



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 269

Friday, October 24, 2008

50¢ Plus tax

## Briefs

### IRSC hosts Hispanic Health Fair

The Public is Invited to this Free Event  
 Indian River State College, the Mexican Consulate and other health care agencies will co-sponsor a health fair focusing on the Hispanic community Saturday, Nov. 1. Agencies will be conducting various screenings for HIV, cancer, diabetes and dental issues. IRSC will also provide information about its educational programs and services. The event is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Koblegard Student Union at the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce.

Over ten agencies will provide information and screenings for the Hispanic community on health and safety issues including hypertension, diabetes, sexually transmitted diseases, heart disease, obesity, nutrition, dental health, women's health, mental health and more.

### Board of Realtors hosts golf tourney

The Okeechobee County Board of Realtors will be holding their 15th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club. The money raised will be used to present local high school seniors with scholarships towards furthering their education.

Registration will begin at 7 a.m. Hole sponsor, tee sponsor and green sponsor's are available and the teams consist of 4 golfers. Lots of prizes available: Closest to Pin, Longest drive and Hole-in-one. Call Kathy Godwin 863-763-8222 or 863-634-7728 for details. Hope this will be a great event.

## Drought Index

**Current:** 492  
**Source:** Florida Division of Forestry  
**Local Burn Ban:** None

## Lake Levels

**14.88 feet**  
 Last Year: 10.23 feet

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

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# Christmas festival planned

## Improvements proposed for Okee-Tantie

By Pete Gawda  
 Okeechobee News

There was good news and bad at the Thursday, Oct. 23 meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission. The good news is that there will be a new Christmas celebration this year and the 2009 Okeechobee County Fair will be bigger and better

than ever. The bad news is the cost of rehabilitating Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina.

"Christmas in the Country" will be held at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4. The event will include a tree lighting ceremony, hay rides, pony rides, Christmas light displays, bounce houses, a disc jockey and food and drinks.

Commissioners voted to spend up to \$2,500 for the event. The vote was 4-1 with commissioner Ray Domer playing

Scrooge.

"I don't think we have any business doing this," Mr. Domer stated. He feared that there would be indirect, hidden costs beyond the amount authorized.

Linda Syfrett of the Okeechobee County Fair Association gave a "state of the fair" address. She said that before the first fair in 2007 her association was able to secure in kind donations in excess of \$300,000 for fill work at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center. That included donations of fill dirt, hauling,

compacting and leveling. The inaugural fair had 15,100 in paid attendance. There were 24 rides and over 50 exhibitors. The association spent over \$6,000 for improvements to the electrical service.

In 2008 a new tradition was started when the cattlemen's association rodeo was held in connection with the fair. Paid attendance was 17,200. There were over 30 rides and over 70 exhibitors. The 2008 fair conducted the first Miss Okeechobee County Fair Beauty Pageant. The associa-

tion spent an additional \$10,000 for improvements to the electrical service.

In 2009 the association will be spending over \$24,000 on entertainment that will be free. Instead of big name entertainment, there will be several local bands. There will be pig races and a petting zoo. The association is anticipating over 14 independent vendors and 60 exhibitors. There will be a Bluegrass Weekend with several bluegrass bands.

See **Christmas** — Page 11

## Superior rating: OHS Blazin' Brahmans



Submitted photo/Don Fraser  
**The Okeechobee High School Blazin' Brahman Band performed in the Treasure Coast Crown Jewel Marching Band Festival Saturday, Oct. 11, where they performed Jeckyll and Hyde. Okeechobee placed third in the finals competition on Sunday, Oct. 12.**

## Marching band in competitions

The Okeechobee High School Blazin' Brahman Band was one of sixteen bands to enter the Treasure Coast Crown Jewel Marching Band Festival last Saturday, Oct. 11, in Vero Beach.

The OHS Band has been working on their half-time show since July and Saturday their efforts paid off. At 11:45 a.m. the band entered a very muddy field in competition to perform Jeckyll and Hyde. Nervous fans in the crowd included alumni, parents and administration from Okeechobee High School.

The Blazin' Brahman band entertained the crowd and

received many compliments about the quality of the show. The band completed their show and put away their equipment to await awards.

When the awards ceremony began, the students and staff at OHS held their breath. They would have to place in the top six bands in order to continue to the finals portion of the competition. In preliminary competition, the band earned a rating of "Superior" for the captions of Auxiliary and Marching and Maneuvering. Their overall score was 78.5 out of 100, just enough to get them into finals.

The second performance of the day was even better than

the first and the band again retreated to the stands to await scores. In final competition, Okeechobee again faced bands from as far away as Key West and as close as Jensen Beach High School. Of the six bands in finals, Okeechobee High School placed third, a first in history for the Brahmans. The OHS Band received superior ratings in the captions of Individual Music and Individual Marching.

The OHS Band will continue their competitive season at the University Classic in Orlando on Oct. 25 and performs in support of our football team at each football game.

# Woman ID'd — husband accused of her murder

By Eric Kopp  
 Okeechobee News

Investigators from the Highlands County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) have arrested a Burbank, Calif., man in connection in the slaying of his wife.

The woman, now identified as Virginia Navarro Barnes, 62, of Burbank, Calif., was found dead in a citrus grove in the Cornwell area on Oct. 13.

Her husband, James Higley Barnes, 64, was arrested and charged Wednesday, Oct. 22, with first degree murder. He was booked into the Highlands County Jail and is being held

there without bond, said HCSO Detective Lieutenant Tim Lethbridge.



**James H. Barnes**

Lt. Lethbridge said the woman had been shot, but declined to say what type of weapon was used. He did say that the murder weapon has been recovered.

"He (Barnes) stated that

See **Murder** — Page 11

# Alcohol-related crashes on the rise

By Charles M. Murphy  
 Okeechobee News

Alcohol-related crashes accounted for a large percentage of crashes in Okeechobee County during 2007 according to the annual crash report released by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

The report showed 14 fatal crashes in Okeechobee last year with six of those involving alcohol. There were 63 crashes with injuries that involved alcohol and another 141 crashes that involved property damage.

Overall the number of crashes declined in Okeechobee and fatalities dropped from

19 to 14. As of June 30, there had been eight fatal crashes in Okeechobee this year.

The report listed three fatalities involving motorcycles, and 21 motorcycle accidents with injuries. There were six crashes injuring bicyclists and 15 that injured pedestrians.

The report noted crashes that involved commercial motor vehicles declined from 67 to 58 in the past year. Three of those crashes involved deaths and 48 of them involved injuries.

Glades County had a drop in fatalities from eight in 2006

See **Alcohol** — Page 11

# Garrett takes top honors at fishing tourney in Clewiston

By Teresa Mataushek

Okeechobee News



## Outdoors

Chan Garrett took top honors in the October Taylor Creek Bass Club of Okeechobee Tournament held on Lake Okeechobee in Clewiston. A 3.47 lbs fish anchored his catch for the win. The team of Chan Garrett and Dave Smith won the "Calcutta" with their total weight. Chan Garrett took the Big Fish Award as well.

Dave Stout finished in second place Ernie Johnson in third place, followed by Charles Eaton in fourth place.

The Taylor Creek Bass Club meets at the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528 on the second Thursday of each month. Tournaments are held the following

weekend. New boaters and (especially) non-boaters are welcome. For information call Dave Stout at 863-467-2255

Don't forget to head down to the Agri-Civic Center for the 23rd Annual Lee McAllister Memorial, free Kids Day Fishing Festival on Sunday, Oct. 26. The festival is sponsored by the Taylor Creek Bass Club along with support from several local businesses. The event will begin at 10 a.m. and last until 3 p.m. Participants are asked to only enter from Highway 710.

From 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. a Bassmaster Casting Kids Competition will be held. Following

See **Fishing** — Page 8



Submitted photo  
**Chan Garrett took top honors as well as the Big Fish award at the October tournament for Taylor Creek Bass Club in Clewiston.**

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Submitted photo

Dixie Echoes Quartet in concert

The Dixie Echoes Quartet will be in concert Saturday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. at His House Fellowship Church of the Nazarene, 425 S.W. 28th St. A love offering will be taken. For more information call 863-763-7113.

Okeechobee Forecast

**Today:** Rain and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 81. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%.  
**Tonight:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71. South southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Extended Forecast

**Saturday:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 2pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. Calm wind becoming south southeast around 5 mph.  
**Saturday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. Northwest wind around 5 mph.  
**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 7-9-3; **Play 4:** 9-6-4-1; **Lotto:** 4-6-26-27-33-45; **Fantasy 5:** 2-5-8-26-31. Numbers selected Thursday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 8-8-8; **Play 4:** 9-0-3-7.

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Okeechobee News

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# Warrant arrest leads to felony drug charge

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News  
An Okeechobee man was arrested on a felony drug charge Tuesday after detectives from the

Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force reportedly found over 60 grams of suspected marijuana in his vehicle.  
Alexander Gonzalez-Gonzalez,

34, N.W. 30th St., was arrested on a felony charge of possession of marijuana over 20 grams and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$6,000.



**Alexander Gonzalez-Gonzalez**

He was also arrested on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the sale of cocaine. His bond on that charge was set at \$5,000.

A task force arrest report indicates that a detective from that unit stopped Gonzalez-Gonzalez

in the 4500 block of N.W. 30th St. at 12:58 p.m. on Oct. 21 because he knew there was a warrant calling for his arrest.

After the man was placed under arrest, the detective searched the man's 2000 Ford F-150 pickup truck. During this search the detective reportedly found 61.5 grams of a green leafy substance inside the vehicle. The substance was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana.

The detective's arrest report goes on to state that he also found a partially-smoked cigar that, when field tested, also indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana. The cigar weighed approximately .1 grams, added the report.

The detective, along with two other task force detectives, then

went to the man's home to search the residence.

According to the report, the detectives found a safe in the man's bedroom. Inside the safe was 93.1 grams of a green leafy substance that, when field tested, indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana, added the report.

A second substance was also found in the safe. It was field tested and indicated a positive result

for the presence of cocaine, continued the report. That substance reportedly weighed 31.7 grams.

The detective's report also stated that a full pack of small cigars was found on the front seat of the truck and an empty cigar pack was found on the floorboard of the back seat. Also found in the rear driver's side door panel was a bag containing cigar tobacco, the report added.

# Routine traffic stop ends in drug charge

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News  
After stopping a pickup truck for speeding, detectives from the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force arrested the driver on felony drug charges.

Billy Cecil Bailey, 50, Okeechobee, was arrested Tuesday, Oct. 21, on two counts of possession of a controlled substance. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$10,000.

At 3:56 p.m. Tuesday, a detective stopped a white Ford pickup in the 300 block of S.E. Eighth Ave. for going 40 mph in a 25 mph zone, stated a task force arrest report. The driver of the

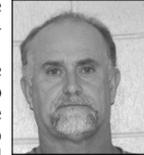
truck was identified as Bailey.

Bailey was placed under arrest after it was learned by task force detectives that he was in possession of 21

oxycodone pills, two methadone pills and two unidentified pills, added the report.

The arrest report goes on to state that detectives also learned that Bailey did not have a prescription for the pills.

Bailey was also given a verbal warning for the speeding violation, stated the report.



**Billy Cecil Bailey**

# Teen charged with hitting deputy

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News  
What started as a truancy issue Wednesday morning escalated to the point that a 16-year-old girl was booked into the county jail on two felony charges.

Nicole Futch was charged with the felonies of battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting arrest with violence. She was also charged with the misdemeanor of possession of marijuana under 20 grams.

Deputy Robbie Lamb of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) indicated in his arrest report that the girl's mother told him that Futch was refusing to go to school and that she was tired of fighting with the teen.

When the deputy located the girl in the 900 block of N.E. 10th St. he told her he would be taking her to school.

The deputy's report states that Deputy Luann Green performed a pat search on the teen and found a bag that contained a small amount of a green leafy substance. That substance was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana.

Deputy Lamb's report states the suspected marijuana weighed 2 grams.

As Deputy Lamb placed the girl under arrest she tried to run, states his report. The deputy stated that Futch "became very combative" as he tried to restrain her. At one point she jerked her arm away from the OCSO deputy,

striking him in the right side of his face, the report added.

Futch reportedly continued to resist and scream at the two deputies and, according to Deputy Lamb's report, swung her arms at him and struck him in the throat.

However, with Deputy's Green's help the girl was subdued and taken into custody.

Deputy Lamb's report does not indicate if Futch was released to her mother or if she was taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Fort Pierce.



**Nicole Futch**

# Text message leads to arrest

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

A discussion between a man and woman over a text message on the man's phone from another woman culminated in his arrest after he was charged for punching the woman in the face.

Corey Nathan Hardy, 27, N.W. 12th St., was arrested Wednesday, Oct. 22, on a felony charge of burglary of a conveyance and a misdemeanor charge of battery (domestic violence). He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$5,000.

Detective Bill Saum of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD) stated that Hardy was arrested by OCPD Officer Belen Reyna after the man hit the woman about the neck and face.

According to Detective Saum,

the 29-year-old victim locked the doors on her vehicle then began to ask Hardy about the message on his cell phone.

"She locked the door and asked him about it because she was afraid he would get mad," said the detective. "He got mad and told her to hit him, but she refused."

Detective Saum said Hardy apparently reached his hand through an open window and began to slap the woman with an open hand and punch her in the face with a closed fist.

The OCPD detective said Hardy was charged with burglary by Officer Reyna because he reached through the window and unlocked the car for the purpose of hitting her.

Detective Saum said the woman was trying to leave the area when Hardy opened the door.

It's not known if the victim received medical treatment, even though Detective Saum said bruising was visible about the woman's face.



**Corey Nathan Hardy**



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**November 4**

# ELECT



**Margaret Garrard Helton**

For **Okeechobee County Commissioner**

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08

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**AMENDMENT 2:** The Florida Marriage Amendment, also known as Proposition 2 and The Marriage Protection Amendment, is a proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage in Florida. In order to pass, the amendment will require a 60 percent majority of those voting in the election. As of Sept. 8, a slight majority of Floridians support the ballot measure (55 percent), but not 60 percent; 41 percent oppose the measure. The amendment as written includes a clause prohibiting judges from overturning the law. This is a response to what happened in Massachusetts, where a judge overturned that state's law banning same-sex marriage. This answers those who say that we "have a law" as we can clearly see that if an activist judge in another state can overturn a law, what is there to prevent one from doing the same here?

**VOTE:** I usually vote "no" on all proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution because these are things that should be handled by the legislature as laws, not made part of our constitution. However, Amendment 1 is actually something needed to clean up a problem in the constitution. So that one is appropriately handled by a vote to amend the constitution. The others should be handled by the Legislature. For example, with Amendment 2, Florida already has a law stating the same thing. It does not need to be in the Constitution too.

**JROTC:** If Colonel Saucier was following the Army's curriculum for the JROTC program, then having a substitute come in and take over should not be any problem. The Army provides books and written materials and having dealt with the Army, I am sure they have specified goals and achievements that should be met each nine weeks.

**TAXES:** Considering that the tax system is about to be restructured for the purpose of income redistribution, I would like to propose another option. Instead of paying income tax, I would like to sponsor a needy American for \$22 a month, and once a year receive a photo and letter from the beneficiary. Doing so would make me feel so much better than the present tax system.

**DEAN:** I don't understand why the parents at the school board meeting said the deans were not helping the students and the school should have provided counseling. The man assigned to take over the class is a former dean. If they need help from a dean, he would be someone to talk to. When other teachers had to be out or leave, the students didn't need counseling. If having a teacher leave means you are so upset you need a counselor, is that attachment to the teacher appropriate for a school setting?

**HALLOWEEN:** Do you remember trick-or-treating as a child? If you were still a child before 2004 in Okeechobee you would. That is when it all went awry. 2004 - The Homecoming Game was on the same day and Trick-or-Treating was canceled. 2005 - Hurricane Wilma made landfall on the 24th and Trick-or-Treaters were advised that conditions were too risky. After that point, any children who have been introduced to the celebration of Halloween in this town are led to believe that a booth in Flagler Park or the Agri-Civic Center represents the spirit of the holiday. Remember when you were young and Halloween meant that your neighbors would put up decorations and give out candy? Remember the fun walking around the neighborhood and seeing all the costumes? Let's bring Halloween back to Okeechobee!

**HOLIDAYS:** I miss the old-fashioned Okeechobee Halloweens of 20 years ago. Remember when Yearling Middle School would hold an annual Halloween carnival and everyone would go. There would be hundreds of little kids there having fun. Remember when nearly everyone in town dressed up? All the bank tellers would be in costume. The people at the courthouse and city hall would dress up. Convenience store clerks, folks at the grocery stores, everywhere you went, people were in costume. Even the school crossing guards would be in costume. Remember when the elementary schools let the kids bring their costumes and have a Halloween costume parade at school? Let's bring back Halloween and have fun again.

**911 CALLS:** Say you need to call 911 from an out of state cell phone number, how would they know where you really are? My granny is here visiting from Tennessee and she has a cell phone from there, what if she needed to call 911 for some reason? *Detective Bill Saum and Dispatcher Glenda Wilson of the Okeechobee City Police Department respond: We use the enhanced 911 system. With that system the call is tracked to the nearest tower. The call is also recorded here at the Police Department. The system does not track or pin point the exact location on any cell phone. When your call is answered you should: Give your LOCATION - CELL PHONE NUMBER INCLUDING AREA CODE, YOUR NAME AND THE DESCRIPTION OF YOUR VEHICLE. Do this in this order. First give your location as best as you can. Use landmarks if need be. We will do our best to figure out where you are. KEEP CALM, SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY. Next give your cell phone number with area code so we can try to call you back if disconnected. KEEP CALM SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY - IF WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND YOU WE CANNOT HELP YOU! Next give your name and home state so we know who we are looking for and can look up your driver's license information. This is why it is so very important to keep it current. If you can't communicate, it is of utmost importance that we are able to find someone who knows or is related to you. KEEP CALM, SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY. Lastly give your vehicle or surrounding description. If you are in our jurisdiction we may be able to figure out where you are. I hope this helped.*

**KIDS IN BASSWOOD:** I've read the complaints about high school kids walking in the road in Basswood in the pre-dawn hours. I drive that way, too, and yes, they do cause the traffic to slow down, even to stop sometimes to get around the crowds. And they do saunter their way to the bus, slowly dragging themselves onto it. They surely go as slowly to their seats, holding up the drivers who cannot move until their passengers are seated. And often I, too, wish that electric cattle prods were acceptable for moving the kids along. But all you can do is take a breath, maybe 2, and wait. If they had sidewalks to walk on, much of the problem would be alleviated, but they don't, so the alternatives are to wade through deep, wet grass, often hiding trash and other booby-traps wearing the clothes they'll have to wear all day, and to walk in high heels over the soft and uneven earth, stumble over the litter and dog refuse that can line the road through that neighborhood. In the dark. None any of us would appreciate it either. If the county could keep it mowed, that could help. The end of daylight savings time might make a difference, too, but maybe not. No influence I know of will make a teenager move any faster than they are willing to. Ever had one of those? It's surely not the bus driver's fault, and I can't imagine that the entire sheriff's department could have any lasting effect. Maybe a working crew of cowboys with dogs and whips at the ready, but most of them are busy, too. Meanwhile, we can fantasize such solutions while we put our trucks in park, take another sip of coffee, and be glad for each of them that they won't be adolescents forever.

**COACH:** This is about the article in the paper where this coach says there is no official dress code for coaches. Well then let's throw out the dress code for high school students too.

**MCCAIN:** I am so tired of hearing about McCain's time as a prisoner of war and his time overseas in the service. I have a brother who died from tuberculosis that he contracted over there and one brother lost an eye, one brother lost an arm. My uncle was a POW in Japan; one uncle was a POW in Germany; a cousin had Agent Orange and my husband was missing in action in WW II, he was a pilot.

**CABLE PROBLEMS:** Anyone who is having problems with the cable company. If we would just stick together they might actually give us back some decent channels. They keep taking them away and all the channels they give us are awful, from Palm Beach and the coast. If we would all call and complain we might actually get some decent channels back and get something done.

**DITCHES:** I would appreciate if someone would come out and dig out the ditches in Basswood on 39th so that they would drain properly. Is there someone I could call?

# Letters to the Editor

## Reporting was accurate

My name is Tom Pasquarella and I was present in the school board meeting where the students who I am very proud to say belong to our community, stood up as character witnesses to the leadership of the Colonel.

I am writing in direct response to the letter to the editor titled, "JROTC parent disputes reporting."

The students were impressive and bold to speak on his behalf and they deserve credit for how they responded.

What was not impressive is that I did hear many state that the Colonel "was the program" and that if he did not return they would leave the program and there would not be a program.

I have to admit the tension in that meeting was palpable and at time there was some character assassination done by a parent or two. The problem with that meeting was that it seemed that they were trying to force the school board to reinstate the Colonel without due process and that was not going to happen. The board was not supposed to allow the speaking about the Colonel because it was an open investigation, but allowed it because of the turnout and wanted the students to have their say. I commend the board on their decision.

The reporting on the meeting done by Chauna Aguilar was awesome and she stated the facts as they happened, and to hear someone who was at that meeting stating that he was misquoted -- after being there to witness it all -- was shocking. I had heard this parent's every word and I was shocked at how far he went to denigrate and belittle the work of the administration by bringing up the fact that there were, "pregnant girls getting an education, as if becoming pregnant before finishing high school is an acceptable practice." I believe that these girls that get pregnant and finish school are courageous which shows me that even though mistakes are made, that should not hinder your education. I may disagree with their decision, but they are entitled to finish high school with their class if possible.

Furthermore, he brought up the GSA, and I am not entirely sure why he did, because it did not make sense in regards to the

issue at hand. It was not like the school board did not try to uphold the abstinence only policy.

This parent went as far as saying that the administration did not support this program and that was furthest from the truth. Knowing Mrs. Wiersma and praying with her, the only thing I ever heard her say was that we need prayer and we need to seek God's wisdom. She knew this was a hard hit to the school and the program and she wanted to know what God would have them do. From the very moment this occurred, we as ministers started praying for all parties involved, from the Sergeant involved, to the Colonel, to the alleged victim, to the cadets and their parents, I know that God will work this out and the program will be stronger for it. I believe as I did that night this is a time where we should come together as a community and pray through this and seek what is right for our students along with the administration, board, cadets, and parents.

This parent had the right to speak. He had the right to write this letter to the editor, but when there is an attack made on another without cause, I must speak my piece. I believe that the school board was wise in its decision to wait for the law to do its work, that the administration was just as upset and bothered by the chain of events, and that everyone involved in this program from the parents, administrators, and board just want to see the program continue and more students to be impacted by positive discipline in the future.

Advice for you cadets: I believe that you were sincere and really love the Colonel and I know that you may be having some difficulty with the subs, but this is the time that you can make your Colonel proud and live the way he taught you - respecting those in authority over you. That will be the biggest form of respect.

In closing, I commend Chauna for her reporting the facts, I for one relived that interesting night where I saw the students on fire for a cause they believed in.

**God bless,  
Tom Pasquarella**

## Thanks for the support

The family of "Bill" William T. Weeks would like to thank all of

those who have shown their love and support for Bill since he was burned on March 28, of this year. Bill suffered greatly though this ordeal but he comforted by the knowledge that his family was take care of by his friends and family. To all those who helped, too many to list, we thank you. Some of those who helped we didn't even know your names but we received your gifts to love. We pray that our God who knows all hearts will bless you with many blessings as you have blessed us.

With our sincerest gratitude and love,

**The William "Bill" T. Weeks family**

## Breast Cancer Walk Support appreciated

A big thank you to all who helped with donations and participation at the Celebrity Servers Night at the Buckhead Ridge Women of the Moose. I appreciate everyone who supported me and donated for the 5K Breast Cancer Walk.

**Thank you to all  
Malinda Wood**

## Job well done

On behalf of the Property Appraiser's staff, Celeste Watford, Tax Collector and her staff, I would like to commend Close Construction and Mr. Donnie Oden, Capital Improvement Projects Manager for the County, and his staff, for the job they are doing on the Alderman Building.

They have been very professional in their work. It has been done in a timely fashion with great consideration given to the employees and the public doing business here.

Be assured that we do appreciate their effort to work with us while doing their job.

**Bill Sherman  
Okeechobee County Property Appraiser**

## Computing column helpful to many

Congratulations to the *Okeechobee News* for improving our hometown newspaper quality and coverage of local only news. It was a difficult decision to change the format and publication from daily to three times a week. But any thinking person will recognize that a cost vs. benefits analysis with present operating expenses dictated this change. I for one applaud it.

Also as a 73 year old I especially appreciate the new computer articles by Diane Timmons entitled "Computing for Seniors." When I was in high school and college in the 1950s, computers were not on the scene. Now they are even in

grade school. Personally, I'm the longest licensed Realtor and Appraiser in the Okeechobee Board of Realtors, which some time ago has gone 100 percent computer. Also, all recorded property transactions and records are put on the internet by the Okeechobee Property Appraisers office.

Personally my company Buyer Broker Realty simply refers listings and focuses instead on representing buyers only, who need to know and understand local values and trends so they are comfortable with demonstrable market value and their offer to purchase. Computing for Seniors is a real asset in Okeechobee News and for me in my profession, representing property buyers.

**Bill F. Stegkemper  
CRS Realtor, Previous two-term NRA director**

## Personal opinions

To begin, I want everyone who reads this letter to know I'm not a writer -- I'm just an elderly person.

I have two subjects I want to comment on.

**First: Amendment 2:** I think that same sex marriages should never be allowed in the U.S.A. I think the reason they want it legal is so they can adopt orphan children here and abroad and raise them in their lifestyle. Just the thought of it alone is totally morbid to me.

As far as seniors or other couples living together as friends or partners don't have to worry about anything.

First off, everyone should have a will and then executor of the estate has to see that the wishes of said person are carried out. In case of sickness, etc. There's the living will whom the party has a designated person to fulfil his/her wishes if they are unable to. Both of these wills should be recorded with the clerk of court.

**Number 2: Uniforms:** The public shouldn't have to say anything about how the coaches' dress. Being they are employees of the Okeechobee County Schools, there should be a dress code for both teachers (including coaches) and students as the represent not only school but the whole community of Okeechobee.

Furthermore, if it's all right for coaches to dress as they do, then how would you feel if your child's female teacher came to school wearing shorts and halters not bigger than a string bikini -- how would you feel? So coaches, put on slacks, shirts with team colors and stop acting like juveniles.

**Christopher Winkler**

# Community Calendar

## Friday, Oct. 24

**Tops Take off Pounds Sensibly #669** meets at 9 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. The public is invited. All persons interested in a sensible approach to losing weight and becoming a part of a caring group are welcome to come and see what we are all about. For information, contact Ollie Morgret at 800-932-8677.

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

**A.A.** meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. It will be an open speaker meeting.

**Highlands Social Dance Club** welcomes the public to their dance every Friday, from 7 until 10 p.m. at the Sebring Lions Club on Sebring Parkway, one mile east of U.S. 27 in Sebring. Tickets are \$5 for members and \$6 for guests. For information, call 863-471-0559 or 863-385-6671.

Compulsive overeaters are invited to a weekly meeting. **Overeaters Anonymous** (OA) meets at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue on Fridays, 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.

## Saturday, Oct. 25

**Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** weekend noon Open Discussion; **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick Group Step Study 7 p.m.; **N.A.** Nowhere Left To Go Group Open Discussion 8 p.m. *\*The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12-step fellowships.*

A group class in **ballroom dancing** is being offered in Okeechobee at Church of Our Saviour Parrish Hall, 200 N.W. Third Street on Saturday afternoons at 4 p.m. The cost for the hour lesson is \$10. Private instructions are also available. Come and enjoy the fun with or without a partner. For more information call 772-794-9040.

## Sunday, Oct. 26

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

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

**Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972

(Behind Napa Auto Parts), **A.A.** weekend noon meeting OD-Open Discussion; SS-Step Study; BT-Basic Text; SP-Speaker *\*The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12-step fellowships.* **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick (OD) 7 p.m. OD-Open Discussion; SS-Step Study; BT-Basic Text; SP-Speaker *\*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 United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. This will be an open meeting.

**Foster Parent Orientation** will be hosted by the Hibiscus Children's Center on the last Monday of every month from 6 until 7 p.m. The orientation is for those interested in fostering or adopting in Okeechobee County. This meeting requires no RSVP and is a question/answer forum. It will be at the IRCC Okeechobee Campus, 2229 N.W. Ninth Ave. For information, call the Foster Care Program at 1-800-403-9311.

**Narcotics Anonymous** meets at 7 p.m. for open discussion at the Just for Today Club, 101 Fifth Ave. For information call 863-634-4780.



Submitted photo/Cathy Womble

## Barbie Cake

**Shelby Padgett is a member of the Christian Home Educators of Okeechobee's cake decorating class which is instructed by Cathy Womble each year. Here she shows off her cake that she decorated during the final class for the year.**

# 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.

**Advertising Director:** Judy Kasten

**News Editor:** Katrina Elskan

**National Advertising:** Joy Parrish

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- Joe Smyth, Chairman
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**For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2**

# Community Events

## 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.

## BHR VFD to host spaghetti dinner

BHR VFD will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, **Nov. 1**. Donation of \$5. Call 863-532-9015 or 863-467-8220 for information.

# Obituaries

## Robert 'Bob' Allen Sandlin, 68

LIGHTHOUSE POINT — Robert "Bob" Allen Sandlin, died Monday, Oct. 20, 2008, in Hospice By the Sea in Boca Raton. He honorably served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve from graduation in 1957 until 1964. He relocated to Deerfield Beach, in 1974.



Bob received his nursing pin in 1979 and gave his life's work to helping others in their struggle to live with encouraging faith and strength. He dedicated 27 years as Director of Cardiac Cath Lab with Dr. Zachariah P. Zachariah in Fort Lauderdale. He was the owner of Style Studio Custom Motorcycle Shop in Okeechobee.

Bob was a member of Church of Our Savior Episcopal Church in Okeechobee, and was a longtime member of the Columbus Moose Lodge. Bob was treasured by all as a husband, father, "Paps", colleague and friend.

Born in Cullman, Ala. Nov. 5, 1939, Mr. Sandlin was the son of Bryce M. and Coye A. Ponder Sandlin; he married Patricia L. Voelz, May 24, 1958.

Mr. Sandlin was preceded in death by his father.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years; his mother, Coye Sandlin of Indianapolis; children, Marc (Tyleia) Sandlin and Michele (Gary) Bell, both of Okeechobee; granddaughters, Megan Bell, Krystal (Tim) Lofton and Ashley Belle Sandlin, all of Okeechobee; a great-granddaughter, Trinity Lea Lofton of Okeechobee; a sister, LaNeil Plummer of Indianapolis; a brother, Donald (Geri) Sandlin of Columbus; an uncle, Bob Barron of Florida; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The funeral will be 11 a.m. Friday (today) at Barkes, Weaver & Glick Funeral Home on Jonathan Moore Pike, in Columbus, Ind., with The Rev. Marc Vance officiating. Calling will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday and from 10 a.m. until service time today. Burial will be at Garland Brook Cemetery, Columbus, Ind..

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice By the Sea, 1531 W. Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, FL 33486, cards are available at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be sent to the Sandlin family at [www.barkesweaverglick.com](http://www.barkesweaverglick.com).

## Friends of the Library to elect board

The election of officers for the Friends of the Okeechobee Library Board for the coming year will be held on Tuesday, **Nov. 4** at 4:30 p.m. in the library board room. The nominations are as follows: Marion Davis, President; Jan Fehrman, Vice-President; Hazel Parnis, Secretary; Renee Witter Treasurer, Janet McKenna, Membership Chairman. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. The board meets the first Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

## Class of 99' reunion

Plans are in motion for the Class of 1999 reunion on the weekend of Nov. 7-8. For more information go to [www.myspace.com/OHS1999](http://www.myspace.com/OHS1999) or email OHS99-GRADS@yahoo.com.

## 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.

## 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.

## Down home breakfast planned Sunday

On Sunday, **Oct. 26**, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., The Okeechobee Chapter No. 128 Order of the Eastern Star and Okeechobee Lodge No. 237, F&AM will host a breakfast at the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge, 107 NW 5th Ave., Okeechobee. Breakfast will consist of biscuits and sausage gravy, eggs, hash brown casserole, sausage, bacon, grits, fruit and orange juice and plenty of hot coffee.

## OHS Class of 1979 plans reunion

Join in a celebration at the 30 year reunion of the Class of 1979 for Okeechobee High School on Friday, **Nov. 7**. The Class of '79 will gather at the homecoming football game at 7:30 p.m. After the game, they will meet at Kahootz for refreshments and to reminisce with old friends. Saturday, Nov. 8 there will be a dinner dance at Good Spirits special event room.

Meet and greet friends at Happy Hour in the Tiki bar at 6 p.m., dinner is at 7 p.m. with dancing afterwards. For information and tickets go to [www.OHS1979.com](http://www.OHS1979.com) or call Diane Mitchum Prescott at 863-634-1257. Class of '79 members are encouraged to spread the word about the reunion.

## 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.

## 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.

## First United Methodist Women sponsor Bazaar

The First United Methodist Women of Okeechobee invite you to attend our Annual Bazaar on Saturday, **Nov. 1** from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall, 200 N.W. Second St. in Okeechobee. There will be a variety of crafts, quilted items, knives, nuts, baked goods, white elephant items and a silent auction. Lunch will be available from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Proceeds will go to Mission projects local and abroad. For information call 863-763-4021.

## 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.

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**T.A. Aliapoulos, D.D.S.** License #DN1847  
Graduate University of New Hampshire in Zoology and Temple University Dental School. US Air Force Medical Corp. Served as Chair of Council on Dental Health. Formerly of West Palm Beach, he has merged his practice with Dr. Harrouff.

**Wade B. Harrouff, D.D.S.** License #DN10761  
Graduate University of Tennessee 1977. Author, lecturer who has appeared on TV, radio and print (WPBF/ABC, Palm Beach Illustrated and more) as the authority on implants as well as general dentistry. Member of International Congress of Oral Implantology, American Academy of Implant Dentistry & Misch Institute of Advanced Implantology.

**Jonathan M. Royal, D.M.D.** License #DN12061  
Graduate of Louisiana 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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# Haunted house, mixer, golf tourney planned

**By Chauna Aguilar**  
Okeechobee News

If you are looking for some entertainment in and around Okeechobee for the coming months look no further. If your organization or business has some entertaining events coming up please forward them along to [caguilar@newszap.com](mailto:caguilar@newszap.com).

The Visiting Nurse Association is holding their 2008 Air Show on Saturday, Nov. 8, and Sunday, Nov. 9, at the Witham Field in Stuart. Tickets are available at CVS Pharmacy for \$10 in advance and they will be \$15 at the gates which are open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day with the air show acts at 1 p.m. and 4:20 p.m. Children 10 and under are free. The event has a fun-filled Kidz Zone full of rides and activities and even Helicopter Rides are available.

The event features an air show put on by East Coast Hornet Demonstration Team which displays the awesome capabilities of the F-18.

The F/A-18 Hornet, an all-weather aircraft, is used as an attack aircraft as well as a fighter. In its fighter mode, the F/A-18 is used primarily as a fighter escort and for fleet air defense; in its attack mode, it is used for force projection, interdiction and close and deep air support.

The F-18 demonstrated its capabilities and versatility during Operation Desert Storm, shooting down enemy fighters and

subsequently bombing enemy targets with the same aircraft on the same mission and breaking all records for tactical aircraft in availability, reliability, and maintainability.

For more information visit [www.vnaairshow.com](http://www.vnaairshow.com) or call 1-800-694-9183.

The 17th Annual Waldau Junior Golf Tournament to benefit Junior Golf will be held on Friday, Oct. 24, at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club. It's an 18 Hole four-person Scramble. Complimentary lunch starts at 11 a.m. with scramble shotgun start at noon.

After the tournament and awards, it's Waldau's Famous Dance Party with D.J. David Padgett.

All entry, sponsorship forms and information can be obtained by visiting [www.floridajuniorgolf.org](http://www.floridajuniorgolf.org). Or you can call Bridgette Waldau at 863-467-7300 or the Golf and Country Club at 863-763-6228.

The Loomis Bros. Best of the Best Circus is coming to town from Bushnell, Florida. On Friday, Oct. 24, the Loomis Bros. Circus will be performing at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center, 4601 S.R. 710.

There will be two shows, one at 5 p.m. and one at 7:30 p.m.

The circus features three rings with performing elephants, tigers, lions, clowns, acrobats, aerialists, horses, dogs, jugglers and much



## Your Weekly Entertainment Guide

Share your news and photos for this column by email to [caguilar@newszap.com](mailto:caguilar@newszap.com)

more. Doors open one hour prior to show time with elephant rides, pony rides, face painting, cotton candy, popcorn and soft drinks.

There are coupons available at many retail locations for free admission for a child under 12 years of age with the admission of an adult.

For more information please call 1-888-245-3116.

Halloween is in the air! Martha's House is opening a haunted house in their administrative building, 4134 U.S. 441 N, past Cemetery Road on the right from Oct. 28 until Oct. 31. The haunted house will be open on Tuesday,

Wednesday and Thursday from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. and on Friday from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person with all proceeds going to Martha's House. For more information or to volunteer to help with the haunted house call 863-763-2893.

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 S.R. 70 East, on Friday, Oct. 31, from 6 until 9 p.m. (must enter via S.R. 710)

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).

If you like to ride and support the local fight against criminal street gangs, go visit the Gang

Free Florida Second Annual Road Run and Motorcycle Rally on the River Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8, and 9, at Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina, 10430 West Hwy 78.

Help support the fight against criminal street gangs. For advertising and vendor information call 863-634-6641.

The Series begins Monday, Nov. 24, with The Capitol Steps. A troupe of Congressional staffers-turned-comedians, the Capitol Steps travel the country satirizing the very people and places that once employed them. Since they began in 1981, they have recorded 27 albums, including their latest, "Springtime for Liberals." They have been featured on NBC, CBS, ABC and PBS and can be heard four times a year on National Public Radio stations nationwide during their "Politics Takes a Holiday" radio specials.

All performances will begin at 8:00 p.m. at the IRSC McAlpin Fine Arts Center at the Main Campus in Fort Pierce. Tickets for the four-performance series are \$95. Purchase your tickets at the Box Office located in the McAlpin Fine Arts Center lobby, at the IRSC Main Campus at 3209 Virginia Avenue in Fort Pierce, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by phone with VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. Call the McAlpin Fine Arts Center Box Office today at 462-4750 or toll-free at 1-800-220-9915. Only a

few seats are still available, so be sure to reserve tickets today.

*Do you want to see your events posted in the weekly entertainment column? Forward any publicly open events including entertainment such as: dancing, bands, comedians, theatre, special events, special community events, contests, etc to [caguilar@newszap.com](mailto:caguilar@newszap.com). Please forward all information about each event including: description of the event; location (address); date; time; cost; age appropriateness; and any other information that fits the specific event. For additional information contact Chauna Aguilar at 863-763-3134 ext. 4242. Your Weekly Entertainment Guide-Share your news and photos for this column by email to [caguilar@newszap.com](mailto:caguilar@newszap.com).*

# Buses — 'Stop on Red .. Kids Ahead'

**By Chauna Aguilar**  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board proclaimed that the week of Monday, Oct. 20, through Friday, Oct. 24, to be National School Bus Safety Week.

The Okeechobee County School district currently has approximately 4,500 bus riders that travel over 6,000 miles daily throughout Okeechobee. In 2007-08, district buses traveled 1.2 million route miles.

The district is committed to safety but was involved in four on-the-road traffic crashes last year. In each accident, none of the district drivers were charged with fault for the accident.

"Okeechobee County bus drivers average over 13 years of skill, experience, love and care for their students," stated Mrs. Louise Piper, Supervisor of Transportation.

National School Bus Safety Week was first adopted in October 1966, recognizing the hard work and dedication of school transportation personnel, especially the school bus drivers who ensure a safe journey each and every day to and from school.

The theme for the 2008 Safety Week is "Stop on Red...Kids Ahead." There is a tremendous responsibility of the entire community for promoting safety, teaching students to cross safely, and maintaining constant vigilance when students are boarding and getting off the bus at their stops. The board encourages all citizens to keep a watchful eye for all students going to and from school.

The American School Bus Council presents the "Trust the Bus Challenge," which details some questions and answers dealing with riding a school bus and the safety of the school bus.

1. How much safer is the yellow school bus than mom or dad's car?

- a. 2 times safer
- b. 8 times safer
- c. 13 times safer
- d. 23 times safer

Answer: C - The yellow school



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar  
**Louise Piper, (left) Supervisor of Transportation for the Okeechobee County School District received a resolution recognizing Monday, Oct. 20 through Friday Oct. 24, as National School Bus Safety Week in Okeechobee County from the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Patricia Cooper (right).**

bus is the safest mode of transportation for our nation's school children. The school bus is 13 times safer than other non-commercial vehicles, including mom and dad's car. (Source: Transportation Research Board, "The Relative Risks of School Travel," 2002). Of the average 42,000 deaths from traffic accidents every year in the United States, only nine are in school buses (Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration/National Center for Statistics & Analysis).

2. How are public yellow school buses funded?

- a. Federal Government
- b. State Government and Local School Districts
- c. Bake sales
- d. All of the above

Answer: B - The yellow school bus receives no funding from the Federal Government and is funded entirely by State Governments and Local School Districts through tax dollars and grants. Although the federal government sets requirements for school buses such as pollution limits and safety features, and collects excise taxes on gasoline used by school buses, it does not provide any funding to meet these or other expenses.

3. How many school buses travel the nation's roads every

day?

- a. 10,000
- b. 75,000
- c. 113,000
- d. 470,000

Answer: D - School bus carriers operate the largest mass transportation fleet in the country. Each day, 475,000 yellow school buses travel the nation's roads. Compare that with 131,000 total transit vehicles, 6,300 airplanes and 2,000 passenger rail cars. The school bus fleet is almost three times the size of all other forms of mass transportation combined.

4. School bus drivers must undergo rigorous written and skills tests; pre-employment and ongoing drug testing; medical evaluations; and FBI background checks.

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: A - The days of allowing high-school students to drive school buses are long gone. Today, school bus drivers are the most highly trained, tested and scrutinized drivers on the road. Regulation at the federal level requires that all school bus drivers must obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). An applicant for a CDL must be at least 18 years old (21 to drive outside the licensing state) and must pass written and skills tests and obtain a School Bus Endorsement. Most states require drug and alcohol testing before and during employment, physical examinations and FBI-criminal and driver-history background checks. Once they have their licenses, school bus drivers are carefully monitored by the school district and/or company that manages school bus fleets. Drivers can be disqualified from driving a bus for as few as two traffic violations. School bus drivers also receive continuing education and training on topics such as behavior management of students, vehicle inspection and first aid. (Source: National School Transportation Association)

5. About how many students ride the school bus on a regular basis?

- a. 1 million
- b. 6 million
- c. 10 million
- d. 25 million

Answer: D - 25 million - more than half of the nation's school children - ride the school bus every school day. Because the school bus is the safest way for children to get to school, the more that ride the bus, the fewer that are likely to be seriously injured on their way to or from school.

6. In how many states are car drivers required to stop when the red school bus lights are flashing?

- a. 7
- b. 12
- c. 25
- d. 32
- e. 50

Answer: E - 50 states. Laws in all 50 states require that drivers stop when the red lights are flashing indicating that the school bus is loading or unloading passengers. It is never legal to pass a school bus from behind when the red lights are flashing, and it is generally illegal to pass such a school bus when traveling in the opposite direction. In a few states, it is legal to pass a stopped school bus with flashing red lights when traveling in the opposite direction on a divided highway. The school bus is the only vehicle other than

police and fire/rescue vehicles that can legally stop traffic.

(Source: National School Transportation Association)

*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).*

**Guess Who's Half of a Hundred?**

**Happy 50th Vance Shirley!**

**Love, Annette, Kylie, Cady and Alyson**

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**WATERFRONT** Very nice well-maintained SWMH. Ceramic tile throughout. A nice family rm w/bthrm built on. Boathouse w/electric hoist. Concrete area around the boathouse. A lot of house for the price. **MLS #201706, \$112,900.** Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.



**REDUCED!!!** Beautiful 3/1 house w/grandfather oaks. Privacy fence, security lights. New windows 12-05, A/C 7-05, roof 05-06. On a shallow canal goes to Taylor Creek Locks. Close to public boat ramp. **PRICE REDUCED. SHORT SALE. MLS #200971, \$120,000.** Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.



**ADORABLE ONE ROOM WINTER OR WEEKEND RETREAT.** Large corner lot with a beautiful view of the water and many trees. Nice carport. Does not have water. Will need to hook up to OUA. **MLS #200971, \$85,000.** Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.



**COUNTRY LIVING** Great place to bring your horses and have fun. Property has large extra lot. Main yard is fenced in. Beautiful grandfather oaks and many other trees. Plenty of storage space in the house. **YOU DONT WANT TO MISS OUT ON THIS ONE. PRICED TO SELL!!!!** **MLS #200723, \$175,000.** Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.



**A PIECE OF PARADISE** Nice home on the waterfront. Galley kitchen. Beautiful landscaping. Pavers for the driveway. A large 2 car carport. 2 decks, on the canal and side of house w/automatic awning. 6x8 new shed. **MLS #201024, \$182,900.** Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.



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

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# Service Club News in Brief

## The American Legion Post 64

501 S.E. Second Street, Okeechobee Office 863-763-2950 - Lounge 863-763-5309  
 We can accommodate meetings, weddings and parties of any size.  
 The public is always welcome unless it's a members only event.  
 Our kitchen is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 1 to 8 p.m. on Sunday.  
 Sunday: Open 1 to 8 p.m. - Regular Bingo from 6:30 p.m.  
 Monday: Open 11-8 p.m. - Social Bingo 1 p.m.  
 Tuesday: Open 11-8 p.m.  
 Wednesday: Open 11-8 p.m. - "Taco Day" 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 Tacos - \$1.50  
 Music with Jim Elders 2-6  
 Thursday: Open 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. - Social Bingo 6 p.m.  
 Friday: Open 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. - Karaoke from 6 p.m. Hosted by BP Productions.  
 (Anyone wishing to perform in the Lip Sync Programs see Bobby and Penny)  
 SAL Steak Dinner third Sunday each month \$12 donation.  
 Legion and Auxiliary meet the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m.  
 The fourth Tuesday meeting includes a carry in dinner at 6 p.m.  
 SAL Meet the third Tuesday at 7 p.m.  
 \* Friday night dinners resume on Nov. 7.

## Am-Vets #2001

Am-Vets No. 2001 will hold a regular informational meeting on the first

Saturday of the month at the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post #9528, 2002 U.S. 78 W., at 10 a.m. Applications for new members are available. Call Helen James at 863-824-7644 or Lou Eder at 863-357-0467.

• Am-Vets Ladies Auxiliary meetings are the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. Contact the Post at 863-467-2882 for information.

## Eagles Aeries #4137

Eagles Aeries #4137 is located at 9983 U.S. 441 N. For information on events, call 863-763-2552.  
 • Every Tuesday bingo at 1 p.m. Food will be available for a donation.  
 • Wednesdays: bar bingo starting at 4 p.m. Food will be available.  
 • Every Thursday: washer toss at 1 p.m.  
 • First and third Thursday: Auxiliary at 6 p.m.; Aeries at 7 p.m.  
 • Fridays: steak night (16-oz.) starting at 5 p.m. for a \$12 donation. Music will be by Jimmy Harper.  
 • Saturdays and Sundays: music at 7 p.m.  
 • First and third Sunday: breakfast cooked to order from 9 until 11 a.m. for \$5 donation.

## Okeechobee Masonic Lodge #237

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

## Order of the Eastern Star - Chapter #128

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

## B.H.R. Moose Lodge

The lodge is located on U.S. 78 W. in Buckhead Ridge. The Lodge's phone number is 863-763-2250.  
 • Sundays: breakfast will be served from 9 until 11 a.m. With many items to choose from.  
 • Mondays: WOTM Chapter meeting the first and third Mondays of every month 7:30 p.m.  
 • Wednesdays: Bingo and food, food served at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m.  
 • Thursdays: dinner will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. Call the Lodge for the menu.  
 • Thursdays: Music for dancing at 7:30 p.m. Call to see who is playing.  
 • Thursday: 5-Card Bingo at 6 p.m. food available at 5 p.m.  
 • Fridays: dinner served from 5 until 7:30 p.m. Music for dancing at 7:30 p.m. Call to see who is playing.  
 • Saturdays: dinner starting at 6 p.m.  
 • Saturdays: Prime Rib Dinner served from 6 until 8 p.m. the first Saturday of the month.  
 • Karaoke at 6 p.m. on Oct. 12 and 26, with Phil Eddings.  
 • Oct. 21, at 8 p.m. will be Moose Membership meetings with enrollment of new prospective members.  
 • Friday: Oct. 31, at 8 p.m. Halloween Costume Party. Get dressed up and join the fun. Drawing for the barbecue grill will be held, so get your tickets soon.

## Moose Family Center #1753

The Moose Family Center #1753 is located at 156 N.W. 36th St. in Okeechobee. Please call the Lodge at 863-763-4954 for further information, sudden changes and menus. Guests are invited to enjoy the activities and consider membership.  
 • Every Sunday breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m.  
 • Horseshoe practice every Sunday at 2 p.m. and Thursday Evening.  
 • Every Monday, Pool tournaments - sign up, 7 p.m. Food is served.  
 • Women's meeting second and fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m.  
 • Officers meetings first and third Tuesday at 7 p.m.  
 • Men's meetings, second and fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.  
 • Moose Legion meetings third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.  
 • Bar Bingo Thursday at 1 p.m. and Friday night at 7 p.m. - Food served. (you must be a member to play bar bingo)  
 • Dinner and music almost every Saturday night.

## VFW Post #4423

The VFW North Post #4423 is located at 300 N.W. 34 St. The Post phone number is 863-763-0818.

Happy hour Monday through Thursday 4 until 6 p.m.  
 Mondays: 50-cent hot dogs.  
 Tuesdays: Washer toss at 1 p.m.  
 Wednesdays: Pizza and Grill 5 until 7 p.m.  
 Fridays: Bingo at 1 p.m. Pizza and Grill 6 until 9 p.m. Karaoke 7 until 11 p.m.  
 Saturdays: Bar Bingo at 1 p.m. Karaoke 7 until 11 p.m.  
 Post and Ladies Auxiliary meetings third Sunday of every month at 11 a.m.  
 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 3 Monday of every month 7 p.m.

## VFW Post #9528

The VFW Post #9528 is located at 2002 S.R. 78 W. in Buckhead Ridge. For information, call 863-467-2882. Post opens at noon, Monday through Sunday.  
 We are taking applications for new members for the VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, Male Auxiliary, AMVETS and AMVETS ladies auxiliary.  
 • Wednesday: Ladies Auxiliary dinner and Men's Auxiliary or AmVets. Music will be available.  
 • Every Thursday is bar bingo at 12:45 p.m. Lunch will be available.  
 • Every Friday a steak dinner with baked potato, salad and rolls will be served from 5:30 until 7 p.m. for an \$11 donation. Dancing immediately follows the dinner.  
 • Membership meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month beginning at 10 a.m. The House Committee meeting is on the fourth Saturday.  
 For information, contact Commander Robert Hare at 863-467-2882.  
 \* VFW Post 9528, in Buckhead Ridge, is having an open mic night with Nellie from 6 until 9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Come on out and support her by singing your favorite songs.

## VFW Post #10539

• Post hours are 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Closing times are discretionary and dependent on the number of patrons but usually not before 8 p.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. on weekends.  
 • Happy hours: 10 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Noon to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.  
 • Monday: Card Bingo at 6 p.m.  
 • Tuesday: Ladies Auxiliary all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner \$5 donation beginning at 5:30 p.m.  
 • Wednesday: Bar Bingo at 12:45 p.m. Lunch by Ladies Auxiliary. Kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m. Evening music.  
 • Thursday: Music, kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m.  
 • Friday: Music, kitchen open from 5 until 8 p.m.  
 • Saturday: Noon, dollar hotdogs, \$1.50 Polish Sausage, both with Chili and all the fixings. Card bingo at 5 p.m. Music and dancing at 7 p.m. \$50 gas card giveaway.  
 • Scheduled meetings: VFW First Sunday at noon, Ladies Auxiliary second Monday at 7 p.m., Men's Auxiliary second Wednesday at 7 p.m.  
 • Do you have a family member serving overseas? We send packages of urgently needed supplies to them. We accept donations for this worthy cause.

Contact Cheryl Beniot at 863-697-2930. For further information call 863-763-2308.

## Shrine Club

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

## Cypress Hut Eagles #4509

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

# Troy Tomey retires from the U.S. Navy

By Pete Gawda  
 Okeechobee News

Oct. 7, is a memorable date for Senior Chief Electrician's Mate Troy L. Tomey, a 1985 graduate of Okeechobee High School. On that date in the year that he graduated from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Then 23 years later, in 2008, the senior chief retired on that same date.

"I'm very proud of him and this community should be," said his father, retired Okeechobee Fire Chief Keith Tomey.

After graduation, Senior Chief Tomey followed in the footsteps of his father who did one enlistment in the navy.

Senior Chief Tomey received his basic training in Orlando and then attended Aviation Electrician's school in Millington, Tenn. His first duty station was at Moffett, Calif. From there he was sent to Whidbey Island, Wash., where he did three deployments to the Persian Gulf on the USS Ranger (CV-61). Missiles and aircraft launched from the Ranger helped start Operation Desert Storm.

It was also on the Ranger that the father and son were brought together on a dependent's cruise from Hawaii to the continental United States when the Ranger returned from her last deployment. The senior Tomey was very impressed with a demonstration of the Ranger's missiles and with the launch and recovery of aircraft.

The senior chief also experienced two deployments on the USS Kitty (CV 63) and a deployment to Iwakuni, Japan, from Whidbey Island.



Submitted to the Okeechobee News

## Okeechobee High School graduate Troy L. Tomey recently retired from the U.S. Navy as a Senior Chief Aviation Electrician's Mate after 23 years of service.

After Whidbey Island, the senior chief was posted to the Naval Technical Training Center at Pensacola. During this tour of duty he received the Navy Commendation Medal for rewriting the Aviation Electrician School curriculum.

From there he went to Atsugi, Japan where he completed eight more deployments on the Kitty Hawk. For his final duty station, Senior Chief Tomey returned to Pensacola where he completed his Associate Degree in administrative/management studies.

He and his wife Alma have one adopted son, Derek Lee Tomey. The Tomeys plan to reside in Pensacola where he will be seeking government employment.

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<p><b>4000-H</b> Buckhead Ridge 3/2 CBS home, built 2006, French back doors, tile and carpet floors throughout. Great for a starter or a retirement home. MLS# 201816</p>	<p><b>5011-M</b> Kissimmee River Estates 2 Mobile homes on 4 lots. Total lot size approx. 109X113. Can be a great fixer upper. \$40,000 MLS# 201799</p>
<p><b>5030-H</b> Basswood 3BR/2BA CBS home built 2007 with attached garage, appliances and paved driveway. MLS# 201550</p>	<p><b>5036-H</b> Basswood 3BR/2BA CBS home built 2007 with attached garage appliances and paved driveway. MLS# 201550</p>

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- Basswood lots from \$25,000-\$33,000
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<p><b>SHOWS LIKE NEW!</b></p> <p><b>"PICTURE PERFECT"</b>                  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</p>	<p><b>PEACE &amp; QUIET</b></p> <p><b>"NATURE WELCOMES"</b>                  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</p>
<p><b>ALL DAY TACHE</b></p> <p><b>"SPACIOUS LIVING"</b>                  IMMACULATE '05 3/2 DWMH on 1 acre. Kitchen has island with drop down counter. Lg ldry rm w/sink, pantry and lots of storage. Garden tub, double sinks with vanity and separate shower all in Master bath. #201191 \$124,900</p>	<p><b>PURE PEARLS!</b></p> <p><b>"GREAT INVESTMENT"</b>                  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</p>
<p><b>NEWLY REMODELED!</b></p> <p><b>"NEED SOME PEACE &amp; QUIET?"</b>                  3/2 24x48 DWMH w/12x36 Attached Screen Room. Tool Shed Plus Horse Barn on 4.920 Acres fenced and cross fenced for horses. Large fenced front yard with gate in driveway. DW home interior being remodeled by owner. #201172 \$185,000</p>	<p><b>COME TAKE A LOOK!</b></p> <p><b>"PRICED RIGHT"</b>                  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</p>

## NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! 3 DAYS A WEEK - 12pm to 9pm

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**Tuesday** ..... Donation only  
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 Music 6pm to 9pm

**Thursday** ..... \$6.00  
**Fried Shrimp or Clam Dinner**

**Friday** ..... \$6.00  
**Catfish Dinner**

**Happy Hour 3-6pm**

**Halloween Party**  
 Fri, Oct. 31 6 pm til ?  
 Music by Jim Elder

# Fishing

Continued From Page 1

instructions given by members of the Taylor Creek Bass Club and a practice period, all girls and boys ages 7-10 and 11-14 are invited to test their fishing skills at flipping, pitching and casting to targets. Rods and reels will be provided to the kids. The winners will receive a medal, a new rod and reel and an automatic advance to the state competition. Those who win at state will go onto Nationals and the National winners will compete for a share of over \$20,000 in scholarships. Each contestant will receive a certificate of participation.

At 1 p.m., a live fishing competition will begin at the Agri Centers back pond. Boys and girls ages 4-14, will be given a fully rigged cane pole and a container of worms. Each child will pick a fishing spot along the shore of the stocked pond and try their luck at catching the biggest as well as the most fish in their age groups. Trophies and prizes will be awarded in each age group. Age groups include: 4-6, 7-10 and 11-14. Registration will be available at the event for those who were not able to pre-register. Each child participating will receive a gift and be given tickets for one soft drink and two hotdogs. Additional drinks and hotdogs for adults and children will be available at a nominal cost. Law enforcement and emergency medical personnel and port-a-potties will be present in the interest of safety and comfort. A parent or guardian **must** accompany each child. For more information call Dave Stout at the Taylor Creek Bass Club, Inc. at 863-467-2255.

## Oakview to host fishing tourney

Oakview Baptist Church hosts



Submitted photo Ernie Johnson took third place in the Taylor Creek Bass Club tournament held on Lake Okeechobee in Clewiston.

the Christian Team Trails Fishing Tournament on the first Saturday of the month from September through April which is the classic. This year the Tournament started in October; therefore the requirement for the classic is to fish 4 out of 6 rather than 5 out of 7 tournaments. The next tournament will be held on Saturday, Nov. 1, at safe daylight and weigh in will be at 1 p.m. at Okee-Tantie. Entry fee is \$75 per boat. You may pay early at the church office Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Cash only at the ramp on the day of the tournament. For more information, please call the church office, 863-763-1699.

## FWC takes applications for wildlife grants

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Wildlife Legacy Initiative is now accepting grant applications for the State Wildlife Grants program for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

This program is a federally-funded matching grants program, providing financial support for projects that address conservation needs as identified in Florida's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Submission deadline is Nov. 3, at 5 p.m.

Visit MyFWC.com/wildlifefunding for more information on the Florida's State Wildlife Grants Program, including detailed criteria, application and submission instructions.

## Fowler supports Amendment 4

Jim Fowler, former host of the television series "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom," spoke at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) meet-

ing Wednesday in support of proposed Constitutional Amendment 4.

During the FWC's meeting in Jacksonville, Fowler represented a coalition of about 70 conservation and outdoor recreation groups, pushing for passage of the amendment that would provide incentives for landowners who conserve their property for wildlife habitat.

Earlier this week, Fowler teamed up with the Florida Wildlife Federation, the Nature Conservancy, Audubon of Florida and the Florida Chamber of Commerce at a press conference in Tallahassee to draw attention to the proposed amendment and urge support for it among voters.

The FWC's seven-member board of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution in June, expressing support for the proposed amendment.

The amendment, to appear on the general election ballot in November, would encourage landowners to set aside land for conservation easements or practice proactive conservation to benefit all Florida wildlife, including the panther and black bear. If 60 percent of voters approve the amendment, it will become part of the Florida State Constitution.

The resolution notes that Florida's population may double to 36 million people within the next 50 years. It says development will claim millions of acres of wilderness and erode the state's rich legacy of outdoor recreation if officials fail to address growth projections with wise and creative solutions.

*We want your news! If you would like to share any information with the Okeechobee News about an outdoors event please email Teresa Mataushek at [tmataushek@newszap.com](mailto:tmataushek@newszap.com) or call 863-763-3134.*



Submitted photo Charles Eaton took fourth place in the Taylor Creek Bass Club October Tournament on Lake Okeechobee in Clewiston.



Submitted photo Dave Stout took second place in the Taylor Creek Bass Club October tournament held on Lake Okeechobee in Clewiston.



## Glades County Republican Party

*Is Pleased To Endorse The Following Candidates:*

**Denise GRIMSLEY for State Representative District 77:**



I believe I am uniquely qualified to represent the needs of Florida's Heartland area in Tallahassee. As a nurse, I know the importance of affordable, quality healthcare; as Chair of the House Ag Committee, I have fought to keep agriculture strong. We cannot afford to be dependent on foreign countries for our food supply! As a small business owner, I know what it's like to meet payroll - we need to keep government out of our pockets with new taxes. I've been your state representative for the past four years, and I hope to continue serving you.

**John M. DYESS for Supervisor of Elections**



Your positive response to my campaign has been overwhelming. I deeply appreciate and have enjoyed meeting YOU. When you elect me, I will address your concerns and provide 100% compliance with Florida's elections laws with a total open door policy, instilling public trust. I will make sure the voter registration is current with your accurate address, party affiliation and precinct information along with necessary database updates, and poll workers will receive ample advance training. I will ensure your rights to: 1) cast a secret ballot 2) know it will be properly counted, and 3) know that no non-qualified voter will vote and thus, maintain the integrity of Glades County elections. I will work with our schools to educate our children on the democratic system and the importance of voting. My youthful energy will rejuvenate the office of Supervisor of Elections with enthusiasm, dedication and hard work. I promise to always be available to you. **Please vote for me to serve you. Cell 863.673.0081**

**Robert A. "Tony" WILSON for Glades County Sheriff:**

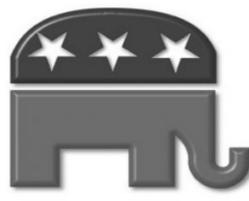


If for any reason I have been unable to personally meet with you or to leave a pamphlet at your home, my name is Tony Wilson and I am seeking the position of Sheriff of Glades County. I moved to Glades County in May of 2003 with my wife Debi and son Tyler. I want to be YOUR Sheriff. My future plans are Fair and Equal **Law Enforcement for All** Communities of Glades County with Honesty, Integrity and Community Involvement. I will work for the people of Glades County with their best interest in mind, not special interest groups. I will work for you, the people. My 26 years of Law Enforcement EXPERIENCE in Administration and Management, Training and Development, Traffic, Civil, Criminal and Homicide Investigations makes me the most qualified candidate to serve as **YOUR Sheriff. My cell phone 863.227.0315 I will deeply appreciate your consideration, support and vote.**

**Cannon ELEY for Glades County Commissioner District 3:**



I am promoting Responsible Growth for Glades County. We need to progress forward while protecting the sensitive environment we love. I have the ability to look at issues with an open mind, and to make decisions based on what is best for Glades County, not for just a few, but for ALL of the county. Your vote for me will help return Glades County government to its residents. Elect Cannon Eley, the People's Commissioner. **My Cell Phone 863.228.6981**



**Republican Party of Glades County also endorses:**  
 J. D. ALEXANDER, State Senator District 17  
 Tom ROONEY, U.S. Representative District 16  
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# Local residents turn out for early voting

**By Chauna Aguilar**  
Okeechobee News

Early voting for the General Election began on Monday, Oct. 20, and will continue through Saturday, Nov. 1. As of close of voting on Thursday, Oct. 23, Early Voting had already allowed 15.8 percent of registered voters to cast their ballots with 1,380 Early Votes and 1,463 absentee ballots being returned.

Gwen Chandler, Supervisor of Elections invites voters to come by the office located at 307 NW Second Street, Monday through Sat-

urday, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. to cast your ballot in this Presidential election. Mrs. Chandler is encouraging voters to utilize Saturday's voting hours as even some of the weekdays have had a steady line of voters in the election office.

"The line of early voters has moved well," she said. "Sometimes there is a spurt and a small line builds up."

She also urges voters to update their voting records if they have issues such as a new address, change of name, etc. These changes will take less time if done in the elections office during the

early voting rather than waiting until Election Day. If you have any uncertainty of whether you are registered to vote or not, or where to go to vote on Election Day contact the Elections Office as soon as possible at 863-763-4014 or email [elections@voteokeechobee.com](mailto:elections@voteokeechobee.com).

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 a 72 percent voter turn out for the

General Election; 6 percent higher than the voter turn out 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 eighteenth birthday.

Voting is the right of citizens in the United States. The importance of voting cannot be under-

stated. 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.

If you would like a copy of a sample ballot contact the Supervisor of Elections Office.

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.

For more information contact the Supervisor of Elections Gwen Chandler at 863-763-4014 or at the office located at 307 NW 2nd Street Okeechobee, Fla. 34972 or visit [www.voteokeechobee.com](http://www.voteokeechobee.com).

Remember to get out there and Vote!

*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).*

# Breast Cancer: An issue for every woman

The Okeechobee County Health Department staff worked to inform the community about Breast Cancer as they celebrated National Breast Cancer Awareness month in October. Faculty members dressed in pink to show their support for this much needed awareness project.

## General information

All women are at risk for breast cancer. As women age, the risk increases.

Florida is estimated to have 12,000 new breast cancer cases and 2,700 breast cancer deaths in the years 2005-2007. Of cancer deaths, only lung cancer deaths exceed breast cancer deaths for women in Florida.

The most frustrating fact about breast cancer is that we don't know what causes it.

Things you can do for yourself include:

- Learn to do a self-breast examination.
- All women should perform a monthly self-breast examination.
- Get a baseline mammogram at age 40 and yearly thereafter.
- Encourage family and friends to get annual mammograms and do self-breast exams.

## Facts about Mammography

- All insurance including Medicare covers annual mammo-

grams.

- Mammography is simple and may save your life.

- Mammography is two pictures of each breast: one from the top and one from the side. The breasts are placed between plastic plates and flattened slightly to get a clear picture. The amount of radiation produced by mammography is extremely low.

- Mammography is the most effective way to find breast cancer at its earliest stages.

- Beginning at age 40, women should have a mammogram every year.

Risk Factors Include:

- Personal History. Women who have had breast cancer are

more likely to get it again.

- Family History. The risk of developing breast cancer increases if your mother, sister, daughter, or two or more close relatives (such as cousins) have a history of breast cancer - especially at a young age.

- Genetic Factors: Gene testing can show whether a woman has specific genetic factors known to increase the likelihood of breast cancer.

- Late Childbearing/Fewer Children. Women who have their first baby after age 30 have a slightly increased risk of developing breast cancer.

Get peace of mind! Schedule your exam now.

By age 50, 1 out of 50 women

(2 percent) get breast cancer.

By age 80, 5 out of 50 women

(10 percent) get breast cancer.

Information for this story came

from <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Family/bcc/breastcancer.html>



Submitted photo/OCHD

The Okeechobee County Health Department staff worked to inform the community about Breast Cancer as they celebrated National Breast Cancer Awareness month in October. Faculty members dressed in pink to symbolize their support for this much needed awareness project.

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Public Notice 5005

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY...

NOTICE OF ACTION: YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property...

LOT(S) 25 OF OTTER CREEK ESTATES, UNIT 1 AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 29 ET SEQ. OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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IN RE: ESTATE OF: JAMES V. COURSON, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The administration of the estate of JAMES V. COURSON, deceased, whose date of death was August 16, 2007...

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Public Notice 5005

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Medical assistants' contributions honored

JENSEN BEACH — Women's Health Specialists is paying tribute to the extraordinary accomplishments of their 12 Medical Assistants during Medical Assistants Recognition Week, Oct. 20-24.

"Medical Assistants perform a wide variety of administrative and clinical tasks that keep medical offices and clinics running smoothly," said William (Bill) L. Hughes, CPA, CMPE, Administrator for Women's Health Specialists. "Our Medical Assistants actually do more clinical than administrative work. They work side by side with the physicians and midwives, taking vital signs, running lab tests,

drawing blood, and taking medical histories."

"We have 12 Medical Assistants on our staff, most of whom have been employed by Women's Health Specialists from five to 15 years," continued Hughes. "We are proud of their high level of performance, their professional demeanor, and their commitment to patients and to our practice," he added.

For more than 35 years, Women's Health Specialists has provided a full range of healthcare services to women through all stages of their lives, through puberty, child-bearing ages, menopause and beyond. The Wom-

en's Health Specialists' professional team consists of obstetricians and gynecologists, certified nurse-midwives, nurses and support staff. Services include wellness exams, prenatal care, menopause management, cancer screening and prevention provided in a personalized and comfortable environment from headquarters located adjacent to the Treasure Coast Square mall in Jensen Beach, with branch offices in Saint Lucie West and Okeechobee.

Women's Health Specialists' headquarters is located at 3498 N.W. Federal Highway in Jensen Beach, 772-219-1080; www.whsfl.com.

Christmas Continued From Page 1

a Fiesta Day, a Bike Night, Seminole Indian Day with alligator wrestling, a car show and a demolition derby and an Okeechobee Idol contest. There will be an entertainment tent instead of using the horse barn for entertainment. This month ticket packages will go on sale.

The current lease agreement between the fair association and the county was for five years. There will be two years remaining on the lease after the 2009 fair. Mrs. Syfrett said midway vendors need a three year contract. She noted that midway vendors often pave the midway area in venues where they regularly set up. Therefore, Mrs. Syfrett requested that the county renew their agreement with the fair association for another five years. Staff will bring the current agreement back to the next meeting for consideration.

Greg Callahan and Kirby Marshall of Applied Technologies Management, the firm the county had hired to do an assessment of Okee-Tantie, reported their findings accompanied by a conceptual drawing. Despite the downturn in the economy they predicted that there is still a demand for the facilities that could be provided by a renovated Okee-Tantie.

"Okee-Tantie is still a major draw" Mr. Marshall said.

Their study recommended more RV hookups and tent sites and the addition of cabins. They also suggested expanding the camp store and installing a swimming pool. Another suggestion was to relocate the restaurant to the river's edge and build adjacent boat slips for use by restaurant customers.

"This is a great position for this facility," said Mr. Callahan. He said their goal was to create year round occu-

pancy and sustainability for the park.

Proposed plans for the park include a maintenance building, a boat trailer parking area, facilities for air-boaters, an outdoor amphitheater, and a trail around the park that connected to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST).

"From what I have seen, this is a very good proposal," said Gary Ritter, director of South Florida Water Management District's Okeechobee Service Center. "Our staff will work with you to make it happen."

The big drawback is how to pay for all the proposed improvements. Estimated construction costs are \$17 million. Mr. Marshall predicted that annual rental fees for camp sites and cabins would be \$1 million and \$4 million would come in annually from fees on boat slips. His calculations showed that if annual incomes were applied to the debt service on the \$17 million, Okee-Tantie would have a \$800,000 deficit each year.

He suggested construction in phases with camping areas to be improved first. That is where there is the most need for improvements and that would give the best return on the investment.

Since a good part of the camping area is now unusable due to hurricane damage, FEMA funds can be used for rehabilitation of that area. Also Florida Department of Transportation grants could be used as the park connects with LOST. County administrator Lyndon Bonner said he would investigate these funding sources.

Mr. Bonner said he and his staff were analyzing the budget and the current state of revenues and would soon be reporting to the board on the economic condition of the county.

There was one ray of sunshine in today's gloomy economic picture. Sheriff Paul May presented the board with a check for \$1,212,141.58 to go into the general fund from the unappropriated fund balance and other rev-

enue sources. He also presented four other checks totaling \$100,543.69 to go into the law enforcement trust fund from unclaimed evidence, forfeitures and interest.

In spite of the current economic crunch, the annual Okee-Tantie Blast will be held on Nov. 8. Since 2001 Zambelli Fireworks Internationale has been providing a fireworks show at Okee-Tantie in the fall. The fireworks are free, but the cost to the county is \$4,500 which covers insurance, transportation and lodging for Zambelli employees. There was some discussion as to whether or not the county could afford this cost, especially since they did not fund the Jaycees fireworks this year. The vote was 3 - 2 with commissioners Cliff Bets and Marvin Wherrell voting against the fireworks.

In other action, the board:

- approved a change order for Close Construction for the Alderman Building renovation in the amount of \$13,358.58;
• set rental rates for the county's mobile ticket booth;
• approved a franchise agreement for roll-off collection services;
• approved a \$33,535 engineering contract with Craig A. Smith and Associates for Douglas Park storm-water improvements to be paid for with 2004 Hurricane Disaster Recovery Community Development Block Grant money;
• cancelled the Jan. 8, 2009 and April 23, 2009 board meetings;
• approved a request for use of the Health Department Auditorium;
• declined to carry Law Enforcement Liability Insurance in addition to what the sheriff already carries; and
• voted to make Country Hills Estates drainage a priority for use of grant funds.

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

Murder Continued From Page 1

his motivation was due to her health problems," said Lt. Lethbridge in a phone interview Wednesday afternoon.

Barnes has family in Sebring and

was staying in a house at 6100 Sherman Terrace in Sebring. The detective did not know how long Barnes had been in Sebring.

Lt. Lethbridge said that an HCSO surveillance team was sent to watch the home and that after some phone conversations with family members Barnes called the HCSO around 2 a.m. on Oct. 22. He said he wanted

to speak with someone about the victim, stated an HCSO press release.

"At the time we spoke with him we had identified her by fingerprints," said Lt. Lethbridge. "At the time we got the information on her, his name was mentioned as a suspect."

After speaking with detectives, Barnes was officially charged with his wife's murder.

Alcohol Continued From Page 1

to three in 2007. This year there have

been 12 deaths on Glades County roadways, six last week in an accident between a migrant labor van and sand truck.

Glades had 114 crashes with injuries and 13 of those involved alcohol. There were 74 crashes involving alco-

hol that involved property damage.

There was one fatality involving a motorcycle and two crashes that injured pedestrians. The county also had a reduction in commercial vehicle crashes in 2007 from 46 to 35.

State Public Legal Notice 5500

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

9x9 grid for a Sudoku puzzle. Level: Beginner

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

ANS

# Racing at the bottom of the lake

On Oct. 25, the United Dirt Late Model Challenge Series makes it return to the New Hendry County Speedway located on U.S. 27 at the Hendry-Glades County line. It will be the 14th race this year for the United Dirt Late Model Challenge Series which has become the fastest growing late model series in the United States, drawing 40 plus entrants to every event. The race at the new Hendry County Speedway will be the series second trip to the speedway and will pay \$7,000 to the winner of the first annual Kim Allen Memorial. Earlier this season, Ivadent Lloyd, known also as the professor, won the prestigious Ponce DeLeon Classic earning a \$5,000 check. He now will set his sites on winning the top prize in the series return trip to the Hendry Speed-

way. He will battle current points' leader Johnny "The Locomotive Collins", Mark "The Magic Man" Whitener, Keith Nosbisch, Roger "Hot Rod" Crowe and defending champion of the speedway challenge series, Stan "Show Time" Smith. Also competing in the event will be 2007 North Florida Speedway Champion Billy Costello, Shane Williams, Adam Baddenbaugh, Kevin Mills, and many other late model stars from around the south east. There will also be an awesome on track autograph session for all the kids, where they can meet the stars of the United Dirt Late Model Challenge Series. In addition to the Kim Allen Memorial race, streets stocks and united late models will also be competing and all of your local



Submitted photo  
**The United Dirt Late Model Challenge Series returns to the New Hendry County Speedway this weekend. The speedway is located on U.S. 27 at the Hendry-Glades County line.**

stars including Jerry Brown, John Wilson, Tim Powers, Tommy Hill, Bobby Vaughn, and Thomas Scott, just to name a few will be on hand. Gates open at 2 p.m. Qualifying for the late models is at 6 p.m. Racing action begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10 at the Greater Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce and at Central Homes in LaBelle. For any questions concerning the race call Ken at 863-623-4325.

# Pop Warner may be champs

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News  
Three Okeechobee Pop Warner football teams will play in championship games on Saturday in Port St. Lucie following exciting wins on Wednesday night at locations in Ft. Pierce, Port St. Lucie and Palm City.

The Midget squad defeated Palm City Teal 14-13, in a defensive battle. Marshall Tommie and Jose Santibanez scored rushing touchdowns for Okeechobee.

Coach Tony Corwin praised defensive players like Frank Decarlo and Elijah Williams for their strong games.

The Junior Midget squad defeated Palm City Teal 12-6 behind the quick and strong legs of their two top running backs, Lavonte Spivey and Algeron Morris.

Spivey scored two touchdowns in the game on runs of 15 and 40 yards. Morris had an excellent game running the ball.

Coach Robert Stokes said his entire defense played a strong game in the big win.

The Junior Pee Wee squad defeated Port Salerno 27-26. Lamar Williams, Brandon Shockley and Luis Leon scored on rushing touchdowns. Shockley connected with Leon on a 51 yard touchdown pass in the final four minutes to bring Okeechobee back from behind.

Coach James Shockley said his entire defense played well. "It was a back and forth game all the way, we scored and were able to hold them and then run out the clock."

The Championship games will be played Saturday at Whispering Pines Park in Port St. Lucie. The Junior Pee Wee game is at 11 a.m. The Junior Midget will kickoff at 3 p.m. The Midget squad will play at 5 p.m.

**NATIONAL Breast Cancer Awareness MONTH**

Treating patients with Breast Cancer

**TC SG**  
Treasure Coast Surgical Group  
General, Breast, Colon/Rectal, Thoracic, Vascular Surgery

Mitchell Cahn, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Adam D. Kurtin, D.O.  
Rene M. Loyola, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
George H. Rittersbach, Jr., M.D.  
Douglas W. Sanders, M.D.  
S. Scott Tapper, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
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Teams of four are \$375 (fee includes lunch) or individual shooters are \$100 (fee includes lunch) or you can get lunch for \$20.

Sponsor participation levels are \$1,000 - Banner Sponsor - includes: Team of four (Complimentary golf cart), Banner on course, recognition at the awards ceremony, mention in pre-event press releases, mention in newsletter and annual report; \$500 - Signature Sponsor - team of four (complimentary golf cart), sign on course, recognition at the awards ceremony, mention in pre-event press releases; \$150 - Station Sponsor - sign on course, mention in pre-event press releases.

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M-64750 ENG\_10/23/08

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# WHEEL DEALS

Friday, October 24, 2008, Supplement to the Okeechobee News

*Steering you right*



WITH SHARON PETERS

## HYBRID DELIGHTED?

Q: Considering the hullabaloo about hybrids, do we know, categorically, that the people who bought them are happy they made that choice? That, in my mind, is the big decider about whether I go that route in the next year or so.

A: Anecdotally, it's been known for some time that hybrid owners are a pretty satisfied lot. Most early hybrid buyers rave about their choice (a behavior that has increased substantially in the last year, when escalating fuel prices cost the rest of us a lot more money every week). Hybrids have met their expectations for better gas mileage, and have allowed them to know they're helping reduce fossil-fuel dependence.

There's some quantitative evidence, too. Ninety-two percent of Prius owners who responded last year to Consumer Reports annual car review said they'd buy another Prius.

Now we have this, just in: Hybrid owners are more likely than owners of all but one other segment (segments being such things as sedans, SUVs, etc) to state they would stay within the same segment when they buy another vehicle, according to an analysis by information services company Experian. Who are the most devoted to their current segment? That would be pickup truck owners.

**Ninety-two percent of Prius owners who responded last year to Consumer Reports annual car review said they'd buy another Prius.**

Q: A car salesman told us last weekend that the model we're looking at has bumpers made of a "composite" of recycled and new plastic. Why would they combine the two?

A: Lots of carmakers use recycled plastics, in part for the "green" appeal, and in part because it's a lot cheaper than using the new stuff.

But here's the rub: When plastic is recycled, it becomes more brittle, less pliable, and perhaps less durable. For that reason, carmakers use a combination of the two, and usually the proportion of new plastic is substantially higher than the proportion of the recycled material.

Q: This is going to sound pretty crazy, maybe, but it seemed to me last night that the headlights on my five-year old car have gotten a lot dimmer. Is such a thing possible?

A: Yes. Possibly it's road grime on the headlamp covers, which is pretty common after a hard rainstorm. You can remedy that by giving them a good scrubbing.

More likely, though, they're just showing the effects of age. Most headlights will grow 20 percent dimmer over time, experts say.

If you find you need to get new ones, I highly recommend replacing your old halogen ones with high performance, high-intensity headlights that produce much brighter and whiter light. They're more expensive than the old-fashioned kind, but are decidedly worth it. They increase what is known as down-road visibility by as much as 40 percent, which is no small improvement. My new vehicle has them, and now that I'm accustomed to the vastly better lighting and visibility, when I drive someone else's car that doesn't have them, I feel as though I'm operating half blind.

A final word: Even if you think only one headlight is really bad, and you can get by with replacing only that one, that's sort of a bad idea. First, it creates uneven visibility. Second, it's just a matter of time before the not-replaced one goes bad, so you may as well just fix the whole problem in one full sweep.

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What's your question? Sharon Peters would like to hear what's on your mind when it comes to caring for, driving, repairing and making the most of your vehicle. Send your questions to [sharon@ctwfeatures.com](mailto:sharon@ctwfeatures.com)

# Summer Fling...



# or the Real Thing?

Motorists fell in love with small cars when gas prices surged this summer. Was it infatuation or the start of a long-term relationship?

By JEFFREY STEELE  
CTW FEATURES

How much do Americans love the cushy ride of big fat sedans? How much do they savor the sumptuous roominess of luxury SUVs? And how much do they want to avoid the prospect of shoehorning themselves into gas-sipping subcompacts?

All it took was for record-high gas prices to dip slightly (to a still-painful average of \$3.88 a gallon), and buyers were suddenly a lot less interested in trolling online for information on smaller and more fuel-efficient models.

Santa Monica, Cal.-based Edmunds.com studied online page views in summer 2008, when gas price spikes made page-one news. "What we saw was that as the gas prices experienced a relative decline in the last few weeks [of

summer], a corresponding decline occurred in the number of people who visited our pages for compact cars and hybrids," says Jesse Toprak, executive director of industry analysis.

Not surprisingly, that decline was matched by an increase in folks eyeing more gas-consuming vehicles, though that climb wasn't as steep as the decline in interest in smaller models. All of which suggests the emphasis on small cars witnessed after oil reached a record high of \$147 a barrel earlier in the summer isn't permanent. And if gas prices continue declining, the trend could accelerate.

An array of factors may explain the flip-flop in interest. According to Jeremy Anwyl, ceo of Edmunds.com, car buyers went into something approaching a state of shock when gas prices rocketed to more than \$4 a gallon and continued rising.

"This kind of shock-induced behavior can't sustain

itself over a long period of time," he says, "so consumers began to get used to those prices."

Some shoppers may also have revised their thinking a few weeks into the price surge, recognizing they could get as good or better gas mileage in some six-cylinder-equipped models than they could in four-cylinder cars. Others may have reconsidered their interest in small cars after reassessing their needs with regard to passenger space and cargo room.

In addition, more affordable pump prices convinced those buyers who were on the fence regarding whether or not to purchase a larger vehicle to take a renewed look at bigger sedans, SUVs and trucks, Toprak says. At the same time, meaty incentives car manufacturers had slapped on the windshields of gas-guzzlers made them

See Flirtation pg. 15

## New American Muscle

So long, Joe Lunchbucket. The racy new Corvette ZR1 propels 'America's Sports Car' into a whole new league.

By JIM GORZELANY  
CTW FEATURES

Although budget-busting gasoline prices are boosting sales of more-economical autos these days, sports cars still reign supreme in the hearts and minds of the automotive industry. Mass-market models such as the Toyota Camry or Ford Focus contribute

more to a manufacturer's bottom line, but it's the sleekest, quickest cars in the showroom that make our hearts race, and often help sell more-mundane models in the process.

One of the most-anticipated sports cars in recent memory, the new-for-2009 Chevrolet Corvette ZR1, takes "America's

Sports Car" to stratospheric levels of performance. It also takes the venerable 'vette beyond the six-figure barrier for the first time in its 55-year history. The price is a staggering \$102,450.

"The ZR1 brings Corvette into the exotic

See Muscle pg. 15



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# Winter On Two Wheels

## Save on fuel costs by extending the motorcycle season

By Jay Koblenz  
CTW Features

With newfound interest in scooters and motorcycles as a way to economize in these days of high fuel prices and a faltering economy, many owners are pushing the envelope into previously "forbidden" months of the year.

While no one is likely to trade in a snowmobile or dog sled for a motor scooter, riding that 40- to 110-mpg two-wheeler is a mighty tempting way to cut costs, even when conditions turn colder.

Foul weather has long been the bogeyman of scooter and motorcycle riding. Gasoline priced at \$4.00, \$5.00 or even \$10 a gallon won't change that. After all, a case of hypothermia or a hard landing on the tarmac after skidding on a patch of ice can require a ride in an ambulance that gets only 10 mpg.

However, proper preparation can help riders extend the utility of their scooters and motorcycles into the winter months. Some of the same pointers can prove helpful to those who might find themselves subject to a summer downpour.

Most people ride in the cold because it's unavoidable. It can be enjoyable although, notes Bill Wolf of MotorcycleVideo-Review.com, "It's an acquired taste."

Mechanical inspection and maintenance is always important and is even more so in the winter when traction is low and a small hiccup can cause a two-wheeled vehicle to slide.

If the ground is wet, the condition of the tires becomes crucial. Be sure to check the tires' tread-life and air pressure regularly.

A windshield or fairing provides valuable protection from both the wind and precipitation, two items that most challenge two-wheelers.

Wearing the right gear is also crucial. "Scooter owners often feel it's not necessary to dress the way a motorcyclist does," says David Searle, editor of Motorcycle Consumer News. Yet they both face the same weather.

The mindset often has to do with the price of the vehicle. Someone riding a \$20,000 luxu-cruiser feels fully justified in spending a thousand dollars or more for the proper riding gear.

But the person who just bought a \$700 used scooter to save gas money may not be able to afford the same protective suit.

Regardless of how much you paid for the machine, says Searle, "If you [hit the pavement] at 45 mph, it's the same situation."

It's essential to remember that riding in cold weather can be downright dangerous for the unprotected.

Riding 60 mph at 10 degrees F can induce frostbite on exposed skin in as little as a 30 minutes, given the phenomenon known as wind chill.

This is the equivalent to being subject to an air temperature of minus 18 while standing still.

Even if no skin is exposed, extreme wind chill can quicken the onset of hypothermia, which slows a rider's judgment

and response time, making everything else about the ride much more dangerous.

Proper layering of clothing with a protective outer shell can be a lifesaver.

Fortunately, choosing modern equipment makes staying warm easier.

"Electrically heated riding gear can change your life," says Bill Wolf, "something even many seasoned riders don't realize."

It's possible to get heated gloves, vests, jacket liners and over-pants. An added benefit of electric heat is it requires fewer layers, allowing more freedom of movement. Prices begin just over \$100 for a vest or chaps, and less than \$200 for a quality full-jacket liner.

Before going too far with electrics, however, a rider should check the garments' power draw against his or her bike's alternator output, so as not to over-tax the battery.

To keep hands warm without worrying about plugging in accessories for every ride, installing heated hand grips allows the use of lighter, more flexible gloves.

Dry equals warm when you're on two wheels.

There are plenty of waterproof riding suits available at widely varying prices.

A relatively inexpensive plastic rain suit might work fine while riding on a scooter at slow speeds but it will shred quickly on the highway.

A good-quality "wet suit" (they even come now made from waterproofed leather) can be a versatile investment, lasting through multiple motorcycles in an owner's lifetime.

A full-face helmet is an important safety item that also helps out in the cold.

Helmets incorporate what amounts to a windshield to protect the rider's face from wind and wetness. Add a neck warmer or a simple scarf to increase the warmth.

The potential for rapidly changing road conditions requires constant vigilance on two wheels, an even more vital task when the temperature approaches freezing.

Bridges freeze more quickly than other road surfaces, notes Searle, so extra caution is required.

Wolf adds, "Anything that's shiny or looks like liquid should be treated as though it is ice." The technique for riding over slippery surfaces is to avoid them when possible.

When it's not, it's best slow down as much as possible beforehand, then go over it completely upright at constant speed without accelerating or braking.

There is more to learn about proper riding technique than most people realize. "Enthusiasm is not enough," notes Searle, "you need training." With the right gear and proper attitude, winter on two wheels can be safe and fun.

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# Flirtation

Continued from Page 1

more attractive buys.

"What this tells us is we can't view any short-term changes in the marketplace as permanent realities," he says. "Having said that, though, we don't think that large SUVs, for instance, will ever have the market share in the U.S. that they once had."

This reversal of interest in small cars isn't a first in automotive history. After gas prices spiked in the mid-1970s after the OPEC oil embargo, carmakers sharply recast their model lines, unveiling more fuel-efficient cars. A case in point was GM's 1977 model year lineup, in which all its full-size cars were reduced both in length and weight.

In time, though, Americans factored the permanently higher gas prices into their budgets, and vehicles began growing in size and fuel consumption once again. That ushered in the era of the SUV, and behemoths like the Chevrolet Suburban and Ford Expedition suddenly became popular as family cars.

"We did look at historical data," Toprak says. "There were a lot of reactionary responses from consumers as well as manufacturers when we experienced similar changes in gas prices. But what ends up happening after virtually every change in gas prices is Americans show they still like their large cars."

This summer's stratospheric rise in gas prices and rekindling of interest in gas sippers, however, is different from earlier, gas-pricing watersheds. Toprak calls it "almost a perfect storm" whipped up not only by high fuel costs, but by an economic crisis ignited by the mortgage crisis and a high rate of inflation.

"If the economy was what it was maybe four years ago and the only change was higher gas prices, the demand for large vehicles probably wouldn't have declined as much as it has," Toprak says.

Carmakers may have overreacted in their decision this summer to slash production of big cars, SUVs and trucks and ramp up output of gas misers. Given what has happened in the last few months, automakers might be best advised to hire as many economists and market trend forecasters as they do designers. Says Toprak: "It's really about forecasting exactly what type of vehicle will sell at what time."

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THE 2009 ZR1: CORVETTE KICKS IT UP A NOTCH

## Muscle

Continued from page 13

car category in terms of performance and provides a 'halo car' for the line and the brand," says George Peterson, president of AutoPacific Group, a Tustin, Calif.-based research firm. "It takes Corvette out of the 'Joe Lunchbucket' category and into a more sophisticated market segment."

The Corvette's new top model represents the second coming of the original ZR1, nicknamed "King of the Hill," which was sold from 1990 through 1995. That version was essentially an option package - nicknamed "ZR1," of course - which added more than \$27,000 to the cost of an otherwise \$32,000 car. It packed a 375-horsepower aluminum-block V8 engine that was built by Mercury Marine (it saw duty on the water as well as the road) and recorded what was at the time a blazing a 4.9-second 0-60 mph time.

Fast forward to 2009 and marvel at what less than two decades of automotive advancements

have wrought. The 2009 ZR1's new engine, a hand-built "LS9" 6.2-liter supercharged small-block V8, produces a breathtaking 638 horsepower, 70 percent more powerful than the original iteration. Chevy claims the car can reach 60 mph in just 3.4 seconds (thanks to a six-speed manual gearbox that drives the rear wheels) and reach an outrageously illegal 205 mph.

The ZR1 is priced more than \$30,000 higher than the next most-expensive Corvette, the 500-horsepower Z06, and costs in excess of \$55,000 more than the speedy base car. Nonetheless, industry observers insist it remains true to the Corvette's heritage as an "affordable" sports car. With the ZR1, the frame of reference has been, as Emeril would say, kicked up a notch.

The new model "reinforces the 'performance-to-price' value status that Corvette traditionally holds versus its comparably performing competitors," argues Leo Parente, a New York-based automotive industry consultant. "Only in the ZR1's case it stands up against significantly more expensive Ferraris and Lamborghinis."

On the outside, the ZR1 has seen only minor styling tweaks to differentiate it from the rest of

the Corvette line. The most significant changes lie beneath the two-seat coupe's fiberglass body.

The ZR1 is built on a lightweight aluminum-intensive chassis and comes with specific suspension tuning that affords quicker handling than either the base car or the Z06 version can manage. A sophisticated Magnetic Selective Ride Control system is standard. It governs wheel and body motion via "magneto-rheological" fluid in each of the car's shock absorbers - this is oil that's infused with lots of tiny metal balls, the viscosity of which (and, in turn, the resiliency of the shocks) is affected by a magnetic current.

A choice of driver-selectable settings includes an ultra-stiff track-level mode that's engineered exclusively for cornering. Unfortunately, the added grip comes at the expense of a brutally rough ride. Fortunately, the system's other operating modes are able to better handle pavement imperfections and make the car fairly well-mannered for everyday use.

Upgraded brakes include Brembo carbon-ceramic rotors for secure stopping power, and the car rides on wider Michelin Pilot Sport tires with 19-inch 20-spoke wheels up front and

20-inch wheels and tires at the rear.

Though the Corvette ZR1 is subject to federal gas-guzzler tax, its fuel economy hanes beats many lumbering SUVs. At least in grandmotherly-polite driving, the EPA rates the ZR an estimated 14 mpg in the city and 21 mpg the highway.

Despite its six-figure sticker price, the ZR built with an emphasis on sheer performance over luxury. Buyers who simply cannot do without certain conveniences can specify a \$10,000 option package that includes amenities - might otherwise expect of a car in this price range, such as power leather seats, side-impact air bags, a Bose audio array, a navigation system and a Bluetooth hands-free cell-phone interface.

And if this all runs counter to the rapidly evolving conventional wisdom in the auto business that smaller and less powerful is perhaps that's exactly the point. "A fundamental Corvette tradition has always been 'breaking mold' on what a high-performance car should be," Parente says. "The ZR1 reinforces this leadership in technology, design and execution."

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**2009 CHEVY COBALT COUPE XFE** STK#N9030



**\$14,170** AFTER CASH BACK

EPA EST. **37** MPG HWY.

BETTER STANDARD HIGHWAY GAS MILEAGE THAN A TOYOTA COROLLA<sup>2</sup>

**2008 CHEVY IMPALA 1LT**



**\$3,500** PURCHASE CASH BACK

EPA EST. **29** MPG HWY.

BETTER GAS MILEAGE THAN TOYOTA AVALON<sup>4</sup>

**2009 CHEVY MALIBU 1LT W/AVAILABLE 6-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION** STK#N9073



**\$22,990** MSRP<sup>5</sup>

EPA EST. **33** MPG HWY.

BETTER GAS MILEAGE THAN A COMPARABLE CAMRY<sup>6</sup>

**2008 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 1LT**



**\$6,000** PURCHASE CASH BACK

EPA EST. **20** MPG HWY.

THE VORTEC 4.2L I-6 OFFERING UNSURPASSED STANDARD HORSEPOWER IN ITS CLASS<sup>7</sup>

**2008 CHEVY TAHOE 1LT 2WD W/AVAILABLE 5.3L**



**\$6,000** PURCHASE CASH BACK

EPA EST. **20** MPG HWY.

OFFERS BETTER HIGHWAY FUEL ECONOMY THAN TOYOTA SEQUOIA<sup>8</sup>

**2008 CHEVY SILVERADO LTZ 5.3L V8**



**\$5,000** PURCHASE CASH BACK

EPA EST. **20** MPG HWY.

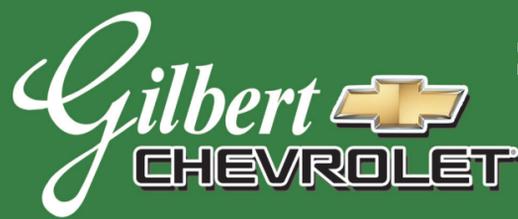
OFFERS BETTER AVAILABLE V8 FUEL ECONOMY THAN TOYOTA TUNDRA<sup>9</sup>

**12 12** 12-MONTH 12,000-MILE POWERTRAIN WARRANTY

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- 08 UPLANDER**..... **\$199 PER MO.\*\***  
STK# U1683 V6, AUTO, KEYLESS REMOTE, POWER WINDOWS, CRUISE CONTROL
- 07 MALIBU** ..... **\$199 PER MO.\*\***  
STK# U3856 4 CYLINDER, POWER MIRRORS, A/C

- 06 TRAILBLAZER** ..... **\$199 PER MO.\*\***  
STK# U0115 ALLOY WHEELS, POWER WINDOWS, LOCKS
- 08 IMPALA** ..... **\$224 PER MO.\*\***  
STK# U3531 SIX WAY POWER DRIVERS SEAT, V6, AUTO
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STK# U1091 V6, AUTO, UNIVERSAL HOME REMOTE, COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE
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STK# U1184 CLASSIC BODY STYLE 2WD, V8, AUTOMATIC, CD, POWER WINDOWS, LOCKS
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STK#8639A LIKE NEW, 12,000 MILES, HEADS UP DISPLAY



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2 - EPA estimated MPG hwy.: Cobalt XFE 37, Toyota Corolla 35. 4 - EPA estimated MPG hwy.: Impala LT 29 vs. Avalon 28. 6 - EPA estimated MPG highway with 4-cylinder engine and 6-speed automatic transmission: Malibu 1LT 33 vs. Camry 31. 8 - EPA estimated MPG highway (2WD): Tahoe with available 5.3L V8 20 vs. Sequoia with available 5.7L V8 19. 9 - EPA estimated MPG city/highway (2WD): Silverado with available 5.3L V8 14/20 vs. Tundra with available 5.7L V8 14/18. \* Monthly payment is \$13.89 for every \$1000 you finance. \*\* Monthly payments are based at 7.9% APR for 72 mos. with \$2,000 down. All prices and payments are plus tax, title and license. With approved credit. Rates are in lieu of rebates. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details. • GICH\_0365



# Bumper Snickers: Out of Gas?

**The U.S. Constitution protects a driver's right to say just about anything on a bumper sticker. These days, fewer of us are sounding off.**

By DEB ACORD | CTW FEATURES

Henry Ford called his 1908 Model T "the universal car." It was wildly popular, but it had one fault, at least for opinionated car-buyers of the early 20th century. It had no bumpers, which meant there was nowhere for proud car owners to inform other drivers of their choice for that fall's presidential election (Taft vs. Bryan - Taft won).

Nineteen years later, Ford's Model A came off the production lines, complete with doors and fancy chrome bumpers. The bumper sticker wasn't far behind.

For decades, drivers have used their bumpers as moving billboards. Stickers show their political leanings. They tell about their religious affiliations. They tell where they've vacationed and where they've been to eat. They tell strangers about favorite pets (I love Schnauzers) and sports teams (If God isn't a Bronco's fan, why are sunsets orange?). They offer a glimpse into a driver's sense of humor (Just say no to negativity) or sense of injustice (I had a life... but my job ate it).

Historians believe Forest P. Gill, a Kansas City-area printer who founded a silk screening company in his basement, invented the bumper sticker in the 1930s. Gill began experimenting with attaching advertisements to car bumpers with wire, and eventually began working with pressure-sensitive stock. The idea took hold, and by the time the Gill-line company celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1984, it had produced more than one billion bumper stickers.

The way that bumper stickers can both enlighten and enrage is what drew New Yorker Paul Rosa into the industry nearly two decades ago. In the 1990s, Rosa was a standup comedian who spent a lot of time on the road. The travel didn't bother him, but as he drove hundreds of miles, he began to be irked by a particularly popular bumper sticker. "It said, I'm proud of my honor student," Rosa says. "It was harmless enough, but a little annoying, people bragging about their kids to strangers on the highway. I decided to design my own bumper sticker that said My kid beat

up your honor student."

Rosa began selling the stickers after his comedy shows. "I ended up making almost as much money selling those stickers as I did performing," he says. Encouraged, he produced a second sticker that simultaneously poked fun at two institutions - the war against drugs and the law enforcement profession.

While the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program was started in the 1980s, with the slogan D.A.R.E. to Keep Kids Off Drugs, Rosa's bumper sticker reads, D.A.R.E. to Keep Cops Off Donuts. "It was a huge success, especially among police," he says. "I had precincts asking for group discounts."

Buoyed by the popularity of bumper stickers, Rosa started his company, and today still operates Idiot Ink, New York City.

Since the 1990s, Rosa has sold nearly 2 million bumper stickers, many through major retail chains. But in recent years, Rosa's business and the bumper sticker industry in general have been in decline. The stickers just aren't as prevalent as they were when Rosa's first pithy plays on words were pasted on cars around the country.

Rosa believes their demise is a generational shift. "There is less rebellion than there was, 35 or 40 years ago. There are fewer

causes for rage - gay rights and civil rights and women's rights have all advanced. There's no draft."

Rosa believes people are also more wary of displaying political or social views on their bumpers. "People tell me they are worried about being vandalized by somebody who doesn't agree with their stickers."

Because of that sticker stigma, car dealers are quick to remove stickers from cars they take on trade-in, says David Williams, general manager of Empire Lakewood Nissan in the Denver, Colo.-area.

"We would never sell a car that had a bumper sticker on it," Williams says. "Stickers, especially political stickers, might deter a customer from buying a particular car."

Before stickers are stripped from a car, Williams' employees check them out. "Stickers tell us how to sell the customer," Williams says. "Stickers tell us about his hobby or his job. It's a great way to find common ground to begin a conversation."

Williams has been in the automobile business since 1977, just four years after federal bumper standards were instituted. In 1973, new industry standards stated that bumpers must withstand impacts of five mph in front and 2.5 mph in back without damage to safety-related systems such as headlights and tail lamps. The old chrome bumpers were heavy but didn't meet the required standard.

Today's molded plastic bumpers just don't have the obvious display space of their chrome ancestors. And with the average sale price of a new car in America approaching \$30,000,

consumers are more reluctant to decorate with stickers.

"We see more bumper stickers on the less-expensive cars," Williams says. "We see very few on the more expensive models."

But that doesn't mean car owners have been completely silenced. Williams has noticed more stickers taped to car windows, along with magnetic stickers, and personalized license plates. "People are still expressing themselves, just in different ways," he says.

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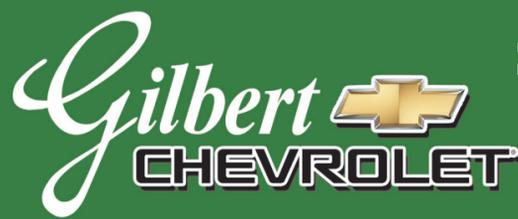
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