



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 7

Friday, January 16, 2009

50¢ Plus tax

## Briefs

### Trees to be planted in Flagler Park

Friday, Jan. 16, is Arbor Day. Everyone are invited to join the University of Florida Okeechobee County Extension Office and Okeechobee Main Street for a public tree planting ceremony at 4 p.m. in Park 6 downtown. The planting of these oak trees donated by Tree Locators Garden Center and Landscape Nursery will be followed by the unveiling of plans for a Florida Friendly Butterfly Garden. The Florida Friendly Butterfly Garden is being made possible through a grant from Waste Management to Okeechobee Main Street who have partnered with the Extension Office and Okeechobee Master Gardeners to produce a low maintenance, Florida Friendly Landscaped Butterfly Garden. Help us Make American Beautiful!

### Martin Luther King Banquet set

The Okeechobee County Improvement Association will host a Martin Luther King Day Banquet, on Saturday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Douglas Brown Center, 726 N.E. 16th Avenue. Willie Welch Junior will be the guest speaker. The public is invited.

### 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, in the new Williamson Conference and Education Center at 2229 N.W. Ninth Avenue at IRSC. Reservations are required. Please R.S.V.P. to Bill Casian at 863-824-2702. Only 100 seats are available for this event.

### Drought Index

Current: 651  
Source: Florida Division of Forestry  
Local Burn Ban: None

### Lake Levels

13.75 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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# City meets tax goals set by state

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

The City of Okeechobee compares well with other cities in the state as far as required tax rollbacks. The Florida legislature in 2007 enacted laws to cap and roll back property tax rates. Property taxes are based on the millage rate approved by city officials. One mil equals one dollar in taxes for every \$1,000 of assessed value.

The 2007 legislature established a three tier tax system. The goal was to encourage tax rates

at or below rollback. Rollback is the tax rate that would bring in the same amount of taxes as the previous year (but based on the current year's property assessments). To set a millage rate at or below rollback required a simple majority. A 2/3 majority was required to go 10 percent above rollback. A unanimous vote was required to exceed 10 percent. In past years the city's rollback rate has been lower than the previous year's millage rate because of rising property values. However, for the 2008/09 budget, for the first time in many years, the

rollback rate was higher than the previous year's millage because of declining property values.

Last year's millage rate was 6.5010. The millage rate approved by the city council for fiscal year 2008/09 was 6.7432. However, this higher millage rate was expected to bring in less tax money because of the decrease in property values. Over the past year property values in the city decreased from \$349,913,220 to \$329,970,000.

According to city accounts supervisor India Riedel in recent years the City of Okeechobee has

been conservative in raising the millage rate, so the recent legislation did not affect the city as much as some other cities who have had larger increases in millage rates in recent years.

Out of 397 cities, 201 cities, including Okeechobee, levied a property tax at or lower than the rollback rate. Another 153 exceeded the rollback by 10 percent. Only 43 cities exceeded the target amount by greater than 10 percent.

The total tax dollars collected by all cities for fiscal year 2008/09 show that Florida's cities collec-

tively met the tax reduction goals mandated by the legislature.

Florida League of Cities President Carmine Priore, Vice Mayor of Wellington, said he was pleased that the cities met the high bar established by the Florida Legislature.

"This shows that Florida's elected municipal officials are responding to the unique conditions faced by each individual city and its residents," he said.

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

## Coming soon: Okeechobee Town Centre



Piles of junk such as this, old vehicles, boats and tractors and stacks of old tires will have to be removed from this property on S. Parrott Avenue before developer Keith Duffy can put in his proposed shopping center.

# Junkyard to be site of new shopping center

New owner promises to clean property and meet all city codes

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

A highly visible property on S. Parrott Avenue that many have been considered an eyesore for some time could soon be cleaned up and converted into a shopping center.

The S. Parrott Avenue property belonging to Marvin Brantley was once again cited because of junk and public nuisances.

Mr. Brantley did not appear before the Tuesday, Jan. 13 meeting of the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board to answer those charges. Code enforcement officer Fred Sterling said he had spoken to Mr.

Brantley the day before and it looked like the sale of Mr. Brantley's property was a done deal with closing in a few days.

Keith Duffy of Parrott Avenue Partners did address the board. He said he has been working for one and a half years to buy Mr. Brantley's property. He stated that he had already bought the northern section of the property and was about to close on the rest of the property. He said the sale had been held up pending the sale of another property that he owned. Complications with that sale were finally settled and Mr. Duffy stated he now had financing in place to buy the remainder of Mr. Brantley's property. "Once we close, we are committed to cleaning it up completely," he promised. Mr. Duffy said he would hire a company to clean up the property as soon as possible.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda The northern portion of Marvin Brantley's property on S. Parrott Avenue has already been sold and it is expected that the sale of the remainder of the property will close soon.

See Junkyard — Page 9

# Health expo this weekend

By Chauna Aguilar  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Health Department, Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, Okeechobee County Fire Rescue and the Children's Services Council have come together once again with all the local agencies and vendors to put on the second annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo, this weekend on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.

This year's event will showcase almost 110 organizations and vendors who will be contributing with free health screenings, demonstrations, drawings and free food.

The expo is organized to be a fun, educational day for those who attend, young and old. The event will have booths aimed at many different age groups from the children to senior citizens.

During the event, each participant will also get a ticket for a free hot dog, chips and a drink.

There are many different booths such as police and sheriff's office vehicles, fire trucks, ambulances, a helicopter, and brush trucks. McGruff, Smokey the Bear and the Crash Test Dummies will all be at the Expo this year.

If you would like to give blood, the Blood Bank will also be at the Expo as well.

See Health — Page 9

# Okeechobee loses its first female commissioner

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

On Jan. 13 Okeechobee lost a pioneer and trailblazer in local politics with the death of Sarah Price, 80, the county's first female commissioner. When longtime District 3 Okeechobee County Commissioner Hiram Raulerson died in office in April of 1980 Governor Bob Graham appointed Mrs. Price to complete Mr. Raulerson's term which expired in November of that year.

Mrs. Price was no stranger to local government and elected

positions. For the previous nine years she had served as deputy clerk of the court and secretary to the county commissioners. She was the first full time employee of the clerk's office assigned to the county commission. Mrs. Price considered that position "a most rewarding and interesting job."



Sarah Price

See Female — Page 9

# Teachers nominated for award

By Chauna Aguilar  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Teacher of the Year selection process has begun and the following is the first of four articles with additional details of a couple of the Teachers of the Year from each school in the district. Each issue will showcase additional candidates for the District Teacher of the Year honor.

For the Exceptional Student Education department, Sherry Conrad was awarded as their Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Conrad graduated from Indian

River Community College and Florida Atlantic University with her bachelors degree in Elementary Education. She currently strives to encourage students who are deaf or hard of hearing from pre-kindergarten to twelfth grade to become independent lifelong learners while assisting them to participate in extracurricular activities at all levels.

She is fluent in American Sign Language and works as the hearing impaired teacher for all hearing impaired students in the county. Mrs. Conrad has been in her current

position for six years and has been teaching in Okeechobee County for eight years.

Mrs. Conrad also possesses basic conversational abilities in Spanish and is experienced in the use of assistive technology and amplification systems used with students who have hearing loss.

She is a member of the Florida Educators of the Deaf or Hard of Hearing (FEHI) and a test writer for the Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE) for the subject area of the Hear-

See Teacher — Page 2



Sherry Conrad



Amelia Luzano

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# Teacher

Continued From Page 1

ing Impaired.  
Through her position in which she works with children in many teacher's classrooms, she is given the opportunity to peer mentor many teachers on a daily basis in the areas of accommodations and modifications as well as the deaf culture in general and communication. In addition to her classroom responsibilities, Mrs. Conrad volunteers her time to teach conversational sign language to interested parties in the evenings at North Elementary School, where the majority of her students are located. This allows parents to be more able to communicate with their children, and teachers are better able to understand and communicate with their students.

"Students who are deaf (and some who are severely hard of hearing) do not learn vicariously, as their peers do. Instead, everything they learn must be directly taught to them," explains Mrs. Conrad. "Success for these students is not only about making learning gains, but about making social and independent gains as well."

In addition to all of these professional development activities and volunteer activities she is also the Assistant Director/Guard Instructor of the Blazing Brahman Band where her groups have received superior ratings for a number of years.

The Teacher of the Year candidate for South Elementary School is Amelia Lozano. Mrs. Lozano graduated from Indiana State University where she earned her bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Mildly Mentally Handicapped. Her philosophy of teaching is her "belief that no matter how severe

the disability, students can learn how to read, write, and how to add and subtract and communicate effectively and obtain employment after graduation."  
Mrs. Lozano also teaches in a unique classroom at SES. She has been with the Okeechobee County School system for 18 1/2 years and has been an ESE teacher at SES for 16 1/2 years. She is currently the Trainable Mentally Disabled teacher for Kindergarten through fifth grade at SES. She has also worked in the Autism program, profoundly mentally disabled classrooms and the educable mentally disabled classroom.

Before teaching the academics, she must first teach behavior skills so that the children are able to have a good learning environment. Mrs. Lozano uses several programs such as the Discrete Trial Training, Edmark Reading Program and the Meville to Weville Early Communication Program to teach literacy to her students who have increased their literacy skills from being unable to match colors to pointing to first grade sight words.

Due to the many levels within her classroom, she has to conduct small group instruction for most of her students based on

their Individual Education Plan (IEP). The student's achievements are monitored daily by a checklist that covers each of their IEP objectives, which vary for each student. These goals are set yearly by the parents, teachers and ESE staff to ensure the growth of the students. They typically exceed these goals, such as one student's IEP goal was to read 20 kindergarten sight words and they are currently reading those words, plus 15 first grade sight words.

Mrs. Lozano has truly made the lives of many children over the years different by teaching them to read, write, complete mathematical computations and even attend other ESE classes that offer instruction at a more advanced level. Some of these students come into her classroom with very low expectations from their families or other professionals, but Mrs. Lozano strives to "work miracles" for some of the most severely disabled children in the school system.

The Okeechobee County 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](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at [Caguilar@newszap.com](mailto:Caguilar@newszap.com).

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## Okeechobee Forecast

**Today:** Partly sunny, with a high near 66. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.  
**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

## Extended Forecast

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. North northeast wind around 5 mph.

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# Suspect in car burglaries nabbed

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

A man was taken into custody Thursday afternoon for his alleged connection with a series of car burglaries in the city and county.

The man's name was not released as of newspaper deadline because he was still being interviewed and had not been officially charged. Detective Bryan Lowe of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) is in charge of the investigation in

regard to burglaries committed in the county. As of newspaper deadline he was still interviewing the suspect.

Detective John Zeigler, of the Okeechobee City Police Department, was heading up the city's portion of the case.

Just how many vehicles were burglarized was not known, but estimates ranged from 13 to 20. The OCPD detective said "easily several thousand dollars worth of stuff" was taken. Items taken ranged from purses to a lap top computer.

He went on to say that from what he knew, the suspect had gained entry into the vehicles by using a glass punch to break windows in the cars.

"It was usually a side window," said the detective.

Detective Zeigler said his office began getting complaints about the break-ins around 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 15. He said the suspect was taken into custody early Thursday afternoon.

"There was a call about a suspicious person at Beall's Outlet (U.S. 441 S.) and he (the

suspect) was stopped near the Holiday Inn (3101 U.S. 441 S.)," said Detective Zeigler.

The suspect was driving a silver Volvo 960 with a temporary license tag.

OCSO Detective and Crime Scene Investigator Fred Bradley was processing the car Thursday afternoon as it sat in the motel's parking lot.

He said two purses allegedly taken by the suspect from two victims in the county had already been recovered.

# Local trailer destroyed in blaze

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

An estimated \$7,500 in property damage was done after a fire broke out at 30653 NW Center Street in Fort Drum on Jan. 8, Okeechobee County Fire Rescue reported Monday.

Fire crews responded just after 2 p.m. to Lorenz Animal Foods and found a single wide trailer fully involved with flame according to a report from Paramedic Jay Curtis.

The report said heavy black smoke came out of the trailer when firemen arrived. Five units and eight firemen battled the blaze. They used 3,000 gallons of water and were on the scene for almost an hour and a half.

The resident of the trailer, Scott Clarke, was not at home at the time and no injuries were reported. The report stated that two guns, a laptop computer, appliances, and clothing were lost in the flames.

The cause was under investigation at press time.

A fire on Friday evening, caused about \$6,500 in damage to a Ford farm tractor that was parked in a field at 23345 N.W. 160th Avenue.

A report from Paramedic Donny Arnold said a 1988 Ford Tractor was fully involved when firemen arrived just after 6 p.m. There were no injuries reported.

The report stated that 750 gallons of water was used and that one unit and two firemen were on the scene for just under an hour putting out the fire.

Arnold said the owner of the tractor, Mark Luna, did not know how the tractor caught fire. The tractor had not been used in a year and did not have a working battery.

A fire early Monday, Jan. 12 at 3481 SW 17th Street caused about \$2,000 in property damage.

A fire report from Paramedic Zack Smith said it appeared that the resident had smoked in bed and the cigarette had caught the mattress and box spring on fire. Fire was contained to the bedroom area.

The residents Scott and Carol Wander, and their child, were not injured.

# No turn signal leads to drug arrest

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

After being stopped for not using his turn signal to indicate he was changing lanes, an Okeechobee man was subsequently arrested on a felony drug charge.

Alfred J. King III, 51, N.W. 128th Ave., was arrested Jan. 11 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of possession of methamphetamine. He was also charged with the misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia.

King was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$5,500.

Around 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan.

11, Deputy Sergeant Shannon Peterson, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stopped a vehicle in the 300 block of U.S. 98 N. Because of some movements made by King prior to stopping, Sgt. Peterson contacted the task force.



Alfred King

OCSO Deputy Matt Hurst, who was the backup officer, asked King for permission to search his vehicle. But, according to an OCSO arrest report, King refused.

After their arrival, task force detectives utilized a K-9 to perform an exterior sniff of King's vehicle. The K-9 apparently gave a positive alert to the doors on both the driver and passenger sides.

At this point, task force detectives began to search the vehicle.

According to the arrest report they found a white plastic container on the rear floorboard that contained a clear bag with a suspicious substance. The detectives also found a similar substance wrapped in tinfoil under the front passenger seat, the report continued.

The report went on to say that when the substances were field tested they both indicated a

positive result for the presence of methamphetamine. According to the OCSO report, the suspected methamphetamine weighed .61 grams.

During the search of King's vehicle, the detectives also found a set of scales, torch lighter, cut-off straw, cotton swabs and other drug paraphernalia, added the report.

Besides the criminal charges, Sgt. Peterson also issued King traffic citations for driving while license suspended without knowledge and failure to signal a lane change.

# Man accused of breaking woman's nose

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

A man and a 17-year-old girl were arrested Sunday, Jan. 11, after they allegedly committed battery on two different women at an area convenience store.

Michael Alton Murphy, 20, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested on a charge of felony battery as well as a misdemeanor charge of battery. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$3,500.

The female juvenile, whose identity was not released since

she was only arrested on a misdemeanor charge of battery, was booked into the county jail then released to her father.



Michael Murphy

An arrest report by Deputy Brian Cross of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) indicates that there was some sort of verbal altercation between Murphy, the

juvenile and one of the victims earlier Sunday.

Then, sometime later, the 19-year-old victim and two of her friends went to a convenience store on S.R. 70 E. As they pulled up to the store, the female juvenile came walking out of the business and over to the vehicle occupied by the three women.

The deputy's report states that the juvenile opened the door to the vehicle and struck the victim in the face with her fist, then pulled her out of the vehicle by the hair.

Another 19-year-old woman got out of the vehicle to help her friend but the 5-foot-8, 200-pound Murphy struck her in the face, stated the report. Deputy Cross said the punch broke the woman's nose. She was treated at the scene by emergency medical personnel from Okeechobee Fire/Rescue then taken to Raulerson Hospital by a private individual, added the report.

Murphy also struck the other 19-year-old victim in the face, stated Deputy Cross.

# Woman charged with taking, pawning jewelry

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee County woman has been booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on charges that she stole nearly \$800 worth of jewelry from a local family.

Jessica Shalene Throop, 27, N.W. 30th Ave., was arrested Monday, Jan. 12, on felony charges of grand theft, dealing in stolen property (two counts) and defrauding a pawnbroker (two counts). Her bond has been set at \$19,500.

An arrest report by Detective Bryan Lowe, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO),

indicates that Throop was released from the Martin County Jail in April 2008 then committed the local thefts beginning in September of that same year.



Jessica Throop

Through the course of his investigation, Detective Lowe found pawn tickets from a local pawn shop. From those tickets, the victim was able to identify some of the jewelry reportedly taken from the victim's home, said Detective Lowe's report.

The detective's report states that among the items taken was a 1 carat diamond tennis bracelet, a diamond horseshoe ring, a man's bracelet and a belt buckle ring. The total value of these items was \$785, added the report.

Detective Lowe indicated in his report that Throop received about \$175 for the items and signed a pawn affidavit swearing that the items were hers.

A check of Throop's record in Martin County shows that she was convicted in August 2006 of possession of oxycodone, possession of cocaine and driving while license suspended with knowledge. According to the Martin County Clerk of Courts Office,

Throop was sentenced to a total of 29 months in the Martin County Jail with the charges to run concurrently. However, instead of jail time she was placed on drug offender probation.

On Nov. 7, 2006, she was arrested and charged with violation of probation. She was then placed back on probation.

But, following Throop's Aug. 9, 2007, arrest she was sentenced to one year in the Martin County Jail on the possession of oxycodone and driving while license suspended charges, with credit for time served.

A check of jail records indicates that she was released April 13, 2008.

## 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).

- Charles William Buchanan, 56, N.W. 36th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 9 by Officer Justin Bernst on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Miguel A. Sanchez, 19, N.W. Fourth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 9 by Detective Sergeant Brad Stark on a charge of robbery. His bond was set at \$20,000.

- Samantha O'Hara, 15, Polk St., Lake Placid, was arrested Jan. 9 by Deputy G. Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with conspiracy to commit armed burglary of a dwelling and burglary of a dwelling with assault/battery while armed. She is being held without bond.

- Felipe Sanchez, 31, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 10 by Officer Scott Morgan on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Selena Maude Billie, 39, Hawkspur Lane, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 10 by Deputy Thomas Kitchen on a charge of driving under the influence. Her bond was set at \$500.

- Jimmy Glenn Wagner, 37, Kell Mill, LaBelle, was arrested Jan. 12 by Deputy Sergeant J. Royal on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with grand theft and dealing in stolen property. His bond was set at \$20,000.

- Jose Ramon Fernandez, 31, Ortiz Circle Trail, Fort Myers, was arrested Jan. 12 by Deputy Sgt. J. Royal on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with grand theft and dealing in stolen property. His bond was set at \$20,000.
- William Arthur Humphrey, 53, 14th St. West, Bradenton, was

arrested Jan. 12 by Deputy Sgt. J. Royal on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with third-degree petit theft. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Milton Wayne Bishop, 41, N.W. 13th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 12 by Deputy Sgt. J. Royal on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with tampering with a witness. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Marlon Dwain Scott, 32, N.E. 15th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 12 by Deputy Justin Akins on felony charges of possession of cocaine and driving while license suspended with knowledge - habitual offender. He was also charged with the misdemeanor of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. His

bond was set at \$7,000.

- Juan Ybanez, 27, N.E. 31st Way, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 13 by Deputy Sgt. J. Royal on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with third amended violation of probation - resisting a law enforcement officer with violence and third amended violation of probation - battery on a law enforcement officer. He is being held without bond.

- Richard Watson, 33, N.W. 363rd Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 14 by Deputy Michael Hazellief on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with failure to appear - arson, failure to appear - grand theft and failure to appear - tampering with evidence. He is being held without bond on those charges. Wat-

son was also arrested on another Okeechobee County warrant that charged him with the misdemeanor of family offense - desertion. He was released on his own recognizance on that charge.

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

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# 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](http://www.newszap.com), click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

## Historic buildings

**LOCAL HISTORY:** I think we should keep all of the old buildings and refurbish them. This also includes the old courthouse. My great-grandfather was one of the first county commissioners in Okeechobee. His name is one of those on the plaque at the courthouse. The railroad station, the old jail, the old VNA home, etc. I believe that all of these buildings and many more in this community need to be restored and possibly used for different businesses instead of building new ones that cost 10 times the amount. Everyone knows that it is much more expensive to build a new building than it is to buy one that can be restored or refurbished. It was always more fun to me to buy an old house and fix it up than it was to buy a new house that was or is a tract home.

**HISTORY LOST:** I just really do not know who to speak to about these types of things. The historical society never seems to have the funds, so who would you approach? The county commissioners don't seem to care. Neither does the city council. If a land owner decides to demolish, pretty much that is what happens.

## Helping the economy

**CUTS:** There are some seemingly small measures that could be taken that I believe would help the economy and spur a little growth. It is simple. Everyone would need to agree to take less pay than they are now. It should not be imposed on anyone in the \$20,000 or less category of income, but starting with \$30,000 income, those people should accept a 10 percent pay cut. Starting at the \$60,000, level the cut should rise to 20 percent. If an \$80,000 a year person has to begin living on \$64,000 a year etc. It seems to me the program would have a positive effect on the country. Cut out ALL bonuses, live on decreased income. If people have committed every single cent to their mortgages and new cars and whatever else, they will lose it all anyway if they lose their jobs. Isn't SOME income better than losing it all?

**FAIR TAX:** I like Mike Huckabee's Fair Tax plan, in which corporations would be able to stay here in this country and continue operating here. To furiously hang onto all you've worked for, because you've worked and deserve it, I'm afraid may be an invitation to disaster. We already have the example of union members who will continue with their demands and even demand more, consistently, until they have lost everything. Their argument is that the company bigwigs make obscene amounts of money and should be sharing more of it with them because said bigwigs wouldn't have it without their work. They have been right in a sense but when the corporations found there was actually someone across the pond who would work for less ... you know the rest of the story.

## Banning cell phones while driving

**GOOD IDEA:** What do you think about banning all cell phones, including hands free ones, when driving? Apparently quite a few states have already done this and now legislature is leaning toward doing it nationwide. Such a wonderful idea. I know in my family it is forbidden to use one while on the road, if there is an emergency we will pull over.

**TEXTING:** What really bothers me are the ones I see text messaging while driving.

**DISTRACTING:** I for one can't talk on the cell phone and drive, I know this, I will kill myself or someone so I don't. I know and see many people who shouldn't either, it's too distracting.

**SHOULD BE ILLEGAL:** Using cell phones while driving should be illegal. 95 percent of the time when I'm at a stop sign and the oncoming driver turns with out signaling first, I look up and see they are on a cell phone. Get behind someone doing 20 mph under the speed limit -- 50 percent of the time they are on their cell phone. The other 50 percent, it's an out-of-state tag. My question is, who will enforce it? 75 percent of the time when I pass a cop, they're on their cell phones.

**ALL AGES:** They're yakking away on cell phones all over the country, and all ages are doing it. Guess they think they're really good at multitasking.

## Tie down the load in trucks and trailers

**TIE IT DOWN:** Attention anyone who drives ours or any other highway or road with objects in the truck bed or an open trailer - TIE IT DOWN! No matter how near or how far you are from your destination - TIE IT DOWN! Items such as ladders, shovels, floor scrapers, small hand tools and paint buckets, even sheets of plywood can become projectile missiles when not tied down properly and are DEADLY! I -- just like anyone else -- work for the weekends; please let me live to enjoy it. A ladder flying at you from the back of a pick up truck while on your way to work is no way to start a day! TIE IT DOWN!

**CONSTANT PROBLEM:** This is a constant problem with a variety of trucks. I have seen orange trucks going down the road leaving a trail of fruit behind. I especially hate it when I wind up behind a truck carrying a load of shell or dirt with the load not properly covered. They can spray the cars behind them as well as the road surface. And why is it when a truck is losing items from the back left and right, the driver can never seem to figure out why everyone else honking their horns and pointing at the back of his truck?

## Sour orange festival

**GREAT DAY:** If you missed the Sour Orange Festival at Lakeport on Jan. 10, 2009 you really missed a great day of fun and entertainment. It was my first time there and I must say it was a day where both children and adults had a day to remember.

## Obama increase likely for low income elderly

**INCREASE:** More than 7 million poor people who are elderly, blind or disabled and receive cash benefits averaging \$477 a month could get an extra monthly payment as part of President-elect Barack Obama's \$800 billion economic recovery plan. Democratic congressional aides said the idea of an extra Supplemental Security Income payment is gaining traction on Capitol Hill as lawmakers and staff aides hold daily meetings to work out details of the upcoming stimulus bill. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations.

**WHO PAYS:** I wonder what the plan is for paying for all this. Will he be taking it out of one of our pockets and putting it in the other? Also, it seems to me that closed door negotiations are the opposite of the transparency that everyone is talking about nowadays.

**HELP THOSE IN NEED:** Federal and state programs designed to help the less fortunate are in place to provide food, health care, and other things necessary to survive. It is our human nature to help our fellow man in times of need so they don't starve, die, or become homeless. I find it all too easy for many to turn a blind eye because "they're lazy, don't have initiative, or are soaking the system." Granted there are some who will take advantage of any situation, but the mass majority of these people need our help. I, for one, want my tax dollars to go to such programs because I want to help those less fortunate.

**WPA:** For the low income elderly over retirement age and those with real disabilities.. great! I support an increase. For all other low or no income healthy persons, I support an initiative to allow them to earn money. The old "wpa" was great and built many elegant government buildings still in use today.

# Letters to the Editor

## Food recalls do not affect local schools

This letter is to provide information on the recalls that were announced on Jan. 10, by The Food and Drug Administration for two items - "King Nut" peanut butter and "Cafe Favorites" sandwiches. I want to be reassured the parents of the children that participate in Okeechobee Schools' breakfast and lunch program of the safety of the foods being served to their children.

On Jan. 10, a recall was announced by King Nut Companies for peanut butter, including 5-pound tubs of "King Nut" peanut butter and "Parnell's Pride" peanut butter. King Nut products are distributed to food service companies in Ohio, Minnesota, Michigan, North Dakota, Arizona, Idaho and New Hampshire. No

peanut butter product was distributed in the state of Florida. We have closely reviewed all products containing peanut butter used in our district's breakfast and lunch programs and determined that all of the products served are safe.

Also on Jan. 10, a voluntary recall was issued by Cafe Favorites for their Whole Grain 5" Super Sub, with a production code starting with 08343XXX, as it may have been contaminated with Listeria Monocytogenes. Since we did have some product in one of our schools, an immediate hold order was placed on the product. After very detailed research, it was discovered that no product suspected of contamination was shipped by our distributor. Cafe Favorites has voluntarily stopped production and shipment of all products until the issue is resolved. No children in Okeecho-

bee County received any of the contaminated product. All other sandwiches produced by Cafe Favorites are safe for consumption. In the interest of the safety of our students, all Cafe Favorites products are removed from our Order sheets until further notice.

I can assure every parent and student in Okeechobee that the entire Food Service Staff is very committed to serving nutritious, well prepared, healthy food to our students. Our Food Service managers and school staff work very closely with the Food Service Office to assure that we maintain that commitment. While recalls are a very serious matter, by working together quickly and following established procedures, the safety of meals served to our students is maintained.

More information is available by logging on to [www.FDA.gov](http://www.FDA.gov).

Click on the link "FDA Recalls and Safety Alerts" for the status of recalls.

**Thank you,**  
**Michelle Perkins**  
**Food Service Supervisor**  
**Okeechobee County**  
**School Food Service**

## Veterinary care appreciated

Special thanks to the doctors and staff of Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital for their loving care of "All That Jazz," A special horse who passed away on Christmas Day.

**Pat Moir,**  
**The Ole Horsewoman**

# Okeechobee County Health Department Report

## Health Expo to promote healthy lifestyles

**By Barbara Godejohn, LPN**  
Okeechobee County Health Dept.

On Saturday, Jan. 17, the second annual Health and Safety Expo will be held at the Agri Civic Center. The Okeechobee County Health Department (OCHD), along with several other county agencies and other community partners are hosting this event.

The Health Department will have information on immunizations, prevention of Hepatitis, tobacco prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention, Emergency Prepared-

ness and Response, Environmental Health and services for Women's, Infant, and Children (WIC). Improving the health of all citizens

of Okeechobee County is a core mission function of the Okeechobee County Health Department.

Last year's Health and Safety Expo was a huge success. After all the hard work that was put into this event by so many people, it was very satisfying to see so many taking a proactive approach to their health. People who attended gathered information on health and safety issues, participated in



**Barbara Godejohn**

free health assessments, or took part in physical activities that were available. As someone who has spent their entire career working in Public Health I found this very inspirational.

One of the major programs that was highlighted last year was the "Step Up Florida!", "On Our Way To Healthy Living," initiative. This annual statewide initiative promotes physical activity and healthy lifestyles for Floridians of all ages and abilities.

Citizens with healthy lifestyles are less likely to develop heart disease, cancer, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes, which accounted for 62.5 percent of deaths in Florida and 63.7 percent of deaths in Okeechobee County in 2007.

To make these numbers de-

cline, as a community we have the opportunity to take a proactive preventive approach to our health and start teaching our children about healthy eating, being more active and feeling healthier.

The Okeechobee County Health Department offers educational classes as well as prevention classes on many of these subjects. If your organization has a need, or if you individually have a question, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are available to assist you Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Barbara Godejohn, LPN is the Healthy Communities, Healthy People Coordinator for the Okeechobee County Health Department.

# Local volunteers rescue white ibis

On Tuesday, Sue Arnold from Arnold's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center received a call from a group of women spending the afternoon together in Vantage Oaks — Louise Harvin, Willie Ann Peace and Ernestine Allan.

They reported there was a bird hanging upside down in a tree — 55 ft. in the air. A piece of

fishing line was wrapped around the bird's leg and had become entangled on a tree branch. The white ibis frantically struggled to free itself, flapping helplessly high above the ground.

Ms. Arnold started making calls for help to "everyone I could think of." Mike McCoin, the owner of Charlie's Tree Service, came

to the rescue. It was his day off, but he said he would go assess the situation and see if he could help.

After checking out the scene, Mr. McCoin called Ms. Arnold back and said he had sent for his big bucket truck and would attempt the rescue.

The rescues arrived just in time, as a hawk was trying to get

the trapped ibis.

The ibis will spend a few days at Arnold's Wildlife Center and then will be released.

"This is an example of how the people in Okeechobee come together and show support for each other," said Ms. Arnold. She said special thanks go to Charlie's Tree Service.



Submitted photo

**Charlie's Tree Service used a bucket truck to rescue a white ibis that was caught on a tree branch 55 feet in the air. The bird had a piece of fishing line wrapped around its leg and the line had caught in the tree.**



Submitted photo

**The rescued white ibis is recuperating at Arnold's Wildlife Center. It will be released in a few days.**

# Community Calendar

## Friday, Jan. 16

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

**Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street Okeechobee, FL 34972 (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick (OP, SP) 8 p.m. \*The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

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

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

**Business Women's Referral Networking Luncheon** will be held on the third Friday of every month at the Brahma Bull Restaurant, 2405 U.S. 441 S.E., at 11:30 a.m. for networking. The lunch will be at noon. Women should bring business cards and information to promote their business. The meeting provides networking opportunities for women in business and is open to the public. No membership is required. For information, contact Robin Delgado at 800-299-8878; or, by e-mail at [info@flainjurylawyer.com](mailto:info@flainjurylawyer.com).

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

## Saturday, Jan. 17

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

**A.A. meeting** from 8 until 9 p.m. at Grace Christian, 701 S. Parrott Ave. It will be a closed discussion.

# 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.
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- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
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**For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2**

# More candidates apply for Wherrell's seat

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

There are now four more applicants for the Okeechobee County Commission District 4 seat vacated by the untimely death of Marvin Wherrell. That makes a total of eight people who want to sit on the board. Added to the list of previously announced applicants are Isiah Mosley, Noah Wilcox, Terry Burroughs and Mitchell Hancock.

Nursing home administrator Andrew McKillop, paving contractor Joseph Hoover, real estate salesperson Melissa Lee Arnold and building contractor

Theodore Kelchner had previously announced their desire to serve as a commissioner. Former county commissioner and owner of rental properties Steve Porter was also one of the original applicants. However, Mr. Porter changed his mind and withdrew his name from consideration.

Mr. Burroughs, 58, a Democrat, is a retired telecommunications executive manager and owner of Syble's Flowers and Gifts. He attended Tampa Technical Institute. Mr. Burroughs has served on the city planning board and the agrivic center advisory committee. He is also a board member of

Okeechobee Main street, Inc. and the Okeechobee County Fair Association. He is a past president of the Okeechobee Rotary Club and a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Mr. Hancock, 49, a Republican, is a general contractor. He is a fourth generation resident of Okeechobee and a graduate of Okeechobee High School. Mr. Wilcox, 38, a Democrat, is a self employed contractor and Okeechobee High School graduate. In 2002 he unsuccessfully ran for the same commission seat.

Mr. Mosely, 27, a Democrat, is an environmental specialist

with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He is a graduate of Florida State University.

There is no deadline for submitting applications. The applications will be reviewed by the governor's appointment office. That office will forward the applications to the governor with a recommendation. The governor will then appoint the person he feels will best serve the citizens of Okeechobee County.

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

# City Code Board refers case to building dept.

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

At their meeting on Tuesday evening, Jan. 13 the City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board postponed action on two cases, imposed fines in two cases if they were not in compliance by stated deadlines and referred one case to the building department.

The board postponed the case of Angela McLaughlin until the March meeting. She claimed that the tenant on her N.E. Fifth Street property had not kept up the property up in accordance with the lease. Ms. McLaughlin also stated that the tenant was six months behind in rent, would not allow her access to the property and that she was in the process of

evicting him.

The case of Robert and Sandra Hines was referred to the building department since the building permit to enclose a carport on their N.W. Seventh Street property had expired and the project was not completed.

Roger and Terry Hare were given 14 days from the date of the meeting to clean up the exterior of their S.W. Ninth Street house by either pressure washing or painting, or face a fine of \$25 a day for every day of noncompliance.

Edwardo Taylor was cited by code enforcement officer Fred Sterling because his driveway was not paved. Mr. Sterling stated that whenever it rained, dirt from the driveway of Mr. Taylor's S.E. Eighth Drive house washed down

the gutter into the storm drain, clogging it up. Fire Chief Herb Smith, who is also a code inspection officer, stated that Mr. Taylor had spent some time forming up the driveway and he stated he thought it was Mr. Taylor's intent to have it paved. The board gave Mr. Taylor 30 days to pave his driveway or be fined \$25 a day.

The S.E. Ninth Street property

belonging to Bruce Large was cited for public nuisances and general cleaning and beautification. Mr. Sterling stated that the property was in foreclosure. Therefore the case was postponed until the next meeting.

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



Submitted photo

## Eagles raise money

On Saturday, Jan. 10, the Fraternal Order of Eagles District 7 held their annual Snow Ball Queen charity fundraiser at Blue Cypress RV Snow in Okeechobee County. The Eagles support 14 national charities, including cancer, heart, diabetes and kidney research, and child abuse charities. In addition District 7's event also support the State Worthy President, Larry McCormick and Madam Auxiliary President, Donna Owens chosen Kids in Distress Charity. A total of \$15,335 was raised throughout the District. Pictured are Snowball King Clay Thomas and Queen Judi Frail who won top honors. Also shown in the photo are Madam President Valerie Falco and Worthy President Bill Huston of Cypress Hut FOE. They represented Cypress Hut Fraternal Order of Eagles 4509 with funds raised of \$3,525 for these charities.

# Main Street hosts first Mixer event



Submitted photo/Main Street

Pictured are Raulerson Hospital Marketing & Public Relations Director Bill Casian, Main Street Executive Director Toni Doyle, Promotions Director Donna Huth, President Maureen Burroughs, Volunteer Director Linda Woloski and Raulerson Hospital CEO Robert Lee.

Okeechobee Main Street started the new year out with their first mixer hosted by Raulerson Hospital on Tuesday, Jan. 13. Over 50 members and visitors networked while enjoying many refreshments furnished by Raulerson Hospital. Door prizes were furnished by Raulerson Hospital, Tires Plus Total Car Care, Sea-coast National Bank, The Brahma Bull Restaurant and Main Street. The public is invited to attend all of Main Street's monthly mixers. Next month's mixer will be hosted by Pristine Properties located at 1120 South Parrott Avenue on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

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# Obituaries

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

## Barbara Jean Chaffee, 66

OKEECHOBEE — Barbara Jean Chaffee age 66 died Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, after an extended illness in the Hamrick Home.

Born Jan. 1, 1943, in St. Johnsburg, Vt., she had been a resident of Okeechobee for the past 15 years.

She served in the Peace Corps and taught at both Osceola Middle School and the Yearling Middle School.

She is survived by her sisters, Claire Fellows (Emery) of Danville, Vt., Lee Chaffee of Goffstown, N.H., Rose Hirst (John) of Boiling Springs, N.C.; brothers, William B. Chaffee (Janet) of Florida, Michael P. Chaffee (Vivian) of Amarillo, Texas. In addition she is survived by a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews.

There will be no public viewing or services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th St., Okeechobee.

## Ruth Sandra Belcher, 74

OKEECHOBEE — Ruth Sandra Belcher, age 74, of Okeechobee died Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009, at St. Lucie Medical Center, Port Saint Lucie.

She is survived by her daughters, Maryann and Annette; son, Bentley, Jr.; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services will be private. Arrangements are being handled by All County Funeral Home & Crematory Treasure Coast Chapel.

## Lucy DePalma Wendt, 96

OKEECHOBEE — Lucy Wendt, 96, of Okeechobee died Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009.

She was born in New Haven, Conn., Feb. 19, 1912, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Antonio DePalma. Lucy's family returned to R a v e l l o , Italy, until she was 14 then they returned to New Haven and spent many years working in a factory until she met and married her husband, Johnny Wendt.

They relocated to Florida in 1940 and were blessed with two daughters, Mary and Lucille. After raising her daughters, Lucy returned to work as a caretaker for many children in the Okeechobee community until age 85.

Mrs. Wendt is predeceased by her husband, John Wendt; brothers, Louis, Jimmy, Harry and Ernest DePalma; and a sister, Rafella DePalma.

She is survived by her daughters Mary Genovese of West Haven, and Lucille Wendt of Okeechobee; three grandchildren, Joseph John Genovese, Jody Tina Ortiz, and Jamie Louis Genovese; five great-grandchildren, Joseph Genovese Jr., Christina Genovese, Jamie Genovese Jr., Jake Genovese, and Esteban Ortiz; niece, Rosemarie LeFrancois; nephews Louis, Anthony, Frank, Richard and Robert DePalma; and her dear friends, the Garcia family and Helen Walker.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. until funeral mass at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Father Hugh Duffy officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

Friends may sign the guestbook at [www.bassochee.com](http://www.bassochee.com).

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 NE 2nd St., Okeechobee.



## Sarah Frances Price, 80

OKEECHOBEE — Sarah Frances Price, of Okeechobee, died Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, in Ft. Pierce. She was 80.

Born June 19, 1928, in Reform, Ala., she had been a resident of Okeechobee for the past 38 years and was a member of the Oakview Baptist Church and Okeechobee Chapter of NSDAR. She was the first Woman County Commissioner Appointed by Governor Bob Graham to fill the term on the death of Mr. Hiram Raulerson and re-elected to serve upon completion of her first term.

She is survived by her loving husband of 64 years, Rayburn K. (Kent) Price; son, Harold E. (Sharon) Price; daughter, Kenna Price (Terry) Noonan all of Okeechobee; grandson, Ben J. Noonan of Gainesville; brother, James E. (Estelle) McCrary of Reform, Ala.; and sister, Mary Lee Peeks of Tuscaloosa, Ala. In addition she is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Services were noon Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009, at the Oakview Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Oakview Baptist Church Building Fund 677 SW 32nd St., Okeechobee, FL 34974.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th St., Okeechobee.

Condolences can be placed on line at [www.buxtonfuneralhome.com](http://www.buxtonfuneralhome.com).

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Sign guestbooks at  
<http://www.legacy.com>

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# Community Events

## Computer company to hold computer drawing

Comptech, your local computer service and repair partner will host a Computer show case and Everex Computer Drawing on **Jan. 19**, Martin Luther King Day. The Computer show case and raffle will be held at the Douglas Park Community Center. Comptech will provide free computer repair advice for both PC and Mac users. For more information call Comptech at 772-418-0096.

## Democratic Party plans events

On Monday, **Jan. 19**, at 10 a.m., the Okeechobee Democratic Party will participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade Democratic Executive Committee and others will meet at 8 a.m. to decorate float for parade, followed by an afternoon cookout at Douglas Park, donations will be accepted to benefit the local food bank. Volunteers needed! please contact Steve Cates DEC Chair at 863-634-2061.

## Inauguration Day Luncheon invites all

On Tuesday, **Jan. 20**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Democratic Party will host an Inauguration Luncheon at the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth Ave., Okeechobee. The Okeechobee Executive Committee would like to invite everyone to attend this FREE Inauguration luncheon. There will be a large television to watch the ceremonies during this time of fellowship.

The Okeechobee Democrats are already at work for 2009 and 2010! If you are interested in working with the Okeechobee Democrats, please join us to learn how you can represent your precinct and your community. Volunteers needed! please contact Steve Cates DEC Chair at 863-634-2061.

## 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.

## SAL steak dinner to be held

The Sons of the American Legion will sponsor their monthly ribeye steak dinner on Sunday, **Jan. 18** from 3 until 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post 64, 501 S.E. Second Street. Dinner includes steak, baked potato, salad, roll and dessert, as well as iced tea, coffee and live entertainment.

King Memorial planned  
A Memorial Program for Martin Luther King will be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday, **Jan. 18** at Missionary Baptist Church, 906 N.W. Ninth Avenue. The public is invited.

## Fountain of Life has guest speaker

Dr. Ben Alpert, age representative of Chosen People Ministries, will be speaking at Fountain of Life Church, 1302 S.W. 32nd St., on Sunday, **Jan. 18**, during the 11 a.m. worship service. The meeting is open to the public and Fountain of Life Church would like to invite the Christian and Jewish community to attend. For more information please call 863-763-8945.

## OCRA holds ball registrations

OCRA will be holding registration for the 2009 Spring baseball and softball season for all children age 5-14. Registration will be held at the Sports Complex from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the following dates: **Jan. 17**, 24 and 31. Registration for baseball and softball will be \$75 and T-ball will be \$60. For further information please call 863-634-1437.

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

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# Service Club News in Brief

## The American Legion Post #64

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

## Am-Vets #2001

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

## Eagles Aeries #4137

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

## Okeechobee Masonic Lodge #237

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

## Order of the Eastern Star - Chapter #128

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

## B.H.R. Moose Lodge

The lodge is located on U.S. 78 W. in Buckhead Ridge. The Lodge's phone number is 863-763-2250.  
Sundays: breakfast buffet from 9 until 11 a.m. With many items to choose from.  
Mondays: WOTM Chapter meeting the first and third Mondays of every month 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays: Bingo and food, food served at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m.  
Thursdays: dinner will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. Call the Lodge for the menu.  
Thursdays: Music for dancing at 7:30 p.m. Call to see who is playing.  
Thursday: 5-Card Bingo at 6 p.m. food available at 5 p.m.  
Fridays: dinner served from 5 until 7:30 p.m. Music for dancing at 7:30 p.m. Call to see who is playing.  
Saturdays: dinner starting at 6 p.m.  
Saturdays: Prime Rib Dinner served from 6 until 8 p.m. the first Saturday of the month.

## Moose Family Center #1753

The Moose Family Center #1753 is located at 156 N.W. 36th St. in Okeechobee. Please call the Lodge at 863-763-4954 for further information, sudden changes and menus. Guests are invited to enjoy the activities and consider membership.  
Open mic karaoke - Thursday 7-10 p.m. and Sunday 4-8 p.m.  
Horseshoes - Sunday and Thursday at 2 p.m.  
Every Monday pool tournament at 7 p.m. (food served)  
Legion BINGO - Thursday at 1 p.m. (food served)  
LOOM BINGO Friday - at 6:30 p.m. (food served)

Saturday night diner and dance each week.  
Officers meetings first and third Tuesday at 7 p.m.  
Women's meeting second and fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m.  
Men's meetings, second and fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.  
Moose Legion meetings third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

## VFW Post #4423

The VFW North Post #4423 is located at 300 N.W. 34 St. The Post phone number is 863-763-0818.  
Happy hour Monday through Thursday 4 until 6 p.m.  
Mondays: 50-cent hot dogs.  
Tuesdays: Washer toss at 1 p.m.  
Wednesdays: Pizza and Grill 5 until 7 p.m.  
Fridays: Bingo at 1 p.m. Pizza and Grill 6 until 9 p.m. Karaoke 7 until 11 p.m.  
Saturdays: Bar Bingo at 1 p.m. Karaoke 7 until 11 p.m.  
Sundays: Dinner 2 until 4 p.m.  
Post and Ladies Auxiliary meetings third Sunday of every month at 11 a.m.  
Men's Auxiliary Meeting 3 Monday of every month 7 p.m.  
Jan. 4: Members and friends are welcome to come sing, dance or just listen to the music by "The Saxman" from 5 until 9 p.m.  
Membership for 2009 is overdue. Annual members are asked to please pay their dues.  
Big Screen TV and Pool Table

## VFW Post #9528

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

Post Commander at 863-467-2882. Call for Menu.

All games and special events are shown on seven televisions, two of which are big screen. The game room has a regulation size pool table.

## VFW Post #10539

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

overseas? We send packages of urgently needed supplies to them. We accept donations for this worth cause. Contact Cheryl Beniot at 863-697-2930.  
For further information call 863-763-2308.

## Shrine Club

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, S.R. 78 W., members will meet the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The club is also available for weddings and parties. For information call the club at (863) 763-3378, Mac Simpson at 863-763-8650 or Elma Yates at 863-697-2765  
They are now open two days a week.  
Specials are:  
Tuesdays: 4 until 9 p.m. Spaghetti dinner - donations only; music from 6 until 9 p.m.; happy hour 4 until 6 p.m.  
Fridays: TGIF 4 until 9 p.m.; dinner for \$7.50 donation; happy hour 4 until 6 p.m.; music from 6 until 9 p.m.

## Cypress Hut Eagles #4509

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

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**(772) 293-0377**

**If you or your loved one is being treated with radiation TWICE A DAY for cancer...STOP!**

**You Need a Second Opinion Now! Before It's Too Late...**

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**William Crook, MD**  
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Learn about Cyberknife Radiation Technology that emphasizes:

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4. Safety with less side effects

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**Together we can win the battle against cancer...today!**

**DERMATOLOGY**

If You Could Reduce Your Risk For Developing Skin Cancer, Why Not Do It?

Every 67 minutes someone dies from Melanoma. Regular exams by a Board Certified Dermatologist are crucial.

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**Tim Ioannides, M.D.**

www.tcdermatology.com

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772-778-7782  
1155 35th Lane, Ste. 202

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Specializing in the Treatment of Skin Cancer

**Advertising in the Okeechobee News It's a Bright Idea! Call today at 763-3134**

# Classifieds



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### How to place your ad:

# Create Your Own Ads Online! Three weeks FREE... It's Easy!

## All personal items under \$5,000 ABSOLUTELY FREE!

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Published 3 weeks in all of our Florida papers: Caloosa Belle, Clewiston News, Glades County Democrat, Immokalee Bulletin, Okeechobee News, and The Sun  
\* Ads will run in the Wednesday Okeechobee News and weekly publications.

#### BUSINESS HOURS

✓ Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### DEADLINES

✓ Wednesday 11 a.m. Tuesday for Wednesday publication  
✓ Friday 11 a.m. Thursday for Friday publication  
✓ Sunday Friday 10 a.m. for Sunday publication

#### GUIDELINES FOR PLACING FREE ADS!

- All personal items under \$5,000 ABSOLUTELY FREE!
- Price must be included in ad
- Private parties only
- 2 items per household per issue

### 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.

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- Share a ride 115
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- In Memoriam 125
- Found 130
- Lost 135
- Give Away 140
- Garage/Yard Sale 145
- Personals 150
- Special Notices 155
- 900 Numbers 160

### Found

## 0130

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

FEMALE DOXSON - Black and Tan, Found mid December in the vicinity of Hwy 70 West and New Pine Ridge rd. call to identify (941)371-0044

### Giveaway

## 0140

FREE CUR dog - Female 1/2 yr. cur dog. Needs lots of room to run. Good with kids. (863)634-4766

### Garage/Yard Sales

## 0145

TOOL SALE IN BACK - 3731 SE 28th St. Sat & Sun Till 1:00 pm. Some large for heavy equipment.

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.

### Employment

## 200

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- Employment - Part-Time 215
- Employment Wanted 220
- Job Information 225
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- Sales 230

### Employment Full Time

## 0205

### HEALTHCARE SPECIALIST

Lincare, leading national respiratory company seeks Healthcare Specialist. Responsibilities: Disease Management Program, clinical evaluations, equipment set-up & education. Be the doctor's eyes in the home setting. RN, RRT, CRT licensed as applicable. Great personality with strong work ethic needed. Competitive salary, benefits & career paths. Drug Free Workplace, EOE. Please fax resume to Angel, 863-763-5191 or call (863)763-7337

### 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.

Lykes Citrus Management Division is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer / Drug Free Workplace, M/F/D/V.

### 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. This position will assist 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: [lyvda.rivera@lykesranch.com](mailto:lyvda.rivera@lykesranch.com) fax 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.

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

### Employment Medical

## 0210

### ~ADON~

Assistant Director of Nurses. 2 years LTC supervisory experience. We are a 120 bed Non-Profit SNF, & offer excellent salary and recruitment bonus. Benefits include health and dental insurance, PTO, salary bonuses and more. apply, in confidence to:

Rick Castillo CHRO Glades Health Care Center 230 S. Barfield Hwy Pahokee, FL 33476 (352) 376-8821 ext 208 [rcastillo@floridacare.net](mailto:rcastillo@floridacare.net) \*A GREAT PLACE TO WORK\*

Your new home could be in today's paper. Have you looked for it?

### Employment Full Time

## 0205

### Antiques

- Air Conditioners 505
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- Appliances 515
- Appliance Parts 520
- Beauty Supplies 525
- Bicycles 530
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- Building Materials 540
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- Carpets/Rugs 550
- Children's Items 555
- China, Glassware, Etc. 560
- Clothing 565
- Coins/Stamps 570
- Collectibles 575
- Computer/Video 580
- Crafts/Supplies 585
- Cruises 590
- Drapes, Linens & Fabrics 595
- Fireplace Fixture 600
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- Furniture 610
- Furs 615
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- 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
- Tools & Games 730
- VCRs 735
- Wanted to Buy 740

### Financial

## 300

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### Business Opportunities

## 0305

NOTICE Independent Newspapers will never 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 - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

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.

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

### Services

## 400

- Babysitting 405
- Child Care Needed 410
- Child Care Offered 415
- Instruction 420
- Services Offered 425
- Insurance 430
- Medical Services 435

### Handyman Services

DEE'S MINOR REPAIR & Pressure Washing Cool Sealing, Painting, Carpentry & Much More! No Job Too Big or Small. (863)467-2917 or (863)261-6425 License # 5698 & #1126

### ? NEED HELP ? CALL GEORGE CARTER

Painting, Repairs, Carpentry Power Washing FREE CONSULTATION (863)763-4775

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifieds.

### Merchandise

## 500

- WHITE CRIB with Girl's Pottery Barn Bedding - Pink/white floral bedding. Good condition. \$250. (863)610-1750
- SZ 12 Dress - Light blue sleeveless tea length custom maid chiffon/satin material \$75. (863)697-2705
- WEDDING DRESS SZ 12-14 - White with ice blue trim hand embroidered w/sequins. \$600/neg. (863)697-2705
- FOOTBALL CARDS - 3000+ cards variety of years great gift. \$75. (863)634-2131
- ANTIQUE TREDDLE Sewing Machine - Must sell. \$125. (863)357-0166
- BRAND NEW Sleeper Sofa - Pottery Barn style tan/blue linen stripes! \$400 or best offer. (863)357-5773
- CHAISE CHAIR & Christmas houses - chair seats 2 people easy, good cond \$100.00 obo. 10 christmas houses w/ alot of acc. \$40.00 w/ \$140 or best offer. (863)357-2816 (863)447-0965
- COUCH & LOVESEAT - Colors are green & beige. Excellent condition \$350. Or best offer. (863)357-3650
- DARK BLUE coudeurdy lazy boy recliner - 2 years old, Excellent shape \$125. (863)675-1999
- DINING ROOM table, 4 armchairs & buffet - Excellent cond. must sell \$250/or best offer. (863)677-1208
- ENTERTAINMENT CENTER - storage space. drawer, shelves. LaBelle (863)517-1663
- LG. BUNK bed/dresser/desk - Exc. cond. Rarely Used. Pd 1200 \$700/or best offer. (863)532-0257
- PATIO BAR - Formica, 3 doors & 2 shelves with 4 high back swivel wicker stools. \$225. (863)763-6640
- RECLINER CHAIR burgundy good condition - \$25. (863)467-9040
- SOFA BED - Berkline queen newly re-upholstered. \$200 or best offer. (863)467-0164
- TRIPLE DRESSER - White French Provincial \$75. (863)675-2145
- Furs 0615
- BLUE FOX Fur - size 8, cleaned & conditioned, paid \$1000 call after 6 \$600/firm. (863)763-0141
- Guns/Supplies 0619
- 7MM MAUSER Carbine Bolt Action - Military Sporterized Rifle, Ft. Pierce \$200. (772)461-8822
- M1A RIFLE - Springfield Armory M1A. Never fired pre-ban. \$1600/neg. (863)673-3893
- Health & Reducing Equipment 0620
- AB LOUNGE - Excellent condition, no dvd \$60. (863)675-1999
- PRO-FORM TREADMILL - Works perfect, spacesaver. w/2FREE wrist/ankle wgt. \$150. (910)546-2367
- WEIDER PRO Club Weight Bench - and 300lb weight set \$350 or best offer. (863)885-1172
- Miscellaneous 0655
- OLD RECORDS - 33's & 45's collection in great shape. (tho dusty!) call after 6pm. \$50. (863)357-1236
- STAINLESS STEEL prop - Used QuickSilver, 23 pitch, off of 135HP Merc. \$125/or best offer. (863)634-9339
- TANK - 100-250 gallon, it had potato defoamer in it. It is not hazardous. \$100 or best offer. (863)634-9339
- WINE RACK holds 27 bottles - 41 3/4 high, 2 ft wide 1 ft deep, light color wood. \$100/neg. (863)447-0689

### Antiques

## 0510

ANTIQUE JOHN DEER - LAWN TRACTOR. Excellent condition. \$1200. (863)467-1930

COUCH, newly reupholstered, sage green with a light blue stripe \$900 (863)763-8956

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

SINGER SEWING machine - Singer sewing machine with cabinet/table, good condition. \$100. (863)467-5299

### Appliances

## 0515

IMPERIAL HEAVY Duty Freezer (upright) - \$100/neg. (863) 6 7 5 - 7 8 9 7 (863)517-0301

KITCHEN-AID WASHER and Dryer - Almond color - good condition; electric; will sell together or separate \$175. (863)763-1377

MICROWAVE - goldstar \$12. (863)467-4567

### Barns Sheds & Lawn Items

## 0522

HORSE TROUGH - Rubbermaid 50 Gallon. \$40/firm. (863)675-1138 LaBelle

### Bicycles

## 0530

MOTORIZED BICYCLE - 2 cycle engine. Cost \$900 asking \$400 (863)467-4551

SCHWINN STINGRAY - Boys Schwinn Stingray 24" bicycle in great condition \$60. (863)763-6640

### THREE WHEELER - three wheel bicycle fair condition

\$65. (863)467-9040

### Building Materials

## 0540

PLASTIC CULVERT - 30 inch by 20ft. cash \$450. (863)634-2303

STAIR GLIDE STAIR LIFT - 15 ft, Rail - new power cord, new seat \$1500 Call (863)467-2482

### Children's Items

## 0555

### Clothing

## 0565

SZ 12 Dress - Light blue sleeveless tea length custom maid chiffon/satin material \$75. (863)697-2705

### Collectibles

## 0575

FOOTBALL CARDS - 3000+ cards variety of years great gift. \$75. (863)634-2131

### Furniture

## 0610

ANTIQUE TREDDLE Sewing Machine - Must sell. \$125. (863)357-0166

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### Furs

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M1A RIFLE - Springfield Armory M1A. Never fired pre-ban. \$1600/neg. (863)673-3893

### Health & Reducing Equipment

## 0620

AB LOUNGE - Excellent condition, no dvd \$60. (863)675-1999

PRO-FORM TREADMILL - Works perfect, spacesaver. w/2FREE wrist/ankle wgt. \$150. (910)546-2367

WEIDER PRO Club Weight Bench - and 300lb weight set \$350 or best offer. (863)885-1172

### Miscellaneous

## 0655

OLD RECORDS - 33's & 45's collection in great shape. (tho dusty!) call after 6pm. \$50. (863)357-1236

STAINLESS STEEL prop - Used QuickSilver, 23 pitch, off of 135HP Merc. \$125/or best offer. (863)634-9339

TANK - 100-250 gallon, it had potato defoamer in it. It is not hazardous. \$100 or best offer. (863)634-9339

WINE RACK holds 27 bottles - 41 3/4 high, 2 ft wide 1 ft deep, light color wood. \$100/neg. (863)447-0689

### 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

BIRD CAGE - 21x32x36h steel blue w/rolling stand. Total H w/stand 62". great cond. \$100. (863)634-9861

CLEWISTON FREE 6 mth old Brown mixed female dog very friendly - \$0. (863)263-1601

CLEWISTON FREE Mixed Hound Puppies 6 weeks old-2Boys & 3Girls - \$0. (863)228-7792

FISH TANK 50 gal. - w/ stand, rocks, & 2 fish. Okeechobee. \$100/or best offer. (561)719-5411

KITTENS - Free kittens to good home. Calico/Females \$0. (863)634-6143

RED HEELER PUPPIES: Males & Females. Shots/Wormed. Ready to go! \$200. 561-718-1212 or 863-763-3631

SUGAR GLIDERS - 1 Colony. Males & Females. Large cage and all acc. included. \$600 (863)697-0845

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

### Satellite

## 0695

BACKUP POWER - Keep the power up for Satellite, TV & DVR. \$99. (863)675-3741

### Sewing Machines

## 0700

COMMERCIAL SEWING Machine - Works good. Must sell. \$150. (863)357-0166

### Sporting Goods

## 0705

COMPOUND BOW BASS PRO QUIVER, ARROWS 60 LBS. 31" PULL. LIKE NEW. \$125. (863)763-4588

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

### Stereo Equipment

## 0710

CAR AUDIO Equipment - 2 15" Kicker CVR speakers in box with a 2000 watt amp \$600. (863)697-9014

### Television

## 0715

SANYO W/REMOTE 24" - Excellent condition. Has video/game inputs. \$100. (863)532-9634

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-Okeee \$9,999 (863)634-5487

Houses - Sale 1025
REAL ESTATE & RENTAL
\* \$30,000! Small, RUN-DOWN CABIN For Sale on 40'x60' LAKE-ACCESS WATERFRONT LOT, SE 125th Trail, Close to 15-B Call 863-634-7756 or 863-634-7490

Houses - Sale 1025
PUBLIC NOTICE 5005
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT IRRIGATION WATER USE PERMIT RENEWAL WORKSHOP

Public Notice 5005
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTICE OF ACTION

Junkyard
Continued From Page 1
"Every ordinance will be complied with," he asserted.
Mr. Duffy Brian in a letter to city administrator Brian Whitehall the he had plans to develop a regional shopping center called Okeechobee Town Centre with national retailers on the Brantley property.

Health
Continued From Page 1
The event is set up so that vendors and patrons have a completely free day. There are no charges for attending the event or for the vendors.
Each booth is required to have giveaways such as pens, pencils, stickers, snacks, etc. and an item that visitors to each booth have an opportunity to win via drawing in addition to displaying and/or sharing health or safety information. So, come by.

Female
Continued From Page 1
She had also served as part time secretary to the county engineer and sat on the city planning commission. In addition Mrs. Price had held the offices of secretary-treasurer of South Florida Dairy Herd Improvement Association and treasurer of Florida Holstein-Friesian Association.
In taking office, she honored her predecessor.
"No one could ever take Mr. Raulerson's place. He left a legacy of respect and love," she said.

Female
Continued From Page 1
Unlike today when the county administrator handles the day to day operations of the county, at that time individual commissioners were

million into Town Centre.
In order to give Mr. Duffy time to clean up the property, the board voted to postpone action on the case for 60 days.
Mr. Brantley's problems with the city code board go back as far as 1991. In 2000 his fines had accrued to \$145,000. He managed to get that fine reduced down to \$7,500 which he eventually paid, cancelling the city's foreclosure action on his property.
In 2004 the city once again initiated foreclosure action against Mr. Brantley due to excessive fines. A settlement was reached in July of 2005

There will be scheduled entertainment throughout the event with a different performance every 30 minutes as follows:
\* 9 a.m.-Bobby Hardy of Hardy Enterprises;
\* 9:30 a.m.-Osceola Middle School Band;
\* 10:15 a.m.-Elementary School Choirs (Central, Everglades, North, Seminole and South);
\* 11:30 a.m.-Bobby Hardy of Hardy Enterprises;
\* noon-Martial Arts presentation-Sacred Heart Catholic Church;
\* 12:30 p.m.-Real Life Children's

in which Mr. Brantley agreed to pay \$58,750 in fines, bring his property into compliance and install an eight foot fence on the western boundary of the property. In September of 2007 he paid the required fines, once again forestalling foreclosure.
Junkyards have been outlawed in the City of Okeechobee since 1978.
Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gauda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.

Ranch-Drama presentation;
\* 1:15 p.m.-Early Learning Coalition-interactive children's activities; and
\* 1:30 p.m.-Zumba.
Billy Dean will also be at the Expo for a telephone remote for WOKC.
For more information simply contact Sharon Vinson 863-462-5000 ext. 257, Angela Kelly 863-462-5781, Barbara Godejohn 863-462-5800, or Donny Arnold 863-634-6464.
Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

Motorcycles 3030
HONDA SHADOW SABRE 2001 - Haines pipes, saddle bags. 11000 Miles \$5000/neg. (863)697-6054

Public Notice 5005
CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida.

Public Notice 5005
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO. 47-2008-CA-000699

Public Notice 5005
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO. 47-2008-CA-000699

Female
Continued From Page 1
responsible of the operation of the various county departments. Mrs. Price was responsible for the public library, rehabilitation facility, health department, welfare department, manpower program and courthouse maintenance.
She also served on the Council on aging.
When first appointed Mrs. Price told the Okeechobee News she gave no thought to running for a full term.
"I haven't thought of it (obtaining a commission seat) in the light of getting into politics," she stated. "It's the government job that has to be done that's my concern."

Female
Continued From Page 1
However, she soon decided to run for a full term, campaigning with the catchy slogan "Price is Right." In campaigning for election, she said her main concerns were county growth

and better planning to meet that growth as well as providing better services to everyone, especially good roads.
Mrs. Price defeated challengers J.J. Ellerbee, Freeman Hales and Mose Joiner.
In 1984 she ran for re-election with the slogan "Price is Still Right." However, she was defeated by Cliff Betts who still holds the district 3 seat.
When Mrs. Price was deputy clerk, Mr. Betts was her boss as clerk of the court.
Funeral services were held at noon on Thursday, Jan. 15 at Oakview Baptist Church where Mrs. Price was a member.
Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gauda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.

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Travel Trailers 3037
FLEETWOOD DW 2005 - 2/2 with florida room. Rent per month is \$750. (863)763-1884

Public Notice 5005
Notice Of Hearing
Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate
The Okeechobee County Special Magistrate will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 2:00p.m. The public meeting will be held at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, located at 1728 N.W. 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

Public Notice 5005
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
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CASE NO. 47-2008-CA-000699

State library and archives adds to Florida Memory Project
TALLAHASSEE -- The State Library and Archives of Florida has added a collection of Florida broadsides and other ephemera, titled Selling, Telling, and Yelling: Florida Broadsides and Other Ephemera, 1800-2000, to the Florida Memory Project Web site. The collection, which consists of over 200 broadsides and other print items, is available for viewing online at: http://www.floridamemory.com/collections/broadsides/

large, one-sided printed posters used for public communication. They were usually posted in prominent public spaces such as churches, street corners, and town halls. Typical examples of broadsides include campaign posters, playbills, public notices, announcements, petitions, proclamations, and advertisements.
However, print communications were not limited to broadsides, and included pamphlets, cards, tickets, blank forms, flyers, reprinted newspaper articles, and political cartoons. These materials are often referred to as ephemera because of their transitory nature. They were meant to quickly convey a message and then to be disposed of. Fortunately for us and for future generations, much of this material has been preserved. Today they offer a unique window into Florida's past in much the same way that billboards, television and newspaper ads, e-mails, and blogs will reveal much about our present society

to tomorrow's historians.
The images available online represent only a small portion of the broadsides and ephemera found in the State Library's Florida Collection, which is one of the most comprehensive collections about Florida and Floridians in existence. For more information on the Florida Collection, visit http://dilis.dos.state.fl.us/library/flcollection/index.cfm.

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Automobiles 4005
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Lotteries
Florida Lottery -- Here are the numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery: Cash 3: 8-9-0; Play 4: 3-3-0-7; Powerball: 8-25-34-39-46 PB34 x5; Fantasy 5: 2-9-17-26-35; Mega Money: 4-26-38-39 MB 16; Florida Lotto: 8-17-24-34-40-41. Thursday: Cash 3: 4-6-3; Play 4: 7-2-3-8.

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# Wrestlers fall to Sebastian River

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

One wrestling match was the difference as Okeechobee High School battled Sebastian River in a dual meet Friday night in Indian River County.  
The Sharks barely sneaked past the Brahms, 40-36 as they won eight of 14 matches.  
Winners for Okeechobee in-

cluded Tony Bowers at 112 pounds, Josh Gruber at 125 pounds, Vance Wilkerson at 130 pound, Donny Bush at 145 pounds, Tyler Hayes at 152 pounds, and heavyweight Zac Griffith.  
Bush pinned Joe Flescher in 2:57, and Hayes pinned Justin Hearl in 1:05. Gruber won his match over Ed Sannelti in 3:20. Wilkerson won by pin over Luis Magadan in 2:50.

Some of the close matches included Crack Cleckley's loss in overtime to Jose Magadan, 16-15. Brahman Coach Bruce Jahner praised all of his wrestlers and singled out Vance Wilkerson for his efforts. "He did a nice job. He's a new wrestler but is catching on very fast," he said.  
Wilkerson is 7-3 this year.  
The JV Brahms competed Saturday at a tournament in

Jensen Beach and a number of them did very well. Saul Garcia, 189 pounds, and Julio Torres, 135 pounds, won their divisions. Jeremy Clark, 103 pounds, and Wilkerson, 130 pounds, finished second overall in their weight divisions. Jose Banuelos, 103 pounds, Tony Bowers 112 pounds, and Donald Bryan, 140 pounds, finished third overall.

# Suncoast upsets OHS in overtime

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Senior guard Ariana Jackson had 40 points, six in overtime, as Suncoast defeated Okeechobee High School in a District 14-4A basketball game Friday night in Palm Beach County.  
Jackson returned from an injury to grab 14 rebounds and hand out five assists to lead the Chargers to their third win of the year.  
It was the second straight loss for state ranked Okeechobee, (11-5).  
Coach Tony Sherlock said the game was very physical and full of fouls. Four Okeechobee starters fouled out of the game. There were 97 free throws attempted in

the game.  
"It wasn't pretty. Suncoast had one player who was really good," he said.  
Jackson made 21 free throws and attempted 32 free throws in the game.  
Okeechobee was led by Monica Koger and Dorothy Burkhardt who each had 17 points. Markeisha Youmans added 10 points.  
Okeechobee jumped out to a big lead, 19-4 after one quarter, but couldn't keep the momentum.  
"We jumped out to that lead and we thought we had it. We let them back in the game. We gave this one away," Sherlock added.

Okeechobee led 28-21 at the half and 41-38 after three quarters.  
Turnovers and free throws made the difference down the stretch. Okeechobee also had a number of reserves on the floor at crunch time and couldn't score at crunch time.  
Jewel Buck had nine points and 10 rebounds for Okeechobee.  
The loss was hard to swallow for Okeechobee as the Lady Brahms had a chance to secure the number two seed in the district tournament with a victory. The girls still can tie for second if they can defeat Jensen Beach on Jan. 24.

Coach Sherlock said the number two seed would have an advantage as they would get to play a lower seeded team and also avoid Lincoln Park until the finals.  
Lincoln Park defeated Okeechobee on January 7, 61-17. It was 45-16 at the half. Okeechobee played a number of reserves in the game in Fort Pierce.  
"We kind of gave up against them. Everybody got a lot of playing time," Sherlock said.  
The losses put a damper on the girl's success this year. The girls were ranked ninth in the state in the Class 4A poll released last week.

# Yearling Middle School swept by Sebastian

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Sebastian broke open a close game with a big third quarter and went on to snap the Yearling Boys' Basketball teams' five-game winning streak Wednesday with a 33-28 victory in Okeechobee.  
Sebastian is unbeaten on the year this season, (8-0). Yearling fell to (5-5).  
Levan Douglas had 11 points and Shelvick Henry added 10 points for Sebastian. Yearling was led by Alejandro Diaz who had 11 points. Marshall Tommie and Joey Santibanez each had four points.  
Missed free throws and makeable shots, including several

layouts in the final quarter doomed the Yearlings to their first defeat of 2009. Numerous times in the fourth quarter Yearling would cause a turnover on defense. They just couldn't take advantage of the scoring opportunities.  
"Sebastian was definitely the best team we've played this year," Coach Lance Sluder said, "To be able to come in and play them so close was an excellent effort on our part."  
Sluder said his team has jelled in recent weeks, thus the five game winning streak. He said the players know their roles on the team, and know what they have to do to make the team successful.

"I'm very happy with the progress we have made this year. We've done better because we've executed better. We've been able to jell as a team," he said.  
Yearling led 15-14 at the half but fell behind 31-24 after three quarters. Sebastian had a pair of quick guards who made it difficult for the Yearlings to bring the ball up the court in the final minutes.  
In the girl's game, Sebastian shrugged off a slow start and defeated Yearling, 43-30. Jasmine Hodges led the way with 14 points. Natalie Francois added eight points for Sebastian.  
Ami Edwards had 16 points to lead Yearling. Janet Smith and Shamarah Shanks both had five

points for Yearling.  
Yearling took a 5-2 lead early but Sebastian scored seven straight points to lead 9-5 after the first quarter. Yearling hung around in the second quarter and trailed 17-13 at the half.  
Sebastian used some tough pressure defense to build a lead early in the third quarter. They built the lead to 13 points, 28-15, before Yearling cut the lead to eight points, 28-20 on two fast break buckets. That was as close as the Lady Yearlings could get as Sebastian went on a 7-0 run to end the third quarter. Sebastian led 35-21 after three. Their largest lead was at 43-27 late in the game.

# Bass club holds monthly fishing tourney

**By Teresa Mataushek**  
Okeechobee News

The Taylor Creek Bass Club of Okeechobee held their monthly fishing tournament on Jan. 10, on Lake Istokpoga, where Danny Norton took top honors.  
Mr. Norton, brought in a total of 8.70 lbs. to the scales for the win, (3 fish limit.) Mr. Norton and team member Joe Smith also won the "Calcutta" with a total weight of 13.75 lbs.  
Eugene Castle followed very closely in second place with a total of 8.31 lbs. Third place went to Jack Harrison with a total weight of 7.66 lbs., followed by Larry Wise in fourth place with 6.93 lbs. Mr. Castle also took the "Big Fish" award with his 4.57 lbs. catch.  
The Taylor Creek Bass Club meets at the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528 on the second Thursday of each month. Tournaments are held the following weekend. New boaters and (especially) non-boaters are welcome. For information call Dave Stout at 863-467-2255.

weight of 4.07 lbs., second place went to Garrett Farmer with a weight of 3.12 lbs. and third place went to Luke Joles with 1.83 lbs.  
This was Jose Hernandez's first tournament and has showed that he obviously means business.  
The Big O Teen Anglers would also like to say, "Thank You" to the boat captains who volunteered their time: Leroy Bauer, Roy O'Dell, Skip Jeslosky, Ernie Johnson, Carl Lewis, David Straight, Ken Hall and Mike Zubricky. Without the boat captains

these tournaments would not go as smoothly.  
If you would like to share any information with the Okeechobee News about an outdoors event, or if you have a suggestion on something you have seen or would like to see in the outdoors column, please email Teresa Mataushek at [tmataushek@newszap.com](mailto:tmataushek@newszap.com), call 863-763-3134, fax 863-763-5901 or log on to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com) and place it on the public issues forum. We welcome all news, comments and tidbits on outdoor activities, nature inspired hobbies and with hunting season here, please send in pictures of your prize kills and with all of the fisher-

men back, send us a picture of your prize fish. Please include your name, phone number and specific dates of the events. The Outdoors Column runs every Friday, so please be sure to have all information into the office no later than 5 p.m. Please refer all material to Teresa Mataushek.

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# Late technical costs Brahmans

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Tempers flared in the final moments of Tuesday's home game as the Okeechobee High School Boys Basketball Team lost to Jensen Beach 44-42.

A controversial technical foul was called with 10 seconds left because a Brahman player, who had just fouled out of the game, didn't leave the court right away.

Coach Jon Enrico had asked for a time out for several seconds but was not granted one by the three-man referee crew.

Enrico was not available for comment after the game.

The ending marred an excellent defensive struggle between the two district competitors. David Jeune had 21 points and 12 rebounds but even his two, long-range jumpers weren't enough to bail out Okeechobee.

Both teams struggled from the field, especially early in the game, and late in the game.

Jensen missed seven of their first eight shots but still took an early lead. Okeechobee trailed 6-5 after a bucket by Corey White, but trailed 10-5 after the first quarter.

Jeune scored five points early in the second to push Okeechobee into a tie at 12, but Jensen went on a 9-0 run over a three minute period to take the lead for good, 21-14. The Falcons led 24-17 at the break.

The game was mostly a half court battle as neither team got many fast break opportunities after the first couple minutes.

Jensen Beach pushed their lead to as many as 12 points in the third quarter. Okeechobee chipped away, thanks to a three pointer by White, and a (5-0) Brahman run near the end of the period cut the lead to eight points. Jensen led 38-28 after three quarters.

Okeechobee had several chances to cut into the lead in the fourth quarter. White hit a three pointer to cut the lead to seven and Jeune's layup made it 42-36 with 1:40 left. A layup by Terrance Allen made it 42-39 with 27 seconds left.

Okeechobee made a defensive stop on Jensen's next possession and appeared poised to have a chance to tie the score in the final moments. That's when the technical was called. The call gave Jensen two free throws, and the basketball. They made both free throws to push the lead to five. As a result, Jeune's three point basket at the buzzer wasn't able to tie the game, only make it closer.

Okeechobee's JV team won a hard fought battle, 49-37, over Jensen Beach.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Corey White scored nine points as Okeechobee fell in a tight game Tuesday.**



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Ryan Osceola passes to an open man during the third quarter of Tuesday's game.**



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Ricky Nieto (left) battles for position late in Tuesday's game.**



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Coach Jon Enrico gives pointers to Terrance Allen during the fourth quarter of Tuesday's game.**

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# Late goal salvages tie for South Fork

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Eddie Guerrero had two goals and Reynel Denova added a third, but it wasn't enough to give the struggling Okeechobee High School Brahmans Soccer team a victory Monday night.

South Fork scored in the final moments of the game to salvage a 3-3 tie on their home field.

Okeechobee (7-5-3) had led most of the game and seemed to be in command with a 2-0 lead midway through the second half.

South Fork didn't give up and scored two quick goals to tie the score. Okeechobee went ahead but couldn't hang onto the lead.

Coach Lonnie Sears, who served the second of a three game suspension in the loss, said his players gave a better effort in this match, but it wasn't enough. "They gave a better effort. However they made a mistake, they stopped playing fundamental soccer when they had the lead. It was very disappointing. South Fork was one of the better teams we've played."

Sears said the last minute goal was really a fluke goal, a shot that defied the laws of gravity. He said the player hit the ball from the right of the goal, nearly identical to a corner kick. The ball somehow curved in mid air and made it into the net.

The tie prevented Okeechobee from earning a victory for the third straight match. They lost tough matches to Vero Beach and Treasure Coast at home last week.

"We turned the ball over too many times tonight. When the other team has the ball they are more likely to score," Sears noted.

Ivan Torres, Erick Garcia and Raunel Denova had assists for Okeechobee. Pablo Caballero had four saves in net.

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# OHS Girls Soccer celebrates senior night

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Seven Okeechobee High School seniors played their final home match Tuesday as girl's soccer dropped a 5-0 decision to St. Lucie West Centennial.

Katlyn Snow had a goal and two assists and Somer Awe added a goal and an assist for the Eagles (11-6-1). The other goals came from Darci Butala, Carly Giordano, and Eloise Cave.

The match was marred by high winds, rain and falling temperatures.

Coach Jorje Botello said his girls gave a good effort but fell short, "That was Okeechobee soccer, (playing in the wind and

cold); I told the girls this is us, it's time for us to win. Then the rain stopped, it got colder and we rolled with the punches."

Goal keeper Megan Clements kept Okeechobee in the match in the first half. The Eagles peppered the Brahman net with shots and kept the ball in the Okeechobee side of the field. They were helped by a stiff wind from the south that gave the Eagles a huge advantage in the first half.

Snow scored the first goal of the match nine minutes into the game. Awe added the second goal with five minutes left in the half with a shot from 30 yards away.

The Eagles added three goals after the half. Okeechobee had a

few opportunities to score in the second half but couldn't get the ball past the Eagles net minders. On one occasion the goal keeper juggled the ball, but was able to rebound in time to make the save.

Coach Botello said despite some struggles this year, he is glad he got the opportunity to coach this bunch of girls. "We'll see some rough times before it gets better. It's a learning experience. I'm really committed to it. As long as the girls are giving the best that they can, that is all I can ask for. The program will build in years to come," said the coach.

The slogan for the off season could well be, Rome wasn't built

here. Botello said he expects improvement to come in the next couple of seasons.

After the game the graduating seniors were honored for their contributions to the program. Heather Tinsley, who played soccer for four years, said it was a very emotional experience.

"I was excited but at the same time I was sad. I will miss it. It was a lot of fun these past four years," he said.

Tinsley expects to study architecture in college. A number of the seniors have high hopes as well after graduation.

"I was crying and tearing up out there. It's like a family out

Other seniors honored were Jordan Aspden, Stephanie Horvath, Eunice Robledo, Laura Saucedo Rachel Fairchild, and Laura Serrano.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Ashtyn Brown (left) defends Erika Powers during Tuesday's match.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Jordan Aspden is flanked by her parents, Rick and Jill, at senior night.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Stephanie Horvath is flanked by her parents Ray and Paz at senior night.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Eunice Robledo is flanked by her mother, Julie and her brother Rito.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Laura Saucedo is flanked by her parents Carlos and Dominga.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Laura Serrano is flanked by her parents Narce and Jose.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Heather Tinsley is flanked by her parents Gail and David.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Laura Saucedo #22 defends Erika Powers on Tuesday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Darcy Butala (right) played physical ball against Brahman defenders during Tuesday's match.

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