



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 297

Sunday, December 28, 2008

75¢ Plus tax

Briefs

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.

Red Cross class dates slated

The Okeechobee Branch of the American Red Cross will be holding the following the following Health & Safety classes in January: Tuesday, Jan. 6 - First Aid Basics at 6 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 14 - Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 20 - Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.m. All classes are held at their Branch office located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

Glades County officials sworn in

The County Commissioners and newly Re-Elected County Officials of Glades County will hold their Installation Ceremony on Tuesday night, January 6, 2009 at the Doyle Conner Center at 7:00 P.M. County Commissioners Butch Jones; District 1, Paul Beck; District 3, and Bob Giesler; District 5, along with Sheriff Stuart Whiddon, Clerk of Courts Joe Flint, Property Appraiser Larry Luckey, Tax Collector Gail Jones, and Supervisor of Elections Holly Whiddon will be sworn into office. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Drought Index

Current: 609
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

14.06 feet
Last Year: 10.28 feet

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

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

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U.S. Census needs workers

For census jobs call 1-866-861-2010

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

The United States Census Bureau has 300 jobs to fill in Okeechobee -- and not enough people applying for work.

"We have about 300 jobs for Okeechobee County and we're not getting the response we need," said Mack Parker of the Census Bureau.

He said the jobs are tempo-

rary and most are part-time and the pay range depends on the position.

"These are NOT minimum wage jobs," he added.

In addition to the hourly wage, Census workers will be reimbursed 58 cents a mile for travel.

The jobs range from five weeks to one year of work.

Mr. Parker explained that the Census has several phases and some of the jobs do not require knocking on doors to conduct surveys.

In the first phase, Census workers verify addresses.

"Address canvassing verifies every address on the map," said Mr. Parker. "The workers doing the canvassing would not be knocking on doors."

Once the address canvassing is finished, the Census sends out a mass mailing to every address in the county. Those sending out the mailing would be doing office work.

Normally, said Mr. Parker, in Okeechobee County they get about a 60 percent return on the

mass mailing.

"That means we have 40 percent who don't respond and those people have to be contacted," he explained. That's when census takers start knocking on doors.

Mr. Parker said the hours required for different jobs vary widely. In many cases, the Census worker can set their own hours. Some of the work can be done nights and weekends, he said.

Applicants must be 18 years old. The Census requires appli-

cants pass a test, which can be taken at the Okeechobee Public Library or the One Stop Career Center.

Successful applicants are then given 10 days of training. They are paid for the training time, Mr. Parker said.

Bi-lingual workers are especially needed, he continued. The Census gives first priority to U.S. citizens, he said. But if enough citizens do not apply for the jobs, non-citizens who are in the country legally may be hired. Ap-

See Census — Page 2

Renovations: Work under way on historic courthouse Breezeway to be restored

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The historic Okeechobee County Courthouse is undergoing a \$3.8 million year long face lift. Among other things, the electrical wiring will be redone, a sprinkler system will be installed and the courtroom will be made into a meeting room for the county commission with state of the art audio and visual equipment.

"I certainly think this building warrants being restored and preserved forever," said Commissioner Ray Domer of the courthouse restoration.

"This building is well built. It has withstood many hurricanes," stated commissioner Noel Chandler.

Through the years, the courthouse has housed the school board, the county surveyor, the county agent and the sheriff, as well as private offices. Retired Circuit Judge William Hendry said his first law office in 1957 was in what later became the prisoner holding room. The judge said that the Okeechobee Abstract Company and the Department of Transportation once had offices in the courthouse.

Judge Hendry's grandfather, John Duncanson, was one of the contractors who built the courthouse. The judge said the original plans called for a dome on the building. However, in an effort to cut expenses, the dome was eliminated.

In the upper left corner of a panoramic photograph of downtown Okeechobee taken Nov. 16, 1926, scaffolding can be seen around the courthouse, which was under construction at the time and was not completed until the following year.

On Feb. 12, 1927, the commission chairman was appointed to work with the fair com-



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

The pile of rubble at the left of the picture is all that remains of the tower at the rear of the courthouse that housed an elevator. Renovation plans call for the elevator to be moved to the front entrance of the building. A second tower at the other rear corner of the building is also being torn down. The rear of the building will then be restored to its original appearance with arched columns all the way across the second floor porch.

mittee on a dedication program for the new building. However, it is unclear if such a dedication was ever held. Therefore, a dedication ceremony for the courthouse was held on Nov. 7, 1992, in connection with the 75th anniversary of the county.

The architecture is Mediterranean Revival, a common style in south Florida at the time. This is the same architectural style of the city hall. The building has many interesting features that are not found in

modern buildings. The distinguishing features include the red clay tile roof and white stucco finish exterior walls. The most prominent feature is the colonnaded and arched two-story entrance with a pair of concrete staircases and decorative iron railings. This entrance way will be preserved in the restoration process.

In 1968 the open breezeway in the center of the building was enclosed to form a meet-

See Courthouse — Page 2

Safe boating begins with boat owner

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

While a missing boater on Lake Okeechobee was found safe and sound earlier last week, authorities say if he had followed some simple precautions it would have saved time, money and his friends a lot of worry.

Jason Correll headed out through the Taylor Creek locks Sunday afternoon, Dec. 21, to spend a few hours fishing on the big lake. However, he ran out of gas and both he and his pet dog spent a cold windy night stranded on the lake.

Mr. Correll and his dog were found at 7:45 a.m. Monday an estimated 3 miles south of Lock 7. Both he and his pet bulldog were all right.

The angler and his dog could have been found earlier if he had told someone where he was going; made sure his gas tank was full; had taken a cell phone; or, turned on his marine band radio.

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit, as well as the department's Search and Rescue Unit, will respond

See Boating — Page 2

County helps community stay prepared

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

"Be prepared," the Boy Scout Motto, has special meaning to the people of Okeechobee because of hurricanes in recent years.

The Okeechobee County Office of Emergency Management has several publications available to help families to be

prepared for hurricanes. These publications are available online for downloading by going to the emergency management website www.okeechobeeoc.com and clicking on "Click here to build your family emergency plan today." For those who do not have access to a computer,

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Battle of Okeechobee re-enactment planned

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The 2009 re-enactment of the Battle of Okeechobee will be bigger and better than ever this year, according to event organizers.

The re-enactment of the battle that marked the turning point of the Second Seminole War will be held on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. The original battle took place on Christmas Day, 1835.

While the re-enactment has always been held on the

site of the battle, this will be the second year it will be held on public land. In 2006 the state purchased a portion of the battlefield to be used as a state park. The wheels of state government are turning to make the property into a state park. However, recent budget restraints are slowing those wheels. Okeechobee City Councilman, history buff and Battle of Okeechobee re-enactor Dowling Watford said the area is still a long way from

a state park. "The good thing is that we got the land," he added.

Mr. Watford said that some people are collecting artifacts for a museum on the site. For that purpose, he purchased an Albany, N.Y. newspaper from that era that has an account of the battle.

The state-owned property, across the road from the Treasure Island Fire Station on S.E. 38th Avenue, will be open from

See Battle — Page 11



During this 2004 reenactment of the Battle of Okeechobee Seminole Warriors prepare to defend themselves against the attack of Colonel Zachary Taylor's forces.

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Boating

Continued From Page 1

to a missing boater as quickly as possible but many times a simple check of a person's boat and motor will prevent their having to search the 730-square-mile lake.

"Our marine unit can perform a courtesy safety equipment inspection of a boat and trailer if a boat owner comes to the sheriff's office facility at Okee-Tantie," said Sheriff Paul May. "We do recommend that boat owners call 863-357-1600 to set up a convenient time and to make sure that our personnel are available."

For winter visitors who leave their boats here during the summer, checking out the boat and trailer prior to the first launch of the season is extremely important.

Sheriff May said that along with the boat and trailer, it is vital that all emergency equipment be checked prior to that initial launch.

"A few minutes of preparation, replacing or repairing anything that is not in good working order, may save someone's life and property," he said. "If you are not sure if your boat is in good working order visit one of our community's many guide services, marinas, local marine sales businesses and repair facilities before going out."

It is equally important to let someone know your plans. Tell your spouse, a friend or even the OCSO Marine Unit where you are launching your boat, where you plan to go and when you plan to return. And no matter who you alert to your plans, they should have a description of your boat as well as its registration numbers.

- The OCSO Marine Unit also suggests the following to ensure your safety.
- Make sure the boat's navigation lights are working properly. Operating a boat at night without lights is not only dangerous, but illegal.
 - If the boat hasn't been used for several months, charge the cranking battery overnight prior to launching the vessel the next day. If the crank battery is over three years old, replace it. Also, if the boat is equipped with a trolling motor make sure those batteries are fully charged since it may be possible to reach shore safely by using the electric motor.
 - Fuel filters should be changed every year. Also check the fuel line and primer bulb for leaks.
 - Check to make sure the boat is filled with fresh fuel and the oil reserve is filled with fresh oil. Don't use a fuel/oil mix that has been sitting for three or four months.
 - Check the cotter pin on both the engine and trolling motor propellers.
 - Have the lower unit serviced at least once a year according to the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Have an anchor of the proper size for your boat. If possible, put two in your boat. You should also have 60 to 80 feet of anchor line securely attached to each anchor. Instead of using a mushroom anchor or cinder block, use anchors with metal wedges that will grab the bottom and hold you more securely.
 - You must have U.S. Coast Guard-approved life vests or personal flotation devices (PFDs) for everyone in the boat. Make sure these are in good condition and fit properly.
 - Have a flare kit, spotlight,

air horn, battery-operated strobe light and some basic tools on board. The strobe, flares and air horn can make it much easier for rescuers to find you at night.

- If you wear glasses or contact lenses, have an extra pair on board in case of emergency.
- Take a fully-charged cell phone, as well as a plug-in 12-volt cell phone charger.
- Purchase a marine band radio or weather radio to monitor weather conditions.
- Finally, have an up-to-date and water resistant map of the lake on board so you can give rescuers more precise information on your location.

Boaters should also do a safety check on the boat's trailer. Make sure the tires are in good shape; the winch strap is tight and not frayed or twisted; the lights are working properly; and, invest in a safety chain hook for the boat, safety chains for the vehicle hitch and a hitch safety pin.

If something should happen and you become disabled on the water, the first thing to do is anchor the boat to keep it from drifting. Next, turn off all electronics such as fish finders, depth gauges and radios. But, leave on your navigation lights if it is night time. Then, check your fuel lines and battery cables to make sure they haven't come loose.

Before you call for help determine where you are. This is where a GPS or a cell phone equipped with a GPS is very handy.

No matter who you call for help -- whether it be a family member, friend or the OCSO -- tell them where you are, give a good description of your boat and give them your cell phone number.

While you're waiting to be rescued, check your anchor line,

drink water and stay dry. If you're stranded at night, remember it could take several hours for help to arrive so leave your phone on but avoid making other calls.

If it's dark have your flares available. If you have a battery powered strobe light, turn it on and secure it to the highest point of your boat.

Finally, remember if you are stranded that the OCSO will only tow disabled boats if they are in a navigable waterway or present a hazard to other boats.

"If a boat is towed, it will only

be towed to the nearest boat ramp in Okeechobee," said Sheriff May. "From that point, it is the responsibility of the boat owner to arrange for repairs or recovery. Owners of boats under these circumstances should contact a friend or commercial towing or salvage company -- or their insurance company -- for further advice and assistance."

Sheriff May continued by saying that the sheriff's office does not normally salvage or refloat sunken or badly damaged boats.

"There is a very high risk in-

involved to our personnel and our departmental boats in these types of situations and we must avoid injuries or property damage," he said. "If a boat sinks, the owner should contact their insurance company or a commercial salvage company for recovery instructions."

He went on to say that those boats disabled due to a lack of fuel or a dead battery may be responsible for the cost of fuel, maintenance and personnel time for the responding deputies and marine rescue personnel.



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Courthouse

Continued From Page 1

ing room for the county commissioners. Plans call for that breezeway to be restored.

In later years, an elevator was installed in a tower built at the rear of the building. Renovation plans call for the elevator to be moved to the front entrance of the building. The original look of the rear of the building will be restored by demolishing the elevator tower and a companion tower built at the other rear corner of the building to balance the appearance.

Originally there was a circular driveway to the southern en-

trance, but that was replaced by a wide cement sidewalk.

Built long before modern air conditioning, the building was designed to take advantage of natural breezes with large windows, high ceilings, transoms over the interior doors and a first floor hallway open at both ends. The main courtroom is shaded on three sides by an arcaded porch. Cross ventilation was provided the courtroom by large wooden casement windows covered by inside wooden shutters.

The courthouse served as a morgue during the great hurricane of 1928 with coffins stacked in the corridors because the ground was too saturated for

grave digging. The organizational meeting of the Central and South Florida Flood Control District, now known as the South Florida Water Management District, took place at the courthouse on Oct. 6, 1947. According to "Strolling Down Country Roads, A Pictorial History," By Twila Valentine and Betty Williamson, at least two graduating classes from Okeechobee High School in the 1950s held their commencement exercises in front of the courthouse. In 1997, a pilot for the short-lived television series "Maximum Bob" was filmed in the courtroom. *Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.*

Census

Continued From Page 1

licants must be at least 18 years old. Those who are near their 18th birthday can apply, be tested and be certified to work, but will

not called to work until they are 18, he said.

Anyone interested in working for the Census Bureau should call toll-free 1-866-861-2010 to set up an appointment to take the test.

Mr. Parker encourages anyone who is interested to call.

"In other counties, we are test-

ing about 600 people a week," said Mr. Parker. "In Okeechobee County last week, we tested five people."

Okeechobee Forecast

- Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.
- Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. East southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.
- Monday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 79. Calm wind becoming south southwest around 5 mph.
- Monday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers before 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph.
- Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. North northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.
- Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. East northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.
- Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

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Okeechobee News
Published by Independent Newspapers, Inc.

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

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Motorcycle enthusiasts form club

The Okeechobee American Legion Post #64 is currently forming an American Legion Riders Chapter. The American Legion Riders is not a motorcycle club, but rather a diverse group of motorcycle enthusiasts sharing common goals. All are members or spouses of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion—and all are united by patriotism. They answer the call to ride in service to America's military, her veterans, and the children and youth of our country.

The American Legion Rider's eligibility rules for membership are:

1. All members of the American Legion Riders must hold individual membership in one of the American Legion Family organizations; (The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and The Sons of The American Legion) in good standing.
2. Members must be the legally registered owner of a motorcycle or be the spouse of the legally registered owner within the state of

registration.

3. All operators must be properly licensed and insured per state laws regarding motorcycles.
4. All members must obey the motor vehicle laws in any states in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.
5. Motorcycles used on any group rides or events must be 350c.c. or larger.

American Legion Membership Eligibility:

To join the American Legion, you must have served honorably on active federal service (active duty), honorably discharged or currently an active member of a military component. Reserve component members must have served at least 1 day on active duty. Eligibility dates are as follows for Army, Navy, Marine Corp., Air Force, Coast Guard, or *Merchant Marines:

- April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 (World War I)
- Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946 (World War II)
- Dec. 7, 1941 to Aug. 15, 1945 (Merchant Marines)

- June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955 (Korean War)
- Feb. 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War)
- Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada)
- Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990 (Operation Just Cause – Panama)
- Aug. 2, 1990 to present – cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. Government. (Gulf War – Operation Desert Shield/Storm/War on Terrorism)
- Photo copy of D.D. 214 is required as verification.

American Legion Auxiliary Membership Eligibility:

To join the American Legion Auxiliary you must be a woman who is eligible for membership in The American Legion; or is the mother, wife, daughter, sister, grand-daughter, great-granddaughter, or grandmother of a member of The American Legion; or is the mother, wife, daughter, sister, granddaughter, great-granddaughter or grandmother of a deceased veteran who served in the United States

Armed Forces during the listed qualifying eligibility dates. (step relatives are eligible) In-law relatives to the qualified veteran are not eligible for membership.

A copy of The American Legion membership card or D.D. 214 of the veteran through whom you are qualified is required

Sons of The American Legion Eligibility: (SAL)

To join the SAL you must be a male descendant (including stepsons and adopted sons), but does not include son-in-laws. Your sponsor must be a member of The American Legion or a veteran who died in service during any of the qualifying eligibility dates or A veteran who served during one of the qualifying eligibility periods of conflict, was honorably discharged, and past away subsequent to their military service. A copy of

The American Legion membership card or proof of veteran status of the (D.D. 214), through whom you are qualifying is required.

Membership applications

for The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion are available at the American Legion Post. Individual's current member or new member desiring to join the American Legion Riders please sign the contact sheet in the lounge at the Okeechobee Memorial American Legion Post # 64, 501 S.E. Second. Street.

Assistance obtaining a copy of a D.D. form 214 can be found at: www.vetrecs.archives.gov

If you would like view general information, member benefits, and history of The American Legion and subsidiary organizations can be found at:

www.amreicanlegionriders.net

American Legion Riders www.legion.org. The American Legion www.sal.legion.org

The Sons of The American Legion www.legion-aux.org

The American Legion Auxiliary

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Local banks report increased deposits

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Nearly \$550 million is deposited in Okeechobee banks according to the latest Deposit Market Share Report released earlier this year by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Seven financial institutions qualified in the annual report, the same as last year. National City Bank made the most gains while Regions Bank showed the most declines, the report noted.

The report was broken up into zip codes with five banks in the 34974 zip, and four banks in the 34972 zip code. Both Seacoast National Bank and Bank of America had bank branches in both zip codes. The deposits in both branches were totaled to get their figures this year.

Bank of America had \$111.6

million or 20.3 percent of the market share. Those numbers were slightly lower than 2007 when the Bank had a 21.6 percent market share and \$111.6 million on deposit. Regions Bank had just over \$29 million, or 5.3 percent of the market share, a reduction of over \$10 million, or 1.8 percent.

The report said Seacoast National Bank deposits rose by just under \$3 million. They had 22 percent of the market share, an increase of 3/10ths of a percent.

First Bank of Indiantown saw deposits drop just over \$1 million to \$9.9 million. They had a market share of 1.8 percent.

Riverside National Bank had \$138.3 million in deposits, a market share of 25.2 percent. That compared to \$133.5 million in 2007, a market share of 24.6 percent.

National City Trust had a mar-

ket share of 13 percent with just over \$71.3 million in deposits. That compared to \$65.4 million in 2007, a market share of 12.1 percent.

Suntrust Bank finished off the list with over \$68.8 million in deposits a market share of 12.5 percent. In 2007 the numbers were \$64.4 and 11.9 percent.

In Glades County, Seacoast National Bank owned the market with a 66.5 percent market share or 31.9 million. That was an increase from \$26.4 million in 2007, a market share of 60.34 percent.

Bank of America's market share dropped from 33.1 percent to 27.3 percent. The bank reported \$13.1 million on deposit at their Moore Haven branch.

First Bank and Trust Company of Indiantown's branch in Lakeport reported \$3 million on deposit this year, a market share

of 6.2 percent. That compared to deposits of \$2.9 million in 2007, a market share of 6.6 percent.

The FDIC report includes data as of June 30, 2008. The annual report comes out on that date each year.

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Unemployment levels show little change

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Unemployment levels stayed virtually the same in November according to the latest report from the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Center, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program.

Okeechobee had 10 percent unemployment in November, the same rate as October. There were 1,832 people out of work in November and 1,849 in October.

Glades County had 7.6 percent unemployment in November. That was down from eight

percent in October. Twenty more people had jobs in Glades County in November.

The unemployment rates this year are much higher than the 2007 levels. There was 5.8 percent unemployment in Okeechobee in November, 2007 with 1,013 out of work. Glades County had 4.8 percent unemployment last year with 223 on the jobless line.

Okeechobee was tied for fifth highest among Florida Counties in November. The highest rate was in Hendry County at 11.9 percent. Glades County was tied with two other counties for 29th in the state. The lowest rate in the state was in Liberty and Alachua

County who had 4.9 percent unemployment.

Martin County had 5.5 percent, Palm Beach had 7.6 percent, St. Lucie 10.4 percent, Highlands nine percent, and Osceola had 8.2 percent unemployment during November.

Public Forums
Local Issues

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Okeechobee's Most Wanted

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

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

can also receive a reward if the information results in an arrest.

Joe Luis Garza, 30 DOB 11/10/1978. Contracting W/O A License, Grand Theft.

Estavan Villegas-Urbina, 21, Robbery.

Angie Borjas aka Stevenson

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, VOP - Dealing in stolen property.



Joe Luis Garza



Estavan Villegas-Urbina



Angie Borjas, aka Stevenson



Wilbert Perez-Borja



Jason Hormuth

Medicare users warned, beware of health care fraud

It's that time of year again. The Medicare enrollment period runs from Nov. 15 until Dec. 31. Again, its time to re-evaluate your health insurance plans, whether you have original Medicare, a Medicare Supplement plan, a Medicare Advantage plan (HMO/ PPO) and/or a Medicare Prescription Drug plan. But, beware of those who will be looking to take advantage of you or your health care accounts. This could be an agent selling insurance plans in a fraudulent manner or a doctor charging for a service that was not rendered.

Beware of improper marketing activities by insurance companies/agents/brokers selling Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug plans. They are not permitted to:

- Provide meals or subsidize the cost of meals;
- Contact potential enrollees unsolicited;
- Promote plans or collect enrollment forms at educational

events;

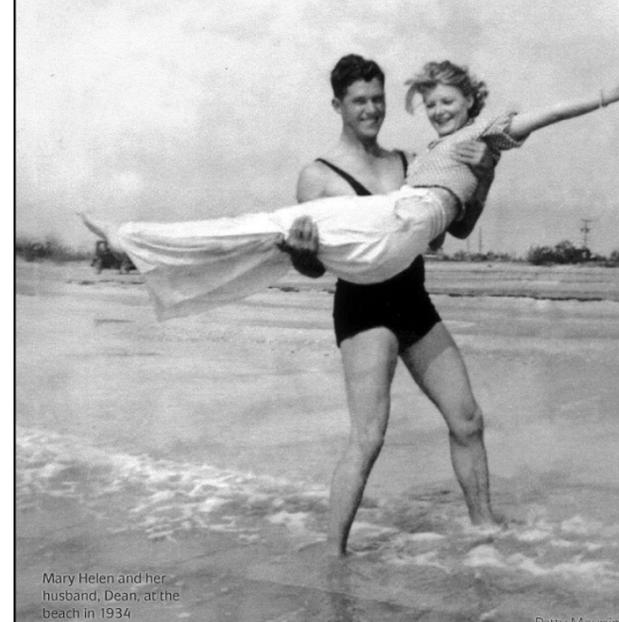
- Promote non-health care related products;
- Promote plans or collect enrollment forms in healthcare settings.

It is also important to beware of fraud and scams that are committed by health care providers and suppliers. Protect yourself by:

- Guarding your Medicare/Medicaid number like a credit card number;
- Keeping a journal of your medical visits;
- Keeping receipts of returned medical equipment;
- Reviewing your Medicare Summary notice (MSN), explanation of benefits (EOB), or health care billing statements carefully for any questionable charges or services you don't recall receiving.

If you have questions or suspect such fraudulent activities, contact the Florida Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program, toll-free at 1-866-357-6677.

CHOOSE LOVE



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

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

-JuDeane Garrett
Daughter of Mary Helen

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Speak Out/Public Forum

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

Thanks for participating!

GLADES ELECTRIC: I would like to know if I am the only customer/member of Glades Electric Cooperative that feels their bills collecting tactics are extreme? Are additional deposits for late payments extreme? Do you feel that the heavy-handed approach of sending bill collectors to your door and or disconnecting your meter so quickly is over the top? Do you ever feel harassed by their methods? If so I would like to know your opinion, so please Speak Out.

BAIL OUT: Washington has done it again. They gave out billions of taxpayers dollars to the financial industry in the form of the bailout in an effort to save the economy. But instead of using the money to get the economy going by making loans, the banks are either hoarding the money or using it for corporate bonuses. How could the government just give out money without restrictions on how it would be spent? I am so disappointed in our government and our president-elect was a senator who helped approve that bailout, so they can't just point the blame at the Bush Administration.

BANKS: \$1.6 billion went to bailed out bank executives ... that is disgusting!

MISTAKES: In response to the comment that equated the student being suspended for forgetting a prescription pill was in the book bag to an adult getting a speeding ticket, an adult who is driving too fast is not "accidentally" speeding. You actively have your foot on the accelerator and the speedometer is right there on the dash. If you aren't checking it, then you are negligent, not "mistaken." If you aren't paying attention to traffic and to your speed you are endangering others who are on the road. It's not the same thing as a child who took prescription meds with her to an overnight, didn't realize there was one pill left in the bottom of the bag, and then took the bag to school. The pill was not in front of her face. It was not easy to see or find. From what they said at the hearing, it had been in there for weeks while she was taking stuff in and out of the bag and she never noticed it. If her book bag is anything like my kids' I can understand how something can get lost in there. The acne pill in the bookbag in the locker was not endangering any others. Even if a kid found out it was there and broke into the locker to get it, the worst thing that could have happened was that he would get sick to his stomach, according to what the testimony said. In my opinion, accidentally having one prescription pill which is your own prescription and is not even on the controlled substances list should not be treated as equal to the kid who brings pot to school. I think the school board made the right decision in this case. I am basing my opinion on what I read in the paper. I don't know the people involved and I wasn't at the meeting.

SANTA: I just want to say how much I enjoy the Okeechobee tradition of Santa riding around on the fire truck. It gives the little kids such a thrill. They are thrilled to see a fire truck. They are thrilled to see Santa. Put them both together and you have little kids jumping up and down. I don't know how this tradition got started, but I just love it. Maybe someone who knows how it got started could share the story.

UNEMPLOYED: I've ran across this scenario a few times in my life, I have never asked or received assistance from any agency. I just went out and found another job, they're out there and sometimes you might have to work at something you didn't like until another opportunity came along. The only way anyone should receive government assistance, is if they're disabled or have earned some type of benefit while they were working before the prior employment came to an end. Keep looking for a job and when you get offered a job, don't turn it down because it's not your regular line of work.

APRONS: I don't think our kids know what an apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath. Because she only had a few dresses, it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used less material, but along with that, it served as a pot holder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

ACTIVITIES: I hope that when they plan out the school activities, the school officials consider the financial situation of many of the families in Okeechobee. When they start needing extra money for this and that, some families just don't have it. And you might say the kids can do fund raising, but there is a limited about the money any business can donate and many of the businesses are having trouble just meeting payroll so they don't have money to donate. Also, when they plan the sports schedules, how about making sure that there are at least as many home games as away games. We can't afford to drive to the away games. It's only fair that sometimes you have to travel, but at least half of the games should be home games.

DAYLIGHT CHANGE: Forget about the Climate Change hype for a moment. I overheard some talk of a new disaster that puts each of us in absolute peril, and we haven't a minute to lose. I'm talking about Daylight Change. Last June a group of scientists began to document the total amount of daylight each day. They soon noticed a disturbing trend. Each day was about 2 minutes shorter than the previous. There is scientific consensus that our days are getting shorter at an alarming rate. The government must act very quickly to stop this. We must tax and regulate each and every business in order to thwart the impending darkness. At the current rate, we will be in total darkness by next summer. We are already beginning to see the effects of Daylight Change. Many birds have migrated from their homes, and crop production has totally ceased in most parts of the country. The insects, flowers and even the leaves on trees have totally disappeared. We will soon be faced with world-wide famine. We must act very quickly to save our planet. I am currently working on a movie to raise awareness about this, and hope to win the Nobel Prize for my work. *Editor's note: Since we are now past the winter solstice, perhaps you can work instead on the theory that the days are now getting longer.*

SURVIVE: My husband was out of work at one time not too long ago, which has been a first that we had to encounter. But you have to do what you have to do to survive. I still had and have my job, so we still had income coming in, but he is the bread winner in the family, so when he was out of work we had to juggle everything. First I had to figure out what had to be paid first, and what bills had the highest late fees, trying to determine what we could get away with being late. We didn't spend money on unnecessary things, such as renting movies or buying snacks. We got what we need in town all at once, not making extra trips that we don't have to. Buying generic things, instead of name brand things, being aware of the lights on in the house, I mean these things really help. We survived, my hubby is back to work and has been now for some time, and everything is back to normal, but I am still being frugal. There are a lot of other ways to get by. I hear a lot about people out of work turning down certain jobs because that's not what they do, or it's not enough money. If you're down and out enough you will do whatever it takes to make ends meet. A little money is better than no money at all.

Reflections from the Pulpit

New Year's resolutions

By Rev. Tommaso Pasquarella

Pastor, Corner Stone Baptist Church

At this time of the year you are all making New Year's resolutions and I as a pastor am no different. You make new commitments to do certain things. You say you are going to go on a diet, you say you are going to go to the gym, you say you are going to be better organized, and you may even say you are going to start going to church. You make these commitments because you know there are things you are doing that are not good for you or could be better.

You make these commitments because you want a change in your life, but you tend to let those commitments go by the wayside. Why? You do this because you are selfish and you like what you like when you like it. You also let them go because your heart is not in it. Come on, who likes to diet? Who likes to exercise? Well there might be one or two. Who likes getting organized? It is hard to get organized. Come to my office or my closet. Organization is not easy. Who does not like to sleep in on Sundays? You can say you are going to do better, but it will generally fail if there is not a heart's desire with a supernatural ability to follow through.

You will do what you are motivated to do. Paul sees a problem within the so-called body of Christ and he is going to call them

out on it. The problem is not making some kind of commitment, it is truly committing to that commitment. Paul wrote Romans 6 for the purpose of showing the Romans that when they trust Christ they are to live in newness of life, but he points out that they are not to live as though they have a license to sin. So what is it that you who are saved and are called by His name need to do? You are to see that your commitment to Christ means that you are to live in newness.

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" (Romans 6:1) What shall we say? Say about what? The chapter begins with a question because it is referring to something that has come before. What came before was a discussion on the stupidity of man. Why do I say stupidity? Listen to these verses.

"And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things." (Romans 1:23) They gave up God who is perfect and holy for an image that was not. They wanted to worship something that did not judge their sinful hearts. "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves." (Romans 1:24) God gave them up to their evil desires. "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever." (Romans 1:25) They exchanged truth for a lie. They worshiped the cre-

The Counseling Corner

Make New Year's Resolutions

to be healthier

By the American Counseling Association

It's almost time for those New Year's resolutions and losing weight will again top many people's lists. It's a good resolution, since health authorities now label obesity as this nation's leading health problem.

If someone close to you is trying to lose weight this coming year, you probably want to help. Unfortunately, experts find that the "help" usually offered can actually have the opposite effect, adding more pounds while possibly hurting the relationship.

So here are some tips on what to do, and not to do, if you want to really help someone reach their weight loss goals.

Nagging about those extra pounds, buying exercise equipment, suggesting new diets or taking the role of food police might all seem helpful, but often leave the other person feeling like a failure who's bad, ugly, and unable to lose weight and meet your expectations. When you talk about how losing weight is easy or just a matter of willpower, you're sending negative messages that trigger destructive feelings and can push the person to actually eat more.

A better way is to help the person understand the issues that are causing overeating and to be truly supportive of his or her efforts.

Start by encouraging the person to talk about his or her feelings. Identify negative messages, then help the person clarify and face down such feelings. Is your spouse feeling ugly because of

excess weight? Explain sincerely and honestly the beauty you see in him or her that has nothing to do with what the scale says.

It can also help to identify emotional issues that can lead to overeating. We all "stress eat," but when someone is constantly depressed or anxious it can be a bigger problem. Knowing that a loved one is there to listen and understand can help fight such feelings.

You can also be an example. That doesn't mean making food rules, but rather eating a healthy diet yourself with sensible portions. Start an exercise routine, and after a week or two, invite the person trying to lose weight to join you.

Your goal is for the person you care about to see you as a source of encouragement and support, not a critic. Offer praise when weight is lost, and encouragement when weight loss plateaus are encountered. Being involved like this can bring you closer and encourage your loved one to look harder at what drives his or her eating.

"The Counseling Corner" is provided as a public service by the American Counseling Association, the nation's largest organization of counseling professionals. Learn more about the counseling profession at the ACA web site, www.counseling.org.

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 ...

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- 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

ated things instead of He who created them. Why did man give up God for a lie? "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) You have all turned away and gone astray to our own desires. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) But because God loved us fools, He showed us His love when we were in rebellion toward God. Jesus came as a babe and died on a cross for our sins to pay for our sins, while we were sinners. We were His enemies and are now reconciled to God through Jesus.

Should we keep on sinning so grace will keep on coming? Should we keep on sinning so that we could keep on getting undeserved favor from God? No!!! No!!! No!!! In fact Paul uses stronger words than no. "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:2) In the King James Version we see the words "God forbid." The two Greek words literally translated mean "may it never be." Other versions say: "Certainly not!" "Absolutely not!" "By no means!" The reason the King James used "God forbid" is because using God would show ultimatum.

The question we are going to answer today is how shall we, who are dead to sin, live any longer in sin? "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:3-4) Don't you know that you who were saved were baptized into the death, burial and resurrection of Christ? If you do not you need to examine yourself. Test yourself because Jesus lives in you unless, of course, He does not. If Christ dwells in you, you need to live in newness of life. You need to be dead to your sins and alive in Christ. If you do not have

a new relationship to sin, you do not have a relationship with Christ. What does that mean? If you do not look different from before you trusted Christ then you probably did not trust Christ. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth." (1 John 1:6) You can not say you follow Jesus and live life in a manner unworthy of the gospel of Christ. Hate sin and love Christ and seek to do things His way. How do we live in newness? We need to commit to Christ all that we are, and seek to be like Jesus in our word, actions and intentions. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Romans 3:27) Well how do you put on Christ? Trust Jesus as your Savior, have a new hate for sin and a new love for the things of God. You need to put on the fruit of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Galatians 5:22-23A). You want to hold on to your commitment to Jesus? You need to trust Him with all that you are and stop living in sin as if you have never trusted because if you live in sin you have never trusted.

Commitments come and go when you really do not desire to do the task with all that you are, but when you say you follow Jesus and there is no evidence, then you made no commitment. If this offends you, then you need to take it up with God, because I can only tell the truth. For a new resolution, try making commitments based on who God is and what He has done. That will give you the power to fulfill your commitments because "whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Community Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 28

- 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 Saviour, 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; *The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.*
- N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick, Open Discussion, 7 p.m.
- 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.

Monday, Dec. 29

- 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

- 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.
- Tuesday, Dec. 30
- Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts), **N.A.** Nowhere Left To Go Group, Open Discussion, at noon **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick Group. *The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.*
- New A.A. Meeting in Basinger:** There is now an A.A. meeting in Basinger on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Basinger Christian Brethren Church on 700-A, north off U.S. 98. Beginners are welcome.
- 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 Saviour, 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 Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St.
- Family History Center** meets from 1 until 5 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 310 S.W. Sixth St. Anyone interested in finding who your ancestors are is welcome to attend. There is Census, IGI (International Genealogical Index), Social Security Death Index and military information available. For information, call The Family History Center at 863-763-6510 or Richard Smith at 863-261-5706 for special appointments.
- Gospel Sing** every Tuesday beginning at 7 p.m. The public is invited to participate with vocal and/or instrumental music. For information, contact Douglas Chiropractic Center at 863-763-4320.
- Widows and Widowers** support group meets at 7:30 - 8 a.m. at the Clock Restaurant, 1111 S. Parrott Ave., for breakfast. For information, June Scheer at 863-634-8276
- The Gathering Church Overcomers Group** meets at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall, 1735 S.W. 24th Ave. This is a men's only meeting. For information, call Earl at 863-763-0139.
- Bible study** at the Living Word of Faith Church, 1902 S. Parrott Ave., at 7 p.m. Informal and informative discussions bring many Bible truths to life. The public is invited.
- Grief and Loss Support Group** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Hospice Building, 411 S.E. Fourth St. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact Brenda Nicholson at 863-467-2321.
- 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.
- 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.

OHS football team celebrates success

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Every time the Okeechobee football team took the field this year it was an event. They kept up that habit Friday when they held the first big community event at the new Indian River State College Williamson Center.

The annual football banquet honored the Brahman varsity for their great season. Okeechobee (8-3), qualified for the playoffs for the second straight year, and continued to set records on offense.

Lonnie Pryor broke several of his own records as he ran for over

2,000 yards again, 2,349 in fact, and 24 touchdowns. He earned all state as a junior and will certainly be all state again. He was named the District 17 Class 4A player of the year this year and was also the district 17 most valuable player this year. To no one's surprise, he earned the Brahman's most valuable player award.

Pryor also shared, for the second year in a row, the offensive most valuable player award with QB Garrett Madrigal. Madrigal threw for 1,334 yards this year and 18 touchdowns.

Coach Chris Branham said Lonnie Pryor will go down as

the best player in Okeechobee history. He noted his work ethic and attitude separated him from all other players. "He stays on an even keel, works hard and doesn't back down on anything. When he knows what he wants he goes and gets it."

Branham said Madrigal earned the Co-MVP on offense because it was impossible to separate Pryor and Madrigal. He noted Madrigal's ability to pass helped Pryor and Pryor's ability to run helped open zones for Madrigal to complete passes.

"We'll never know this, but I don't know if either one is as good without the other," Branham added.

Branham said the St. Lucie West Centennial game showed just how valuable Madrigal was to the offense this year. Without Madrigal, Okeechobee was pounded by the Eagles in the pre season kick off classic.

Other awards went to Nate Pollard for defensive MVP. Pollard also won the Brahman award. Jonathan Schrock won the Joseph Julian award. Carson Williams won the most improved player award. Jonathan Kemp was named most valuable player for the junior varsity. Thor Harden was named the junior varsity defensive player of the year.

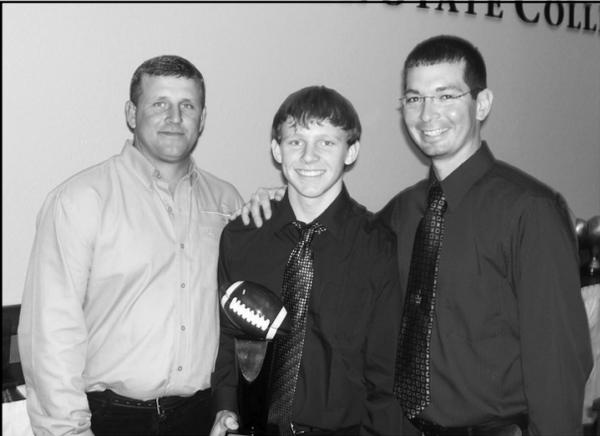
Branham said Pollard won the defensive award for his consistency this year. He noted Pollard continued to make plays all year against players that were bigger, stronger and faster than he was.

"He played his heart out all year. He was the most consistent player on the defense this year."

Schrock won for his dedication to the team and his leadership skills. He intends to enroll in

the Citadel this fall. Williams made huge strides at linebacker this year. He was a backup as a junior but was a key player as a senior.

"We couldn't line up on defense without him on the field. He directed all the traffic and without him we were not the same team, there's no predicting how many points we would have given up," Branham added.



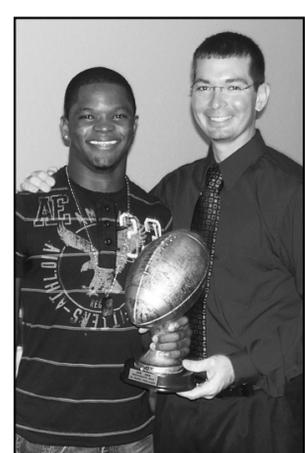
Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
JV Head Coach John Kemp, Jonathan Kemp, and Coach Chris Branham.



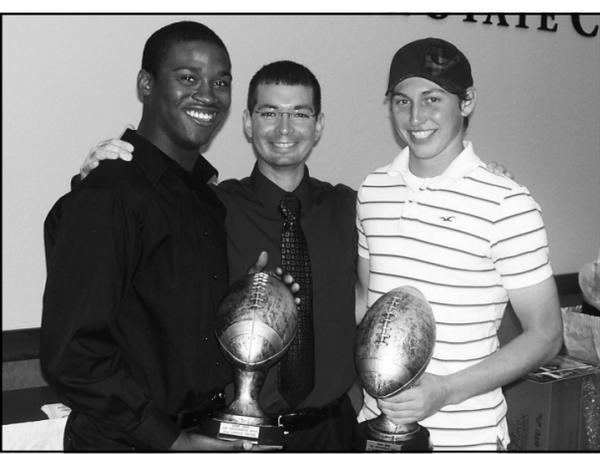
Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Several top players including (L-R) Tony Kibler, Leland Schoonmaker, and Kyle McGee received awards.



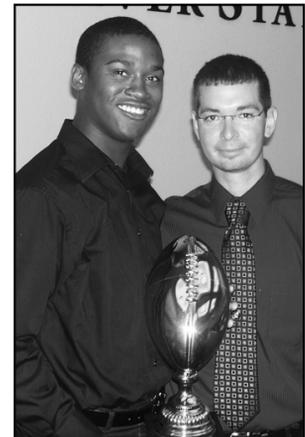
Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Garrett Madrigal, Nate Pollard, Chris Branham, Kareem Jones, and Lonnie Pryor show off their awards.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Coach Chris Branham poses with Nate Pollard and his defensive MVP award.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Lonnie Pryor (left) and Garrett Madrigal (right) show off their offensive MVP trophies with Coach Branham.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Lonnie Pryor (left) and Coach Branham show off Pryor's MVP trophy.

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A legitimate role for the press is that of "the public's watchdog." Most citizens can't spend the time necessary to personally observe their public officials at work, or to determine how well public institutions are carrying out their public mission.

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Community Events

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to do vessel exams

Okeechobee-The Lake is back and so are we. Flotilla 57 - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary we are ready to do vessel exams. They are free and we will come to you, we make house calls. Call 863-763-9570 to make and appointment to examine your boat and get it certified with a sticker.

Low cost spay/neuter available

Low cost spay/neuter vouchers for dogs and cats. Participating veterinarians in Vero Beach. For information, call United Humanitarians Port St. Lucie volunteer: 772-335-3786. Email: Petscry1@bellsouth.net. Okeechobee veterinarians are invited to participate. In this low cost spay/neuter program.

Join the Red Hatters

For ladies looking for fun and meeting some new lady friends, the Red Hat Group is looking for ladies to join who want to do things. For information call 863-763-5836 or 863-357-1944.

State Veterans nursing homes

Are you a veteran in need of a nursing home or assisted living facility? The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs can help you. The Department operates five veterans nursing homes and one assisted living facility throughout the state, with a new nursing home being built near St. Augustine. The basic admission criteria for all of the facilities is an honorable discharge, Florida residency for one year prior to admission and certification of need of assisted living facility or skilled nursing care. The VA Nursing homes are located in Daytona Beach, Land O' Lakes, Pembroke Pines, Springfield (Panhandle) and Port Charlotte with the VA Assisted Living Facility being located in Lake City. For further information on VA nursing homes contact the County Veteran's Service Officer, Betsy Grinslade at 863-763-8124.

Historical Society collects info for book

Mrs. Betty Williamson, from the Historical Society is in the process of writing a book about Okeechobee Women. She is looking for all of the Speckled Perch Queens from 1968 to recent. Please call the Chamber of Commerce at 863-763-6464 or Betty Williamson at 863-763-3850 if you are able to help. The Queens will be listed in the book.

Ladies Auxiliary Spaghetti Night

The VFW Post 10539 Ladies Auxiliary will hold a Tuesday night spaghetti night. All you can eat spaghetti, garlic bread and salad for a \$5 donation. The dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 863-763-2308.

Grief support group for parents

A grief and healing group dedicated to helping parents deal with the loss of a child will meet at the Red Cross Building on Thursday nights from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more information contact Georgene at 863-763-2957.

Rescue available for local wildlife

Florida Wildlife Rescue Service Inc. is a non profit organization providing free rescue, pick up, and transport of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in the Okeechobee area. We are licensed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to provide these services. If you find a wild bird or animal in need of assistance please contact us at 863-634-1755.

Donate cars to Boys and Girls Clubs

Now that the price of scrap metal has sharply risen, the Boys and Girls Car Campaign will accept most any car with no restrictions. Cars will be picked up anywhere in Florida, usually within a week, and are sold at auction. To donate, call 800-246-0493. Funds obtained by the sales go directly to help the Florida clubs.

Advocacy group seeking members

The Florida Local Advocacy Council in this area has openings for membership. The members of the volunteer council protect and advocate for a better quality of life for Floridians with unique needs. Volunteers are appointed by the governor for a four-year term. Local meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in Fort Pierce. Call Penina Popper at 800-342-0825 for information; or, visit www.floridasac.org.

Parent education classes offered

The Okeechobee County Healthy Start Coalition will be offering parenting education classes for infants to age 3. All pregnant women and parents are encouraged to attend. Each participant will receive a gift. This adults-only parenting class consists of six, one-hour classes. You must attend all six classes to get a certificate of completion. We now have day and evening classes available. No child care will be available. Call 863-462-5877 for registration.

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.

Silas J. 'S.J.' Brown, 71

OKEECHOBEE — Silas J. "S.J." Brown, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2008, in the Raulerson Hospital, Okeechobee. He was 71.

Mr. Brown was a native of Bostwick and had been a resident of Okeechobee for the past 48 years, coming from Palatka. In 1986, he retired from the Water Department with the City of Stuart after 15 years of service. He had previously worked for 10 years in the construction industry in Jupiter. He enjoyed camping and going up north for the summers. In his earlier years he enjoyed fishing in Lake Okeechobee. He was a Baptist.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Petrolia and Alice Driggers Brown; and two sisters, Naomi Brown Wilkinson and Madeline Brown Tomlinson.

S.J. is survived by his wife of 48 years, Noreen Terwilliger Brown, of Okeechobee; a niece and spouse, Eunice and Jim Bruce, of Bardin; three nephews and spouses, Curtis and Yolanda Tomlinson, of Sacramento, Calif., Eugene and Marilyn Tomlinson, and Eddie and Bonnie Tomlinson, all of Palatka; and several great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 2008 at the Masters Funeral Home of Palatka, with Pastor Wesley Taylor, Pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, officiating. Burial followed in the Oak Hill East Cemetery in Palatka.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the American Heart Association, 210 N.W. 75th Dr., Suite 1, Gainesville, FL 32607.

Masters Funeral Home of Palatka was in charge of arrangements.

Career Center helps in job search

The One Stop Career Center, 209 S.W. Park St., has services available at no charge to help people in their search for the right employee or job. For more, visit their web site at www.tcjobs.org; or, call 863-462-5350.

Martha's House collecting cell phones

Martha's House is collecting used cell phones to return for money. Martha's House can also have them 9-1-1 activated for participants. If you have any used cell phones to donate call 863-763-2893, or drop them off at their administrative office at 103 N.W. Fifth St.

My Aunt's House seeks volunteers

My Aunt's House, Inc. a 501 (c) (3) organization is looking for two to three volunteers to work in our Closet any day, or days, Monday through Friday during the hours of 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. We are also looking for a volunteer to become the director and a board member of The Clothes Closet. The volunteer should communicate well with the public and should be able to seek support from city and county officials, business executives and other organizations. Work days and hours are flexible. Call 863-634-2306 for information.

Center offers service to children

The Family Outreach Center at Sacred Heart offers a service to youth and children by giving free classes in martial arts. The classes are currently taught four days a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 6 until 8 p.m. and on Saturday from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m.

Group providing animal rescue

Florida Wildlife Rescue Service of Okeechobee is currently providing rescue, pick up and transport of sick, injured, orphaned or otherwise impaired wildlife.

Anyone who finds a wild animal in need of help is encouraged to give us a call. A volunteer transporter, licensed by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, will be more than happy to help you and the animal.

This is a free service to the community and to wildlife.

For information, call 863-634-1755 or 863-357-7955.

Halfway house seeks volunteers

Eckerd Intensive Halfway House a Moderate Risk Commitment Program for 13-18 year old male youth is seeking volunteers who can "make a difference in the life of a youth". We are seeking volunteers to read, be a guest speaker, play music, tutor, educate youth on a trade, assist with a project, instruct youth on building a project, or just hang out with youth. Volunteer hours and times can vary. Please contact Tom Jones or Joshua Stoddard at 863-357-0047.v



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

United Way supports 2-1-1

United Way members Terelle Peterson (left) and Jennifer Lafferty (center) presented a check for the 2-1-1's Susan Buza (right) to help them continue their services in Okeechobee County.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

Area Agency of Aging gets help

United Way members Roslin Brown (left) and Jennifer Lafferty (center) presented a check for the Area Agency on Aging's Donnia Smith (right) to help them continue their services in Okeechobee County where they operate a Foster Grandparent Program which operates in Elementary Schools in Okeechobee County.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

United Way helps Big Brothers Big Sisters

United Way members (left to right) Cathleen Blair and Nick Blount presented a check for Big Brothers Big Sisters to board members Kristy Crawford, Sharon Vinson and Pat O'Connor to help them continue their services in Okeechobee County in three elementary schools.

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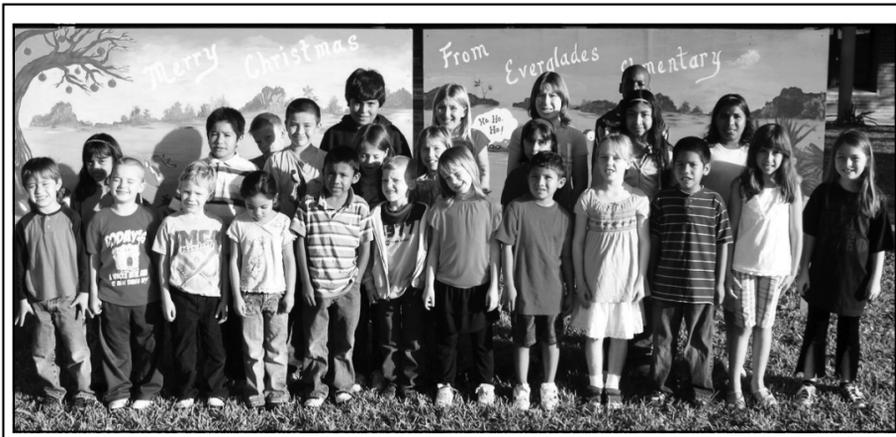
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Submitted photo/EES

Students of the Week

Here is the list of students at Everglades Elementary School who are achieving excellence in the classroom ending Dec. 19. Kindergarten: Chance Mohr, Anthony Salerno, Scotty Crum; First grade: Anyssa Anselmo, Abel Garcia, Trister Campbell, Shelby Haaka, Christian Flores; Second grade: Tia McCoy, Allan Portocarrero, Emily Barnes, Lita Landaberde, Florivella Gonzales; Third grade: Carlos Campos, Seth Rodriguez, Quinn Nurrenbern, Cierra White, Kassie Weldon; Fourth grade: Laura Jimenez, Analleli Hernandez, Daniella Navarro, Jeffery Bernhard; Fifth grade: Ismael Santamaria, Monica Sparks, Marcus Rucks. Congratulations to our many outstanding students!



Submitted photo/Everglades Elementary

Art Club

Compliments of the season by Linda Robertson, Art Director and her club members. Merry Christmas to everyone!



Submitted photo/Everglades Elementary

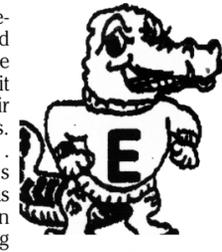
Creative tools

On Dec. 16, Everglades Music Director, Kathleen Wilson performed the "X'Mas Files." The program was a creative teaching tool that directly supports education for those interested in personal growth and development. It was a smash hit!

EES students learn about H2O

Kindergarten
At Everglades Elementary School Mrs. Dodson's fabulous class has been having lots of "fun" learning about the letter Ff in reading. We've been learning about water in science and we've done fun experiments with sinking and floating. In math, the little mathematicians are learning about numbers 10-30. Happy Holidays!
Mrs. Wright's class found faces and flowers to learn the letter Ff. They also enjoyed fruit snacks. We have written letters to Santa. The students enjoyed the movie at

the theater and wrote about it in their journals.
Ms. Hyde's class has been learning about the letters Aa, Ff, Oo, Pp, Nn, and loved drawing pictures of things that started with these letters. We went to the movies and loved it.
Mrs. Claypool's class has been



learning the letter Ff and the sight word PLAY. They have made F posters by cutting pictures out of magazines of things that start with the sound of F.
Fourth Grade
Mrs. Davis' class has been busy with narrative writing. They just finished a re-write of "The Frog Prince", which will be bound into a book. FCAT Writes is February 10th and everyone is working hard to get prepared. The class wants to send a special "Merry Christmas", to Mrs. Fowler who volunteers in our classroom every week. We love you, Mrs. Fowler!



Submitted photo/Everglades Elementary

X'Mas Files

Everglades Music Director, Kathleen Wilson performs "The X'Mas Files" on Dec. 16. On the left is Beki Moore. In the middle is Kathleen Wilson and on the right is Melissa Brady.

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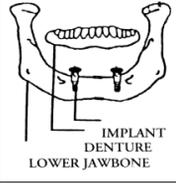
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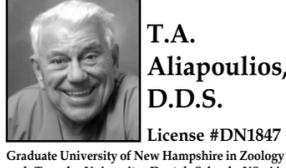


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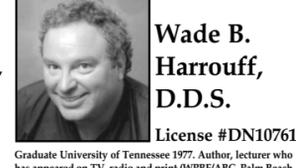
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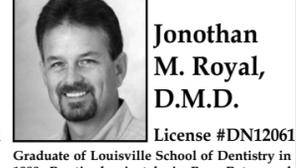
T.A. Aliapoulos, D.D.S.
License #DN1847

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



Wade B. Harrouff, D.D.S.
License #DN10761

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.



Jonathan M. Royal, D.M.D.
License #DN12061

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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Submitted photo/OMS

Students of the week

Osceola Middle School is pleased to announce the names of the following students chosen as students of the week for the week of Dec. 15. From left to right in the front row are: Paola Prado, Kassondra Miller, Garrett Johnson, Cody Rhoden. In the back row from left to right are: Tristan Buster, Jenna Rodriguez, Saraya Vanderhoff, Melissa Elias. Not pictured due to absence: Kyle Mullins.



Submitted photo/SEM

Card award

Marie Koepke presents Kimmy Kemp, Brian Greseth, Rose Waldron, and Tracy Downing of Seminole Elementary School a plaque for winning Best of Show for their Holiday Stroll in the Park card.



Submitted photo/SEM

Big Bash

Seminole Elementary School recently held a Big Bash in order to reward students for participating in a fund raiser. Each year, Mrs. Davenport coordinates this fund-raiser, and we wish to thank her for her dedication. Top sellers are Layla Gaucin from Mrs. Jordan's class, Hailey Armstrong from Mrs. Fulwider's class, and Fransisco from Mrs. McCranie's class.



Submitted photo/Hospice of Okeechobee

Best Tree

Sheila Spors (left) and Mimi Arnold (right) decorated the Woman's Alpha tree Victorian Christmas which won first place in the Best Tree category at the 2008 Hospice Festival of Trees.

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SEM honors Jimmy Kemp

Home of the Chiefs

It is with great pleasure that Seminole Elementary School announces that Mr. Jimmy Kemp has been selected as the Seminole Elementary School Related Employee of the Year. Mr. Kemp has been a custodian at Seminole Elementary School for the last six years, serving as the SEM Head Custodian this past year. He has 15 years of employment with the Okeechobee County School District. He worked for two years as a mechanic's helper after driving a school bus for seven years.

Mr. Kemp and his wife of 37 years, Norma Sue Kemp, are both employed with the school district, and they have four children who went through Okeechobee schools. They became involved with this community as coaches shortly after moving here. Their dedication to this community and the school system is evident each day at work.

Here at Seminole, Mr. Kemp's vast knowledge of the plant and facility is invaluable when it comes to equipment upkeep. Often times, it is unnecessary to call the air conditioner repairmen or the maintenance men because Mr. Kemp can most likely determine the problem, solve the problem, and get the equipment functioning again. He knows that the students will do better in a clean, organized classroom that has all the lights working, a good pencil sharpener, and is just the right temperature.

Mr. Kemp's keen eye for safety issues makes him a valuable member of our Workplace Safety Committee. His contributions concerning playground equipment, lawn maintenance, pest control, and plant and facility have decreased the number of potential teacher and student reports. As a member of this committee, Mr. Kemp is responsible for ensuring all equipment, inside and outside, is in good working condition and does not present a safety hazard to our students.

Mr. Kemp interacts with every member of this faculty and staff. His commitment to the smooth running of the classroom is entrenched in every aspect of this school. He daily communicates with teachers to ensure they have all the supplies they need to see the students through a day, a month, a year. He makes himself available to help the teachers throughout the day because he

knows how important it is for the students' education to have the supplies they need.

Mr. Kemp has a great rapport with the students evidenced by their desire to talk to him and

help him work. Sometimes, as a reward for good behavior, teachers will let their students help Mr. Kemp in the cafeteria.

Mr. Kemp has dedicated his professional career to educating

young children. He is a devoted member of our staff, and we are privileged and honored to have the opportunity to work with him.

Submitted photo



Submitted photo
Jimmy Kemp has been selected as the Seminole Elementary School Related Employee of the Year.

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Alan S. Krimmsley, M.D.

Dr. Woody graduated from the University of Florida and trained at University Hospital in Seattle and at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

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NICE COUNTRY LIVING Bring your horses and have fun. Property has large extra lot. Main yard is fenced in. Beautiful grandfather oaks and many other trees. Plenty of storage space. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON THIS ONE. PRICED TO SELL!!!! MLS #200723, \$175,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

WATERFRONT BEAUTIFUL FULLY UPGRADED DWMH. Pella Windows with double panes throughout. Oak floors, upgraded kitchen cabinets. One car garage, boat dock. Too many features to include. MUST SEE THIS BEAUTY. MLS #201548, \$149,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106

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22 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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Extension Service: How Does Your Garden Grow?

By Dan Culbert
Extension Horticulture Agent

What are the best veggies to plant in the winter in Okeechobee ~anonymous

When choosing the right vegetables to grow, first consider what you like to eat. Right now at the onset of our "winter," the cool season vegetables are growing the best. Cold crops — plants like broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, collards and even Brussels sprouts — do well in cool temperatures. English peas and salad crops are superior now too: lettuce, Swiss chard, Chinese cabbage, and spinach, will taste bitter and go to seed if they are grown in warmer weather. A number of root and bulb crops can be tried if the soil is well drained and rich in organic matter: radish, beets, carrots, and onions are good examples. HOWEVER, most of these cool crops should have been planted already. If you start

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them now, they will not be ready to harvest until the warm season — in 2-3 months. This is the time to start planting the warm season plants like tomatoes, beans, squash and corn. Take a look at the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide for specifics: it is available on-line [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/document_vh019] or from our office.

Herbs year round

Are herbs like vegetables in the sense that certain ones grow better at certain times of the year? Or can you grow any herbs year round? ~Nancy

I would also like more information on growing herbs. Which ones do well planted outside in this climate? Which ones need to be in pots so they can be taken in when it is cold? ~anonymous

Most of the familiar edible herb plants do better in Florida's cool season than in the warm season. Summer heat and humidity often bring on pests and disease that make many a challenge to grow here. Since many herbs are perennials, they don't get mature enough to harvest. Several do well in containers. Some annual herbs that are easiest to grow here include basil, chives, parsley and various mints. Almost any herbs can be kept in pots for cold protection, but rosemary and thyme do better in containers because they need well drained sunny locations. See our UF bulletin, Herbs in the Florida Garden, http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH020 for specifics.

Storing seeds

What is the best way to store seeds? I saved my pumpkin seeds, will they grow here and when do I plant them? ~Anonymous

Vegetable seed should be stored in cool dry conditions until they are ready to be planted. After they are removed from the "fruit," clean off any vegetable residues, dry them on paper towels and place them in a plastic bag or container. Refrigerators work well as long as the container is sealed — and remember to label them with what they are and when they were collected. If they are "hybrid" seed, saving them for the next year's planting will not give satisfactory results. Purchased vegetable seed usually cost very little and give dependable results. So unless this is a special heirloom vegetable, consider looking for recommended varieties listed in the Florida Vegetable Garden-

ing Guide: look for them in seed catalogs or on-line.

Is it spiders?

I had a papaya plant but it got a thin layer of white underneath the leaves and died. Someone told me it was a spider nest but I did not see eggs or anything. The white looked like elastic, plastic like. ~ Anonymous

It is hard to determine what this growth was from your description. If it was a regular spider nest, it would not have killed your papaya plant. It sounds more like some kind of fungal leaf diseases, possibly powdery mildew. [see: Some Common Diseases of Papaya in Florida, http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/document_vh050]. Identification of ANY pest is needed before suggestions for managing the problem can be made. Please send us a photo or bring a sample of the actual plant to the Extension office.

The questions for today are questions that have been asked in the past few days. To continue the column, we need YOUR questions by Monday at 5 p.m. Be sure to include your name and phone or email address in case we need more information (We can publish a question as anonymous if you wish). Send garden questions by fax 863-763-5901, email okeeneews@newszap.com or just drop it off at the Okeechobee News office at 107 SW 17th St. suite D, Okeechobee, FL 34974. More information is available on the award-winning Okeechobee web page, http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu. If you need additional information, please email us at okeechobee@ifas.ufl.edu or call us at 863-763-6469. Local residents can stop by our office at 458 Hwy 98 North in Okeechobee, and visit our Okeechobee County Master Gardeners from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons. Merry Christmas and, Go Gators!

Researcher helps test plug-in car

By Stu Htuson
University of Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Fluctuating gas prices and environmental concerns are leading many to electric-powered cars, and a new University of Florida partnership hopes to find out if it's really a cleaner, cheaper and more reliable choice.

UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension researcher Pierce Jones is working with North Carolina-based companies Progress Energy, Advanced Energy and Duke Energy to test a Toyota Prius modified to use electricity delivered through a regular household electrical outlet.

"This isn't a new idea, but it is one that now has to be closely examined because it's likely to be a reality in just a few years," said Jones, who is participating in the research as part of UF's Program for Resource Efficient Communities. "There are a lot of questions to be asked and a lot of details that have to be ironed out beforehand."

The UF car is one of 12 that will be deployed throughout Florida and North Carolina. The researchers involved will chart basic use patterns, such as how much gasoline and electricity is consumed. Similar vehicles can travel more than 100 miles on a

gallon of gas.

Perhaps more importantly, though, the project will also seek to show that electric cars won't overburden local electrical grids. For years, the largely unspoken concern about electric cars is that they could become a victim of their own success. Too many electric cars plugged in at the same time, some worry, could cause power failures.

"Developing the necessary infrastructure to enable widespread use of electric vehicles is part of our balanced strategy to address the challenge of global climate change, while meeting growing energy needs," said Bill Johnson, CEO of Progress Energy.

The hybrid is equipped with smart-charging hardware that moderates the time and pacing of the charging. Additionally, the car will be tested with a technology dubbed Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) functionality.

V2G allows the car's charging system to synch with the local electrical grid. Not only does this stop the car from drawing on an overtaxed grid, it could contribute small amounts of electricity (for which the operator would be reimbursed) back in—thus helping the entire electrical grid become more reliable.

The project also will document drivers' patterns, to help deter-



University of Florida/IFAS/Thomas Wright Extension researcher Pierce Jones demonstrates how to charge an experimental plug-in hybrid electric car. Mr. Jones is helping to test the vehicle's efficiency and new technology, which may someday help keep widespread use of electric cars from overburdening local electrical grids.

mine how charging stations and billing should be implemented.

"It used to be that electric vehicles were rare, but I think they're going to be here before we know it," Jones said. "That means that we've got to figure out the tricky details of how they're really going to work so we can make the best use of this new technology."

Give a cheer: Headed to Las Vegas

Local cheer team goes to national competition

Las Vegas Nationals here they come!

Congratulations to Okeechobee Xplosion All Star Cheer leading and Dance Teams. On Nov. 23, three teams left for Tampa to represent Okeechobee at The Cheer Champion Express "Cheer Blast" in Tampa. The three teams ages range between 3-18 yrs. old.

The Tiny Team brought home a third place, Senior Team brought home an second place and Junior Team brought home first place.

Along with competing with their specific team 3 individual competitors each brought home a first place in the individual cheer competition. Katelyn Shaw 15 years old placed first in the Mini division, Hanna Bostwick 12 years old placed first in the Junior Division and Taylor Lucas 15 years old placed first in the Senior Division.

Along with bringing home four first places, one second place and one third place. The athletes also qualified for a paid bid to the U.S. Nationals in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Submitted photo/Victoria Osteen

Member of the Okeechobee X-Plosion Cheerleading and Dance team include: Kayliegh Jones, Mackenzie Johnson, Molly Spearow, Amber Bass, Audrey Jenkins, Sarayna Boone, Hailey Derry, Shelby Hannah, Lyndsy Johnson, Katelyn Shaw, Morgan Hancock, Edana Scalf, Kassidee Cloud, Brianna Jewell, Hailey Spearow, Taylor Pelham, Kristin Kiefer, Cali Kirksey, Ashley Boland, Krysta Burton, Ashton Coffey, Mackenzie York, Shayla Penelrey, Casey Lewis, Madison Hancock, Jessica Suit, Aalia Murphy, Taylor Mills, Hanna Boskwich, Morgan Crawford, Billie Levitt, Crista Brown, Jordan Wilkerson, KayeDee Perrish, Taylor Lucas, Aalia Murphy, Carlee Brown, Taylor Mills, Billie Levitt, Crista Brown, Taylor Lucas, Hanna Bostwick, Jordan Wilkerson, Liz Turner, Morgan Crawford. Special thanks to Coach Victoria, Coach Paige and Coach Toshia!

This is an amazing accomplishment and the Athletes will be representing Okeechobee County April 10-12 2009! This will be the first time Okeechobee County has been represented at an All Star Cheerleading National Competition. Okeechobee X-plosion is looking for any help from the community to get their athletes there and back. Please call Coach Victoria with any questions at: 863-441-3826, or by email at: xplosionallstarcheer@yahoo.com, www.xplosionallstars.weebly.com. Congratulations Athletes!

School Checklist

- Agenda
- Back pack
- Lunch
- Okeechobee News

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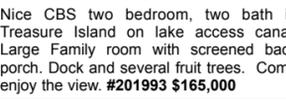
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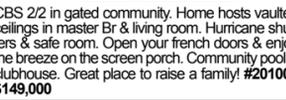
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Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful people!

Campers/RVs 3010

MOTORHOME-32 Ft. 1999 Coachman-Gas Generator, Slideout, Good Cond. 21k miles \$28,000 OBO can be seen at 2347 SE 32nd St. TCI (863)824-6799 or 561-662-6576

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

Sports Vehicles/ATVs 3035

YAMAHA VANCHIE - 2000, 4 Wheeler, lots of upgraded parts, also have spare parts. \$4000 Neg. 863-781-1358 Robert

FENCED 3/4 ACRES- 3/2 DWMH, Lg bedrooms, Fenced, 2 car carport, Lots of trees, 2 storage bldgs, Gazibo, \$225. Week \$650 Dep. (836)634-9990

TREASURE ISLAND - 3br, 2ba dbl wide, waterfront, lake access, 1yr old, \$800/mo (954)610-5345

Automobiles 4000

Automobiles 4005
Autos Wanted 4010
Classic Cars 4015
Commercial Trucks 4020
Construction Equipment 4025
Foreign Cars 4030
Four Wheel Drive 4035
Heavy Duty Trucks 4040
Parts - Repairs 4045
Pickup Trucks 4050
Sport Utility 4055
Tractor Trailers 4060
Utility Trailers 4065
Vans 4070

Golf Carts 4037

EZ GO - Used, Good condition, charger, \$900 or best offer. (863)697-1350

Pickup Trucks 4050

GMC JIMMY - 1990 Full size 4x4, lift kit, big tires, runs great. \$3000 OBO (863)763-7598

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

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ADVERTISING and Get Results

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900 Numbers 160

Lost 0135

DOG - black & brown female, 5 lbs, spayed



Submitted photos

South Elementary School third place

Deanna Brewers class at South Elementary was presented the third place prize for naming the blood drop.



Submitted photos

Hines family wins freezer

Checks are presented by Chairman Raye Duesinger to those organizations which brought the greatest number of donors to The Okeechobee Blood Roundup. Crystal and John Hines and daughter Grey are congratulated by Carlos Bohanon, owner of Okeechobee Sears on the winning of this year's grand prize freezer at the Okeechobee Blood Roundup. Submitted photos



Submitted photos

First place

Checks are presented by Chairman Raye Duesinger to those organizations which brought the greatest number of donors to The Okeechobee Blood Roundup. Jim Dawson, Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church is presented the \$500 first place check.



Submitted photos

Second place

Checks are presented by Chairman Raye Duesinger to those organizations which brought the greatest number of donors to The Okeechobee Blood Roundup. Marilyn Buxton, president of Theta Omicron Sorority receives a \$300 check for second place.



Submitted photo

Third place

Checks are presented by Chairman Raye Duesinger to those organizations which brought the greatest number of donors to The Okeechobee Blood Roundup. Toni Weirisma, principal of Okeechobee High School receives the third place award of \$200.



Submitted photo

Fourth place tie

Checks are presented by Chairman Raye Duesinger to those organizations which brought the greatest number of donors to The Okeechobee Blood Roundup. Pat McCoy is presented the fourth place award of \$100. A tie for fourth place earned both units \$100.



Submitted photos

Fourth place tie

Checks are presented by Chairman Raye Duesinger to those organizations which brought the greatest number of donors to The Okeechobee Blood Roundup. Jim Green, representing The Masonic Lodge accepted the fourth place (tie) award of \$100.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

United Way helps Children's Ranch

The Okeechobee County United Way board members Melody Hodges (left) and Nick Blount (right) presented Mark Mayers (center) with a check to assist him in his work at Real Life Children's Ranch.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Jazzman Stan
 - 5 Totals
 - 9 Half of a '60s pop group
 - 14 Lotion ingredient
 - 15 Pennsylvania county, or its lake
 - 16 Actress Verdugo
 - 17 Race against the clock
 - 19 Hues
 - 20 Summer on the Seine
 - 21 Olympic sport since 1988
 - 23 Emperor, e.g.
 - 25 Frighten
 - 26 Long verse
 - 28 Prefix with cycle
 - 29 Jilted lover's need, briefly
 - 32 Largest human organ
 - 35 British rule in India
 - 37 Debate topic
 - 39 They were the Oilers before 1999
 - 43 List in the back
 - 44 Intl. commerce group
 - 45 Part of Q.E.D.
 - 46 Singer Orbison
 - 47 Rotating machine part
 - 50 Hungarian violinist Leopold
 - 52 Flower leaf
 - 54 Kidnapper's demand
 - 58 Hall of Fame pitcher Seaver's nickname
 - 62 Michael Hayden's org.
 - 63 Like Whigley Field's walls
 - 64 Taunting exchange during the game
 - 66 Pulitzer author Alison
 - 67 Cease
 - 68 Toast topping
 - 69 Blue-pencil
 - 70 Poses a question
 - 71 Gets married
- DOWN**
- 1 Secure, as some communities
 - 2 Typewriter type size
 - 3 Big books
 - 4 Omega counterpart
 - 5 Soda-making devices
 - 6 Tiny amount
 - 7 Finger hole sites on old phones
 - 8 Choose
 - 9 Husband of Catherine the Great
 - 10 Dress style
 - 11 "Mystic River" Oscar winner Sean
 - 12 One of the opposition
 - 13 Get smart with
 - 18 Sporty car roof
 - 22 Road crew goo
 - 24 Tube-shaped pasta
 - 27 Airline to Stockholm
 - 29 Title for 9-Down
 - 30 Roman moon goddess
 - 31 "___ la vie"
 - 32 Move slightly
 - 33 Lottery-like game
 - 34 Big May race, familiarly
 - 36 Yeshiva student
 - 38 Stem's opposite
 - 40 Surpassed
 - 41 LAX approx.
 - 42 Grand Canyon visitors
 - 48 Mo. for fools
 - 49 First lady before Abigail
 - 51 Per
 - 52 Former quiz show host Ben
 - 53 Turkish coins
 - 55 "1 inch = 10 miles," e.g.
 - 56 Got the squeaks out of
 - 57 Powerful sharks
 - 58 Mah-jongg piece
 - 59 Potential progeny
 - 60 Bog
 - 61 Columbo portrayer
 - 65 Stranded motorist's need

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

A	N	O	N	C	E	S	A	R	C	O	T
D	O	R	Y	A	G	O	R	A	S	L	U
M	O	N	E	Y	T	R	A	I	N	A	I
I	S	O	T	O	N	E	R	G	U	L	P
T	E	T	K	I	T	B	E	L	L	J	A
R	E	P	N	O	W	A	Y	O	U	T	
P	T	A	S	C	O	N	A	N	I	R	E
M	A	R	Y	P	A	P	E	R	D	N	A
A	S	A	S	O	F	A	R	R	O	T	S
C	H	I	S	E	L	E	R	S	E	W	
S	A	L	U	T	E	S	A	N	N	G	A
B	E	S	S	A	L	O	E	V	E	R	A
I	Z	O	D	T	I	G	E	R	W	O	O
R	O	S	E	A	D	O	R	E	I	D	E
S	O	S	R	I	G	O	R	D	E	N	Y

xwordeditor@aol.com

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63								64			65		
66								67			68		
69								70			71		

County

Continued From Page 1

printed copies are available from the emergency management office at 499 N.W. Fifth Avenue, 863-763-3212. Printed copies are also available in large quantities for distribution to civic organizations. In addition, Emergency Management Director Michael Faulkner is available to speak to local organizations about hurricane preparedness.

These publications provide practical and economical tips for helping your family deal with hurricanes. They list the supplies your family will need to either ride out a hurricane at home or be self sustaining in a shelter for three days. Mr. Faulkner said the decision whether to stay in your home or evacuate is a personal one. Even if your home can sustain hurricane force winds, if you are not comfortable staying there, Mr. Faulkner advises that you evacuate.

Mr. Faulkner said that people complain about the cost of the necessary supplies. However, when people check the list, they find that many of the necessary items are common household items that most families already have on hand. The pamphlet "Emergency Management Supplies Calender" makes being pre-

pared financially painless. Each week for the six months during the off season there is a list of items to be purchased from either the hardware store or the grocery store and things to do each week. Using this schedule, the average cost is \$15 to \$20 a week.

"It allows people to do it slowly," Mr. Faulkner said of the calendar.

Also available is the six page booklet "Everybody Ready" which is available in eight other languages besides English. "Everybody Ready" provides a starting point for emergency planning. It recommends a kit of nine essential items - water, food, clothes, medications, flashlight, can opener, radio, hygiene items, first aid kit - and the amounts or quantities of each item.

Then there is the more detailed 46 page "How to Prepare for any Disaster" and an index of family emergency documents.

At this time, there are no local shelters for an important member of many families - the family pet. However, some local veterinarians will board pets during a hurricane. Check with your pet's veterinarian. However, the shelter situation for pets may soon be improving. Mr. Faulkner said that his office will be working on trying to secure a pet friendly shelter.

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

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