music at 7 p.m.

• First and third Sunday: breakfast cooked to order from 9 until 11 a.m. for \$5 donation.

Okeechobee Masonic Lodge #237

The Okeechobee Masonic Lodge is located at 107 N.W. Fifth Ave. For information about the club and events, call Jose Verano at 863-634-2071.

• The Masonic Lodge holds their meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m.

Order of the Eastern Star - Chapter #128

The Order of the Eastern Star has many fun activities planned on the first and third Tuesday of each month. For upcoming activities, contact Mary Ann Holt at 863-634-8087.

B.H.R. Moose Lodge

The Lodge is located on U.S. 78 W. in Buckhead Ridge. The Lodge's phone number is 863-763-2250.

• Sundays: breakfast will be served from 9 until 11 a.m. With many items to choose from.

• Mondays: WOM Chapter meeting the first and third Mondays of every month 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesdays: Bingo and food, food served at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m.

• Thursdays: dinner will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. Call the Lodge for the menu.

• Thursdays: Music for dancing at 7:30 p.m. Call to see who is playing.

• Thursday: 5-Card Bingo at 6 p.m. food available at 5 p.m.

• Fridays: dinner served from 5 until 7:30 p.m. Music for dancing at 7:30 p.m. Call to see who is playing.

• Saturdays: dinner starting at 6 p.m.

• Saturdays: Prime Rib Dinner served from 6 until 8 p.m. the first Saturday of the month.

Moose Family Center #1753

The Moose Family Center #1753 is located at 156 N.W. 36th St. in Okeechobee. Please call the Lodge at 863-763-4954 for further information, sudden changes and menus. Guests are invited to enjoy the activities and consider membership.

• Open mic karaoke - Thursday 7-10 p.m. and Sunday 4-8 p.m.

• Horseshoes - Sunday and Thursday at 2 p.m.

• Every Monday pool tournament at 7 p.m. (food served)

• Legion BINGO - Thursday at 1 p.m. (food served served)

• LOOM BINGO Friday - at 6:30 p.m. (food served)

• Saturday night dinner and dance each week.

• Officers meetings first and third Tuesday at 7 p.m.

• Women's meeting second and fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m.

• Men's meetings, second and fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

• Moose Legion meetings third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

VFW Post #4423

* Music by the 'Saxman' at 5-9 p.m. North VFW members and friends welcome Sunday, Nov. 16.

The VFW North Post #4423 is located at 300 N.W. 34 St. The Post phone number is 863-763-0818.

Happy hour Monday through Thursday 4 until 6 p.m.

Mondays: 50-cent hot dogs.

Tuesdays: Washer toss at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays: Pizza and Grill 5 until 7 p.m.

Fridays: Bingo at 1 p.m. Pizza and Grill 6 until 9 p.m. Karaoke 7 until 11 p.m.

Saturdays: Bar Bingo at 1 p.m. Karaoke 7 until 11 p.m.

Sundays: Dinner 2 until 4 p.m.

Post and Ladies Auxiliary meetings third Sunday of every month at 11 a.m.

Men's Auxiliary Meeting 3 Monday of every month 7 p.m.

• Membership for 2009 is overdue. Annual members are asked to please pay their dues.

Big Screen TV and Pool Table

VFW Post #9528

The VFW Post 9528 is located at 29012 E. State Road 78 in Buckhead Ridge. For information call 863-467-2882. Post opens at 11 a.m., Monday through Sunday.

We are taking applications for men or women who would like to join the VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, the Men's Auxiliary, AmVets or the Ladies AmVets Auxiliary.

• Wednesdays: Dinner by Ladies Auxiliary, Mens Auxiliary, or AmVet Ladies Auxiliary at 5:30 p.m. Music will be available.

• Thursdays: Bar Bingo at 1 p.m. Lunch will be available.

• Fridays: 16 ounce stead dinner with baked potato, salad and rolls will be served from 5:30 until 7 p.m. for an \$11 donation. Pork Loin dinner available for \$7. Dancing immediately following dinner.

• Sundays: 5:15 p.m. bar bingo. Food will be served for a donation.

• Membership meetings are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 10 a.m.

• House Committee meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. For information contact Robert Hare, Post Commander at 863-467-2882. Call for Menu.

All games and special events are shown on seven televisions, two of which are big screen. The game room has a regulation size pool table.

• Food is served several evenings a week.

VFW Post #10539

• Post hours are 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Closing times are discretionary and dependent on the number of patrons but usually not before 8 p.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. on weekends.

• Happy hours: 10 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Noon to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

• Monday: Card Bingo at 6 p.m.

• Tuesday: Ladies Auxiliary all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner \$5 donation beginning at 5:30 p.m.

• Wednesday: Bar Bingo at 12:45 p.m. Lunch by Ladies Auxiliary. Kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m. Evening music.

• Thursday: Music, kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m.

• Friday: Music, kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m.

• Saturday: Noon, dollar hotdogs, \$1.50 Polish Sausage, both with Chili and all the fixings. Card bingo at 5 p.m. Music and dancing at 7 p.m. \$50 gas card giveaway.

• Scheduled meetings: VFW First Sunday at noon, Ladies Auxiliary second Monday at 7 p.m., Men's Auxiliary second Wednesday at 7 p.m.

• Do you have a family member serving overseas? We send packages of urgently needed supplies to them. We accept donations for this worth cause. Contact Cheryl Benoit at 863-697-2930.

For further information call 863-763-2308.

Shrine Club

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, S.R. 78 W., members will meet the first and third Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. The club is also available for weddings and parties. For information call the club at (863) 763-3378.

• They are now open three days a week. Weekly specials are:

• Tuesdays: Noon until 9 p.m.: Spaghetti dinner - donations only, music from 6 until 9 p.m.; happy hour 3-6 p.m.

• Thursdays: Noon until 9 p.m.: Fried Shrimp dinner or clams \$6 donation; happy hour 3-6 p.m.; shrimp skewers for \$3.

• Fridays: Noon until 9 p.m.: Catfish dinner \$6 donation; happy hour 3-6 p.m.

• Membership meetings are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 10 a.m.

• House Committee meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. For information contact Robert Hare, Post Commander at 863-467-2882. Call for Menu.

All games and special events are shown on seven televisions, two of which are big screen. The game room has a regulation size pool table.

• Food is served several evenings a week.

Cypress Hut Eagles #4509

The Cypress Hut Fraternal Order of Eagles post #4509 located at 4701 U.S. 441 S.E. is now open to members Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m., Sundays from 1 to 10 p.m. Information can be found by visiting www.foe4509.com, or calling 863-467-1154.

• Food is served several evenings a week.

Editor's note: To add listings or make changes to the service club news, please email okeenews@newspapergroup.com.

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Basketball falls to Clewiston

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Clewiston jumped to an early lead and held on for a 55-44 victory Tuesday night in the Brahmans regular season opener.

Jonathan Williams had 20 points on the night. He also hit some big jumpers down the stretch for the Tigers. He said the team had a bad taste in their mouth last year as they fell in their district tournament. "We just wanted to get off to a good start. We wanted to start off strong and stay strong."

David Jeune led Okeechobee with 17 points. He left the game several times due to minor injuries. It was a tough, physical defensive game.

Brahmans Coach Jon Enrico said he felt his team wasn't fully prepared to play the Tigers and didn't match their intensity. "We just didn't come out prepared to play. It was embarrassing. I want to apologize to the crowd. We had a great atmosphere tonight. It falls back on me, I take responsibility for the loss."

Clewiston led 26-16 in the first

half but Okeechobee battled back on a dunk by Jeune to trail 26-20 at the half.

Clewiston again built a 10 point lead in the third quarter but Okeechobee cut it to six, 39-33 after three quarters.

Okeechobee got as close as four points in the fourth quarter when Jeune hit a lay up with five minutes left. From there the Brahmans went cold and Clewiston went on a 14-7 run to end the game.

"Our team never lost their composure. We just kept on go-

ing and kept on going. Okeechobee was very tough last year. They are a big rival of ours. We just love to beat them," Williams noted.

Enrico said he will get the guys ready to play when they return to the court Tuesday against Lake Placid. "We just decided not to run the offense or play the way we can play tonight. That won't happen again."

Friday's home game with Glades Central was rescheduled for January.

Adult softball league results

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Men's softball, women's softball and Co-ed softball leagues continued last week at the OK Softball complex.

In games on Monday, Nov. 17, the Lady Seminoles defeated Okeechobee Mining 18-14. Walpole defeated J-Wayco Ladies 20-12. On Tuesday, Nov. 18, Big Lake Title defeated Team Mutiny 21-5. Seminole Heat defeated OCI 27-

14, and J-Wayco Boys defeated J.O Bar Ranch 27-19.

Wednesday, Nov. 19, Okeechobee Mining defeated J-Wayco Ladies 19-9. The Lady Seminoles defeated Chicks with Sticks 22-2. Subway defeated Beef O'Brady's 24-4.

Thursday, Nov. 20, Team Mutiny defeated Seminole Heat 15-12. Big Lake Title defeated James Shockley Electric 21-11. Syfrett Feed defeated Don's Appliances 20-8. J-Wayco Boys defeated the

Tucker Group 28-13. J. Bugz and Stephens Chiropractic defeated the J.O Bar Ranch 42-29 in a slug fest. Garcia and Garcia defeated the Tucker Group, 26-25.

Friday, Nov. 21, the Seminole Tribe defeated the Eagles 18-8. Communities in Schools defeated Just One More 13-11. The Seminole Tribe defeated Just One More 16-6. K&N Mobile Welding defeated AKM Land Excavation 25-24. J&E Fencing defeated Everglades Elementary 29-2. Bright

ton Recreation defeated Mid Florida Credit Union 26-7.

In men's softball, the J-Wayco Boys led the E Division in the second half of the season pennant race. Big Lake Title led the Rec 1 division. Syfrett Feed and Subway were tied in the Rec 2 division.

The Lady Seminoles led the Women's softball division. Communities in Schools and J&E Fencing were tied in the Co-Ed softball division.

OCRA wraps up successful season



Quality Turf, the winner in the OCRA 12 and under baseball league this fall. Coaches on the squad were Todd Pearce, Jamie Thomas, and Neil Crawford. Players included (first names only) Forest, Garrett, Cutler, Nicholas, Dustin, Marcus, Damien, Tad and Cody.

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee Citizens Recreation Association wrapped up another successful season this week as they had two baseball leagues, two softball leagues, a flag football league, and three youth football leagues.

Okeechobee Real Estate won the nine and under baseball league. Quality Turf won the 12 and under baseball league. Quality Tees won the 10 and under softball league. New York Life won the 14 and under softball league.

The New York Life team was coached by Jerry Hernandez. Players on the team included Elena Billie, Khrysta Herndon, Cristian Rojas, Taylor Trent, Summer Douglas, Jessie Drawdy, Elizabeth Johns, Brianna Tijerina, Brittany Avant, Kirsten Doney, Samantha Bobrowski, Tiffany Cox, Patsy Thomas, Morgan Brown, and Daylis Leyva.

This is the first time OCRA has hosted Fall baseball leagues.

Florida Community Health Center won the flag football division. Dale Smith Farms Gators won the Mighty Mites football division. Stinnett Painting Gators won the Pee Wee football division. The Golden Corral Warriors won the Midget Football division.

Teams in the Mighty Mites division this year were Lunkers Sports Grille, Okeechobee Mining, Dale Smith Farms, Golden Corral, U.A.

P., Accurate Insurance, and Current Electric.

The Pee Wee division included Crewsville Dairy, Austin Sewer and Septic, K&N Welding, Stinnett Painting, and Winn Dixie.

The Midgets division included Everglades Farm Equipment, Golden Corral and Marcum and Associates.



Submitted Photo

Flag Football

The Florida Community Health Center flag football team hoisted their trophies after being crowned champions of their OCRA division for 5-7 year olds. Team members are: (front, left to right) Amonte Hart, Jordan Bobrowski, Roderrick Williams, Trey Popovich, Seth Hendrix, Brenden Durfee, Cameron Tinajero and Shaun Penrod; (second row, left to right) Dillon Spence, Bradly Kirk, Kevin Dryden, Ethan Durfee, Justin Roberts and Jay Krall; (third row, left to right) assistant coach Bryan Lowe and head coach Rick Durfee.

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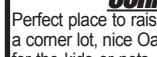
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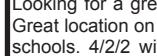
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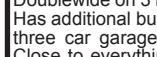
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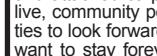
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Okeechobee Products and Services Price List - Effective January 1, 2009

DIGITAL PACKAGES & SERVICES* (monthly)	Old Price	New Price	OTHER	Old Price	New Price
Digital Starter (includes Full Basic Service, Movie Plex, Music Choice, On-Screen Program Guide and Access to limited On Demand).	\$ 55.95	\$ 54.45	Service Protection Plan (monthly)	\$ 2.95	\$ 2.95
Digital Preferred (includes Digital Starter and Digital Classic Tier)	70.90	74.40	HDTV (monthly, each outlet)	6.95	6.95
Digital Preferred with One Premium Channel	81.90	85.40	FCC User Fee (monthly)	0.06	0.06
Digital Preferred Plus (HBO & Starz)	91.90	95.40	NSF Fee	25.00	25.00
Digital Premier (includes Digital Preferred with HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Sports Entertainment Pack)	103.90	107.40	Digital Additional Outlet Service (monthly, each outlet)*	6.50	6.50
* Includes one converter or cable card and one remote, if necessary			DVR or HD/DVR Service (monthly)*	13.95	15.95
			Late Fee	5.00	5.00
			Field Collection Fee	25.00	25.00
			Convenience Fee	4.00	5.00
ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES (monthly)			High-Speed Internet Activation Fee	29.95	29.95
Limited Basic Service	\$ 15.95	\$ 18.95	Video Reactivation	N/A	1.99
Expanded Basic Service	35.00	35.50	High-Speed Internet Reactivation	N/A	4.00
Full Basic Service (includes Limited Basic and Expanded Basic)	50.95	54.45	* Must subscribe to Digital Starter to receive		
Digital Sports Entertainment Pack*	5.00	5.00			
* Must subscribe to Digital Starter to receive					
PREMIUM PROGRAMMING SERVICES (monthly)			EQUIPMENT		
HBO	\$ 15.99	\$ 15.99	Cable Card (monthly, first card in device)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
CINEMAX	15.99	15.99	Cable Card (monthly, additional card in same device - monthly)	1.50	1.50
SHOWTIME	15.99	15.99	Remotes - all types (monthly)	0.20	0.30
THE MOVIE CHANNEL	15.99	15.99	Digital converter (monthly)	3.40	3.40
STARZ	15.99	15.99	Unreturned / Damaged Digital Converter	164.00	169.00
MOVIEPLEX	2.95	2.95	Unreturned / Damaged HDTV Converter	252.00	247.49
PLAYBOY*	19.99	19.99	Unreturned / Damaged DVR or HD/DVR Converter	468.00	427.00
PPV*	Varies	Varies	Unreturned / Damaged Cable Card	91.00	56.00
* Sold separately cannot be chosen as a Digital Package Premium channel			Unreturned / Damaged Modem (Residential)	33.00	33.00
			Unreturned / Damaged Commercial Router	N/A	92.00
			Unreturned / Damaged Remote	5.00	5.00
			Unreturned / Damaged Power Cord/HD Cables	10.00	10.00
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Unwired Cable New Connect**	\$ 47.00	\$ 50.00	Economy (monthly, requires at least Limited Basic Service)*	\$ 24.95	\$ 24.95
Prewired Cable Connect**	32.55	35.00	Performance (Monthly Service)*	42.95	42.95
Reconnect**	32.55	35.00	Performance - Non-Cable Customer (Monthly Service)*	57.95	59.95
Additional Outlet - Same Trip**	17.60	21.95	Performance Plus (Monthly Service)*	52.95	52.95
Additional Outlet - Separate Trip**	27.00	31.95	Performance Plus - Non-Cable Customer* (Monthly Service)	67.95	69.95
Additional Outlet - Relocate	21.30	23.30	Monthly Cable Modem Lease Fee**	5.00	5.00
Change of Service - Field Visit Upgrade	17.90	17.70	Self Installation Kit Shipping & Handling	9.99	9.99
Change of Service - Field Visit Downgrade	—	11.90			
Hourly Service Charge	35.15	33.80			
HDTV or HD/DVR installation	29.95	29.95	* Monthly service fee is applied on a per cable modem / gateway basis, e.g. a customer using 2 cable modems will be charged 2 monthly service fees. Does not include applicable equipment charges, taxes or fees.		
High-Speed Self Installation Kit*	29.95	29.95	** Fee per computer		
High-Speed Internet Professional installation	99.00	99.00			
High-Speed Internet Networking installation	149.99	149.99	Additional equipment may be required. Discounts may apply for some multiple premium purchases. These rates do not include state and local communications fees and taxes. Subscription to Limited Basic Service is required to receive any other level of video service. Customer must purchase or rent a converter and a remote control for a separate charge to receive certain services. HDTV service may require certain levels of service or subscription to premium channels for some programming. Certain services are available separately or as part of another level of service. Information about your local franchise authority can be found on your bill. Prices and programming are subject to change. Service is subject to Comcast's standard terms and conditions of service. ©2008 Comcast. All rights reserved.		

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Okeechobee News

Friday, November 28, 2008

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WITH SHARON PETERS

MINI DRIVER

Q: I've been interested in the MINI Cooper for a time. But I live in New Hampshire and I think the closest dealer is in Peabody or Danvers, Mass. This means every time I'd need to service the car, I'd have to go to Massachusetts. I did talk to one lady here who drove one and she told me about a repairperson in Concord, but the service prices are too steep. Have you heard of any dealer who might be in New Hampshire or might be coming to the state?

A: I found a couple of options for you that don't require you to go to Massachusetts. There's BMW of Stratham, N.H. not that far from you - they also sell MINIs, and, of course, provide service. And then there's Independent BMW and MINI Cooper in Chichester - again, not that far away - which is a dealer and servicer of pre-owned BMWs and MINIs.

You can check them out, and also, ask about usual and customary charges for the routine service you'll have to get. Good luck.

Many people swear by STP. I've never seen anything proving enough of a benefit that I'd buy it. But if it makes you feel like you're doing something special for your vehicle, it's a pretty cheap way to give yourself a boost.

Q: A few weeks back you answered a question about "Slick 50." Now I would like you to comment on STP oil additive. I have used it faithfully for many years. My mechanic keeps telling me, "it's just oil." Does STP really do what it says in the advertising?

A: I rarely try to dissuade someone from buying a product they've used successfully for years, provided it's not dangerous or woefully overpriced. Many people swear by STP. I've never seen anything proving enough of a benefit that I'd buy it. But if it makes you feel like you're doing something special for your vehicle, it's a pretty cheap way to give yourself a boost.

Q: I have a 2003 Oldsmobile Silhouette van that has moisture in the headlight lens assembly. How did this happen? Can I get rid of the moisture or do I have to replace them? How do I prevent this from ever happening again?

A: It may be condensation that will disappear on its own as the temperatures change or if the air gets less humid. Or it could be rain or highway water that seeped in as a result of the lens seal being defective (or just not as effective as it once was) or because of a loose dustcap.

There's very little agreement on whether you should tackle this as a do-it-yourself job (provided the moisture doesn't disappear on its own). Some really, really handy people say that on some vehicles (but not all) it's possible to get in there, let it air dry (don't touch the headlight lens because it's treated with an anti fog substance that you don't want to disrupt), put everything back together, use a good sealant to create the proper barrier, and you're set. Others say that on most vehicles, this is a task similar to dismantling and rebuilding the Parthenon, and tackling this makes about as much sense as cobbling your own shoes.

Start by calling your dealership's service department to see what information they can give you about disassembling the unit on your particular model. That can inform your decision about whether you want to move ahead with on your own.

As to keeping it from happening again, make sure the seal job is excellent. If you've had the job done professionally, run the van through a car wash a couple of times soon after you pick it up so you can discover early on if it's still a problem and if it is, take it back immediately for more work.

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What's your question? Sharon Peters would like to hear what's on your mind when it comes to caring for, driving, repairing and making the most of your vehicle. Send your questions to sharon@ctwfeatures.com

Trends



BY JEFFREY STEELE | CTW FEATURES

PLUGGING ELECTRIC CARS

Automakers are betting electric-powered vehicles will soon become viable alternatives to today's gas-guzzlers.

Choices, choices, choices. After a century of producing cars that ran solely on gasoline, the world's automakers are working overtime to present a variety of options, including hybrids, biofuel-powered cars, and vehicles that run on hydrogen. Some of the biggest bets are riding on Americans getting charged up over the notion of mass-produced electric cars.

Most eagerly anticipated is the 2010 Chevrolet Volt, which General Motors is calling an "extended range electric vehicle." According to Rob Peterson, manager of electric vehicle technology communications with General Motors in Detroit, the Volt features a nearly 400-pound T-shaped lithium-ion battery that's aligned down the vehicle's center spine beneath the passenger compartment.

The battery propels the Volt for its first 40 miles on a charge. That number is significant, Peterson says, because nearly 80 percent of the U.S. population faces daily one-way commutes of fewer than 20 miles. Once the battery reaches a lower state of charge, the Volt's gasoline-powered generator kicks in to recharge the battery, allowing it to continue powering the vehicle down the road for a few hundred additional miles.

But those who stay within that 40-mile round-trip to work each day wouldn't need the generator and could ostensibly do 100 percent of their com-

See ELECTRIC 14

Technology

BLUETOOTH TO THE RESCUE

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CAN MAKE DRIVING SAFER AND COMMUNICATING MORE CONVENIENT, PROVIDED YOU KNOW HOW TO MASTER IT

By JAY KOBLENZ | CTW FEATURES

By now, most Americans know that Bluetooth is not a dental problem, but a peculiar name for a recent technology. Perhaps the simplest explanation for Bluetooth is that it uses radio wave signals instead of a wire to connect electronic

components. And like different kinds of wired connections, it can perform different functions depending upon the devices that are connected. Over one billion Bluetooth-enabled products are expected to ship worldwide this year, according to the market research firm InStat in Scottsdale, Ariz.

One of the most common - and handiest - uses for the technology is in the automotive arena. A large number of new cars and trucks these days come equipped from the factory with Bluetooth either as standard or optional equipment. Most typically this allows a motorist to easily integrate his or her cell phone into a car's

audio system in order to conduct conversations without holding the handset. This is ideal in states that require hands-free devices while driving and conducting a conversation.

Here, a microphone is located inside the

See BLUETOOTH 14

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Bluetooth

Continued from page 13

car, most frequently on the rearview mirror, driver's visor or on or near the steering wheel. Of course, for it to work a cell phone also has to be "Bluetooth equipped." Bluetooth only works for a short distance, usually about 30 feet. This is to prevent too many devices from trying to talk to each other and maintains the concept of it replacing a wire.

Where the technology gets complicated is that different devices operate differently via a Bluetooth interface. Some have very limited functions and others have quite a few, and both a cell phone and a car's built-in interface must "match" in this regard to function properly. That's where problems often arise. With thousands of different Bluetooth-enabled devices and myriad makes and models of interface-equipped cars and trucks out there, it's impossible for every one of them to work perfectly with each other.

Thus, when purchasing a new phone, car or other device that boasts Bluetooth capabilities, it's prudent to find and examine its "compatibility list." Those owning a cell phone that is particularly old, new or is otherwise uncommon will be more likely to have connectivity problems.

When two Bluetooth-enabled devices (say, a cell phone and an automobile) are compatible, here is how it should work: The setup procedure is called "pairing." Because this is accomplished in so many different ways, users will need to consult their owner's manuals for specific instructions in this regard. Fortunately, once the setup is completed, the devices will "remember" each other. It may take 15 minutes

or so to set up a car and wireless headset with a phone the first time, but the next time, they will recognize each other as soon as both devices are turned on.

With a phone, users also have to ensure Bluetooth is "enabled." The only problem with leaving it enabled all the time is that it does tend to draw down the battery more quickly. There are also potential security issues, but at least at this time, that seems to be rare.

Most devices can be paired to work with more than one other device, and up to as many as a dozen at a time. For example, family members can set up their phones to work in two different cars and with several wireless headsets.

Each device, however, can be connected to only one other device at a time for a single purpose. This can be prioritized, however, so even if the whole brood piles into a vehicle, each of them armed with a cell phone, only one family member's unit (like the car's primary driver) will automatically connect. The others will continue operating normally from their respective handsets.

And automotive Bluetooth applications aren't necessarily limited to cell phone conversations. For example, so-called smartphones and other Bluetooth-enabled devices like laptop computers can now be used to send digital music or picture files, or even videos to a few cars' high-tech entertainment systems.

Like any new technology, Bluetooth's expansion is rapid and new features are added virtually every week. It's a great convenience, provided users can get it up and running and figure out how it works.

© CTW Features



Electric

Continued from page 13

muting on pure electricity.

Some observers believe cars that run on lithium-ion batteries, on which GM is banking heavily, are more likely to be profitable in the long-term than current hybrid technology. Because so-called two-mode hybrids feature two separate power trains – one gas and one electric – they are expensive to manufacture, and even economies of scale will not mitigate that cost. In addition, the nickel-hydride batteries used

exclusively in today's hybrids is also exceptionally costly, owing to the fact that nickel is an expensive metal that's expected to become even more so over time.

The price to develop lithium-ion batteries is daunting now, those experts argue. But once developed, those batteries will power vehicles that will be more affordable to manufacture on a long-term basis than today's hybrids.

According to Peterson, the Chevy Volt will go into production in November 2010, with first sales to the public expected before the end of that year.

Meanwhile, Toyota is planning to unveil a mass-produced battery electric vehicle, or BEV, according to John Hanson, national manager of

environmental safety and quality communications for Torrance, Calif.-based Toyota Motor Sales USA. Toyota expects that car to be on the market in the early 2010s.

This all-electric vehicle is to be seen as separate and distinct from Toyota's current and planned hybrid models (including a coming plug-in version of the popular Prius). It is expected to be a small, urban-focused car.

While Toyota has thus far been tight-lipped about specifics on the BEV, the automaker in recent months has appeared to signal its intent to pursue multiple alternative energy options. Toyota convened a "Sustainable Mobility Seminar" for in Portland, Ore., where oil industry forecaster Peter

Wells predicted global oil production would peak in nine to 15 years. Wells suggested electricity generated from clean, renewable sources – not ethanol and bio-fuels – represents the best long-term bet for fueling future vehicles.

With the world's two most dominant automakers set to duke it out on the electric frontier at the dawn of the next decade, other carmakers are readying electric cars. In March 2008, Mitsubishi Motors unveiled a business plan calling for further development of its all-electric model called the i-MiEV (Mitsubishi Electric Vehicle). In a joint venture with GS Yuasa Corporation, Mitsubishi has developed its own lithium-ion battery, and is preparing to mass-produce the i-MiEV by

2010.

In the meantime, Nissan plans to introduce a boxy electric vehicle now called the Denki Cube Concept to fleet buyers by 2010 and to retail customers by 2012, the Web site hybridcars.com reports.

Word has it the vehicle will be capable of traveling up to 75 miles per hour and 100 miles per charge, with a re-charge taking about eight hours. And Chrysler recently unveiled prototypes of an all-electric Dodge sports car, and extended-range electric versions of its Jeep Wrangler SUV and Town & Country minivan.

Honda, a company some see as virtually synonymous with innovation, is staying clear of the plug-in battle – at least for now. Bloomberg

reported that Honda officials believe lithium-ion batteries, which are yet unproven and pack half the energy of gasoline by weight, are still "too primitive" to consider plug-in vehicles a worthy successor to the traditional gasoline-powered vehicle.

Rather than battling GM and Toyota in the plug-in electric race, Honda intends to continue perfecting its hydrogen-powered FCX Clarity vehicle, now being tested in select southern California areas.

Said president of Honda research Masaaki Kato of the hydrogen technology, "We believe it's easier than battery innovation."

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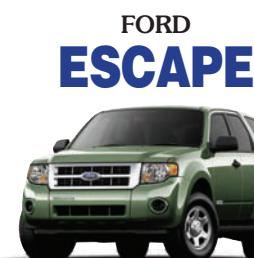
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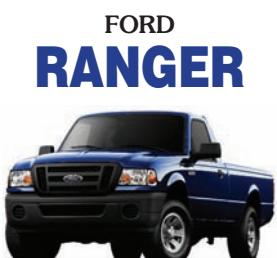
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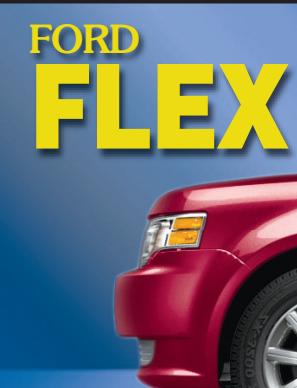
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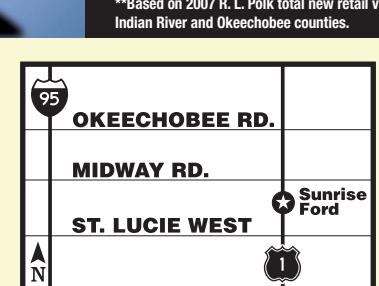
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Picking Up the Pace

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By Jim Gorzelany

CTW Features

Full-size truck sales have been taking a beating, socked by a one-two punch of higher gas prices and a slumping economy. According to market information compiled by Autodata in Woodcliff Lake, N.J., industry-wide truck sales are down by 31 percent over 2007.

But while automakers are rushing smaller models to market to meet the burgeoning market demand for more fuel-efficient modes of transportation, they're not giving up on what have been among their best-selling and most-profitable models just yet.

"Though there's a downturn in housing construction right now and other adverse economic factors there's still a demand for full-size pickups," says Lonnie Miller, director of industry analysis for the automotive research company R.L. Polk & Co. in Southfield, Mich.

"It's an incredibly loyal category and pickup buyers are just diehards."

With new 2009 models being offered by each of the Big Three domestic automakers, the latest big trucks remain capable of tackling the toughest jobs while delivering an array of clever features designed for both business and pleasure.

"The mix of utilitarian, commercial and family use in today's pickups, with the ability for them to be a traveling office, certainly has an appeal," Miller says. "They provide a nice balance between family and work vehicles."

To that end, the redesigned-for-2009 Ford F-150 pickup includes a center console that's large enough to hold two laptop computers, with ridges molded into the edges of the bin to accommodate file folders.

A stowable bed extender elongates the cargo bed when needed to accommodate oversized building materials, yet folds neatly away when not in use. A lockable "Midbox" enclosed storage system on select versions provides 26.3 cubic feet of

for tools and other accoutrements without sacrificing cargo bed length.

As before, the F-150 comes in an assortment of cab styles, cargo bed sizes and wheelbases to suit a wide range of needs, in trim levels that range from work-truck utilitarian to a plush, top-of-the-line F-150 Platinum version. Power comes from a choice of a 320-horsepower 5.3-liter V8 engine or two separate 4.6-liter V8s, with one generating 292 horsepower and the other rated at 248 horses, but with V6-like fuel economy.

Both rear- and four-wheel-drive versions are offered.

The F-150 is otherwise packed with safety and convenience features. These include the new Sirius Travel Link system, which provides road warriors with weather and traffic information (local, en route to and at a given destination), sports scores, movie listings and even local gasoline prices for a monthly \$6.99 subscription charge.

Also redesigned for 2009 with added attitude and improvements, the Dodge Ram 1500 is likewise offered in myriad configurations to fulfill a wide range of needs.

A fuel-saving 215-horsepower 3.7-liter V6 engine powers rear-drive regular cab and four-door Quad Cab models.

Other versions offer a choice of a 310-horsepower 4.7-liter V8 or a peppy 390-horsepower 5.7-liter HEMI V8 version that makes the Ram 1500 one truly quick truck.

Clever new features include an optional "RamBox" cargo management system that includes weatherproof, lockable, illuminated and drainable storage bins built into the cargo bed rails.

The bins can hold equipment, groceries or up to 10 cases of 12-ounce beverages. Four-door versions feature two "store in the floor" bins that are large enough for ten 12-ounce cans and ice.

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Ford Cash Back	\$2,000
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MSRP	\$26,250
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Ford Cash Back	\$500
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Your Price.....\$22,557*

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#6615

MSRP	\$28,425
Employee Price.....	\$26,089
Ford Cash Back	\$3,500
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Your Price.....\$22,089*

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Employee Price.....	\$29,059
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Your Price.....\$23,059*

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20
MPG HWY.

OFFERS BETTER AVAILABLE V8 FUEL ECONOMY THAN TOYOTA TUNDRA⁹

2008 CHEVY TAHOE

2009 CHEVY HHR

STK#N9148



\$11,000 OFF MSRP
\$36,285 MSRP

EPA EST.
20
MPG HWY.

~~**\$20,380**~~ MSRP
\$18,559 SELLING PRICE

EPA EST.
32
MPG HWY.

OFFERS BETTER AVAILABLE V8 FUEL ECONOMY THAN TOYOTA TUNDRA⁹



GM Certified Pre-Owned Inventory

04 IMPALA **\$99 PER MO.****

STK#9013A V6, CRUISE CONTROL, CD PLAYER

04 PONTIAC G/AM **\$99 PER MO.****

STK#U8801

05 IMPALA **\$139 PER MO.****

STK#U2703B V6, CRUISE CONTROL, CD PLAYER

07 MALIBU **\$199 PER MO.****

STK# U3856 4 CYLINDER, POWER MIRRORS, A/C

08 IMPALA **\$199 PER MO.****

STK#U3531 V6, CRUISE CONTROL, CD PLAYER

07 PONTIAC G6 GT **\$219 PER MO.****

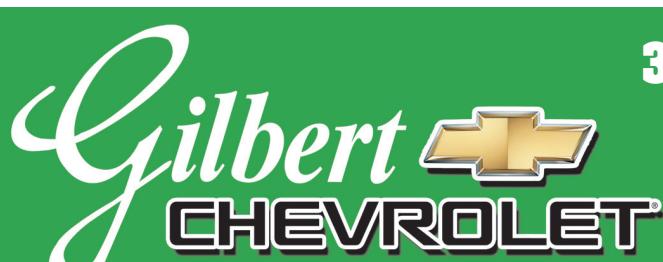
STK#U1086

07 EQUINOX **\$249 PER MO.****

STK#U0663 LEATHER, 16" ALUMINUM RIMS, V6

06 BUICK LACERNE **\$259 PER MO.****

STK# U1091 V6, AUTO, UNIVERSAL HOME REMOTE, COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE



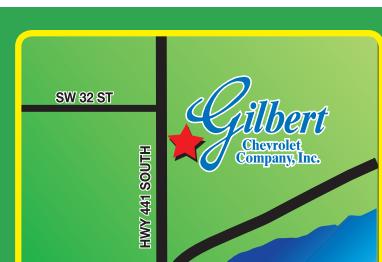
3550 Hwy 441 South • Okeechobee, FL 34974

Toll Free: **I-877-GO-GILBERT**

WWW.GILBERTCHEVROLET.COM



AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Δ Must have a valid US Driver's License to qualify. † Price includes qualifying rebates †† Lease payments based on 48months, 12,000 miles per year, \$2,500 down plus tax, tags and fees. 2 - EPA estimated MPG hwy.: Cobalt XFE 37, Toyota Corolla 35. 4 - EPA estimated MPG hwy.: Impala LT 29 vs. Avalon 28. 6 - EPA estimated MPG highway with 4-cylinder engine and 6-speed automatic transmission: Malibu 1LT 33 vs. Camry 31. 8 - EPA estimated MPG highway (2WD): Tahoe with available 5.3L V8 20 vs. Sequoia with available 5.7L V8 19. 9 - EPA estimated MPG city/highway (2WD): Silverado with available 5.3L V8 14/20 vs. Tundra with available 5.7L V8 14/18. * Monthly payment is \$13.89 for every \$1000 you finance. ** Monthly pmts. are based at 7.9% APR for 72 mos. with \$2,000 down. All prices and pmts. are plus tax, title and license. With approved credit. Rates are in lieu of rebates. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details. • GIC_0372