



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 267

Sunday, October 19, 2008

75¢ Plus tax

## Briefs

### Last Chance Ranch escapees accept plea deal

Two of the three clients who escaped a juvenile facility in rural Glades County on New Years Eve 2006 have accepted plea deals with the state.... See page 7.

### Golf team eager to compete at regional

Okeechobee's young golf squad is confident they can compete with the best high school golfers in the state when they travel to the regional Tuesday in Palm Bay.... See page 16.

### Man hurt in car crash

A 41-year old Okeechobee man was flown to Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne after he drove off the road near the intersection of County Road 68 and U.S. 441 North, according to an Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) report.

James D. Beatty, of S.E. 62nd Drive, reported that he didn't see the stop sign on 68 while he was driving in an easterly direction Thursday, Oct. 16. The 2008 Chevrolet truck went through the intersection, struck two yellow road signs that indicate no roadway, and drove through a deep ditch before coming to rest about 40 yards from the road, OCSO Deputy Mark Shireman said.

The report stated Mr. Beatty said he didn't see the intersection.

He was treated at the scene by Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue, then flown out by Aeromed helicopter.

No citations were immediately issued.

The crash report estimated property damage at \$15,200.

## Drought Index

**Current:** 453  
**Source:** Florida Division of Forestry  
**Local Burn Ban:** None

## Lake Levels

**14.97 feet**  
Last Year: 10.07 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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# Scam targets grandparents

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

Rrrrrring. Rrrrrring. "Hello."  
"Hi grandpa. This is your favorite granddaughter."  
"Melodie, is that you?"  
"Grandpa I'm in trouble. I need \$3,700 -- but don't tell Mom and Dad."

At that point, "grandpa" is about to get scammed out of \$3,700.

This latest scam sweeping the county is called the grandpar-

ent's scam, and is aimed directly at the elderly.

"Someone called my dad, who's in his 90s, and said 'grandpa I'm in trouble,' said a local woman. "He has a hearing aid and sometimes has trouble knowing who is on the phone."

When the caller told the unsuspecting man she was his favorite granddaughter, he automatically thought it was his 16-year-old granddaughter.

"He thought it was my daughter and when he said her name, the caller said that's who it is,"

said the mom. "At some point, she had him going."

The caller then told him she was in trouble. At this juncture, grandpa actually helped the con artist.

"He offered, 'What happen? Did you have a wreck?' He knew she just started driving," said the teen's mom, "And she jumped on that. But, in my family, 'don't tell Mom and Dad' was not going to fly."

Although this scam may have some variations, the basic premise is the same: the caller tells the

elderly person they are in trouble and need money. That trouble could be a car accident or bail, or the caller could need money for tuition, textbooks or emergency expenses.

According to an online article on the AARP web site, one scammer told a Tulsa, Okla., "grandparent" they were in jail in Canada and needed \$5,500 for bail. In this case, the ploy worked.

Coincidentally, in the incident concerning the local woman's father, the caller asked that the money be sent to Canada.

"My dad first thought there must be some small town in Florida named Canada," said the woman. "It seemed very strange to him that his granddaughter was in Canada because he had spoken to her just a couple of days ago and hadn't said anything about her being away from home."

The grandfather, who lives in an assisted living facility in another state, told the caller he would have to call his oldest daughter

See Scam — Page 2

## Ft. Drum Crystal Mine: Students excavate fossils



Okeechobee News/D. Hamilton

### Bucket load

Seminole Elementary student, Madison Fisher carries rock, clam and calcite crystal formations in her bucket found during a class visit to the mine on Thursday. Other students enjoyed excavating fossils during the visit and were allowed to take home what they found.



Okeechobee News/D. Hamilton

### Large and small

Saul Arroyo clutches a rock formation found during a class visit to the Ft. Drum Crystal Mine on Thursday. Saul's buddy, Pedro had a number of smaller calcite crystals in his bucket that he found as well. Both boys are second grade students from Seminole Elementary School.

## New complex on city agenda

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

When the Okeechobee City Council meets Tuesday night they will be considering two items connected with a planned commercial complex on Taylor Creek, north of the S.R. 70 bridge, by Jerry Suarez.

The first item is to consider a small scale amendment to the future land use map from single family to commercial for Mr. Suarez's property. The council will also consider an ordinance to rezone a portion of the property from residential single fam-

### If you go ...

**What:** Bimonthly meeting of the Okeechobee City Council  
**Where:** Council Chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave  
**When:** 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21

ily to light commercial.

Turning to another matter, City of Okeechobee Fire Chief Herb Smith, who is also a code enforcement officer, is expected to recommend the council start foreclosure proceedings in a code violation case against

Arthur Davis because the fine has accrued for over 90 days.

In other action the council is expected to:

- consider a contract with Hoyman, Dobson & Company for the annual audit;
- approve a sidewalk rehabilitation contract; and,
- consider a motion to re-schedule meeting times and cancel certain city council meetings due to holidays and special events.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com).

# Early voting starts Monday

By Chauna Aguilar  
Okeechobee News

Early voting for the General Election begins Monday, Oct. 20, and will continue through Saturday, Nov. 1.

Gwen Chandler, supervisor of elections, invites registered voters to come by the office located at 307 N.W. Second St., Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. to cast their ballot in this presidential election.

Mrs. Chandler has been busy training poll workers for the upcoming election which is set to be one of the most important elections in modern history. Poll workers were able to take advantage of online training

through the cooperation of the election office and Indian River State College, which is providing the use of their computer labs for the training sessions.

The debates are over and the E-Day is rapidly approaching. If you would like to avoid lines and any potential confusion that could take place on Nov. 4, then make sure to get your vote counted by utilizing the early voting procedures.

According to the Supervisor of Elections web-site there are 10,271 registered Democrats; 6,044 registered Republicans; and, 2,534 registered Independent/Non-Partisan/Other.

Mrs. Chandler is expecting

See Voting — Page 2

# Fines may be levied in code cases

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Tuesday, Oct. 21, looks to be a busy afternoon for Special Magistrate Lois Nichols.

She is scheduled to hear five new cases, two old cases, consider imposing a fine in eight cases and one fine reduction.

Code Enforcement Officer Beth Albert cited Elbert Kline

**If you go ...**  
**What:** Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearing  
**When:** 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21  
**Where:** Health Department Auditorium, 1798 N.W. Ninth Ave

See Code — Page 8



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

### German Day

Thursday, Oct. 16 was German Day at Peace Lutheran Preschool. These students in Mrs. Lisa Bourgault's class had just finished a volkswalk in their German hats and suspenders. The students also did the chicken dance and ate German foods such as pretzels and apple strudel. Pictured are, in no particular order, Kaitlyn Brewer, Skyler Fisher, Wyatt Friend, Tanner Hansen, Caleb Harvey, Collin Jones, Alex Maxwell, Lauren Raulerson, Logan Rhoden, Buck Rucks and Aven Selph.

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# Scam

Continued From Page 1

because she has control of his money. That daughter lives in the same state as her father.

"Don't call her! She'll tell everybody!" the caller shot back.

The caller then said she would call him back, but never did.

The grandfather then called his daughter in Okeechobee and learned that his granddaughter was safe and in school.

"My dad had already given my older sister control of his money and he only has a few hundred dollars spending money that he can access quickly," said the local woman.

After learning of the ruse, the Okeechobee woman called the police in her father's hometown and filed a report. Since he had not given the caller any money, all they could do was take the report.

Just how these scammers know who to call is not known. They may get their names from mailing lists or simply look for "old fashioned" names in the phone book. If they call someone and they sound elderly, then the scammer starts his/her spiel. If the person on the other end of

the line sounds young or says they don't have any grandchildren, the con artist immediately hangs up.

"They call and say it's your grandson or granddaughter, and if the victim mentions a name they say that's who it is," offered the local mom.

Also, the callers will stress that they need money fast and will want a money order or a MoneyGram rather than a check, said the AARP article, because they can easily get the cash without showing identification.

According to the AARP article, there are ways to protect yourself:

1. Don't fill in the blanks. If the caller says, "It's your granddaughter," respond with "Which one?" Most likely the perpetrator will hang up.
2. Verify the caller. Always confirm your grandchild's identity by saying you will return the call at his/her home or on their cell phone, but don't ask the caller for the number. If you don't have your grandchildren's phone numbers, contact a trusted family member for them.
3. Don't mention account numbers. Never provide your bank or credit card account numbers to any caller — regardless of the reason.

4. Be suspicious of requests for money wires.
5. If your "grandchild" calls and requests money, contact your local law enforcement agency or the state attorney general's office. The state attorney general's phone numbers are 850-414-3990 or 866-966-7226. Locally, the Okeechobee Police Department can be reached at 863-763-5521, while the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office can be reached at 863-763-3117.

Another good idea for children: talk to your parents.

"Afterwards, I talked to my dad about the type of questions he should ask — questions only a family member would know the answers to," the local woman offered.

## Okeechobee Forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Winds from the north northwest between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. Winds from the north northeast between 5 and 10 mph.

### Extended Forecast

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. Winds from the northeast between 5 and 10 mph.

**Monday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. Winds will be from the east around 5 mph.

**Tuesday:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy with a high near 85. Winds from the northeast between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tuesday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. Winds from the east around 5 mph.

# Voting

Continued From Page 1

a 72 percent voter turnout for the General Election; 6 percent higher than the voter turnout in 2004.

In the 2004 election, 3,507 voters utilized the early voting option. They are hoping to increase this number as well.

Many young voters exercised their right to pre-register during visits by Mrs. Chandler to the Okeechobee High School. By law, if you are 16 years old you may pre-register and receive your card in the mail after your 18th birthday.

Voting is the right of citizens in the United States. The importance of voting cannot be understated. U.S. citizens are asked to vote with more frequency than in any other country. The structure of our government is based on citizens voting for representation, yet most presidential elections are decided by less than 70 percent of the eligible voting public. Even fewer people vote in off-presidential year elections and local elections.

make the change or e-mail the elections office at elections@voteokeechobee.com. You may also use a voter registration application to change an address within Okeechobee County.

Remember, some changes can be handled through a simple e-mail.

To make a name change, a party affiliation change or an address change outside of Okeechobee County, you must complete a voter registration application.

It is important that the elections office has your current signature on file. If your signature has changed, you may update it at any time by submitting a voter registration application to the elections office.

After completing the voter registration application, it can be mailed or delivered to the Supervisor of Elections office. A voter information card will be mailed to the applicant approximately 2-3 weeks after the application is processed.

Registration closed for the general election on Oct. 6.

Poll workers have been trained utilizing the new online training for the General Election. The Okeechobee County Board of Realtors, Masonic Lodge, Okeechobee Main Street and the Okeechobee High School Finance Academy are participating in the Adopt a Precinct fundraiser.

For information contact the Supervisor of Elections Gwen Chandler at 863-763-4014 or at the office located at 307 N.W. Second Street, Okeechobee, FL, 34972; or, visit [www.voteokeechobee.com](http://www.voteokeechobee.com).

**Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com).**  
**Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at [caguilar@newszap.com](mailto:caguilar@newszap.com).**

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# Okeechobee News

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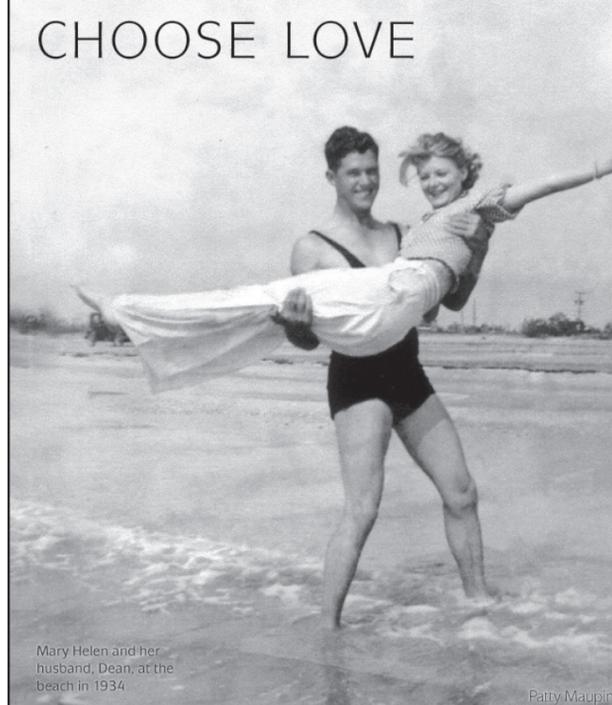
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## Guardian Angels launch holiday gift drive

On behalf of over 1,200 neglected and abused children on the Treasure Coast, Guardians For New Futures (GFNF) is launching a holiday gift drive to help the children have a happier holiday and to know someone cares. Individuals, local employers, non-profits and community churches are encouraged to join the cause by sponsoring a child or children for the holidays. This is a wonderful way to help neglected and abused children by fulfilling one of their holiday wishes.

To sponsor a child for the holidays call 772-785-5804 or fax a request to 772-785-5869. Sponsors will receive a copy of the child's 'wish list' and additional information regarding deadlines, logistics and tax deduction information. All contributions to this cause are greatly appreciated.

**About GFNF:**  
Guardians for New Futures (GFNF) is the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the needs of the Guardian Ad Litem Program (GAL) of Florida's 19th Judicial District representing children in Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, and Okeechobee Counties. The Guardian Ad Litem



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

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-JuDeane Garrett  
Daughter of Mary Helen

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## Lotteries

The Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected **Thursday** in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 3-3-1; **Play 4:** 6-6-0-9; **Fantasy 5:** 1-2-15-21-22; Numbers selected **Wednesday:** **Lotto:** 7-12-17-19-42-53. Numbers selected **Friday:** **Cash 3:** 6-7-0; **Play 4:** 0-4-8-2.

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### Birth Announcement

## Jillian Renee Stokes



Jillian Renee Stokes

Bryan Stokes and Janelle Frady of Okeechobee are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Jillian Renee Stokes.

She was born Aug. 13, 2008 at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center in Ft. Pierce. She weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long at birth.

Jillian was welcomed home by her proud big brother and sister, Bryan and Savannah.

Maternal grandparents are Kathleen Frady of Okeechobee and Larry Frady and Marie Arant of Okeechobee.

Paternal grandparents are Rhonda and Wayne Morton of Okeechobee and Terry Stokes of Louisville, Miss.

Great grandparents are Rosie Ard of Okeechobee.

### Wedding Announcement

## Lawson-Conlin Wedding

Amber Lynn Lawson and Zachary Justin Conlin were married on Aug. 9, 2008 at the Sandals Halacyon in St. Lucia, British West Indies.

The bride is the daughter of Keith and Darlene Lawson of Okeechobee.

The groom is the son of Edward and Frances Conlin of Palm City.

The wedding was held beach side, along the Caribbean Sea under beautiful, sun filled skies. The ceremony was held in an eloquently decorated gazebo.

Attending were the brides aunt and uncle Sean Campbell and Angela Cabrera, both of Belle Glade.

Following the ceremony the couple and guest enjoyed a seven-course dinner catered beach side at sunset.

The couple remained on the island another week for their honeymoon.

The couple is now at home in Okeechobee.



Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Conlin

## Third Annual Boots & Pearls Gala held

By Chauna Aguilar  
Okeechobee News

The Hospice of Okeechobee's Third Annual Boots and Pearls Gala on Saturday, Oct. 10, was a success where those in attendance were able to have a good time dancing to the music from The Chase, enjoying a Prime Rib dinner and participating in an auction to support Hospice of Okeechobee.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was David McAuley and the auctioneer was Fred Fanizzi.

Local artists, Hobby Campbell, Michael Moore, Brad Phares, Sandra Phares, and Kelley Raulerson donated paintings for the auction and Carolyn Smith donated a quilt.

Auction buyers were: Anita and David Nunez; Gene and Peggy Fulford; Jeff and Ellen Vest; Spencer Kirton; and Gil and Marie Culbreth.

The Hospice of Okeechobee Board Members are as follows: Frank Irby; Tina Clemons; Grace Larson; Paul Buxton; Marie Culbreth; Sandra Pearce McAuley; Randy Paulson; Fran Syfrett; Dorothy Bulger; Stella Cross; and Lynda Durrance.

They would like to extend their thank you to all of their Hospice Angels in Okeechobee.

Big Heart Donors included:

Roxanne Barnes; Wal-Mart; Bill Sherman and Crew; Sam Durrance; Eli's Western Wear; Sandra Pearce Photography; Charlie Hukriede, Golden Corral; Publix; Dee Dee Cates; Let's Party; Kristi Durrance; Custom Graphics and Signs; Affordable Art; Adam Ivey; and The UPS Store.

Other sponsors included: Gilbert Chevrolet; Quail Creek Plantation; Frank and Bridgette Irby; Okeechobee Livestock Market; Hamrick; Randy and Debbie Wright; A Child's World; Eli's Trailer Sales; McAlphin, Cavalanti and Lewis CPA; H. Allen Holmes; Vest Concrete Contractors; Southern Styles; Pristine Properties, Intl. Inc.; John and Kim Collier; Town Star Food Stores; Susan Williams; Bill's Mini-Mart; Joe Tomeu; Wrangler; Camp Cooley Ranch; GM Worley, Inc.; Fulford Plaza; 5th Street Pharmacy; Seminole Design Build, Inc.; Marvin and Sandra Wherrell; Holmes Cabinets; Newcomer Ranch; Riverside National Bank; Seacoast National Bank; S and K Services; and N and R Cattle Company.

The Hospice Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who has given their time and money to make this event possible. Without the help of the community, Hospice of Okeechobee would not be the success that it is.

For more information about the Hospice of Okeechobee call 863-467-2321.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at [caguilar@newszap.com](mailto:caguilar@newszap.com).



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce McAuley

The UPS Store (left to right) Adam Breen, Jamie Breen-employee, Heather and Eric Pope-owners, Mariah Bass-employee, and Ben Wagoner were just one of the Big Heart Donors for the Hospice of Okeechobee Boots and Pearls Gala on Friday, Oct. 10.



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce McAuley

Kristy Crawford (left) and her husband Neal Crawford (right) danced to the music by The Chase at the Third Annual Hospice of Okeechobee Boots and Pearls Gala on Friday, Oct. 10.



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce McAuley

Spencer Kirton (left) purchased this painting donated by Sandra Pearce McAuley (right) during the auction at the Hospice of Okeechobee Boots and Pearls Gala on Friday, Oct. 10.



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce McAuley

Fred Fanizzi (right) was the auctioneer for the Hospice of Okeechobee Boots and Pearls Gala on Friday, Oct. 10. His wife Maria Fanizzi (left) was also in attendance to show her support for the Hospice of Okeechobee.

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On March 15, 2005, the St. Lucie County Commission and the Public Defender received the results of the \$100,000 jail overcrowding study.

### The Kalmanoff Report Findings?

- ★ Delays and a lack of aggressive client advocacy by the Public Defender's Office results in a situation where "cases languish and work and costs mount for all justice system agencies." (p. 104)
- ★ "The Public Defender has been the strongest supporter of new jail beds, repeatedly condemning the idea that improvements in system efficiency could reduce jail crowding." (p. 104)
- ★ Report recommendations: "Seek an independent professional program audit of the Public Defender's Office to provide needed support and input on much earlier and stronger system advocacy." (p. 113)

What was the Public Defender's response to Dr. Kalmanoff's constructive recommendations to improve the criminal justice system?

**"He's an idiot"**  
Palm Beach Post 3-20-05

Accuses "Kalmanoff of being vindictive and said the St. Lucie officials should ask for a refund of the \$100,000 spent on the report"  
Palm Beach Post 4-9-05

Files a federal lawsuit against the St. Lucie County Commission and Sheriff over jail crowding.  
Palm Beach Post 11-26-07

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# Speak Out

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

**LAKE LEVEL:** On Oct. 12, the headline was "Releases to keep lake stable" and the article stated that the water releases would no longer be pulse releases but will now be a continuous release. On page 5 of the same paper, the headline says "Conserve Water: Dry Season Only a Month Away." If we are to conserve water due to the upcoming dry season, why are they continuing the release of water from the lake? It would seem to me and all of my friends and family that if we are approaching the dry season, you would want to keep the water in the lake to ensure we do not have another season of dry lake and canals. On the subject of canals, why is it that every time the canals reach their normal level (as marked on the seawalls), suddenly within a period of hours, they drop from 4-6 inches. *Editor's note: for the past few weeks, water managers have tried to hold the lake around 15 feet. As water from rainfall and drainage comes in, they are just letting enough water out to keep the lake steady at around 15 feet. If the lake gets higher than 15.5 feet, there is concern for the safety of the dike and there is also concern for the health of the lake. If the water is too high for too long, it kills off the native vegetation along the shoreline. They are trying to mimic the natural highs and lows of the lake, using a schedule of 12.5 to 15.5 feet, and maintain it as an ecosystem for fish and wildlife rather than just using the lake as a reservoir for human consumption. Even with Lake Okeechobee near its maximum capacity, Floridians are all encouraged to conserve water year round. The growing human population means there is a steady increase in water demand. Water is necessary not only for the human population but also for wildlife and for agriculture.*

**NOT SCARED:** I am a registered Democrat. Not a scared Republican. Obama has repeatedly said things that are the exact opposite of what he wrote in his book. People wake-up and do some research. In his commercials he talks about his meager years growing up with a single mom. How did he go to Harvard? How did he buy a million dollar house when he worked for a non-profit agency? Is he going to stand up for Israel?

**YMCA:** To my fellow people of Okeechobee I ask you to open your hearts and please contribute to your children and our future leaders of our city by considering the prospect of the YMCA coming to our town. I feel there is a great need for this organization to find its place in our town. Please back this project whenever the opportunity presents itself. Thank you for listening and considering.

**ELECTION:** First of all, I'll be glad when it's over, I am tired of seeing all of the ads on TV. Second of all, everything about the Clinton's joining up with Obama and backing him, it was just a month ago that she was against him saying how bad it was that he was doing and what he was going to do. How are we supposed to believe what she is saying now? That's just crazy.

**DITCHES:** I believe if the county was to come out and dig the ditches in Basswood area there wouldn't be any need for flooding. Some of the ditches are still holding water and parts of it doesn't have proper drainage to drain the water. Something needs to be done about this, because when we get bad storms that's what causes all of the flooding out here.

**RIGHTS:** I am an American who believes in Freedom of Expression. A friend of mine told me that someone stole an Obama for President sign right out of his yard. The other day the subject of abortion came up with a friend and he and I said abortion numbers went down under Democratic administration, because they funded child-care. Also, I am going to make my voting preferences on the ballot. I don't need a preacher telling me how to vote. And thank you to the Okeechobee News for letting me express these opinions.

**FOOTBALL:** I would like to know how every week Pop Warner football has articles of the kids who participate in it, but you never see an article or photographs on OCRA football. *Editor's note: When you see a lot of photos from a particular group or team, it is usually because that group has someone sending their news and photos to the newspaper. We encourage community members to turn in photos and other news items. OCRA coaches and parents are welcome to submit photos. You can email us at [okeenews@newszap.com](mailto:okeenews@newszap.com).*

**TRACKS:** About the rail road tracks -- did you know you can swerve to the right, and make a quick left? But, you need to be driving about 15 miles an hour, five or six times to practice. Increase speed as you get better at it. Or just drive 10 miles per hour every time. You will be amazed at the difference. Any railroad track at 40 mph is going to make your gas tank explode. Happy traveling.

**SPORTS:** My main concern is the foul language I hear some coaches and parents direct to these young kids. If you can't talk without cussing like a foul-mouth, then don't say anything. I thought this was a game. It appears to be competition about who can be the stupidest parent. And there are some real winners out there.

**BAKER ACT:** I need to get some information on the Baker Act. I know a person who was Baker Acted and was kept for eight days without a phone call. And I always thought they weren't supposed to hold you more than three days. Could anybody give me some information on that? I talked to a lawyer and he said he didn't know. I just don't think that was right. If anyone has any information on that could you please call speak out?

**TV SECTION:** This is kind of a question. How come we cannot have an Okeechobee TV Section in the paper anymore? It's bad enough that I'm only getting the paper three days a week, but I sure would like to have a TV guide for the whole week if that is at all possible. Let's see if you answer this one. *Editor's note: We are sorry that we can no longer provide the TV grids. The decision to stop running the TV grids was a cost-saving measure. We had to purchase the TV grids from a service that builds them and also pay the print costs. Our research found only a small percentage of readers wanted these grids, since those with cable or satellite television have TV guides that come with those services, and since so many TV schedules are available online. We're sorry to disappoint you, but in tough economic conditions, we had to make choices on what to cut in order to keep costs in line.*

**PUBLIC POOL:** This is about the public pool here in town. It always seems like on a really nice day, that they are always closed. You can't ever go unless you go after 3 p.m. when all of the school kids are there and you can only use one section of the pool. Parents who have younger children who are not yet in school would really like to make use of these facilities, but we are not able to because no one is ever there. And the days that they are there it's raining and then you can't go anyway. I think it is a little ridiculous that they don't have proper help for a facility like that.

**ELECTION:** I know this presidential election is very serious, but does anyone seriously, really, truly believe they are going to change anyone's mind about who they are going to vote for by planting a sign in their yard or by standing on the side of the road waving a sign? I mean are they just trying to let people know that there is someone running for president named Obama or McCain?

**AMENDMENT 2:** Amendment 2 as written does not threaten seniors, common law folks and others, but the point is that the amendment does not specifically PREVENT those kind of changes, later. If we vote "No" and throw it out, there is nothing to vote back in -- nothing changes from what we have. We already have a law stating that marriage is between a man and a woman, we have no gay marriage, and we do not recognize gay marriages from other states. To me, the only reason anyone would want this amendment is so they can further meddle in everyone's private lives. I find this really strange coming from conservative folks who often claim they trust people to run their own lives, then try to tell them how to actually live their lives.

**EMAIL:** I am so sick and tired of the political emails. The Democrats are making me crazy with all these emails. Every time I turn on my computer I get a dozen or so more. I will be so glad when this election is over. I tried blocking them and marking them as spam, but the 'Vote for Obama' emails just keep coming.

# Reflections from the Pulpit

**By Rev. Tommaso Pasquarella**  
Pastor  
Cornerstone Baptist Church

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be united? Having one goal? Having one desire? Having one purpose? For Christians, true Christians, that is possible because we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. You say I have been to churches and there is never unity. Well, you're right. In many churches across America there is not a sense of unity, because the church is full of unrepentant sinners, which mean sinners who are still heading for destruction. How do I know this? Because there will always be tares among the wheat and weeds among the good plants. Never the less, striving for unity should be the goal for the church. Even though the goal of the church should be unity, a warning must be given. You do not compromise or water down the message of the Word of God in order to achieve this unity.

The other day I was listening to a man preaching, who said that the gospel is simple. I was very excited thinking: "This guy is going to preach the gospel and bring glory to God. He is going to talk about Jesus and His sacrifice for our sins."

To my surprise he did not talk about sin. He did not mention Jesus' burial, death, or resurrection. What he did say was that Jesus took the idea of do unto others as you would have them do unto you from another rabbi, and that "Do unto others" is the gospel. I wanted to heckle, I wanted to scream, I wanted to cry, but I prayed. I prayed that the Word that was read before this man opened his mouth would work in the hearts of the hearers, because the Word of God that was spoken

will never come back void. I cannot be united with someone who does not preach the gospel of Christ. Not that I cannot get along with them, because I am told to love all people regardless of who they are or what they have done. I am to love the sinner and hate the sin. Unity is precious to me, but not at the expense of the truth of the Word of God.

What is the purpose of the church? To bring glory to God is our goal and unity is the outward expression of a church that is focused on loving Jesus.

"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." (Acts 4:32)

Listen to how they came together. They were of one heart. Hearts focused on Jesus and not on themselves with one soul. How can our souls be united? They can be united when we allow the Holy Spirit to do the leading and guiding and we do the following. They did not hold their possessions as their own. They realized that their wealth is given by God for His glory, not so we can hold onto it and use as we think is right in our own eyes, but they wanted what they had to be used in His service. Have you watched football and the game goes so poorly because each player is playing as if he is alone? The same is happening in the church. But the Word says, "For the body is not one member, but many." (1 Corinthians 12:14) We who are in Christ are like the body, different parts, with different functions.

"And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all." (Acts 4:33)

# Apply to college with less stress

**The Counseling Corner**  
By the American Counseling Association

Applying for college is never an easy task. For many students and their families, however, it can turn into an overwhelming, highly stressful experience. Last minute decisions, sudden deadlines and unexpected requirements can all take anxiety levels to new highs.

It doesn't have to be that way. With a little planning the college application process may still require a lot of work, but not nearly as much stress.

Most advisors suggest beginning the college selection process early in the student's junior year. Of course, if you're reading this now because you have an anxious high school senior just beginning the process, it's time to play a little catch-up.

Honestly discussing college costs and family finances is one way to reduce stress. If an expensive school isn't affordable for your family, discuss possible options. Is a scholarship or major grant likely, or if loans are necessary, who will be paying them back? Getting the financial issues straight helps lead to intelligent college choices.

A little knowledge can also reduce anxiety. Pick up several college guidebooks that rate schools and describe programs, acceptance procedures, campus life and much more. Online sites like [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or [www.unigo.com](http://www.unigo.com) can also offer valuable facts and insights. Don't forget your high school's college counselor as a great source of in-

formation.

Often, students feel overwhelmed and anxious because of all the college choices facing them. Encouraging your child to compare their own goals, interests and likes against the information they gather about various schools can help narrow the list of possible choices down to a manageable number.

The biggest stress reducer and "disaster avoider," is a simple task and deadlines calendar. For each school, work backwards from its application deadline, listing dates for required activities, such as ACT or SAT testing, recommendation letters, submitting high school transcripts and similar details. Include time-lines for things that will require extended effort, like that college essay, and don't forget follow-up dates to check on whether those requested recommendation letters or transcripts were received.

Reducing anxiety is simply a matter of eliminating the unknown. When you've helped your student learn enough about schools to make an intelligent choice, and helped him or her establish a process that will keep things under control, then the stress levels just naturally go down. Of course, the anxiety that will come from waiting to learn if one is accepted after the applications are finally in is another whole story.

*"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](http://www.counseling.org).*

Boldness increased among the apostles and God answered the prayers for boldness in speaking the truth of the gospel because God's people were united in one Spirit.

"Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need." (Acts 4:34-35)

No one lacked, because those who had would sell land or houses and give to the church so it could be distributed to those who needed.

"And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, the son of consolation) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet." (Acts 4:36-37)

This Joses sold land and gave it to the church, not because he had to but because God had laid that upon his heart to do.

How do we achieve this unity? "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;" (Philippians 1:27)

Live as kingdom citizens! How do we live as kingdom citizens? We have His mind, His heart, His focus, His desires, and we give Him our minds, our hearts, our focus, our desires. Pray for one another, serve one another, submit to one another, focus on the Kingdom by focusing on the lost that He loves and died for. Do what Jesus would do. If you do not know Christ you can't be because it is a foreign concept, because you have been taught you are on your own, but that will lead to emptiness and without trust in Christ it will lead to death. If you do not know Christ, then you are living life on your merit and your merit is not enough, because all have sinned and fallen short, all have rebelled against God and done their own thing.

# Community Calendar

## Sunday, Oct. 19

**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 meeting. *\*The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.*

## Monday, Oct. 20

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Tuesday, Oct. 21

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

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

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

**Al-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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Okeechobee News

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

**We Pledge ...**

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

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

# Central Elementary kids are 'Jammin' at school

## Kindergarten News

During the week of Oct. 13, we worked with the letter P. For that reason we celebrate the Pajama Day with a Freaky Friday. Every student and teachers wore their pajamas to school all day long. It is hilarious and funny to see everybody in their pajamas. During the morning the students switch classes where they work on different "P" activities like making penguin, pig puppets, and pizza, acting in "The 3 Little Pigs" play, counting the seeds in a pumpkin and then eating some pancakes. What a fun day! We are so excited waiting for the Halloween Parade. So don't forget your costume. We are looking forward to seeing you at our Fall Festival this Friday.

**Student of the week:** Jasmine Lewis and Yulaynie Cruz  
Thanks for your support

## First Grade

Mr. Klaffer's Super Kids News  
This week the Super Kid Student of the Week was David Cantalini!

The past Super Kid Student of the Week were Juan Leon, Viviana Jaimes, Georgia Harris, Alex Valdes, Mason Burke, and Anashia Rochelle.

The class is working very hard this week learning about animal families and the names for the father, mother, and baby of each different family! Then, we have to compare the different families for similarities. Mr. Klaffer found out that one of his student's mother had just had a cub! Now that must have been a hard birth for mom!

Each student has been working hard on a book of living and non-living things. We started with things and the four things every living thing needs to stay alive. The Super Kids and I decided that they were pizza, ice cream, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and soda. Oh, I almost forgot and never any vegetables! We finally got it cleared up and found out that the four things were food, water, shelter, and space.

The Super Kids got to see Okeechobee's firefighters and their incredible trucks and equipment. They learned how to get out of a smoky building, what to



do if you catch on fire (I still am not sure why anyone would want to be on fire?), how to call 911, and the most important thing of all WHO gets to drive the truck and use the siren!!

The Super Kids also got to take a field trip to Okeechobee library. They learned about how to get a library card, where and how to find a book in the library, and got to hear Miss Pat read their stories and tell them a folktale! We got to go to Dairy Queen for lunch after and boy did everyone have fun! At least that was what Mrs. Vaughn whispered to me as we were waiting for ice cream. Mr. Klaffer decided that on the walk back to school he would use the opportunity to have the Kids learn a little Math! I was met with a resounding answer from all the Kids that we MUST have walked at least a thousand miles there and back!!

Well, that's it for the Super Kids this week. Oh yeah, we are all leaving for a safari to Africa on Thursday. I still have not found the answer for the student that keeps asking how long of a bus trip that it is going to be!

Mrs. Bostwick's class at Central Elementary School has had a great time learning about spiders in science! We created spider fact books and observed spiders in action! Students of the Week these past two weeks were Nickalus Dailey and Mildred Leal. Congratulations, kiddos! In reading, we have been discussing animal families and how we help each other out at home and in school. We have been practicing more addition facts in math; using number lines, counting on and touch math are just a few of the strategies they have been using to crunch those numbers!

Mrs. Vaughn's class participated in a mock Presidential Election. It was surprising to find out that first graders knew about the elec-

tion and the candidates. It will be interesting to find out if our vote turns out to be the same as the general election. In reading we have been learning about plural nouns, short e, and contractions. In math we are learning different strategies to add and subtract such as counting on, counting back, using a number line, drawing pictures and touch math. In science we did experiments to find out what things dissolve in water and which do not. The result was that oil does not dissolve in water. We learned about Christopher Columbus and his journey to the new world. Congratulations to Anallely Maldonado and Yatzel Martinez for being Students of the Week.

## First Grade B.A.S.E. News

The first graders in Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Garcia's B.A.S.E classes enjoyed a trip last week to the Library. Mrs. Pat was our tour guide and host for the morning. She read books about a lion that painted with his tail and how an elephant's trunk became long. She reminded us who the author and the illustrators were in the stories. Then, she explained to the children about the Dewey Decimal System of how to locate a book in the library. The children were allowed to find a reading book within the EASY READER section. We had parents, teachers, Mrs. Pat and the children all sitting on the floor reading and enjoying their selections. Thank you Mrs. Pat for a wonderful time of learning!

This week our students learned about Fire Safety in recognition of National Fire Prevention Week. We had visits from the local firefighters and EMT's that drive the ambulances. The students were allowed to walk through the inside of the ambulance. The children were able to ask questions to the firemen about their jobs, the tools they use and the dangerous aspects of their jobs. The students also enjoyed a puppet show that reinforced the fire safety message. We learned to crawl low in smoke, never play with matches, and to have a safe place to go to when there is a fire. Thank you

for coming! We appreciate all that you do!

Our student's of the Week are: Elizabeth Casas, Joshua Bonilla, Cason Cooper, and Delaney Jones. We appreciate the great behavior that these children have shown to earn this award! Keep up the great job!

## Second Grade

Mrs. Greseth's second grade class has been learning all kinds of interesting facts about the bald eagle. They have compiled their new knowledge into mini research projects. They have been doing a super job with regrouping in Math. Way to go students! In Social Studies, they have learned about Christopher Columbus. In Science each student planted a one foot garden. They are so excited each day to check on their radishes and sunflowers. It is so wonderful to watch the children get excited about learning. Congratulations to Jenna McClanahan, she is the first student in our class to reach 100 steps in 100 Book Challenge. Super job Jenna!

Miss Miller's second graders have had a blast learning about the different changes that can happen to matter. Do you know why your glass "sweats" on a hot day? Your son or daughter can tell you! We have also been practicing our addition and subtraction facts.

Congratulations to the following Students of the Week: Andrew Simmons, Michael Watson, Mariah Raulerson, and Armando Garcia.

Congratulations to Mariah Raulerson for having the most steps for 100 Book Challenge! Keep reading every night for 15 minutes to get those steps!

The second graders have worked hard to complete their garden of sunflowers and radishes. After only a few weeks we are already seeing sprouts. The students have been reading about caring for plants in their reading books and science books.

Congratulations to Keondra Rawls in Mrs. Whiteside's class. She was the only student in her class to reach 100 steps for the first 9 weeks. Another congratulations to the students of the week:

Antonio Pineda, Zamir Duran, and Alani Garcia.

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# JV football team falls at Frostproof

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The Brahmans Junior Varsity wrapped up their schedule with a 31-14 loss at Frostproof on Thursday.

Okeechobee had their moments but couldn't overcome some special team mistakes in their sixth consecutive defeat.

"We just made a couple of mental mistakes," Coach John Kemp said, "The kids played hard, and played aggressive. We made two bad snaps on punts and that gave them great field position."

Okeechobee got an interception on defense by Alonzo Coleman and double digit tackles from middle linebacker John Kemp.

On offense Kolby Frank had his best game of the season with two touchdown passes to Alonzo Coleman, one of 15 yards and the second of 35 yards. John Kemp ran for 25 yards. Deforest Shanks caught five passes.

"Our running game wasn't that good. They stuck the middle and forced us to pass. They had pretty good size and pretty good numbers," Kemp said.

Okeechobee (1-5) cancelled the remainder of the season due to a lack of players. They were down to 17 players at Thursday's game. Brant Harden came down from varsity to play for the junior varsity squad and filled in on the injury depleted offensive line.

Frostproof ran a wishbone attack and kept the ball on the ground for most of the game. The Brahmans defense held for the most part other than on one blown assignment that led to a touchdown run up the middle. It was 10-0 at the half. Okeechobee cut the lead to 24-14 and were driving in the fourth quarter but an interception by the Bulldogs ended the Brahmans hopes.

Coach Kemp said he was proud of the kids that stuck it out this season, "With all the injuries and the kids quitting, I'm real proud of the kids that stuck it out."

He mentioned Dustin Houston as one of the players who worked hard all year and earned playing time at the end. He was the starting wide receiver for the final game of the year. He caught a 35 yard pass in last week's game.

"He was a small guy with a good work ethic. He stuck it out all season and earned some playing time at the end," he stated.



Submitted photo

**Halloween Celebration here soon**  
WOKC's Billy Dean (ctr) and Cpl Keith Stripling (rt) of the County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention presented Toni Doyle(left) with boxes of candy donated by the faithful listeners of WOKC.

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# Community Events

## Lodge presents Dinner Theater

The Order of the Eastern Star will present a Mystery Dinner Theater on Saturday, **Oct. 18**, 5 p.m. Okeechobee Masonic Lodge 107 N.W. Fifth Avenue, Okeechobee. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased by contacting Mary Ann Holt at 863-634-8087. This includes a Country Fried Steak Dinner and the show, in which the audience participation is key to solving the "murder". Join them for an evening of great food and fun. For more information, contact Mary Ann Holt at 863-634-8087.

## League of Women Voters on radio show

Saturday, **Oct. 18**, at 7:30 a.m. on 91.7 FM and 100.3 FM will have Marilyn Wills, President, The League of Women Voters of Florida will be on to discuss the Six Constitutional Amendments on the November 4 ballot. For more information call 850-224-2545 or www.lwvfla.org or contact your local league.

## Haunted Halloween night at DuPuis Management area

Looking for an evening full of fun. Visit the DuPuis Visitor center on **Oct. 25**, from 5:30 until 8 p.m. The night will be filled with hayrides, games, spooky crafts and candy treats. Learn about creepy critters like owls, rats, spiders and bats as you're guided through a haunted trail. This event is free of charge. Costumes are optional. To make reservations or for more information call Kim Kanter at 800-432-2045 ext. 3339.

## Free coffee at Guardian Ad Litem meeting

Starbucks on 12th Street and U.S. 1 in Vero Beach will host the GALP monthly coffee on Saturday, **Oct. 25**, at 10 a.m. The coffee is for anyone interested in knowing more about the Guardian ad Litem Program. Guardians ad Litem are trained volunteers who are court-appointed as child advocates and are involved in court proceedings, giving a voice to victims of child abuse. Volunteers are needed for Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee Counties. Stop by for a free cup of coffee with a GAL Volunteer and find out how you too can Speak Up for an Abused Child. Our next volunteer training class starts **Nov. 6**. For more information, call toll-free 1-866-341-1425

## Orchid club to meet

The Okeechobee Orchid Club will meet on Monday, **Oct. 27** at 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Extension Service. They will have show and tell at this meeting and request that you bring in an Orchid to show or bring in a problem Orchid for Harry to diagnose. Introduce your favorite Orchid and tell how it grows. At these meetings you will meet other Orchid enthusiasts and share problems and solutions, enjoy refreshments and networking and there will be an Orchid drawing as a fundraiser. Please bring questions and program ideas. Let them know what subjects and speakers are of interest. The Garden Club meets in the same location at 6 p.m. For more information call 863-763-6469.

## Oktoberfest Celebration

Sunday, **Oct. 19**, noon until 4 p.m. an Oktoberfest Celebration will be held. There will be games, fun and more games. The celebration will be held at the VFW Post 9528 in Buckhead Ridge. Authentic German food will be served for a donation of \$7. German music will be provided for dancing and your enjoyment.

## F.O.E. 4509 holds special events

The Fraternal Order of the Eagles 4509 has several events lined up for the month of October. Events and dates are as follows: **Oct. 18** - Sock Hop from 3 until 7 p.m.; **Oct. 25** - Oktoberfest; **Oct. 31** - Halloween Costume Party at 8 p.m. For more information on these events please call Diana Huston at 863-357-2009.

## FHREDI meeting planned

A public meeting of the Florida's Heartland REDI, Inc. Board of Directors and Florida's Freshwater Frontier, Inc. Board of Directors will be held on Monday, **Oct. 20**, at 10 a.m. at Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, 4509 George Boulevard, Sebring. For more information, please call Jim Otterman at 863-385-4900.

## 4-H plans Annual Barbecue

The Okeechobee 4-H Foundation will be holding their annual pork barbecue dinner with all the fixings on Monday, **Oct. 20** in the Freshman Campus cafeteria. Tickets are on sale now for \$7 at the Extension Office or by calling 4-H members. Deliveries may be made for five or more dinners by calling in advance to 863-763-6469 or on the day of the event to 863-634-3327. You may dine in or pick up your dinner from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

## Rain Barrel Workshop planned

Rain barrels are a convenient and efficient way to collect rainwater. They provide a free source of water for irrigating your landscape and potted plants, and help reduce the storm water runoff from your yard! To learn more about Rain Barrels and to make your own Barrel, come to this informative workshop. The workshop is planned for Monday, **Oct. 20**, from 5:30 until 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Extension Service Office, 458 Highway 98 North, Okeechobee.

This is a hands-on program and every participant can take home the rain barrel he or she creates during the class! Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call 863-763-6469 to sign up. The cost is \$25 and includes a rain barrel and conversion kit.

## Amendment 2 to be discussed

First Baptist Church will be hosting an informative meeting on Amendment 2 on Tuesday, **Oct. 21**, at 7 p.m. Harry Mihet, Senior Litigation Counsel with Florida Family Policy Council, that wrote the Amendment, will be here to speak and answer questions. Mr. Mihet's family came from Romania, where his father was a pastor for 17 churches, mostly underground churches. Come and not only hear about Amendment 2, but hear this man's great story. Amendment 2 will not effect the financial benefits of senior citizens, come hear the truth on this subject! The address of the church is 401 S.W. Fourth Street.

## Machine embroidery group meeting

If you have an embroidery machine, plan to buy one or are just interested in the concept, please join us at our next meeting. It will be held on Saturday, **Oct. 25**, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Red Cross classroom, 323 N. Parrott Avenue. Bring your machine and lunch for a fun-filled day. This month we will be embroidering on a towel; supplies needed are self-adhesive stabilizer, water soluble stabilizer, your design of choice and a towel. For more information please call Joan at 863-467-0290 or Corry at 863-467-2231.

## Book Club plan to meet

Friends of the Okeechobee Library Book Club will meet on Thursday, **Oct. 30**, at 7 p.m. in the Okeechobee County Library Board Room. The group will suggest titles for the next six months and vote on them. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite Halloween cookie. For more information call Jan Fehrman at 863-357-9980.

## Teen dance party planned

A teen dance party will be held on Sunday, **Oct. 19** at the Pier II from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$5. Ages 12-16 welcome. A live DJ will play the latest hip-hop for entertainment. The following refreshments will be available: Pizza - \$1; soda - 50 cent; chips - 50 cent; smoothies - \$2. All proceeds will benefit the American Red Cross Okeechobee County Branch. For more information call Teresa Chandler at 863-697-6819.

## Cub/Boy Scouts selling popcorn

Fundraising season is here again and the local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of America, are trying to get support. They will sell popcorn every weekend until **Oct. 19**. They will have booths set up at different, local businesses every Saturday and Sunday. On top of the weekend setups, the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will always have a flyer and order form with them to sell popcorn throughout the week. So if you cannot make it out to one of their booths, you can always order it personally from one of the pack/troop members. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to help pay for their summer camp expenses, supplies, badges and just general expenses for their groups. Parents and volunteers will be with the scouts at each booth to help sell the popcorn and provide information about the group. They are always looking for people to join. There are no sign up deadlines, you can join at any time during the year, so if you think that the cub scouts or boy scouts is something you are interested in, you can get information about it while you get some popcorn! Parents are welcome to become volunteers. They would also like to say thank you to all of the local businesses who are allowing them to set up in front of their stores. For more information on locations or joining, please contact Alison Hudson, Committee Chair - Troop 964, at 863-634-8628.

## Main Street to host Halloween celebration

Okeechobee Main Street, the City of Okeechobee and Okeechobee County are hosting the Fourth Annual Halloween Celebration. The community celebration will be held at the Agri-Civic Center on Highway 70 East, on Friday, **Oct. 31**, from 6 until 9 p.m.

This year's Costume Contest will be in four age groups: 0-2 from 6:45 to 7:15 p.m., 3-5 from 7:15 to 7:45 p.m., 6-10 from 7:45 to 8:15 p.m. and 11-14 from 8:15 to 8:45 p.m. Registration for the costume contest will be at the Seacoast National Bank Booth. Please help to provide a safe and fun Halloween for the children. They will have games and activities, a haunted house, a costume contest and treats! Event organizers welcome donations of treats and candy or monetary donations to purchase candy. Your business or agency is welcome to set up a booth for games or activities for the children. For more information, please contact Toni Doyle at 863-357-MAIN (6246).

## S.A.L. plan steak dinner

The Sons of the American Legion will sponsor their monthly ribeye steak dinner on Sunday, **Oct. 19** from 3 until 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post 64. Dinner includes steak, baked potato, salad, roll, iced tea, coffee and dessert for a \$12 donation. Live entertainment will be provided for your entertainment. The public is welcome.

## Wildlife Center holds open house

Arnold's Wildlife and Rehabilitation Center will hold an open house on Saturday, **Nov. 8**, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. It will be held at 14895 N.W. 30th Terrace. Adult tickets are \$10 and children under twelve years of age are \$5. Be sure to visit the half-acre free-roaming butterfly garden. There are also thirty different species of native and exotic animals for you to see and photograph. A lunch of hot dogs, chips and a drink will be available for a donation. There will also be activities for the children. Go north on 441 until you get to the flashing light. Turn left and go west for about two miles and look for the Arnold Wildlife sign. For more information or directions please call Sue Arnold at 863-763-4630.

## Eagles 4137 plans party and yard sale

Friday, **Oct. 31** the Eagles 4137 will hold a steak night/Halloween party. Best dressed guy and girl will receive a \$25 gift card for Wal-Mart for their prize; Saturday, **Nov. 1** - Sunday, Nov. 2 from 8 a.m. until noon the Lady's Auxiliary will hold a yard sale. All proceeds from yard sale will go towards 2009 Snowball Charities; Sunday, Nov. 2 from 9 until 11 a.m. breakfast will be served for a \$5 donation. You may begin dropping yard sale items off during the week of Oct. 26-Oct. 31. For further information call 863-763-2552.

## ABWA to hold meeting

The Women of Tomorrow Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) will hold its annual Fall Enrollment Event on **Oct. 23** at Beef O'Brady's from noon to 1 p.m. All working women are invited to come and see what we're all about. Barbara Godejohn will speak on women's health issues. For information contact President Karin Ammons at Cassell's and McCall 863-763-3131.

## United Way sponsors Day of Caring

United Way of Okeechobee members and many community volunteers are sponsoring a "Day of Caring" on **Nov. 1**, at 8 a.m. in Okeechobee. This is a day the United Way has set aside to thank the Okeechobee Community for supporting them and to bring awareness to our community that United Way is here. United Way members have chosen a home in Okeechobee that is in need of painting and landscaping. Also planned on the same day is a group of Community in Schools partners will paint the skate board office at the Skate Board Park. For more information please call 863-634-0915.

## Republican party to meet

The Republican Party of Florida will hold their monthly Board meeting on Monday, **Oct. 20**. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and is held at the Republican Headquarters, 414 S. Parrott Avenue (next to Physicians Weight-loss) and visitors are welcome.

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# Last Chance Ranch escapees accept plea deal

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Two of the three clients who escaped a juvenile facility in rural Glades County on New Years Eve 2006 have accepted plea deals with the state.

Glades County Court records show Jesus Duran, 17, pleaded no contest to charges related to

the daring escape. He received six years in the Department of Corrections for escape and aggravated battery.

Duran was originally charged with battery on a detention staff member, grand theft, escape and aggravated battery.

He was adjudicated guilty of escape and aggravated battery in

this plea deal.

A second defendant, Edward Woodruff, 16, was also adjudicated guilty and was sentenced to three years probation for battery and grand theft motor vehicle. Upon his release from custody he will serve two years probation for escape.

A third defendant in the case,

Andrew Helderman, 18, will appear for a change of plea hearing on Nov. 4, before Glades County Circuit Judge Jack Lundy. He was originally charged with attempted

murder, grand theft auto and robbery.

The three worked together in the daring escape. They attacked and seriously injured guard Win-

ston Harvey at the facility on County Road 731 in Venus. The trio stole a car and made their way to South Florida and Tampa before being arrested.

## HCSO seeks info in woman's death



By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

The Highlands County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) is asking the public for their help in identifying an unidentified woman found dead in a citrus grove near Lorida.

Investigators suspect foul play and are working the case as a homicide.

The woman was found in the area of Buckhorn Road on Monday, Oct. 13. According to HCSO investigators, the woman is apparently Hispanic and was found dressed in shorts and a T-shirt.

She is estimated to be 45 to 60 years of age with short dark hair that is graying. The woman is said to be 4-foot-10-inches in height and weighs approximately 123 pounds.

If anyone has any information about the woman or this case, they are urged to contact the Highlands County Sheriff's Office at 863-402-7200.

Information may also be given by calling Heartland Crime Stoppers at 1-800-226-TIPS (8477). Callers to the tip line may remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward.

## 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.

**Alieta Aleen**, 31, aka Brian White, Manford Clifford White; Black male; No known address; Wanted for failure to appear on bail - robbery with other weapon.

**Rigoberto Gama Chavez**, 31, Arson.  
**David Yoder**, 26; FTA - Poss Methadone, FTA - DWLS.  
**Becky Cook**, 28, Third Degree Grand Theft.  
**Estavan Villegas-Urbina**, 21, Robbery.

## Law Enforcement Calls

**Law Enforcement Calls**  
The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office received the following calls from Friday, Oct. 10, through Thursday, Oct. 16:

- Oct. 10
  - theft in the 900 block of N.E. 16th Ave.
  - forgery in the 1000 block of N.W. Sixth St.
  - vandalism in the 6400 block of N.E. 10th Lane
  - assault in the 42000 block of U.S. 441 N.
- Oct. 11
  - theft in the 1000 block of N.W. 110th St.
  - burglary at Nubbin Slough
  - assault on N.W. 12th Ave.
- Oct. 12
  - theft in the 8000 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
  - burglary in the 3900 block of

- U.S. 441 N.
  - robbery in the 1700 block of N.E. 71st St.
- Oct. 13
  - burglary in the 2500 block of N.W. 16th Blvd.
  - theft in the 4100 block of U.S. 441 S.
  - burglary in the 100 block of N.W. 23rd Lane
  - theft of air conditioner in the 900 block of N.E. 70th Lane
- Oct. 14
  - theft in the 4000 block of S.E. 14th Terrace
  - fraud in the 500 block of N.W. Fourth St.
  - theft in the 2400 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
  - burglary in the 1200 block of N.E. Fifth St.
  - burglary in the 3900 block of N.W. 36th St.

- Oct. 15
  - burglary in the 600 block of N.E. 17th Ave.
  - theft in the 200 block of N.E. 14th Ave.
  - theft in the 2000 block of N.W. 38th Ave.
- Oct. 16
  - vandalism in the 1700 block of S.E. 24th Blvd.
  - theft in the 11700 block of N.E. 128th Ave.
  - theft in the 17000 block of N.W. 38th Ave.
  - larceny in the 400 block of N.W. 106th St.

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



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# Code

Continued From Page 1

for having a derelict RV, debris and unregistered vehicles on his N.E. 16th Street property. Kenneth Goyens of Tampa was cited for leaving construction work without a permit at his N.E. 11st Street lot. According to Code Enforcement Blanca Saucedo, Lawrence Szafraniec of Royal Palm Beach has overgrown, unlicensed/inoperable vehicles and junk on his S.E. 32nd Street property. Titus Sweat is charged with operating a lawn mower sale and repair business in a residential area on N.W. Sixth Street. The last case under the heading of new business is that of Charles Crates, who was cited

for outdoor storage of property and having unlicensed/inoperable vehicles on his U.S. 441 S.E. property. In a case that has been going on for some time, if a building permit has not been issued, a representative of Nix & Nix, Land I LLC will be required to attend the hearing and report on progress made toward coming into compliance. The property in question is on U.S. 98 N. In the other case under the heading of old business, N & A Real Estate was required to either get a building permit to repair or a demolition permit to demolish a structure on S.R. 70 W. Turning to the levying of fines, Edward C. Boyd could be facing a fine if a derelict block structure has not been removed from his U.S. 441 N. property. The Abdul M. and Yasmine A.

Cumber Trust could receive a fine for the same reason because of a derelict structure on the trust's N.E. 15th Avenue property. If Donald Bastura has not obtained a demolition permit and removed the derelict structure on his N.W. 80th Court property he could be fined up to \$250 a day. If Andres Sanchez and Yudaisy Miranda have not obtained the necessary permit and inspections for their N.E. Third Drive lot they could also be fined. Timothy Crews and Angela Cross were given until Oct. 16 to remove a derelict mobile home and all debris from their N.E. 12th Lane lot. If that has not been accomplished, they too could be fined. Javier and Gloria Tinajero are also facing a possible fine if they have not either removed a deck or obtained the necessary per-

mits and inspections to keep it. The property in question is on N.W. 18th Street. Last month Felix and Maria Tinajero were ordered to remove a derelict mobile home from their N.W. 44th Avenue property. If that has not been accomplished, they could be fined up to \$250 a day. If Everett Lawson has not obtained the necessary permits for the metal building on his N.E. 22nd Avenue property, he could be facing a fine. Gilberto and Gladys Sanabria have accrued a fine of \$35,575 because of the condition of their N.W. Sixth Street lots. They have petitioned the special magistrate that this fine be forgiven. **Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com).**

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## Okeechobee County School Menus

**Breakfast:**  
**Elementary**  
 Monday, Oct. 20: No School  
 Tuesday, Oct. 21: Glazed french toast, assorted cereal, Y/M/CSk 2nd choice breakfast, breakfast grab and go #1 - Monday, fruit juice, fresh fruit, milk.  
 Wednesday, Oct. 22: Chicken patty/biscuit, assorted cereal, Y/M/CSk 2nd choice breakfast, breakfast grab and go #3 - Wednesday, Fruit juice, fresh fruit, milk.  
 Thursday, Oct. 23: Sausage bagel, assorted cereal, Y/M/CSk 2nd choice breakfast, breakfast grab and go #4 - Thursday, fruit juice, fresh fruit, milk.  
 Friday, Oct. 24: Egg, ham and cheese casserole, assorted cereal, Y/M/CSk 2nd choice breakfast, breakfast grab and go #5 - Friday, fruit juice, fresh fruit, milk.

**Lunch Menus:**  
**Elementary**  
 Monday, Oct. 20: No School.  
 Tuesday, Oct. 21: Popcorn chicken with barbecue sauce, honey wheat rolls, barbecue pork rib on bun, yogurt fruit and cheese plate, fresh fruit, fruit juice, seasoned corn, potato triangles, tossed salad, milk.  
 Wednesday, Oct. 22: Shepherds pie, honey wheat rolls, deli turkey on bun, yogurt fruit and cheese plate, fresh fruit, fruit juice, savory green beans, mandarin orange sections, tossed salad, milk.  
 Thursday, Oct. 23: grilled cheese sandwich with soup, hot ham and cheese sandwich, chef salad, fresh fruit, fruit juice, broccoli florets with lemon, fruit with gelatin, tossed salad, milk.  
 Friday, Oct. 24: Cheese or pepperoni stuffed crust pizza, baked potato with chili and cheese, tuna salad plate, cheeseburger basket, fresh fruit, fruit juice, baby carrots with dressing, pineapple chunks, tossed salad, milk.

tossed salad, milk.  
 Thursday, Oct. 23: Grilled cheese sandwich with soup, hot ham and cheese sandwich, chef salad, ham and cheese grab and go, fresh fruit, fruit juice, broccoli florets with lemon, fruit with gelatin, tossed salad, milk.  
 Friday, Oct. 24: Cheese or pepperoni stuffed crust pizza, baked potato with chili and cheese, tuna salad plate, cheeseburger basket, fresh fruit, fruit juice, baby carrots with dressing, pineapple chunks, tossed salad, milk.  
**High School**  
 Monday, Oct. 20: No School.  
 Tuesday, Oct. 21: Popcorn chicken with barbecue sauce, honey wheat rolls, barbecue pork on bun, yogurt fruit and cheese plate, pizza basket, chicken fingers and toes, fresh fruit, fruit juice, seasoned corn, potato triangles, tossed salad, milk.  
 Wednesday, Oct. 22: Shepherds pie, honey wheat rolls, deli turkey on bun, yogurt fruit and cheese plate, pizza basket, hot wings basket, fresh fruit, fruit juice, savory green beans, mandarin orange sections, tossed salad, milk.  
 Thursday, Oct. 23: Grilled cheese sandwich with soup, hot ham and cheese sandwich, chef salad, ham and cheese sub grab and go, Caribbean pork/rice/beans, fresh fruit, fruit juice, broccoli florets with lemon, fruit with gelatin, tossed salad, milk.  
 Friday, Oct. 24: Cheese or pepperoni stuffed crust pizza, baked potato with chili and cheese, cheeseburger basket, chicken with potato bowl, fresh fruit, fruit juice,

baby carrots with dressing, pineapple tidbits, tossed salad, milk.

**Secondary**  
 Monday, Oct. 20: No School.  
 Tuesday, Oct. 21: Glazed french toast, assorted cereal, breakfast grab and go #1 - Monday, fresh fruit, fruit juice, milk.  
 Wednesday, Oct. 22: Chicken patty/biscuit, assorted cereal, breakfast grab and go #3 - Wednesday, fresh fruit, fruit juice, milk.  
 Thursday, Oct. 23: Sausage bagel, assorted cereal, breakfast grab and go #4 - Thursday, fresh fruit, fruit juice, milk.  
 Friday, Oct. 24: Egg, ham and cheese casserole, assorted cereal, breakfast grab and go #5 - Friday, fresh fruit, fruit juice, milk.

**Middle School**  
 Monday, Oct. 20: No School.  
 Tuesday, Oct. 21: Popcorn chicken with barbecue sauce, honey wheat rolls, barbecue pork rib on bun, yogurt fruit and cheese plate, pizza basket, fresh fruit, fruit juice, seasoned corn, potato triangles, tossed salad, milk.  
 Wednesday, Oct. 22: Shepherds pie, honey wheat rolls, deli turkey on bun, yogurt fruit and cheese plate, ham sandwich grab and go, fresh fruit, fruit juice, savory green beans, mandarin orange sections,

Friday, Oct. 24: Cheese or pepperoni stuffed crust pizza, baked potato with chili and cheese, chicken with potato bowl, fresh fruit, fruit juice,

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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 (WFPB/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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## Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

**October 13 and 14, 2008**

	Monday	Tuesday
Calves	609	1292
Cows	128	200
Str	26	16
Hfrs	6	21
Bulls	19	31
Yrlngs	39	121
Mix	12	85
Total	839	1766

Prices leveled off this week after one of the largest drops last week that I can remember. Good cows are bringing in the mid to upper 40s, a few around 50s. Good #1 steers, 500# are in the mid 80s and heifers in the low 70s. Plain cattle are still off pretty bad. Maybe the market will rebound if confidence returns in the overall economy. Don't hold your breath!

Nelson Echeverria of Miami topped the calf market with \$162.50. High cow this week was Butler Oaks of Lorida with 57.00. Graham Angus Oct. 17. Lemmon Angus Oct. 24. Little Creek Brangus/Jorgensen Angus Oct. 31. See ya next week, Todd

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City of Okeechobee Hurricane Advisory Board 1994-1997  
 City of Okeechobee Regional Planning Council 1995-1997  
 OUA Task Force Committee for the City of Okeechobee 1995  
 City of Okeechobee City Planning & Zoning Board since 2006

Proudly served in the US Marine Corps & Member in the US Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Association

Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue Captain - 20 years retired

Director of Marksmanship Program Department of Army: 3 year Presidential Appointments 1986-94  
 Okeechobee Livestock Market Little League

**Awards**  
 Certificate of Commendation from United States Marine Corps: 1st Desert War  
 Meritorious Medal for Public Service and Meritorious Silver Cross from South Carolina Governor Campbell for 1st Desert War  
 From the Department of Navy Meritorious Public Service Citation for 1st Desert War  
 Okeechobee County Sheriff's Department Search & Rescue Meritorious Service medal for work on Lake Okeechobee

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 Thank You for taking the time to become an informed voter. Thanks for considering me,  
**Mike O'Connor**  
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**CITY COUNCIL**  
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# SEM students learn fire safety

Students at Seminole Elementary School celebrated Fire Safety Week by enjoying a visit from the City Fire Department. Students learned about preventing fires and what to do when there is a fire.



partment for taking the time to come to Seminole Elementary School and giving our students valuable information.

## FIRST

The first grade students have been learning about Johnny Appleseed in Social Studies. After we all had a chance to taste different kinds of apples we made a graph to tell us which kind we liked best. We will also be learning about fire safety and Christopher Columbus this month.

In Science we have been studying all about the ocean and the animals that live in it. We are all so interested and we are excited about learning what other animals live in the ocean. This month we will also be learning about bats and motion.

The firefighters showed the students a fire truck, an ambulance, and many different pieces of firefighting equipment. The students especially enjoyed seeing the fire hose spray water high up into the air. The firefighters gave students an opportunity to ask questions about fire safety.

Thank you to the City Fire De-



Submitted photo/SEM  
**SEM Teacher Highlight: Jennifer Franklin is a dedicated Kindergarten teacher at Seminole Elementary School. She devotes countless hours on most weekends to ensure that her students are receiving individualized, differentiated instruction. Thank you for your dedication, Ms. Franklin.**

## SECOND

Second grade students have been studying about plants in coordination with their reading story "The Tiny Seed" by Eric Carle. Mrs. O'Bannon's class planted bean and pumpkin seeds and are doing several experiments involving the function of the stem and leaves of the plant. They have also seen different types of plants like the aloe, the cactus and the Venus Flytrap. They especially liked how the Venus Flytrap can catch bugs. All of second grade is looking forward to their field trip to the Fort Drum Crystal Mine next week.



Submitted photo/SEM  
**Firefighters speak to the students at Seminole Elementary School during Fire Safety Week.**



Submitted photos/Peace Lutheran

## An English Tea

The Kindergarten class at Peace Lutheran held an English Tea and invited the grandparents to share with them. The children told what they had learned about England. The tea included finger sandwiches, cookies, apple spice cake and of course tea. Holt Jones is enjoying it all with his grandparents.

## THIRD

Third grade teachers would like to acknowledge our Students of the Week. We are so proud of those students who have made the most of beginning a new school year by being great Seminole citizens. For the week of August 25th: Clarissa Gomez, Jonathan Martinez, Saul Estrada, Anthony Mandujano, and Luis Flores Jaimes. For the week of Sept. 2: Chantel Pacheco, Jessica Depace, Cassandra Barton, Portia Rowe, and Kayla Alderman. For the week of Sept. 8th: Eric Cardenas, Tony Harlow, Eduardo Plascencia, Janelle Markham, and Doraluz Santibanez. Finally, for the week of Sept. 15: Maria Pinon, Yasmine Cabrera, Clayton Harris, Destiny Shirey, and Isidro Gomez. Parents, we look forward to seeing you next Tuesday, Sept. 23rd, at our FCAT parent night/PTO. We promise to send you home with practical ideas on how to help your child be successful.

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Submitted photo/OMS

## Students of the Week

Front: Bonnie Little, Tiffany Bowers, Cali Pearce, Tim Saylor. Back: Brendon Wolf, Dylan Boyer, Emily Murrow, Tamara Bowers, Jackalyn Sutton.



Submitted photo/OMS

## Students of the week

Osceola Middle School students of the week from left to right are: Manual Ramirez, Jessica Maya, Danyelle Sheffield, Megan Wilson, Steven Kasik, McKenzie Richie, Cornesha Jarvis, Christopher Gonzalez, Sandro Fernandez.

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**"GATED COMMUNITY"**  
 Very well maintained '86 DWMH with Florida Room and attached carport. This is a great place to live, community pool, clubhouse lots of activities to look forward to. Once you visit you will want to stay forever! Easy to show. #94607 \$59,900

**SHOWS LIKE NEW!**

  
**"PICTURE PERFECT"**  
 Picture Perfect Home - Upgraded bath and kitchen. Shows like a model home. Hot tub on screened porch. Extra parking on side of home for RV or boat. Garage is AC. Furniture is optional. Come take a look! #201420 \$175,000

**PEACE & QUIET!**

  
**"NATURE WELCOMES"**  
 Nice 3/2 on 5 acres with pond, barn for horses. Fenced and crossed fenced. Home has security system and 6x6 walk-in-closet that is a Hurricane "safe" room. Split floor plan, open living. Marble bathrooms. Very private, no neighbors just deer turkey. #94361 \$290,000

**ALL ON TABLE!**

  
**"SPACIOUS LIVING"**  
 IMMACULATE '05 3/2 DWMH on 1 acre. Kitchen has island with drop down counter. Lg. ldr. rm w/sink, pantry and lots of storage. Garden tub, double sinks with vanity and separate shower all in Master bath. #201191 \$124,900

**PREFECT RENTAL!**

  
**"GREAT INVESTMENT"**  
 Look at this price!! 2/1 with addition. Utility shed, lots of trees.....some furnishings stay. Pick up this steal and rent it out for some additional income. #200897 \$39,900

**NEWLY REMODELED!**

  
**"NEED SOME PEACE & QUIET?"**  
 3/2 24x48 DWMH w/12x36 Attached Screen Room. Tool Shed Plus Horse Barn on 4.920 Acres fenced and crossed fenced for horses. Large fenced front yard with gate in driveway. DW home interior being remodeled by owner. #201172 \$185,000

**COME TAKE A LOOK!**

  
**"PRICED RIGHT"**  
 Saddle up the Horses and bring them home to this 2000 3/2 DWMH on 5 fenced and crossed fenced acres. Home has new kitchen cabinets, new wood flooring, garden tub, and is just outside of town! Call today for your showing!! #201613 \$192,000



Submitted photo/OHS

## Students of the week

Wesley Mims, Justina Stokes, Houston Foulke, Maria Olvera, Juan Garcia, Wayne Gunvaldsen, Billie Jo Freeman, Grabiela Borja, Olga Hernandez, Vanessa Reyes, Mindy Qowler, Ricardo Herrera, Marcus Martin.

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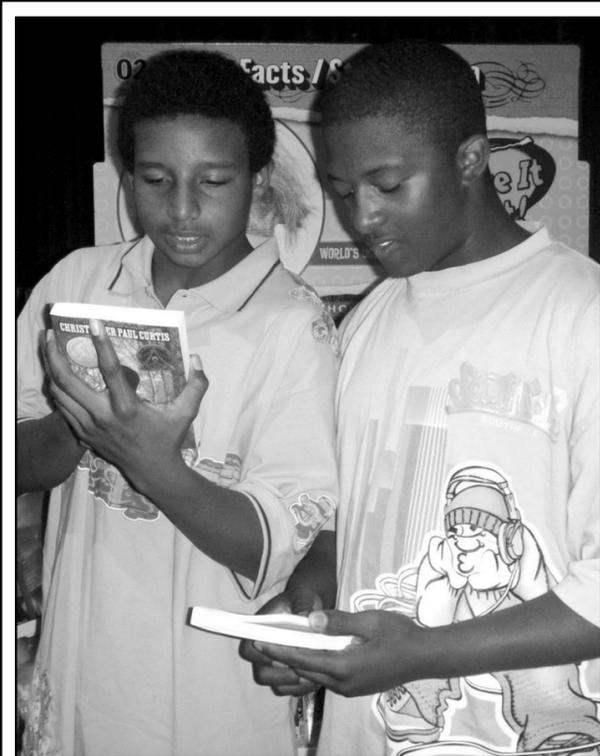
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3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, lg family rm, dock, seawall, storage building, 2006 kitchen appliances, furniture negotiable. Roofover, close to town. Seller financing. MLS#200565 \$199,500



Waterfront 3 bdrm, 2 ba, SWMH, carport, FL rm, family rm, dock, seawall, storage building, 2006 kitchen appliances, furniture negotiable. Roofover, close to town. Seller financing. MLS#200268 \$99,500



## Book Fair SUCCESS at OFC

Submitted photo/OFC  
 During the week of Oct. 6, Okeechobee Freshman Campus hosted the annual book fair. Ms. Fox, with the help of a group of students, did a great job organizing, setting-up and selling to the school community. Because book sales surpassed the \$1000 sales goal, science teacher, Mr. Bohannon, will be covered in silly snot, assistant principal, Mr. Koff, will be mummified, and principal, Mrs. Revels, will receive a pie in the face. Thank you to all of those who helped support the Mavericks!

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**BEAUTIFUL, SPACIOUS MODULAR HOME** on 2.50 acres. Beautiful trees, Fruit orchard. Kitchen has all stainless steel appliances w/child safe locking. Absolutely lovey. Huge pole barn w/workshop, Deck w/pool. Includes a nice vacant lot with plenty of trees. MLS #200986, \$299,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.



**FISHING PARADISE** This is an adorable Park Model on a deep private canal. It has a new metal roof. Water softener and purifier. It is a Condo where you can just move in a Turn Key unit, completely furnished right down to the dishes. MLS #94421, \$124,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.



**A NICE NEIGHBORHOOD**, mobile home with open floor concept, breakfast area in kitchen, Pergo floors easy to maintain. Office area for your business. MLS #201321, \$82,500. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.



**WATERFRONT PROPERTY.** Well maintained DWMH. Beautiful backyard nicely landscaped with waterfall, bridge over stream running through backyard. Many mature trees. Two nice sheds, fish cleaning station with dock. Large private well stocked lake. Circle driveway. MLS #201595, \$94,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.



**WELL BUILT CBS HOME** on beautiful waterfront corner lot. Fenced in area on side yard. Has a mural painted on the wall by Egretta Wells '81. Great starter home. Needs a little TLC. Vacant lot included in sale. MLS #201596, \$120,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.



**WATERFRONT** This is a waterfront on a large lot. It has mature oaks and a nice boat dock. The home is a well maintained home and ready to move in. MLS #201606, \$150,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

# Everglades Elementary kids keep a busy fall schedule

**Kindergarten:** Mrs. Moore would like to remind parents to practice letters, sounds, and sight words with their child each night using the flash cards. Also, read for 100 Book Challenge steps, one step is 15 minutes of reading. In math we are enjoying learning about numbers in our scarecrow counting book. In writing we are writing about what we would do if we had some fall leaves.



Submitted photo/EES

## Students of the Week

Students are achieving excellence every day at Everglades Elementary School. Students of the Week are: Kindergarten: Blaine Rogers, Francisco Hernandez,, Tiadora Sontay-Perez, Alejandro Aguilera, Maya Aguirre; First grade: Cassidy Johnson, Janiyah Epps, Kayla Saunders, Alkecia Clayton, Melanie Urvina-Rodriguez; Second grade: Devin Phillips, Ariel Girardi, Kiana Smith, Cameron Carter, Lyndsey Tribbitt, Shian Koebornik; Third grade: Ricky Courson, Zachary Brazil, Alexas Dillon, George Marshall, Madison Ustry, Mia Lazaro, Alexis Garcia. Fourth grade: Wesley Mitchum, Kirby Gilbert, Kaylie Yingling, Maria Bucio, Summer Clarke; Fifth grade: Briana Burnette, Josie Todd, Steven Streath, Clarissa Aguilera, Lawnna Toole. Congratulations to our many outstanding students!

**Second grade:** Mrs. Brady's class has been busy "falling" into education. We are learning about plants and are growing our own sunflowers. In addition we are learning to regroup. In Language Arts, we are also learning how to write acrostic poems, how to find nouns and plural nouns. We are also practicing our reading fluency. We are very excited about the upcoming Halloween parade and thanks to our "spooktacular" parent helper we have made festive Halloween mobiles complete with a cat, a bat, ghost, and pumpkins.

Ms. Hunt's class is spooked by all of the scary stories that we have been reading. We love trying to guess the endings and have been writing some scariness of our own. We have just finished writing to our Michigan pen-pals and are practicing for our Kindergarten book buddies. We have so many new friends.

Mrs. Campbell's class has been in the first part of second grade. There are lots of new things to learn. Our science chapter is all about heat and light. We have done some very interesting investigations. Ask us what a noun is and we may sing you the noun song!

Mrs. Kirby's class is enjoying the nice fall weather and observing the fall celebrations. We have just finished a Columbus Day salute and are now enjoying Halloween. We are squeezing in these celebrations between all of the other daily activities and hard work. That all includes: addition, subtraction, energy, plural nouns, consonant blends, and writing paragraphs. As you can see we are very, very busy.

Mr. Wright's class has been working hard on improving reading, math, and writing skills. We have planted seeds in science and learned about explorers in Social Studies. Our DIBELS reports have been sent home and we are working on improving those scores in January!

Ms. Kosinski's class has been "interactively" learning this year. We have been using our Mimio board to learn about regroup-

ing in addition. We have also used it to help us learn about nouns, plural nouns, fluency readings, phonetic sorts, and the 2008 election. The class is excited about the use of technology provided by the EETT grand that their teacher is a part of. The students have created a book called If You Gave Ms. Kosinski A Cookie using Audacity and Movie Maker. They have also created a digital story about their first day of school using PhotoStory. In the coming week we will create a new book using Pixie to describe the characteristics of a good leader. Finally we are excited to work with Mrs. Washington's fifth graders on the creation of PSA for "Facts About The 2008 Candidates. The second and fifth graders will work together to make a video about leadership and voting. Our goal is to be more technology advanced by the end of second grade.

The Reading Leadership Team would like to thank all of the students for their great Literacy displays that are currently up in the cafeteria. It is really a great feeling to see the progress that the students make in their literacy and writing skills as the year goes on. A special thank you to the first grade students and their teachers for the great performance at the PTO meeting on Oct. 14. Everyone was touched by the "Pledge Of Allegiance" song that started the meeting.

**Student Council:** Congratulations to the newly elected Student Council Members: President-Cassidy Bond, Vice President-Hannah Collier, Secretary- Steven Fonseca, and Treasurer-Ross Laskey. These officers are elected by the students of Everglades and must be committed to spending a good deal of time serving the school. Our newly elected officers are representing and acting on behalf of all fellow students here at Everglades. They must also strive to be a good example in academics, citizenship, and leadership. Mrs. Hollin, the Student Council sponsor would like to congratulate these officers!

Mrs. Fuller will hold her second RIF book distribution from Oct. 22-29. Every student at Everglades will receive a free book to keep forever. Remember that Reading Is FUNdamental! Sometimes we like to say that reading is FUN!

**Science Committee:** The Science Committee is asking hard questions. Every two weeks Mrs. Beki Moore puts out a "Science Question" developed to make the students think in a scientific way. Our Next question is: "What are the seasons, name the characteristics of each season?" In addition to answering this basic question,

the older students need to also answer: "Why do we have seasons?" The students turn their answers into Mrs. Moore and are recognized for their correct answers. Everglades students think like scientists!

### Dates to remember:

- Oct. 20-No school for students, teacher's workday
- Oct. 23-PTO Fund Raiser begins
- Oct. 24-Special hat day, proceeds go to the March Of Dimes
- Oct. 27 Report Card day
- Oct. 27-30 Red Ribbon Week
- Oct. 31-Student Of The Week Luncheon and Halloween Parade
- Nov. 4-Awards Ceremony: Kindergarten at 8:30, First Grade at 9:30 a.m.
- Nov. 5- Awards Ceremony: 2nd Grade at 8:30, 3rd Grade at 9:30
- Nov. 6-Awards Ceremony: 4th Grade at 8:30 and 5th Grade at 9:30.

### Everglades students visit Bio Station

Fourth grade students at Everglades Elementary are getting ready to go on a field trip to the Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid. There, we will meet scientist who are studying the national habitats of animals and plants in south central Florida. We will do field studies, look at exhibits and find out more about the scrub community.

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Submitted photos/Everglades Elementary  
the Pledge of Allegiance.



Submitted photo/OHS

## Brahmans of the Week

Students are achieving excellence everyday at Okeechobee High School. Brahman of the Week are Roxanne Sheffield, Corey White, Sam Baggett, Nikky Jacobs, Calandra Youmans, Staci Christensen, Maria Rodriguez, Brittany Nichols, Amber Wiggins, KayeDee Parrish, Emily Cortez, and Regina Ball. Congratulations to our students!

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**FORECLOSURE**

5028-H: Foreclosure banner-Basswood CBS home on 3 Lots with screened in-ground pool and fenced back yard. MLS# 201510

5029-M: Spot in the Sun 2005 DW MH on 1/2 acre. Nice & clean, ready to move in. Nice back yard/two storage buildings & trees. MLS# 201534

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- \*5+/- ACRES @ NE 24th St. MLS# 201364
- \*2+/- ACRES @ NW 164th CT, Edwards Subd. \$90,000 MLS# 93740
- \*5+/-ACRES Sunset Strip Airpark @ SW 13th St. MLS# 201396
- \* 2 SIDE BY SIDE 4+ ACRE PARCELS IN OKEECHOBEE LITTLE FARMS MLS# 200262
- \*FORECLOSURE 10+/- acres \$69,000 MLS# 201219
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Share a ride 115  
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Garage/Yard Sale 145  
Personals 150  
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**Open House 1050**  
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Crafts/Supplies 585  
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Children's Items 555  
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Clothing 565  
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Collectibles 575  
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Drapes, Linens & Fabrics 595  
Fireplace Fixture 600  
Firewood 605  
Furniture 610  
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Heating Equipment/Supplies 625  
Household Items 635  
Jewelry 640  
Lamps/Lights 645  
Luggage 645  
Medical Items 650  
Miscellaneous 655  
Musical Instruments 660  
Office Supplies/Equipment 665  
Pets/Supplies/Services 670  
Photography 675  
Plumbing Supplies 680  
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Restaurant Equipment 690  
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# Healthy Start Coalition educates local women

The Healthy Start Coalition of Okeechobee is known for assisting mothers and their babies. The coalition also strives to educate the whole community about the issues which affect the health of mothers and their babies. The coalition is not a source of cash assistance but a source of education and support.

Healthy Start services include childbirth education, parenting education, breastfeeding support, car seat education, emergency transportation, smoking cessation and psychosocial/grief counseling. All services are free to those who consent to participate in the Healthy Start program. Women who are at high risk are urged to participate in the care coordination case management program. The women are followed closely by care coordinators who educate and support the at-risk population. Care coordinators are highly trained para-professionals who have a vast knowledge of community resources. Combining education with support helps to improve birth outcomes, giving babies the healthiest start possible.

The gateway to the Healthy Start program is the Healthy Start



Submitted photo/Teresa Chandler  
The Healthy Start Coalition of Okeechobee team consists of Kay Begin, Carol Staley, Carmen Leon, Becky Smith and Leona Pelhan.

screen. Doctors are mandated by the state of Florida to administer this questionnaire which assesses any potential risks during pregnancy. Each question carries points and scoring six points or more gains access to the program. However, a low-risk woman who merely wants the education may

"self refer" and will be accepted into the program. Access to Healthy Start is based on risk, not on income.

The Healthy Start Coalition hosts the Educational Baby Shower twice each year. Mothers who are invited start with a breakfast of donated foods from local businesses. Booths are set up to explain many issues on parenting such as immunizations, poison safety, developmental milestones, car seat safety and much more. Shower participants visit each booth and listen to a 15 minutes presentation. Each booth gives away small baby items (rattles, sippy cups, pacifiers) and each booth has a drawing for a large baby item (crib, playpen, swing). All participants walk away with a bag of goodies and a lot of education!

If you would like to participate as a volunteer or donate baby items for the next Educational Baby Shower, please contact the Healthy Start administrative office located at 575 S.W. 28th Street in the New Endeavor School, office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; call 863-462-5877 with questions.



Submitted photo/Teresa Chandler  
Seacoast employees, Teresa Lara, assistant branch manager and Melody Hodges, branch manager, sponsor the juice bar at the baby shower and also provided two large baby shower gift baskets for the drawing.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

## Cute Fraulein

Katlyn Brewer, a student at Peace Lutheran Preschool, took part in the school's celebration of German Day on Thursday, Oct. 16. The students ate pretzels and other German foods, did the chicken dance and went on a volkshochmarsch.

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# Upward soccer uses smaller field

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Oakview Baptist Church officials are very pleased with their conversion to a smaller field for their youth soccer program this year.

15 teams with 120 kids from kindergarten through sixth grade are in the middle of an eight game schedule at the church. They play on Saturday and hold one practice per week.

Director of Upward Soccer Kristi Hardy said the smaller field makes it more competitive for the children. Four players match up with four players at a time on the fields that measure 60 by 100 feet. Each player gets to play up to six minutes at a time. Each team has eight players. The smaller kids rotate every three minutes. Each half lasts 18 minutes. During halftime teams hold a 10 minute devotion time. At practice they go through drills, break for a devotion time, and then scrimmage another squad.

"I think the kids like the new format. They get more touches on the ball, and more playing time. I think their skills will develop more," she noted.

With the smaller field, they narrow the goal as well and scoring actually is less than regular soccer matches. While the soccer team has their objective to score a goal, the church also has a more important one, "Our number one goal is to reach Christian families and get them into a church, either to go back to a church, or start attending ours," Hardy noted.

Hardy said soccer coaches she has spoken with tell her this type of soccer is more effective than traditional soccer in the development of skills. She predicted some of these kids will be more prepared when they get old enough to play middle school and high school soccer.

40-50 volunteers assist the Church with the program. They hold eight games on Saturday morning.

The program, now in its third year, costs \$60 if you pre regis-



Submitted photo/Joyce Upthegrove  
Coach Kristi Hardy helps Kayden Beam during a recent upward soccer practice.

tered. Those that registered late paid \$65. Additional children in the same family cost \$45. Included in the price were full uniforms, socks, a book, magnet, water bottle and an awards night celebration.

"The kids get a lot out of this, we hope they win and we win people to Christ," Hardy added.

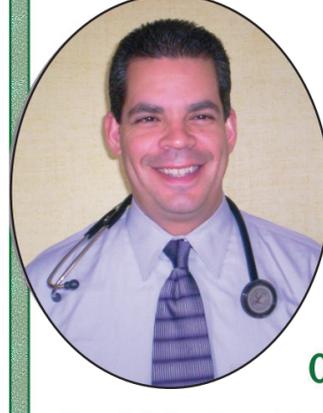
Pam Matthews is also a Director of Upward Soccer which is a national organization.

Church officials said they could create a flag football program in the near future.



Submitted photos/Joyce Upthegrove  
William Riverro (left) controls the ball as Jacob Hardy (right) defends.

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# Area football scores

**Area scores Friday**

Jupiter Christ.	41	John Crull	27
Vero Beach	38	South Frk	14
Westwood	55	PSL	7
Treasure Cst	19	Fort Pierce	0
Deltona	48	Mrtcn Cnty	14
Amrcn Hritge	35	Glades Dy	20
Shrdn Hills	40	Mre Hvn	26
Avon Park	40	Labelle	0
Holy Trinity	44	St. Edwrds	10

Centennial, Sebastian River, Jensen Beach, Okeechobee, Sebring, Pahokee, Lake Placid, Glades Central, Clewiston were idle this week.

**District 13-4A Standings**

Team	W-L	All	PF	P	A
Okeechobee	2-0	5-1	235	126	
Westwood	2-0	6-1	219	104	
Sebastian R.	1-1	3-3	110	123	
Fort Pierce	1-1	2-3	131	196	
Jensen Bch	0-2	2-4	124	174	
Martin Cnty	0-2	0-6	88	219	

District player of the week, Isaac Virgin of Westwood. He accounted for five touchdowns in the Panthers 55-0 victory over Port St. Lucie.

**How Okee opponents did**

Jupiter Christian defeated John Carroll 41-27, Avon Park defeated Labelle 40-0. Sebring was idle. Sebastian River was idle. Glades Day lost to American Heritage Delray Beach 35-20. Fort Pierce lost to Treasure Coast 19-0. Westwood defeated Port St. Lucie 55-0. Jensen Beach was idle. Martin County lost to Deltona 48-14. Clewiston was idle.

**Okee statistics (6 games)**

Passing	G	Att	Comp	%	Yds	TDS	Int
Garret Madrigal	6	77	45	58.4	737	9	2
Rushing	G	Att	Yds	Avg	Td		
Lonnie Pryor	6	146	1,367	9.4	14		
Shane Taggart	6	19	78	4.1	2		
Garrett Madrigal	6	19	-15	-0.8	3		
Erick McQueen	6	17	93	5.5	1		
Kerwin Givens	2	2	19	9.5	0		
Kareem Jones	1	1	5	5.0	0		
Walt Fortner	6	1	22	22.0	1		
Totals	6	210	1565	7.5	22		

**Receiving**

G	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	
Mike Minondo	6	5	100	20.0	1
Lonnie Pryor	6	6	66	11.0	2
Nate Pollard	6	7	132	18.9	2
Walt Fortner	6	15	266	17.7	2
Shane Taggart	6	3	27	9.0	0
Sam Dixon	6	2	58	29.0	0
Kareem Jones	1	1	21	21.0	0
Curtis Everett	1	1	1	1.0	0
Erick McQueen	6	1	8	8.0	0
Totals	6	41	679	16.5	7

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## Golf team eager to compete at regional

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee's young golf squad is confident they can compete with the best high school golfers in the state when they travel to the regional Tuesday in Palm Bay.

The top teams from Palm Beach County north to Melbourne will compete in Tuesday's tournament. It will be held at the Majors Golf Club at Bayside Lakes.

The team will travel there on Sunday and then get in a practice round on Monday before an early tee time on Tuesday.

Senior Corey White, who shot a 79 at the district tournament, said he is real excited to bring his team to the regional. He made it as an individual last year.

"The guys pulled together and shot the best they could that day, Tuesday. I was happy to see it," he noted.

White has been a mentor to the younger guys this year. He will team up with mostly sophomores and freshman at the regional. White said he's gotten help in previous years from upper classmen and he's only returning the favor now.

"They all look up to me and it's fun to hang out with them. They need to have a good shot to keep it going over the next two years," he noted.

White also excels in tennis and basketball. He said he would like to play as many sports as he can at college next year.

Golf Coach Mark Ward thanked the KOA country club and the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club for their assistance this year. He noted the KOA donated driving range fees so the golf team could work on their swings this summer. He said that was a big reason why the team achieved so much.

Terry Lanman, Golf pro at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club, and the Club itself, were praised for their support of the team. They allow the teams to play their matches at the club for free. They also donate practice time for the kids. Many of them take advantage of it with long hours on the links.

"I think it's terrific what these kids have done, they are good kids who want to learn. They are really dedicated and they are out here every day practicing. I think the future looks bright, we have a couple of eighth graders that are ready to make an impact next year," Lanman added.

Jim Waldau of Waldau Junior Golf was also praised for helping the team members get an interest in golf at a young age. Mike Watson said he didn't pick up a golf club until he attended a Waldau Junior golf clinic. After that, he was hooked.

Watson admits he practices 12 hours per day on days he's off from school. He notes the hard work has paid off with lower golf scores.

"I'm very excited about going to regional. I'm glad Corey got to go to regional as a senior."

Watson said he'll be battling butterflies a little when he tees off Tuesday. However, he said he has to keep his mind on business in order to shoot a good score.

"I'm sure I'll be a little nervous. I'm sure after the first shot all the jitters will come out and I'll put in a good round," he noted.

Other members on the team are Tyler Finney, Richard Donegan, Tim Gray, Tony Devoss, Justin Morgan and Tyler Platt.

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