



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 286

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

50¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Road closed today

Attention all residents and property owners. N.E. Second Street, west of N.E. 60th Avenue will be closed to all traffic on Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. This is necessary to change out a drainage pipe under N.E. Second Street at N.E. 60th Avenue. For questions, please call 863-763-3031.

Window contest deadline extended

Okeechobee Main Street has extended the deadline for the Holiday Window Contest to the Monday, Dec. 8. Windows will be judged on Saturday, Dec. 13. To participate in the contest, please call or email Toni Doyle with your business name, address, contact person and phone number. Call Main Street at 863-357-MAIN (6246) or email okms@mainstreetokeechobee.com.

OUA flushing lines

On Thursday Dec. 4, the Okeechobee Utility Authority will be flushing lines along SW 24th Avenue (Eagle Bay Drive), starting at SW 28th Street and ending on State Road 70. Customers living in the area along this route may experience discolored water and lower than normal pressures during this time. Flushing time will begin at approximately 8 a.m. and end about 1-2 p.m. OUA is doing this to help improve water quality in this area and regrets any inconvenience.

'Christmas in the Country' Dec. 4

Okeechobee County starts a new tradition with a Christmas in the Country celebration on Dec. 4, from 6 until 9 p.m. at the Agri-Civic Center. The tree lighting will be at 6:30 p.m. Music will be by Keith Stripling. Come and celebrate with food, pony rides, bounce houses and a hay ride for a good ole' fashioned "Country Christmas!"

Drought Index

Current: 584
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

14.28 feet
Last Year: 10.27 feet

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

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Couple accused of armed burglary

79-year-old homeowner blocked burglars' vehicle

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local couple have been charged with burglarizing an Okeechobee home and then nearly running over the 79-year-old homeowner as she tried to stop them from fleeing.

Jason Thomas Adams, 24, N.W. Fourth Ave., and Jennifer Kristine Conner, 24, of the same



Jason T. Adams



Jennifer K. Conner

address, were both arrested Nov. 25 by Deputy Matthew Hurst of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO).

Adams was charged with grand theft, grand theft/firearm, criminal mischief over \$1,000,

aggravated assault with a motor vehicle and armed burglary. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$146,000.

Conner was charged with grand theft, armed burglary and grand theft/firearm. Her bond was set at \$120,000.

According to OCSO Detective Ted Van Deman, it is estimated that more than \$1,000 worth of items were taken from the home of the elderly woman.

Detective Van Deman said when the woman returned home shortly after 1 p.m. on Mon-

day, Nov. 24, she saw a vehicle parked in her carport. Because she didn't know who the car belonged to, she began to honk her horn. A white female unknown to the homeowner then came to the front room window and looked out.

Because the elderly woman did not know who was in her home, she backed up to the end of her driveway and blocked the drive with her car. She then waved down a Fed Ex delivery man who notified the sheriff's office.

The detective said before a

deputy could arrive, Adams and Conner came out of the home and got into their red 1994 Dodge Intrepid and tried to flee, but the woman's 1998 Mercury was blocking their path.

"The suspects demanded that she remove her car, but she refused," said Detective Van Deman.

He said the woman put her hands on the hood of the suspect's car and told them they weren't going anywhere.

But, Adams gunned the

See Burglary — Page 2

Tree lighting: Kicks off the Holiday Season



The Okeechobee Elementary All-County Chorus including (left to right) Shelby Kirton, Savannah Wilson and Kelsi Kula sang Christmas carols in the City Park on Tuesday, Dec. 2, during the 10th Annual City Tree Lighting Ceremony. South, Seminole, North, Central, Everglades and fifth graders from Osceola all participated.



Five, four, three, two, one, LIGHT THE LIGHTS! Santa Claus and Mayor Jim Kirk lit up the city during the 10th Annual City Tree Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Mission serves Thanksgiving dinner to 580 people in need

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

Big Lake Missions Outreach served up 580 Thanksgiving dinners to feed the poor people of Okeechobee last Thursday.

"That's a lot more than previous years," said Director Mary Ann Swinford. "The need is great this year."

Seventy-four meals were served under a tent at the First United Methodist Church. Volunteers delivered 506 meals to Big Lake Missions clients all over Okeechobee County.

Mrs. Swinford said dona-

tions and help from local churches, businesses and individuals made the Thanksgiving outreach possible. She said the delivered meals were provided by More-2-Life Ministries.

Mrs. Swinford and her husband Bruce run the mission outreach which provides meals for the homeless and the poor six days a week. She said they are seeing fewer homeless people in the area, but more hungry people. The mission has been in operation in Okeechobee County for 14 years, she said.

"We aren't seeing that many homeless individuals anymore," she said. "There are about a dozen. But we are seeing more families with children come in."

In the past two months, the mission has grown from serving about 25 meals a day to 50 meals a day at the First United Methodist Church facility, she said.

"We are seeing families that used to bring home \$1,000 a week, but the husband has been laid off and now they

See Dinner — Page 2

Fourth trailer up in flames in Treasure Island

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

State Fire Marshall investigators continued to investigate three fires in the Treasure Island neighborhood the past weekend and now have a fourth fire to investigate.

The latest was immediately ruled an arson as firemen said they found a gasoline can on the porch and a pile of clothing and a sofa and love seat on fire when they arrived at 3941 S.E. 25th Street, Sunday night just before 6:30 pm.

"We think this might have been more of a disgruntled tenant and we are looking at some leads," Investigator Anthony Stafford said. He noted there are other leads coming in on the earlier blazes as well.

"This was ruled an arson. We continue to work in the neighborhood and get information," he added.

The latest fire caused about \$40,000 in property damage according to a fire report from

See Trailer — Page 2

Recycled tree is a holiday masterpiece

This year marks the 10th annual Festival of Trees, a silent auction of artificial Christmas trees decorated and donated to Hospice by businesses and individuals.

Several months ago, Okeechobee Landfill staff decided on its theme for the Hospice Festival of Trees donation. Much of the landfill staff participated to create a unique

tree for this important fundraiser. The idea was to make a recycled Christmas tree. The goal was to either reuse or repurpose items to construct and decorate a tree. The outcome is amazing.

"The limbs were actually the first thing we came up with," said Waste Management

See Tree — Page 2



This unique tree, created by WM landfill staff, was built with all recycled materials and donated to the Hospice Festival of Trees for one of their most important fund raisers.

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Burglary

Continued From Page 1

Intrepid's motor and as the car lurched forward the victim had to jump out of the way to keep from getting run over, said the detective. Adams then rammed his car into the woman's Mercury, pushed it out of the way and fled the scene, the detective continued.

The delivery man tried to follow Adams and Conner but was unable to keep up in his truck, according to Detective Van Deman.

Detective Van Deman explained that Deputy Hurst received information that the red Dodge could be found at a home in Whispering Pines. When the deputy went to the home shared by Adams and Conner he found a red Dodge Intrepid with body damage and silver paint transfer that matched the color of the victim's Mercury.

Deputy Hurst also learned that the Dodge had recently been painted and that there had been no body damage to the vehicle at that time.

After obtaining a search warrant on Tuesday, Nov. 25, deputies recovered many of the items reportedly stolen from the woman's home, said Detective Van Deman.

"He had already pawned some of the items at a local pawn shop," he added. "We have a hold on those items at the pawn shop."

Adams and Conner are accused of taking jewelry and an antique revolver with ivory grips

from the woman's home. They also reportedly threw a large amount of costume jewelry into Chandler Slough, said Detective Van Deman. That jewelry has been recovered.

"He knew the heat was on and he was trying to get rid of it," explained the detective.

The detective went on to say that because of items found in the home, he applied for and received a second search warrant. As a result of that search, Detective Van Deman said this investigation will continue.



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp
Detective Ted Van Deman of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office fills a table with jewelry that was reportedly stolen from the home of a 79-year-old Okeechobee woman. The detective was putting the items on the table to dry after they were retrieved from Chandler Slough where they were allegedly thrown by Jason Adams and Jennifer Conner, who have been charged in the case. "He (Adams) knew the heat was on and he was trying to get rid of it," said the detective.

Tree

Continued From Page 1

Community Relations Representative Jenny Pung. "We had leftover 3-foot tomato stakes from a 'recycling relay' event in April. We decided to use those stakes and incorporate plastic water bottles for the limbs." The water bottles were sprayed green, cut and strung along the stakes. The bottom-parts of the water bottles

were cut off and serve as 'stoppers' to keep them on the stakes.

The trunk of the tree is an HDPE (high density polyethylene) plastic landfill pipe and the base is a HDPE cap that Okeechobee Landfill had. From the star to the skirt, it is all reused. The stars are nesting-type boxes received by the office staff last holiday season. They are skewed with a tomato stake too. The skirt is a round tablecloth purchased from Goodwill. The one-of-a-kind ornaments were made from items

such as old Christmas cards, floppy disks, shredded paper, popcorn style packaging and aluminum cans.

"Creating this recycled tree was a great project. It brought together a lot of different employees' thoughts and ideas. It was a challenge to see how 'real looking' we could make and decorate a tree using water bottles and other items we already had. We are always proud to participate in the community, and hope our unique tree might help draw some new

faces to Hospice's Christmas tree auction," Ms. Pung added.

All proceeds from the silent auction benefit Hospice patient care in Okeechobee, including the Hamrick Home. The Festival of Trees is currently open and runs daily through Sunday, Dec. 7. The auction is held in the Hospice Blue Volunteer Building on S.E. 4th Street. Call 863-467-2321 for viewing hours, or more information.

Dinner

Continued From Page 1

have no income coming in," she explained. Once unemployment benefits run out, it doesn't take long to go through a family's savings.

"Our phone is ringing off the hook," said Mrs. Swinford. "We work 12 to 14 hours a day. Last

year we helped over 15,000 people."

And the need is growing, she explained, as more people are out of work and fewer jobs are to be found.

"What I don't understand is why people are coming to Okeechobee to look for work," she said. "We don't have enough jobs for the people who are already here. I don't know who is telling people to come here."

With Christmas season upon us, the Mission is busy collecting donations of toys and food for needy families.

Mrs. Swinford said the Lions Club donated some trees on Friday and those have already been given out to families. They already have a list of families who have requested help. She said the Mission coordinates with other toy drives to make sure no one "double dips."

The mission is non-denominational and encourages everyone to attend the church of their choice.

The Mission thanks everyone who helped make the Thanksgiving dinner a success, including: Publix, Adron Fence, Donna Watson, Donut Connection, Killiards, Greens, Elizabeth and Todd Addington, Tyler Addington, Debbie Davies, Charity Olivarez, Cath-

erine Richards, Sam Vuletta, Pam Newcomer, Tom and Suzanne McCoin, Pat Diles, Cindy Pearce, Chris Shirley, Janet McKenna, Willie Ayerr, Jay Davies, Shirley Schmect Pepper, Dennis Schmect Pepper, Brittany Culter, Hannah Culter, Christopher Culter, Billy Rodriguez, Mary Rodriguez, Rose Rodriguez, Joe Rodriguez, Natasha Willoughby, Chris Willoughby, Alex Willoughby, James Evans, Patty Hernandez, Jerry Watson, Donna Watson, Brittany Watson, Melanie Watson, Carey Killian, Sandy Worth, Dick Green, Norma Green, Rango Hernandez and Mary Ellen Hill.

Mrs. Swinford added that she hoped she didn't leave anyone out but she had a little trouble reading the sign-in sheet. All help and donations were greatly appreciated, she added.



Submitted photo
Okeechobee residents gathered near the First Methodist Church for Big Lake Mission's Thanksgiving dinner for the needy.

Trailer

Continued From Page 1

Paramedic Shannon Kinman of Okeechobee County Fire Rescue. The report said the single wide mobile home was vacant. The fire was burning in the living room area and firemen were able to contain the flames to that one room.

Five units and 10 firemen were on the scene for about 90 minutes. The fire was put out in a matter of minutes with less than 100 gallons of water.

Investigator Stafford said information from the public is still being sought to help in the earlier fires. The three previous fires were on Southeast 26th Street. There have been no injuries in any of the fires, but more than \$400,000 in property damage has now been done. A fire on Nov. 24 at 4036 S.E. 26th Street was ruled an arson last week. The causes of the first two fires remain undetermined.

Anyone with information can call the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 763-3117 or the State Fire Marshall in West Palm Beach at 561-681-6389.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 72. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 49. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. Calm wind.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 53. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Monday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 7-1-2; **Play 4:** 6-7-6-8; **Lotto:** 3-12-24-27-42-43; **Fantasy 5:** 1-3-16-17-31. Numbers selected Tuesday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 2-5-0; **Play 4:** 2-1-8-0.

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Okeechobee News

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Solar energy plant introduced in Indiantown

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

John Denver sang "Sunshine on my shoulders always makes me smile." Sunshine in the sky can put a smile on Florida Power and Light and its customers.

Florida Power and Light broke ground on the Martin Next Generation Solar Energy Center in Indiantown Tuesday.

The new 75 megawatt center is designed to capture the power provided by the sun in the sunshine state and turn it into clean, affordable energy.

The plant will use less fossil fuels and generate power from 180,000 mirrors capable of supplying power to 11,000 homes.

"The next generation of Floridians is counting on us to address the most pressing energy challenges of our time," FPL Group Chairman and CEO Lew Hay said.

"With this new facility, we will capture the power of the sun to fight climate change and provide the state with clean, affordable energy."

Company officials said the plant will reduce the use of natural gas and fossil fuels. That will reduce the amount of greenhouse gases that enter the atmosphere. Company officials said 2.75 million tons of greenhouse gases will not enter the atmosphere due to

this plant which is the equivalent of 18,700 vehicles being removed from the road every year.

Mr. Hay said Thomas Edison realized the potential of solar energy, even back in 1931. He said solar energy is finally becoming of age. "The solar energy future is starting here today with a state of the art solar ray," he said.

The solar portion of the company's entire energy sources is rather miniscule, but will grow, Mr. Hay said.

"If you ask me, we've made a pretty good start," he said.

Mr. Hay said solar today is ready to transform the way electric is used in the United States. He said wind energy was at this point about a decade ago.

"When heat from the sun is available we will use less natural gas," he added.

Mr. Hay also compared this plant to hybrid cars, who were once thought of as just experiments that might never work.

Hybrid vehicles have sold well and Hay thinks solar power will have the same future.

"We still need public support for renewable energy," he added.

Mr. Hay said the business success and the planet's health is at stake with this issue of alternative fuels.

Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp said this was a significant day for

the sunshine state. He said this project takes courage.

"It takes a lot of courage to look beyond tomorrow to the horizon, that is what Florida Power and Light has done. Solar energy is a big part of the future," he said.

Mr. Kottkamp said this facility could change the course of history. He said this is the only hybrid solar facility in the world.

"Many many families are impacted by the work that is done here every day and will be for generations to come," he added.

Mr. Kottkamp said there is a direct link between the environment and the economy. He said to protect the economy of the state, his administration has worked to preserve Florida.

"In over 30 years this facility will prevent 2.75 mill tons of carbon emissions being sent into the atmosphere. Can you imagine that impact?" he asked.

Mr. Kottkamp said the sunshine state is the best location for this type of facility. He praised FPL for their commitment to the future of the state.

The solar plant, located at the FPL plant off Warfield Boulevard, will be one of three solar plants developed by FPL in Florida. The two others will be at the Kennedy Space Center, and the third in rural Desoto County. At completion these plants will provide 110

megawatts of power and be the second larger producer of solar energy in the nation.

FPL already is an alternative energy provider as they have a large wind power operation in 16 states. Those projects create some 5800 megawatts of power and power more than 1 million homes.

The Lt. Governor and Congressman Elect Tom Rooney were among the local dignitaries at the ceremony.

Several local officials were on hand. A group of girls from Hope Rural School led the crowd in the pledge of allegiance.

The South Fork High School Junior ROTC presented the colors for the program.

Fr. Nestor Rodriguez of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Indiantown provided the invocation.

The area's new congressman, Tom Rooney, said Florida is a paradise, and this is a perfect day in paradise.

"We talked a lot about energy independence during the campaign, people are concerned about it. Wind and solar appeared to be a pipe dream, now we see it in action. This is the future," he said.

Audubon of Florida President David Anderson said there focus is to achieve a healthy balance between the needs of their com-

munities and the protection of resources. He noted the dependence on fossil fuels has been a major challenge.

He noted droughts, fires, and hurricanes are among the problems caused by climate change. He said scientists want a reduction in green house gases.

"We need to phase out dirty energy and build a clean, vibrant economy," he noted.

Anderson said Audubon applauds FPL for their efforts. He also applauded Governor Charlie Crist for his leadership in the development of non polluting energy options.

"Its not just for birds and wildlife, this is also important for our economy, now and in the future," he added.



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Trio faces armed burglary charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Two Lake Placid men and a female juvenile have been booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on a charge of armed robbery.

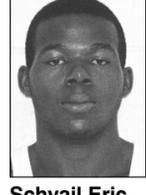
Joel Jeremiah Ibanez, 20, Placid Lakes Blvd., Schvail Eric Knowles, 21, St. Lucie Drive, and Samantha O'Hara, 15, were all arrested Sunday, Nov. 30. A detective with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) said they are accused of striking and robbing an 82-year-old man of an undisclosed amount of cash while he was in his home.

O'Hara, said Detective Ted Van Deman, did not actively take part in the burglary but was reportedly the "getaway driver."

Ibanez and Knowles were both charged with armed burglary, battery on the elderly and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Bond for them had not been set as of newspaper deadline.



Joel Jeremiah Ibanez



Schvail Eric Knowles



Samantha Ann O'Hara

O'Hara was charged with armed burglary, battery on the elderly and operating a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license. After being booked into the county jail, she was taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice

Detention Center in Ft. Pierce.

Detective Van Deman said the man was not seriously injured, although he reportedly did have some swelling and a small cut to the back of his head after he was thrown to the floor of his home.

An OCSO arrest report by Deputy Joseph Hall states that two men went into the man's N.W. 47th Terrace home armed with a handgun. According to the report, one man grabbed the man from behind "in a bear hug," demanded money then threw him to the floor -- causing him to hit his head on the floor.

The victim reportedly told Deputy Hall that he heard this man say to the other man: "Why don't you shoot him!" The other man, said the victim, had a black revolver in his hand, the deputy's report stated.

It was learned later by Deputy Hall that the gun was a .22 caliber revolver, according to his report.

Shortly thereafter both men ran out the door.

The trio was spotted on N.W. 47th Avenue in a white Lincoln Town Car by OCSO Deputy Sergeant Shannon Peterson. When the car pulled into a driveway on that street the two men were placed under arrest by Sgt. Peterson.

O'Hara, continued the report, got out of the car she was driving and walked to the back of a house. She was arrested a short time later.

While searching the vehicle, deputies found 10, .410-gauge shotgun shells, the report stated. Also, two similar type shells were found in O'Hara's purse, added Deputy Hall's report.

Man looks for sister, arrested on drug charge

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Hilario Aguilar was trying to see his sister but, unfortunately, he was at the wrong house.

To make matters worse, he was eventually arrested Nov. 26 on a felony drug charge.

Aguilar, 24, S.R. 70 W., was charged with the felony of possession of cocaine as well as the misdemeanor of disorderly intoxication. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$3,000.

Deputy Corporal Chris Hans, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated in his report that Aguilar was apparently trying to gain entrance into an 18-year-old woman's residence

around 7:41 p.m. Wednesday. When Aguilar was confronted by the deputy the man said his sister lived in the home. But, wrote Cpl. Hans, neither Aguilar nor his sister live there.

Cpl. Hans stated in his report that the woman who lives in the residence said Aguilar had tried to gain entrance into her residence before, but had gone away after a short period of time.

The deputy said the man wreaked of alcohol so he was

placed under arrest for disorderly intoxication.

According to the report, while Cpl. Hans was looking through the man's wallet for some sort of identification he found a small plastic baggie. Inside the baggie was a white powdery substance that, when field tested, indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine.

The powder weighed approximately 1 gram, stated the report.

Aguilar was later identified by another deputy at the county jail.

Cpl. Hans went on to state that Aguilar was trespassed from the woman's property to prevent any further problems.



Hilario Aguilar

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NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
Living on Eagle Bay Drive
SW 24th Ave., starting at SW 28th St.

On Thursday December 4th, 2008 the Okeechobee Utility Authority will be flushing lines along SW 24th Avenue (Eagle Bay Drive), starting at SW 28th Street and ending on State Road 70. Customers living in the area along this route may experience discolored water and lower than normal pressures during this time. Flushing time will begin at approximately 8:00 AM and end about 1-2PM. OUA is doing this to help improve water quality in your area and sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Speak Out

Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. You can also e-mail comments to okeenews@newszap.com or call 863-467-2033, but online comments get posted faster and not all phone calls can be printed. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

BIBLE: The Bible says there is some stuff that people are willing to overlook. There are so many contradictions in the Bible. God did make gay people, whether you believe it is a choice to be gay or not, they came from God, and God gave them free will. How is this any different than adulterers and people who work on Sundays? If you're going to hate on one group because the Bible says to, hate on all of them, or come up with a new reason than just "the Bible says it".

HOLIDAYS: One of the greatest things about the holiday season is the joy of giving - seeing that wide grin when you've given a loved one exactly what they wanted. This year I encourage you to put that grin on the faces of thousands of shelter volunteers across America by giving to the dogs in their care. Monetary donations are always valuable to rescues and shelters, but that's not the only way you can help. You can also give your time and share your positive energy with these animals who may be very lonely. Offer to take a dog on a walk. Provide old blankets or towels to warm up those cold kennel floors. Or even sing Christmas carols to the dogs and staff. Don't go into the shelter feeling sorry. Instead, share calm-assertive and loving energy. Give the dogs a day to remember, and help keep the staff motivated and appreciated for all the hard work they do for the animals we love.

OHS: There was an interesting article in the Okeechobee News Sunday edition about the OHS Graduation Rate increasing by 6.7%, more than twice the state increase and more than any other surrounding county. The graduation rate is measured by the number of students graduating within four years of their first enrollment in 9th grade. The OHS African American graduation rate increased by 19.1% when the state rate improved by only 3.9%. The Hispanic graduation rate increased by 15.7% when the state rate improved by only 3.1%. The assistant superintendent graciously gave credit to the parents for encouraging their children to stay in school, to the community for supporting educational activities, to the teachers and administrators for preparing and supporting engaging lessons and keeping school interesting, and of course to the students who recognize the value of education and work diligently to get their diploma. It is nice to recognize the wonderful things happening at OHS. The graduation rate is only one of so many.

OBAMA: I'm so excited about the change this country is about to embark upon. God has blessed President Elect Barack Obama and answered so many prayers. I praise the Lord because God has opened the minds of so many, making it possible for him to be elected. God is good.

TREES: If you haven't purchased a Christmas tree yet -- or if you can always use another one -- stop by the Hospice Festival of Trees and place a bid on one of the many lovely trees there. These trees were all donated by individuals, clubs and businesses to raise money for Hospice. The festival room is a Christmas wonderland. Just visiting it will put you in the holiday mood.

GAS THEFT: Several people I know have had gasoline stolen from their vehicles in the past two weeks. So be on the lookout. And it might not be a bad idea to get a locking gas cap. Gas prices have come down, but people are low on money and they are desperate. It's bad enough to lose the money you spent on gas, but it's really a problem if you think you have plenty of gas and suddenly find you are nearly out of gas when there is not a gas station close by.

BORN IN THE U.S.A.: To the person that thinks President elect Obama was not born in the U.S. If you did any type of research, you would find that it has been verified that he was born in the United States. They even found a birth announcement that was posted in the newspaper back at the time of his birth. It is time to move on and to support your new President. Stop with the nonsense.

ENGLISH: I do not think it is too much to ask for someone who wants to be a citizen and have the privileges of citizenship to learn the language. If you are just visiting, that is one thing. But if you plan to live here and want to be a citizen, you need to speak the American version of English. Any country you go to, if you want to live there they expect you to learn the language. Otherwise, how can you be a productive member of the society? My grandfather was an immigrant and he made sure all of his children grew up speaking English in the home. He wanted them to be Americans, and with no hyphen, just Americans.

DONATIONS: I see these people with a can and a handmade sign taking collections in the shopping centers. How can you tell if these people are legit? I hate to turn them down, in case they really are trying to help the poor, but how can you know what they are actually going to use the money for?

REVISED LYRICS: Some of the artists of the 60s are revising their hits with new lyrics to accommodate aging baby boomers. They include: Bobby Darin --- Splish, Splash, I Was Havin' a Flash; Herman's Hermits --- Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Walker; Ringo Starr --- I Get By With a Little Help From Depends; The Bee Gees --- How Can You Mend a Broken Hip; Roberta Flack--- The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face; Johnny Nash --- I Can't See Clearly Now; Paul Simon--- Fifty Ways to Lose Your Liver; The Commodores --- Once, Twice, Three Times to the Bathroom; Procol Harum--- A Whiter Shade of Hair; Leo Sayer --- You Make Me Feel Like Napping; The Temptations --- Papa's Got a Kidney Stone; Abba--- Denture Queen; Tony Orlando --- Knock 3 Times On The Ceiling If You Hear Me Fall; Helen Reddy --- I Am Woman, Hear Me Snore.

SCAMS: In regard to the story in the paper about the phone calls from these groups that claim to be helping local law enforcement, I never give money to people who call on the phone. There are too many scams. The money I give to charity goes to local charities. If you are getting phone calls from people asking for money, sign up for the 'do not call' list. Then if they call you anyway, you can report them. *Editor's note: For more on the Do Not Call list online go to <https://www.donotcall.gov/>.*

MISSING OKEECHOBEE: I have been gone for more than 10 years now but once in a while, I honestly do miss Okeechobee. I knew many, many people there, doing the work I did. I moved away for the big-city stuff up north -- divorce in Okeechobee left me with few choices -- and after seven years of cold winters with snow up to here and ice on top of that, I relented and came back to Florida, this time to the coast. I love it here, but miss a little of the small-town camaraderie. The economy has been very difficult for everyone and I feel very bad for the people of Okeechobee who have been trying so hard, like everyone else. My life in Okeechobee ended in July '98 but I remember the spirit and I suppose that's what I miss most.

CLINTON: For Hillary Clinton to take the Secretary of State job, she will have to resign from the Senate. So who will replace her? Anyone think that her husband Bill will throw his name into consideration? What would happen anyway? Do they have another election? *Editor's note: If a senator retires, the governor of that senator's state appoints a replacement, who serves until an election is held. In the case of Senator Clinton, such an election would be in November 2010. The same thing will happen to the Senate seats currently held by President-elect Obama and Vice President-elect Biden. The governors of their states will appoint replacement interim senators, and the positions will be on the November 2010 ballot.*

SHOP AT HOME: I would like to comment about the "shop at home" article in Speak out - I would love to if the stores would have what you want. It never fails, when I want to do all my shopping in one store, they are always out of something I need, only to settle for something less than I wanted, or do nothing. I go to the east coast so I can get everything I need and have a variety to pick from.

TOY DRIVES: From reading the paper, it looks like there are three toy drives in Okeechobee to help the needy children. I can't give to all three because like everyone else I am short on money, so now I have to pick who to help. I would like to suggest that next year they all get together and hold one big toy drive for the whole community.

Letters to the Editor

Cemetery theft

Today I went to the cemetery to take some new flowers for my husband's grave. As I got close, I realized that the bench we had put there a few weeks ago was missing.

Me and the children had picked out a concrete bench with beautiful birds on each side. I had set on it one time and just had a few minutes to sit and think. If you have ever lost someone after fifty-one years of marriage, you don't know the problems that arise without an answer.

I know he cannot answer me, but it helped to sit and think of an answer.

Whoever had enough nerve to take a bench from his grave I

think was pretty much a person who would do anything. I would have bought you a bench if you had let me know you wanted one, with my blessings.

This makes two palms and a concrete bench that I have lost from his grave.

He spent the last 20 years of his life preaching in this town and would have given you his last cent if you needed it. He helped everyone and I do not understand people who take what they want and cause grief for someone else.

I am saying a special prayer for you tonight, my prayer for whoever did this is that you will know the Lord as we knew him and will learn to live as a Christian and learn to respect others and give instead of taking. It will certainly

give you more rewards than a stolen bench.

**Beth Nicholas
Okeechobee**

New County Commissioner

It was a personal honor to be able to swear in our three newly elected county commissioners last Thursday, especially to administer the oath to Margaret Garrard-Helton, our newest commissioner. Not only are Mrs. Garrard-Helton, Cliff Betts, and Ray Domer old friends of mine, but together with commissioners Noel Chandler and Marvin Wherrell we are all graduates of Okeechobee High School. Congratulations to our newly elected

commissioners.

I read your article written by Pete Gawda covering the swearing-in ceremony. Now what is worse than being misquoted in a newspaper? Being quoted accurately when you say something wrong. Pete accurately reported that I said Mrs. Garrard-Helton was our third, female county commissioner. I was incorrect. She is our fourth female commissioner.

Sarah Price, Susan Hughes (now Baker), and Clois Harvey have served us as county commissioners in the past. All three served us well. Ladies, I regret my misstatement.

**Jerry Bryant
County Judge
Okeechobee**

Guest Commentary

Ranch will help preserve wildlife

**By Rodney Barreto
Chairman
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission**

Wildlife needs wild lands and caring landowners

Most Floridians are aware of the state's purchase of the Babcock Ranch Preserve and know something about its importance for conserving wildlife. However, the 74,000-acre is more valuable to wildlife conservation than many of us may realize.

A golden web of interconnected public and private lands, consisting of somewhere in the neighborhood of 200,000 acres, stretches through the center of the state from Sarasota County east to Lake Okeechobee. Here, wildlife has a real opportunity to flourish, even in the face of significant human intervention in the surrounding areas.

On the western end of this belt, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and its partner agencies, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Sarasota County, have forged numerous conservation partnerships with private landowners. The partnerships have created a web of wildlife habitat stretching well to the west of the Babcock Ranch Preserve -- into the heart of the Myakka River Basin.

This belt is the cornerstone for conservation of wildlife species that live north and west of Florida's River of Grass. Importantly, areas of this size are essential to the survival of wildlife populations, because wildlife requires large amounts of contiguous, quality habitat if native species are to remain viable and healthy. Areas like this one also provide resting spots and sustenance to large numbers of migratory birds funneling through peninsular Florida as they travel down the Atlantic flyway. Passerines in particular must maintain high numbers, because the long, arduous migration takes a significant toll on their populations. Only large habitats can support the number of birds needed for species sur-

vival. At the forefront of the FWC's private-partnership efforts is the agency's Landowner Assistance Program (LAP). LAP biologists throughout the state enroll, fund and work with private landowners and other agencies and conservation groups to ensure wildlife gets the things it needs -- land that is managed properly for the benefit of wildlife and people.

One such private cooperator is Buster Longino, whose ranch is in eastern Sarasota County. Longino is a well-known, forward-thinking agribusiness man and former Sarasota County Commissioner. Of his 8,000 acres, fully half are enrolled in conservation programs.

At the direction of Longino, ranch manager Cliff Coddington employs best management practices for wildlife that complement the 4,000-acre cattle operation. Programs in which the ranch is enrolled include wetlands mitigation and restoration programs and a quail restoration program that uses prescribed fire to encourage restoration of native plant species. The ranch is also an approved recipient site for relocated gopher tortoises. The forestry management program, of which Longino and Coddington take great pride, is based on the natural regeneration of native pine trees. In addition, the ranch manager employs best practices for rangeland management, and drip irrigation is used to conserve water in the modest orange grove.

Because of careful planning, with conservation in mind, the ranch remains a viable economic entity as well as a safe haven for wildlife populations of both game and nongame species. Turkeys, quail, deer, gopher tortoises and pine lilies, a rare plant species, abound. Better yet, many of Longino's neighbors have enrolled in landowner assistance programs with the FWC and NRCS. Together, private and public land managers are mapping out the future for wildlife in this state, and that future looks very bright.

Okeechobee News

Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge ...

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

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**For More Information See
At Your Service On Page 2**

Free Adult Basic Education/GED and English as a second language classes will meet from 7 until 9 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 701 S.W. Sixth St.

Okeechobee Outreach Hope Narcotics Anonymous will meet from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. For information, call Hugh Lambert at 863-763-7185.

Okeechobee Citizens Recreation Association, OCRA will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Teen Town, 305 N.W. Second St. Anyone interested may attend. For information, contact Frank Coker at 863-467-1941.

Ongoing Caregiver Support Group Hospice of Okeechobee and the Area Agency on Aging sponsor a caregiver support group every Thursday at 2 p.m. Anyone who is caring for an ill family member is welcome to join. The group is facilitated by social workers and provides an opportunity for caregivers to give one another support, information and ideas. The meetings are held at Hospice at 411 S.E. Fourth St. For information, call 863-467-2321.

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

Narcotic Anonymous (NA) meets at Believers Fellowship, 300 S.W. 6th Ave. at 7 p.m. For information call Monika at 863-801-3244.

Classic car show at Beef O'Brady's, 608 S. Parrott Ave., from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

Okeechobee County Cancer Support Group welcomes all cancer patients, survivors and supporters to attend, support and encourage each other. We meet the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 401 SW Fourth St., Okeechobee, (entrance is the door to the W in front of church). Please contact Susie Pickering at 863-467-5831 or First Baptist Church at 863-763-2171 for more information.

Friday, Dec. 5

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 part of a caring group are welcome to come and see what we are all about. For information, contact Ollie Morgret at 800-932-8677.

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.

Improvements planned for Turnpike toll plaza

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Florida Turnpike Enterprise will present plans for a near \$25.5 million dollar improvement project planned in the next five years for the Fort Drum Service Plaza when the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners meet Thursday.

The plan will include \$2.8 million for a planning and engineering study in 2010 and the actual construction in 2012. The turnpike also plans for new guardrail in Okeechobee County in 2014. The price tag of that work is \$190,000.

The Florida Department of Transportation will also present their five year work plan to the county commission. The plan

includes nearly \$62 million for the State Road 70 East project. The state plans to widen to four lanes the segment between N.E. 34th and NE 80th Avenue. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2012/2013. The plan also includes close to \$6.4 million for right of way purchases on State Road 70 from NE 80th Avenue to Berman Road.

The state also intends to spend over \$2.8 million at the Okeechobee County Airport in the next five years for capital improvements. The plan also includes a \$1.26 million repair project on the Taylor Creek Bridge at U.S. 98 and 441, a new turn lane on U.S. 441 at S.E. 18th Terrace, and \$3 million for modifications to the main intersection. The state also plans

to spend \$900,000 for bike paths and trails at the Okeechobee Trailhead of the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail.

The state also wants input from the county on landscape plans they have for a stretch of State Road 70.

The commission agenda also includes acceptance of an \$18,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security Florida Grant Program for the Emergency Management Department. The money will be used for planning, training and exercises.

The commission will also hold a public hearing to discuss the uniform method of collecting non ad valorem assessments. The public hearing is required if the commission wants to consider

placing any special assessments on the tax roll in 2009-2010. The assessment could be used to fund drainage and road improvements, canal cleaning and maintenance, storm water treatment and mosquito control, if the commission so desires.

The commission will also hear from Sean Moore of the Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University to discuss economic development services they offer Okeechobee County residents.

In other business actions the commission is scheduled to consider the acceptance of a bond for a south bound turn lane that enters the Silver Palms RV Village development off U.S. 441. The plan calls for 88 acres of develop-

ment with a 512 lot recreational vehicle subdivision.

Local churches plan special events

By Katrina Elsen
Okeechobee News

First United Methodist Church of Okeechobee is planning special events this holiday season. On Dec. 14, the Chancel Choir Cantata, "Touched by a Child - Touched by a King," will be presented at 8 and 11 a.m. Also on Dec. 14, the Children's Musical: "Silent Night-The Birth of a Carol" will be presented at 5 p.m. followed by a spaghetti dinner at 6 p.m. and the Youth Drama "The Jingle Bell Mystery" at 7 p.m.

On Dec. 24, the church will have Christmas Eve Candle Light Services at 5 p.m. and a traditional service at 7 p.m.

The **Christian Team Trails Fishing Tournament** will be held this Saturday, Dec. 6, at daylight at Okee-Tantie with the weigh-in at 1 p.m. You may register at the church office before the tournament. The cost is \$75 per boat. Any questions, please call Oakview Baptist Church at 863-763-1699.

The **Oakview Baptist Church Children's Choir** will present their Christmas Program



Places of Worship

this Sunday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. The Adult Celebration Choir will be performing their Christmas Cantata, "Festival of Carols" on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 7, **New Testament Baptist Church**, 535 N.E. 28th Ave., will hold a "Round-Up" Sunday with special guest speaker, Evangelist Wayne Nelson. The day will begin with a puppet presentation, special missionary presentation and the teaching of

God's word at 9:30 a.m. during the Sunday School hour. It will be followed by a special message at 10:30 a.m. during the worship hour. Also at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Nelson's wife Hattie, will give a special presentation for the children's church kids. There will be special music, a children's program, sermons in chemistry, wood and metal objects and more. For more information, please call 863-763-6682. If you are interested in going, but do not have a ride, call the church and they can set up transportation for you. Also, there is a nursery available every service for the little ones.

Peace Lutheran Church, 750 N.W. 23rd Lane, is planning to take youth in the ninth grade and above to Word of Life Super 2008 in Orlando Dec. 5. This will be a fast paced adrenaline-pumping all nighter featuring an Orlando Magic game, broom hockey, ice skating, bowling and lots of pizza.

The **Okeechobee Christian Academy Quilt Show** will be held Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at **Grace Brethren Church**, 701 S. Parrott Ave. Local

quilters are wanted display their quilts. Admission is \$5. Proceeds go to Okeechobee Christian Academy.

The **Okeechobee Church of Christ** will hold a clothing giveaway on Saturday, Dec. 6, beginning at 8 a.m. It is an effort of the church to be involved in helping the community in a benevolent way in these hard economic times. The church is located at 1401 S. Parrott Ave. next to Seacoast Bank. For information call 863-763-4477.

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 863-763-3727.

Email church news and photos for this column to okeeneews@newszap.com. Area churches can post events online on the community calendar at www.newszap.com.

Simple steps can safeguard your identity

By Tabitha Trent, vice president

Riverside Bank, Okeechobee

Don't be a victim this holiday season.

Up to 500,000 individuals are victims each year of identity theft; much of this type of fraud happens during the holiday season. Fortunately, a few simple steps can help ensure you stay out of these statistics.

"Identity theft" or "account takeover fraud" involves criminals stealing a person's personal information. The crooks assume a person's identity, apply for credit in his or her name, run up huge bills, stiff creditors and generally wreck the victim's credit record.

Most banks take steps to look out for their customers by putting a combination of safeguards in



place, including employee training, rigorous security standards, data encryption and fraud detection. Some banks offer identity theft protection products that monitor all three credit reports for you daily and send you customizable alerts of any key changes.

In addition to the banks' efforts, you can take these steps to avoid becoming a victim:

- Don't give your Social Security or account numbers to anyone over the phone unless you initiated the call.
- Tear up or shred receipts, old bank statements and unused credit card offers before throwing

them away. Crooks could steal information from your trash and use it to get credit in your name.

- Review your bank and credit card statements as soon as you receive them to check for unauthorized transactions.

- Protect your PINs (personal identification numbers) and computer passwords; use a combination of letters and numbers and change them often. Never carry this information with you!

- Order copies of your credit report once a year to ensure accuracy. Logon to: AnnualCreditReport.com, the only online site supported by the three national credit reporting agencies. Or call any of the agencies: Trans Union 800-680-7289, Experian 888-397-3742 and Equifax 800-525-6285.

- Report any suspected fraud to your bank and credit card issuers immediately so they can start to close accounts and clear your name right away. You may also contact the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) ID Theft Consumer Response Center toll-free at (877) IDTHEFT.

By law you are only liable for the first \$50 of unauthorized charges against a credit card account. Still, restoring your identity can be a tremendous inconvenience. It's worth your while to exercise a little preventive maintenance. Protect yourself against this terrible crime.

This article was submitted by Tabitha Trent, Vice President and Office Manager at Riverside Bank in Okeechobee. Tabitha can be reached at: 863-824-0400 x61713.

Editor's note: This column is open to submitted articles from local financial institutions. If you have a topic for an article to share your "Financial Cents," please submit by email to Okeeneews@newszap.com



Submitted photo/Fran Dierig

Scramble Winners

Winners of the Thanksgiving Scramble on Nov. 22 at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club were Okeechobee Ladies Golf Association members (left to right) Saba Curren, Carol Seiser, Shirley Esterline, and Wanetta Johnson. The scramble was followed by a Thanksgiving Feast and the monthly meeting.

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Happy Holidays!

Christmas boat parade planned

The Okeechobee Yatchette Club and Butches Redneck Yatch Club will hold their annual Christmas boat parade on Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. The public is welcome. Decorate your boats and meet on Taylor Creek at Hwy 70 by Burger King between 5 and 5:30 p.m. The parade begins at 6 p.m. and goes down Taylor Creek to the rim canal and left to the VFW or Butch's Fish Camp. There will be a \$25 prize for the best decorated boat. For information call Jeff Jones at 863-634-2321 or Arnie Whepley at 863-634-4777.

Christmas Around the World

The annual celebration of Christmas Around the World will be celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 21, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church grounds from 5 until 7 p.m. There will be a live nativity pageant, booths and Santa Claus gifts for children and performances by the following groups: Scottish Bagpipers, Irish Step Dancers, Filipino performers, and Mexican Serenade. Admission and parking is free. For more information call 863-763-3727.

City Hall Park to hosts Santa

Santa will be at City Hall on Dec. 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 15, and 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. Stop by for a picture with Santa!

Historical holiday ornaments on sale

The Okeechobee Retired Educators will be selling their third limited edition ornament for Christmas 2008. Ornaments are 24k gold on brass, includes a numbered certificate with historical information. Ornaments are \$15. Proceeds fund their scholarship. The 2008 ornament is the Old County Courthouse.

They will also have 2007 and 2006 ornaments available in a limited quantity for those who wish to get those. To purchase an ornament call Gay Carlton at 863-763-5755, Kay McCool at 863-763-2829, Paulette Whipple at 863-467-2487, Marion Davis at 863-763-3991 or Regina Hamrick at 863-763-8865.

Big Lake Missions holds Annual toy drive

Big Lake Missions Outreach is sponsoring their 14th annual toy drive for the Needy Children in OUR community. Families will be screened for needs and gifts are to be put under the tree for Christmas day. They are in need of new gifts, ages baby to teen.

Donations can be toys, gifts suitable for teens, gift cards or checks are welcome made out to the Mission to purchase what is needed. Also, foods is always needed. For more information, call 863-763-5725 or 863-697-6433. Pick-up and receipts are available upon request.

Annual Tour of Homes planned

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

VFW holds annual Christmas Bazaar

The VFW Post 10539 Ladies Auxiliary will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Sausage gravy and biscuits will be served from 8 until 10 a.m. Tables are available for \$10. For more information call Shirley Jarrell at 863-467-9450.

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. 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. 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.

Third Annual craft bazaar and luncheon planned in BHR

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 parade planned Dec. 13

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.

Santa in the Park

Kiwanis will sponsor Santa in Flagler Park 4 on Dec 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Santa on fire truck

The City Firefighters will host Santa on the firetruck 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.

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 hosts BHR Toys for Tots Bike Run

Bikes will leave the VFW Post 4423, 34th Street off 441 N., 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.

We want your holiday news

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

Community Events

Humane Society to meet

The Humane Society Pet Rescue will have a volunteer sign-up and fundraiser meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 6:30 to 7 p.m. in the meeting room of The Clock restaurant. For more information, email Reunitepets@aol.com.

Manufactured housing installation course

On 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. Priestler, 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.

OHS Goes International

The Okeechobee High Schools students who will be traveling to Rome with OHS in 2009 invite everyone to help by coming to their bake sale and multi-family yard sale on Saturday, Dec. 6, starting at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot at Tractor Supply, 3371 US Highway 441 S.

- Items for sale will include:
- Baked Goods
- Clothes
- Household items
- Electronics
- And much more!

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 the Church at 863-357-6500.

BHR Fire Dept. to host Pancake breakfast

The Buckhead Ridge Fire Department will be hosting a pancake breakfast. All you can eat pancakes on Dec. 6, from 8 until 11 a.m. for a \$4 donation. For information call 863-532-9015 or 863-467-8220.

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.

Okeechobee County 4-H Annual Yard Sale

The Okeechobee County Council will be holding their annual yard sale on Dec. 6, from 8 a.m. until noon. The sale will take place in the parking lot of the Mims Veterinary Hospital at 275 SW 32nd St. All proceeds go to help support 4-H programs. For information call the Extension Office at 863-763-6469.

Goods Spirits holds benefit

Good spirits Lounge, 245 Hwy 441 S.E. will hold a benefit on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 1 until 6 p.m. There will be a 50/50 drawing, a \$5 shotgun raffle, \$20 raffle for a 86 Honda Goldwing, Food \$5 donation, and live music from local bands; including Gator, Wayne and Tammy, Timmy Bast Band and others. Donations and Public welcome! Local musician, Wayne Purvis and family, (wife, and two kids ages 8 & 15 recently lost everything they had in two house fires, (house located behind Golden Corral, next to Okee School Board). They had no insurance to help cover their losses. For more information please call Steve Levitz at 863-697-2516 or Dakota at 856-297-7405.

E.O.E. holds yard sale

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Cypress Hut 4509 on Friday, Dec. 5 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 6 at 8 a.m. at the Old Cypress Hut Flea market. For more information call 863-467-1154.

American Legion Post 64 holds bingo night

The American Legion Post 64, will hold a "Straight Bingo Night," on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. There will be 20 games straight, five specials, larger jack pots, bring singles, pull tabs. Food and snacks will be available. For information call the Legion at 863-763-5309.

Nutritional class planned

Dr. Edward Douglas will teach a CRA Nutritional Analysis class on Monday, Dec. 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Douglas Chiropractic and Fitness Center. For more information call 863-763-4320. This is a free community service.

Red Cross plans Health and Safety classes

The Okeechobee Branch of the American Red Cross will be holding 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.

AARP Driver Safety Class offered

Tuesday, Dec. 9 and Wednesday, Dec. 10, Nell Bostwick will be instructing an AARP Driver Safety Class at the Okeechobee County Extension Office, 458 Hwy 98 W., from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. each day. Tuition fee is \$10 per person to cover work books. There are no tests, but you must attend both days to obtain your certificate. Contact your insurance company to see if you qualify for a discount. 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. Call Nell Bostwick at 863-763-4134.

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Community Service Through Journalism

Okeechobee DAR Chapter meets

The National Society Daughters Of The American Revolution, Okeechobee Chapter, held their annual Fall Luncheon on Nov. 1, 2008. The luncheon was hosted and held at the home of member Debbie Clemons and co-hostess MiMi Arnold, prospective member assisted. State Regent, Sue Bratton served as special guest speaker. Sue shared with us the deep roots of public service that the DAR holds at its foundation. She displayed photos and histories of each of our founding members while sharing personal stories about each. We learned about the history of the organization and Mrs. Bratton's state project of supporting the Haley House for families of wounded veterans.

The James A Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, FL cares for many of the wounded soldiers returning from combat in the Middle East. There was a need and concern for housing of the families that came to the hospital

to visit their returning vet. The Haley House was established to care for these families. The hotel type facility is free to family members during their visit. DAR members supply shelved food, baby items and other necessities that help make the families stay more comfortable. We also provide monetary support to help keep the facility operating. One of the Florida DAR chapter goals this year was to provide Thanksgiving Dinners for all the families that were visiting there this past weekend. There were nine prospective DAR members and three prospective Children of the American Revolution (CAR) members present at the luncheon. The prospective CAR members served as hostesses to the members during the luncheon. A fall theme served as the background for the luncheon. Monogrammed tea towels were given to each guest as a thank you for their continued support of our chapter.



Submitted photo
The National Society Daughters Of The American Revolution, Okeechobee Chapter, held their annual Fall Luncheon on Nov. 1.

The Okeechobee Chapter DAR meets the first Saturday of each month, October thru May, from 10-11 a.m., at the Okeechobee County Library. They will help prospective members document and search for patriot ancestors. Anyone interested in joining is invited to the Christmas party

this Saturday, Dec. 6. They will be showing a short video and collecting money to support the "Wounded Warrior Project" that provides backpacks filled with essential personal items given to wounded soldiers that return to the veterans hospitals in the U.S. following service abroad.

Sweet potato casserole is holiday treat

Frances Smith is a retired home economics teacher. In her day to day life she not only had to use her culinary skills but also her writing skills to write her lesson plans so that all of her students would not only understand her cooking methods but how and why things were happening, for example exposure to heat, cooling, and chemical reactions. She taught her students about menus, grocery lists, costs, and even budgeting.

She explained to me that she thought I would make a good journalist because I love to question everything. Even when I was younger I loved to ask questions. She said she loved when I asked questions because a lot of times



they really made her think before she could answer.

Fran loves to share her knowledge and understands that not everyone gets what she is trying to explain on the first try, that sometimes you must reword what you are trying to convey.

Fran shared this recipe because she has made it with holiday dinners, to bring to cover dish events and even to give leftovers

a new taste.

Utensils needed: mixing bowl, measuring spoons, measuring cups, baking dish, small pot, spatula, spoon

Sweet Potato Casserole
Preheat oven 350 degrees. Butter baking dish.

Filling:
3 cups cooked mashed sweet potatoes or 40 ounce can
1 cup sugar
2 large eggs
1/2 cup milk
1/4 cup margarine (melted)
1 tsp vanilla
1/2 tsp salt

Topping:
1/2 stick margarine (4 tbsp)
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup self rising flour

1 cup chopped pecans

Mix all the filling ingredients until well blended. Pour into buttered dish. Topping: melt margarine and stir in brown sugar, add flour and then the nuts. Blend until mixture is crumbly. Sprinkle topping on top of filling. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Serve immediately. This is a great recipe and can be served with turkey or ham.

The recipe makes 10 servings with approximately 561 calories per serving.

If you would like to share your opinion, and your favorite recipe please contact me at kitchen_talk@yahoo.com.

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Medicine Shoppe pharmacies offer healthy eating tips

As the holiday season begins, children and adults alike have more than just the vision of sugar plums dancing in their heads. From pumpkin pie to candied yams, many people use the holiday season as a guilt free excuse to abandon healthy eating habits. However, for the more than 23 million children and adults in the United States with diabetes, the holiday season's sweet treats can be a luxury they can't afford. For this reason, Medicine Shoppe pharmacies and the American Diabetes Association (ADA) are recognizing American

Diabetes Month and offering free "Live Healthy Nutrition Recipe Cards," with healthy recipes for people with diabetes. Participating Medicine Shoppe pharmacies across the country will be providing these recipe cards free throughout the holiday season while supplies last. The "Live Healthy Nutritional Recipe Cards," which are made possible in part by Bayer HealthCare, offer 10 ADA-approved recipes for the holidays and throughout the year, including chicken drumsticks; stuffed french toast; turkey tetrazzini; herbed russet

potatoes; buttermilk biscuits; 15-minute chicken, rice and broccoli dinner; crunch trail mix; sausage and potato soup; apple-glazed baby carrots and chocolate chip cookies. Each recipe includes nutritional information, as well as the serving sizes for each of the Diabetes Food Pyramid categories. "The 'Live Healthy Nutritional Recipe Cards' are an excellent resource for people with diabetes or those simply looking to make healthy nutritional choices," said Chrissy Ellegood, director of diabetes care, Medicine Shoppe

International, Inc., franchisor of Medicine Shoppe pharmacy stores. "For those with diabetes, maintaining a healthy diet and following a proper meal plan will result in manageable blood sugar levels. The Diabetes Food Pyramid is a great tool to help people with diabetes manage their diet and nutrition." The Diabetes Food Pyramid differs from the USDA Food Guide Pyramid by grouping foods ac-

ording to carbohydrates and protein content, instead of by food category, to help keep blood sugar levels under control. In addition, the portion sizes are modified from the traditional food pyramid in order to have a similar amount of carbohydrates within each serving. For example, potatoes and other starchy vegetables are included within the grains group instead of within the vegetables group, and cheese is

included within the meat group instead of the milk group. For more information on nutrition for people with diabetes, talk with your pharmacist or physicians on an appropriate meal plan, or to find a Medicine Shoppe store near you, please visit www.medicineshoppe.com. For more information on the Diabetes Food Pyramid, visit the ADA's Website at www.diabetes.org.

Okeechobee County Health Department Report

By Frank Kruppa
OCHD Administrator

In the future, the Okeechobee County Health Department will be sharing information related to public health in this space. It is our goal to share the many issues facing our community and some of the measures being taken to address them. Your Health department staff includes nurses, doctors, nutritionists, sanitarians and many other professionals with a wide range of expertise working everyday to promote and protect the health of our community.



Frank Kruppa

For example, the Women, Infants and Children program distributes 1.5 million dollars in vouchers annually that are used in our local economy. Those vouchers are used by new mothers to ensure good nutrition for them and their babies during pregnancy and for their children after birth. The Healthy Start program works with pregnant women to help them through pregnancy and the first three years of their new child's life. Some of these same women are seen by obstetricians here at the Health Department clinic. As evidenced here part of the Health Department's core mission is to provide children with a healthy

beginning to life. The Health Department also partners with the School Board to provide school health services. Nurses provide care and comfort to all the students in Okeechobee County schools, coordinators are administering the Students Working Against Tobacco program to middle and high school students and nurses are participating in the School Health Advisory committee.

Health Department doctors and nurses provide care to clients ranging from family planning to general primary care issues and are checked for eligibility based on income. Fees are then assessed on a sliding scale. The Health Department is also a Medicaid provider of clinical services. A few core public health services such as treatment for sexually transmitted diseases are provided at no charge.

The most common service associated with the Health Department is performed in Environmental Health. Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems or, as many know them, septic systems are permitted. Environmental Health staff also performs sanitation inspections for many types of facilities including school kitchens, mobile home parks and group care facilities.

There are many other services provided at the Health Department that will be shared in the future along with information on how we can make Okeechobee

County healthy. Any questions can be directed to the Okeechobee County Health Department at 863-462-5819.

Frank Kruppa is the Administrator of the Okeechobee County Health Department and can be reached at 863-462-5793.

Raulerson adds 'Company Care'

Raulerson Hospital announces the opening of the new "Raulerson Company Care" Occupational Health Services program on Dec. 1. The Raulerson Company Care facility is located in the "Blue Top" medical building located just north of the hospital at 1930 Highway 441 North.

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South Elementary students participate in Math Bowl

There was a lot going on at South Elementary during the short Thanksgiving week. Students were busy preparing for all

sorts of Thanksgiving activities as well as participating in the Math Bowl, sponsored by the School Improvement Math Committee.

Each grade level set up math activities in each classroom so the students could rotate between the rooms. It was a lot

of fun to go into different classrooms and do all the great activities. Mrs. Ward's class joined the second grade team for the math bowl activities and later watched a Thanksgiving video to complete their Thanksgiving unit.

Fourth grade students rotated between teachers as they completed activities dealing with fractions, number sense, geometry, mean, median, and mode. The students enjoyed moving from class to class and getting to know different teachers and their teaching styles. In writing, the students were excited about the narrative prompts. This week, they responded to a Thanksgiving prompt on how to rescue a turkey.

Everyone at South Elementary is getting ready for the upcoming winter activities. Mrs. Richardson Singleton and Mrs. Tammy Thomas, co-chairs of the Spirit committee, are starting to work on the float for the Christmas parade. They are really going all out this year and the float promises to be a work of art! Volunteers are always appreciated to help tie everything down!

Tickets are on sale now for

the Winter Carnival. They are at a reduced price in bundles of 50 for \$20 and 25 for \$10. Items are coming in for the Silent Auction and it looks like we are going to have some very interesting items for the adults to bid on throughout the evening. We have two rides this year in addition to the many booths we have had in the past. There will be a hayride and a train ride. We are still accepting donations of food items or for the Silent Auction. If you are interested in donating items or time, please call Mrs. Paulson at 863-462-5087.

Students receive PBS bracelets for always exhibiting positive behavior. The students in second through fourth grades who received bracelets for this second nine-week period included: Amber Marquette, Ayan Desai, Campbell Platt, Daniel Parker, Danielle Geary, Dylan Smith, Elana Rodriguez, Emily Beaty, Faith Pritchett, Haley Land, Janizza Lopez, Jesus Denova, Kayln Hickman, Keegan Sarros, Marisabel Gomez, Meghan Kushel, Rick Willet, Robert Wright, Sabria Smith, Sarah Heaton, Shahrir Ali, Stormy Requena, Alexis

Alicea, Bailie Shurley, Carmen Urvina, Chance Hickman, Chandler Pearce, Cristian Rios, Devon Johnson, Erin Rodriguez, Garrett Causey, Gustavo Martinez, Hunter Smith, Jacob McKee, Jared Phares, Jennifer Center, Jesse Mond, Jesus Gomez, Jonathan Buck, Josue Gonzalez, Julila Dupree, Julissa Hernandez, Justin Shepherd, Kaitlyn Land, Kari Pope, Kate Phillips, Lauren Coffey, Mario Pineda, Merydian Causier, Olivia Burnett, Ricardo Gomez, Saira Sandoval, Sara McNitt, Sarah Nichols, Sarin Vavra, Verenise Lopez, Zachary Mullin, Audriana Garcia, Austin Spano, Baron Stuart, Brianna Ingram, Brittany Snow, Caitlyn Sheffield, Cody Louthan, Dilmer Larowe, Haley Smith, Hannah Fralix, Janice Rivero, Jose Hernandez, Joshua Wall, Kelsi Kula, Kevin Hawthorne, Maricela Bucio, Marshall Faulk, Marshall Rucks, Michaela Myers, Mitch Mulholland, Nathan Center, Nelly Alomanza, Nikki Nichols, Rylie Norton, Sabrina Moreno, Shyane Adkins, Tasneem Tarannum, and Taylor Hammack. Congratulations on your Positive Attitudes!



Submitted photo

Thanksgiving feast at North Elementary

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, at North Elementary school, Ms. Stanley's first grade class and Mr. Stanley's fourth grade class held a Thanksgiving lunch. Ms. Stanley's class came as the pilgrims, and Mr. Stanley's class came as the Native Americans. They discussed the history of the holiday, and performed a miniature play about the history of Thanksgiving. The classes then enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal.



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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

E is for E-mail: more computer terms and definitions

By Diane Timmons
Okeechobee News

Let's look at more computer definitions today. Included are bits and pieces of information that are too small for a full column.

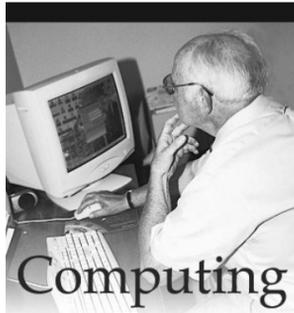
Email: Short for electronic mail. Email is the number one reason retirees buy a computer. Email is a way to correspond with friends and relatives who also have an email account and an Internet connection. Email can be composed of both text and files. You can communicate locally, within the United States or throughout the world, all without paying for stamps or a telephone bill. Electronic messages are sent from one person to another over the Internet or another network.

Before public use of the Internet, large companies used internal networks for email. AOL and Prodigy were early email providers where the individual user paid a monthly fee for the service. Now people usually get email from the provider of their Internet service or ISP (internet service provider). If you have Internet access and would like a free email address, Yahoo, Google and others offer email addresses free of charge. Most ISPs today, have a browser-

based email interface. This means you can access your email any place you can get an Internet connection via the browser.

Email address: Or, anatomy of an e-mail address. Ask many new users what their email address is, and you're likely to get a few blank stares. It's a good item to memorize, because once your friends and family know that you're on the Internet, they're going to ask you what your address is. Email addresses are structured in two parts with the "at" symbol (@) in between. They typically look something like this: `username@company.com`. The first part before the @ identifies the person on a particular e-mail provider. It could be their first name, first initial and last name, first name-dot-last name or something completely unrelated. The second part, after the @ identifies the e-mail provider, and that will be determined by your ISP or online service. It could be google.com, embarqmail.com, yahoo.com or any number of other providers. They'll all be "something-dot-something."

A couple of other e-mail address conventions: If someone uses the phrase "underscore" while telling you their e-mail ad-



Computing For Seniors

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dress, they're referring to the " " key, which is SHIFT-hyphen. If they say "dot," they mean the period key. There can be no spaces in an e-mail address.

FAQ: An FAQ is a set of Frequently Asked Questions and answers on a given topic. Sometimes people will refer to an individual question as an FAQ but more precisely it means a collection of questions and answers, posted periodically to high-volume web sites in an attempt to

forestall questions that have been asked time and again. There are many FAQ files available for almost every subject that you might find on the Internet. Going to the site's FAQ files is the best place to start to find answers to your questions.

File: Information that has been named and is being stored, usually in a folder.

Folder: A location in which you can store files and other folders.

Flash: Macromedia Flash is another technology that allows animations, interactive forms, games and other jazzed-up features to be embedded in web pages. In order for you to view or interact with the full content of a web page created using this software, you need the Flash Player installed on your computer. You computer will alert you that you need Flash Player to see the web content. Macromedia Flash Player is a well-known and trustworthy plug-in that users should feel comfortable installing. In fact, Flash is the most commonly installed plug-in on the web. The Flash plug-in can be found on Macromedia's website at www.macromedia.com.

FTP (file transfer proto-

col): FTP is a fast way of uploading or downloading files on the Internet. Web browsers can perform basic FTP downloads, but dedicated FTP programs do it better. For example, after developing the HTML pages for a Web site on a local machine, they are typically uploaded to the Web server using FTP. FTP includes functions to log

in to the network, list directories and copy files. Common FTP programs include: CuteFTP, WS_FTP and SmartFTP. All have free evaluation downloads available. Happy computing.

Email your comments or questions to dtimmons@newszap.com.



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

Shriners tree sale

Okeechobee Shrine Club members (left to right) Wayne McGehee, Jim Lager and Hal Henderson were busy Friday, Nov. 28, getting Christmas trees ready for sale. The Shrine Club is selling the trees as a fundraiser and will be selling until Dec. 23, or until all the trees are sold. They are located in Flagler Park, across the street from the Country Cooler Drive-Thru.

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Create your own prosperity and personal freedom with your own financial bailout plan. Go to: www.financial-freedom2008.net or call (888)848-4777.

Employment Medical 0210

P/T Histology & Mohs Tech Position avail. in Sebring Dermatology practice. With flexible schedule. Fax resume to 863-386-1848 & call 863-386-0786

Job Information 0225

Driver- PTL Needs Company Drivers- CDL-A earn up to 40 cpm. 1/2cpm increase every 60K miles. Average 2,800 miles/week. www.ptl-inc.com Call (877)740-6262.

Driver-BYNUM TRANSPORT-needs qualified drivers for Central Florida- Local & National OTR positions. Food grade tanker, no hazmat, no pumps, great benefits, competitive pay & new equipment. (866)GO-BYNUM. Need 2 years experience.

DRIVERS: CALL TODAY! Sign-On Bonus \$35-41cpm Earn over \$1000 weekly Excellent Benefits Need CDL-A & 3 mos recent OTR (877)258-8782 www.mel-tontruck.com

JOB CRAFTERS, INC. NOW HIRING!!!! FIRST CLASS SHIPYARD CRAFTS LONG TERM WORK FL. AL MS OVER TIME & PER DIEM PHONE: (800)371-7504 OR (251)433-1270 FAX: (251)433-0018 EOE www.jobcrafters.net.

Learn to Operate a Crane or Bull Dozer Heavy Equipment Training. National Certification. Financial & Placement Assistance. Georgia School of Construction. www.Heavy5.com Use code "FLCNH" or call (866)218-2763.

Post Office Now Hiring! Avg Pay \$20/hr or \$57K/yr Including Federal Benefits and OT. Placed by adSource not affiliated w/USPS who hires. Call (866)713-4492.

Photography

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419 W S Park St • (863) 763-5553

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- Stereo Equipment 710
- Television/Radio 715
- Tickets 720
- Tools 725
- Toys & Games 730
- VCRs 735
- Wanted to Buy 740

Air Conditioners 0505

AC/HEAT UNIT - 1and a half ton from mobile home \$250. (239)671-2015

AIR COND/HEATER - Lennox 5 ton, mobile home pkg, 10 KW heat, 60K BTU, 13.0 Seer, \$2900 (863)634-5759

Antiques 0510

ATTN: DECORATORS/DESIGNERS-EUROPIEN WAX PINE AND PAINTED PEICES-AMOIRES, Kitchen cabinets, Benches, dressers and more (863)467-4650

EARADESANT CARNIVAL GLASS LOT. Too many pieces to list \$250. OBO (863)430-6987

Appliances 0515

DOUBLE STACKED- Washer/Dryer \$400 OBO (863)801-5850

FREEZER - 16cu ft upright \$75. (863)517-1663

IMPERIAL HEAVY Duty Freezer(upright) - \$100/neg. (863)517-0301

MINI FRIDGE - Kenmore, 4.6 cu. ft. Like new. \$80 or best offer. (863)261-4862

REFRIGERATOR - side by side, almond, \$50 (863)697-9883

STAINLESS STEEL STOVE TOP like new \$100 (239)292-7509

WASHER & DRYER - Kenmore, \$80 for both or will sell separate (863)983-7211

Appliances Small 0521

SEAL A MEAL - Rival, with bags, like new, a great bargain \$35 (863)467-8140

SHOWTIME ROTESSIERE - NEW, all accessories, \$200 new will sacrifice for \$145 (863)467-8140

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Bicycles 0530

BICYCLE RACK - Fits on the trunk of a car, like new. \$30 (863)946-3822

Books & Magazines 0535

BOOKS - (50) Romance books, \$.8, or will trade. (863)763-1059

Building Materials 0540

CHAIN LINK Fencing - At least 40 to 50 feet of it. \$35. (863)675-8937

Children's Items 0555

GRACO - 3 in 1 bed, white metal, like new. \$110. Call (863)763-7609 Okeechobee

Clothing 0565

COWBOY BOOTS - Tony Lama, size 7 1/2 men's or 9 1/2 women's, \$60/neg. Call 863-612-5757

GIRLS PAGEANT DRESSES - white, sz. 10 slim & fuschia, sz. 10 slim w/shoes, \$325 will sell sep. (863)675-4049

LADIES PANTS & SHIRTS - size 3X, with tickets, name brands, \$30 or will sell separate (239)292-7509

TEEN TOPS - girls, small, some new, must see. All for \$25 (863)763-0625

Collectibles 0575

DALE EARNHARDT bags of charcoal, 2 with #3 on them, \$25. Call 239-851-5675

PORCELAIN DOLL - Shirley Temple, \$125. (863)675-4049

Computer/Supplies 0580

BLACK DELL - Pentium 4 XP, like new, complete sys. \$199. (863)517-2782

DELL DESKTOP - P4-dvd burner, XP Pro, New "19 LCD, \$299. (239)247-4839 (863)674-0212

DELL XP - Xmas Special 4000+ games and school progs. Tony \$75. (863)517-2782

LAPTOP - Fast 2.4 ghz XP Pro, Office, wireless, \$299. (239)247-4839 (863)674-0212

PRINTER - Lexmark, prints and does photos, works on 98 & XP computer, w/disk \$35 (863)763-1997

Furniture 0610

BED - Twin w/Fame, Mattress & Box Spring. Like new. \$75 or best offer. (863)261-4862

BRAND NEW SOFA AND LOVESEAT - SUEDE VERY COMFORTABLE \$1500/or best offer. (863)801-3368

CORNER COMPUTER desk/shelf - light wood/metal color. excellent condition. \$60. (863)532-9634

DINETTE TABLE - light oak, w/4 bamboo chairs, \$80. (863)357-5705

DINING ROOM set - 3 chairs round table 2 china cabinets \$150/firm. (561)790-3681

Dining Room table- light oak w/ leaf, 4 matching chairs, padded seats, like NEW \$300 (863)801-9379 OKEE

FURNITURE - COUCH AND LOVE SEAT, LIKE NEW W/ SEPERATELY \$250/or best offer. (863)261-5363

FURNITURE - DOUBLE RECLINING LOVE SEAT, LIKE NEW \$150/or best offer. (863)261-5363

Futon Mattress- blue plaid, clean, good condition \$35 neg. (863)763-7609

Furniture 0610

GLASS MARBLE WROUGHT IRON TABLE - with 2 chairs, \$100 (863)763-5163

KITCHEN ISLAND - Butcher Block Top, Solid Legs, 2 small drawers & 2 lower shelves. \$60 (863)675-2145

MATTRESS & BOX SPRINGS, Queen size, Pillow Top. Immaculate condition. \$350 Firm. (863)634-4697

MATTRESSES (3) - 2 full & 1 twin, complete w/boxsprings & frames, like new. \$250 for all will sep. (772)971-9474

NEW FURNITURE FOR LESS!! DRIVE A LITTLE SAVE A LOT

Lamps \$17, 100 Barstools \$39 up, 50 Desks \$97 up, 3Pc Dropleat Dinette \$197, 50 Table and 4 Chairs \$397 up, 200 Recliners \$297 up, 50 2pc Sofa & Loveseat \$687 up, 50 TV Ent. Centers \$167 up, 2 Pc Queen Bed set \$297 up, 50 4Pc Bedroom sets \$387 up, 3Pc Livingroom table \$97 up, 100 headboards \$79 up.

HIGHPOINT FURNITURE OUTLET STORE

2346 U.S. 27 N Sebring, FL (Next to Lowe's & across from Home Depot)

QUEEN BOX spring & frame - near new box spring & frame - u pick up \$40/or best offer. (863)674-0564

SEALY FUTON- asking \$150. (863)484-0377 Okeechobee

TABLES - 2 End & 1 Coffee, Glass Top w/fillery wrought iron work. Very decorative. \$40 will sep. (863)675-2145

TABLES - matching set, 2 end, 1 coffee & 1 sofa, glass, excellent cond. \$100/neg. (772)971-9047

TWIN BED - Headboard, Frame, Box spring & Mattress. Complete w/all linens. \$140 (863)467-9048

WATERBED - Queen size w/individual water tubes. Very good condition. Asking \$125 (863)610-6195

Golf Clubs/Equipment 0618

GOLF CLUBS - (100) Misc., Many brands. Ping, etc. Many good. \$600 for all, will sep. (863)946-3123

GOLF CLUBS - Complete matched set, metal woods, irons, putter, bag, balls, \$95 (863)946-3123

Guns/Supplies 0619

AMMO MAGAZINES - (4 clips) for Glock 30 - 45ACP Leather holster included. \$50 (863)674-0613

DOUBLE BARREL 12 ga., \$225. Call (502)931-8101

HOWA MODEL 1500 - 270 w/scope/sling, ammo, serious inquiries only, \$700 neg. (863)946-3731/227-6209

SPORTERIZED MAUSER - Bolt action 7MM good condition \$200. (772)461-8822

Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

AB LOUNGE - \$20. (863)230-0735

BOWFLEX SPORT - Used 4 times, \$350. Call 863-612-0340

Life Styler Cardio Fit- Total body motion & low impact exerciser, \$45. Call 863-763-4057

ORBITREK ELIPTICAL- Asking \$300 OBO and a Red Ab exerciser \$15. (863)697-1247

SCHWINN EXERCISE BIKE- Upright No.126 purchased new Feb 08, Sell for \$200 (904)364-7561

STAUFRING TABLE - Motor Driving Exercise Table w/ accessories. (772)971-9474

WESLO CARDIO - Bike style work out equipment \$75/neg. (863)697-0136

Heating Equipment/Supplies 0625

PORTABLE HEATER - electric, good condition, \$10 (863)763-1997

Household Items 0630

HOT TUB - 4 Person Hot Tub, new motor and pump, octagonal \$995. (772)971-2414

SET OF lamps - 4 lamps, excellent condition \$50/neg. (772)971-2414

SUNBEAM WATER COOLER - bottom is refrigerator, 3 temps, holds 3 or 5 gal jug, \$100 (863)675-9331

TURBO VACUUM food saver, with 2 cases of bags, brand new, \$150. Call 863-851-5675

Outdoor Furniture 0648

PICNIC TABLE - foldable with bench, seats 4, \$25 (863)357-0758

Medical Items 0650

Feeling Anxious About The Future? Buy and read Dianetics by L. Ron Hubbard. Price: \$20.00. Order Now. Free Shipping. www.DianeticsTampa.org or Call (813)872-0722.

Miscellaneous 0655

AIRLINES ARE HIRING - Train for high paying Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified + Job placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance (888)349-5387.

ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from Home. *Medical, *Business, *Paralegal, *Computers, *Criminal Justice. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. Call (866)858-2121, www.CenturaOnline.com.

BINGO BOARDS (2) Large, \$600 for both, will sep. or best offer. (863)946-0184

BRAND NEW SPRINT- Treo 755P Smartphone, all accessories incl \$200 OBO call for more info (863)801-1379

CHRISTMAS TREE - 9 Ft. Pre-lit, clear lights, excellent condition, \$100. (863)634-8124 Okeechobee

CITRUS- By the LB or Bucket- Navel Oranges 30/\$7.50 Hamlin, 25/\$6. Sunburst 40/\$10. (863)763-4713

COOLER - Rubbermaid Endurance, 50/60 quarts, \$20 (863)763-2958

ENGINE HOIST - cherry picker, Carolina 4000, 2 ton, shop-hand, 3 ton ram, \$165. (863)697-9704

FULL SIZE MESSAGE TABLE - Like New \$100 (863)357-6190

KINETIC WATER SYSTEM - Two years old New \$3500 Will sell for \$1500 OBO (863)763-7792

LARGE STAGHORN FERN \$250. (863)763-4713

Like New Craftsman Portable Generator 5600 Watt \$600 Surge 10 HP OHV \$375. (863)610-1811 Okeechobee

Houses - Rent 0930

ADORABLE WATERFRONT RENTALS
Sit on the large screen porch overlooking Taylor Creek, east your pole and catch the fish. 2 bdrm one ba, fully furnished cute as can be rental.

Slice of Key West Doll House in this 1/1 1920 vintage cottage, hardwood floors, sits directly on Taylor Creek. Fully furnished. Year round or seasonal rates 863-467-8683

Rentals

Table with 2 columns: Property Type, Price. Includes Apartments (905, 910), Commercial Property (915), Townhouses (920), etc.

Apartment 0905

BEAUTIFUL SAMANTHA'S GARDEN APTS. - In Town, 2br/2ba, W&D, \$850 mo. + \$500. sec. (863)634-5780

OKEE., Huge, Clean, 2br, 2ba 2br, 1ba, New kitchen, carpet & paint. Call 772-215-0098

OKEECHOBEE, 2br, 1ba, Near town. \$825 mo. inclds water. Annual Lease. Call Kelly 863-697-1339

SPECIAL-MOVE-IN. 1/2 Month Rent for 1st Month w/\$500 Sec. 2/1.5 carpet, tile, fridge- 1blk N. of Wal-Mart. (863)763-8878

Condos/Townhouses Rent 0920

KING'S BAY. 2/1, Pool, Tennis, new tile flrs., etc. \$750 mo. + sec. Water & Cable included. 863-697-6428

OK LAKE VILLAS #17- 2/2, lg brdms, W & D incld, \$825/mo, 1st, last & \$500 sec. (863)467-5965

Houses - Rent 0930

3BR/2BA Foreclosure! \$11,000! Only \$199/Mo! 5% down 15 years @ 8% apr. Buy, 4/BR \$259/360 For listings (800)366-9783 Ext 5798.

A LARGE 2BR House - Waterfront, w/boat dock, great neighborhood, no pets, \$750 mo. (863)467-1308

AFFORDABLE NEW & RENOVATED HOUSES. 3/2 & 3/1/1, Bring Pets, Lg yards, 1st month free (561)723-2226

BASSINGER-3/2 CBS. New Flooring, clean home on acreage \$900 mo. 1st last \$500 Sec. (863)467-5965

CBS- 2200 SW 3rd Ave. 3BR, 1BA, Near Wal-Mart. Nice yard. \$825. mo, \$2000 moves in (863)634-0512

CBS 3BR, 1.5 BA, 1600 SW 3rd Ave. Near library. Fenced yard. \$900 mo. \$2000 to move in. (863)634-0512

IN OKEECHOBEE CITY: 4 Br/2Ba, \$1100 mo. + 1st, last, sec. & refs. Call Barry for more info. 772-216-1461

Never Rent Again! Buy, 4br 2Ba \$15,400! Only \$199/Mo! 3 Br \$11,000! 5% down 15years 8%. HUD Homes Available! For listings (800)366-9783 ext 5796.

OKEE. - 2br/1ba, unfurnished duplex. \$650/mo + \$550 dep. 3624 SE 35th Ave. (239)707-5155

OKEE: 3/1 on 1/2 ac. Renovated, laundry, C/A/heating, screen porch, carpet. \$975 mo. 1st mo. & dep. Call 305-458-8659

OKEECHOBEE - New, 3br, 2ba, 2 acres in Edwards Sub Div. \$1200/mo. Call Charles (863)634-0584

OKEECHOBEE: 3br, 2ba, 1708 SW 2nd Ave. New paint, tile & carpet. Call 863-763-2416 or 863-447-0925

Rent to Own - 4/2 \$1000 mo. new, ready now. 863-599-0156 or 561-248-3888

When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.

Office Space Rent 0937

EXCELLENT LOCATION - 441 S. Commercial Office/Retail Space, 1154 sq. ft. Call 863-634-7728 for details.

Waterfront Rentals 0965

FULLY FURNISHED with dock, 2/2, BHR, seasonal or long term. \$700/mo. \$500 dep. Call 863-824-0981

WATERFRONT: 2BR, 1 1/2 BA Treasure Island. Fenced yd. \$765 mo. (772) 359-6584 mardelvar@comcast.net

READING A NEWSPAPER... makes you a more informed and interesting person. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful!

Large Homes of Merit double-wide with fireplace & luxury bath. Sold below factory invoice with no down payment on your lot. Call (863) 673-4325

TREASURE ISLAND - 2/2, lg, furn SW screened porch, storage, private lot. \$750/mo + 1st, last & sec. (863)610-2126

MOBILE HOME SALE 2020

1999 zone II, 2,400 sq ft mobile. Excellent for Glades and Okeechobee counties. Mint condition. 4br/2ba financing avail. \$52,900 incl setup and a/c call (863) 673-4325

BANK REPO'S MOVE TO YOUR LAND Mobile Home Angels 561-721-2230

GO CARTS - 1 Yefr Dog & 1 Briggs & Stratton. \$600 for both, will sep. (863)763-1713

KAWASAKI BAYOU 2001 - Green, 2WD, runs good \$1000. (863)801-3459 (863)824-6181

GO CART - runs good. \$500 (863)675-4132

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Mobile Home Sale 2020

Dealer Repo's - 3 & 4 BR homes available near or below factory invoice prices. These homes are new & financing is available with low down payment (863) 675-4325

MANUFACTURED HOME PARK 55+ La Belle, Florida GATED, Clubhouse, Heated Pool. Lease your 60 x 90 lot, beautiful country living. Includes lot, lawn service, water, sewer and trash pickup, \$200/mo. Models available for immediate occupancy or order your own on your lot. 30 minutes from Ft Myers. M-F, 863-675-7555.

MOBILE HOME - 24x40, You Move! \$1,000 or best offer. (239)464-8633 LaBelle

RECREATION 3000

Boats 3005 Campers/RVs 3010 Jet Skis 3015 Marine Accessories 3020 Marine Miscellaneous 3025 Motorcycles 3030 Sport Vehicles/ATVs 3035

AIR BOAT - 13.5' Big Q, Fiberglass, 220 continental grand pwr motor. Composite Prop. \$4500 (863)946-0635

BASSBOAT 16' Select - w/trailer 90hpMerc TroliMotor Depthfinder Needs some work \$500. (863)634-6601

BAYLINER - 16' outboard, 65hp Mercury, mtr. needs a foot w/trlr, clear tile, \$500 or best offer. (863)634-2930

BIG Q AIRBOAT 204 - 13' Big Q with polymer, Dark Green/silver stripe. 220 Continental. Front seat driver double backseat. Q series sensenich carbon fiber prop. With trailer. Ready to be dual mugged. Call for more info. \$7500/neg. (863)697-6293 (863)763-0380

LANDAU - 16 Ft., Aluminum, Flat bottom, 30 hp Yamaha. Center Console. Electric. start. \$2500 (267)574-9661

LOWE PONTIC 24FT 1989 - Marine Tilt Trailer, 50HP MARINER, Needs work. \$2500. (863)697-2133

NICE FIBERGLASS live aboard boat, no engine, \$1500 (239)823-2587

Pontoon Boat '20', tri, motor, power inverter, lights, live well, \$3500 neg. or Trade (863) 610-0521

TRI HULL OCEAN BOAT - Merc OB, 33hp engine, asking \$800 or best offer (863)801-1666

Campers/RVs 3010

CAMPER - 12' pull-along, fully contained. \$2,150 Call 863-697-8731

HOLIDAY RAMBLER - One bedroom/bath travel trailer. Has gas/electric. in good working condition. call for details. \$1700 (863)447-6304

MOTORHOME-32 Ft. 1999 Coachman-Gas Generator, Slideout, Good Cond. 21k miles \$30,000. Can be seen at 2347 SE 32nd St. TCI (863)824-6799 or 561-662-6576

SANDPIPER - 2002, 30 ft 5th Wheel, 2 slide outs, great shape ready to go \$5000 (863)447-5456

Fifth Wheels 3012

FIFTH WHEEL TRAILER - 14', dual axle, new tires, wood floors, mount, \$700 (863)763-3707

Marine Accessories 3020

MERCURY O/B MOTOR - 4 hp. engine w/kil switch. Recently serviced. Exc. cond. \$395 (863)467-9800

Marine Miscellaneous 3025

BOAT TRAILER - For 14ft-16ft Boat, No Rust, New Paint \$150/ or best offer. (863)634-0447

Motorcycles 3030

HONDA GOLDWING, 1984 - Ascendace, \$2,000. Call 863-467-9250

KAWASAKI VULCAN LTD - 2002, 500 cc's. \$1800. (863)357-1739

MOTORCYCLE TRAILER - to pull behind a motorcycle. Homemade, diamond plated, \$1,500. (863)517-1508

SUZUKI G50 1986 - Good Condition. \$1400/ or best offer. (863)675-0246

ARCTIC CAT 50CC ATV 2005 - Good Condition \$900. (863)763-3606

DIRT BIKES - YAMAHA PW80, Like new. Under 50 hrs. Garage kept. Great for beginner. \$600. (863)634-4151

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OMS basketball splits games with Oslo Middle

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Tight defense propelled a young Osceola Middle School Warriors basketball team to a 22-13 victory in their home opener over Oslo Monday.

Garionna Johnson had eight points and Amber Cunningham added six points to lead the Lady Warriors. Aaliyah Hall had five points to lead Oslo (Vero Beach).

"I'm excited for my girls," Warriors Coach Cathy Jones said, "They have been working very hard in practice. Until you play another team you don't know how they'll react."

Osceola is basically a new team this year. All five starters are new in the ninth grade. The Warriors used good defense, and a lot of steals to win the game. Oslo also shot poorly from the field.

Both teams failed to score in the first quarter. Oslo led 3-0 after a lay up and a free throw midway through the second quarter. Osceola responded with a 10-0 run to end the half. Steals by Cunningham, Johnson and Prissy McDonald helped fuel the run.

Jones said defense leads to offense and her team got a lot of easy buckets off turnovers, "When you can do that it just carries you into the next quarter. We were able to hang on and get a victory. I'm just so proud of these girls because they never gave up."

Oslo got as close as 13-8 in the third quarter but struggled mightily on offense. They shot over 50 field goal attempts and made just seven. A three point play by Bethany Stuart gave the Warriors a 19-12 lead early in the fourth quarter and they were never threatened again.

The boy's team got off to a slow start and that cost them against a talented Oslo squad. The Warriors trailed 17-2 after the first quarter and couldn't dig themselves out of the early hole.

Sylvester Butler had 17 points to lead Osceola. Eddie Neal had eight points and DJ Washington had five points for Osceola. Oslo was led by Brennan Shaw who had 11 points.

Osceola could not get the lead under double digits after the first quarter. They did have their moments as they had superior speed and defense. Osceola struggled shooting the ball.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Zane Moreland (center) is sandwiched between two Oslo defenders during the first half of Monday's game.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Eddie Neal drives past an Oslo defender during Monday's game.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Garionna Johnson (left) drew praise for her hard work against Oslo.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Amber Cunningham #15, had six points. She added a number of steals on defense.

Boys' hoops rebounds with big win

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

David Jeune had a triple double with 24 points and over 10 rebounds and assists as Okeechobee High School evened their basketball record at (1-1) with a 75-33 wipe out of Lake Placid Monday Night.

Jeune out rebounded, out ran, out jumped, and out shot the hapless Green Dragons Monday night. He also helped his teammates improve their game with several outstanding assists. Austin Willard was one of the beneficiaries as he had 14 points. Corey White had 10 points.

"We slowed down our turnovers tonight. We played as a team and we ran our offense," Willard said afterward. "I thank my teammates for my points."

Willard said the bench played as well as the starters and the Dragons couldn't match the Brahman's intensity.

Head Coach Jon Enrico was glad to see the intensity after last week's loss to Clewiston. He noted Okeechobee missed 10 layups and nine free throws last week and also allowed too many easy buckets. He promised that this team wouldn't give away any more games.

"With that kind of intensity on any night we're going to win. The kids worked hard tonight. David was unbelievable," he noted.

Enrico messed around with the starting lineup and got good

performances from Joey Voss, eight points, and Ryan Osceola, "The bench did a good job. It's a true team here," he said.

Okeechobee led 17-10 after the first quarter and held a 34-16 lead at the break. Okeechobee led 53-25 after three quarters.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Ryan Osceola continues to provide solid contributions off the bench for Okeechobee.

Lake Placid was led by Traveller Shatz who had 12 points. Okeechobee did a great job forcing turnovers. Lake Placid also had very few offensive rebounds.

Duelle Gore had six points, Matt Skipper five points, Ryan Osceola four points, and Terrance

Allen four points to round out

Okeechobee's scoring.

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OHS Rodeo team takes honors in six-state event

On Halloween weekend (Oct. 31- Nov. 2, 2008) our local OHS Rodeo Team along with the other members of the FHSRA (Florida High School Rodeo Association) traveled to Perry, Georgia. This spectacular event is known as the "South Eastern Showdown". Six states compete against each other in all of rodeo events. Along with our standard rodeo events we competed in a toy for tots drive, grand entry extravaganza, and state with the most spirit. Florida has the largest team of the six states, not to mention the top cowboys and cowgirls from around the southeast area. Everyone gave 100 percent and it really showed. The team would like to thank all of the parents, sponsors, team members and friends who made this event a success.



Jacoby Johns



Raybon Durrance



John Gomez

The results for our OHS Rodeo Team members:

- Pole Bending: Breanne Lee placed 14th overall and 6th in Florida. Raybon Durrance placed 17th overall and 7th in Florida. Carlie Lanier placed 31st overall, Megan McNabb placed 37th overall, and Cheyenne Fallman placed 62nd overall



Maci Culligan

- Team Roping: Breanne Lee and Maci Culligan placed 12th overall and 7th in Florida and Nat Stratton placed 15th overall and 8th in Florida!



Carlie Lanier

- Barrel Racing: Lexi Peaden placed 28th overall, Raybon Durrance placed 47th overall, Carlie Lanier placed 70th overall, Kayla Davis placed 75th overall, Megan McNabb placed 80th overall, Cheyenne Fallman placed 82nd overall, and Chelsea McNabb placed 88th overall.



Garrett Rucks

- Steer Wrestling: John Gomez placed 9th overall and 3rd in Florida.



Jacob Anuez

- Breakaway: Maci Culligan placed 4th overall and 1st in Florida.

- Tie Down Calf Roping: Garrett Rucks placed 6th overall and Jacob Anuez placed 22nd overall, and 7th in Florida!



Lexi Peaden

- Goat Tying: Lexi Peaden placed 31st overall, and 10th in Florida, Megan McNabb placed 58th overall.



Megan McNabb

- Bareback Riding: Jacoby Johns won the overall average buckle for the entire rodeo! He placed 1st overall and 1st in Florida.

The OHS team made quite an impact. Their FHSRA team won the average in bull riding, team roping, barrel racing, steer wrestling, and goat tying.

Even though the rodeo team's weekends are filled with rodeos, the members have been making every attempt to give back to the community. They attended the grand opening of the New Equestrian Community at Sun Creek, where members demonstrated their roping and horsemanship abilities. The team also spent hours making western ornaments and decorating a Christmas tree which is currently on sale at the Hospice of Okeechobee's annual Festival Of Trees. The team will be working at the Horse and Tack Auction on Dec. 13, beginning at 11 a.m., at 4793 Hwy. 441 S., (behind Lunkers). The public is welcome.

Look for their float in the annual Christmas Parade on Dec. 13. The team is also participating with the Florida High School Rodeo Association in a toy drive that will benefit our local Real Life Children's Ranch. If you

have any questions or would like to help please feel free to call Rodeo Coach Melissa Mckay at 863-824-0101 or 863-634-1962.

The next Florida High School Rodeo will be in Okeechobee on Dec. 6 and 7, at the Cattlemans

Arena located across from the hospital on Highway 441N. The rodeo will begin at 10 a.m. The OHS team would like to invite everyone to come out and support the hometown team. They will reserve seating for all Okeecho-

bee School Faculty and would like to ask the contestants' teachers and school staff to come out and see why the team works so hard to keep their grades up.

There will be a Cutting event Friday, Dec. 5 at Adams Ranch

on Hwy. 70 East at 7 p.m.

For more on high school rodeo online, see the Florida High School Rodeo Association Web site at www.fhsra.homestead.com.

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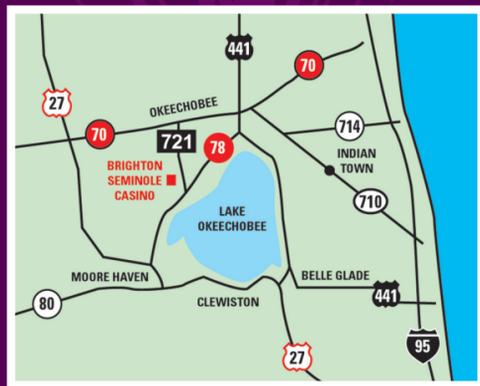
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