



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 288

Sunday, December 7, 2008

75¢ Plus tax

## Briefs

### City code board meets

The Okeechobee City Code Enforcement Board will meet on Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Items on the agenda include a disabled vehicle and general cleaning needed at a SW Ninth Street property; general cleaning needed as a NE 10th Street property; general cleaning needed at a NW Park Street property; and, a request for a find reduction on a S. Parrott Avenue property.

### Hospice has annual Festival of Trees

Hospice of Okeechobee's Annual Festival of Trees is under way in the blue volunteer building next to the Hamrick House on SE Fourth Street. The event will run through Sunday, Dec. 7. For more information, call Cathy at 863-467-2321.

### City Hall Park to host Santa

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

### Christmas window contest open

Okeechobee Main Street has announced their Third Annual Christmas Window Decorating Contest. Judging will be on Dec. 13. The winner will receive a plaque. For information please contact Okeechobee Main Street 863-357-MAIN (6246).

### Annual Christmas boat parade planned

The Okeechobee Yacht Club and Butches Redneck Yacht 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 Butches 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.

### Drought Index

**Current: 593**  
**Source:** Florida Division of Forestry  
**Local Burn Ban:** None

### Lake Levels

**14.22 feet**  
 Last Year: 10.23 feet

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

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# Lake update encouraging

## U.S. Sugar buyout plan controversial

By Charles M. Murphy  
 Okeechobee News

Officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District both agree, 2008 was a great year for Lake Okeechobee and environmental enhancement projects.

The County Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake

Okeechobee, the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, and the Lake Worth Lagoon heard from the heads of those two agencies Friday during their annual policy meeting at Okeechobee's Shrine Club.

Carol Wehle, Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District gave an update on work done during 2008. Weather challenges, restoration opportunities, and the drought, were three of the main obstacles this year.

Ms. Wehle said the agency had to respond to a water shortage and a flood in the same year. They initiated water restrictions which for the most part were very well received.

"Water is more at the forefront of the public now than it was before, that's a positive," she noted.

Ms. Wehle said they continued to improve the health of Lake Okeechobee with removal of invasive plants, additional tree planting, the removal of 5,000

discarded tires (50 tons) in the Lake, cultivated apple snails in new trees to provide snail kites with food, and treated torpedo grass.

"We don't necessarily want Lake Okeechobee to be nine feet, but if that's what Mother Nature provides, we try to make a positive difference," she said.

Tropical Storm Fay was the biggest storm of the year. It provided a good drill for the Districts Emergency Preparedness. Some areas of the district saw up to 15

inches of rain. Lake Okeechobee raised their level to close to 15.5 feet. The levels of the Lake have declined since then and the forecast for the dry season in 2009 is less rainfall than normal.

Another big project this year is the state's purchase of U.S. Sugar. Ms. Wehle said a lot of work has been done since June 30. She noted they have received a tremendous amount of input from the public on this purchase. Governing Board meetings are

See Lake — Page 2

## Enjoying the holidays: Christmas in the Country



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsken

## New tradition: Country Christmas

Okeechobee County officials and residents gathered at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center on Thursday evening for "A Country Christmas," which county officials hope to make an annual event. Double M Feed took visitors on a hay ride (above). Pony rides, courtesy of Cock-A-Doodle Doo Petting Zoo, were popular with the little ones, including 11-month-old Bryle Betts (left). Children also enjoyed all the petting zoo animals. Ariel Eason, 7, (below) loved the bunnies. The kids also enjoyed two "bounce houses" (below left) as mounted members of sheriff's kept a watchful eye on the crowd.



# State budget woes could delay SR 70 expansion

By Charles M. Murphy  
 Okeechobee News

Frank Meares of the Florida Department of Transportation brought sobering news that Okeechobee County Commissioners were expecting Thursday. Revenues are down in state government, and thus money for highway projects could be severely cut.

How this affects local projects is still unknown. State Road 70 has been the county's top priority over the past decade. Walker said the section from Berman Road to St. Lucie County is scheduled to begin construction in February, 2009. He also reported that the section from N.E. 34th Avenue to

NE 80th Avenue is also in the works. Nearly \$62 million is included in the five year plan. Construction is scheduled for 2012-2013.

Deputy County Administrator Jim Threewits said there are no construction dollars funded for the section between NE 80th and Berman Road. There is more than \$12 million spent for right of way acquisitions between 2010 and 2012.

Mr. Meares said they will save dollars where they can on the project. They saved \$12 million by using existing lanes at times for pavement, eliminating an eight foot wide bike path, and by not replacing all

See SR 70 — Page 2

# Health and Safety Expo is planned

By Chauna Aguilar  
 Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Health Department, Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, Okeechobee County Fire Rescue and the Children's Services Council are coming together once again with all the local agencies and vendors to put on the second annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo.

The Health and Safety Expo will be held at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center, 4200 S.R. 70 E, on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 9

a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Okeechobee County Commission is covering the cost of the Agri-Civic Center for this event.

Last year yielded over 1,300 participants which received information and give-aways from 80 vendors and many volunteers.

The expo is organized to be a fun, educational day for those who attend, young and old. The event will have booths aimed at many different age groups from the children to senior citizens.

See Expo — Page 11

## Local ranch wins world championship

By Charles M. Murphy  
 Okeechobee News

O.L. "Buck" Daniel has pulled in a lot of championships and belt buckles at his Okeechobee ranch.

The longtime Okeechobee rancher won three championships in November at the American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show in Oklahoma City.

Mr. Daniel claimed the World Champion Junior Tie-Down Roping title with Mega Bucks Boon, a 2003 Sorrel American Quarter Horse Gelding during the FedEx Open competition.

Mr. Daniel also earned a top-10 finish in Senior Tie Down

Roping with Garden Valley Spirit, a 1998 Sorrel American Quarter Horse Stallion, and a top-10 finish in Senior Dally Roping-Heading with Garden Valley Spirit.

Mr. Daniel said he was real proud of his accomplishments. His horses have won numerous championships in the past three years. They also has set records for money earnings on the AQHA tour. He currently has five horses who rank among the best in the world.

"I grew up around horses. We were really happy with what we did in Oklahoma City," he said.

Mr. Daniel and his horse trainer, Jason Hanchey, both

praise their horses for the honors and awards they've achieved.

Mr. Hanchey moved to Okeechobee about four years ago and built a partnership with Mr. Daniel.

Mr. Daniel moved to Okeechobee in 1964 and has helped build a near 4,000 acre ranch known as the Lake Cattle Company. He has 500 roping and cutting horses on the ranch, and all kinds of show horses. All of these horses were bred, foaled and trained in Okeechobee. The ranch includes everything these horses need to thrive and train.

See Rancher — Page 11



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Longtime Okeechobee rancher, O.L. 'Buck' Daniel shows off two of his champion horses, Spend Cash and Garden Valley Spirit. Mr. Daniel claimed the Senior Tie Down Roping with Garden Valley Spirit, a 1998 Sorrel American Quarter Horse Stallion.

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# Lake

Continued From Page 1

planned on December 15-16th to decide on the direction of this purchase.

Wehle was asked about the contamination present on U.S. Sugar property. She noted the district conducted an exhaustive environmental study. The District has required U.S. Sugar to spend the money for the cleanup. U.S. Sugar will pay the district 130 percent of the estimated cost to do the cleanup. She also defended the appraisals on the property.

Martin County Commissioner Sarah Heard said they must get the price right because they are using taxpayers' dollars and will resell part of the property. She noted they must get the taxpayers money back. She said she wants to see more restoration projects. She noted Martin County gave the District \$27 million in taxpayer money and haven't seen any projects.

Federal dollars earmarked for stimulus projects could be used for permit ready projects in Mar-

tin and other counties.

Hendry County Commissioner Kevin McCarthy said there is no good plan for what they will use the land for. He said more projects need to be located north of the lake to clean up the water in the Lake. He noted money spent in the lake should mean fewer dollars spent south of the Lake. "We've got to protect the estuaries, but you do it with a plan. We are doing this backward."

"We are all going to be sorry down the road. The sugar industry is going away anyway," he added.

Palm Beach County Commissioner Jess Santamaria said he was concerned about the loss of jobs in the Glades due to the U.S. Sugar purchase. He noted he has not seen a plan to offset the loss of jobs.

"I do hope there is a real serious effort to look into this potential problem. The people of the Glades are already hungry for jobs," he noted. He said unemployment in the Glades and Hendry County are close to 20 percent.

Commissioner Donna Storter of Glades County agreed with

Hendry County. She said they need to be cautious with this purchase. She also said she was disappointed the Governor's office and his staff have not provided a plan for the economic impacts.

The District has also moved ahead with more land purchases to protect the Everglades and provide more water storage. The District purchased 22,607 acres in 2008 at a cost of \$196 million.

The district also completed designs for a C-43 reservoir, and Lakeside Ranch near Okeechobee. They completed the Chandler Slough trailhead in Okeechobee and installed equestrian and hunter trailheads at Allapattah in western Martin County.

The district also completed the purchase of the Brady Ranch.

The district also constructed a weir to protect the S-65 E structure. It was completed two weeks before Fay hit. Wehle said if the work hadn't been done the structure would have failed and significant flooding would have occurred in the Kissimmee Valley.

Colonel Paul Grosskruger, head of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office in Jacksonville,

said his department continued to work on Lake Okeechobee, the Kissimmee River restoration and the Herbert Hoover dike in 2008.

He said they have focused on the worst sections of the dike first. A 22-mile section between Port Mayaca and Belle Glade is due to be repaired. 11 miles of the dike are under construction.

Colonel Grosskruger said the new lake regulation schedule has worked better and has helped prevent damaging releases of lake water into the estuaries.

The Department of Agriculture Rich Budell said budget cuts have impacted money available for best management practices for ranchers.

Dr. Paul Gray of the Audubon Society urged the Coalition to support more water storage projects north of Lake Okeechobee.

Lee County thanked the South Florida Water Management District for their work on the Caloosahatchee River protection plan.

Storter thanked the District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for work done on the Pearce Canal in Buckhead Ridge.

# SR 70

Continued From Page 1

three of the bridges. Instead they will repair and renovate the bridges. He said he will meet again with Commissioners to explain the modifications they've made to the project.

County Administrator Lyndon Bonner said he thinks the federal government should provide funding for this project. He predicted that would speed up the project considerably.

Talk of a stimulus package that involves infrastructure improvements around the nation could provide additional funds to Florida that could be targeted for main thoroughfares like SR 70.

Commissioners did express some concerns about the design of the project that doesn't include turn lanes at various roads.

Other projects in the work plan include a modification of the main intersection of SR 70 and U.S. 441. Over \$3 million was put in the five year work plan for

the next five years. Walker didn't promise the money will be there for construction in 2013-2014 but he added that FDOT officials are hopeful of having the dollars.

SR 710 is the subject of a planning study. A bypass from U.S. 441 to S.R. 710 is also being studied. Meares said there will be public hearings and workshops on this project in the next few years.

The work plan also includes a turn lane on U.S. 441 at S.E. 18th Terrace, improvements at the Okeechobee Recreation Area and the Okeechobee County Airport.

Alice Gilmartin of the Florida Turnpike Enterprise presented plans for upgrades scheduled at the Fort Drum Service Plaza. Nearly \$25 million is scheduled to be spent by the end of 2012.

Ms. Gilmartin said the plaza is one of the busiest plazas in their system. They are in the process of hiring a contractor to renovate the service plazas. Plans include a new 40,000 square foot restaurant and a new 3,500 square foot convenience store. She cautioned that just because money is budgeted for 2012, that doesn't mean

construction will begin then.

Commissioners held a public hearing on a resolution that authorizes the use of a uniform method for collecting non ad valorem assessments for such projects as drainage improvements, EMS services and mosquito control. The county must hold a hearing every year so they can keep the option open for levying these assessments. Commission Chairman Cliff Betts said this does not mean the Commission will adopt these new fees in 2009.

City Councilman Dowling Watford cautioned the Commission to be very cautious if they consider adoption of these new fees due to the state of the economy.

Sean Moore of the Florida Gulf Coast University Small Business Development Center explained to the Commission the services they provide the community. They are assisting Indian River State College with the development of a new program.

"Our job is to help business owners that want to be in business," he said.

The program is funded by the Federal Small Business Administration. There services are free. They help to facilitate the business development of the community.

"We don't want to step on toes, we want to help Okeechobee grow," he said.

Moore also hosts two hour seminars to help business owners. The seminar covers different subjects every month.

The only service they provide that has a cost is a 10-week class that involves management of rural businesses. It teaches skills to business operators that they can use in improving their business. They bring in guest speakers, computer software experts, real estate agents, attorneys, ac-

countants, and others that can help them with their business. Mr. Moore can be reached at 863-517-0097.

In other business, the Commission accepted a bond for construction of a south bound right turn lane to the Silver Palms RV Village Development located at U.S. 441 and S.W. 32nd Street. A 512 lot recreational vehicle subdivision is planned on 88 acres.

Commissioners also directed staff to meet with Sylvester Butler to discuss the O'Town HHRP affordable housing rental development. The commission gave the staff power to do whatever is necessary to protect their position on this project.

Mr. Bonner was directed to contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to see what kind of improvements they would allow inside the dike at Lock 7. Nine years ago the Commission and State funded a study on what facilities could be developed there.

Chairman Betts said he would like to see private developers take over Lock 7 and develop businesses, restaurants, and other facilities.

Commissioner Ray Domer said he would not support the use of tax payer dollars to improve facilities there. He did support a suggestion that the county ask the Corps of Engineers to reimburse the county for maintenance work they do there, like grading the parking lot and mowing the grass.

The Commission also approved the purchase of \$62,500 in portable bleachers that can be used at various venues in the County. Commissioner Domer said the County should not spend the money because they can't afford it.

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# Correction

In the Friday, Nov. 28 edition of this newspaper, there was an error in the story headlined "OCRA wraps up successful season." The Coach of the New York Life Team

was listed as Herry Hernandez. This was in error. The coach's name is Jerry Herndon. We regret the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

## At Your Service

# Okeechobee News

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## Okeechobee Forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 44. Calm wind becoming north northeast around 5 mph.

### Extended Forecast

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming east southeast.  
**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. East southeast wind around 5 mph.  
**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. South southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. South southeast wind around 5 mph.

## Lotteries

**Florida Lottery** — Here are the numbers selected Friday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 6-9-6; **Play 4:** 1-4-7-3; **Mega Money:** 6-16-24-40 MB 20; **Fantasy 5:** 2-3-7-14-16. Numbers selected Friday PM in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 0-4-6; **Play 4:** 0-1-7-9.

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# Man accused of taking girl's jewelry

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

An area man has been arrested for his alleged connection in the theft of jewelry from a 9-year-old Okeechobee girl. James Thomas Roberts, 29, N.E. 31st Terrace, was arrested Thursday on a felony charge of burglary. He was also charged with theft, a misdemeanor. Roberts was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail, but bond had not been set as of newspaper deadline since he had not been before

a judge for his first-appearance hearing.

He was also arrested on a warrant charging him with resisting a law enforcement officer with violence and another warrant that charged him with failure to appear - assault on a law enforcement officer.

In an arrest report by Deputy



**James T. Roberts**

Corporal Randy Thomas of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, Roberts was taken into custody after he allegedly entered a home and took the jewelry from a jewelry box in the girl's room.

The report states that Roberts had done yard work for the homeowner in the past.

On Thursday, Dec. 4, the homeowner allegedly found Roberts hiding behind a dresser in the young girl's bedroom.

Cpl. Thomas stated in his report that the homeowner had not

hired Roberts to do any work that day and that the man had no reason to be in the house.

The homeowner reportedly told the deputy that the young girl had bought the jewelry box and jewelry from a local thrift store.

In his report, Cpl. Thomas stated that he found Roberts near his home and that he was unsteady on his feet and his speech was slurred. The deputy went on to state that he found the girl's jewelry in the front pocket of the man's jeans.

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# Woman accused of felony drug charges

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

After being stopped for driving 40 mph in a 30 mph zone, an Okeechobee woman was arrested on felony drug charges shortly after midnight Dec. 5.

Lydia Lois Rosemann, 48, N.W. 176th Ave., was charged with the felonies of possession of methamphetamine and possession of a controlled substance (xanax). She was also charged with the misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia.

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

Rosemann was arrested early Dec. 5 by a detective from the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force.

After receiving permission, the detective began a search of the 1993 Ford station wagon that



**Lydia Lois Rosemann**

was driven by Rosemann. Inside the car, the detective reportedly found a clear plastic baggie that contained a suspicious substance.

When field tested the substance indicated a positive result for the presence of methamphetamine, stated the detective's arrest report. The approximate weight of the substance was .1 grams.

The woman was placed under arrest and taken to the county jail where her purse was searched. That search found two pills in-

side an aspirin bottle that, when checked, turned out to be xanax, stated the detective's report.

Xanax is a schedule 4 narcotic, the report added.

Besides the criminal charges, the detective also issued Rosemann traffic citations for speeding and for having an expired license tag.

Rosemann is currently out on bond following her arrest on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana under 20 grams in October of this year, stated the detective's report.

## Okeechobee's Most Wanted

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

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



**Rigoberto Gama Chavez**



**Estavan Villegas-Urbina**



**Angie Borjas, aka Stevenson**



**Wilbert Perez-Borja**



**Jason Hormuth**

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

**Rigoberto Gama Chavez**, 31, Arson.

**Estavan Villegas-Urbina**, 21, Robbery.

**Angie Borjas aka Stevenson**, 29; DOB: 03/08/1979, Poss. of Methamphetamines, Poss. of Drug Paraphernalia.

**Wilbert Perez-Borja**, 25, H/M, Poss Cannabis more than 20

Grams; possession with intent to sell.

**Jason Hormuth**, 28, DOB: 02/27/1980, VOP - Dealing in stolen property.

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## Arrest Report

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

- Chad Harold Wesley, 34, N.W. Broadview St., Port St. Lucie, was arrested Dec. 4 by Deputy Harold Hancock on a Department of Corrections warrant charging him with violation of probation - possession of cocaine. He is being

held without bond.

- Dionicio A. Rodriguez, 29, N.W. First St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 4 by Deputy Joseph Hall on a Martin County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence and violation of probation - driving while license suspended. He is being held without bond.

- Juan Gabriel Ybanez, 27, S.E. 18th Terrace, Fort Pierce, was arrested Dec. 4 by Deputy Harold Hancock on Okeechobee County warrants charging him grand theft - motor vehicle, burglary of an occupied dwelling, battery by strangulation and criminal violation of

a domestic violence injunction. His bond on these charges was set at \$80,000. He was also arrested on additional Okeechobee County warrants that charged him with violation of probation and violation of probation - battery. He is being held without bond on those charges.

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

## Law Enforcement Calls

### Law Enforcement Calls

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office received the following calls from Friday, Nov. 28, through Thursday, Dec. 4:

- Nov. 28
- burglary in the 20000 block of N.W. 272nd St.
- theft in the 1600 block of S.W. Ninth St.
- Nov. 29
- burglary in the 1500 block of N.E. Eighth St.
- assault in the 6700 block of N.E. 72nd Circle
- assault on N.E. 13th Ave.
- Nov. 30
- assault in the 2700 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- theft in the 1400 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- Dec. 1
- theft in the 4100 block of S.E. 21st Court
- child molestation on N.E. Second Terrace
- Dec. 2
- fraud in the 300 block of N.W. 98th St.
- larceny in the 1000 block of U.S. 98 N.

- theft in the 1700 block of S.E. 24th Blvd.
- stolen four-wheeler in the 1300 block of N.E. 342nd Trail
- theft in the 3600 block of U.S. 441 N.
- theft in the 2600 block of S.W. 16th St.
- Dec. 3
- vandalism in the 5600 block of N.E. Fourth Lane
- vandalism in the 1500 block of S.R. 70 E.
- theft in the 2800 block of

- N.W. 20th Lane
- burglary in the 500 block of N.W. 21st Lane
- theft in the 3600 block of S.E. 26th St.
- Dec. 4
- child molestation on S.W. Second Ave.
- burglary in the 6500 block of N.E. 304th St.

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

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Five Year Work Program

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

Date:	Wednesday, December 10, 2008	Date:	Friday, December 19, 2008
Time:	9:30 a.m. or soon thereafter	Time:	9:00 a.m. or soon thereafter
Place:	Central Florida Regional Planning Council Meeting Bob Crawford Agricultural Center 605 E. Main Street Bartow, Florida	Place:	Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council Office 1926 Victoria Avenue Fort Myers, Florida

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

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

<b>DISTRICT ONE</b> Gina Gilbreath District Title VI Coordinator Florida Department of Transportation P.O. Box 1249 Bartow, FL 33831	<b>CENTRAL OFFICE</b> Charlotte Thomas State Title VI Coordinator Florida Department of Transportation 605 Suwannee Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450
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Persons with disabilities who may require special accommodations at the public hearings in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Cindy Clemmons-Adente, Florida Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, FL 33831, (863) 519-2362, or by e-mail to [cindy.clemmons-adente@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:cindy.clemmons-adente@dot.state.fl.us). A copy of the hearing agenda may be obtained from Ms. Clemmons-Adente.

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

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

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

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

Debbie Tower  
Florida Department of Transportation  
Southwest Area Office  
2295 Victoria Avenue, Suite 292  
P.O. Box 1030  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
(239) 461-4300



**We are not alone.**

There's a wonderful world around us. Full of fascinating places. Interesting people. Amazing cultures. Important challenges. But sadly, our kids are not getting the chance to learn about their world. When surveys show that half of America's youth cannot locate India or Iraq on a map, then we have to wonder what they do know about their world. That's why we created My Wonderful World.org. It's part of a free National Geographic-led campaign to give your kids the power of global knowledge. Go there today and help them succeed tomorrow. Start with our free parent and teacher action kits. And let your kids begin the adventure of a lifetime.

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# Speak Out/Public Forum

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

**SOLAR POWER PLANT:** I'm no "tree hugger," to me all this "carbon footprint" and other buzzwords are just voodoo science. Having said that, I do believe that we in the U.S. need to either slow down or cut (if possible) the oil line "umbilical cord" to other countries. FP&L has a pretty good record of looking forward. This is also a strategic move, since there is a "prediction" that Florida will soon join more than half the states in implementing a renewable portfolio standard, a requirement that a certain percentage of a state's electricity come from renewables by a fixed date. Not to mention another "crystal ball glimpse" that a national renewable standard from the incoming Obama administration will in all likelihood be forthcoming. As to this type of plant, it is probably easier to get the permits and allowances for, since the "NIMBY's" (Not In My Back Yard) will instantly fall to the ground in an epileptic fit, frothing and foaming at the mouth, at the mention of nuclear plants. Of course, they will all retire to their air conditioned homes to congratulate themselves when they block such advancements.

**TECHNOLOGY:** I am so pleased to discover the advances in solar power. If you are going to build a new house, the advantages are great to going solar. You can install a system on your roof that cuts your electric bill down to next to nothing. If all new construction in the sunshine state had solar panels, it would not be hard to build enough solar and wind plants to take care of the rest of the electric needs in Florida. We could phase out the coal, gas and nuclear plants. Our state could be the leader in clean energy.

**BURGLARY:** How low can you get to steal from an elderly woman? When the couple who broke into the old woman's house go before a judge, I hope he throws the book at them. They could have killed that poor woman, nearly running her down with their car.

**HORSE SHOW:** It was great to finally have a first class horse show at the Agri Center. If you didn't get to see it you missed one great event. International riders from all over. Amazing horses! This could be the beginning of lots of horse events here in Okeechobee, which by the way could bring great revenue to this county! We need to welcome and encourage these events in the future. These people spend money in our community while they are here. It was sad to not see many spectators in the stands. The newspaper did have some advertising and news coverage, but I didn't see anything at the Chamber of Commerce sign in the center of town? Maybe next time. And by the way, this event was free to the public! I would love to see polo events and dressage shows and hunter/jumper shows. I know there are a lot of Western riders here, but there are a lot of English riders here also who have to travel to go to horse shows. Lets try and keep it local, and all of us could benefit.

**SOLAR PLANT:** With household solar hearing, current technology for household use would be to create power using photovoltaic cells and store the electricity in batteries. Power would then flow from the batteries to an inverter, allowing for continuing power at night and during "cloudy" conditions. BUT batteries as you know don't last "forever," so now you have a disposal issue. The Technology FP&L will use will be steam generation. The 180,000 mirrors will focus the sun's heat, generating steam which in turn will power the turbine generators. When the sun doesn't shine or the mirrors cannot heat the water sufficiently, the existing natural gas plant will take over and continue to keep the electricity flowing.

**SOLAR HOMES:** I remember reading about the new solar powered homes built in Okeechobee. On days they create more power than they need, it goes back onto the grid and FPL gives them credit for it. And when they need power, they draw it from FPL. So they have two meters and pay the difference. If all new construction had solar power, we could go a long way to reducing the amount of natural gas needed to produce electricity -- and make what we have last a lot longer. I think solar power is a great thing. It's clean energy and it helps make us less dependent on foreign fuel.

**OHS:** Good things are happening at Okeechobee High School. I am proud of the students, and the parents that helped make this happen. Maybe if we praise the kids more, for the good things that they do instead of the bad, maybe those numbers will keep on rising.

**JUMPERS:** The horse show with the jumpers was just amazing. I hope they come back. I would love to see more. The horses are just so beautiful it is like something from a movie. And some folks are talking about bringing polo here. Now wouldn't that be something? Polo in Okeechobee. I love it!

**HOLIDAY LIGHTS:** I see some people are putting up their Christmas decorations. Are you going to run a list in the newspaper this year? We like to drive around and see all the pretty Christmas lights. *Editor's note: The Okeechobee News has a tradition of listing homes and businesses decorated for the holidays so that readers can make their own tour of the holiday decorations. If you would like to add an address to this list, email it to [okeenews@newszap.com](mailto:okeenews@newszap.com).*

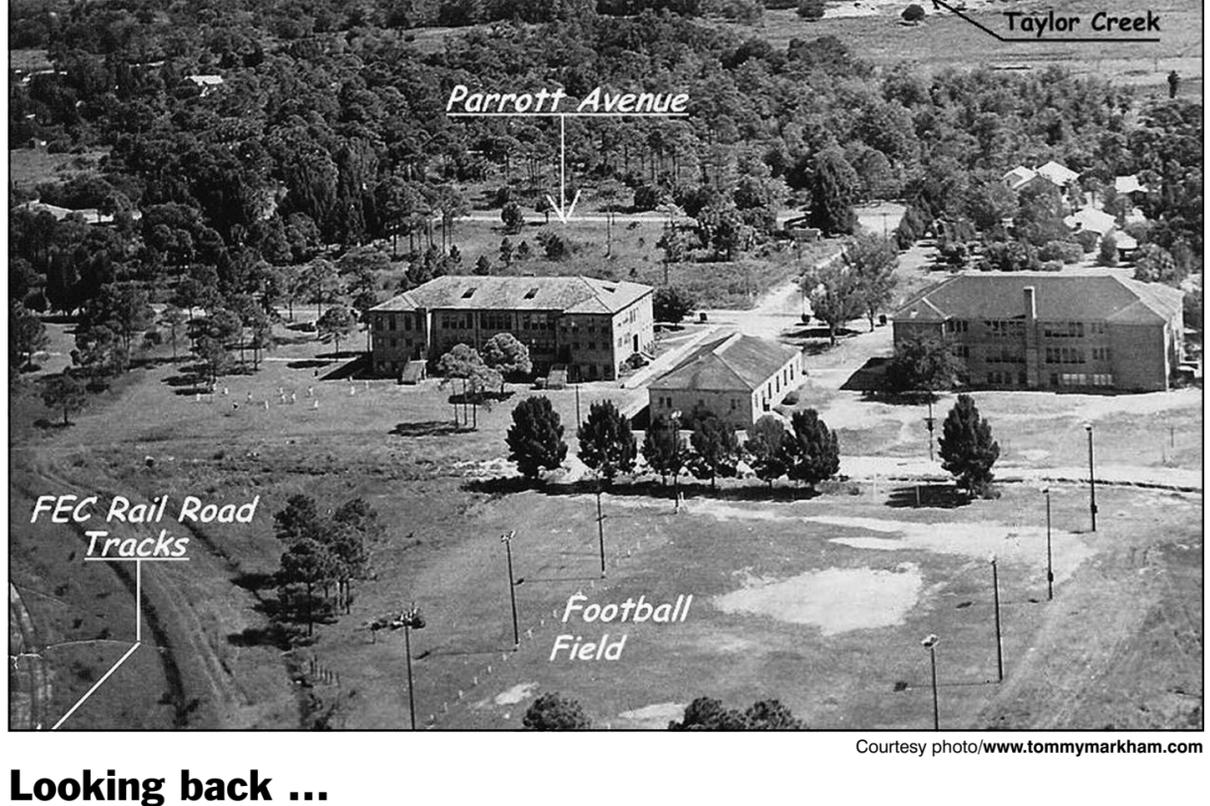
**STIMULUS:** In regard to bailing out the auto industry, France has a good idea. Their auto industry is in trouble too. But instead of giving money to the auto industry, France is giving vouchers to the taxpayers, good toward the purchase of the new, energy-efficient vehicles. This encourages people to buy new cars and it encourages the auto makers to produce more fuel-efficient cars. And it means the auto makers have to be responsible about keeping costs down and being financially responsible, since the consumer will decide which cars to buy. Since the voucher will only pay part of the cost, the consumer will still be shopping for the best deal. The car makers will have to build cars that are a good buy as well as fuel-efficient. And car makers that do not build cars that people want will go out of business as they should. This kind of stimulus package makes more sense than just giving people a check because it means they have to spend the money on new goods, rather than just use it to pay off old bills or sock it away into savings.

**NAMES:** I like Gallagher, his wit on "words" make me look at things too. Let's look at just this term "African-American." It really makes no sense, since "African-American" implies that someone was born in Africa and immigrated to America. Since most Blacks in America were born here, wouldn't it be correct if they were called 'Blacks with African Ancestry.' Also it's a term which implies that all Black people come from Africa even though Black people come from many other parts of the world. And it's a term which singles out Black people living in America from Black people living elsewhere. Black people from France, Canada, England, Jamaica, Switzerland, Brazil, or even from Africa are 'Black,' but a Black man from America is an 'African-American.' Finally, would a person from Egypt be called African-American? Egypt is in Africa. How about a white person from South Africa?

**OHS COACH:** I just heard that there are at least 20 applicants applying for the job as the Okeechobee High School football coach, and only four are local. I heard that several applicants do not possess a teaching degree and that they were going to dismiss those applications. So my next question is should they dismiss those applications or should they give it to the best man for the job even if that person does not possess a teaching degree?

**BIBLE:** The Bible does not say there is some stuff that people are willing to overlook. We are told to love our brothers and sisters in tolerance, that does not mean overlook. There are no contradictions whatsoever in the original Bible. There were no contradictions until there were several translations that omitted or revised wording. There are over 3,000 fulfilled prophecies that happened exactly as they were predicted from hundreds or thousands of years before they actually happened. Yes we all have a God-given right to make our own choices in our own lives. God will let you make your own choices, no matter where they lead you. He will love you all the way to the gates of Hell and open the door for you. It is not what the Bible says that matters; it is what God says in the Bible that matters. God always said the same thing. He never said, "This is what I command of you, but I don't care if you change my laws because it is politically correct." In fact, he told us political correctness is not acceptable.

**MARIJUANA:** God made pot. Man made booze. Who do you trust?



Courtesy photo/[www.tommymarkham.com](http://www.tommymarkham.com)

## Looking back ...

This photo, shared by Tommy Markham, is from 1946 and shows the Okeechobee County schools. Do you have an old photo to share? Email it to [okeenews@newszap.com](mailto:okeenews@newszap.com).

## Community Calendar

### Sunday, Dec. 7

**A.A.** meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. It will be an open step meeting.  
**A.A.** open 12 step meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Savior, 200 N.W. Third St.  
**Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee. (Behind Napa Auto Parts) A.A. weekend noon meeting Open Discussion. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

### Monday, Dec. 8

**Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee. (Behind Napa Auto Parts) N.A. Sickest Of The Sick open discussion 7 p.m. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.  
**A.A.** meeting will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. This will be an open meeting.  
**VFW #10539 Ladies Auxiliary** lunch and bingo will start at noon at the Post, 3912 U.S. 441 S.E. Auxiliary members and their guests are invited. Please R.S.V.P. to 863-763-2308.  
**Okeechobee Senior Singers** meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 North Parrott Ave. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited. For information or to schedule an appearance for your organization or group, contact Marge Skinner at 863-532-0449.  
**The Genealogical Society of Okeechobee** will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Public Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. The meeting is open to anyone interested in tracing his or her ancestry. The annual membership is \$10 per person, and \$12 for a family. For information, call Eve at 863-467-2674; or, visit their web site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgso>.  
**Artful Appliquers** is a recently formed chapter in Okeechobee. This chapter meets at the Turtle Cove Clubhouse, 10 Linda Road, Okeechobee on Mondays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Karen Graves, Chapter leader would like to extend a warm welcome to any interested persons to come by and see what they are about. For information call 863-763-6952.  
**Flotilla 57 - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary** meets at 7 p.m. at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Station located at the entrance to Okeetantie on Road 78 on the second Monday of each month. Everyone is welcome to come as a guest and inquire about membership. Watch the paper we are planning a one day boat safety program in January 2009. Do get your safe boating certification. Call to enroll for course or to inquire about membership 863-763-0165.

### Tuesday, Dec. 9

**Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee. (Behind Napa Auto Parts) N.A. Nowhere Left To Go Group open discussion at noon. N.A. Sickest Of The Sick Group open discussion. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.  
**The Lighthouse Refuge Support Group** is for women who are hurting, homeless or have been abused. They meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month from noon until 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 401 S.W. Fourth St., and on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Red Cross, 323 N. Parrott Ave. For more information call Donna Dean at 863-801-9201 or 863-357-2106.  
**Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition** meets the second Tuesday of the month, at 11:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, lunch is provided. For information contact Jim Vensel at 863-697-1792.

New Beginning's meeting of **Narcotics Anonymous** will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at Believers Fellowship

Church, 300 S.W. Fifth Ave. It will be an open discussion meeting. For more information call Monika Allen at 863-801-3244.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Family History Center** meets from 1 until 5 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 310 S.W. Sixth St. Anyone interested in finding who your ancestors are is welcome to attend. There is Census, IGI (International Genealogical Index), Social Security Death Index and military information available. For information, call The Family History Center at 863-763-6510 or Richard Smith at 863-261-5706 for special appointments.

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

**Widows and Widowers** support group meets at 7:30 - 8 a.m. at the Clock Restaurant, 1111 S. Parrott Ave., for breakfast. For information, June Scheer at 863-634-8276

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

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

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

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

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

## Counseling Corner

### Don't let anger control you

**By the American Counseling Association**  
We live in a world of high stress and tension. Whether it's bad economic news, local reports of growing crime rates, that traffic jam that made us late this morning, or a boss who never understands or appreciates us, we face lots of things that make our lives stressful.

Unfortunately, for many people, the stress and tension of daily life can build to the point that it only takes one small incident for them to explode, letting their anger get out of control.

Experts say anger is the most poorly-managed emotion in our society, with as many as one in five Americans having an anger control problem. Not being able to manage one's anger is a major cause of conflicts in both professional and personal relationships.

Is it a problem for you? One way to judge how well you control your anger is to consider whether you've ever, during an argument: raised your voice; broken something; pushed, slapped or physically hurt someone; embarrassed yourself; or felt out of control.

If any of those apply, you might consider some actions to help you better manage your anger: Accept responsibility for your anger. Anger may be triggered by someone else, but it's you who lets it happen and grow out of control.

Learn to listen and communicate more effectively. Too often situations that lead to an angry outburst are simply the result of not understanding what was said, or not expressing yourself clearly and calmly.

Anger should never control you. When it does, it can make your life miserable, lead to very real problems and even affect your health. If your anger is sometimes out of control and causing you problems, consider an Anger Management course (your local hospital or mental health center may offer one), or consulting a counseling professional offering Anger Management help.

**"The Counseling Corner" is provided as a public service by the American Counseling Association, the nation's largest organization of counseling professionals. Learn more about the counseling profession at the [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org) web site.**

# 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 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 Office On Page 2**

# Everglades Elementary students prepare for the holidays

Second Grade: Mrs. Brady's class is writing our letters to Santa, learning to count money, and studying fossils in science. We are staying focused while being festive.

Mrs. Campbell's class enjoyed a pizza party as our prize for being 2nd place runner up in the "Blood Round-Up" naming contest. The pizza was yummy!

Mrs. Kirby's class has been busy writing stories, learning about verb tenses, and regrouping in subtraction. We are working hard and looking forward to Christmas.

Ms. Hunt's class has been reading about alligators, dragonflies and other creatures that have been around for hundreds of millions of years. We feel so young!

Miss Kosinski's class is writing letters to Santa and talking about Christmas in other lands. Did you know that Santa has different names in other places? The students are creating a natural resource PSA video on how we can protect our natural resources!

Reading Leadership Team: The Reading Leadership Committee would like to thank all of the teachers who helped make our school wide read a success. We are just about finished with Are You Smarter Than A Flying Gator, and the students have enjoyed it. Some of our vocabulary words have been, debating, enthusiastic, and precocious. Our comprehension questions have been, In the book, what is the name of the Governor of Florida? What is "Alligator Ally?", What did Prez name his boat, and why? We have had many prizes given out to many students in many different classrooms. The students have learned a ton about Florida history in a fun and entertaining way. Each day we look for Mikey the flying 'Ga-

tor to hover over Everglades! So far, we haven't spotted him.

Mrs. Hollin's first graders were delighted to get a letter back from the author, Kevin Kremer. He said that they were the very first class of first graders to ever write to him. He is sure that they are the smartest first graders ever! We would like to thank him for sending an autographed poster for each of the students in Mrs. Hollin's class!

The Reading Leadership Team and the students are looking forward to our third annual read aloud of The Polar Express. The week of December 15th each class will read the award winning book and participate in age appropriate activities. We will conclude the week with our "Gator" walk around the playground, this year it will be Polar Express style! The special areas teachers will punch their train ticket as they go around the playground. As with every "Gator" walk, physical fitness is always the main goal! Thanks to the P.E. teacher's, Coach Forde, and Coach Jackson for keeping us in good physical shape!

Science Committee: The last science questions for 2008 are: 1. What type of tree is used mostly for Christmas celebrations in the US? 2. Can Christmas trees be a renewable resource? Tell WHY!

Mrs. Fuller has just concluded her RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) distribution. Each student at Everglades received a book of their choice to keep forever. The students are very grateful for all of the hard work that goes in to choosing just the right book!

Mrs. Wilson, our music teacher



Submitted photo/EES  
Mrs. Hollin's first grade class proudly displays one of the personally autographed posters sent to them by the author of Are You Smarter Than A Flying Gator, Kevin Kremer. He also sent a fantastic letter in response to their letter.

er is very proud to present the Christmas musical, "The X-Mas Flies." This is a musical performance put on by the chorus and the acting crew of Everglades. The performances are during the day on Dec. 15 and 16, and in the evening of the 16 at 7 p.m. A big thanks to choreographer, Mrs. Beki Moore and acting coach, Mrs. Melissa Brady.

Third Grade: Mrs. Tilton's class is mastering multiplication with our intense 10 day program. In science we are making models of forces that change the earth. Have you ever exploded a baking soda volcano or created a Jell-O earthquake? In Social Studies, we are exploring the achievements of ancient civilizations by making our own paper and counting on an inter-active abacus.

Mrs. Reno's class is "producing products" in multiplication. In reading we're focusing on cause

and effect and can tell all about past tense verbs. In Social Studies we are learning about kings, squires, peasants, and many things to do with feudalism. Our writings are explaining about ecosystems as we learn to write an expository essay. Congratulations to our students of the week: Dakota Myers, and Jose Luviano. Great work!

Mrs. Koff's class is practicing multiplication facts in math. In reading we are finishing our story "Saving the Sand Dunes." The students have been learning about cause and effect and different verb tenses. In writing they are working hard on their narrative stories and are enjoying sharing their work in class. In science we are learning about how land forms change over time. The students continue to work hard on 100 Book Challenge as they work towards their goal.

# Seminole Elementary School names 'Teacher of the Year'

Seminole Elementary School staff and students are excited to announce that Joe Paige is the Seminole Elementary School 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Paige has been teaching fifth grade for the past two years at Seminole, but he is no stranger to teaching in this district. With 29 years teaching experience in Okeechobee County, Mr. Paige began his career at Okeechobee Elementary while Linda King was principal. He worked at South Elementary School with Principal Sam Smith and at Everglades Elementary School while Mike McCranie was principal. Mr. Paige then left the elementary schools and began teaching at Yearling Middle School. He enjoyed work-

ing with Mary Hurley and Brian Greseth who were principals during his tenure there. Today, Mr. Paige works at Seminole with "some of the greatest faculty and staff," he says.

Mr. Paige's students will tell you he is a teacher who uses strategies and instructional practices that allow for small group work and independent practice. He gives students an opportunity to work individually and with him in teacher directed centers. Mr. Paige believes that every child deserves the very best he can give



them, both academically and emotionally.

Mr. Paige attended Indian River Community College and Florida Atlantic University after graduating from Okeechobee High School in 1973. Mr. Paige was born and raised in Okeechobee, and his family, who is related to the Raulerson family, dates back to 1840. Mr. Paige is a long standing member of this community and would never dream of living anywhere else. He takes pride in this town and its people, and he loves working in the school system.

Mr. Paige plans creative and exciting lessons for his students. His dedication, enthusiasm, creativity, and caring for his students

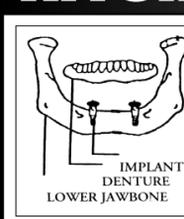
shows every time you walk into his classroom. His students are actively engaged, smiling, and having fun all while getting a quality education.

Thank you, Mr. Paige, for all you do at Seminole Elementary School to prepare our children for a successful career and productive life. We are happy to have you represent Seminole Elementary School as the 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year.

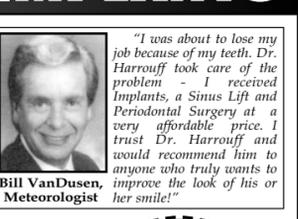


Submitted photo  
Seminole Elementary School students and staff are happy to congratulate Joe Paige as their teacher of the year.

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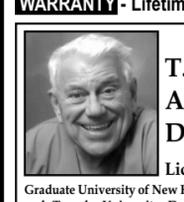
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## Community Events

### Rodeo Team to run concession stand

The Florida High School Rodeo Team - Okeechobee Chapter will have a concession stand at the Horse and Tack Auction on Dec. 13, beginning at 11 a.m. The location is 4793 Hwy. 441 South. Barbecue pork sandwiches, hamburgers and hot dogs will be sold. Proceeds will benefit the rodeo team.

### Wildlife Garden Workshop planned

In Florida birds and butterflies abound year round. Your yard deserves its share of these beauties. Come to this Garden Workshop and learn what plants are attractive to the species you want to attract and what garden features are needed for wildlife.

During the workshop you can design your space and create a list of plants and features you want to complement your own landscape. Be sure to bring the measurements of the space you have available for wildlife. Leave with a detailed plan for your garden and a Florida Friendly Plant. The workshop will be held on Dec. 15, from 1-2:30 p.m., or 5:30-7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Extension Service, 458 Highway 98 North, Okeechobee. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call 863-763-6469 to sign up.

### Main Street Mixer planned

Okeechobee Main Street invites you to share the holiday spirit with them at their December Main Street Mixer to be held on Thursday, Dec. 11, from 5-7 p.m. Hosted by the offices of Costopolous and Helton, CPA located at 195 S.W. 28th Street, there will be refreshments, door prizes and the yearly Mega 50-50 will be drawn. For more information call Okeechobee Main Street at: 863-357-6246.

### County Fair passes on sale

Need something special to put in a Christmas stocking? The Third Annual Okeechobee County Fair has a 10 day pass for only \$30. This 10 day pass is on sale now at: Okeechobee Main Street, 111 N.E. Second Ave., 863-357-6246 Sybles Flowers & Gifts 119 S. Parrott Ave., 863-763-2225 Tradewinds Pro Services (cash only) 200 SW 3rd Ave., 863-763-2887.

### Holiday ham sale coming up

Okeechobee Main Street is again having their Holiday Honey Baked Ham Sale! Order your Holiday Ham or Turkey with all the fixings including a wide variety of desserts now. Orders must be placed by December 19th for pickup on Monday, Dec. 22. To order or to have a complete list of items emailed or faxed to you call Main Street at 863-357-6246 or Syble's Flowers & Gifts at 863-763-2225.

### New Testament Baptist Church to hold 'Round Up' Sunday

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.

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

### Area Agency on Aging to meet

The Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. is planning its upcoming monthly Board of Directors Executive Committee meeting, to be held at the Area Agency on Aging, 4400 N. Congress Ave., West Palm Beach, on Tuesday, Dec. 9. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. Contracts requiring the expenditure of funds are a regular agenda item of this meeting. Please call Vivian Pfau, Area Agency on Aging, at 561-684-5885 for more information.

### Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrated

The feast of our Lady of Guadalupe will be held on Friday, Dec. 12 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 901 S.W. Okeechobee. Outdoor procession will take place in the parking lot before the 8 p.m. mass. There will be a special celebration beginning at 9 p.m. on the grounds of the church. We will have ethnic food and everyone is welcome. Admission and parking is free. For more information call 863-763-3727.

### Local authors visit library program

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

### Free memory loss screenings offered

The Alzheimer's Association will sponsor free memory loss screenings on Dec. 12 at the Visiting Nurse Association, 208 S.E. Park St., Okeechobee. Screenings are by appointment only from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. There is no charge for these screenings. For information or to make an appointment call Donna True at 1-800-861-7826. Screenings are for anyone, any age, concerned about memory loss. Screenings are conducted by staff from St. Mary's Memory Disorder Center. Immediate results.

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Submitted photo/South Elementary

### Students of the Week

South Elementary School students who displayed excellent manners, diligent work habits and followed the SOAR rules in every location were awarded Student of the Week certificates for the week ending Nov. 26. Those students included: Vanesa Gomez, Juliana Sheldon, Rosie Miller, Jennifer Hernandez, Juan Gomez, Lane Collins, Elly Mann, Wilniya Jones, Erica Perea, Ilen Garcia, Chase Trent, Jayla Newton, Shermaine Hicks, Savannah Hendrix, Amber Middleton, Koby Chapman, Mackenzie Johnson, Halle Baker, Logan Station, Meagan Clay, Rashin Williams.

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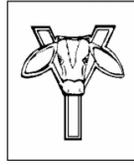
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# Yearling Middle School plans holiday fun

## Band Concert

The Yearling Middle School band will be putting on their annual Christmas Concert on Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. in the gym. Please come and listen to our band play various Christmas music. We look forward to your attendance and participation.

Nunez; Felton Johnson for the Posting of Colors; VFW Members - Commander Robert Hare, Albert Frank, Ed Hammond, Herb Karnes, Don South, and Ron



Stein; Ms. Regan VanNess and the Yearling Band; Ms. Pat Grant and the Yearling Steppers; Ms. Marcie Farrell for the playing of Taps; Mrs. Shelly Sickels and Mr. Johnny Henry for the decorating and organizing of the stage and backdrop.

## Tutorial Programs

Yearling Middle School offers a morning and an after school tutorial program.

The after school tutorial program operates two days a week from 3:40 until 5 p.m. (Tuesday and Thursday). Parents must provide their own transportation for the after school tutorial. The tutorial program began on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

The morning tutorial operates Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7:10- 8:20. Transportation will be provided. The tutorial also began on September 9.

Please contact Dylan Tedders at Yearling Middle School 863-462-5056 for more information.

## Information Hotline

Yearling Middle School offers an Information Hotline to assist students and parents. As of right now, parents and students will be able to call the Information Hotline at 863-462-5066 and listen to their work assignments for the day or week. Please call our school office if the Information Hotline seems incorrect or if you do not have a particular teacher's number.

## Boys' Basketball

Coach Sluder has chosen his basketball team for the 2008-2009 Season. Please come out and support our boys and girls during the season.

The Boys' Team Consists of the Following Members:

Marshall Tommie, Layton Thomas, Jesse Stebbins, Alejandro Diaz, Stephen Geary, Joey Santibanez, Alex Estermera, Lavonte Spivey, Jose Loreda, Deveon Jones, Ezequiel Gomez, Felton Johnson, Cornelius Merriweather, Jalen McKelton, J.T. Osceola

## Girls' Basketball

Coach Morrow has chosen her basketball team for the 2008-2009 Season. Please come out and support our boys and girls during the season.

The Girls' Team Consists of the Following Members:

Jaryaca Baker, Ami Edwards, Jessica Jaimes, Taylor Lowe, Shamarah Shanks, Alicen Sheeney, Janet Smith, Kiylier Baker, Jaide Micco, Jessi Osceola, Mike-shia Tillman, Carley McCain, Delaney Osceola, Taylor Trent.

## PTO Meeting

Please join us for our second PTO Meeting of the year on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. in the gym. We will be discussing plans for the year and explaining to parents the current grade promotion requirements. For more information, contact Andrea Mitchum at 863-462-5056. The meeting will precede the YMS Band Concert in the gymnasium.

## Veterans' Day Program

On Monday, Nov. 10, the Yearling Middle School Student Council, under the direction of Mrs. Kathy McGee, honored our community's veterans with a poignant program. The school welcomed the following guests from VFW Post #9528: Commander, Robert Hare, Albert Frank, Ed Hammond, Herb Karnes (ex-POW), Don South, and Ron Stein.

The Yearling Middle School Band played the Prelude, The National Anthem, and a medley of songs from the United States Armed Forces. Entertainment was provided by the Yearling Middle School Steppers and the VFW Post #9528 did a special Flag Folding Ceremony. Veterans and family members of veterans were honored by placing flowers on a wreath to signify their service and sacrifice to our country.

Mr. Chris Cudney, Language Arts teacher at Yearling Middle School, received a special honor because he is currently serving our country in the United States National Guard. He will be receiving his orders shortly to deploy to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The students, teachers and staff are very proud of Mr. Cudney's dedication and service.

Yearling Middle School would like to thank the following people for their contribution and hard work:

Mrs. Kathy McGee, Student Council Sponsor; Student Council Members: Ami Nunez, Roman Mattson, Hunter Boshnell, and Ari



Submitted photo/YMS

## Employee of the Year

Yearling Middle School, School Related Employee of the Year is Nancy Yates. She is shown with Mr. Brewer and Mrs. Markham.



Submitted photo/YMS

## Teacher of the Year

Yearling Middle School Teacher of the Year is Jenni Melear. She is pictured with Mr. Brewer and Mrs. Markham.



Submitted photo/YMS

## Great students

Yearling Middle School is pleased to announce the names of the students selected for this week - Dec.1-5, as students of the week including: (Standing on top row from left to right) Miracle Grace and Lakendra Williams. Sitting in middle row from left to right are: Mercedes Testone, Tori Hauck and Odalis Garcia and standing bottom row left to right are: Ja'Juanza Ford and Nicole Kelly along with Mr. Brewer and Mrs. Markham.

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# South Elementary plans Winter Carnival

Winter seems to have come early to Okeechobee this year. It has been cold for weeks but we are happy with this situation because it lets us get in the mood for Winter Carnival! The South Elementary School Winter Carnival will be held on Dec. 18, from 5-8 p.m. The Carnival is a lot of fun for the children and gives the parents an opportunity to chat with one another. During the Winter Carnival, all the students in the school have the opportunity to sing songs they have learned in music class. There are booths with games set up such as ring toss, football throw, and basketball shoot. For the younger children there is a treasure hunt, duck pond and a fishing pond. There are several other booths and games set up in the courtyard area. Glow-in-the-dark necklaces and temporary tattoos will be on sale near the Media Center. Seacoast Bank employees will be manning the Sand Art booth. (We could still use some baby food jars for the sand art if you have any to donate.) We will have two new rides this year. There will be a hayride and a train ride.

items. This is always a very popular event because we have some excellent bakers at South Elementary. The cakes and pies are not only beautiful they are delicious. If you would like to donate baked items, (home-made or store bought) please drop them by the day of the carnival. If you have students at South Elementary, you will be receiving a flyer soon that you can fill out to let us know if you are willing to bake or volunteer your time for this event.

But let's not forget the food! Our Winter Carnival is well-known for the delicious sausage sandwiches with green peppers and onions. This favorite will be here again this year. Also available will be hot dogs, chili dogs, hamburgers, and pizza. For your snacking pleasure there will be nachos and cheese. A full list of all the area businesses that help us with the Winter Carnival will appear at the Carnival, in our newsletter, and in a January article for the newspaper. We certainly could not have a successful carnival without the generosity of our community and families.

The PTO sponsors the Winter Carnival and the proceeds from the carnival go toward student incentives and rewards. Students receive awards and prizes at the four Awards Ceremonies each year as well as more incentives in the classroom to support the 100 Book Challenge and the Accelerated Reader programs. PTO supports many of the projects that are undertaken at South Elementary. The Positive Support Program is sponsored in part with PTO funds as is the landscaping and beautification projects.

So, come out and join us. Tickets can be purchased prior to the carnival in bundles of 25 (\$10) or 50 (\$25) or the night of the carnival at 50 cents each. All booths, rides, and food within the carnival is purchased with tickets. Buy plenty of tickets and enjoy your evening dinner and entertainment at South Elementary on Thursday, Dec. 18, from 5 until 8 p.m. The South Singers have been busy practicing for the 10th Annual Okeechobee Tree Lighting Ceremony held on Tuesday. It was very cold but the singing was superb! South Singers is an auditioned group of 35 students in grades 2-4. South Singers rehearses three days a week before school. South Singers will also be caroling at the Okeechobee Health Care Facility on Dec. 12 and will perform at Winter Carnival on Dec. 18.



Submitted photo/South Elementary

## Teacher of the Year

As all the students and staff gathered in the courtyard at South Elementary, the Teacher of the Year was announced. Mrs. Amelia Lozano, who teaches in the Exceptional Student Education department, was chosen by the staff to represent them as the 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year for South Elementary. Mrs. Lozano has worked at South Elementary since 1989. Mrs. Geeting, principal of South Elementary, presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Lozano during the assembly. Congratulations, Mrs. Lozano!

# Central Elementary is having a great year

Third grade: At Central Elementary School this week we are reading Saving the Sand Dunes. In math: Study your multiplication. In science we are learning about and making rocks. In writing we are continuing our expository writing on Thanksgiving and Christmas and writing a letter to Santa. In social studies we are reading Time for Kids.

Mrs. Norman's fantastic class has been hard at work! We have been reading Cinderella stories from around the world and completing various activities. The students have really enjoyed reading the many different versions of Cinderella. We have been learning about the water cycle in Science and will make a model water cycle next week. In math the students are learning how to complete surveys. They are taking the data from the surveys they complete and putting it into tables and graphs. Our students of the week have been Shay Hopewell and Kaleigh Sparkman. Congratulations you guys and keep up the good work. Thank you parents and family for everything you do! Ms. DelPrete's class enjoyed reading "One Riddle, One Answer" this week and doing a story map to describe character, setting, and plot. We are working hard to earn AR points to make our goal and go to Golden Corral. Parents remember to sign agendas everyday and 100 Book Challenge folders when your child reads for 15 minutes. In Science, we are learning about Landforms and how they change. In Math, we are collecting data and putting the information in frequency tables. Ms. DelPrete is very proud of how hard her class is working on Successmaker to earn the goals set for December. We will be making gingerbread houses soon so parents please send in the goodies.

Thank you for everything you do to support your child's education. Congratulations to our recent students of the week Robert Padgett and Ana Munoz. I wish everyone Happy Holidays!!! Third Grade BASE: Congratulations to our Students of the Week: Sally Tijerina and Carol Flores. We are working on our multiplication facts and getting ready to go into learning customary units. We are learning about minerals in science. We have learned about Puerto Rico in Spanish. We are looking forward to our Christmas vacation.

Ms. Enfinger's class competed in the Great American Balloon Race at Central Elementary this week. This activity was designed for these third graders to explore simple machines, energy transfer, mechanical energy, motion of objects, and problem solving. Every child built a balloon car and designed ways they could make it more efficient. They had fun learning. Students are working on collecting and analyzing data in math. Students are reading chapter books in class along with their stories in the readers. We are practicing our Christmas song for the schools sing along. Our students of the week were Sabrina Wells, Dustin Long, and Edwardo Taylor. Don't forget to read!

Mrs. Norman's class is staying very busy! We are working with time and calendars in math, and learning about rocks and minerals in science. The students had a great time making their own sedimentary rock this week. We have also been working on writing expository essays and interviews. The students had the opportunity to interview each other and write a paragraph about the person they interviewed. Our students of the week have been Kiara Hernandez, Felix Pineda, and Tommi White. Congratulations you guys, and keep up the good work.

Thank you parents and family for all of your help! The students enjoyed all of the snacks at our Oktoberfest extravaganza. It would not have been such a success without your help. You are the greatest. Mrs. Snyder's Third Graders are working hard on learning and practicing their multiplication skills. We are also getting into measurements and graphs. In Reading we are learning about multiple meaning words, and how to use dictionary definitions to find the meaning of sentences. In Science we are working on the Weather. This is a fun chapter especially now with the wacky weather we have been having. Our only December birthday is Blake Everett. Happy Birthday Blake. Students of the Week for December have been Blake so far. Way to Go.

In Mr. Goff's class we have been working hard on learning our multiplication facts and hopefully by the end of the year every child will have them mastered. It is very important to have them memorized to make all the multiple step problems go quicker. In social studies we learned about Ponce De Leon and how he came

to Florida looking for the fountain of youth. In writing we are still working on expository writings, but will soon switch to narratives. We are using dialogue, figurative language and great adjectives to spice up our writings. In math we are working on chapter 8, which deals with expressions and equations. In reading we are continuing to work out of our textbook. We are reading a good story called Roadrunner's Dance. We are also working hard so we can meet our Accelerated Reader goal so we could go to Golden Corral at the end of the quarter. We had four students earn this privilege first quarter and we want at least half the class to earn it for the second quarter. We are also busy recording our 100 book challenge steps so we can get to 200 steps very soon. In science we are working on Chapter 5 which is on forces and motion.

Media Center News: The students at Central Elementary got to choose their third and final RIF book for this school year. What a lot of good books they had to choose from! The theme for this RIF distribution was "Give the Gift of Reading." To celebrate that theme the students have been bringing their "gently" used books to donate to Central. These books will be used in 100 Book Challenge Tubs, AR Tubs and classroom libraries.

P.E. News: Students in K-2 at P.E. are learning soccer skills necessary to be competitive in an organized league, while Grades 3-4 have been learning about Hockey. Grades 3-4 will be hosting their first ever Holiday Hockey Tournament the week of December 15-18th during specials times. Parents are welcome to come and watch.



Submitted photo

At Central Elementary School. Ms. Enfinger's class competed in the Great American Balloon Race at Central Elementary this week.

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**"NEWLY REMODELED"**  
 Nice 3 BR/1BA Home close to town. Some remodeling work in the process of completion. Attractive pricing. Call today to make an appointment to see the property. #201941 \$94,900

# Inspectors deployed to pet stores

TALLAHASSEE — Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson has announced that his department is conducting a sweep of pet stores for five weeks to ensure that such establishments are complying with regulations that protect consumers in the purchase of pets.

"Pets bring a great deal of joy to families and are often a considerable investment," Commissioner Bronson said. "So it's important to do business with a reputable pet store or dealer who knows and follows the law to avoid problems from occurring after a purchase of an animal."

Toward that end, inspectors are visiting numerous pet stores and dealers between now and January 1 to make sure that a store or dealer is complying with

Florida Statute 828.29, a law that imposes certain obligations on sellers and offers recourse to consumers in the event that problems arise.

Under the law, dogs and cats must be at least eight weeks of age when sold or offered for sale, and each animal must be accompanied by a Florida health certificate signed by a licensed and accredited veterinarian within the past 30 days documenting required vaccinations, tests and treatments for internal or external parasites.

In addition, the law requires a dealer to provide a purchaser with information on the buyer's rights under the law, which includes the right to return, exchange or receive reimbursement for veterinary expenses if an animal is deemed unfit by a licensed

veterinarian within 14 days of purchase.

Aside from making sure that a dealer is complying with the law, consumers should also consider suitability when purchasing an animal, Bronson said. For example, some breeds of dogs may be less appropriate if there are infants or young children in a home. Likewise, consumers may want to think twice before purchasing a large animal if they live in a small dwelling.

Commissioner Bronson offered the following tips to consumers who are considering or planning to purchase a dog or cat:

- Don't buy on impulse. Research the size and breed of the animal for suitability with your lifestyle and circumstance.
- Examine the health certificate

that is required to be presented upon sale for completeness and compliance with the law.

- If there is a problem with your pet after purchase, contact the seller immediately.

The department's Division of Animal Industry assists consumers, veterinarians and pet dealers in educating them about the pet law and making sure that its provisions are followed. For additional information or to file a complaint, consumers can call 1-800-HELPFLA (1-800-435-7352) or 850-410-0900.

During the last three years, consumers who have filed complaints or sought assistance from Bronson's office for alleged violations of the law have received restitution totaling about \$71,000.

# Crop risk management waiver deadline nears

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, enacted June 18, created several new disaster programs under the title "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance." To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least CAT level of crop insurance for all insurable crops.

A 2009 RMPR waiver has

been established for Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE), TAP, and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) programs. The RMPR waiver allows producers to pay a buy-in fee within 90 calendar days of the date of enactment for crops having a sales closing date before Aug. 14, for which crop

insurance was not purchased. The deadline for buy-in is Jan. 12, 2009.

The following crops are eligible for RMPR waiver: Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Peppers

Fresh Market Tomatoes, Citrus I – Early and Midseason Oranges, Citrus II – Late Oranges, Citrus III – Grapefruit for Freeze, Citrus IV – Tangelos and Tanger-

ines, Citrus V – Murcott Honey Oranges, Citrus VI – Lemons and Limes, Citrus VII – Grapefruit and Oranges (Ju) for Freeze and Citrus VIII – Naval Oranges.

Producers can contact their local FSA office for more information regarding the RMPR Waiver.

# Your edible landscape can be pretty and nutritious

**By Angela Sachson, horticultural agent**  
Extension Service Okeechobee Office

There have been books written about edible landscaping and there's a reason for that. It is great to have a pretty yard but a pretty yard that's good eating is even greater. And when we are experiencing sticker shock in the produce aisle the idea of raising crops seems like a good one. Here are some reasons to integrate food into your landscape:

- To save money;
- To reduce your carbon footprint;
- To eat fresh produce and know where it came from and how it was grown;
- To savor the exceptional taste of fresh picked fruits, herbs and vegetables (instead of tomatoes ripening in the back of the truck on the way here from far away);
- To let your landscape give back value.

Just about any landscaping need can be met by a food-producing plant. If you need a large shade tree, think pecan. Other large trees include avocado, loquat, or mango.

Smaller edible trees include citrus, persimmon, lychee, decid-

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uous fruit and papaya. All good looking and tasty. And if you need a hedge or a large shrub, consider figs, cocoplum, mulberry, custard apple or barbados cherry. Oh, and don't put the mulberry over the driveway!

Medium shrubs include blackberry, blueberry and carissa or natal plum—already one of the most popular shrubs around. If you choose blueberry be sure to select a variety for south Florida and give it plenty of acidity. Planting in pots is a good way to do that and blueberry pots on either side of the door look pretty.

If you need a smaller shrub or an attractive border pineapple plants are nice and taste good too. Herbs, lettuce and artichokes all look nice by a path or driveway.

Here are some vines that will cover your fence or your arbor and feed you too: passion fruit, peas, legumes, grapes and cucumbers. And ground cover can be provided by lettuce, strawberry plants, greens, beautiful low growing herbs, or colorful kale and chard varieties.

Of course you still want beautiful flowers and ferns and ornamental grasses—they will look especially good interspersed with edibles. Here are some things to remember about landscape plants you eat:

- Edible plants need six hours of sun each day.
- Vegetables need food every couple of weeks.
- And water at least once weekly if it doesn't rain.
- Check periodically for pests and treat if needed.

Take a little care with your edibles and they will pay you back

with beauty and food.

If you need additional information on the edible landscaping, please email us at: okeechobee@ifas.ufl.edu or call us at: 863-763-6469. In Highlands County call 863-402-6540 and in Glades County call 863-946-0244.

Okeechobee residents can stop by our office at 458 Hwy 98 North in Okeechobee, and visit our Okeechobee County Master Gardeners from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons.



Submitted photo/Okeechobee Main Street

## Main Street Mixer

Syble's Flowers and Gifts hosted this month's Main Street Mixer on Tuesday, Nov. 18. Over 75 people were in attendance and enjoyed a large assortment of refreshments, door prizes and discounts throughout the store. Local author Jan Day displayed and signed her latest book "Kissimmee Pete and the Hurricane" as well as her previously released children's books. Rafael Pacheco of Creations in Fotografia and Jane Irwin of Photo's by Janie displayed their artworks which were made available for purchase to those in attendance. Okeechobee Main Street's December Mixer will be held at the office of Costopolous and Helton, CPAs located at 195 SW 28th Street on Thursday Dec. 11. The yearly mega 50-50 will also be drawn at the December mixer so mark your calendars and plan now to attend. The public is always cordially invited to attend Okeechobee Main Street Mixers. Syble's Flowers and Gifts Floral Designers Margaret Szymanosky and Linda McDonald are with owners Terry and Maureen Burroughs and store cat, Buddy.

## Livestock Market Report

Dec. 1 and 2, 2008

Cows	Monday	Tuesday
Breaking	\$43.50	\$53.50
Cutter	\$38.00	\$44.50
Canner	\$32.00	\$40.00

Bulls	Monday	Tuesday
1000-1500	\$50.00	\$56.50
1500-2000	\$52.50	\$57.50

	Monday	Tuesday
Calves	1309	2281
Cows	87	239
Str	9	10
Hfrs	1	9
Bulls	39	62
Yrlngs	90	41
Mix	0	0
Total	1535	2642

Med #1	Steers	Hfrs
150-200	130-160	
200-250	129-121	
250-300	120-130	
300-350	100-120	84-86
350-400	94-108	74-80
400-450	82-88	69-77
450-500	81-88	67-74
550-600	75-81	66-72
600-650	71-78	62-69

Med #2	Steers	Hfrs
150-200	90-115	75-90
200-250	85-115	60-93
250-300	80-115	60-88
300-350	70-103	60-80
350-400	79-90	60-73
400-450	65-87	57-72

Small #1	Steers	Hfrs
150-200	90-120	72-81
250-300	97-100	55-85
300-350	88-95	67-73
350-400	75-77	60-68
450-500	65-73	59-66

A lot of cattle came to town this week, over 4000 head. Prices

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lake access Mobile home with attached screened room. Nice and \$98,000 MLS# 201911

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story on 78+/- acres...over 4000 sq ft. large brick fireplace, barn/stable w/ tack & feed room...RV hook up, ponds, walk up attic, covered patio and porch, equestrian wash area. MLS# 200344

**5037-H 3/2 CBS home w/**  
attached garage located in Basswood. Well taken care split bedroom plan, new water system and pave driveway, appliances included. MLS# 201827

**5043-M 4-Seasons MH on 1**  
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- 7 Acres HWY 68 \$110,000
- Dark Hammock 2 10+/- acre parcels with MH or without your choice

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- Private parties only
- 2 items per household per issue

Special Notice 0155

**CASTLE**  
The Parenting Professionals  
Support our fight for the prevention of child abuse  
**Call (863) 467-7771**

Special Notice 0155

Employment Full Time 0205

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.  
How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.  
Shop here first! The classified ads

Employment Full Time 0205

Full Charge Accountant-Construction Environment- 5 Years Experience Minimum. Accounting Degree Preferred QuickBooks Premier and Excel experience required. Wage commensurate with experience. EOE Fax Resume to (863) 467-0610

Employment Medical 0210

• CNA's  
• HHA's  
• COMPANIONS  
HOURLY or LIVE-IN  
Choose your own hours/shifts/locations.  
Immediate work available.  
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Employment Medical 0210

Waterfront Rentals 0965

**PRIVATE WATERFRONT RENTALS From \$700 Month**  
\* Key West 1/1 Furnished Cottage - Dade County Pine Hardwood Floors - adorable wrap around porch on TCI  
\* Cute 2/1 fully furnished, screen porch overlooks huge Cypress trees - Private & quiet - right on Taylor Creek  
\* Gorgeous setting on Taylor Creek, 2bd/2ba, fully furnished, washer dryer. Huge fenced in backyard-Concrete boat ramp.  
\* Beautiful sunsets with this 2/1 on wide rim canal, tile floors - washer/dryer, huge storage shed, big fenced yard. Tropical setting.  
**(863) 467-8683 • (772) 215-1680**

Waterfront Rentals 0965

Mobile Home Rent 2015

OKEECHOBEE - 1BR, 1BA Single w/Florida Rm. No pets. \$575 mo. & \$500 sec. dep. Call 863-763-0648  
OKEECHOBEE-2bd/1.5 ba, Central Heat & Air, Screen room, \$700 mo. Will lease with option @ \$59,000. (863)634-3451  
TAYLOR CREEK ISLES - 2/2 on water, furnished, water/electric/cable incl. No pets. Adults only. \$900/mo. Call 954-260-1933  
THREE BED/2BA - On 1 acre, nice and quiet, pets ok \$800 mo. (863)467-8318

Announcements 100

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against Independent Newspapers. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Independent Newspapers' style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk \*. Independent Newspapers will never knowingly accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs or other offers to send money in advance for a product or service - we advise you to check with the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Line at 1-800-220-5424, and/or The Better Business Bureau, 800-464-6331 for previous complaints.

Employment Full Time 0205

**CLASS A DRIVERS WANTED**  
Walpole Inc and Walpole Feed are looking for a few drivers in the Okeechobee area that are looking for more home time.  
Minimum age 23, with proven history of safe OTR driving (min 1 yr)  
Contact Mike Lense for details on a new and exciting driving career.  
**800-741-6500**  
or apply online  
www.walpoleinc.com

Employment Medical 0210

LPN  
Nurse Manager  
2 yrs supervisory exp. needed and current FL LPN license. Competitive salary & Excl benefits. Fax resume to (561) 924-3405 or apply at:  
FL Community Health Centers, 170 S. Barfield Hwy, Ste 103, Pahokee, FL. hr@fchcinc.org EOE/DFWP.  
P/T Histology & Mohs Tech Position avail. in Sebring Dermatology practice. With flexible schedule. Fax resume to 863-386-1848 & call 863-386-0786

Health Care

**Health Foods Vitamins, Minerals Nature's Pantry**  
417 W S Park St • (863) 467-1243

Health Care

Rentals 900

RENT  
Apartments 905  
Business Places 910  
Commercial Property 915  
Condos/Townhouses - Rent 920  
Farm Property - Rent 925  
House - Rent 930  
Land - Rent 935  
Resort Property - Rent 945  
Roommate 950  
Rooms to Rent 955  
Storage Space - Rent 960

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 mardeivar@comcast.net.

Mobile Home Sale 2020

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

CDL DRIVERS NEEDED

Private School - One on One Tractor Trailer Training @ IRCC. No exp. req'd. Job Placement. Earn \$35,000 - \$50,000 + benefits. 866-832-7243 www.sageschools.com

Employment Full Time 0205

**Infection Control Coordinator ~ Full Time Position ~**  
Must be self starter with 5 years RN experience in acute care facility. Certification in Infection Control preferred. Candidates should have excellent interpersonal communication skills and be computer proficient in a windows operating environment.  
Please visit our website @ www.raulersonhospital.com to print a employment application.  
**Raulerson Hospital**  
1796 Hwy. 441, North, Okeechobee, FL 34973  
Fax: 863-824-2771

Employment Wanted 0220

SENIOR SITTER- Caregiver relief, reliable & compassionate. Hospice/Senior experience, Errands with or without the senior. (863)634-5290

Merchandise 500

Air Conditioners 505  
Antiques 510  
Appliances 515  
Appliance Parts 520  
Beauty Supplies 525  
Bicycles 530  
Books & Magazines 535  
Building Materials 540  
Business Equipment 545  
Carpets/Rugs 550  
Children's Items 555  
China, Glassware, Etc. 560  
Clothing 565  
Coins/Stamps 570  
Collectibles 575  
Computer/Video 580  
Crafts/Supplies 585  
Cruises 590  
Drapes, Linens & Fabrics 595  
Fireplace Fixture 600  
Firewood 605  
Furniture 610  
Furs 615  
Health & Reducing Equipment 620  
Heating Equipment/Supplies 625  
Household Items 630  
Jewelry 635  
Lamps/Lights 640  
Luggage 645  
Medical Items 650  
Miscellaneous 655  
Musical Instruments 660  
Office Supplies/Equipment 665  
Pets/Supplies/Services 670  
Photography 675  
Plumbing Supplies 680  
Pools & Supplies 685  
Restaurant Equipment 690  
Satellite 695  
Sewing Machines 700  
Sporting Goods 705  
Stereo Equipment 710  
Television/Radio 715  
Tickets 720  
Tools 725  
Toys & Games 730  
VCRs 735  
Wanted to Buy 740

Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

ORBITREK ELLIPTICAL- Asking \$300 OBO and a Red Ab exerciser \$15. (863)697-1247  
Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifieds.

Miscellaneous 0655

CHRISTMAS TREE - 9 FT. Pre-lit, clear lights, excellent condition, \$100. (863)634-8124 Okeechobee  
KINETICO WATER SYSTEM - Two years old New \$3500 Will sell for \$1500 OBO (863)763-7792  
SILVER FOX GO CART- Fun Machine, Robin=6.5 air cooled 4 cyl, engine. ATV style suspension w/coil over-shocks, dual seat w/retractable safety belt, dual wheel torque conv drive disc brakes, brush bars , much more \$1400 (863)763-8888  
PURE BREAD BOXER PUPPIES- 2-White Males, 2-Fawn 1F, 1-M. Health Cert \$350. (863)634-1109  
Grab a bargain from your neighbor's garage, attic, basement or closet in today's classifieds.

Real Estate 1000

BEAUTIFUL SAMANTHA'S GARDEN APTS - In Town, 2br/2ba, W&D, \$850 mo. + \$500. sec. (863)634-5780  
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  
DUPLX in BHR, 800 Sq Ft- 1/1 Extr bk rm \$495/mo. Incl lawn maint. (954)290-0861  
KING'S BAY, 2/1, Pool, Tennis, new tile flrs., etc. \$750 mo. + sec. Water & Cable included. 863-697-6428  
OAK LAKE VILLAS #17- 2/2, 1rg bdrms, W & D incl, \$825/mo, 1st, last & \$500 sec. (863)467-5965

Recreation 3000

Boats 3005  
Campers/RVs 3010  
Jet Skis 3015  
Marine Accessories 3020  
Marine Miscellaneous 3025  
Motorcycles 3030  
Sport Vehicles/ATVs 3035  
HOLIDAY RAMBLER - One bedroom/bath travel trailer. Has gas/electric, in good working condition. call for details. (863)447-6304 \$1700  
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, soft great shape ready to go \$5000 (863)447-5456  
VANTAGE OAKS PARK- 1988 Franklin 5th Wheel 32' long \$6500 OBO (863)763-3813

Auctions 105

Car Pool 110  
Share a ride 115  
Card of Thanks 120  
In Memoriam 125  
Found 130  
Lost 135  
Give Away 140  
Garage/Yard Sale 145  
Personals 150  
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900 Numbers 160

Business Opportunities 0305

NOTICE  
Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.  
Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.

Financial 300

Business Opportunities 305  
Money Lenders 310  
Tax Preparation 315

Furniture 0610

NEW FURNITURE FOR LESS!!  
DRIVE A LITTLE SAVE A LOT  
Lamps \$17, 100 Barstools \$39 up, 50 Desks \$97 up, 3Pc Dropleaf Dinette \$197, 50 Table and 4 Chairs \$397 up, 200 Recliners \$297 up, 50 2pc Sofa & Loveseat sets \$687 up, 50 TV Ent. Centers \$167 up, 2 Pc Queen Bed set \$297 up, 50 4Pc Bedroom sets \$387 up, 3Pc Livingroom tables \$97 up, 100 headboards \$79 up.

Tools 0725

CASTIRON CONT. CRAFTSMAN TABLESAW - 10", w/110/220 motor, very good cond \$250 (863)801-1272  
CRAFTSMAN - 41 inch two piece tool box on rollers, has 14 drawers. \$500 OBO (863)634-2280  
Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful people!

Houses - Rent 0930

AFFORDABLE NEW & RENOVATED HOUSES. 3/2/2 & 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  
BUCKHEAD RIDGE - 2 Story, 3BR, 2BA, Screen Porch, Hot Tub, W&D, \$850 mo. Call for info. 863-634-5236  
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  
HOUSE 3BR/2BA - sits on 1.25 acres, located in Prairie/Viking, outside pets welcome (561)718-1212  
IN OKEECHOBEE CITY: 4 Br/2Ba, \$1100 mo. + 1st, last, sec. & rets. Call Barry for more info. 772-216-1461  
OKEE - 2br/1ba, unfurnished duplex. \$550/mo + \$550 dep. 3624 SE 35th Ave. (239)707-5155  
OKEE: 3/1 on 1/2 ac. Renovated, laundry, C/A/heat, screen porch, carport. \$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 561-248-8888

Land - Sale 1040

Bank Owned Land, Several parcels ranging from .5 to 40 acres call for info (561)346-5952 Carola Rathke, Keller Williams RE  
VOLUSIA CTY- 82 Acres, great location, walk to intra-coastal, zoned C2 & R3, \$4M Carola Rathke Keller Williams Realty 561-346-5952

Mobile Homes 2000

Mobile Home - Lots 2005  
Mobile Home - Parts 2010  
Mobile Homes - Rent 2015  
Mobile Homes - Sale 2020  
Lot for Rent- 75 X 110 mobile home lot, 4415 SE 23rd Ct, Okeechobee \$181.90 month (863)763-4892 or (863)763-5419 Anytime

Lost 0135

DACHSHUND - Red, Male. Missing since Friday from Pioneer Estates off of 15A. Call (863)763-0380 Reward.

Garage/Yard Sales 0145

~SITE SUPERVISOR~  
Seminole Tribe of Florida Site Supervisor  
An advocate for the Family Services program and assists to respond and resolve any Tribal Member program issues. Knowledge of principles of public administration and public housing practices. Bachelor's degree with at least 2-5 yrs. of exp. in the field or similar area. Familiar with the family services/related programs concepts, practices and procedures. Ability to supervised, plan, organize and coordinate work assignments of other therapists and to communicate effectively. Must be able to travel to all STOF reservations and work a flexible work schedule including evenings, weekends & holidays. Available to be on-call rotation.

Services 400

Babysitting 405  
Child Care Needed 410  
Child Care Offered 415  
Instruction 420  
Services Offered 425  
Insurance 430  
Medical Services 435

Handyman Services

? NEED HELP ?  
CALL GEORGE CARTER  
Painting, Repairs, Carpentry  
Power Washing  
FREE CONSULTATION  
(863)763-4775  
Find it faster. Sell it sooner in the classifieds

Agriculture 800

Christmas Trees 745  
Farm Equipment 805  
Farm Feed/Products 810  
Farm Miscellaneous 815  
Farm Produce 820  
Farm Services Offered 825  
Farm Supplies/Services Wanted 830  
Fertilizer 835  
Horses 840  
Landscaping Supplies 845  
Lawn & Garden 850  
Livestock 855  
Poultry/Supplies 860  
Seeds/Plants/Flowers 865  
FEED & WATER HORSES in exchange for parking & living in own RV. Jan-April, 2009. (772)828-0460

Mobile Home Rent 2015

BEST VALUE IN TOWN! For Rent: 2/1 apartment and/or 3/2 home. Both units newly remodeled. Located 12 minutes north of Okeechobee on Equestrian Ranch. Monthly water, trash & lawn maintenance included. No Pets! \$495 / \$650 - Move in special. M-F (863)467-2982  
Dew Drop Inn-Adult park-DWMM- 3/2 12x26 screen room, 20x26 carport, cent A/C/Heat, incl appl, unfurnished. \$900 mo. includes water/sewer, basic cable, 1st, last & dep. References Req. (863)697-2065  
OKEE: New 2br/2ba on private lot, on T.C.K. \$650/mo. 1st & sec. Avail Now. No pets Call (561)767-6111

Mobile Home Lots 2005

Lot for Rent- 75 X 110 mobile home lot, 4415 SE 23rd Ct, Okeechobee \$181.90 month (863)763-4892 or (863)763-5419 Anytime

Sports Vehicles/ATVs 3035

POLARIS 800 SPORTSMAN '06 - fully loaded, orig owner, papers incl., \$6000 (305)773-4023 LaBelle

Don't Miss

This One OKEECHOBEE - Sat. & Sun., Dec. 6th & 7th, 8am-?, 5800 S.E. Hwy. 441 - 1/4 ml. SE of Kings Bay Furniture, Household Items, Small Tools, Audio & Misc.  
OKEECHOBEE - Thu-Sun, 8-5, 2380 SW 3rd Ct., HUGE, MULTI-FAMILY. Hundreds of brand new gifts in time for Christmas, Crafts, Tools, Silver, Home Decorator, Musical Instru., Games, Ant. books, Housewares, Baby.

Employment Full Time 0205

DRIVER- Class A CDL Driver needed for local deliveries. Apply in person at Walpole Feed & Supply, 2595 NW 8th St. 763-6905  
Time to clean out the attic, basement and/or garage? Advertise your yard sale in the classifieds and make your clean up a breeze!

Golf Clubs/Equipment 0618

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

Handyman Services

HIGHPOINT FURNITURE OUTLET STORE  
2346 U.S. 27 N Sebring, FL  
(Next to Lowe's across from Home Depot)  
Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

Horses 0840

FEED & WATER HORSES in exchange for parking & living in own RV. Jan-April, 2009. (772)828-0460

Automobiles 4005

Automobiles 4005  
Autos Wanted 4010  
Commercial Trucks 4015  
Construction Equipment 4025  
Foreign Cars 4030  
Four Wheel Drive 4035  
Heavy Duty Trucks 4040  
Parts - Repairs 4045  
Pickup Trucks 4050  
Sport Utility 4055  
Tractor Trailers 4060  
Utility Trailers 4065  
Vans 4070  
Automobiles 4005  
CHRYSLER SEBRING-2003, 4 cylinder, auto, cold a/c, fully loaded, runs great \$9900 OBO (863) 697-9938

Parts/Repairs 4045 Parts/Repairs 4045

We are now able to do all phases of mechanical work. Full time mechanic on duty. Stop by and give us a try!!!!

ST. LUCIE BATTERY & TIRE 198 US Hwy 98N • Okeechobee • (863) 357-2431 • www.slbtc.com

Automobiles 4005

Ford Crown Victoria-1998 8 Cylinder, Very good condition, Beige. \$4000 (863)763-3660

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

Four Wheel Drive 4035

JEEP LARADO- 4 Wheel Drive, 1998 Excellent cond. high miles, 4 dr. boat hitch. \$2500 Firm (863)467-6469

Pickup Trucks 4050

CHEVY SILVERADO Z71 1500 1999 - Ext. Cab., 3 Door, 4x4. Exc. cond. Runs great. 155 K. Mostly Hwy mls. Leather. Tow pkg. \$6500 or best offer. (937)728-1344

FORD STEPSIDE 1996 - 1 Owner, A/C. New Tires. \$2400 (863)467-8318

TOYOTA TACOMA-2004 V6 4x4 \$14000 (863)610-1593

Public Notices

5000

Public Notice 5005 State Public Legal Notice 5500

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No. 2008-DR-472

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:

ARMANDA ARIAS, Petitioner/Wife, and JULIAN GARCIA, Respondent/Husband

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: JULIAN GARCIA

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution of Marriage has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Nwabufolu Umunna, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 2901 Stirling Road, Suite 300, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312 within 30 days after the first publication of this notice or and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

SHARON ROBERTSON Clerk of Circuit Court By: Arlene Nealis Deputy Clerk 300836 ON 11/16,23,30;12/7/08

Public Notice 5005

Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDS

The Treasure Coast Health Council, Inc., acting as Ryan White Part B Lead Agency, is making Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act Part B and Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) grant funds available to assist agencies in continuing or expanding existing or develop new HIV/AIDS related programs and/or services. The purpose of this federal allocation of dollars is to improve the quality and availability of care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The service delivery areas for these services are Palm Beach County (Area 9), and Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties (Area 15). Separate responses will be required for Area 9 and Area 15.

Request for Proposals will be accepted from 501c3 designated non-profit agencies, governmental agencies, and for-profit agencies. However, non-profit agencies that are qualified will be considered first.

Request for Proposals are being requested for the following services:

Table with 2 columns: Service Name and Amount. Includes Palm Beach County (Area 9) Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act Part B Grant Funds, Medical/Non-Medical Case Management (\$576,787\*), Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (\$72,000\*), Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties (Area 15) Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act Part B Grant Funds, Medical/Non-Medical Case Management (\$912,494\*), Pharmaceuticals (\$280,000\*), HOPWA Grant Funds, Case Management (\$126,907\*)

Should you have any questions regarding this Request for Proposal, contact Pam Neal, Treasure Coast Contract Administrator at 561-844-4220 ext. 26.

\*Dollar amounts are approximate pending the allocation of Grant Funds from the Florida Department of Health.

Grant proposals will be available on the Treasure Coast Health Council website at www.tchealthcouncil.org from December 10, through December 17, 2008. The deadline for submitting a letter of intent is December 17, 2008. 303185 ON 12/5,7/08

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

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

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

Rancher

Continued From Page 1

Mr. Daniel said this sport isn't for everyone. He noted it takes a lot of work and dedication.

"If you're interested, you got to really like it to do it," Mr. Daniel said. His advice: "Get a good trainer to start out with."

Mega Bucks Boon earned close to \$35,000 this year. Mr. Daniel also owns Peppers Paniolo, who won the 2007 junior tie down roping championship.

Mr. Hanchey said he has felt at home in Okeechobee since his arrival. He praised the horses.

"It was a great deal in Oklahoma City," he said. "We took good horses and always do. That makes it a little easier on us. It takes a lot of hard work but we start with good horses. That makes our job easier."

The AQHA World Championship Show is the largest, richest single-breed world championship horse show in existence. It awards more than \$2.7

million in prize money to 3,494 entries from 48 states, eight Canadian provinces, Brazil, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom. To qualify for the invitational event, horses must have earned a predetermined number of points in AQHA-approved shows from Aug. 1, 2007 thru July 31, 2008.

Highlights from the Bank of American and FedEx Open AQHA World Show will be aired soon on RFD-TV on Dec. 17 and Dec. 24. The results of the World Show will also be published in the American Quarter Horse Journal in January.

Interested viewers can also get a look at the competition on NBC Television in January. The AQHA World Championship Show will air coast to coast on Jan. 4, at 1:30 p.m. on WPTV Channel 5 in West Palm Beach.

Residents will get to see a near perfect ride by Jason on Mega Bucks Boon.

"It was a great run," said the trainer. "He sure was really good. He did everything I asked him to do. I couldn't have been prouder of him."



(Top) Mega Bucks Boon, one of Buck Daniel's champion horses, works without a bridle at a calf roping event.



(Left) Brood mares on the Daniels ranch in Okeechobee help contribute to the champion bloodlines.

(Below) Buck Daniel and Jason Hanchey are raising and training champion horses.



Expo

Continued From Page 1

During the event, each participant will also get a ticket for a free hot dog, chips and a drink. Donations of food, snacks, etc. are also greatly appreciated. Please contact Sharon Vinson if you can contribute in any way.

Last year there were booths of emergency equipment, such as police and sheriff's office vehicles, fire trucks, ambulances, a helicopter, and brush trucks. Forestry's Smokey the Bear was also in attendance promoting fire safety.

For this year's expo they are looking to enhance the well rounded group of vendors that were present last year with additional vendors who have a booth geared toward health and safety. Deadline for registration is Monday, Dec. 15, to get involved in this free, family-filled educational day.

The Blood Bank has been coordinated to attend the Expo this year as well.

While some grant funding is expected there will be expenditures for signs, lia-

bility insurance and other expenses. The event is set up so that vendors and patrons have a completely free day. There are no charges for attending the event or setting up as a vendor.

Each booth is required to have giveaways such as pens, pencils, stickers, snacks, etc. and an item that visitors to each booth have an opportunity to win via drawing in addition to displaying and/or sharing health or safety information. Vendors/agencies must provide their own table, chairs and other items necessary for the display. Electricity will not be available.

Space is still available, both under the covered roof and outside, at this event where they are striving to educate the community on health and safety issues. Donations for the event are also being accepted. Anyone wishing to donate monetarily or other needed items to the expo can contact any of the following individuals. Participation is not limited to booth participation.

There will be scheduled entertainment throughout the event with a different performance every 30 minutes. Last year's entertainment included several

competition cheerleading groups, dance groups and other venues. If you have any ideas for participating in the entertainment area please contact organizers as soon as possible.

If you would like to participate, simply contact Sharon Vinson 863-462-5000 ext. 257, Angela Kelly 863-462-5781, Barbara Godejohn 863-462-5800, or Donny Arnold 863-634-6464 for a vendor/agency registration form.

The following groups will have a display at the Health and Safety Expo: KidCare; AARP Driver Safety Classes; Air-A-Medics; American Fire Sprinkler Association; American Red Cross; Area Agency on Aging; Babies "R" Us; Big Lake Hospice; Brennan Eye Care; Children Burn Foundation of Florida; Coalition for Independent Living Options; Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee; Economic Opportunities of IRC Inc. Head Start; Eco-Quest International; Okeechobee Health Department (various areas); Indian River State College (various areas); Florida Fire Marshals and Inspections Association; Florida Poison Information Center, Tampa General Hospital; Girl Scouts of

Southeast Florida; Healthy Start; Helping People Succeed-Healthy Families; Herbalife; Hibiscus Children's Center; Innovative Treatment Services, Inc.; March of Dimes; Martha's House, Inc.; OCSB Migrant Education; Okeechobee Community Traffic Safety Team; Okeechobee Discount Drugs; Okeechobee Educational Foundation, Inc.; Okeechobee Emergency Management; Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Corrections; Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition; Okeechobee Vision Care; Planned Parenthood; PND Inc. Physical Therapy; Professional Respiration Home Care Inc.; Raulerson Hospital; Reach FM; Riverside National Bank; Sandy Pines; Seacoast National Bank; South Florida Water Management District; St. Lucie County Fire District; Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT); Suncoast Medical Equipment; Pentecostals of Okeechobee; Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers; Visiting Nurse Association; and the Welcome House Drop-in Center.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS: 1 Deep gorge, 6 "I want it all!" types, 10 Trojan War hero, 14 One of the Minor Prophets, 15 Playing a fifth qtr., say, 16 Bad habit, 17 Cowboy Gene, 18 Precious, 19 Like mature low-flying plane, 20 Practical joke item that gets you wet, 23 Comics scream, 24 Campaign fund, 28 Bank heist units, 32 Mickey Mouse creator, 35 Sch. in Troy, NY, 36 Golfer Sorenstam, 38 Two-grade system, 40 "Me, too!", 41 Lower, as lights, 42 Cellulose fiber, 43 Leave the bondsman in the lurch, 45 From what place, 46 Self-esteem, 47 GM monitoring and tracking subsidiary, 49 Turned blonde, say, 50 Rocket booster's push, 52 Rock's Leppard, 54 Spend it all, 61 Sleep, 64 U.S. accident investigator, 65 "You're the One I Want": "Grease" song, 66 The old you, 67 Oxen collar, 68 Hot after-school drink, 69 Henhouse, 70 A slob makes one, 71 This puzzle's theme, familiarly

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting points for clues.

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# Boys' soccer drops match to Forest Hill

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Boys Soccer Team dropped their second straight district match, 3-0, to Forest Hill on Thursday night. Peter Martinez had two goals and Anthony Valdesuso had a shutout in net for the Falcons. Okeechobee outshot the Falcons, 6-5, but didn't take advantage of their opportunities.

"They were a really good team," Brahmans Coach Lonnie Sears said, "We had a lot of mental mistakes. The good teams make you pay for those mistakes." Sears said his team had their opportunities but couldn't capitalize. He noted while his team can play with any team physically, they continue to make mental errors that cost them matches. "Mentally we are not good

enough to play with a good team. They made the most of their opportunities and we didn't," he added. The game was a physical defensive oriented match up. Forest Hill scored their first goal when the Okeechobee defense over committed. The second goal came when Okeechobee couldn't clear the ball and kicked it right to a Forest Hill player. Those mistakes were too much for Okeechobee

to overcome. "Forest Hill is a really good team. They may be the best team we play all year. We haven't had a really good game yet, we've played well at times, but not for an entire game," Sears said. Pablo Caballero had two saves for Okeechobee, (4-2-1). The Brahmans travel to Martin County on Monday. They return home on Tuesday, Dec. 16, against Jensen Beach.

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# OHS wrestlers lose to Cobras

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

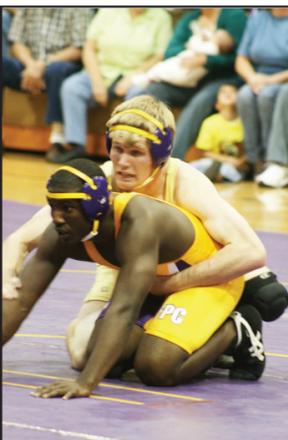
Fort Pierce spoiled Okeechobee High School's first wrestling match of the year with a 54-20 victory at the Okeechobee High School Brahman gym Wednesday night. Fort Pierce, the defending district champions, won 10 of the 14 matches.

Bennett in 1:34. Bush defeated Scott Pinder of Fort Pierce, 9-2 in the 145 pound weight class. Other Okeechobee wins came from Kenny Webb at 125 pounds. He won by pin fall in 2:38. Josh Gruber won his 130 pound match in a tough outing against Ken Gardenhire of Fort Pierce. Gruber won by points, 10-8. Other Okeechobee wrestlers who participated included Jose Banuelos, Tony Bowers, Mitchell Dean, Julio Torres, Donald Bryan, Craig Cleckley, Allen Garza, Jose

Madellin, Saul Garcia, and Zac Griffith. The wrestling team travels to compete in the Shark Invitational at Sebastian River High School on Saturday. The team hosts the Big Lake Classic in Okeechobee on Saturday, Dec. 13. Coach Bruce Jahner said Okeechobee didn't wrestle to their ability, but he saw a silver lining in the loss. "It's early in the season. This gives us time to fix our mistakes and improve," he commented.



David Sanchez tangles with a Cobra during the JV wrestling match.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy Tyler Hayes (right) gets ready for a big win over Ezekiel Bennett.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy Harrison O'Connor (bottom) came up short in his match.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy Craig Cleckley (left) had a tough match Wednesday.

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