



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 291

Sunday, December 14, 2008

75¢ Plus tax

Briefs

FHREDI meeting planned Dec. 15

A public meeting of the Board of Directors for Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative, Inc. and Florida's Freshwater Frontier, Inc. will be held on Monday, Dec. 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bert J. Harris Agri-Civic Center, 4509 George Blvd. Sebring, Conference Room 2. For more information, please contact Jim Otterman at 863-385-4900.

Masonic Lodge plans Sunday breakfast

The Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth, will hold an all you can eat breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 14, 28 and Jan. 11. The breakfast will be from 8 until 11 a.m. each morning. Cost is a \$5 donation.

Chamber to host course on concealed weapons Dec. 18

The Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce will hold a concealed weapons course on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. For more information call the Chamber at 863-763-6464. Space is limited.

Extension Service hosts Wildlife Garden Workshop

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. Call 863-763-6469 to sign up.

Drought Index

Current: 567
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

14.18 feet
Last Year: 10.16 feet

Sponsored By:
Pogey's Family Restaurant
1759 S. Parrott Ave.
763-7222

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

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Annual Christmas Parade: A festival of lights



Santa Claus stopped to meet with some tiny shepherds and wise men as community members gathered for Okeechobee's annual Lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday evening in downtown Okeechobee. The parade lasted about an hour. For parade video go to www.newszap.com, click on Okeechobee, then on Local Issues Forum.



These adorable angels were among the many children in the Lighted Christmas parade on Saturday. There were about 80 entries.



Pete Gawda, of the Okeechobee News, and his adorable dog "JuJu" walked the parade and were quite a hit.



Sponge Bob watched over the Boy Scouts from Buckhead Ridge with their Toyland Express train in the Annual Christmas Parade, Saturday evening.

Post office expects busy holidays

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Postmaster Mark Pinson said his employees are ready, willing and able to handle anything the holiday season sends to them this year.

Monday, Dec. 15, will be the busiest mailing day of the year. Mr. Pinson said despite the sluggish economy, things are still busy at the Okeechobee post office.

"It's busy as always. Plan for Monday the 15th. If you can mail earlier, I would try to do that."

Mr. Pinson said consumers should take advantage of all the services that are available on line. Basically anything you do during a trip to the post office can be done at their internet website, www.usps.com. Those services include paying for postage, printing labels, and even scheduling a pickup.

"You won't have to stand in line at the post office," he said.

Pinson said that is a very convenient way for people to mail their Christmas cards and packages during December. Postal officials urge consum-

ers to use express mail and two day mail service when they get closer to the holiday.

Mr. Pinson said he can't predict how busy it will be but he knows his staff is capable of handling any Christmas rush. "We still have a long way to go. I can't gauge (how busy) it'll be right now. We'll know when we get closer to the holiday," he added.

Mr. Pinson said the contact mobile unit at Mid Florida Hardware won't be open for this holiday season but will help out next year.

Reward offered in arson fires

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Four Treasure Island fires are no longer considered just suspicious. They are arsons.

Four fires in the vicinity of SE 25th and SE 26th Streets in the past month have officially been ruled arson and a reward of up to \$2,500 has been offered to find the culprits.

Detective Juan Bailey of the Florida State Fire Marshall's Office said the Sheriff's Office is now on board in the investigation and they are confident that an arrest will be made.

"We passed out flyers throughout the neighborhood. The Sheriff's office has also come on board to assist," he said. "Tips have been coming in and they are being followed up. There's a concerted effort between the state fire marshal and sheriff's office to stop these incidents. We are very concerned. We are glad that the fires have stopped for now."

Empty trailers in Treasure Island have been the target of the arsonist or arsonists. Although the actual property damage done has not been determined, Fire Marshall's estimate well over \$300,000 in damage has been done.

Detective Bailey said it is now up to the Okeechobee community to bring the culprit(s) to justice, "It's going to take the community. We're hoping they come through and

join us in the investigation," he said. "It's their community and somebody out there has heard something or knows something. We'd like them to come forward, even anonymously and just point us in the right direction."

The Florida Advisory Committee on Arson Prevention has offered the monetary reward for information that leads to the capture of the person or persons responsible. They lend their resources to solve arson crimes across the state.

No one has been injured in the fires so far. At first firemen thought some power surges might have played a role in the fires. That possibility has been ruled out.

"We have confirmed that four fires in the same general vicinity SE 25th and SE 26th Street are arsons," said Detective Bailey. "They have the same modus operandi. All of them are similar in how they were started. We are linking all four fires, and all are being worked as arsons."

Anyone with information on the fires may call the Florida Fire Marshall's office arson tip in at 1-877-NO-ARSON, which is 1-877-662-7766 or the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office at 863-763-3117.

31 apply for OHS coaching position

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The head football coaching position at Okeechobee High School is getting a lot of interest from prospective coaches.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy said each day they are getting more applicants for the position. As of Tuesday there were 26 candidates, and Thursday, there were 31 candidates. The applicants include college coaches, teachers from the Treasure Coast area that have coached before, local candidates, retired coaches and even coaches with college experience.

A committee has been formed to review the applications. The goal is to have a recommendation for Okeechobee High School Principal Toni Wiersma by mid January. Members of the committee include School Board member David Williams, Administrators Sean Downing, Brian Greseth,

and Mike Radebaugh, former Coach Cary McKee, and Randy McCall.

"We want to get the best coach possible, and there is no deadline for accepting applications," Kenworthy noted.

Kenworthy said the goal is to have a coach hired and on campus by the end of January.

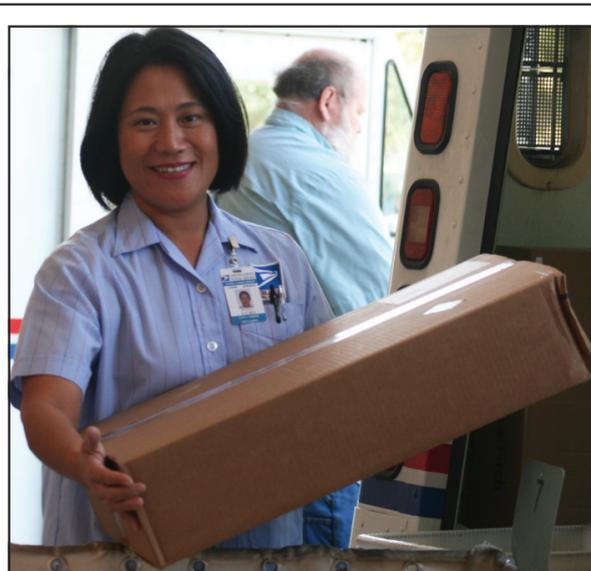
Former Coach Chris Brannan will serve in the position until the end of the month. He will coach Saturday night in the North South All Star Classic in Sebring. Five Brahman's will play in the 5 p.m. game at Firemen's Field. They include Garrett Madrigal, Nate Pollard, Alan Najera, Sam Dixon and Kareem Jones.

Lonnie Pryor is expected to play in the North South Florida All Star Game on Tuesday, Dec. 23, in Sebring. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Okeechobee Post Office workers, (l-r) Ricky Pye, Melanie Jasa, Melissa Potasky, postmaster Mark Pinson, and Mike Haddan are ready for the Christmas rush.

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Busy holiday
Postmaster Mark Pinson and supervisor Dee Dee Morris expect a busy season at the post office this year.



Post Office really delivers

(above) Chong Edwards loads up her truck for a holiday mail delivery.
(above left) Mike Shemo (right), John Divito and Betty Rucks are three of the front clerks that assist the public each day at the Okeechobee Post Office.
(left) Charles Hawk, Rene' Ginane, and Rosemary Holliday prepare mail for delivery.



Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Partly sunny, with a high near 76. East southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. East southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. East wind around 5 mph.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. East wind around 5 mph.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. East wind around 5 mph.

Ready to deliver packages
Post office staff packing the trucks for delivery.

Out of our hearts: This stone has been selected for our loved ones, each and every one of us hurting in our own way. God has provided and has been there for us, and life goes on.

Her wish has come true (Vicky) and we will long remember our times of togetherness dedicated to Vicky Reyes and Robert Reyes, Our loved ones, from our hearts to their hearts.

The smiles that she gave us... the closeness we felt... no one can take that from us...

Love,
Yolanda Solorzano



Submitted photo/Arnold's Wildlife
4-H Wild Bunch helped at Arnold's Nov. 8 open house fundraiser. From left to right are: Colt Smith, Doni Sheffield, Kari Muldoon and Kati Muldoon.

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 MyWonderfulWorld.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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Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Saturday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 0-7-9; **Play 4:** 3-2-5-3; **Lotto:** 13-15-21-41-42-44; **Fantasy 5:** 2-5-16-27-35.

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Special magistrate to hear code violations

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Special magistrate Lois Nichols will be considering imposing fines in four code violation cases during hearings scheduled for Tuesday afternoon. In another seven cases, if the property owners are found to be in noncompliance, they could be given 30 days or more to come into compliance before a fine is imposed.

Ethel Jackson could be fined up to \$250 for every day of non-compliance if she has not re-

If you go ...

What: Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate hearing

When: 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16

Where: Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1798 N.W. Ninth Ave.

moved the condemned structure from her N.E. 14th Avenue property.

If the derelict mobile home has not been removed from the N.E. 12th Lane property of Timothy Crews and Angela Cross, they could be facing a fine.

At last month's hearing, Everett Lawson was awaiting a permit for the metal building on his N.E. 22nd Avenue lot. If it has been not permitted and inspected he could be fined.

Last month Kenneth Goyens was also directed to get the required permits and inspections for his N.E. 11th Street property or

he be could be fined.

According to code enforcement officer Beth Albert, Willis and Tina Smith have overgrowth and weeds on their S.E. 40th Avenue property.

Clark and Viola Buford were cited for not having skirting around their S.E. 38th Avenue mobile home.

Code enforcement officer Blanca Saucedo stated that Wen-

dell Cowart needs to repair the derelict building, dock and power pole on his U.S. 441 S.E. property.

Geraldine Smith received a Notice of Violation for having a condemned building on her N.W. 22nd Avenue lot.

Leiburn and Edith Durham were cited because of the extreme overgrowth of their N.E. 80th Avenue property.

According to Mrs. Albert, Tony and Carmen Seals have illegal outdoor storage of goods on their U.S. 441 N property.

Officer Saucedo cited Jesus and Maria Cabrera for storing a camper, a trailer, a storage unit and building materials on a vacant lot on S.W. 77th Terrace.

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

Royal housing complex on hold

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

It seems the dismal economic situation has put a hold on another planned housing complex in Okeechobee.

Wally Sanger, owner of Royal Professional Builders, said that the economy was causing him to put plans on hold for a proposed multifamily complex consisting of two story, two bedroom solid concrete units in clusters of four,

six and eight unit buildings. It was to be built on N.W. 18th Street just north of the plant where Mr. Sanger manufactures concrete houses and would provide housing for the workers at the plant.

Mr. Sanger was successful in having the zoning on the five acre site changed from residential mixed to residential general. This zoning allows for 24 units on the property. However, Mr. Sanger's plans called for 62 units. His request for a special exception to

allow for increased density was denied by the planning board on Nov. 25

Therefore, Mr. Sanger said he would wait until the economy improves before pursuing his plans. He said his plans for a housing development in the city have also been put on hold. Mr. Sanger said that even if he built a housing complex, under the present economic conditions, prospective buyers might not be able to get a loan.

Man charged in theft of toiletries

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local man was booked into the county jail after he allegedly stole toiletry items from a store in downtown Okeechobee.

Leroy Johnson, 47, N.E. 14th Ave., was arrested on a felony charge of battery, as well as misdemeanor charges of retail theft and resisting a merchant while recovering property. His bond has been set at \$3,500.

Johnson was arrested Dec. 6 by officer Ryan Holroyd of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD) after he reportedly stole bath soap, toothpaste,

mouthwash, toothbrushes and a facial groomer from the Family Dollar Store, 816 N.E. Park St.

The officer's arrest report states that the store's assistant manager noticed that Johnson was hiding something behind his back.

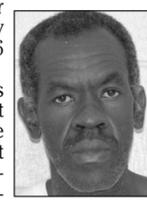
By this time, states the report, the employee and Johnson were past the cash registers and about three feet from the store's front door.

A second store employee ap-

proached and asked the man what he had behind his back, continued Officer Holroyd's report. At this time the man pushed her away and bolted out the door. Johnson then got on a bicycle and fled the scene with the manager following him.

Officer P.C. Eddings then found Johnson in the 200 block of S.E. 11th Ave. and was told by the manager that Johnson had hidden the stolen items under a tree at the back of the Post Office, continued the report.

Officer Holroyd's report stated that all of the items were recovered and that Johnson had no way to pay for them.



Leroy Johnson

Resting man charged with home burglary

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

When police officers entered a N.W. Fifth St. home Wednesday they found Darrell Roger Simmons lying peacefully on a bed. However, he wasn't supposed to be there.

Simmons, 48, was arrested Dec. 10 and charged with burglary of an unoccupied dwelling and violation of a domestic violence injunction. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$4,000.

An arrest report by Officer Justin Bernst of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD) states that, according to the injunction, Simmons was not to be within 500 feet of the home.

The report goes on to state that Simmons had recently been evicted from the home, and that all the door locks had

been changed.

The man reportedly told Officer Bernst and Officer Ryan Holroyd that he had a key, but "no key was found that would open the doors to the residence," added the OCPD report.

Officer Bernst then indicated in his report that the windows of the house could not be secured with locks and that Simmons had apparently gained entry through a window.

Simmons, the report added, was aware of the injunction because records at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office indicated he had been served in open court.



Darrell R. Simmons

Woman charged in attack on pregnant woman

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A Michigan woman was booked into the county jail Thursday, Dec. 11, after she reportedly physically attacked a pregnant woman outside an Okeechobee business.

Laura Rosa Serrano, 18, Whinery Drive, Traverse City, Mich., was charged with one count of aggravated battery on a pregnant woman. She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$2,500.

Serrano apparently attacked the 19-year-old pregnant woman and tried to kick her in the stomach, stated an arrest report by Officer Jack Boon of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD).

According to the report, the victim closed the business around 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, and walked outside where a friend was waiting to take her home. As the victim was walking

into the parking lot she was approached by Serrano.

Serrano, stated the report, was upset over an unspecified event on the internet site MySpace.

The victim told the Michigan woman that she was pregnant and did not want to fight, but Serrano reportedly ignored her and attacked the victim.

Officer Boon went on to state that the attack continued until an unidentified man and the woman who was waiting for the victim intervened. While the man was restraining the victim, Serrano continued her onslaught by trying to kick the victim in the stomach, the report continued.

The unidentified man was able to quell the situation and both parties then got into their respective vehicles and left the store's parking lot.



Laura Rosa Serrano

Okeechobee's Most Wanted

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

If you have any information on the whereabouts of any of Okeechobee's Most Wanted you can call the Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 1 (800) 273-TIPS (8477). If you call Treasure Coast Crimes Stoppers, you have the op-

tion 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 Steven-

son, 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, VOPM - Dealing in stolen property.

• Gary Lee Ford, 36, was arrested Dec. 9 by Deputy Harold Hancoc on Okeechobee County warrants charging him with violation of probation - obtaining property for worthless checks over \$149 (two counts), violation of probation - grand theft, violation of probation - uttering a forged instrument and violation of probation - forgery. He is being held without bond.

• Thomas Koos, 30, N.E. Second St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 11 by Deputy Stephen McKinley on a charge of driving while license suspended/revoked - habitual offender. His bond was set at \$1,000.



Rigoberto Gama Chavez



Estavan Villegas-Urbina



Angie Borjas, aka Stevenson



Wilbert Perez-Borja



Jason Hormuth

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).

- James Bates, 61, Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 6 by Deputy Justin Akins on a charge of driving under the influence. He was released on his own recognizance.
- David Suarez, 28, N.E. 10th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 8 by Deputy Sarah Green on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with fleeing or eluding a law enforcement officer. His bond was set at \$5,000.
- John Charles Mathieu, 41, N.W. 38th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 8 by Trooper

Thomas B. White on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance and a misdemeanor charge of driving while license suspended/revoked. His bond was set at \$5,000. He was later arrested by Deputy Lieutenant Keith Murrish on a warrant charging him with failure to appear for arraignment - driving while license suspended/revoked with knowledge. His bond on that charge was set at \$2,500.

- Gabriel Mancera Hernandez, 34, S.W. Second Way, Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 9 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on a Department of Corrections warrant charging him with violation of probation - possession of cocaine. He is being held without bond.
- Jessaka Leighanne Cotton, 19, S.W. 17th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 9 by Officer L. Parzygnat on a charge of grand theft. She was released on her own recognizance.

• Gary Lee Ford, 36, was arrested Dec. 9 by Deputy Harold Hancoc on Okeechobee County warrants charging him with violation of probation - obtaining property for worthless checks over \$149 (two counts), violation of probation - grand theft, violation of probation - uttering a forged instrument and violation of probation - forgery. He is being held without bond.

• Thomas Koos, 30, N.E. Second St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 11 by Deputy Stephen McKinley on a charge of driving while license suspended/revoked - habitual offender. His bond was set at \$1,000.

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.

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What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

HOLIDAYS: As the holidays approach and times are tough, please give what you can to our local charities. Some of them do a very good job of taking care of those in need. Also if you can, remember our local Animal Shelter, some of those pets are there because their owners could no longer afford to care for them and I know for a fact they can use some items. Give them a call if you can help. Everyone have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

DUI: We are in the holiday season and a lot of people will be going to parties. Anyone who gives a party where anything intoxicating is served -- be it alcohol or anything else -- should care enough about their guests to make sure that no one drives away intoxicated. Set up a designated driver system or take the keys and break out the sleeping bags. Just don't let them leave your house intoxicated and behind the wheel of a car. We have already lost too many people to DUI accidents this year. Keep your friends and relatives safe by keeping the drunk drivers off the road. It's no crime to celebrate a little too much -- but it is a crime to get behind the steering wheel of a car if you have been drinking.

COUNTY ORDINANCE: Please run the County Ordinance for the people in Quail Acres that open their doors or dog pens and just let their dogs run loose. Your dogs are a nuisance and sooner or later one of your neighbors will call animal control or worse, they will be killed by a car. You are being irresponsible, inconsiderate and lazy. Walk your dogs on a leash around your own yard for exercise and to do their business. Sec. 10-6. Animals at large or running at large. It shall be unlawful for the owner of any animal to allow or permit such animal to be at large or running at large. Any person, who shall release, either willfully or through a failure to exercise due care or control, or take such animals out of such building of secure enclosure and thereby allow such to run at large, shall be deemed to be in violation of this chapter. Sections 10-7, 10-8 and 10-136 shall apply to animals that have been found to be at large. (Ord. No. 93-6, 2.04, 5-5-93)

MEMORIALS: I completely agree that it is inappropriate to name something in honor of a person who is still living. It just shows a lack of propriety. Wait until they are dead to start building memorials in their name. We don't need to a memorial to remind us of someone who is on the news every night already.

CONTROL: In my neighborhood a family has had a daughter return home with two very young children following a failed marriage. A grandchild happily and contentedly plays outdoors under the supervision of her grandfather and an aunt all day. Then the grandmother returns home from work and starts spouting orders and the child turns into a crying, screaming maniac. Is that abuse?

DIESEL: I drive a truck that takes diesel fuel. And here is something I do not understand. Why do people who need gas block the diesel pumps, where there are half a dozen gasoline-only pumps unused and available? At most service stations, there is only one diesel pump and usually it has both diesel and gasoline. All the other pumps have gasoline only. People who need gasoline can use any pump, so why do they block the diesel pump? It would be nice if they would use the other pumps if they are available and leave the diesel pump open for those who need the diesel fuel.

TAXES: I see in the news, that the county is going to have to cut services because of a shortage of tax revenue. How do we allow land owners to have these huge commercial and residential projects approved by the state and county and still get exemptions? These parcels would bring millions to the tax roles. I cannot believe that you can have a project like these on your land and still be classified agriculture. They put several million back on the tax roles with the six parcels that were denied exemption because of abuses to the exemption rules. We need to get the developers to pay their fair share. The small land owners certainly pay theirs.

NAMES: I looked this up on the Miss Manners rules of etiquette. She said there are no rules regarding qualifications of a person's greatness or character needed to name something in their honor -- but you are supposed to wait until they are dead. Memorials should not be done while the person is still alive. There are many other ways to honor a living person.

GUNS: I saw on the news that people are buying up guns because they think when Obama and the Democrats are sworn in, they will push through gun control legislation. Does anyone know if this is happening locally? Or do people here already have all the guns they need?

OPEN MINDED: I think it's okay to be open-minded, but one needs to be careful not open the mind so much that one's common sense falls out.

OKEECHOBEE: You might be from Okeechobee if you do your Christmas shopping at Tractor Supply.

FISH: How is the fishing in Lake Okeechobee? Do any local fishermen have anything to report?

PET OF THE WEEK: I am so glad that the Okeechobee News has been printing the Pet of the Week. Its about time Okeechobee does something about helping out our helpless animals.

DRINKING: People are going to drink no matter what, which has been proven in the past. The mindset of "its all fun and games until someone gets hurt" is far too often the case. I think as a society we should encourage more responsible drinking and have harsher punishments on those who do break drinking laws, especially with underage drinking.

DOGS LOOSE: I live in what is considered a pretty nice neighborhood and there are several very expensive homes on my street. These people can easily afford to fence their yards. Yet they let their dogs run wild around the neighborhood. One even has a fenced yard but doesn't bother to close the gate most of the time and so the dogs just run around as they please, tearing up garbage bags and bothering other people's property. What does it take to get people to follow the law? The law states you must keep your animals on your own property. If you take your dog off your property, it has to be on a leash.

HOSPICE TREES: I want to thank everyone who participated in the Hospice Festival of Trees, including those who made the trees and those who purchased them during the auction. It is a lovely event each year and really shows the holiday spirit and the real meaning of the holiday.

FOOD BANKS: To those who are in the holiday spirit, don't forget the food banks. It is nice to donate toys for the children, but don't forget that many people are going hungry. The local food banks are having trouble coming up with enough food just to make sure that everyone gets something to eat. A few cans of food can make a big difference.

CORRUPTION: Well we always heard that Chicago politicians are corrupt, but the Governor of Illinois has gotten into the record books this time by trying to sell an appointment to the senate to the highest bidder. I wonder what our new president-elect thinks of the governor of his state? People made jokes about the governor of Alaska. At least she isn't trying to sell a Senate seat like the governor of Obama's home state. The question now is, what will they do about filling the senate seat left open by Obama's election to the presidency? They can't follow the regular rules and let the governor appoint someone. Will they impeach the governor, let the lieutenant governor move up and then let him appoint a senator? And if they do, will anyone trust that person?

Reflections from the Pulpit

Rev. Larry R. Kilgore
Okeechobee Church of God,
Pastor

On Christmas Day in 1837, a force of U.S. soldiers and Seminoles fought a decisive battle just outside the boundaries of present day Okeechobee. This battle marked the high water mark of what was known as the Second Seminole War. A few years later,

the U.S. government abandoned hostilities with the approximately 200 Seminoles remaining in the Everglades. This gave the Seminoles the distinction of being the only Native American tribe to never sign a peace treaty with the U.S. government and the right to the name "Unconquered."

In later years, Okeechobee County became the first county

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Your local Extension office recently began a column for local gardeners, and we depend on folks sending us questions. This week we received very few questions -- maybe it's because people are too busy working in their Florida Yard, putting up the decorations, shopping to keep the economy going or otherwise getting ready for the holidays.

So, today's column is a little shorter than usual. Please send us some questions so we can continue to keep Okeechobee in the Green.

Rose Transplanting

My mother does yard work for a living and one of her clients recently gave her some rose bushes. She dug them up, but does not know where she should put them in her yard. Her yard gets rather wet and there are a lot of large Oak trees which provides shade pretty much 24/7. Where would be the best place to put them? Is there a certain time of day that is best to plant them? ~ Laura

Thanks for your question, Laura. Rose bushes need at least 6 hours of direct sunlight to do well. They do like moist soil, but will not tolerate wet feet. Experienced "rosarians" also choose bushes that have been grafted on to rootstocks that stand up to our moist soils and to nematodes -- hopefully your bushes are on Fortuniana rootstock. The soil pH should be slightly acid to make life easier on you and the plant. Another consideration is good air movement -- it keeps the leaves dry and discourages black spot diseases and the various sucking insects that roses seem to attract.

"Under an oak tree" does not sound like a good spot due to the shade. If your Florida Yard does not have a spot like the one I've describe, the rosebush might be planted back into a good sized container where it can be grown. Another alternative is to look for a neighbor that has a rosy spot that will work. Remember -- Christmas is coming, and it's better to give than receive!

If you have the right spot, at this time of year, the time of day when transplanting is best will not matter -- choose a time when it is light enough to work outdoors. Dig the hole twice as wide as the rootball, and just as

deep as the deepest root. Excess soil from the hole should be used to build a water ring around the plant, mulch it well, but not against the stem, and water it in well.

Here's a link to my column on roses printed last May: <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu/News%20columns/Rose.Gardening.htm>

Shady Gardener

I have a small vegetable garden at my home. Half of the garden is thriving and the other half sprouted and grew to about 3 inches tall then stopped. I think it is due to not getting enough sun, because the same vegetables that are in the sun more during the day are doing wonderful. Are there any vegetables or herbs that do well in shady areas? ~Beth

Beth - thank your for your question. Take a look at my response to Laura above, even though you are growing different kinds of plants. Vegetable Gardens also need 6 or more hours of sunlight to do well. There are very few edible plants that I can think of that can grow well in shady areas.

I asked Angela Sachson here in our office what her experiences are with shady gardens. She suggests that you may have better luck with leafy kinds of vegetables, such as lettuce, spinach, kale and possibly broccoli. If you consult our Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide, it will give you how many days to harvest for common garden plants. In shady areas, you will need to add more days on to those figures. Be careful not to overwater, and keep a careful look out for diseases and insects that may find these stressed plants well suited for their dinner than for your salad bowl. Good Luck!

Send us your favorite garden question by fax 863-763-5901, email okeenews@newszap.com or just drop it off at the Okeechobee News office at 107 SW 17th St. suite D, Okeechobee. The University of Florida - Okeechobee County Extension office will pick out three questions that would be of greatest interest to local residents and publish brief answers in the Okeechobee News. Be sure to include your name and phone or email address in case we need more information. More information is available on the award-winning Okeechobee web page, <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Okeechobee News

Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge ...

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

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For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2

to give Seminoles the privilege of attending the public schools and soon the first Seminole to graduate from Florida's public schools graduated from right here in Okeechobee County.

Recently a portion of the widely traveled Fifth Avenue was renamed Osceola Avenue in honor of the Seminole tribe who have always been a part of the heritage of Okeechobee County. One of the things I personally am proud of is that Seminole blood runs through my veins, also.

Now what does all of this mean as we approach the Christmas season once again? It means that just as the Christmas Day battle helped to hasten the end of hos-

tilities between the U.S. government and the Seminoles, so also Christmas Day means the end of hostilities between God and man. As the angels approached the shepherds in the Judean hills, they announced, "Peace on Earth, good will toward men." It means that God is not mad at you. He isn't disappointed in you, He wants hostilities to be at an end. And He wants you in His family. The purpose of Christmas was so that God could send His son to pay the penalty for our sins and that we could at last have peace with God. "Peace on Earth, good will toward men, Peace on Earth good will toward men." Thank God for His wonderful gift.

Community Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 14

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

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

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

Monday, Dec. 15

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, Dec. 16

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kiwanis members learn history of WOKC

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

Kiwanis members heard from Robbie Castellanos, co-owner of WOKC at their weekly luncheon where they learned about his journey in radio prior to acquiring WOKC in Okeechobee.

WOKC is a part of the Glades Media Radio Group which is co-owned by Mr. Castellanos and Jim Johnson. The group has ten radio stations, six FM stations and four AM stations that are heard in Clewiston, West Palm Beach, Immokalee, Marathon and Okeechobee. They have been in business for 28 years.

Mr. Castellanos held his first job in radio in the 1970s where he was basically a one-man show and did everything including the morning show, chief salesman and even stayed at night to fix equipment. Through all of these

trials he learned a lot about radio, both what to do and what not to do.

In the late '70s he joined with Jim Johnson and decided to purchase a station in Clewiston that was basically going under at the time and hadn't had a good month financially in a year. They purchased the station in December, 1979, when it was making only \$1,910 a month. By Dec. 1, 1980 the station was making \$13,000 a month.

In the mid-'80s they began looking for more stations outside of Clewiston to expand their business and they ventured into Spanish radio. Admittedly, Mr. Castellanos really misjudged what could happen in Mexican radio and their business exploded, but six months into their business the Cuban government broadcasted their station at 50,000 watts to drown out their

station. They attempted to get around this problem but eventually just moved on to other stations and frequencies once they were either purchased or approved. They eventually had stations, both AM and FM in Immokalee, a station in West Palm and Marathon.

In order to expand their listening audience in Clewiston they changed frequencies and their station was first heard in Okeechobee County due to the expansion. This was also around the same time that Okeechobee had lost their local radio station and in order to expand into the Okeechobee market, Glades Media Group purchased WOKC.

Billy Dean has also become a well known name in Okeechobee who came from Ft. Myers and has been at WOKC for the last six years. Steve Daniel also spoke to Kiwanis members about his

contributions to the local station. Mr. Daniel is a professional bass fisherman who spends 40 weeks on tour all over the U.S. He participates in the Nibbles and Bites show with Billy Dean remotely from wherever he is during the spot.

In addition to the FM broadcast, on Monday, Aug. 18, WOKC changed their format to True Country in order to serve their loyal long-time audience as well as attract new listeners. Their new format includes '90s and '80s Country as a major part of their programming with songs up to today's country. There are also 'throw-ins' from the '60s and '70s country music as well.

For more information please visit their web-site at www.wokc.com.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Kiwanis president Jim Vensel (left) invited WOKC co-owner Robbie Castellanos (center-left), Steve Daniel (center-right) and Billy Dean (right) who spoke about WOKC and Glades Media Group and how they became what they are today.

Car dealers help OHS

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

If it weren't for Steve Milrot and Dowling Watford, Okeechobee High School couldn't do this.

Those are the words of OHS Driver Education Teacher Kenny Buckner who praised the two local car dealers for their donation of vehicles for his students.

Some 300 students take the driver's education course at OHS each semester. This semester Eddie Accardi Dodge donated three vehicles and the Okeechobee Motor Company donated two vehicles for the program. All of these

vehicles are brand new.

The students learn everything the Department of Motor Vehicles wants them to know to apply for driver's permits and licenses. They learn how to do U-turns, angle parking, three point turns, parallel parking, and backing up, everything they will be graded on in their drivers test.

Students in fact can take their drivers test while at school, which is convenient for them and their parents.

Buckner said it also is less costly for students. He noted some high schools hold driver education courses in the sum-

mer and can charge up to \$200 per student. The course offered at OHS is free.

During the school year, the students take 10-11 weeks, and get about 10-15 hours of driving in.

In Florida you must be 15 years old to get a drivers permit. You must hold that at least one year before you take your test for a driver's license. The course also includes a four hour course on the dangers of alcohol and drugs and driving.

"They are doing the State of Florida a favor. We have better prepared drivers on the road. Each year they donate new vehicles to us. If Steve and Dowling didn't do this, the students would be in trouble," he noted.

The students don't have to leave the school because the test course is identical to what the state requires. All students have to do to get their license after taking this course, is go to the driver's office, show their documentation, and pay the fee.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Local car dealers donated a total of five new cars to the Okeechobee High School Drivers Education program.

Volunteers sought for Relay for Life

Cancer Society seeks volunteers for teams

The American Cancer Society is looking for volunteers and teams for the Relay for Life of Okeechobee. Organizers are looking for volunteers who want to make a difference in the fight against cancer.

Relay for Life is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors (anyone who has ever been diagnosed with cancer), remember loved ones and raise money for the fight against cancer.

"Relay for Life is an awareness raiser about the progress against cancer as much as it is a fundraiser," said Shannon Martin, Community Representative for the American Cancer Society. "Individuals who are willing to give their time and energy to this exciting event, as a volunteer or participant, have made a commitment to fight back against this disease and let the community know that you can beat cancer."

Teams of eight to 15 members gather with tents and sleeping bags to participate in the largest fundraising walk in the nation. Relay for Life brings together friends, families, businesses, hospitals, schools, churches... people from all walks of life. Teams seek sponsorship prior to the Relay, all with the goal of eliminating cancer.

Volunteers are needed to organize and recruit teams, seek community support, coordinate logistics, find refreshments and prizes, plan entertainment, and lend their support in any way.

If you would like to volunteer on the Relay for Life committee, or serve as a team captain, contact Shannon Martin at 863-467-2376.

For more information on cancer, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or visit www.cancer.org.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

CHOOSE LOVE



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

Patty Maupin • 863-763-0707 • 3543 Hwy 441 S, Okeechobee, FL 34974 • www.BigLakeHospice.org

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

-JuDeane Garrett
Daughter of Mary Helen

BIG LAKE
HOSPICE
Your Hometown Choice

COUNTY OF OKEECHOBEE-FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 NOTICE OF BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING

The Okeechobee Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on December 18, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida, for the purpose of adopting budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Budget for Okeechobee County to appropriate encumbrances from the prior fiscal year and adjust projected cash balances for same.

FUND DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS REVENUES (SOURCE)					EXPENDITURES (USE)			AMENDED BUDGET FY 2008-09
	CURRENT BUDGET FY 2008-09	Cash Brought Forward	Operating Revenues	Total	Designated Reserves	Operating Expenditures	Total		
COUNTYWIDE FUND	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
General Fund (001)	11,896,245	26,296	0	11,922,541	218,679	11,703,862	11,922,541	11,922,541	
Transportation Trust (101)	5,111,294	680,453	0	5,791,747	44,524	5,747,223	5,791,747	5,791,747	
Residential Solid Waste (107)	3,054,845	200	0	3,055,045	915,562	2,139,483	3,055,045	3,055,045	
Enhanced 9-1-1 System (109)	521,562	127,476	0	649,038	148,697	500,340	649,038	649,038	
Court Facility (112)	51,472	56,843	0	108,315	8,286	100,029	108,315	108,315	
Unincorporated Ser. Fund(117)	2,750,928	81,490	0	2,832,418	44,913	2,787,505	2,832,418	2,832,418	
Fire/Rescue Fund (118)	4,894,971	171,960	0	5,066,931	75,293	4,991,638	5,066,931	5,066,931	
SHIP(119)	960,009	8,069	0	968,078	88,118	879,959	968,078	968,078	
HRS Bldg.Maintenance(122)	330,930	4,877	0	335,807	118,176	217,631	335,807	335,807	
Hurricane Housing Recovery Fund (125)	389,009	941,219	0	1,330,228	0	1,330,228	1,330,228	1,330,228	
Disaster CDBG Fund(127)	2,733,749	945,732	0	3,679,481	0	3,679,481	3,679,481	3,679,481	
Special Grants Fund(132)	3,400,000	30,200	0	3,430,200	0	3,430,200	3,430,200	3,430,200	
Solid Waste Management Fund (133)	4,181,930	25,599	0	4,207,529	3,208,085	999,444	4,207,529	4,207,529	
Capital Improvements (303)	10,586,650	1,810,669	0	12,397,319	323,224	12,074,095	12,397,319	12,397,319	
Okee Tantie Enterprise Fund (401)	931,672	6,350	0	938,022	217,826	720,196	938,022	938,022	
Agri-Civic Center (403)	491,871	1,631	0	493,502	9,246	484,255	493,502	493,502	
Amended Funds Total	52,287,137	4,919,062	0	57,206,199	5,420,629	51,785,570	57,206,199	57,206,199	

Public Forums
Local Issues

Post your opinions online at www.newszap.com

Holiday Events

Santa letters welcome

Children of all ages are invited to mail their letters to Santa at all Seacoast National Bank locations in Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, and Okeechobee counties through Dec. 20. For those who wish to join in the merriment, letters can be dropped off at festively flocked mailboxes located in the lobby at each branch where kids can personally mail their letters - no postage required! Regardless of the heavy workload in Santa's workshop this time of year, each letter will receive a message from Santa sent via U.S. Post. To locate a branch location nearest you, visit www.seacoast-national.com.

Christmas Around the World

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

Christmas turkeys available

Fully cooked whole roasted turkeys, 18-20 lbs. for \$30 each will be available at the Masonic Lodge from 9 a.m. until noon on Dec. 25. You must order and pay for the turkeys by Dec. 20, pick-up will be on Dec. 25. (Limited to the first 75 pre-paid orders.) Place orders at Porter's Cleaners, 1700 S. Parrott Ave., cash, check, VISA and MasterCard accepted. Pick up orders at Okeechobee Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth Ave.

Pentecostals to host Christmas program

The Pentecostals of Okeechobee will host "Celebrating Jesus" on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. Please come join us to celebrate at 405 S.W. 10th Ave. For more information, please call 863-467-1611 or 863-634-4554.

Community Events

Benefit Teen Dance Party planned

Come to the next "Teen Dance Party!" The party begins at the Okeechobee Civic Center on Highway 98 on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 6 until 10 p.m. The cost for entry is \$7 with all proceeds to benefit the March of Dimes - March for babies. The entry fee includes hot dog, chips and soda. For more information, please call Teresa Chandler at 863-697-6819.

Cheer and dance tryouts to open

Okeechobee X-Plosion All Star Cheerleading and Dance Will Be holding Open Tryouts on Saturday, Dec. 20. Starting at noon-3 p.m. This is for the SENIOR team only! You must be over 12 for this particular tryout. Girls must wear black shorts, black shirts, white shoes and a black ribbon in their hair. Please contact Coach Victoria for further information 863-441-3826, xplosionallstarcheer@yahoo.com, www.xplosionallstars.weebly.com. If you are under 12 and would like more information regarding cheerleading, tumbling or dance please feel free to call! The tryout will be held at the X-plosion gym on 441 S.E. behind the new carwash!

Chamber will be closed

The Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce will be closed on the following dates: Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve; Dec. 25 - Christmas Day; Dec. 26; Jan. 1, 2009 - New Years Day; Jan. 2, 2009. Also, there will neither be a Coffee Klatch nor General Membership luncheon for the month of December. For information call the Chamber at 863-763-6464.

Holiday ham sale

Okeechobee Main Street is again having their Holiday Honey Baked Ham Sale. Order your holiday ham or turkey with all the fixins including a wide variety of desserts now. Orders must be placed by Dec. 19 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.

Mission collecting for Christmas toy drive

Big Lake Missions Outreach is sponsoring their 14th Annual toy drive for the Needy Children in the community. Families will be screened for needs and gifts are to be put under the tree for Christmas day. New gifts are needed for ages baby to teen. Donations can be toys, gifts suitable for teens, gift cards, or checks are welcome. Please make checks out to the mission to purchase what is needed. Also foods are always acceptable and needed. For more information call 863-763-5725 or 863-697-6433. Pick-up and receipts are available upon request.

Christmas Food Drive

Affordable Art & Framing is sponsoring a Food Drive for The Okeechobee Presbyterian Church Emergency Food Pantry. Bring food or monetary donations to Affordable Art and Framing at 110 S.W. 14th St. (next to Old RJ Gators) from Dec. 1, through Jan. 1. No purchase necessary but all customers bringing food will receive 40 percent off of selected art and gifts and 20 percent off of custom framing.

Buckhead Ridge hosts community parades

Buckhead Ridge will host community parades on Dec. 21, starting at 12:30 p.m., hosted by and starting at Moose Lodge in BHR. There will be an evening lighted boat parade starting at 4:30 p.m. hosted by Buckhead Ridge Yatch (that's how we spell it) Club and the BHR VFW, starting at the Buckhead Ridge Marina. All boats are welcome.

Methodist Church has holiday services

The First United Methodist Church has planned holiday services. On Dec. 14, the Chancel Choir Cantata will present "Touched by a Child - Touched by a King" at 8 and 11 a.m. On Dec. 14, Children's Musical, "Silent Night-The Birth of a Carol" will be presented at 5 p.m., and a youth drama, "The Jingle Bell Mystery," at 7 p.m. On Dec. 24, the church will have Christmas Eve Candle Light Services at 5 p.m. and Contemporary Service at 7 p.m. For information, call the church office at 863-763-4021 or visit website at www.fumcokee.com.

Christmas Country Store open

The Christmas Country Store is open each day at 9 a.m. at Hospice of Okeechobee's Blue Volunteer Building for holiday shopping. Toys, decorations and unique items for Christmas will be for sale. Come see and enjoy the holiday splendor. For more information, please call Cathy at 863-467-2321.

City Hall Park to host Santa

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

Santa in the Park

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

Santa on fire truck

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

BHR host community parades

Buckhead Ridge will host community parades on Dec. 21, starting at 12:30 p.m. Hosted by and starting at Moose BHR and an evening lighted boat parade 4:30 p.m. Hosted by Buckhead Ridge Yatch (that's how we spell it) Club and VFW BHR starting at the Buckhead Ridge Marina. All Boats Welcome! Happy Holidays From Buckhead Ridge!

Christmas gift drive

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

Toys For Tots

Distribution Party

Toys For Tots will hold their distribution party on Saturday, Dec. 20, from noon until 4 p.m. at A Child's World South 4664 U.S. 441 SE. Children must be present and proof of Okeechobee Residency is required. This will be a fun event for the children as Santa will be there and Otis Spunkmeyer cookies will be on site baking fresh cookies for the children. Malissa Morgan is looking for volunteers to assist the children through the line at the distribution as parents are not permitted to help children "pick" out the toys. The Sheriff's department will be on hand to handle traffic etc. For more information call Malissa Morgan at 863-634-5852. Toys for Tots Drop Off locations are: Enterprise of Okeechobee; Trends; Riverside

Obituaries

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

Alice Amrett Spivey

Robas "Amy", 86

OKEECHOBEE — Alice Amrett Spivey Robas "Amy", died Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008, in her home. She was 86.

She was born in Lumberton, N.C. on Dec. 17, 1921. She was a permanent resident of Florida since 1977. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Ft. Lauderdale.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Joseph F. Robas Sr.; her sister, Helen Elizabeth Dew, of Ft. Lauderdale; and her parents, Raymond and Sallie Spivey, of Lumberton, N.C.

She is survived by her sons, Joseph F. Robas Jr. and wife Paula, of Okeechobee, and Richard Spivey Robas and his wife Sue, of Rogersville, Tenn. She was blessed with four grandchildren, Joseph F. Robas III, of Asheville, N.C., Michelle Lynn Robas, of Tate, Ga., Michelle Leah Schor, of Pompano Beach, Fla., and Richard Spivey Robas Jr., of Wellington, Fla.; five great-grandchildren, Dayton Callahan, Deanna Callahan, Luca Bella Schor, Odin Schor, and Richard Spivey Robas III; her sisters, Betty Tedder, Lula Snow, Lillian Blake and Joan Teague; and two brothers, Raymond Spivey Jr. and Bill Spivey.

A celebration of her life was held at Jennings Funeral Home in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. on Dec. 13, 2008.

Memorial contributions can be made to the National Parkinson's Foundation.

Bank; WOKC; Walmart; UPS Store; Yearling Middle School; Central Elementary School; Berger Insurance; Pogeys Restaurant; Okeechobee Sheriff's Department; Okeechobee Police Department; Okeechobee Correctional Institute and Okeechobee Probation and Parole. For more information call 863-634-5852.



Submitted photo

Sworn in

On Nov. 18, Okeechobee High School Class of 1998 graduate and former Okeechobee News reporter Christina Locke (left) was sworn in to the State Bar of Georgia by Judge Christopher S. Brasher (right) of the Fulton County Superior Court, Atlanta Judicial Circuit. Ms. Locke recently received her law degree and master's degree in journalism from the University of Florida and works as a civil litigation attorney in Atlanta. She credits her time as a reporter for inspiring her to go to law school. "Working at the Okeechobee News gave me the opportunity to experience firsthand how the law works in many different areas -- from criminal trials to zoning meetings. Seeing attorneys in action and spending lots of time at the courthouse helped me make the decision to pursue a new career," Ms. Locke said.

Annual Christmas boat parade planned

The Okeechobee Yatchette Club and Butches Redneck Yatch Club will hold their annual Christmas boat parade on Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. The public is welcome. Decorate your boats and meet on Taylor Creek at Hwy. 70 by Burger King between 5 and 5:30 p.m. The parade begins at 6 p.m. and goes down Taylor Creek to the rim canal and left to the VFW or 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.

We want your holiday news

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

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Online Guestbook

All Obituaries now include *Online Guestbooks* where family and friends can share reflections, remembrances and condolences.

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BHR VFD Winterfest 2009

Winterfest 2009 will be held on Jan. 31. There will be catfish, cotton candy, popcorn, crafts, music and more. For more information, call 863-532-9015 or John at 863-467-8220.

Anyone interested in renting a booth for Winterfest 2009, please call John at 863-467-8220 or 863-532-9015.

Chamber announces Speckled Perch dates

Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce have announced the dates for the Annual Speckled Perch event and Beauty Pageant. The pageant will be held Jan. 17,

2009 at the K.O.A. Convention Center.

Applications are available at the Chamber of Commerce. Deadline for entry is Jan. 5, 2009.

Applicants must be residents of Okeechobee. A \$75 non refundable fee will be required with each applicant.

New divisions for this year's pageant are:

- Tiny Mr. & Tiny Miss Speckled Perch - Ages - 2-3
- Little Mr. & Little Miss Speckled Perch - Ages 4-6
- Speckled Perch Prince - Ages - 6-8
- Jr. Miss Speckled Perch - Ages - 9-12
- Teen Miss Speckled Perch - Ages 13-15
- Miss Speckled Perch - Ages 16-19



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Courthouse rehabilitation begins

Employees of DooleyMack Constructors of Sarasota remove sidewalk tiles from the rear of the Okeechobee County Courthouse. The contractor is in the initial phases of the \$3.8 million rehabilitation of the courthouse which is expected to take about a year.

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Everglades students conduct experiments

Kindergarten: At Everglades Elementary School, Mrs. Moore's class is busy. In science and math we did an activity with a snowman candy dispenser. We made our hypotheses to see which face would come up the most on our snowmen. We made a video of this activity and viewed it later. Students and parents, have a happy holiday and don't forget to practice letters and sounds and words over the holidays!

Miss Snyder's class is having fun in math using tally marks to add groups of numbers to 10. They are making 10 frames and counting to 30. The boys and girls are building their vocabulary words and using them in sentences.

First Grade: Mrs. Hollin's class is very busy preparing for the Holiday Season. In science we are discovering our five senses and how they help us learn about our world. Christmas is a special season when all of our senses come alive. We will begin our unit with the sense of sight as we decorate our class tree. The students will listen to the sounds of Christmas and conduct a taste test. The students will choose between salty, bitter, sour, and sweet. The students will bake something special in the oven to explore the sense of smell. To finish up the unit we will make The Gingerbread Man and make gingerbread houses.

Second Grade: Ms. Hunt's class has had so much fun reading about the "Sarabiskota" kids and where "Gator Mikey has been going in our school wide read aloud, Are You Smarter Than A Flying 'Gator? We love the trivia questions, watch out "Jeopardy," here we come!

Mrs. Brady's class is enjoying many Christmas stories. We are also learning about fossils, dinosaurs, and rocks in science! We are working hard to stay focused even though we are super excited about the Winter break. We know who is watching!

Mrs. Kirby's class is working

oh so hard on writing. We have been turning out stories about Christmas and the Holiday Season. It is making us more excited about our holiday break.

Mrs. Campbell's class is learning about holidays around the world. We are making pinatas. It will be fun to celebrate and break them.

Mr. Wright's class has written letters to Santa for our local newspaper. We are preparing for the end of the first semester by studying hard for assessments. We have read about dinosaurs, learned about money, studied other culture's holidays and are working with forces that push and pull.

Ms. Kosinski's has just finished their first PSA on protecting our natural resources. The students wrote their scripts and created their own scenes. We have also been getting into the holiday spirit and writing Christmas narratives using "pixie" and student lap tops. Finally, the students are beginning their Christmas Around the World unit. We have our passports ready, our suitcases packed and we're excited to fly on!

Ms. Gumz's class had fun this week pretending to shop in our classroom store to learn about money. Next week we will be ready to help our parents' shop! In reading and science we are learning about fossils and things that are different now compared to a long time ago. We are also learning to respect our heroes. Who is the hero in your life that you respect the most?

Third Grade: Mrs. Forde's class is currently working on time in math and inferences in reading. The students recently wrote a

Christmas haiku and were excited to have their work out on display. We would like to congratulate Kyle Evans, Jennifer Fairtrace, and Austin Guerrero as Students Of The Week for the month of December. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs. LaPenna would like to congratulate Elton Pelt our student of the week. Our class continues to learn our times tables. We wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season!

Mrs. Watford would like to congratulate Daysha Vaughn our student of the week. Our class is working very hard everyday to improve their reading skills. Be sure over the Holidays to keep READING every day!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Robertson's classes have been working to complete their "Native Florida" trading cards. After the fourth grade field trip to the Archbold Biological Research Station in Lake Placid, students researched a native Florida species. Then on the EETT laptops designed a set of trading cards that will be put into binders in their classrooms and the Media Center.

Mrs. Davis' class took technology to the next level when they wrapped up their unit on geometry with a "Geometric Pattern Scavenger Hunt" across the Everglades' campus. They took pictures with digital cameras of different geometric shapes and patterns. After loading their pictures onto the laptops, they worked in pairs to create a power-point presentation with their pictures, labeling their finds. Other classes were invited to enjoy a walk-around where the students shared their knowledge of "Geometric Patterns at EES!"

Art Club: Mrs Robertson and the art club has created a beautiful Holiday Greeting on a giant card, it is a special greetings from the "Everglades." The card is in the front lawn of the school for

everyone's enjoyment! A great big thank you to the art club and to Mrs. Robertson!

Music: The students and Mrs. Wilson are looking forward to our Christmas musical; "The X-Mas Files". There will be three performances, December 16 and 17 at 9 a.m. and Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the show!

Student Council: The student Council enjoyed an ice cream social at their December meeting. We would like to thank Mrs. Stinnett, our school wide Character Counts director for the great presentation and treats that she gave each of the students. On December 13th the Student Council and Everglades' Pep 'N Drill participated in the Okeechobee Christmas Parade featuring our school mascot, "Gary Gator." Our PTO sponsored the school float. This year's theme was

"Christmas In The Everglades." We would like to send a big thank you to everyone who helped with this great event.

Miss Shofner would like to thank all of the classes and students who read Are You Smarter Than A Flying 'Gator? and partici-

pated in the vocabulary and comprehension activities. A special thank you to Miss Hunt's class, Mrs. Davis' class, Mrs. Wright's class, and Mrs. Forde's class for the "circle maps" that they made to tell all about the book! Great job, Everglades!



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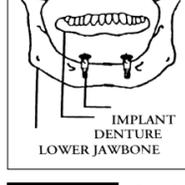
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T.A. Aliapoulos, D.D.S.	Wade B. Harrouff, D.D.S.	Jonathan M. Royal, D.M.D.
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Graduate University of New Hampshire in Zoology and Temple University Dental School. US Air Force Medical Corp. Served as Chair of Council on Dental Health. Formerly of West Palm Beach, he has merged his practice with Dr. Harrouff.

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

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

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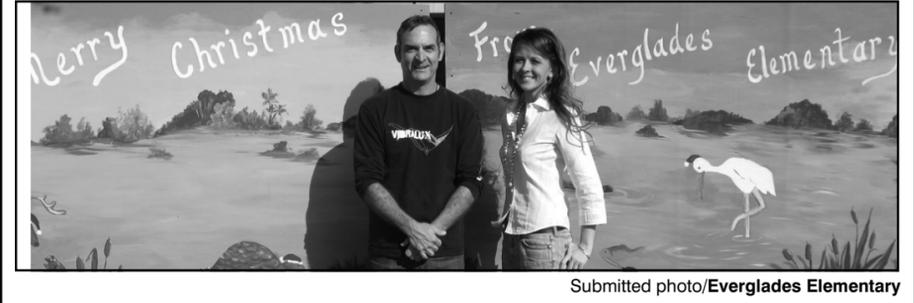
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Submitted photo/Everglades Elementary

Students of the Week

Everglades Elementary School students achieving excellence in the classroom for the week of Dec. 8. Kindergarten students named are: Francisco Lopez-Diaz, Pedro Estrada, Samuel Brito-Sanchez, Caleb Reynolds, Kevin Valdez, Angel Jimenez. First grade students on the list are: Keivonna Boswell, Samantha Arteaga, Gloria Seca, Yuri Hernandez. Second grade students are: Kaylyn Clarke, Monica Luna, Beau Rexroad, Nayeli Urbina, Maria Moran, Raquel Alvarez. Third graders achieving excellence are: Erick Garcia, Nickolas Montero, Emily Rhodes, Victoria Vaughn, Daysha Vaughn, Aleene Romero, Kyle Evans. Fourth graders making the list are: Daniel Ruiz, Dalila Escamilla, Sara Delgado, Antonio Espinoza and fifth grade students making the grade are: Desiree Torres, Hannah Collier, Kayla Hood, Karen Garcia. Congratulations! to our many outstanding students.



Submitted photo/Everglades Elementary

Honorees

Congratulations!! Amy Hyde, Everglades Elementary School "Teacher of the Year" and Congratulations!! Jim Fusco, Everglades "School Related Employee of the Year!"

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Community Service Through Journalism

Fate of U.S. Sugar sale still uncertain

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The fate of 180,000 acres currently belonging to U.S. Sugar could be decided on Tuesday, Dec. 16. Or, maybe not. South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has proposed purchasing the property and using it to filter the water entering the Everglades. The proposal currently on the table offers 180,000 acres to SFWMD for \$1.34 billion. This offer is scaled back from the original offer announced last summer. That offer of 182,500 acres included a sugar

refinery, a citrus processing plant and other buildings and equipment. The original suggested price tag for the larger purchase was \$1.75 billion. Under the terms of the proposal, U.S. Sugar can lease the land back for a seven year period. The rental fee would be \$50 an acre per year for the first six years, the seventh year would be free. However, during those seven years, SFWMD has the right to reclaim various amounts of land at various specific times. At the Monday, Dec. 15, meeting of the SFWMD Board of Governors in West Palm Beach, pub-

lic discussion of the purchase will be held along with the reception of final environmental and engineering reports on the property. The following day the board of governors is scheduled to vote on acceptance of the purchase. Even though U.S. Sugar approved the terms on Dec. 8, approval by SFWMD may not indicate the land will come into state possession. A letter dated Dec. 10, from Robert H. Buker, Jr., President and C.E.O. of U.S. Sugar, to employees and stockholders explains the company's position. "This transaction does not constitute a sale of the entire company, and your stock ownership and our operations would continue after the closing of the transaction," he stated. The letter further states that while the company believes the transaction offered is the best that is currently available "your board of directors and management insisted on preserving the right to

seek a better offer for the shareholders." If SFWMD approves the agreement on Dec. 16, U.S. Sugar will begin a 60-day process of looking for a better deal. U.S. Sugar is a Delaware corporation and this is in accordance with Delaware law. The Lawrence Group, a Nashville based company which is one of the country's largest owners of farmland, made a widely publicized "nonbinding expression of interest" and offered to pay \$300 a share for U.S. Sugar stock. "The Lawrence Group's expression of interest in not a formal or definitive offer," Mr. Buker wrote. He noted that the \$300 per share price is subject to a lot of conditions and added that the company has contacted the Lawrence Group to clarify the offer. He went on to say that a number of other potential purchasers have been identified. Along with their offer, the Lawrence Group sent a \$27 million

check which, according to Mr. Buker, was to be deposited only if U.S. Sugar abandoned the transaction with SFWMD. Mr. Buker said the check was returned and that no one would be required to pay in order to participate in the process. While environmental groups such as the Audubon Society of Florida applauded the proposed purchase of the U.S. Sugar land by SFWMD, the Florida Farm Bureau has weighed in against it. On Dec. 10, Florida Farm Bureau President John L. Hoblick issued a statement that his board of directors had declared their opposition to the purchase. The organization opposes what it calls unnecessary acquisition of more land by government and is concerned that the proposed purchase would draw attention and funding away from implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration plan. The organization also expressed concern about the loss of ad valorem tax money to local

governments when thousands of acres of privately owned lands are taken off the tax rolls. They also stated that the provision to lease the land back to U.S. Sugar at a bargain rate would create unfair competitive advantages over other south Florida agricultural producers. **Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com.** Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.

Florida Farm Bureau opposes U.S. Sugar Corp. land sale

Florida Farm Bureau President John L. Hoblick issued the following statement on Friday, Dec. 12. At its meeting on Dec. 10, the board of directors of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation (FFBF), the state's largest general interest agricultural organization, declared its opposition to the acquisition of U.S. Sugar Corp. lands by the South Florida Water Management District. The Federation firmly supports the rights of private property owners to acquire, use and sell property but opposes the unnecessary acquisition of more land by government. The Federation is also concerned that the proposed purchase would drain funding and

focus away from implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and other initiatives in which much time and funding have been invested. The purchase of U.S. Sugar's land would likely cause thousands of acres of productive agricultural land to be removed from local tax rolls, leaving local communities struggling to make up for the loss of ad valorem tax revenues and endangering their future. Further, the plan for the SFWMD to purchase U.S. Sugar's land, then to lease it back to the company over a seven-year period at a bargain rate would create unfair competitive advantages over other South Florida agricultural producers.

USDA considers referendum on pork checkoff program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced that it will conduct a Request for Referendum among eligible producers and importers of hogs, pigs, and pork products to determine if they want a referendum on the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order, commonly known as the Pork Checkoff Program. Participation is voluntary, and only individuals who desire a referendum on the Pork Checkoff Program should participate.

2007, are eligible to participate. For producers, the Request for Referendum will be conducted at the USDA County Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices where their administrative farm records are maintained. For producers not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to participate will be provided at the County FSA office where the person owns or rents land. Eligible producers may obtain form LS-54-1: Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Request for Referendum from those offices either in person, by mail, or by facsimile. Forms may also be obtained at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/LSMarketingPrograms>.

must be postmarked no later than midnight on Jan. 2, 2009, and received by Jan. 9, 2009.

USDA will only conduct a referendum on the order if at least 15 percent of the total number of eligible pork producers and importers request the referendum. The total number of producers and importers eligible to participate in the Request for Referendum is approximately 69,446; therefore, at least 10,417 eligible producers and importers must request the referendum. If necessary, the referendum will be conducted within one year after the results of the Request for Referendum are announced. If results of the Request for Referendum indicate that a referendum is not supported, a referendum would not be conducted.

In order to vote, Form LS-54-1 and supporting documentation, where applicable, such as a sales receipt, veterinary bill, feed bill, copies of grower contracts, cancelled check or proof of payment must be returned in person, by mail, or by facsimile to the appropriate county FSA office by the close of business Jan. 2, 2009. Form LS-54-1 and supporting documentation returned by mail

Livestock Market Report

December 8 and 9, 2008

Cows	Monday	Tuesday
Breaking	\$38.00	\$48.00
Cutter	\$37.50	\$43.00
Canner	\$33.00	\$38.00

Bulls	Monday	Tuesday
1000-1500	\$51.00	\$53.00
1500-2000	\$52.50	\$59.00

Monday	Tuesday	
Calves	594	1080
Cows	74	170
Str	5	8
Hfns	5	28
Bulls	21	30
Yrlings	60	51
Mix	0	0
Total	759	1367

Med #1	Steers	Hfns
150-200	160-210	125-175
200-250	127.5-135	85-118
250-300	102-103	
300-350	100-108	80-84
350-400	95-103	70-78
400-450	85-94	69-76
450-500	82-90	65-74
550-600	75-83	63-72
600-650	74-79	62-68

Med #2	Steers	Hfns
150-200	105-135	73-115
200-250	77.5-115	65-80
250-300	90-97.5	65-70
300-350	86-100	60-81
350-400	75-92	60-72
400-450	65-87	60-69

Small #1	Steers	Hfns
150-200		
250-300	85-110	60-72
300-350	74-108	58-75
350-400	74-91	60-76
450-500	60-80	62-65
550-600		58-63

Prices not much better this week. Real good black 500# steers only bringing around .70-.75. Slaughter cows about \$1 lower - it takes a good cow to bring \$.45. Its pretty depressing but we still have a lot to be thankful for. Market will be closed on Christmas week and on New Year's week. Last sale of '08-Dec. 16. First sale of '09-Jan. 5. Slaughter cows and bulls sale on Tuesday, Dec. 30. Nelson Echeverria of Miami, topped the calf market with a high of \$2.10. Pedro Salazar of Loxahatchee had the high cow with 48.00. See ya next week, Jeff

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Kindergarten students prepare for Christmas

Kindergarten News

The Central Elementary School Kindergarten classes are busy preparing for their Christmas program that will be held on Dec. 18, at the Freshman Campus. If you want to get in the Christmas spirit come and watch Kindergartens perform at 7 p.m. We are becoming wonderful readers by reading our 100 Book Challenge each night. We will be going to the movies for good behavior on Dec. 19. We wish you and your family a Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year from all the Kindergarten Teachers at CES.



the tens and ones place and that an estimate is a smart guess! We wish everyone a very, merry Christmas and happy New Year!

First Grade

Mr. Klaffer's Super Kids News Well, the holidays are upon us in the Super Kid classroom. I definitely now know that the person that invented all these holidays was not a teacher. In fact, it must have been someone who really disliked teachers and wanted to punish them with sugar-induced students from

Halloween, pass them quickly to a holiday that gives Thanksgiving to just enough time off that the kids forget everything, and then rolls right into December with enough holiday events and distractions to the kid's schoolwork that they would make the best party maker jealous with envy! But, after all of that it warms my heart and soul each morning to see my Kids come in every morning and their eyes light up with wonder and imagination on the decorations I have created in our room!

Thanksgiving came quickly and we gave thanks for toys, video games, Spiderman, pumpkin pie, NFL football games, etc., possibly not quite what our forefathers had envisioned from the first get together with our Indian natives.

The kids have been asking non-stop every morning since if this week is Christmas Day! I suppose that calendar we work on each morning with a big red bow on X-mas Day is just not sinking in! The room is a winter wonderland and we invite everyone to come see our room, our homemade decorations by the Kids, our new mascots "Marty the Zebra," "Frosty the Snowman (I mean what else could you possibly call a snowman after years of the same movie and books?!)," and of course "Spotty our Giraffe."

Now for the best quotes in the classroom. Upon telling my students I am graduating, one student answered, "So, you only got smarter today when you got your certificate?" On watching me bungy jump 350 feet in New Zealand, "Mr. Klaffer, are you crazy or something?" It took my best restraint not to say, "I did pick to be a first grade teacher, didn't I?" On seeing pictures of me with my Lab puppy and dog from years ago, "Mr. Klaffer, you sure looked a lot younger then!" My mother, a retired teacher has been helping us during center time and the kids are still struggling with the connection of how my Mother can be called Mrs. McBride and I am Mr. Klaffer. I think most of them think we are still pulling a prank on them. The brutal honesty from first graders is always

hilarious, too. Another first grade teacher relayed this story to me the other day: A polite young man from my class held the door politely open for her and she said to him, "Mr. Klaffer must be very proud and happy to have someone so polite and good in his class?" His response, "Yeah, well at least when I am good, well I guess not too much, well now that I think about it not too much at all!"

Facts that I have now learned from the Super Kids: 1. There really is not a Santa Claus. 2. There really is a Santa Claus. 3. There really is a Santa Claus, but he hangs out at Macy's store. 4. Santa Claus is really Uncle Fred. 5. Reindeer make good eating! 6. Santa Claus does not bring bad children coal for Christmas anymore, because it is too expensive! 7. Santa doesn't really like cookies and milk anymore, but instead prefers a mocha latte from Starbucks. 8. Santa must be a burglar in Florida, because most people do not have a chimney. 9. Santa Claus isn't really fat, it's just a pillow underneath his suit. 10. Okeechobee is still a continent!

Merry Christmas from the Super Kids!

Miss Shindelacker's students have been very busy bees in class. We have been working very hard on our long vowel sound a. Students have learned the silent e on the end of snake makes the a say its name. We've also been working with nouns and verbs in grammar. We are just finishing our letters to Santa, so hopefully he'll get it in time for Christmas. In math we are working on greater than and less than which they love the idea of the alligator always eats the greater number. Science we just finished up our Environment unit. They've learned how humans can change an environment. We are all excited to sing "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" at the school sing-along on Dec. 19. They've been practicing and really know it by heart. Our class would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Students of the week were: Corbin Cavallaro, Brianna Perry, Artemio Virto, and Cassidy Sparkman. We want to wish Edmundo Cruz a very Happy Birthday on Dec. 18.

Second Grade

Mrs. Greseth's second graders have been working hard in Reading. They have been reading several nonfiction articles. They all recently chose an animal to do a research report on. Each student did a super job of using the index and table of contents in library books to locate information about the animal they chose. They learned a lot about their animal, and better yet, a lot about how to research a topic. In Math they have really been enjoying the chapters about plane figures and solid figures. In Science the students learned all about magnets and had a great time doing their own investigations about what

magnets attract. Congratulations to Jenna McClanahan, she has reached 200 steps in 100 Book Challenge. Way to go Jenna!

Alicia Greseth Second Grade Miss Miller's second graders have been having fun manipulating shapes in math. Do you know how many triangles you need to make a hexagon? If you cut a trapezoid into two equal parts, do you know what shapes you will have? The students have enjoyed writing their letters to Santa as well. In science, the students had fun discovering which items a magnet is attracted to and which poles will attract and which will repel.

Congratulations to the following Students of the Week: Icelia Ibarra, Axel Galvan, and Jesus Gomez.

Congratulations to the fol-

lowing students for reaching 100 steps: Mariah Raulerson, Andrew, Simmons, Chyenne Grimes, and Paislea Plant. Remember to keep reading every night for 15 minutes to earn those steps!

Mrs. Entry's second grade class is very excited about our Christmas break! We have been learning about plane shapes in math and motion in science. We also learned about the Bill of Rights in social studies!

We have been busy practicing the Grinch song for our school sing-a-long.

Congratulations to Gage Ingram for earning 200 steps in 100 book challenge and Yasmin Jaimes for earning 100 steps! Keep reading over the break! Congratulations also go to our students of the week: Sean Birmingham, Rece Smith, Jose Rodriguez, Sterling Arocho. Our students of the

month were Yasmin Jaimes and Colby Burke! Keep up the good work!

Second Grade BASE

Sra. Rodriguez's and Mrs. Johns' Second Grade B.A.S.E. have been having fun learning about sound. Students made their own instruments such as guitars, drums, maracas, and flutes.

All students would like to say thank you to the drama class at the high school who performed "Frumpled Fairy Tales. It was excellent!

We are busy learning about Christmas Around the World and practicing the Grinch Song for the Christmas Sing on the 19th.

Students don't forget to read over the Christmas Break and have mom or dad sign your folder.



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7p.m.

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Soloists Include: Justin Allen, Mike Brooks, Carolyn Burrell, Betty Clement, Erin & Reid Ellinger, Michael Hutchison, Kevin Kinnaird, Lonnie Kirsch, John Olsen, Kenny Resmondo, Anton Silva, Sharon Suits, John & Chris Sufficool, Steve Walker, Steve Wegman, Kathryn Wilkinson, Victoria Williams, & Mike Zierden

Accompanist: Michael Hayes

Narrator: Nicolle Wood

Sound: Sheila Brown

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Happy Holidays from South Elementary School!



Submitted photo/South Elementary

The students of the week for South Elementary are: Aliany Garcia, Jael Gomez, Xander Blackwood, Yesenia Leon, Matthew Arnall, Mark Arnall, Eric Dorta, Dillon Hill, Janixza Lopez, Bryan Skelton, cutler Meigs, Jacob Myers, Logan Etherton, Rainne Kasik, Noah Torres, Cristian Rios, Jennifer Center, Bailie Shurley, Savannah Dubberly, Nikki Nichols, Caitlin Sheffield, Cody Wheatley, and Zoyee Ramirez.

South Elementary students would like to thank the Okeechobee High School Drama Department for inviting us to see *Frumpled Fairy Tales*. It was magnificent! The students enjoyed the performance and what a great opportunity for students to see the fun they could have in high school!

We invite everyone to our carnival on December 18 from 5:00-8:00p.m. It will be lots of fun for all. All grade levels will sing holiday songs. There will be game booths, food and a silent auction. Tickets are 50 cents each at the door. Most games cost 50 cents. The staff really has fun decorating their booths and interacting with families as they stroll through our courtyard.



exciting for students and teachers alike. We look forward to more holiday fun next week as we close the second nine weeks! On behalf of the second grade, we wish all a Happy Holiday!

Second grade is bustling with Holiday cheer!

The Holidays are fast approaching and second grade is not lacking in Holiday spirit! Our students have been busy creating projects and writing letters to Santa. As we read Holiday stories, we have discussed main idea and details and written about why December is special! The second grade team has integrated many of the skills we are learning into fun activities with a holiday spin. It has been

During the Christmas parade, the South Elementary Student Council rode on the South Elementary Float, accompanied by Baldy, the Bald Eagle, our mascot. The children always enjoy waving to Baldy. The South Elementary Pep N' Drill team walked behind the float showing their school spirit. Amelia Lozano, the Teacher of the Year and Isaura Henry, the School Related Employee of the Year, rode in a convertible, waving to the crowds.

Teachers get creative to pay for development

ORLANDO-- With the economy in turmoil and school budgets tighter than a clam, many teachers are facing the loss of traditional funding for attending professional development workshops, seminars and conferences. Although most school districts are slashing travel and teacher-education budgets, some educators are exploring alternative funding sources to ensure they can keep up with innovative teaching tools and techniques.

"With schools facing cuts on so many levels, some principals are saying 'no' to teachers' requests to attend conferences," said Michael Eason, executive director of FETC, one of the largest conferences in the nation devoted entirely to educational technology. FETC 2009 runs January 21-24, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. The conference provides K-12 educators and administrators an unparalleled opportunity to explore different technologies across the curriculum, while increasing their familiarity with the latest hardware, software and successful strategies on student technology use.

According to Mr. Eason, some educators have expressed concern about the impact of snug school budgets on their own education. "It's easy for teachers to get discouraged and give up on their own professional development. They shouldn't."

According to Mr. Eason, there are many alternative sources of funding that are easy to tap into at school, district, regional and national levels. They include:

- School staff development funds, which individual schools get from their district office and are used specifically to pay for teachers to attend conferences.
- District staff development funds, which is money earmarked specifically for teachers and administrators to attend conferences. These funds - which do not always find their way to schools - are accessed through the district staff development offices. "If your principal says 'no,' check with your district's staff development officer," says Mr. Eason.
- In many school districts, specific curriculum offices - such as math, science, social studies, etc. - have funds that can be used for attending conferences to improve teaching in those specific content areas. "For example, a school district's math curriculum may have new software with which math teachers must quickly become adept," said Mr. Eason. "It would be in the best interest of that district's Math Curriculum Supervisor to send teachers to a conference like FETC to receive that training."

Teachers at Title I schools - those with a high percentage of economically-disadvantaged students qualified to receive federally-funded free and reduced lunches - have money that is earmarked for or can be used for professional development. Teachers should check with their schools and their district Title I offices for

availability, says Mr. Eason.

- Special-education teachers - those who teach students with disabilities - may be able to obtain funding for professional development from their school or district Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Office. "FETC has many sessions and workshops specifically devoted to ESE training for teachers, as well as an outstanding Assistive Technology Lab that demonstrates the latest tools for teaching students with disabilities," said Mr. Eason. In addition, the state's 19 regional centers for the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) provide funding to schools and districts for professional development for ESE teachers.

- Grants also are available to pay for training and professional development. "Every grant obtained by schools and districts has a training component," said Mr. Eason. "The trick is to know where to look and whom to ask." For example, the federal No Child Left Behind Act provides funding for the state's Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2) program, with money flowing from the state to the districts and earmarked for technology training. Teachers should check with their District Technology Supervisors to tap into these funds if they wish to attend FETC, says Mr. Eason.

Mr. Additional non-traditional sources of funding for teacher training could come from foundations, local school booster organizations, parent-teacher organizations and other community organizations and businesses that support education. "There are so many organizations that want to ensure that our teachers

have the tools they need for effective teaching," said Eason. "You just need to know where to look and have the fortitude to ask."

Eason recommends that teachers work the process backwards: Look at the FETC program, find the sessions and activities that will help them do their jobs better, then go to their school, their district, their content-area supervisors and outside support organizations and make a case to support their individual professional development.

"With a tough economy and tight budgets, teachers need to figure out how to do more with less," said Eason. "Technology is the key to ensuring that quality education is accessible to every student - and FETC is an important tool to make certain that teachers understand and can apply the latest innovations in class-

room technology."

According to Mr. Eason, this year's conference features more than 200 concurrent sessions, over 70 ticketed workshops and an exhibit hall, which he calls "a dedicated educators' marketplace" demonstrating software, hardware and other teaching tools from more than 500 of the nation's top educational technology companies. FETC's opening session keynote speaker is Philippe Cousteau, Chief Ocean Correspondent for Animal Planet, president of EarthEcho International and grandson of the legendary Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau.

For more information on FETC 2009, including a detailed list of sessions, exhibitors, ticketed workshops and registration information, visit: www.fetc.org.



Submitted photo/South Elementary

The South Elementary School Students of the Week for the week ending Dec. 5, are Carmela Garcia, Starlene Jackson, Cristian Trejo, Jennifer Dougan, Jonas Macaldo, Jr., Iris Celestino, Seth Burton, Breanna Leonard, Anselmo Garcia, Jr., Dustin Mansfield, Karlyn Daniel, Valentin Perez, Brittany Snow, Nathan Center, Maricela Bucio, and Alyssa Dameron.



Submitted photo/OFC

Yearly awards

Okeechobee Freshman Campus Teacher of the Year is Elisabeth Fox, and School Related Employee of the Year is Diane Saunders.



Courtesy photo/Seminole Elementary School

School Related Employee of the Year

Jimmy Kemp has been selected as the School Related Employee of the Year at Seminole Elementary School. Mr. Kemp is congratulated by Brian Greseth, the principal, and Tracy Downing, the assistant principal.

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5+ ACRES - BRING YOUR HORSES Frame 2/2 house, 2nd kitchen w/separate entrance. Updated elec service, pole. New pump. Shed in backyard. Truly country living, spacious area with wild life. Fully furnished. MLS#93200, \$199,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

2/2 SPLIT PLAN. Front CBS structure with mobile home totally under roof. Screened in covered back porch, single car garage, storage building 10 x 20. Large lot on small water way with covered dock. Don't let this one get away. MLS 201072, \$92,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

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Immaculate Home In Southwest Okeechobee - Large Lot at cul-de-sac - Concrete Drive - Very Close to Elementary Middle School - Only Minutes from Shopping, Banking Or Entertainment #93279 \$176,000

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The most PRISTINE 1/2 manicured lot w/landscaping that hosts a 3/2/2 DWMH lg. kitchen w/ white wood laminate flooring, lots of cabinets. Open concept, master bath w/garden tub & shower. Walk-in closets. Side wooden deck & front concrete porch. Lot has Cypress & Oak trees. \$150,000 #201231
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5+ acres w/2 CBS homes, beautifully maintained, 1 duplex/ 2 mobile homes. Property is truly paradise. Beautiful trees. Let the rentals help make YOU money. Call for your appointment #200864 \$1,250,000 #200864
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2/2 DWMH in Seminole Cove. This place is bright and cheery with an open concept. Property also has a storage building. Community amenities include pool, clubhouse and free RV or boat storage. Easy to show. #201397 \$83,900
"NEWLY REMODELED"
This 3-2 mobile is just waiting for you. Great curb appeal, fenced with a 40 x 20 carport and 2 sheds. The inside has a split plan with the master suite having a garden tub. (201365) \$112,500
"TIDY ON TAYLOR CREEK"
Lovely 1991 Jacobson DWMH shows nicely, it is 3 BR, 2 BA, has a lovely Florida room with a sauna. It is furnished very well, and maintained in a great condition. #200374 \$170,000
"MOSTLY FURNISHED"

Service Club News in Brief

The American Legion Post 64

501 S.E. Second Street, Okeechobee
Office 863-763-2950 - Lounge 863-763-5309
We can accommodate meetings, weddings and parties of any size.
The public is always welcome unless it's a members only event.
Our kitchen is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 1 to 8 p.m. on Sunday.
Sunday: Open 1 to 8 p.m. - Regular BINGO from 6:30 p.m.
Monday: Open 11-8 p.m. - Social BINGO 1 p.m.
Tuesday: Open 11-8 p.m.
Wednesday: Open 11-8 p.m. - "Taco Day" 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tacos - \$1.50
Music with Jim Elders 2-6
Thursday: Open 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. - Social BINGO 6 p.m.
SAL Steak Dinner third Sunday each month \$12 donation.
Legion and Auxiliary meet the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
The fourth Tuesday meeting includes a carry in dinner at 6 p.m.
SAL Meet the third Tuesday at 7 p.m.
Friday night dinners resume on Nov. 7.
Christmas Basket Drawing to be held - tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. New Years Eve Party tickets on sale now \$20 per couple, \$10 per single "buy now to avoid the rush" Members - Guest only.

Am-Vets #2001

Am-Vets No. 2001 will hold a regular informational meeting on the first Saturday of the month at the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post #9528, 2002 U.S. 78 W., at 10 a.m. Applications for new members are available. Call Helen James at 863-824-7644 or Lou Eder at 863-357-0467.
Am-Vets Ladies Auxiliary meetings are the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. Contact the Post at 467-2882 for information.

Eagles Aeries #4137

Eagles Aeries #4137 is located at 9983 U.S. 441 N. For information on events, call 863-763-2552.
Every Tuesday bingo at 1 p.m. Food will be available for a donation.
Wednesdays: bar bingo starting at 4 p.m. Food will be available.
Every Thursday: washer toss at 1 p.m.
First and third Thursday: Auxiliary at 6 p.m.; Aeries at 7 p.m.
Fridays: steak night (16-oz.) starting at 5 p.m. for a \$12 donation. Music will be by Jimmy Harper.
Saturdays and Sundays: music at 7

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

Okeechobee Masonic Lodge #237

The Okeechobee Masonic Lodge is located at 107 N.W. Fifth Ave. For information about the club and events, call Jose Verano at 863-634-2071.
The Masonic Lodge holds their meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m.

Order of the Eastern Star - Chapter #128

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

B.H.R. Moose Lodge

The lodge is located on U.S. 78 W. in Buckhead Ridge. The Lodge's phone number is 863-763-2250.
Sundays: breakfast buffet from 9 until 11 a.m. With many items to choose from.
Sunday: Dec. 14, from noon until 4 p.m. there will be a childrens Christmas party for children up to age 16 years old of Buckhead Ridge Moose members and guest. Please sign-up your children so we will not miss anyone sign-up by Dec. 10.; Dec. 21, at 9 a.m. there will be a W.O.T.M. fund raiser bake sale. Please bring baked goods for this sale.
Mondays: WOTM Chapter meeting the first and third Mondays of every month 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bingo and food, food served at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Dec. 31, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. New Years Party with party favors, hors d'oeuvres and breakfast at 1 a.m. Music by Burs and County Line Band. Seating limited so get your tickets early. \$20 each or \$30 per couple.
Dec. 16, Moose Membership meeting at 8 p.m. with enrollment of new prospective members.
Thursdays: dinner will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. Call the Lodge for the menu.
Thursdays: Music for dancing at 7:30 p.m. Call to see who is playing.
Thursday: 5-Card Bingo at 6 p.m. food available at 5 p.m.
Thursday: Dec. 25, from noon until 6 p.m. Christmas dinner of ham and turkey with all the trimmings. Bring the family and enjoy a good meal.
Fridays: dinner served from 5 until 7:30

p.m. Music for dancing at 7:30 p.m. Call to see who is playing.
Saturdays: dinner starting at 6 p.m.
Saturdays: Prime Rib Dinner served from 6 until 8 p.m. the first Saturday of the month.
Saturday: Dec. 13, Large benefit for Jean Murphy starting at noon. Music all day, food will be roast pork or chicken quarter, baked beans and slaw for \$6 donation. Activities including a cake walk, wheel raffle, silent auction, straw drawing and 50/50. Auction starts at 3:30 p.m.

Moose Family Center #1753

The Moose Family Center #1753 is located at 156 N.W. 36th St. in Okeechobee. Please call the Lodge at 863-763-4954 for further information, sudden changes and menus. Guests are invited to enjoy the activities and consider membership.
Open mic karaoke - Thursday 7-10 p.m. and Sunday 4-8 p.m.
Horseshoes - Sunday and Thursday at 2 p.m.
Every Monday pool tournament at 7 p.m. (food served)
Legion BINGO - Thursday at 1 p.m. (food served)
LOOM BINGO Friday - at 6:30 p.m. (food served)
Saturday night diner and dance each week.
Officers meetings first and third Tuesday at 7 p.m.
Women's meeting second and fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m.
Men's meetings, second and fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
Moose Legion meetings third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

VFW Post #4423

Music by the 'Saxman' at 5-9 p.m. North VFW members and friends welcome Sunday, Nov. 16.
The VFW North Post #4423 is located at 300 N.W. 34 St. The Post phone number is 863-763-0818.
Happy hour Monday through Thursday 4 until 6 p.m.
Mondays: 50-cent hot dogs.
Tuesdays: Washer toss at 1 p.m.
Wednesdays: Pizza and Grill 5 until 7 p.m.
Fridays: Bingo at 1 p.m. Pizza and Grill 6 until 9 p.m. Karaoke 7 until 11 p.m.
Saturdays: Bar Bingo at 1 p.m. Karaoke 7 until 11 p.m.
Sundays: Dinner 2 until 4 p.m.
Post and Ladies Auxiliary meetings third Sunday of every month at 11 a.m.
Men's Auxiliary Meeting 3 Monday of every month 7 p.m.

Membership for 2009 is overdue. Annual members are asked to please pay their dues.
Sunday, Dec. 7 was the attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1941, launching American into World War II. Support our veterans by attending the '1941's BigBandBash' this Sunday. The DJ, David Lee, will play your favorite requests from 5 to 9 p.m. with some music of the big band era between. Honor those who have given their best for us all. Members are welcome to bring friends.
Big Screen TV and Pool Table

VFW Post #9528

The VFW Post 9528 is located at 29012 E. State Road 78 in Buckhead Ridge. For information call 863-467-2882. Post opens at 11 a.m., Monday through Sunday.
We are taking applications for men or women who would like to join the VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, the Men's Auxiliary, AmVets or the Ladies AmVets Auxiliary.
Wednesdays: Dinner by Ladies Auxiliary, Mens Auxiliary, or AmVet Ladies Auxiliary at 5:30 p.m. Music will be available.
Thursdays: Bar Bingo at 1 p.m. Lunch will be available.
Fridays: 16 ounce steak dinner with baked potato, salad and rolls will be served from 5:30 until 7 p.m. for an \$11 donation. Pork Loin dinner available for \$7. Dancing immediately following dinner.
Sundays: 5:15 p.m. bar bingo. Food will be served for a donation.
Membership meetings are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 10 a.m.
House Committee meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. For information contact Robert Hare, Post Commander at 863-467-2882. Call for Menu.
All games and special events are shown on seven televisions, two of which are big screen. The game room has a regulation size pool table.

VFW Post #10539

Post hours are 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Closing times are discretionary and dependent on the number of patrons but usually not before 8 p.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. on weekends.
Happy hours: 10 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Noon to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.
Monday: Card Bingo at 6 p.m.
Tuesday: Ladies Auxiliary all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner \$5 donation beginning at 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Bar Bingo at 12:45 p.m. Lunch by Ladies Auxiliary. Kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m. Evening music.
Thursday: Music, kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m.

Friday: Music, kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m.
Saturday: Noon, dollar hotdogs, \$1.50 Polish Sausage, both with Chili and all the fixings. Card bingo at 5 p.m. Music and dancing at 7 p.m. \$50 gas card giveaway.
Scheduled meetings: VFW First Sunday at noon, Ladies Auxiliary second Monday at 7 p.m., Men's Auxiliary second Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Do you have a family member serving overseas? We send packages of urgently needed supplies to them. We accept donations for this worth cause. Contact Cheryl Beniot at 863-697-2930.
For further information call 863-763-2308.

Shrine Club

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, S.R. 78 W., members will meet the first and third Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. The club is also available for weddings and parties. For information call the club at (863) 763-3378.
They are now open three days a week. Weekly specials are:
Tuesdays: Noon until 9 p.m.: Spaghetti dinner - donations only, music from 6 until 9 p.m.; happy hour 3-6 p.m.
Thursdays: Noon until 9 p.m.: Fried Shrimp dinner or clams \$6 donation; happy hour 3-6 p.m.; shrimp skewers 2

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

Cypress Hut Eagles #4509

The Cypress Hut Fraternal Order of Eagles post #4509 located at 4701 U.S. 441 S.E. is now open to members Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m., Sundays from 1 to 10 p.m. Information can be found by visiting www.foe4509.com, or calling 863-467-1154.
Food is served several evenings a week.
Aerie meetings are at 7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the old Cypress Hut flea market restaurant.
FOE Auxiliary meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.
Friday night: 16 oz rib eye steak dinner with the trimmings beginning at 5:30 p.m.
Editor's note: To add listings or make changes to the service club news, please email okeeneews@newszap.com.

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Lincoln Park wins district showdown

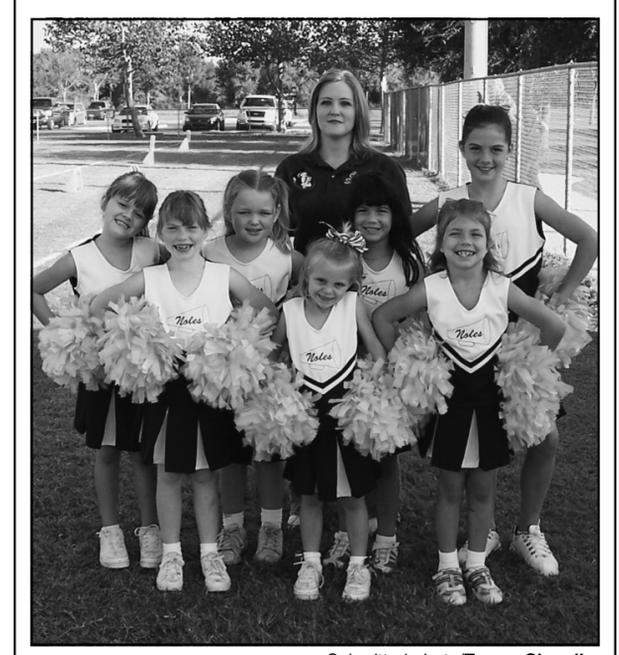
By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Lincoln Park made a statement Thursday night for all to hear. This is our district.
The Lady Greyhounds basketball team got 33 points from eighth grade prodigy Brandy Montgomery, and defeated the Okeechobee High School Lady Brahms 71-48.
Coach Wendell Adams said he was concerned about Okeechobee due to the great start they have had this year. He also was missing two of his starters.
"We were able to pull out this game without them. Right now we're in the driver's seat in the district. This was a big game for us," he said.
Lincoln Park (8-1) rolled to a 44-20 halftime lead behind an aggressive defense that forced

a lot of Okeechobee turnovers. Okeechobee reduced the deficit to 18 points on two occasions in the second half but could not get any closer.
Montgomery was the beneficiary of many of those easy opportunities. She got plenty of support from Stephanie Ball who had 16 points and Dyana Pierre who had 16 points.
"It was a pretty good game for us," Montgomery said, "We had steals and easy buckets. Okeechobee was a good competitive team and we had to keep working hard so they wouldn't come back."
Montgomery's mother is the former coach at Indian River State College. She has gotten to play high school ball early at Lincoln Park and she feels in the long run it will improve her game. She noted it is tough to play girls four

and five years older than her.
"It's quite an experience. I have an advantage over most middle school players. Getting to play now on varsity prepares me better for high school ball."
Okeechobee (6-2) had 17 points from Dorothy Burkhardt and 10 points from Jewel Buck in a losing cause. Coach Anthony Sherlock said he was proud of his girls for their effort in the second half of the game.
"The first half was a struggle

but the girls showed some heart and some desire and won the second half," he said. "They had some players but we beat them in the second half. It's not like they put their subs in. We played with them."
The Junior Varsity Lady Brahms fell by six points to Lincoln Park.
Okeechobee will host Westwood on Monday night with junior varsity at 5:30, and varsity at 7 p.m.



Submitted photo/Teresa Chandler
O.C.R.A. Cheerleading
Coach Stephanie Michell heads up the Seminoles team for O.C.R.A. youth division.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Monica Koger, nine points, was harassed all night by freshman Stephanie Ball (right) during Lincoln Park's big win.

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<p>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</p>	<p>5043-M 4-Seasons MH on 1 fenced acre. 3/2 with fireplace, large screened rear porch, circle driveway, large garage/workshop and upstairs storage. MLS# 201860</p>

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Lots - Sale 1045
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Property Inspection 1060
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Autos Wanted 4010
Classic Cars 4015
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Sport Utility 4055
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Automobiles 4005

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UTILITY TRAILER-16 FT -2 Axel, New Tires \$900 OBO (863)634-2979

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

Boats 3005

AIR BOAT-STOSSELL HULL. Decked over, with trailer, as is, no motor or prop \$3000 OBO (863)763-7174

WELLCRAFT 2000 - 18 Ft. 180 Fisherman T-top, 90 hp Johnson Ocean Pro. Brand new power pack. Having baby... must sell. \$7900 or best offer. (863)227-0407

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Public Notices
5000
 Public Notice State Public - Legal Notice 5005 5500

Public Notice 5005
 Time to clean out the attic, basement and/or garage? Advertise your yard sale in the classifieds and make your clean up a breeze!

NOTICE OF HEARING
 Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate
 The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. For more information, contact Faye Huffman at the Planning and Development Department, 499 N.W. 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, (863) 763-5548 ext. 3001.
 All interested parties shall have the opportunity to be heard at this public meeting. Any person deciding to appeal any decision by the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. Code Enforcement tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Department.
 Faye Huffman, Secretary to the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate
 303724 ON 12/12,14/08

Public Notice 5005
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CASE NO. 2008-CA-315
 PROVIDENT FUNDING ASSOCIATES, LP, Plaintiff vs. HOWARD DEAN CASSELS, et. al. Defendants
NOTICE OF ACTION
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:
 COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST ONE-QUARTER (SE1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST ONE-QUARTER (SE1/4) OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TO: DONNA D. CASSELS, et al
 Last known address:
 1639 SW 16th St.,
 Okeechobee, FL 34974

If alive, and if dead, all parties claiming interest by, through, under or against DONNA D. CASSELS and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described herein.
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:
 COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST ONE-QUARTER (SE1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST ONE-QUARTER (SE1/4) OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Nwabufo 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 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.
 WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 3rd day of December, 2008.

SHARON ROBERTSON
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: Arlene Nealis
 As Deputy Clerk
 A copy of this Notice of Action, Complaint and Lis Pendens were sent to the defendants and address named above.
 NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW County Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1-772-4270 within two working days of your receipt of this NOTICE. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1-800-995-8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1-800-995-8770.
 This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
 303388 ON 12/7,14/08

ADVERTISE and Get Results

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
 1 America's first spy
 5 Ramadan ritual
 9 Confess
 14 River to the Caspian Sea
 15 Bounce back
 16 About
 17 "Pudd'nhead Wilson" author
 19 Data storage medium
 20 Corpulent
 21 Beeper
 23 "The Loneliest number," in a 1969 hit
 24 Clear
 25 Little bite
 27 Oranjestad's island
 29 With 50-Across, he started a fast-food franchise at age 65
 32 Pollster Gallup
 35 Golfer's sock
 37 "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" composer
 38 Jump on the ice
 41 Leaves rolling in the aisles
 43 Break
 44 ___ Era: old name for Earth's pre-life period
 46 TV detective ___ Monk
 48 Hearst Castle site San ___
 50 See 29-Across
 53 Anger
 55 Con opening
 56 Greek "H"
 58 Blood-typing letters
 60 Napster creator
 62 French topper
 64 Dutch pottery city
 66 Common "threads" shared by 17- and 29-/50-Across and 11- and 40-Down
 68 Crusoe's creator
 69 Pants order spec
 70 "The King and I" role
 71 Curl one's lip

DOWN
 1 Jokes and such
 2 Egypt's official language
 3 Rio Grande city
 4 BPO ___
 5 Handful
 6 Without instruments
 7 Second-largest Islam denomination
 8 Island nation near Fiji
 9 Accumulated periodically, as interest
 10 Pulled off
 11 "Fantasy Island" host
 12 Religious figure
 13 Like pets
 18 Mortise insert
 22 Fraction of a joule
 26 Squid's squirts
 28 Ludlum's "The ___ Identity"
 30 More slothful
 31 Takes charge

33 Tank filler
 34 Body shop fig.
 36 Rule ___ oppressively
 38 ___ Vegas
 39 Compact submachine gun
 40 "The Bonfire of the Vanities" author
 42 Trig function
 45 Mat for a glass
 47 Sun-dried brick

49 Extreme degree
 51 Summer TV fare
 52 Beer holders
 54 Anchor line's hole
 57 Rose oil
 58 Mixes in
 59 "Where've you ___?"
 61 Senate party VIP
 63 Biblical twin
 65 Enemy
 67 Athletic supporter?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
 CHASMS HOGS AJAX
 HOSEA INOT VICE
 AUTRY DEAR AGED
 DRIBBLE GLASS
 EEEK FATCAT
 GEES DISNEY RPI
 ANNIKA PASSES FAIL
 SOAMI DIM ARNEL
 JUMP BAIL WHENCE
 EGO ONSTAR DYED
 THRUST DEF
 SHOOTONESWAD
 THOZE NTSB THATI
 THOU YOKS COCOA
 COOP MESS HOOPS

xwordeditor@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17			18						19			
20				21			22			23		
24			25	26			27			28		
29		30				31		32			33	34
35							36		37			
38	39	40					42			43		
44			45				47					
48				49		50				51	52	
53					54		55			56		57
58	59			60			61		62	63		
64						66		67				
68						69				70		
71						72				73		



OHS Cross Country Team
 The OHS Boys Cross Country Team (left to right) Misael Alvarado, Matt Bauer, Reynel Denova, Eddie Guerrero, Shawn Horvath, Lionel Jones and Adrien Leon were honored at the school board meeting for their accomplishments this season becoming the Treasure Lake District and Regional Champions coached by Mike Schilt (right).



OHS Volleyball Team
 The Okeechobee High School Volleyball Team (left to right) Kari Berger, Rebekah Bryan, Brittney Freeman, Janezka Koger, Monica Koger, Paige McCrary, Marie Renfranz, Carissa Tyson, (not pictured) Megan Clements, LeAnna Cotton, Jordan Maynard, Tiffany McGee and Naomi Stevens were honored at by the school board for becoming the district runner-ups and the regional quarter final champions for the 2008 season coached by Jacque Robinson (right).

Okeechobee High School boys fall at buzzer

By Charles M. Murphy
 Okeechobee News
 The Okeechobee High School Boys Basketball Team suffered a heart breaking loss Thursday, 59-58, at Westwood as Luther Robinson dropped in a circus shot in the final seconds to bring the Panthers from behind.
 Brahman Coach Jon Enrico said he was almost in disbelief when that basket fell through the hoop, "It was a last second shot, and it was a layup that he threw up, a lucky shot. We had three guys on him," he said.
 Enrico said Robinson was triple covered, he took a bad shot and it went in. It was the definition of a desperate shot.
 "We played great defense in the last 11 seconds, forced them to take a bad shot, that we had triple teamed," the coach said. "It literally went up, hit the

back of the back board and dropped straight into the hoop, it was a freak shot."
 Okeechobee played a good game defensively and were missing their leading scorer David Jeune for much of the game due to foul trouble. He picked up three fouls in the first half and had to sit for about half the game. Jeune still had 14 points in 16 minutes.
 Austin Willard had 17 points to lead Okeechobee and Corey White was also in double figures.
 "It was a well played game. We had a lead of three points with 30 seconds left. We made two bad choices, and tried to score instead of holding the ball. We gave them time to get down the

court and win," said Coach Enrico. "We made bad choices, they'll learn from that and get better, better to do it now than later. We didn't get beat. We beat ourselves."
 Okeechobee had had a couple of problems down the stretch in their last three games. Against Lincoln Park, Okeechobee couldn't score in the final three minutes and lost by six. Against Suncoast they missed some big free throws but their defense preserved a two point victory. In Fort Pierce they made mental mistakes down the stretch, shooting the ball when they needed to hold the ball and run the clock, or get fouled and take foul shots.
 "I'm proud of the effort and the de-

fense. Everybody worked hard. Matt Skipper had some big rebounds down the stretch. Ryan Osceola played well. We did what we were supposed to do until the end," Enrico added.
 Jeune tried to score on the first possession and drove the lane hard, got open, but missed a short jumper. On the next possession Troy Harper took a shot from the corner and Westwood rebounded.
 Robinson had 21 points to lead all scorers. Andre Robinson had nine points. Westwood improved to 5-0 overall and 3-0 in district play. Okeechobee fell to 2-4 overall and 1-2 in district play.
 The Brahman's next home game will be Jan. 13, against Jensen Beach.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers
 Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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!

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

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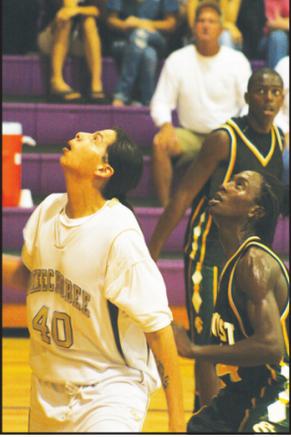
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OHS boy's basketball holds off Suncoast



By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

David Jeune had 20 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Okeechobee High School Boys Basketball Team to a victory Tuesday night and impress a recruiter from Mercer University.

Jeune and Okeechobee needed every point as they held off a stubborn Suncoast squad, 57-55, to win their first district game of the year.

Coach Jon Enrico said he was disappointed in the team's recent efforts but said the team really showed what they were made of on Tuesday, "I was expecting more from them than they were ready to give. Defense is just heart and hustle. Everybody has heart and hustle," he said.

Okeechobee didn't score much down the stretch but they didn't have to. Corey White, 10 points, took an offensive charge, and deflected a Suncoast shot in the final minute to keep Okeechobee in front.

Duelle Gore had some big buckets down the stretch when Okeechobee needed the points. "We needed baskets and my teammates made big passes to me. I got open when we needed me to," he said.

Okeechobee led 10-4 early thanks to five early points from White. Suncoast rallied to take an 11-10 lead, but Okeechobee responded with buckets from Jeune, Troy Harper and Ryan Osceola as they built an 18-11 lead after one quarter.

Two, three pointers by Jeune

and Austin Willard built the lead to 25-17 midway through the second quarter and a dunk by Jeune gave Okeechobee a 32-21 lead. Suncoast scored the final six points of the half to trail only by five, 32-17, at the break.

It was back and forth in the second half. Okeechobee built a six point lead, 38-32, after a nice scoop by Willard, but Suncoast rallied to take a 47-44 lead on a three point basket. Harper's three point field goal tied the score at the end of three, 47-47.

Defense was the name of the game in the fourth quarter. A three by Jeune gave Okeechobee a 54-49 lead with 5:45 left in the game. However the Brahms couldn't close out the game. The Brahms missed four free throws in the final minute to al-

low Suncoast a chance to tie or go ahead. That's when the defense made a play.

"We had to pick it up on defense," Gore said, "We acted like that is the only reason were going to win games."

Enrico said he was frustrated by the missed free throws but that he'll continue to work in practice with the team. He noted the players must run, and do push ups and other exercises, when they miss free throws.

"Our motto is heart, hustle and have fun. Hopefully we can turn the corner now," he noted.

Okeechobee travels to Forest Hill on Friday. The Junior Varsity Brahms lost 51-41 to Suncoast.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Corey White reacts to a referee's call during Tuesday's victory.

Girl's soccer team struggles at home



By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Somer Awe had a big game Thursday as she put four goals in the net and constantly pressured the Okeechobee High School

goal in a big Centennial victory.

The Lady Eagles defeated the Lady Brahms 8-0 by mercy rule. It was the Lady Brahms' second consecutive shutout loss.

Lisa DeFranza, Carly Giordano, Kristen Schrader, and Kaitlyn

Snow also had goals for Centennial (8-4-1). Okeechobee fell to (3-7).

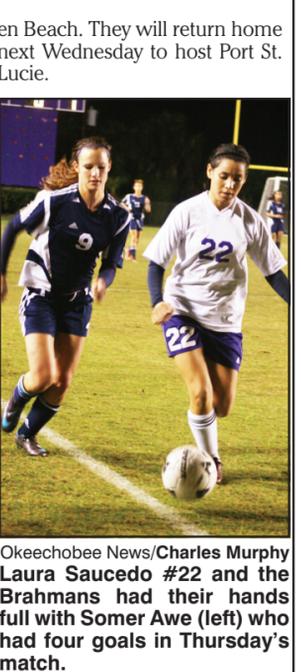
Okeechobee struggled to clear the ball from their end of the field all night. The quick, tall and talented Awe had her way with the Brahman defense and even the heroics of Brahman goal keeper Megan Clements couldn't prevent her from scoring.

For the second straight match, Okeechobee came up against an outstanding talent. Evelyn Bradford had a hat trick, three goals, on Tuesday as Martin County defeated Okeechobee, 5-0.

Clements made several remarkable saves in both matches. Centennial scored four times in the first half most of the time on uncontested shots. In one instance, Clements knocked a shot away only to see a rebound shot get past her.

Okeechobee had only shot on goal against Centennial.

Okeechobee is back in action on Tuesday when they visit Jens-



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Laura Saucedo #22 and the Brahms had their hands full with Somer Awe (left) who had four goals in Thursday's match.

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Soccer season wraps up with co-champs



Submitted photo
Mom's Kitchen (green) - Amer Elhindi making a move on Surfin the Net.



Submitted photo
David and Sons (yellow defenders) - Colton Butts (left) & Alicia Rodriguez (right) of the Okeechobee Soccer League (red) - Lydia Calzada taking the ball up the field.

However cool and calm it was in Okeechobee this past Saturday, Dec. 6, parents and soccer fans alike were feeling the heat over at the practice fields. Wrapping up a season may come easy for some, but it was 50 minutes of hard work for three 10 & Under soccer teams. Going in to the day, David & Sons Lawn Care (6-1-2) and Mom's Kitchen (6-1-2) were tied for second place. Only two points ahead of the pack was Okeechobee Soccer League (6-0-3), led by coach Ignacio Calzada. The championship title was anybody's at this point.

In the first match between Surfin' the Net and Mom's Kitchen, it remained 1-0, Mom's Kitchen, for most of the game. In the 10th minute of the second half, Brandon Leal for Surfin' the Net scored the tying goal. But it didn't take long for Mom's Kitchen to answer back. Amer Elhindi immediately sank one in the back of the net, then drove another ten minutes later to seal a 3-1 win for Mom's Kitchen. After exchanging high fives with his team, coach Tony Ruben Rodriguez knew the battle was only half over.

Warming up on the sidelines was the undefeated red team, Okeechobee Soccer League. With a team comprised of mostly girls, they fought long and hard

throughout the 9-week season to earn their keep. But it wasn't enough this time to hold off the yellow team, David & Sons. In a low-scoring first half, David & Sons was up 1-0. After a tying goal was scored by Okeechobee Soccer League's Isaac Garcia, the game shifted. The yellow team rained down magic and the floodgates were opened. David & Sons sank seven goals one after another for a crowd-pleasing 8-2 victory. Coach Bruce Chesser jokingly claimed he put gun powder in the water after being questioned by parents about his team's sudden spark of enthusiasm.

And so there were two co-champions for the 10 & Under Youth Soccer League with identical 7-1-2 records, Mom's Kitchen and David & Sons Lawn Care. Congratulations and a job well done to all the teams, players and parents who participated in the 2008 Okeechobee County Parks & Recreation Soccer League.

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