



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 5

Sunday, January 11, 2009

75¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Speckled Perch Festival planned

The 41st annual Speckled Perch Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, **Feb. 7-8**.

The Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce 41st annual Speckled Perch Pageant will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17, the KOA Kampground Convention Center.

The deadline for applications and fees has been extended. Applications can be picked up at the Chamber office, 55 S. Parrott Ave. There are six categories for girls, from age 2-19. Two categories for boys 3-5 years old.

The Chamber is also accepting applications for the Speckled Perch Parade. The parade will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. Applications are available at the Chamber office.

Applications are also available for the 41st Annual Speckled Perch Festival. For more information about the Speckled Perch Pageant, Speckled Perch Parade or the Speckled Perch Festival, contact the Chamber at 863-763-6464.

Code enforcement board meets

The City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board will meet Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Cases on the agenda include

- Harry and Zuanne Wally, N.W. 12th St. swimming pool;
- Angela Bickel McLaughlin, N.E. Fifth St. general cleaning;
- Robert and Sandra Hines, N.W. Seventh St., permit;
- Roger and Terry Hare, S.W. Ninth St., public nuisances;
- Edwardo Taylor, S.E. Eighth Dr., public nuisances;
- Bruce D. Large, S. Parrott Ave., general cleaning and beautification; and,
- Marvin Brantely, S. Parrott Avenue, public nuisances.

Drought Index

Current: 647
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

13.86 feet
Last Year: 10.13 feet

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

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

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Five seek Wherrell's seat

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Five area citizens have submitted their applications to Governor Charlie Crist's office seeking appointment to fill the District 4 county commission seat that became vacant with the death of Commissioner Marvin Wherrell.

The governor's office has verified that Andrew McKillop, Joseph Hoover, Melissa Lee Arnold, Theodore Kelchner and Steve Porter have filed the necessary paperwork to receive con-

sideration for the appointment to the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners.

"There is no time frame on when the appointment has to be made," said Sterling Ivey, a spokesman for Gov. Crist, in a telephone interview Friday, Jan. 9. "We will review the applications we have and if it appears we don't have enough qualified individuals we will hold the opening as long as we need to until we have a qualified individual."

Mr. Ivey said Florida state law

does not provide a definitive time line on when the appointment must be made.

The applications will be first reviewed by the governor's appointment office then a recommendation will be made. As of Friday, he said there has been no movement as far as making a recommendation to the governor.

"There's no real time line as to when the governor will make a decision," he said. "But, we want to move as quickly as possible."

Commissioner Wherrell, 64, died Dec. 22, 2008. He was serving his first term as District 4 commissioner. He also served as the board's second vice chair.

Records at the Okeechobee County Supervisor of Elections office indicate that all five applicants are Republicans.

Mr. Ivey said party affiliation doesn't matter in making an appointment.

"The governor accepts applications from anyone, regardless of party affiliation," he said.

Those who have submitted

their applications have varied backgrounds.

One applicant, Mr. Porter, is a former holder of the District 4 seat. Mr. Porter, 68, held the seat from 1990 until 1994. He currently owns a local flea market, as well as rental properties.

Mr. McKillop, 77, is the administrator of the Seniors 'R' Able Nursing Home and has been in that position since 1999.

Mr. Hoover, 48, owns and operates Classic Asphalt Sealing and Striping, Inc., Classic Clos-

See Seat — Page 2

Top educators: Schools honor teachers



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

The Teachers of the Year for the 2008-09 school year for each school site are (front row-left to right) Amy Hyde, Jenni Melear, Amelia Lozano, Vicki Goggans, Elisabeth Fox, (back row-left to right) Joe Paige, Lauren Myers, Brande Cobb, Sherry Conrad, Jeremy Goff, Brent Stuart. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Cooper (back right) expressed her congratulations to all of the teachers for their achievement.

Teacher of the Year selection begins

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School District Teachers of the Year gathered at the Freshman Campus auditorium to take part in a reception with the selection committee and to gather together to recognize them on their accomplishment.

The selection committee made up of school board member Gay Carlton, last year's Teacher of the Year Heather Hawk, and community member Cathy Rucks also began

their interviews with the potential District Teacher of the Year candidates.

Okeechobee County Teachers of the Year from each school are: Okeechobee High School, Vicki Goggans; New Endeavor High School, Brent Stuart; Okeechobee Freshman Campus, Elisabeth Fox; Osceola Middle School, Lauren Myers; Yearling Middle School, Jenni Melear; Central Elementary, Jeremy Goff; Everglades Elementary, Amy Hyde; North Elementary, Brande Cobb; Seminole Elementary, Joe

Paige; South Elementary, Amelia Lozano; and Exceptional Child Education, Sherry Conrad.

According to the Florida Department of Education website, this program recognizes and honors the contributions of outstanding classroom teachers who have demonstrated a superior capacity to inspire a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities.

Nomination packets are sent to district superintendents

See Teacher — Page 2

OHS coach applicants interviewed

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Three local candidates for Okeechobee High School football coach have interviewed and four other candidates will be interviewed next week according to Assistant Principal Sean Downing.

James Shockley, Rex Erwin, and Bob Hardman went before the search committee on Jan. 5. Jeremy Beckham interviewed on Thursday night. Next week

Ryan Sulkowski and Brian Ferguson are scheduled for interviews on Thursday, and Chris Davis on Friday.

Downing said the committee will present a recommendation to Mrs. Wiersma from those seven. This should be after the final interview on Jan. 16.

"She will accept or reject our recommendation, and then pass her own recommendation on to Superintendent Dr. Patricia

See Coach — Page 2

Rotary plans L.O.S.T. bike ride event

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The planning process for Rotary's sixth annual Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (L.O.S.T.) Bike Ride has begun. The event will be held on Saturday, March 28, beginning at 8 a.m. with registration at 7 a.m.

The event is being held to

raise funds to go toward local Rotarian scholarships that are given to Okeechobee High School seniors each year and mini-grants that are given to local teachers.

The event begins at Scott Driver at the Okee-Tantie Recreation located off of S.R. 78

See Bike — Page 2

Teen dances need new location

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

Teenagers are always looking for something to do in Okeechobee and parents are always desperate to find a safe place for their teens to be just that, "teens" in a supervised location.

Teresa Chandler along with many volunteers has made that place possible with the Teen Dances that she has held over the last year. With the help of her daughter Allison Chandler, local DJ Billy Dean, and local business owner of the Pier II Dharmesh Patel they have held four of these dances at the Pier II.

These dances have not only been an outlet for teens to gather in a supervised environment for fun and dancing, but they have been able to raise money for local charities all at the

same time. Each dance raises approximately \$500 for the charity named for that event.

So far, there have been dances for the American Cancer Society; March of Dimes; Making Strides Against Breast Cancer; and two dances for the American Red Cross Okeechobee Service Center. The next dance will be for the local Okeechobee Communities In Schools.

Due to scheduling conflicts the last dance in December was held at the Okeechobee County Civic Center.

According to Ms. Chandler, the teens feedback deemed that the location was too far out of town and not easily available for their parents to drop them off and pick them up. So, they are calling out to the community to help them find another place to hold their teen dances which not only benefit the community by giving teens, ages 12

to 15 something constructive to do, but also benefit local charities.

The cost of renting the civic center also came out of the funds that would have been given to the local charity.

During a typical teen dance the cost for attendance is \$7 and includes a meal such as hotdogs and chips or pizza and chips and a drink. The teens not only dance to today's top music, but also play games such as the "toilet paper game" which places the teens with partners where they have to mummy their partner in toilet paper as quickly as possible. The team to have the most mummification at the end of one song wins the game. They also have a hula hoop competition and play limbo.

Each dance has increased

See Teen — Page 2



Submitted photo Allison Chandler (left) tried her hand at "mummifying" Lyndsey Williams (right) in toilet paper at this Teen Dance that was held at the Pier II. The object of the game is to mummify your partner in the most toilet paper by the end of a song.

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Bike

Continued From Page 1

West. Last year cyclists came from as far south as Homestead, as far north as Vero, as far west as Sarasota and as far east as West Palm Beach. Cyclists, runners and walkers are all welcome to this family fun event where you can appreciate the nature of Lake Okeechobee. Run-

ners and walkers will begin their journey on the L.O.S.T. after the cyclists are on their way. Cost for the event registration packet prior to March 14, 2009, is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children ten and under; which includes a goodie bag and T-shirt. For registration only, cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ten and under. After March 14, 2009, cost for registration is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ten and under.

Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are available to help support the youth of Okeechobee. Each Rotarian is required to secure at least \$200 in sponsorship dollars. Their are three levels of tax deductible sponsorship: gold, \$100 which includes the sponsor's name on the welcome banner, newspaper and other radio advertisements along with a certificate of appreciation; silver, \$75 which includes the name on the welcome banner

and a certificate of appreciation; and bronze, \$50 and certificate of appreciation. Cyclists, runners and walkers will take to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail to enjoy the beauty of nature around Lake Okeechobee. Participants have choices of four different round trips ranging from 12 miles to 54 miles all beginning and ending at the Scott Driver Boat Ramp, S.R. 78 W. Refreshments and bathroom facilities are provided along the

route. Certified bicycle helmets are required. Riders, runners and walkers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Rotarian scholarships are given out yearly to Okeechobee High School students who demonstrate qualities such as the Four-Way Test stand for. These include community service, which demonstrates service above self. Students who receive the Rotarian scholarship also maintain at least a 3.0

grade point average. Contributions can be mailed to Jim McInnes, Farm Bureau Insurance Co., 401 N.W. Fourth Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972. Checks are to be made payable to Rotary's LOST Ride-Run-Walk. For more information about the L.O.S.T. Bike Ride-Run-Walk contact Jim McInnes at (863) 763-3101. Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar may be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

Teacher

Continued From Page 1

at the beginning of each school year. Selection processes may differ by district, but Okeechobee accepts nominations from individual schools within their district and then requires the candidates to undergo a more strenuous se-

lection process. Only one teacher may be nominated by a district to the state and only the superintendent may submit the nomination. All full-time, public school classroom teachers, grades pre-K through 12, adult education teachers, postsecondary vocational/technical education teachers, guidance counselors, media specialists, and department

chairpersons who actively engage in classroom teaching are eligible for nomination. School personnel whose major responsibilities are administrative or supervisory are ineligible. Each Florida District Teacher of the Year receives an award check of \$500 from the department. The Florida Teacher of the Year receives an award check of

\$2,500 from the Department of Education. Each Finalist for the Florida Teacher of the Year receives an award check of \$1,250 from the Department. The Florida Teacher of the Year also serves as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education. In this role, they serve as a goodwill ambassador representing the Department of Education and teachers throughout the state. The Teacher of the Year may conduct workshops, address fellow teachers, parents, and busi-

ness and community leaders at conferences and meetings, and talk to student groups about careers in education. The ambassador is on sabbatical leave from his/her school district during this year of service. The Department reimburses the district for the teacher's salary and benefits. Last year's Okeechobee County District Teacher of the Year was Heather Hawk from Everglades Elementary School. The Teacher of the Year will be announced at the Tuesday,

Feb. 10, board meeting at the Okeechobee School Board room at 6 p.m. In the coming issues the Okeechobee News will showcase each candidate for the Okeechobee District Teacher of the Year prior to the announcement of the District winner on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

Teen

Continued From Page 1

the number in attendance from 50 to over 80 teens. The dances begin at 6 p.m. where the parents drop off their teens at the location where the volunteers take the parent's name, child's name and phone number in case of any emergencies. They also write down any special information if there is a different person going to pick up the child. The dance is over at 10 p.m. where this process is done in reverse as the parent's drive up they tell the volunteers their names and they in turn look them up on the clipboard and go retrieve their child from indoors. The system has proven to be very secure and they have had

no incidents at the dances. There are typically 10 to 12 volunteers at each dance supervising the teens. The teens are eager to make this event a monthly fundraiser for local charities so that they can have a regularly scheduled event to be able to dance and hang out with their friends while promoting a good cause. In order to make this happen Ms. Chandler needs the community to come together and come up with a more centralized location that will better suit the needs of these teen dances. "All we need is a building. I do all the decorations and bring in the food through donations," stated Ms. Chandler. Decorations and food are also received via donations. The volunteers that have helped in the past include volunteers from Seacoast Na-

tional Bank, where Ms. Chandler works, the American Red Cross Okeechobee Service Center and other various individuals. Even Ms. Chandler's daughter, Allison Chandler has stepped in to help out by decorating, stepping in as acting DJ and cleaning up after the dance. The local charity receives 100 percent of the funds raised at the dances. For more information on how you can help the teens of Okeechobee while also helping various local charities please contact Teresa Chandler at 863-697-6819. Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

ring because of a death in office, which is not as common," he said. "Typically, most of the governor's appointments occur because of wrongdoing by an elected official." Currently, the governor's reviewing office is working on five to six city and county appointments across the state, Mr. Ivey pointed out. Applications for the position can be found on the county's web site at www.co.okeechobee.fl.us.

missioner that does not mean an automatic appointment to the board. Mr. Ivey said Gov. Crist will be looking "for someone who has integrity and can represent the citizens very well." Once Gov. Crist makes his decision, the appointee will be notified and will take office immediately. Mr. Ivey said while Gov. Crist makes a lot of appointments this year, this particular one is "a little different." "This appointment is occur-

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Seat

Continued From Page 1

ets, Inc. and Economic Development Associates, Inc. Mrs. Arnold, 46, states on her application that she is currently an associate with Pritchard's GMAC Realty Group. Mr. Kelchner, 59, is the owner of the construction company K-Builders, Inc. Mr. Ivey said even though Mr. Porter is a former county com-

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Coach

Continued From Page 1

cia Cooper by the end of the following week," he added. The committee would like to hire a football coach before Jan. 20. There is a district scheduling meeting for football on that date and another important meeting for football on Jan. 28. "We sincerely hope the new coach will help us with that pro-

cess," he noted. Okeechobee was recently reassigned to play in a district with William T. Dwyer, Palm Beach Lakes and Forest Hill high school. The reassignment has not been finalized. Some school officials would like to see Okeechobee compete with Treasure Coast

schools. Downing said as of today none of the candidates who interviewed have been eliminated. He said applications are still being accepted and that a late comer could still be the choice. "We are hoping to find the right person," he added.

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Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Calm wind becoming southwest between 5 and 10 mph.
Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. Calm wind.

Extended Forecast

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. Calm wind becoming northwest between 5 and 10 mph.
Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. North northwest wind around 5 mph.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. North northwest wind around 5 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 72. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Friday in the Florida Lottery: **AM Cash 3:** 4-0-1; **Play 4:** 0-1-4-9; **Powerball:** 23-31-33-38-52 PB 24 x5; **Fantasy 5:** 3-10-27-34-35; **Mega Money:** 3-8-10-13 MB 19. **PM Cash 3:** 1-5-8; **Play 4:** 4-7-4-9.

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Man asks to 'borrow' money

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local man has been accused of "borrowing" money from area residents under the guise that he had locked his keys and wallet in his car and needed the money to pay a locksmith.

Clayton Delane Lineberry, 26, N.E. Fourth St., was arrested Thursday, Jan. 8, on a felony charge of fraudulent practices -- cheating at common law. He was booked into the county jail under a bond of \$5,000.

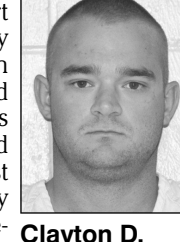
Detective Bryan Lowe, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), indicated in his arrest report that Lineberry had spun his deceptive tale and received cash from three local citizens.

In one instance, Lineberry reportedly asked the victim if he could borrow \$50. The de-

tective's report states Lineberry told the victim he was a friend of the victim's neighbor and that he had just been hired by a local fire department.

Lineberry even gave the victim copies of his driver's license and Social Security card "... to make the victim feel more comfortable," continued the report. The documents identified him as Clayton Delane Lineberry, Detective Lowe's report stated.

In another incident, Lineberry reportedly went into a local business and asked to borrow \$40. He allegedly told an employee there that he had locked his keys and wallet in his car and he needed the money to pay the



Clayton D. Lineberry

locksmith. He promised to repay the money once he was able to get into his car, said the detective's report.

In a third incident, Lineberry went to a business owner he knew and, allegedly using the same story, asked to borrow \$40. The owner only had a \$50 bill at the time so he reportedly gave it to Lineberry because he thought the man was in distress.

Detective Lowe stated in his report that Lineberry told the owner he would be repaid once he gained access to his vehicle, but he never returned. The owner reported the incident to the sheriff's office the next day.

The detective's report indicates that Lineberry doesn't own a vehicle, and has no means to repay the money because he lost his job late last year.

Local man arrested in Michigan

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man being sought by local authorities was arrested in Michigan Thursday night, Jan. 8, by local and federal authorities there.

Belizario Aguirre, 28, was arrested on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with trafficking in cocaine. His bond on that charge has been set at \$100,000.

Detectives with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force believe Aguirre fled Okeechobee shortly after they executed a search warrant on a S.W. 10th Drive home and seized nearly a kilo of suspected cocaine. They also confiscated over \$14,000 in cash.

Four people were arrested in the Nov. 6, 2008, raid and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under bonds of \$100,000 each. Arrested were: Juan Manuel Molina, 28, S.W. 10th Drive; Alvaro Garcia Ortiz, 26, Okeechobee; Reynoso Marcelo DeJesus Aguirre, 18, S.W. 10th Drive; and Erandi Yanel Aguirre, 27, S.W. 10th Drive. All four were charged with trafficking in cocaine over 400 grams.

The detective said all have been released on bond except for Ortiz.

Because of that, the detective

applied for and received another arrest warrant for Belizario Aguirre that charges him with possession of cocaine with intent to sell. With that charge, he will be held without bond.

Belizario Aguirre was arrested sometime Thursday night by officers from the Dearborn, Mich., Police Department along with agents from the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Information on the arrest was not available as of newspaper deadline except that he is being held in the Wayne County (Michigan) Jail.

The local task force detective said when the paperwork has been completed Belizario Aguirre will be returned to Okeechobee County to stand trial on the charges.

During their raid on the S.W. 10th Drive home, task force detectives seized \$14,950 in cash along with a large amount of a white powder, said the detective. When field tested, the powder indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine.

The detective said between what was found in the home and then later in a pickup truck, a total of 1.9 pounds of suspected cocaine was seized in the Nov. 6 raid. A kilo weighs 2.2 pounds.

The detective indicated the suspected cocaine had an estimated street value of about \$30,000. Since the purity of the suspected cocaine was not known at the time, the exact value could not be immediately determined, the detective added.

As members of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) SWAT team entered the home, a vehicle left the scene, said the detective. That vehicle was later stopped in the 3200 block of S.R. 70 W. near Garibaldi Plaza.

The detective said the 1998 black Ford F-150 pickup was being driven by Ortiz.

While searching the truck, the detective said two separate bags of a white powder was found in the bed of the truck. When field tested, the powder indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine.

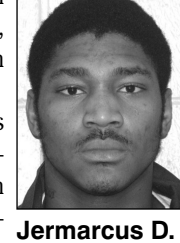
According to the detective, one of those packages weighed 457.4 grams while the other weighed 58.6 grams.

Even though Ortiz has been living in Okeechobee, his driver's license indicated he lived at an address in North Carolina, added the detective.

Teen accused of carjacking

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A 15-year-old Okeechobee teen has been arrested in connection with the November, 2008 theft of an automobile.



Jermarcus D. Bradley

Jermarcus Demetre Bradley, N.E. 15th Ave., was arrested Thursday, Jan. 8, on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with robbery-carjacking. After being booked into the Okeechobee County Jail, he was taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

Detective Sergeant Brad Stark, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated that the Nov. 2, 2008, incident took place in Douglas Park and that the victim was first hit over the head with a beer bottle then beaten. Following the assault, the attacker apparently took the victim's 1994 Ford conversion van, said Sgt. Stark.

Bradley has not been charged with the alleged assault.

The van was found abandoned in the Douglas Park area a short time later, the detective added. It has been returned to the victim.

According to Sgt. Stark, a pair of sunglasses and some costume jewelry were taken from the van.

The items have not been recovered.

Sgt. Stark said when deputies first responded to the scene they were told that someone had been beat up and robbed and that shots had been fired. While shots were fired, Sgt. Stark said the victim was not shot.

"We can't determine at this point who did the shooting," said the detective.

The victim was taken to Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne due to his injuries.

Since there are other suspects, Sgt. Stark said his investigation is continuing.

Bradley was arrested on the warrant following his release from the detention center, where he had been held on an unrelated charge.

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Arrest Report

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

- Michael Casey Platt, 27, N.E. 29th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 2 by Detective Ted Van Deman on a felony charge of burglary of a conveyance. He was also charged with the misdemeanors of petit theft and credit card fraud. His bond was set at \$4,000.
- James Byron Timmons, 23, S.E. 57th Drive, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 2 by Deputy Matthew Hurst on charges of driving under the influence and driving while license suspended with

knowledge. His bond was set at \$1,000.

- Shreiss Sade Miles, 21, S.W. 11th Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 2 by Officer Jack Boon on a charge of grand theft. She was released on her own recognition.
- Nicholas Ryan Pierce, 23, S.E. 22nd Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 3 by Deputy Dale Hardy on a charge of driving while license suspended/revoked - habitual offender. His bond was set at \$2,500.
- Sonja Jean Requena, 25, Reservation Road, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 8 by Deputy John Ashby on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with failure to appear - driving under the influence. Her bond was set at \$2,500.
- Allen Eugene, 16, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 8 by Deputy Sergeant J. Royal on an Okeecho-

bee County warrant charging him with battery on detention or commitment facility staff. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Laura Hollister, 25, S.W. Second Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 8 by Deputy Sgt. J. Royal on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud (six counts). Her bond was set at \$15,000.
- Stephen Ray Ward, 48, S.E. 24th Blvd., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 9 by Deputy Donald Ellis on a charge of possession of cocaine. His bond was set at \$5,000.

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

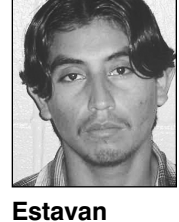
Okeechobee's Most Wanted

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

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



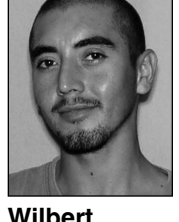
Joe Luis Garza



Estavan Villegas-Urbina



Angie Borjas, aka Stevenson



Wilbert Perez-Borja



Jason Hormuth

tion of remaining anonymous. You can also receive a reward if the information results in an arrest.

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

Estavan Villegas-Urbina, 21, Robbery.

Angie Borjas aka Steven-

son, 29; DOB: 03/08/1979, Poss. of Methamphetamines, Poss. of Drug Paraphernalia.


Wilbert Perez-Borja, 25, H/M, Poss Cannabis more than 20 Grams; possession with intent to sell.

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

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CIVIL LITIGATION

-GENERAL LITIGATION
-EVICITIONS
-FORECLOSURES
-QUIET TITLE
-CONTRACTS
-SUBROGATIONS

Money to Lend

Although, it's hard to miss the bad news about housing and mortgages these days, it is actually one of the best times to buy a home. Interest rates are the lowest they've been in decades, home prices are the lowest in years and Seacoast National Bank is open for business and making residential mortgage loans.

application for up to 90 days. You can then shop for a home with the peace of mind that the rate will not increase while you shop. If rates go down before you close on the loan, so does your rate. You can also choose to change the loan to a fixed rate option at closing.

Interest rates are the lowest they've been in decades, home prices are the lowest in years and Seacoast National Bank is open for business and making residential mortgage loans.

In fact, we've been in business for over 80 years. We did not participate in payment-option ARMs (adjustable rate mortgages), sub-prime loans or other 'exotic' mortgage loans you read about today and which so many other mortgage lenders are struggling with. Instead, we sat out the irrational lending frenzy and built our internal resources to better serve our customers and home buyers today and in the future.

ARM(ed) But Not Dangerous

The events of the last few years have created the perception that all ARMs (Adjustable Rate Mortgages) are dangerous - they're not. There are times when an ARM is the right loan for the situation. For instance, a couple purchasing a home that plans to sell and upgrade in a few years would most likely benefit from a shorter term ARM loan. It's a matter of applying common sense lending practices and selecting the right loan to fit the needs of the borrower.

New Lock & Shop Service

We recently introduced our "Lock and Shop" service at Seacoast that allows prospective home buyers to be pre-approved for a mortgage and lock in the rate on an Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM) at the time of

Technology & Convenience

A common misconception is that an online-only lender will save a home buyer money. Although the Internet is ideal for gathering information, the drawbacks of working with an online-only lender outweigh the advantages. To complement our loan services, Seacoast has convenient online tools for home buyers including a mortgage calculator and application for those who want online convenience. However you choose to apply, local, dedicated mortgage loan officers are available to assist you with the application process in person at your home or office, at a Seacoast office or over the telephone. Seacoast's professional mortgage lenders are prepared to understand your current economic and housing needs, to answer your questions and make quick local decisions. We disclose all terms and conditions up front, and provide a single point of contact throughout the process, so there are no surprises at closing. Our promise to you is simple - whether you apply online or in person, there's nothing "mechanical" about the way you'll be treated as a customer.

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Speak Out/Public Forum

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

Thanks for participating!

Tax revenue shortfall

AG EXEMPTIONS: The few properties that the newspaper wrote about -- and that the county put back on the tax rolls at full value once people started complaining -- put millions back on the tax rolls. That was just a few cases that were easy to see because the property was on a main road and anyone could drive by and see there was no agricultural use going on. In one case, the land wasn't even completely fenced and it was being taxed as pasture. But I wonder how many other properties there are claiming the ag exemption that don't have any real agriculture use. Someone needs to go through all of the tax assessments carefully and check them out. They could probably find more millions of dollars worth of taxable properties that could go back on the tax rolls. The citizens have to make some noise to get action on this.

TAX ASSESSMENTS: The tax assessor should be out checking on these properties, especially the larger ones or hire someone to do that job only. If they don't meet the qualifications, put them back on the tax rolls.

DEVELOPMENT: I was told that once land was approved by the state and county as Projected Urban Development that the land could no longer be ag exempt. It seems that Freshwater on Charles Harvey and The Grove in the northeast part of county would put a lot of land back to full value. Maybe someone of authority should be asked about this.

Driver who hit deputy has license revoked

SENTENCE: He got off easy. I think it was ridiculous. He left an officer in the road to die or get run over again, I think he should have received jail time. Age doesn't matter and neither should where he's from. He was young enough to drive, then he is young enough to pay the consequences. If it was my family member injured, or me, taking his license wouldn't be enough.

DRIVERS: A bigger question that should be addressed is the need for more regular hearing, vision and reaction time for drivers who are over 65. It is a medical fact that as we age, our eyesight, hearing and reflexes may be affected. It happens gradually and you might not notice the change. Too often it takes an accident to get an unsafe driver off the road. If the driver's license office required vision and hearing tests once every two years after age 65, a lot of problems could be avoided. In many cases, the person might just need a stronger prescription on the eyeglasses or hearing aid. And drivers of any age who have an accident should be required to be tested before they are allowed to resume driving. Driving is a privilege, not a right.

REACTION: Reaction time is a big issue. Also depth perception, as in how close a vehicle is to you before you pull out in front of them.

Football season is over

SPORTS: Let's get onto a topic I like---Baseball and softball try-outs are coming. Any thoughts on how the teams will fare this year?

SOFTBALL: Girls were out in force today. Guess the boys are not up and going yet-just a few out there taking some cuts. Looks like another year of long practices for the girls--going to the wrestling match and the girls were just wrapping things up.

CONDITIONING: No one can beat the softball coach when it comes to long practices and conditioning. Say what you want, she does have well conditioned athletes. If they are not when they get there, they are when they leave! Hopefully it will be a good season.

Deputies find another grow house

DANGEROUS: Lets do pros and cons, Alcohol vs. Marijuana --- Which, in your opinion is more dangerous and kills more people?

MARIJUANA: Legalize it!

DEBATE: Regardless of anyone's opinion or pros & cons. Marijuana is illegal & alcohol isn't. (Probably should be). My opinion is why spend so much time debating either. Go find something productive to do.

VIOLENCE: I am less concerned about the effects of marijuana than I am about criminal elements from other areas coming into our community. If you read the stories about the grow houses raided in the past year, you will see a common thread. In the majority of the cases, these houses were set up by people who came to our rural area with the intent to do this. I am very glad the sheriff's office works so hard to find and close down these operations because large scale drug operations like these often involve violence. We don't need this kind of thing coming into our community. Many of these houses were in residential neighborhoods. Should violence erupt in connection with a drug deal there, think how many innocent people could be at risk.

Are you a racist? Study says maybe

STUDY: I like how the CNN study points out how accepting people are of racism and how that shows just how racist those individuals are as well. People don't understand that a lot of the time.

SPEAK ENGLISH: I don't know how to say this but I guess I would probably be called racist. I have absolutely nothing against black people, asian people, short people, tall people, skinny people, fat people, gay people, etc., but I do have a major problem with NON SPEAKING ENGLISH PEOPLE, nothing upsets me more than that. Whatever language it may be, if you live here, SPEAK THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE! I get it at least once a day in my office and I just don't understand how someone can go into a place of business and expect them to speak their language. They say "Oh uh you speak uh no uh spanish? No I do not, and they look at you like a deer in the headlights. If you don't speak our language in the United States of America, at least bring someone with you who does. It makes things a lot easier for everyone, How do you expect people to communicate with you, if you don't speak the English language. So, call me racist.

A Christmas story

VACATION: After Christmas, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holiday away from school. One child wrote the following: We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida. Now they live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on their bicycles and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a building called a "wreck" center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now, they do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on. At their gate, there is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out, and go cruising in their golf carts. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And, they eat the same thing every night --- early birds. Some of the people can't get out past the man in the doll house. The ones who do get out, bring food back to the wrecked center for pot luck. My Grandma says that Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too. When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let people out, so they can visit their grandchildren.

Reflections from the Pulpit

By Rev. Calvin Fryar
Pastor, Brighton Baptist Church

The Visitor
"Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

"But they constrained him (Jesus) saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. An their eyes were opened and they knew him." (Luke 24:29-31)

When Queen Victoria reigned in England, she occasionally would visit some of the humble cottages of her subjects. One time she entered the home of a widow and stayed to enjoy a brief period of Christian fellowship.

Later on, the poor woman was taunted by her worldly neighbors. "Granny, they said, "who's the most honored guest you've ever entertained in your home?" They expected her to say it was Jesus, for despite their constant ridicule of her Christian witness, they recognized her deep spirituality. But to their surprise she answered, "The most honored guest I've entertained is Her Majesty the Queen."

"Did you say the Queen? Ah, we caught you this time! How about this Jesus you're always talking about? Isn't He your most honored guest?" Her answer was definite and scriptural. "NO indeed! He's not a guest. HE LIVES HERE!" Her hecklers were put to silence. - Our Daily Bread

Where does Jesus abide in your life? Do you consider Him only as a guest or is He more? He would like to be more than guest once or twice a week.

Is He knocking at your heart's door?

Kebel College, Oxford, houses the original painting by Holman Hunt entitled "The Light of the World." As the entire world knows, the painting depicts Jesus, a crowned and bejeweled figure, standing outside a brier covered door which has no latch handle, a lighted lantern in one hand, the other hand knocking gently for admittance.

A father and his small son were looking at the picture one day, when the boy suddenly asked: "Daddy, why don't they let Him in?" Then before his dad had time to reply, the lad answered his own question: "I expect it is because they live in the basement and can't hear Him!"

Too many live in the basements of life. That is, too many are looking to the things of this world to give and support their life and liberty. I hope that we have seen in the last months how well these things are capable of supplying those things.

This may explain why so many ignore the "GOOD NEWS OF

CHRIST." Like the lad suggested, they are living in the basement (the world) and cannot hear the Lord knocking.

Have you let Him in?
If you have not done so, then ask yourself "WHY?" I can think of no reason to leave Him knocking at my heart's door. What ever you do, don't let Him pass you by. Please stop and think of how you will feel when you learn the name of the One knocking.

A few years ago the Prime Minister of England stepped across Downing Street with a friend, who wanted some information from one of the government officials. They entered the particular office, and on inquiring for the head of the department, they were curtly told to "wait" by an insolent young clerk, who did not even look up from his newspaper, and presently added an order to "wait outside." When the principal official returned, he was thunderstruck to find the head of the government sitting with his friend on the steps of the stone staircase. Equally surprised was the clerk, when, to his dismay, he learned by his dismissal the result of careless insolence. - 1000 Illustrations

He wishes to dine with you.
Ask Him into your heart and He will feed your soul with life giving bread. He is God's manna (bread) for the soul. Jesus is called the Bread of Life and He is known in the breaking of bread (fellowship). Those who open to Him will find life.

Dr. Matthews, in his book about Madagascar, where he was for 30 years a missionary, describes this native custom: The prisoners were kept in chains, but they had to earn their own living, and were confined to prison only during the night. On the days, however, on which the Sovereign appeared they were not allowed to leave the prison; or if allowed out on these days, at noon, before the Sovereign was to appear, they had to return to prison, were counted, and locked up.

Why? Because if one of those criminals managed to hide himself, and then emerge from his hiding place to gaze at and salute the Sovereign, as she passed by, wearing her diadem and beautiful in the glory of her royal apparel, he was a free man. Whatever his crime had been, his chains were at once struck off, for he had looked on the Sovereign in her beauty and saluted her, and no one could do that and still remain a prisoner. Rev. W.W. Landrum

The application here is that looking unto Jesus, our Sovereign, as He spiritually passes by, one who is condemned and bound by sin can gain instant freedom from the bondage of sin!

Friend, the hour is late, If He is still knocking on your heart's door, let Him in now. This could be your last opportunity - don't; let Him pass!

Community Calendar... Cont.

Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick open discussion 7 p.m. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

A.A. meeting will be from noon to 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. This will be an open meeting. **VFW #10539 Ladies Auxiliary** lunch and bingo will start at noon at the Post, 3912 U.S. 441 S.E. Auxiliary members and their guests are invited. Please R.S.V.P. to 863-763-2308.

Okeechobee Senior Singers meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 North Parrott Ave. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited. For information or to schedule an appearance for your organization or group, contact Marge Skinner at 863-532-0449.

The Genealogical Society of Okeechobee will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Public Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. The meeting is open to anyone interested in tracing his or her ancestry. The annual membership is \$10 per person, and \$12 for a family. For information, call Eve at 863-467-2674; or, visit their web site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgso>.

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

Flotilla 57 - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Station located at the entrance to Okeetantie on Road 78 on the second Monday of each month. Everyone is welcome to come as a guest and inquire about membership. Watch the paper we are planning a one day boat safety program in January 2009. Do get your safe boating certification. Call to enroll for course or to inquire about membership 863-763-0165.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Lighthouse Refuge support group meets at Believers Fellowship Church, 300 S.W. Sixth Ave. from noon until 2 p.m. then from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. Women who need emotional support or someone just to care are welcome. For information call the hot line 863-801-9201 or 863-697-9718.

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

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

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

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** Grapevine Group open discussion 6:30 p.m.; **N.A.** Nowhere Left To Go Group 8 p.m. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

Martha's House support groups meet each Wednesday. Spanish groups meet from 7 until 8 p.m. at the Okeechobee Christian Church, 3055 S.E. 18th Terrace. Ana Romero is the group facilitator. Another group meets in the Okeechobee County Health Department, 1798 N.W. Ninth Ave., from 5 until 6 p.m. with Irene Luck as the group facilitator. There is another meeting from 6 until 7 p.m. with Shirlean Graham as the facilitator. For information, call 863-763-2893.

A.A. meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Our 200 N.W. Second St. It's an open meeting.

A.A. meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 701 S.W. Sixth St. It will be a closed discussion.

Bingo at the Buckhead Ridge Moose Lodge. Food will be served at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m. Public is welcome.

Ministerial Association meets the second Wednesday of every month at noon at the Clock restaurant. All area ministers are invited to attend.

Community Calendar

Sunday, Jan. 11

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

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

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

Monday, Jan. 12

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

Okeechobee News

Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge ...

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

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For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2

Builders Assoc. names new board

The Treasure Coast Builders Association (TCBA) recently held its annual Installation Banquet of Officers at the Stuart Corinthian Yacht Club in Stuart. Incoming President Chris Sorenson of W.B. Brown had some positive remarks to make during his acceptance speech. "Let me quote some positive notes and statistics for you. A few headlines for you "Collapse of a major investment house"..... "End of the "leveraged/credit era"..... "Middle east investor buys major stake in a U.S. Bank." These are painful to hear again aren't they? Guess what, these aren't from this year or even last year. These are headlines from 1990 and 1991 and we then proceeded to go on one of the longest building booms in

history. From 2000 to 2007 the population increased by 20.5 million people, that's approx. 2.92 million per year. New housing units increased by only 11.5 million units between the same time periods or only 1.67 million units per year. Looks like a short fall of units to me. Currently housing production is at a low of only about 500,000 to 550,000 units this year. Keeping with the theme there is a lighthouse out there for all of us, it's called TCBA."

The installing officer was Past President Wil Brown of W.B. Brown, grandfather of President Chris Sorenson. Other new executive officers that were sworn in included Greg Schlitt of Schlitt Builders in Indian River County as first Vice President; Cathy Barham

of Moneysaver Magazine in Martin County as second Vice President; Christina Kelleher of BidABuilder.com in St. Lucie County as Secretary and Elbert Batton of Lake View Builders in Okeechobee County as Treasurer.

Martin County Chapter board members included chapter chair, Eric Johnson of Eric Johnson Construction; Michael Johnston of S.P.S. Building Materials, Roy Kraemer of Florida's Finest Construction; Earnie Carrere of Carrere General Contractors; and Bob Thomas of Rachlin Cohen & Holtz.

St. Lucie County Chapter board members are: chapter chair, Beverly Berry of SunTrust; Joe Ciaravino of Kolter Signature Homes; Robert Ludlum of Aqua

Dimensions Plumbing; Brad Curry of Land Design South; and Jane Rowley of Core Communities.

Indian River Chapter board members consist of: chapter chair, David Milton of Milton-Hayes Construction; Robert Paugh of Bill Bryant & Associates; David Ederer of Navo Builders; Tony Gervasio of Brite Future Electric and Tracy Carroll of Twenty First Century Design Build.

Okeechobee County Chapter board members included chapter chair, Cindy Hall of Cap Stone Industries and Carl Shumate of The Alarm Company.

Okeechobee area pets go online

The Humane Society Pet Rescue FL, Inc., Okeechobee, recently has joined other animal welfare organizations in the area that list their homeless pets on Petfinder.com, the oldest and largest database of adoptable animals on the Internet. The site currently has 301,000 homeless pets listed, and it is updated continuously.

Nearly 12,000 animal welfare organizations in the U.S., Can-

ada, and other countries post their pets on the site. Humane Society Pet Rescue FL Inc Rescue pets can be viewed at: <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/FL846.html>. A potential adopter enters search criteria for the kind of pet he or she wants, and a list is returned that ranks the pets in proximity to the Zip code entered. Adoptions are handled by the animal placement group where the pet is housed, and

each group has its own policies.

Petfinder.com was created in early 1996 as a grassroots project by Jared and Betsy Saul to end the euthanasia of adoptable pets. Since its inception, the site has facilitated approximately 15 million adoptions, making it the most life-saving initiative in animal welfare.

Petfinder sponsors are The Animal Rescue Site, BISSELL Homecare, Inc., a manufacturer

of home cleaning and floor care products, PETCO, a national pet supply retailer that sponsors in-store adoptions and provides coupon books for new adopters, and Merial, maker of the number one veterinary-recommended flea and tick preventative FRONTLINE(r), and heartworm preventative HEARTGARD(r).



Submitted photo

Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots served 799 Okeechobee children on Saturday, December 20. This was made possible because of the efforts of numerous volunteers and the many businesses that supported Toys for Tots. Local Class of 2008 graduate Marines (back center) PFC. Quinton Speed, PFC Ethan Abner, and PFC Eddie Furphy were among some of those who helped in the distribution.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

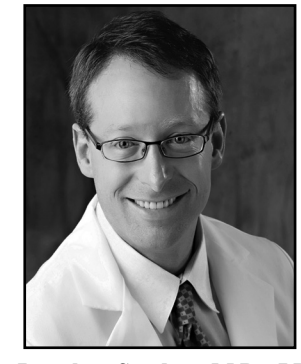
20 years of service

Mayor James Kirk (left) was presented with a certificate for his 20 years of service to the City by City Clerk Lane Gamiotea (right) at the Tuesday, Jan. 6, City Council meeting.

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Call announced for best cornbread recipes

SOUTH PITTSBURG, Tenn.—A cast iron skillet, your favorite Martha White® Cornbread Mix, and a dash of creativity could bring you the \$5,000 First Prize in the 2009 National Cornbread Cook-Off. Entries for original main dish cornbread recipes are now being accepted until Feb. 28, 2009, by The National Cornbread Festival for its 13th Annual Cook-Off, sponsored by Martha White and Lodge® Cast Iron.

Ten finalists will compete during the National Cornbread Festival and create their original cornbread specialties under the Big Cook-Off Tent on April 25, 2009, in South Pittsburg, Tenn. One lucky winner will be chosen as the reigning cornbread champion and receive \$5,000 and a 30-inch stainless steel gas range (a \$2,500 value) from Five Star® Professional Cooking Equipment, a division of Brown Stove Works, Inc.

"Every year I am amazed at the creativity of the cornbread recipes that are submitted from all regions of the country," said Linda Carman, Martha White baking expert. "We've gotten recipes inspired by ethnic cuisines from all over the world, and some of the most popular have been the recipes with a Mexican, TexMex, or Southwestern flair to them. The flavorful ingredients typical of TexMex cooking, paired with cornbread, have always been favorites with entrants and judges."

In 2003, the trend began to heat up with the winning White Chicken Chili with Cheddar Hush Puppy Crust recipe. In 2005, South-of-the-Border Chicken Fiesta took second place. And, in

2007, it was Southwest-inspired Chicken Taco Cornbread Wedges with Rancho Cilantro Drizzle (find recipe at www.marthawhite.com) that came out on top.

To qualify for the National Cornbread Cook-Off this year, an entry must be an original main dish recipe and prepared with at least one package of Martha White® Cornbread Mix using Lodge® Cast Iron cookware. Entries must also include contestant's name, address, daytime phone number, date of birth, and name of grocery retailer.

To enter online, go to the "Promotion and News" section

at www.marthawhite.com, and submit your original recipe along with complete contact information.

To enter by e-mail, send your original recipe along with your complete contact information to cornbread@dvl.com. Online and e-mail entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. CST on Feb. 28, 2009.

To enter by mail, send your original recipe and complete contact information on an 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper to: National Cornbread Cook-Off 2009, 209 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219. Mail-in entries must be postmarked by Feb. 28, 2009, and

received by March 6, 2009.

Ten finalists will be chosen from all entries.

For past winning recipes and complete contest rules, visit www.marthawhite.com or www.lodgemfg.com.

Cash and Prizes

The Cook-Off grand champion will win a \$5,000 cash prize and a 30-inch stainless steel gas range (a \$2,500 value) from Five Star® Professional Cooking Equipment, a division of Brown Stove Works, Inc., and special gifts from Martha White and Lodge® Cast Iron.

The second prize winner will

walk away with \$1,000, the third prize winner with \$600. The remaining seven finalists will each be awarded \$100. All finalists will receive \$500 travel reimbursement and gifts courtesy of Martha White and Lodge® Cast Iron.

Sponsored by Martha White Foods, Inc., Lodge Manufactur-

ing Company, and Brown Stove Works, Inc. Open to legal residents of the United States and D.C., 18 years or older, except food professionals, such as chefs, food writers, or food home economists who create recipes for pay. Void outside the 50 United States and D.C. and where prohibited.



Courtesy photo/Thomas Markham/www.tommymarkham.com

Looking back ...

This photo from Okeechobee's past was probably taken in the 1930s. It shows the first electric train on Seaboard Railroad. The photo was taken across from the Depot in Okeechobee. Do you have an old photo to share? Email it to okeenews@newszap.com.

Community Events

Main Street Mixer planned for Jan. 13

Okeechobee Main Street will kick off the New Year with their first monthly mixer of the new year hosted by Raulerson Hospital on Tuesday, Jan. 13. The January mixer will be held at the Raulerson Company Care Office in the blue top building just north of the hospital at 1930 Hwy. 441 North. Main Street Mixers are a night of networking, refreshments, door prizes and a chance for you to win the Mega 50/50 at the end of the year, so invite a friend and join the fun.

AYCE breakfast

The Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth St. will hold an all you can eat (AYCE) breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 11 from 8 until 11 a.m. Breakfast is \$5.

Hollywood Musicals at the Library

Ian Nairnsey, Okeechobee's own authority on musicals, will present programs in January at the library at 6 p.m. in the Okeechobee County Library Meeting Room. Ian will talk about the composers and their musicals and play musical selections. These programs are free and open to the public: Tuesday, Jan. 13-Cole Porter in Hollywood; Tuesday, Jan. 20-Rodgers and Hart in Hollywood; Tuesday, Jan. 27-Irving Berlin in Hollywood. For more information call Jan Day (Fehrman) at 863-357-9980.

Post office has unit in Mid-Florida

Hardware store

The U.S. Postal Service has opened a new Contract Postal Unit (CPU) in Okeechobee in Mid-Florida Hardware, 3803 U.S. Highway 441 S. The CPU offers postage for domestic and international mail, insurance and certified mail. The hours of operation are: Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Healthy Start Coalition to meet

The Board of Directors of the Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 11:30 a.m., in their office, 575 S.W. 28th St. within the New Endeavors School Building. This meeting is open to the public. For more information please call Executive Director, Kay Begin at the Coalition office at 863-462-5877.

Round Table Discussion planned

Jan. 14, from 10 a.m. until noon the Okeechobee County Planning and Development Department will hold a Round Table Discussion at the Okeechobee County Civic Center, 1750 Hwy. 98 North. There is no charge for the event. It will be an open forum for contractors and citizens concerning the Building department. Bring your questions, concerns, comments, and suggestions. For more information 863-763-5548. Please RSVP by Jan. 12.

Early Learning Coalition meets

Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee Counties, Inc. - Okeechobee County Provider/Advisory Council Meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 14, at noon at the American Red Cross, 323 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee. The Bylaws/Personnel Committee will meet at 2 p.m.

Fancy ME! (machine embroidery) meeting

If you have an embroidery machine, plan to buy one or are just interested in the concept, please join us at our next meeting. It will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Red Cross classroom, 323 N. Parrott Avenue. Bring your machine and lunch for a fun-filled day. We will be doing machine applique so bring your design and material needed for that design. For more information please call Joan at 863-467-0290 or Corry at 863-467-2231.

Raulerson Hospital presents "Ladies Health Day"

On Jan. 20, from noon until 1 p.m., a "Ladies Health Day" luncheon will take place at Indian River State College in the Raulerson Hospital Auditorium. The Raulerson Hospital Auditorium is located in the new Williamson Conference and Education Center at 2229 N.W. Ninth Avenue at IRSC. The guest Raulerson Hospital staff physicians will be James Bradfield M.D., Board Certified Gynecologist, Albert Bravo M.D., Board Certified Gastroenterologist and Internal Medicine, and Philip Moyer M.D., board Certified General/Vascular Surgeon and Diplomate American Board of General Surgery. The seminar will cover many of the new gynecology and health care services that are now being offered for women of all ages and the new "State of the Art" surgical procedures that are opening up regularly at the hospital. Reservations are required. Please R.S.V.P. to Bill Casian at 863-824 2702. Only 100 seats are available for this event.

Small business 'start up' seminar set

Small Business Development Center of Florida Gulf Coast University will present, "Frequently asked questions of starting a business" on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 2 until 4 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Library. There is no cost to attend the class, but reservations are recommended. The seminar will answer common questions and focus on helping new and hopeful business owners to take the next step.

Call Sean Moore to reserve your seat at: 863-517-0097 or email him at spmoore@fgcu.edu.

Women of the Moose to host yard sale

Women of the Moose from Moose Lodge on Highway 78 West in Buckhead Ridge will host their annual yard and bake sale on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 15 and 16. For more information, please call 863-763-2250

Safe Boating Class planned

Flotilla 5-7 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary would like to invite all boaters to attend a one-day Safe Boating Class. It is required by the State of Florida, that anyone 21 years and under who operates a vessel powered by 10 hp or more must pass an approved Safe Boating Course. The course will be held on Jan. 24, at the Flotilla Building at Okee-Tantie from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Seating is limited so advanced registration is required. Coffee and lunch will be provided. For information and registration call 863-763-0165 or 863-610-2433.

Benefit yard sale planned

Habitat for Humanity Yard Sale at Tractor Supply Parking Lot on Jan. 24, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Dr. Krimsley graduated from Yale University and trained at New York University Medical Center.



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

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PG

THEATRE II
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PG

THEATRE III
"BRIDE WARS"
 Fri. @ 7:00 & 9:00. Sat, Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon., @ 3:00 & 7:00. Tues & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00.



PG

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 Senior Citizens - \$4.50 all movies • Matinees - \$4.00

MONDAY NIGHT is \$1.00 per person @ 7:00 PM

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

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—JuDeane Garrett
 Daughter of Mary Helen

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H5402 QHP0973FU(12/08)

South Elementary winter carnival was a success

South Elementary Wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

South Elementary staff and parents would like to thank those individuals who donated their time. All the volunteers who worked in the booths or other events during the Winter Carnival made it a success. The volunteers included: Ken Kenworthy, Frank Coker, Johanna Kenworthy, Wendy Coker, Pam Bales, Bob Bales, Mike Wolski, Tami Ward, Abby Nichols, Lauren Fusco, Steve and Pete Kotula, Phillip Woerner, Joe Dryden and Joe's Hay Sales.

Thank you also to the businessmen and individuals who donated food for the Winter Carnival as well as they include: Beef O'Brdays, Dairy Queen, Arby's, David Hazelief, Donut Connection, Shannon Martin, Burger King, Superior Water, Los Cocos, Taco Bell, Publix, Winn-Dixie, Coca Cola, Golden Corral, Jersey



Mike's, Winn Dixie, Mosquito Creek, Subway, Law Office of Cassels and McCall, Rhoden children, CJ Wholesale, Dominoes, and Brahman Theater.

Thank you to Wal-Mart for a cash donation.

Thanks to the entire staff of South Elementary and their families who always put in many hours to create the winter wonderland inside the courtyard. Thank you again to everyone who brought in cakes, cookies or other treats for the Goodie Walk, brought in baby food jars or volunteered their time. Not every name is turned in but the PTO wants to thank everyone for all of the assistance.

Students who earned Student of the Month recognition for December included: Aliany Garcia, Xander Blackwood, Yesenia Leon, Jay Krall, Matthew Arnall, Josie Carter, Dillon Hill, Janizza Lopez, Jesus DeNova, Anselmo Garcia, Logan Etherton, Rainne Kasik, Noah Torres, Cristian Rios, Jennifer Center, Bailie Shurley, Brittany Snow, Nathan Center, Maricela Bucio, and Caitlin Sheffield.

Third graders at South are learning about how to make realistic, attainable goals. To kick-off the new year, they wrote academic goals and made a toast. Sparkling grape juice made the event exciting and fun. Students will keep their goals in a place where they'll see them often and have an opportunity to reflect on them later in the year.

Third grade is also learning about rocks and minerals. This year we are planning a field-trip to the Ft. Drum Crystal Mine! Third-Grade Rocks!

Second graders have been studying about money in their mathematics class. They are learning to count and add coins. Now that they have learned all about money, they are going out into the community to see how to apply what they have learned. Two of the classes will visit Riverside Bank on Tuesday, Jan. 13,



Submitted photo/SES

Students of the Week

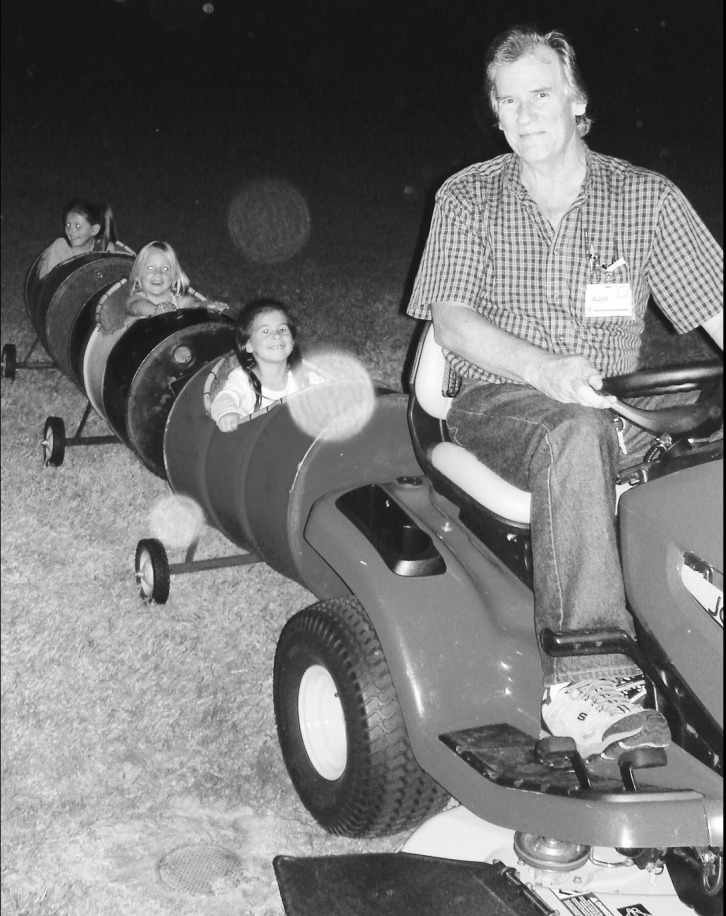
The South Elementary students recognized as Student of the Week for their class for the week ending Jan. 9, are Carlos Delacruz, Kendrick Forlifer, Gavin Cashwell, Skylynn DiRusso, Henaysia Ancrum, Jamaica Henry, Britney Whipple, Jacob Aldridge, Sarah Heaton, Ashley Travieso, De'Nitric Whitaker, Hunter Bryant, Leslie Calzada, Maya Kneidel, Joanna Rhymes, Koby Chapman, Colton Goggans, Nelly Almanza, Austin Spano, and Ra'Shin Williams.

two on Thursday, Jan. 15 and one second grade and Mrs. Ward's class on Friday, Jan. 16. Students will walk to Riverside bank.

Report Cards will be sent home on Monday, Jan. 12. Awards for fourth grade students will be on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 8:30 a.m. and third grade Awards will be at 9:30. On Wednesday, Jan. 14, second grade awards will be at 8:30, first grade at 9:15 and Kindergarten at 10.

Friday, Jan. 16, is Camouflage day. Students who wear camouflage will count toward the Spirit Day count. The class in each grade level with the most participants earns the privilege of having the Spirit Stick outside their classroom, demonstrating they have the most school spirit in their grade level. Students are counted toward the classroom total if they wear a South Elementary school shirt or the special clothing for that day, if applicable. Students and teachers enjoy earning the Spirit stick and sometimes you will see them carrying it through the hallways or out to car or bus pick-up.

There will not be any school on Monday, Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday.



Submitted photo/SES

Mr. Mike Wolski, husband of instructional paraprofessional Sue Wolski, gives children a Train Ride during the Winter Carnival. This was a new ride for South Elementary's Carnival and it was greatly enjoyed by all.



Pic 11

Submitted photo/SES

Carnival goers choose ducks from the Duck Pond during the Winter Carnival at South Elementary.

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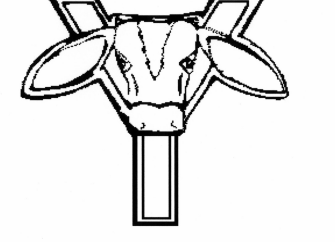
Yearling Middle School offers tutoring

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

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

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

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



PTO Meeting
 Please join us for our Third PTO Meeting of the year on Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 6 p.m. in the Library. We will be discussing plans for the year and explaining to parents the current grade promotion requirements. For more information, contact Andrea Mitchum at 863-462-5056.

dents teacher Jenni Melear as our Teacher of the Year. As a master teacher at Yearling Middle School, Jenni is a bastion of knowledge which inspires all those around her. By setting high values for herself, she attains a standard of true leadership in our school. She cares about her students and fellow teachers in our school and this is evident in her work ethic.

Jenni is a true student of the art of teaching. She brings a creative flair to the middle school classroom by designing lessons and projects that are both engaging and entertaining. The students in her class are perpetually challenged and motivated daily. She creates an atmosphere of mutual respect in her classroom which is favorable to learning.

School Related Employee of the Year

Yearling Middle School has chosen Principal's Secretary Nancy Yates as the School Related Employee of the Year. As the Principal's Secretary at Yearling Middle School, Nancy is responsible for the main office business. By setting high standards of professionalism, she is able to assist all customers with sincere caring and compassion. The teachers, staff and students at Yearling Middle School know that Nancy is the person to contact if they are in need.

Because Nancy is detail oriented, she is able to solve many problems before they escalate. She is routinely proactive in her daily work which adds to her efficient performance. Nancy handles all of her customers with warmth, consideration and a friendly smile.

Information Hotline

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

Basketball

Please join us for our remaining basketball games of the season. We have a home game on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 4:30 and 6 p.m. Our final game is at Osceola Middle on Wednesday, Jan. 21. Please come out and support our teams!

Yearling Middle School has selected sixth grade social stu-

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ON ONE ACRE!
 5009-H: HOME ON ONE ACRE. Completely fenced, large Old Oaks, fruit trees, one car garage, open front porch, screened back porch, lots of kitchen cabinets, tile and carpet thru-out, and circle driveway. Ready to move in. \$175,000
 MLS# 202024

REDUCED!
 5003-M: Kissimmee River Est. like new 2/2 2005 DW MH, CBS garage, new metal building, shed, new circular driveway, underground utilities. All sits on 6 corner lots. NOW \$120,000 MLS# 200629

WATERFRONT!
 4001-M Buckhead Ridge lake access Mobile home with attached screened room. Nice and \$98,000 MLS# 201911

ON 47+/- ACRES!
 5033-H Dark Hammock 2-story on 78+/- acres...over 4000 sq ft. large brick fireplace, barn/stable w/ tack & feed room...RV hook up...ponds, walk up attic, covered patio and porch, equestrian wash area. MLS# 200344 \$649,900

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

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

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•Foreclosure 13+ acres off of HWY 98. **ONLY \$89,900 MLS# 202104**
 •Big "O" RV Park vacant lot or with home. **5+/- acres @ NE 24th St. MLS# 201364**
 •5+/- acres Sunset Strip Airpark @ SW 13th St. MLS# 201396

•Basswood lots from \$15,000-\$33,000
 •7 Acres HWY 68 \$110,000
 •Dark Hammock 2 10+/- acre parcels with MH or without your choice

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 Eric Anderson • 863-634-4107

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

LARGE WATERFRONT HOME. There is a canal on the side and back of this large lot. It has mature oaks and a nice boat dock. The home is a well maintained home and ready to move in. MLS #201606. \$150,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

WATERFRONT Very nice well-maintained SW mobile home. Ceramic tile throughout. Nice family rm w/built on bthrm. Bathhouse with an electric hoist and surrounded by concrete area. A lot of house for the price. MLS #201706. \$99,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

WELL-MAINTAINED BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED FISHERMAN'S PARADISE. The SWMH is like a dollhouse. This place has a beach area, boathouse, with kitchen, and a place to just relax and enjoy. MLS #201804. \$149,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

WELL-MAINTAINED MOBILE HOME close to the rim canal and locks. This package comes complete with a boat. It is a nice large lot with an assortment of trees. JUST BRING YOUR TOOTHBRUSH!!!! MLS #201939. \$107,578. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

RV LOT ON A DEEP CANAL. Also, a 2001 Keystone Cougar 5th Wheel w/King Slide, plus hitch. Great fishing. Across from lot is a 30 x 90 piece of property with a 20x30 Carport/Shop. This all comes in the package and PRICED TO SELL. MLS #201876. \$79,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

863-763-5588 • 21442 E. SR 78, BHR • Across Kissimmee River next to Fire Station & Glades County Building.

Seminole students try Literacy First

Seminole Elementary School students are now participating in the Literacy First Process. Literacy First is a comprehensive research based process which includes: Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Spelling, Vocabulary, Comprehension Skills, Strategic Reading Tools, and Metacognitive Processes (the students can prove the answer is correct and be able to state the process used to acquire the answer). Literacy First is designed to improve your child's ability to read and understand what is written. This ability dramatically impacts your child's potential for success in school and later in life.



an active role in their education. These strategies will help students develop and enhance the skills necessary to become a more successful reader.

Thank you for taking an active role in the education of your child by encouraging him or her to read for at least 20 minutes each night. Here are two other ways you can help at home:

Reading Aloud is Important

It's never too late to read to children, no matter what his/her age is. Hearing books read aloud increases attention spans and develops vocabulary. Reading together keeps parents and children close. Here are some tips on making read-aloud time successful.

- Keep it short. Try five or ten minutes at first, and then gradually increase the time. Short chapters that are full of action can help capture your child's attention.
- Offer a variety. Share an interesting magazine article, letter, recipe, or brochure. Don't forget about poems. Try these Shel Silverstein books: Where the Sidewalk Ends, Sing a Song of Popcorn, and Every Child's Book of Poems.

- Recycle favorites. Read-

alouds are a perfect time to revisit your or your child's old favorites.

- Share the spotlight. Let your child choose a book for you to read. You may learn more about your child's interests or have a chance to discuss important topics, like fitting in at school or handling a loss.

When reading aloud, children hear strong models of good, fluent English—improving their reading, speaking, and writing skills. Listening to stories helps to develop children's imaginations—boosting creativity and thinking skills.

Learning with Newspapers

Did you know your child can improve reading, writing, and research skills using the newspaper? Try these simple games:

1. Cut out pictures and cap-

tions from several papers. Put the pictures in one bag and the captions in another. Then challenge your child to match each caption to its picture. For fun, try writing new captions and see how they compare to the originals.

2. Use the newspaper as a giant word search. Ask your child

to look for words from something he/she has been studying. For example, how many words related to food can you find?

3. Before your next shopping trip, send your child on a scavenger hunt. Ask him/her to find advertisements for some of the items you will purchase.

FWC moves forward on improving state's hunting quota system

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently directed staff to proceed with developing a new set of rules to improve the state's regulation of hunting on wildlife management areas.

Recommended rule changes to the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Quota Hunt Permit Program include making quota permits non-transferable, adding new "guest" permits and adding more choices for the types of hunts.

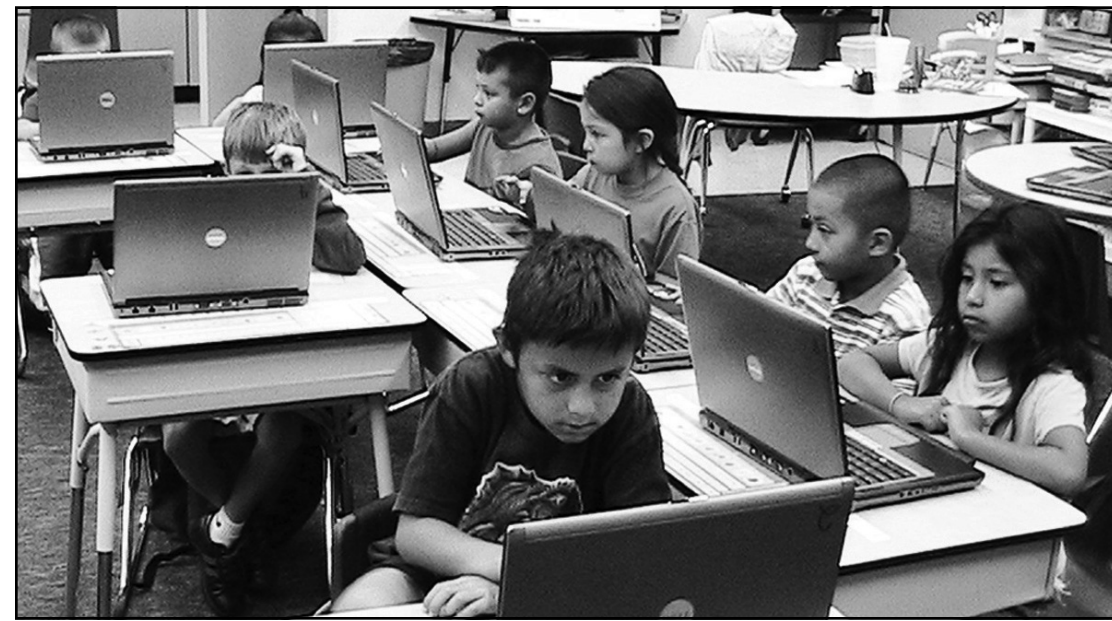
After hearing input from mobility-impaired representatives and the public, the Commission also directed staff to include mobility-impaired hunts in the proposed rule changes. These new rules will be considered for final adoption at the Commission's Feb. 4-5 meeting in Destin, and if adopted, will become effective for the 2009-10 hunting season.

It is believed that changes are needed to the current quota permit system that can have a positive effect on hunter recruitment and retention and will more fairly distribute public hunting opportunities. For more than a year, a Quota Hunt Stakeholder Working Group, consisting of FWC staff and members of the hunting public, met to review the agency's quota permit system. Public meetings also were held throughout the state, and much input was received on how to make the quota permit system better.

Results of the working group's findings and recommendations can be viewed at consensus.fsu.edu/FWC/quotahunt.html.

These rule proposals do not include making any changes to the FWC's Blackwater WMA dog hunts.

A complete summary of the proposed rule changes and public comment opportunities can be found at MyFWC.com/Contact/Contact_Rules_intro.htm.



Submitted photo/Seminole Elementary School
Students in Mrs. Freeman's Seminole Elementary School first grade classroom use the Literacy First strategies she taught them to comprehend information they gather on the computer. Literacy First is a comprehensive research based process which includes: Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Spelling, Vocabulary, Comprehension Skills, Strategic Reading Tools, and Metacognitive Processes. Literacy First is designed to improve a child's ability to read and understand what is written. For more on the program, see article above.



Submitted photo/Seminole Elementary School
Mr. Brian Greseth, the principal at Seminole Elementary School, has completed Literacy First training. You can often find him in classrooms, either walking through or stopping to teach for a moment or two.

Okeechobee Livestock Market

January 5 and 6, 2009

Cows
Breaking \$49.50 \$54.50
Cutter \$44.00 \$50.00
Canner \$29.00 \$40.00

Bulls
1000-1500 \$52.00 \$58.50
1500-2000 \$52.00 \$64.00

	Monday	Tuesday
Calves	255	926
Cows	94	168
Str	0	4
Hfhrs	37	13
Bulls	9	51
Yrlngs	16	26
Mix	0	1
Total	411	1189

Med #1 Steers Hfhrs
150-200 450-500 550-600
200-250 120-125 90-105

250-300	117-127	90-104
300-350	107-117	84-93
350-400	101-115	81-90
400-450	95-107	83-89
450-500	90-104	78-86
550-600	85-97	75-83
600-650	80-89	71-75

Med #2	Steers	Hfhrs
150-200	85-120	
200-250	101-110	65-85
250-300	95-115	60-90
300-350	90-110	71-92
350-400	92-103	70-89
400-450	80-100	65-83

A late Christmas present came in the form of much higher prices to start the new year. Thank you very much! Cows were in the upper 40s to low 50s. 500# good steers were from \$.90 to \$1.00. Lack of volume and good demand will make it higher every time!

Old River Cattle, Okeechobee, topped the calf market with a high of \$1.40.

Dave Partin, Kenansville, topped the cow market with a high of \$54.50.

See ya next week, Todd

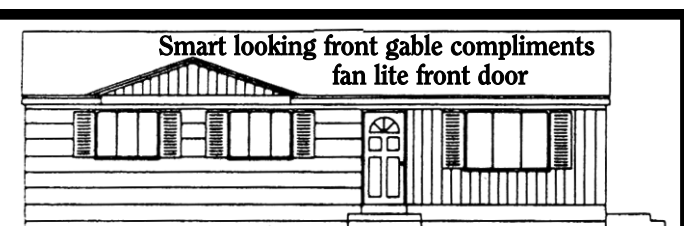
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Happy New Year!

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"INVESTOR'S DREAM"
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 **COME TAKE A LOOK!**

"ON RIM CANAL"
Reduced on Rim Canal 2 Story beauty, 5 BD, 3 BA, hardwood floors & ceramic tile, vacant lot on each side of the home also for sale....come and move the entire family. #94541 \$350,000 **NEWLY REDUCED!**

"WATERFRONT LIVING"
85 SWMH w/ extras. 2 storage sheds. Covered 1/8 x18 patio slab. 12x14 utility rm on back of garage w/ shower, dryer & storage. Cov. porch wood deck-front of home. 12x19 wood deck w/6x7 hot tub on patio. Dock & seawall w/lake access. #201409 \$129,900 **MOTIVATED SELLER!**

"FOR THE HORSE LOVER"
Gorgeous Living quarters! Above 8-stall barn w/lack & feed rm. Vaulted ceilings w/fans & recessed lighting. Wood floors, bdrms carpeted. Cross-fenced w/horse safe flex, electrobraid electric fence; automatic entrance gate. Woolley shed. LOTS of extra #201639 \$399,000 **10 ACRES!**

"WANT SPACE?... HERE IT IS!"
Gorgeous 2/2 Triple Wide w/ tray ceilings, crown molding, eat in bar, surround sound, stucco interior walls...many more upgrades! 38x14 screen porch with wood floors to sit back and enjoy the evenings. This is a place to see! #201531 \$169,000 **GREAT FLOOR PLAN!**

"BRING YOUR BOAT"
Nice CBS two bedroom, two bath in Treasure Island on Lake Access Canal. Large Family room with screened back porch. Dock and several fruit trees. Come enjoy the view. Easy to show. #201993 \$165,000 **ON ACCESS CANAL!**

"JUST BRING YOUR CLOTHES"
Motivated Seller!! Immaculate 3/2 DWMH in Buckhead Ridge w/Lake access. New paint, carpet and appliances. You can't go wrong here no matter what you're looking for. Completely furnished. #94847 \$112,000 **A MUST SEE!**

"JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED"
97 Homes of Merit Park Model 12x35 w/12x26 addit., dbl. carport w/boat port. Assoc. fees incl. lawn maint., water, cable, sewer, use of heated pool & clubhouse. Park Amenities include, 9 hole Exec. Par 3 Gld Course, 9 hole Putt Putt Golf. #94406 \$95,500 **CALL FOR YOUR APPT!**

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✓ Friday
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Announcements 100

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

Employment 200

Employment - Full Time	205
Employment - Medical	210
Employment - Part Time	215
Employment - Wanted	220
Job Information	225
Job Training	227
Sales	230

Employment Full Time 0205

GIS TECHNICIAN

Lykes Bros. Inc. has an immediate opening for a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Technician at their Brighton Ranch Office. Qualified applicants must have at least 2 years experience using Windows, Microsoft Office and ESRI computer platforms, including ArcGIS. Knowledge of legal descriptions and surveying principles is preferred. The GIS Manager in establishing and maintaining databases for the GIS system including creating, updating and maintaining information in GIS format, researching and interpreting information and identifying material needed for GIS databases.

Lykes Bros. Inc. offers competitive wages and benefit package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life AD&D and LTD insurance, 401(K) Savings Plan plus paid vacation and holidays.

Qualified applicants should email their resume to: loyda.rivera@lykesranch.com tax to (863) 763-6159 or apply in person at the Brighton Ranch office located at 106 SW CR 721, Okeechobee, FL.

Lykes Bros. Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer / Drug Free Workplace, M/F/D/V.

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BLACK MIX DOG - female, orange collar, found vic of Glades Elem School (863)674-1224 to identify

Personals 0150

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Employment Full Time 0205

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Download application packet @ www.gulfstreamgoodwill.org & fax to ATTN: HR Dept @ (561) 848-1475 EOE M/F/D/V

Employment Full Time 0205

PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNICIAN

Lykes Citrus Management Division has an immediate opening for a Precision Agriculture Technician. This position will be responsible for assisting with the implementation, configuration and adoption of precision agriculture concepts and to install and maintain pertinent equipment. Primary duties include soil and leaf tissue field data collection, analysis and reporting, the generation of application maps for variable rate nutrient and soil amendment applications, assisting with yield and crop estimation data collection and the updating and maintenance of GIS data files. Qualified applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in agricultural, natural or mathematical sciences, the ability to understand GIS data collection techniques; fluency with basic computer operations including MS Excel, Work and Access plus the ability to understand, troubleshoot and repair complex technical installations such as is found in computer guided VRT applicators.

Lykes Citrus Management Division offers competitive wages and benefit package including Medical, Dental, Vision, Life AD & D and LTD insurance, 401(k) Savings Plan plus paid vacation and holidays. Qualified applicants should email their resume to rich.hetherington@lykes.com, fax to (863)465-1672 or apply in person at the Lake Placid office.

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Business Opportunities 0305

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Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.

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Employment Full Time 0205

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Crafts/Supplies	585
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Drapes, Linens & Fabrics	595
Fireplace Fixture	600
Firewood	605
Furniture	610
Furs	615
Health & Reducing Equipment	620
Heating Equipment/Supplies	625
Household Items	630
Jewelry	635
Lamps/Lights	640
Luggage	645
Medical Items	650
Miscellaneous	655
Musical Instruments	660
Office Supplies/Equipment	665
Pets/Supplies/Services	670
Photography	675
Plumbing Supplies	680
Pools & Supplies	685
Restaurant Equipment	690
Satellite	695
Sewing Machines	700
Sporting Goods	705
Stereo Equipment	710
Television/Radio	715
Tickets	720
Tools	725
Toys & Games	730
VCRs	735
Wanted to Buy	740

Antiques 0510

RINGER WASHER - Antique, in working order. \$100 Firm (863)467-4449

Employment Full Time 0205

Handyman Services

? NEED HELP ?
CALL GEORGE CARTER
Painting, Repairs, Carpentry
Power Washing
FREE CONSULTATION
(863)763-4775

RECLAIM THE GARAGE! CLEAN OUT THE CLOSETS! STOP PAYING FOR MINI-STORAGE!

A SUPERIOR SHED WILL MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU IN 2009!

INSTANT APPROVALS WE FINANCE AND DELIVER YOUR SHED
(863)983-8106

Furniture 0610

COUCH & LOVESEAT - Colors are green & beige. Excellent condition \$350. Or best offer. (863)357-3650

MAGNETIC TWIN-SIZE MATTRESS - Kenkapad, cost \$400 new, will take \$100, like new (772)971-9474

NEW FURNITURE FOR LESS!! DRIVE A LITTLE SAVE A LOT

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

Merchandise 500

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

Antiques 0510

RINGER WASHER - Antique, in working order. \$100 Firm (863)467-4449

Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

Christian Books, Bibles and Videos

Nature's Pantry
417 W S Park St • (863) 467-1243

Houses - Rent 0930

PRIVATE WATERFRONT RENTALS From \$700 Month

* Key West 1/1 Furnished Cottage - Dade County Pine Hardwood Floors - adorable wrap around porch on Taylor Creek

* Gorgeous setting on Taylor Creek, 2bd/1ba, fully furnished, washer dryer. Huge fenced in backyard-Concrete boat ramp.

Rent towards purchase w/10% dn.
(863) 467-8683 • (772) 215-1680

Rentals 900

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

IN TOWN - 2/2 very clean, w/d, lawn maint included, \$800 + \$300 sec. Call (863) 634-3572

STUDIO APT - Furn, full bath & kit, use of deck/boat house for small boat, heated pool, incl elec/cable \$850 mo., Seasonal. Suitable for retirees. 863-357-1566

VIKING/PRAIRIE Efficiency. Very clean! \$600/mo. Includes utilities. No pets. Call 561-329-8205

OAK LAKE VILLAS #17- 2/2, lrg bdrms, W&D incl, \$800/mo, 1st, last & \$500 sec. (863)467-5965

TAYLOR CREEK CONDO Avail. Immediately! Fully furnished. New carpet. Pool, Tennis & Boat dock. 1BA 1BR \$650 + elec. Annual lease. Also avail for short term seasonal rental 215-359-7779

Houses - Rent 0930

BASSWOOD - '05, CBS, 3/2 on 37th, fenced yard, all tile, \$900/mo (561)662-9644

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED - Ancient Oaks, 2/1, 55+ community, new stove, new fridge, 52" TV, Annually \$650/mo. Seasonal \$900 mo. (772)708-1198 lv msg

BUCKHEAD RIDGE - 3/2, 2 car garage, W/D, Screened porch w/Hot tub, Pets OK, \$1200/mo (863)634-5236

BUCKHEAD RIDGE - 3br, 2ba, front screen porch, hot tub, W/D, pets okay, \$850/mo (863)634-5236

CITY OF OKEE., 3br, 2ba, Clean. Great neighborhood. 1201 SE 8th Dr., \$950. mo. + Sec. dep. (863)634-1554

IN OKEECHOBEE CITY: 4 Br/2Ba, \$1100 mo. + 1st, last, sec. & refs. Call Barry for more info. 772-216-1461

In Town- spacious 3/1, fenced backyard, with shed, \$800 month, 1st, last & security. Call 863-467-7838 or 239-989-8892

KINGS BAY - 2/2/1, 2000 CBS, W/D, Pool, Tennis, lawn maint incl., non-smoker, 863-801-9163, \$900 mo

OAK PARK - 2/1 CBS, W&D, fenced yard. \$795 mo. lv msg (863)634-8757

Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

EXERCISE TABLE - Stauffer, motor driven. Works great. \$50 (772)971-9474

Miscellaneous 0655

WOOLEY SHED - 14 X 22 A/C Auto garage door, paid \$9500 will sell for \$5000 Neg. (863)697-3108

Pets/Supplies 0670

RED HEALER PUPPIES: Males & Females. Shots/Wormed. Ready to go! \$250. 561-718-1212 or 863-763-3631

YORKIE - 2 - 12 week old females with papers and shots \$800 Firm, Ready to go! (863)467-0218

Sporting Goods 0705

SWAMP BUGGY-Palm Beach Style 350 Auto, 400 Turbo Trans, Offset 12x24 Tractor Tires \$4500 (863)447-5456

Wanted To Buy 0740

WANTED: non-working medical scooters. (863)610-1120

Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

Christian Books, Bibles and Videos

Nature's Pantry
417 W S Park St • (863) 467-1243

Houses - Rent 0930

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H

Parts/Repairs 4045

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

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

Parts/Repairs 4045

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

Recreation 3000

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

Boats 3005

OPEN BOAT, 17 Ft. W/ Trailer, \$300 FIRM (863)763-0812

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Turn your trash to treasure with an ad in the classifieds.

Campers/RVs 3010

JAYCO - 1999, 27' MINI MOTORHOME - V10 Ford engine, 4 new tires, very low miles, needs some repairs, best offer gets it. can see at 4012 SW 11th way-Okee \$9,999 (863)634-5487

TRAIL-LITE BANTAM '99 - Kitchen & Bathroom, 26' w/Fold Out Ends. Asking \$4000 (863)467-0031

Motorcycles 3030

TRAIL BIKE 125 '04 - runs good, \$600 (863)801-5678

Sports Vehicles/ATVs 3035

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

Public Notices 5005

Public Notice 5005
State Public - Legal Notice 5500

Public Notice 5005

Automobiles 4000

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

Golf Carts 4037

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

Sport Utility 4055

DODGE DURANGO SLT - 2001, Magnum V8, Leather interior, 7 passenger (3rd seat), Dual A/C \$2850 (863)697-2724



READING A NEWSPAPER...

saves you money by providing information about best buys.

No wonder newspaper readers earn more!

Public Notice 5005

School Lunch Menus

Okeechobee County District Schools. Lunch menus for the week of **Jan. 12-19:**

Elementary School

Monday, Jan. 12:
Breakfast: Glazed French toast, assorted cereal, EL Y/M/C stk second choice breakfast, breakfast Grab n go #1 Monday, fruit juice break fresh fruit, milk.
Lunch entrees: Chicken nuggets, honey wheat rolls, egg roll with fried rice, yogurt, fruit and cheese plate, fresh fruit, fruit juice, baked beans, mandarin orange sections, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 13:
Breakfast: Yogurt and muffin, assorted cereal, EL Y/M/C stk, second choice breakfast, breakfast Grab n go #2, fruit juice, fresh fruit, choice of milk.
Lunch entrees: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic breadsticks, corn dog nuggets, Chef salad, fresh fruit, fruit juice, seasoned corn, chilled peaches, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 14:
Breakfast: Chicken patty/biscuit, assorted cereal, EL Y/M/C stk, second choice breakfast, breakfast Grab n go #3, fruit juice, fresh fruit, choice of milk.
Lunch entrees: Chicken and yellow rice, honey wheat roll, deli turkey on a bun, yogurt fruit and cheese plate, fresh fruit, fruit juice, broccoli florets with lemon, fruit with gelatin, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Thursday, Jan. 15:
Breakfast: Sausage bagel, assorted cereal, EL Y/M/C stk second choice breakfast, breakfast Grab n go #4, fruit juice, fresh fruit, choice of milk, **Lunch entrees:** Chili con carne and beans, cheddar goldfish, hot ham and cheese sandwich, Chef salad, fresh fruit, fruit juice, savory green beans, applesauce, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Friday, Jan. 16:
Breakfast: Breakfast sausage pizza, assorted cereal, EL Y/M/C stk, second choice breakfast,

Breakfast Grab n go #5, fruit juice, fresh fruit, choice of milk

Lunch entrees: Cheese stuffed crust pizza - pepperoni stuffed crust pizza, baked potato, chili/cheese, yogurt, fruit and cheese plate, tuna salad plate, fresh fruit, fruit juice, baby carrots with dressing, fruit cocktail, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Monday, Jan. 19:
No School - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.

Middle School
Monday, Jan. 12:
Breakfast: Glazed French toast, assorted cereal, EL Y/M/C stk second choice breakfast, breakfast Grab n go #1 Monday, fruit juice break fresh fruit, milk.

Lunch entrees: Chicken nuggets, honey wheat rolls, egg roll with fried rice, yogurt fruit and cheese plate, pizza basket, fresh fruit, fruit juice, baked beans, mandarin orange sections, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 13:
Breakfast: Yogurt and muffin, assorted cereal, EL Y/M/C stk, second choice breakfast, breakfast Grab n go #2, fruit juice, fresh fruit, choice of milk.
Lunch entrees: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic breadsticks, corn dog nuggets, Chef salad, turkey sub Grab n go, fresh fruit, fruit juice, seasoned corn, chilled peaches, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 14:
Breakfast: Chicken patty/biscuit, assorted cereal, EL Y/M/C stk, second choice breakfast, breakfast Grab n go #3, fruit juice, fresh fruit, choice of milk.
Lunch entrees: Chicken and yellow rice, honey wheat roll, deli turkey on a bun, yogurt fruit and cheese plate, pizza basket, fresh fruit, fruit juice, broccoli florets with lemon, fruit with gelatin, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Thursday, Jan. 15:
Breakfast: Sausage bagel, assorted cereal, EL Y/M/C stk second choice breakfast, breakfast Grab n

go #4, fruit juice, fresh fruit, choice of milk,

Lunch entrees: Chili con carne with beans, cheddar goldfish, hot ham and cheese sandwich, Chef salad, ham and cheese sub Grab n go, fresh fruit, fruit juice, green beans, applesauce, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Friday, Jan. 15:
Breakfast: Egg with ham and cheese casserole, assorted cereal, sec/adu breakfast Grab n go #5, fresh fruit, fruit juice, choice of milk.

Lunch entrees: Cheese stuffed crust pizza and pepperoni stuffed crust pizza, baked potato, chili cheese, tuna salad plate, cheeseburger basket, fresh fruit, fruit juice, baby carrots with dressing, fruit cocktails, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Monday, Jan. 19:
No School - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.

Freshman Campus and New Endeavor

Monday, Jan. 12:
Lunch entrees: Chicken nuggets, honey wheat rolls, egg roll with fried rice, yogurt fruit and cheese plate, pizza basket, chicken fingers and toes, fresh fruit, fruit juice, baked beans, mandarin orange sections, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 13:
Lunch entrees: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic breadsticks, corn dog nuggets, Chef salad, turkey sub Grab n go, macho nacho meal, fresh fruit, fruit juice, seasoned corn, chilled peaches, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 14:
Lunch entrees: Chicken and yellow rice, honey wheat rolls, deli turkey on a bun, Chef salad, pizza basket, hot wings basket, fresh fruit, fruit juice, broccoli florets with lemon, fruit with gelatin, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Thursday, Jan. 15:

Lunch entrees: Shepherd's Pie, country style biscuit, hot ham and cheese sandwich, Chef salad, ham and cheese sub Grab n go, Caribbean pork with rice and beans, fresh fruit, fruit juice, green beans, fruit with gelatin, tossed salad, choice of milk

Friday, Jan. 16:
Lunch entrees: Cheese stuffed crust, pepperoni stuffed crust pizza, baked potato, chili cheese, tuna salad plate, cheeseburger, basket, chicken with potato bowl, fresh fruit, fruit juice, baby carrots with dressing, fruit cocktail, tossed salad, choice of milk.

Monday, Jan. 19:
No school - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.

High School

Monday, Jan. 12:
Lunch entree: Baja chicken DS#1, chicken fingers and toes, deli sub Grab n go, Chef salad, hamburger basket.

Tuesday, Jan. 13:
Lunch entree: OHS DS #2, Shepherd's Pie, chicken with potato bowl, ham sandwich Grab n go, chicken Caesar salad, meatball sub basket.

Wednesday, Jan. 14:
Lunch entree: OHS DS #3 Caribbean bowl, hot wing basket meal, tuna sandwich Grab n go, Chef salad, Macho nacho meal.

Thursday, Jan. 15:
Lunch entree: OHS DS #4 Spaghetti meal, chicken sandwich basket, turkey sub Grab n go, chicken Caesar salad, cheeseburger basket.

Friday, Jan. 16:
Lunch entree: Pizza basket, chicken nugget basket, barbecue pork sub Grab n go, tuna salad plate, fish sandwich basket meal.

Monday, Jan. 19:
No school - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.



Submitted photo/OFC

Students of the Week

On Thursday, Jan. 8, Okeechobee Freshman Campus assistant principal, Matt Koff, drew names to determine the most recent Top 12 students for the 2008-2009 school year. The students were entered into the drawing if they received five positive signatures in the last three weeks. The winning students from the class of 2012 received a book or t-shirt and candy.

In the top row from left to right are: Diego Fonseca, Carly Enfinger, Kiesha Cleckley, Amber Holbert, Yahara Cordova. Bottom row L-R - Mrs. Silks, Kelsi Brown, Erika Klingler, Abigail Queen, Sarah Hawthorne. Not pictured are: Travis Mauldin, Abigail Robledo, Dallas Parker.

Study abroad in China

Focusing on international business and economics, Indian River State College Study Abroad in China provides an exceptional opportunity to understand one of the world's fastest growing economies. The two-week program includes visits to Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai and Shenzhen. Participants will tour Chinese companies, the Shanghai Stock Exchange and a special economic zone in Shenzhen. They will also have the chance to interact with Chinese university students. International Economics and Business in China will enable students to marvel at historic landmarks, including the Great Wall of China, and enjoy Chinese food and culture during the May 18 through June 1, trip. Participants will complete assignments and earn up to nine college credits related to their study abroad experiences.

The program is coordinated by Assistant Professor of Economics Maria Davis and Dr. Herb Ricardo, Associate Professor of Business. For more information, call the IRSC Information Call Center toll-free at 1-866-792-4772.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
RFQ: 600000213

The Review Panel of the South Florida Water Management District, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33406, will review contractor responses to RFQ 600000213 for qualifications to a District construction contractors work: South Florida Water Management District Construction Projects. Official public meetings regarding this RFQ are scheduled as follows:

Panel Discussion: Tuesday, January 20, 2009 11:00 AM-4:00 PM, Sawgrass Conf Rm, 2301 Centre Park West Dr., Suite 150, West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Panel Discussion (additional date if needed): Friday, January 23, 2009 8:00 AM-2:00 PM, Sawgrass Conf Rm, 2301 Centre Park West Dr., Suite 150, West Palm Beach, FL 33409

For directions, please call Lori Whittaker at (561) 242-5520 (x4090). All public meetings will be held at the dates, times, and locations referenced above. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by writing the South Florida Water Management District, Procurement Department, P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33416-4680. Persons with disabilities or handicaps who need assistance may contact the District Clerk, (561) 682-2087, at least two business days in advance of the meeting to make appropriate arrangements. Should one or more members of the evaluation committee need to attend any of the meetings by means of communication media technology (CMT), the meetings will be teleconferenced at the dates, times, locations and conference rooms referenced above. For more information, please contact Cathy Richards, Contract Specialist, at (561) 682-2813. 307323 ON 1/11/09

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to FL ST 713.585, Auto Lien & Recovery Experts w/Power of Attorney, will sell the following vehicles to the highest bidder to satisfy lien. All auctions held with reserve, as is where is, Cash or Certified funds. Inspect 1 week prior at lienor facility. Interested parties call 954-893-0052.

Sale date 02-05-09 @ 10:00 am at Lienors Facility.

Auction will occur where each vehicle is located under License AB0000538. Be advised that owner or lienholder has a right to a hearing prior to the scheduled date of sale by filing with Clerk of Courts, Owner/lienholder may recover vehicle without instituting judicial proceedings by posting bond as per FL ST 559.917; 25% buyer premium additional Net proceeds in excess of lien amount will be deposited with the Clerk of Court.

25% BUYERS PREMIUM

#OKEE773 lien amt \$4129.05 2005 Volkswagen 4D Vin#3VWDT71K95M64547
Lienor: LEHMAN AUTO BODY, INC.; 265 US HIGHWAY 98 N, OKEECHOBEE
AUTO LIEN & RECOVERY EXPERTS, INC.
PO Box 813578, Hollywood, FL 33081-0000
(954) 893-0052

307200 ON 1/11/09

Public Notice 5005

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2008-CP-240

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Ida L. Harer, deceased, whose date of death was November 15th, 2008, and whose social security number is 165-28-1484, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is January 11, 2009.

Personal Representative:
MICHAEL J. SPENCER
39733 Coronation Road
Canton, MI 48188
Attorney for Personal Representative:
COLIN M. CAMERON
200 N.E. 4th Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 763-8600
Fla. Bar No. 270441
307230 ON 1/11,18/09

Public Notice 5005

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO. 2009-CP-000001

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of NOTLEY B. SPENCER, deceased, whose date of death was December 2, 2008, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972. The names and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 763-8600
Fla. Bar No. 270441
307230 ON 1/11,18/09

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

Shop here first!
The classified ads

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

Grab a bargain from your neighbor's garage, attic, basement or closet in today's classifieds.

READING A NEWSPAPER...

helps you understand the world around you.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

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

ANSWER:

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Norm of the links
 - 4 Gals
 - 10 Like Pindar's works
 - 14 Draft choice
 - 15 Post-workout words
 - 16 Capp/Wolverton creation ___ the Hyena
 - 17 Nervous twitch
 - 18 King and queen, often
 - 20 Chamber group
 - 22 A team member
 - 23 Familiar fivesome
 - 25 High-performance Camaro
 - 26 Inventor Whitney
 - 27 Hammer type
 - 30 Polynesian kingdom
 - 32 Thereabout
 - 33 L.A. Galaxy's org.
 - 34 Leanings
 - 35 IT MADE IT EASIER TO TYPE THIS
 - 38 Like some car radio stations
 - 41 Musket add-on
 - 42 Defoe's "___ Flanders"
 - 46 "Deathtrap" playwright
 - 47 Fund for fun
 - 49 Hagen of the stage
 - 50 Nutritional stds.
 - 53 Dramatist Chekhov
 - 54 No he-men, they 56 Fronton basket
 - 58 Don't give up, and hint to what the starts of 18-, 27-, 35- and 47-Across have in common
 - 60 Hit hard
 - 63 Morlock prey
 - 64 Producer of pop-ups
 - 65 Wrath
 - 66 D.C. 100
 - 67 Book club member
 - 68 Masseuse's supply

- DOWN**
- 1 Overly glib
 - 2 MacGraw of "Love Story"
 - 3 Dravs back
 - 4 Exalt
 - 5 René's girlfriend
 - 6 NCO rank
 - 7 Insignificant bit
 - 8 Boot on a diamond
 - 9 "___ evil ..."
 - 10 Bar in the fridge
 - 11 Overwhelms with sound
 - 12 Be lenient with
 - 13 Trees from whose bark cinnamon is made
 - 19 Chaotic
 - 21 Easter Island statues, e.g.
 - 23 Blood-typing system
 - 24 Bit of corn
 - 25 Arches
 - 28 Throw off
 - 29 Tolkien's Cirdan, for one
 - 31 Country club that has hosted eight U.S. Opens
 - 34 Delivered from the womb
 - 36 Playwright Ibsen
 - 37 Welcoming wreath

- ACROSS**
- 38 Favorable factors
 - 39 Give a new name to taxpayer's crime
 - 43 New York neighbor
 - 44 Sign of summer
 - 45 Nixon adviser
 - 48 Top chess player
 - 51 Big name in Scotch
 - 52 Actor-to-audience comment
 - 55 H.S. courses with labs
 - 56 Ballot hanger
 - 57 Shaw's homeland
 - 59 Defunct airline
 - 61 Former Bush spokesman
 - 62 Multi-voiced Blanc

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15								

Wrestlers win 100th victory for Jahner



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Tony Bowers (left) got out of this hold but lost on points in the south fork meet.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

South Fork took it on the chin Thursday night as Okeechobee High School grapplers earned Coach Bruce Jahner the 100th victory of his coaching career in the Okeechobee gymnasium in a dual meet.

Donny Bush 98th career win, a pin over Joey Minaya, highlighted the evening as Okeechobee continued to see success with their wrestling program. Bush improved to 98-14 in his career with the easy victory.

Other winners included Kenny Webb who pinned Matt Wisehoff at 119 pounds. Josh Gruber won by pin fall over Brandon Singleton. Vance Wilkerson pinned Joel Leon in the 130 pound match. Tyler Hayes

won on points over Tyler O'Shea in the 160 pound match.

The Brahmans travelled to the Steadwell/Grow memorial tournament in Port St. Lucie last week and finished 12th out of 21 teams. Tyler Hayes took the championship in the 152 pound division. Donny Bush won the consolation final in that tournament with a victory over Joey Munao of Sebastian River, 8-2.

Coach Jahner said his team struggled a bit against some top competition at this tournament. "Nobody did very well at all. We didn't wrestle well but it was a tough tournament."

Hayes earned some confidence in his final victory over Adam Lessor of Ocala Forrest. Lessor finished fifth last year at

the state tournament.

Bush was tough all weekend long. He lost in the semifinals in a tight match, 2-0.

Jensen Beach won the tournament title. Palm Beach Gardens was second and Coral

Springs was third.

Okeechobee travelled Friday to Sebastian River for a dual meet with the Sharks.

The Brahmans host Port St. Lucie in a dual meet on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 6:30 p.m.

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Bruce Jahner shouts encouragement to his wrestlers during his 100th career win Thursday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Kenny Webb (left) shakes hand with Matt Wisehoff moments before he pinned him Thursday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Donny Bush (left) soundly defeat Joey Minaya on points.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Josh Gruber (right) defeated Brandon Singleton in a quick match.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Julio Torres (front) battled Mason Rasadi in a tight match.

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