



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 10

Friday, January 23, 2009

50¢ Plus tax

## Briefs

### SBDC offers training

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is accepting reservations for a program called REAL-Rural Entrepreneurship through Action Learning. REAL is a 10 week class that meets once a week. For more information please contact Sean Moore at 863-517-0097 or email spmoore@fgcu.edu.

### Old courthouse photos sought

Donnie Oden, the county's capital projects coordinator is seeking old pictures of the courthouse to aid in the restoration process. He requests that the pictures be sent to him at 800 N.W. Sixth Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 with the owner's address and they will be returned.

### Washington Youth Tour opportunity

Glades Electric Cooperative will be sponsoring two high school juniors to receive a one week, all expenses paid to Washington, D.C. If you are interested in applying, please contact your high school guidance counselor or your local Glades Electric Office. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Stark, Business Development Coordinator at 1-800-226-4024 ext. 6233.

### Red Cross class times announced

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross has scheduled the following Health & Safety classes:  
 \* Wednesday, Feb. 4 - Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m.  
 \* Friday, Feb. 20 - Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.m.  
 \* Monday, Feb. 23 - First Aid Basics at 6 p.m. All classes are held at their Service Center, 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

### Drought Index

**Current:** 664  
**Source:** Florida Division of Forestry  
**Local Burn Ban:** None

### Lake Levels

**13.53 feet**  
 Last Year: 10.11 feet

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 763-7222

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

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

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# County delays radio decision

By Pete Gawda  
 Okeechobee News

What radio system will be used to replace the sheriff's office antiquated system is still up in the air. At their Jan. 22 meeting the Okeechobee County Board of Commissioners delayed a final decision on the matter.

In other business, the board

did clarify how the 3 percent employee raise would be administered, but they took no action on a resolution to approve coordination between South Florida and St. Johns water control districts.

After over two hours of discussion involving consultant Bill Waugaman and lobbying by rep-

resentatives of the two competing systems -- Motorola and Tyco Electronics who own the State-wide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS), the board voted to wait 60 days before making a decision. The bulk of the cost will be paid for with a grant. Grant approval has already been granted for SLERS. The grant

scoring process is not complete for the Motorola system.

"The bottom line is you need to replace the radio system your first responders use," stated Mr. Waugaman. He said the 50 year old system is limited to voice and cannot accommodate the data of modern systems. He also stated that there is only one tower

which provides poor coverage.

SLERS is a state wide network which is used by state agencies and many local governments including Glades County. It has been in existence for some time. Under SLERS the county would have use of seven towers in adjoining counties plus two towers

See County — Page 9

## Trailer fire: Blaze consumes Treasure Island home



Firefighters from the Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue Department battled this mobile home blaze at 2342 S.E. 33rd St. late Thursday afternoon, Jan. 22. The cause of the fire, as well as the owner of the trailer, was unknown as of newspaper press time.

Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

# Five accused of cocaine trafficking

By Eric Kopp  
 Okeechobee News

A joint undercover drug operation carried out Wednesday in Okeechobee and Glades counties culminated with five arrests and the seizing of a large amount of suspected powder cocaine.

A detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force said the operation actually began in Glades County and then continued to include a S.W. 15th St. home in Okeechobee County.

Besides the task force and Glades County Sheriff's Office (GCSO), agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) were involved in the Jan.

21 operation.

Glades County Sheriff Stuart Whiddon said Thursday that two Okeechobee residents were arrested in Lakeport on Jan. 21. He said Billy Ray Windham, 31, N.E. Eighth Ave., and Justina Rose Rasmussen, 27, N.E. Eighth Ave., were arrested after allegedly delivering 57.6 grams of suspected powder cocaine to an undercover law enforcement officer.

Both Windham and Rasmussen were booked into the Glades County Jail under bonds of \$250,000 each. They were each charged with trafficking in cocaine and possession of cocaine with intent to sell.

See Cocaine — Page 9

# Annual barbecue contest starts today

By Chauna Aguilar  
 Okeechobee News

Come get your barbeque at the Okeechobee Main Street 7th annual Top of the Lake BBQ Affair at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center beginning today, Friday, Jan. 23, at 6 p.m. and continuing Saturday, Jan. 24.

This year's event is the Florida Barbeque Association State Contest and the first leg of the Triple Crown Contest. There will be 47 cook teams competing, coming from as far away as Boston, Mass. and as close to home as some of our own backyard cooks.

The event begins on Friday night with live music by the Tim-

my Bast Band beginning around 6:30 p.m.

Saturday's event will begin at 11 a.m. with the People's Choice contest. This year there will be 24 cooks that will be cooking a pork butt to enter this prestigious event where you get to choose the winner. The public will pay \$5 to taste all of the entries, and

upon leaving the tent, they must choose their favorite.

In addition to the good food there will be pony rides for the kids. There will also be many types of food vending available ranging from BBQ to chocolate covered strawberries and other treats. The Timmy Bast Band will begin playing around 11:30 a.m.

on Saturday.

So come on out and enjoy some good food...Hope to see you there!!!!

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).

# Leaders seek state funding

By Pete Gawda  
 Okeechobee News

Representatives of various local government entities met with the Okeechobee County Legislative Delegation on Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 21 to make pitches for their causes.

The event took place in the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium after a luncheon across the street at the new Williamson Conference and Education Center on the campus of Indian River State College (IRSC). The Okeechobee Legislative Delegation consists of State Senator Ken Pruitt, who served as chairman of the meeting, State Representative Mike Horner and State Representative Kevin Rader. Bill Ford represented State Senator J. D. Alexander who was not present.

"We know that we are all in a horrible budget year," Commission Chairman Clif Betts

told the delegation. "Do the best you can for us, we'll support you."

Okeechobee County Administrator Lyndon Bonner made a pitch for improvements on State Road 70 east of Okeechobee. He noted that the road is used as a hurricane evacuation route.

Another priority listed by Mr. Bonner was the extension of State Road 710 from its present ending at S.R. 70 to continue on to connect with U.S. 441 N. north of the city. He said that would relieve congestion at the intersection of U.S. Highway 441 and S.R. 70 in downtown Okeechobee.

City of Okeechobee Councilman Dowling Watford requested funds for canal clean-up and stormwater projects. He said the city supports the Okeechobee Utility Authority's (OUA) issues as well as S.R. 70 improvements and signal im-

See Leaders — Page 9



Submitted photo/Claude Poirier and Beth White

## Winder wonderland

A sprinkler left on overnight combined with freezing temperatures created an icy playground behind an Okeechobee home on Thursday. Dylan White, Lily Duncan and Wesley White (left to right) bundled up to look at the ice-covered trees. They also did some "sledding," riding a flattened cardboard box down a frost-covered hill.

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# MANY VISITORS CASHING IN AT THE ROADSHOW THIS WEEK

## Clean out those attics, basements and lock boxes and get ready to cash in

Clewiston - Clean out your attics, closets and lock box, the Roadshow is coming to town. Roadshow experts are in town all this week purchasing antiques and collectibles.

While the Roadshow will accept anything that's old, they are focusing on gold and silver, also coins made before 1965, military items, musical instruments, pocket and wrist watches. Modern jewelry with

diamonds and other precious stones are also being accepted.

One person that attended the Roadshow brought in an 1864 Civil War sword and a coin collection and left 45 minutes later \$10,000 richer. Another was not as lucky but seemed happy with the \$355.00 they received for broken gold jewelry. "I think this is a great idea" said one lady that sold her old class ring and some

broken gold chains. "The stuff was just lying in a dresser drawer for years." She received \$248.42 for her efforts. Jeff Parsons, the president of the Treasure Hunters Roadshow explained what the show is all about. It's a chance for anyone to sell their stuff and get what it's really worth he said. It seems everyone has items they have wondered about or want to sell but really don't know where to go said Parsons. He said the show has been in over 600 cities since 2001. When asked what the most memorable experience was he had a quick answer. "Without a doubt it was a show in Pennsylvania when an elderly gentleman asked if we could send someone with him

to visit an old toy store he had closed down 50 years ago. It was like walking back in time" Parsons said "the store's 50 year old inventory was still on the shelves the store was a treasure trove of collectible toys. I have never seen anything like it. It was simply unbelievable!" It seems the store was closed due to World War II. "I had to go serve my country," the owner told Parsons. Serve he did for the next 35 years. The collection of vintage toys still in their original boxes sold for more than \$650,000. All this week Roadshow experts will be accepting various types of antiques and collectibles. The event is free and no appointment is necessary.

## CASH IN WITH THE POWER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Treasure Hunters Roadshow represents over 5000 International Collectors Association members worldwide. These collectors are constantly looking for items to add to their collections. **TOP DOLLAR** for your items.



### Our International Collectors Association members are looking for the following types of items.

- **COINS** - Any and all coins made before 1965. This includes all silver and gold coins, dollars, half dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. All conditions wanted!
- **GOLD & SILVER** - PRICES AT 25 YEAR HIGH! for platinum, gold and silver during this event. Broken Jewelry, dental gold, old coins, pocket watches, Kruggerands, Gold Bars Canadian Maple Leafs, etc.
- **JEWELRY** - Gold, Silver, Platinum, diamonds, rubies, sapphires and all types of stones, metals, etc. Rings, bracelets, necklaces, all others including broken jewelry. Early costume jewelry wanted.
- **WATCHES** - Rolex, Tiffany, Hublot, Omega, Chopard, Cartier, Philippe, Ebel, Waltham, Swatch, all others.
- **POCKET WATCHES** - Chopard, Elgin, Bunn Special, Railroad, Illinois, Hamilton, all others.
- **TOYS** - All types of toys made before 1965 including: Hot Wheels, Tonka, Buddy L, Smith Miller, Nylint, Robots, battery toys, Mickey Mouse, all others.



Wanted are antiques, gold, silver, coins and military memorabilia. Collectors are also interested in pre-1965 toys, train sets, individual trains and dolls.



## The Roadshow continues through this week January 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

Tuesday - Friday 9 AM - 6 PM and Saturday 9AM - 4PM

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### Gold Prices High, Cash In Now

"It's a modern day gold rush," said Jeff Parsons.



Gold is now trading at 30 year highs, and you can cash in by bringing your items to the Treasure Hunters Roadshow. All types of gold are wanted, including gold coins, Kruggerands, Maple Leafs, and other gold bars, etc. All gold jewelry, including broken jewelry is accepted. Anything gold is wanted.

All silver items, including silver coins, bars and American Eagles are accepted. Sterling silver items like flatware, tea sets, etc. are welcome.



- **TRAINS** - Train sets, all gauges, accessories, individual cars, Marklin, American Flyer, Lionel, Hafner, all others.
- **DOLLS** - Barbie Dolls, GI Joe, Shirley Temple, Characters, German, all makers accepted.
- **SWORDS** - The older the better all types wanted.
- **MILITARY ITEMS** - Civil, Revolutionary, WWI, WWII, etc. Items of interest include swords, badges, clothes, photos, medals, knives, gear, letters, etc.
- **ADVERTISING ITEMS** - Metal and Porcelain signs, gas companies, beer and liquor makers, automobile, implements, etc.
- **TIFFANY** - Items signed by LCT, lamps, vases, art glass, etc.

### Here is how it works:

- Gather items of interest (as explained below) from your attic, garage, basement, etc. Bring your items to the event
- There is no limit to the amount of items you can bring, no appointment necessary
- Lay out your items on the designated table
- Speak with one of our Association Representatives to determine the collector value of your items
- If interested in selling, we will consult our collector's database to see if a buyer exists. 90% of all items have offers in our database
- The offer is made on the spot on behalf of our collectors making the offer
- If you decide to accept the offer, we will pay you on the spot and ship the item to the collector. The collector pays all shipping and handling charges
- You get 100% of the offer with no hidden fees
- The entire process only takes a few minutes

**FROM A SINGLE ITEM TO COMPLETE COLLECTIONS, THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER TYPES OF COINS ARE:**

- Any coins dated prior to 1820 especially those dated 1700's
- High Grade Early Coins
- Proof Coins
- Graded Coins
- Gold Coins with C, D, O and CC mint marks
- Complete Coin Type sets
- Rare Dates
- Rare Currency Also Wanted

**WE WILL BE BUYING ALL COINS MADE BEFORE 1965 INCLUDING: SILVER DOLLARS, HALF DOLLARS, QUARTERS, DIMES, NICKELS, PENNYS, LARGE CENTS, HALF DIMES, 3 CENT PIECES, 2 CENT PIECES, HALF CENTS, ALSO ALL PAPER MONEY.**

### The Roadshow represents many of the world's top numismatic coin collectors

We have been directly involved in millions of dollars worth of rare cash and coin sales over the past 15 years.

Our private collectors are seeking all types of rare coins and currency.

We have the resources available to pay you top prices for all types of rare coins or entire collections. We can arrange a private discreet meeting with you at your bank or in one of our private suites. Whether you are ready to sell your life long collection or you are settling an estate we are at your service. We are professional, honest and discreet.

**Highest prices are paid for 1950's and 1960's era electric and acoustic guitars. Gibson, Fender, Martin, National, Rickenbacker, Gretch, Dobro, vintage guitar amplifiers too!**

### Is your family attic filled with old and forgotten memories?

Many dolls created before approximately 1964 are considered antique and have value with our collectors association. Most pre-1964 bisque, china,

papier mâché, wood, and wax dolls are considered desirable by collectors. If your doll has original clothing, wigs, shoes and undergarments, that increases its value.

Many toy cars, robots, Tonka and trains made before 1964 are wanted by International Collectors Association members as well.



Visitors are bringing a variety of items including gold, silver, jewelry, coins, guitars and rare collectibles



Jeff Parsons examines coins brought to the roadshow. The owner was offered over \$2,500 for the collection and decided to sell.



The Treasure Hunter's Roadshow Event continues through Saturday in Clewiston

[www.treasurehuntersroadshow.com](http://www.treasurehuntersroadshow.com)

# Flags show many children die from abuse

**By Chauna Aguilar**  
Okeechobee News

The greatest price to pay for child abuse ... is with the life of a child. Every year the Exchange Club Castle sets up their Memory Field in all of their counties that they serve to memorialize more than 170 children who have died this past year in the state of Florida, due to abuse and neglect.

A Mobile Memory Field of Flags travels throughout Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast to raise public awareness and to remember each precious life lost. The Memory Field of Flags will be in Okeechobee from Friday, Feb. 13, until Thursday, Feb. 19, in Flagler Park.

You can make a statement in support of child abuse prevention by taking advantage of one of many sponsorship opportunities associated with the Memory Field.

CASTLE's mission is to improve the quality of family life and prevent child abuse and neglect by providing community educa-

tion, support and resources for parents in need of assistance on the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee County.

Their vision is to have a community where each child is allowed to grow to his or her full potential, free from abuse and neglect, and families have access to the supports they need to create healthy living and learning environments for children.

In Okeechobee CASTLE offers three programs: Safe Families; Families First; and Positive Parenting.

Safe Families is where professional staff goes into homes to provide parent education and supportive counseling to families at risk of abusing or neglecting their children. According to their website, relationship building is the crux of the Safe Families Program. CASTLE believes that all families deserve and inherently have the ability to make changes. The program works with parents to create these changes. Over 360 families are enrolled, and more than 10,000 home visits are made

each year between Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast.

Families First is a five-hour educational seminar for divorcing parents who have minor children. The program focuses on making the transition from marriage to divorce with minimum trauma to the children. The program addressed these ideas through lectures, videotapes, role-playing and discussions. Over 700 adults are served each year on the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee County. Overall, 3,500 hours of classroom time have been provided. A certificate is given upon completion of this program.

Positive Parenting is a support group for parents who are interested in learning new parenting skills, including positive discipline techniques and ways to improve communication with their children. Educational workshops and seminars establish state of the art parenting techniques in a group setting. Classes run for three weeks. Participants are required to attend fifteen hours in order to earn a certificate.

Last year in the State of Florida, 170 precious children lost their lives as a result of abuse and neglect.

CASTLE now receives at least one referral an hour for at-risk families needing their help. This year, they will provide programs and services to 10,000 children and families living in Okeechobee and on the Treasure Coast. They provide parents the necessary counseling, skills, resources and support to accomplish their mission - the prevention of child abuse.

As a direct result of CASTLE's intervention, 3,000 families will stay together and children will have the opportunity to grow and thrive in healthy, happy homes.

The program seeks local sponsors and contributions. To find out how you can contribute, or to get CASTLE services for your family, visit [www.castle.org](http://www.castle.org) or call 772-465-6011.

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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# Two men face felony charges of possession

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

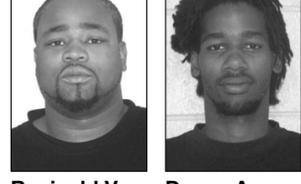
Two men were arrested on felony drug charges after the vehicle in which they were traveling was stopped for a non-working brake light.

Arrested Tuesday, Jan. 20, were Reginald Vachon Massey, 24, N.W. 17th St., Okeechobee, and Devon A. Mitchell, 20, S.E. 14th Court, Okeechobee.

Massey was charged with the felony of possession of cocaine with intent to sell, and the misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$7,500.

Mitchell was charged with the felony of possession of cocaine, as well as the misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$6,000.

An arrest report by a detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force indicates that when



**Reginald V. Massey** **Devon A. Mitchell**

the 1995 black Mercury automobile operated by Mitchell was stopped on N.W. Seventh St., the passenger in the car jumped from the car and ran. When the passenger bolted, the detective stated in the report that he was concealing something.

That passenger, Massey, ran east along a ditch line and then ran between two houses, continued the report.

Massey was found a short time later hiding in some woods about one block east of where the Mercury was stopped by Deputy Matthew Hurst of the

Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), continued the report.

The task force detective went on to say that Deputy Hurst later retraced Massey's steps when he ran. In the side yard of a N.W. Seventh St. residence the deputy reportedly found a box of baking soda, a set of digital scales, a glass cooking pot and 15.0 grams of a hard and suspicious substance.

When that substance was field tested it allegedly indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine.

According to the detective's report, the baking soda, scales and glass pot are commonly used in the production of crack cocaine.

The detective's report goes on to state that Massey is currently on probation.

A check of Massey's background indicates that he is currently serving a probation sentence of one year after be-

ing found guilty of driving while license suspended - second conviction by County Judge Jerald Bryant on Oct. 31, 2008.

That check also shows that Massey is currently out on bond following his Sept. 9, 2008, arrest on a felony charge of aggravated battery.

In 2006, Massey was found guilty of possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana over 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia. On July 26, 2006, then-Circuit Court Judge Sherwood Bauer sentenced Massey to one year in the county jail on each charge, with the sentences to run concurrently.

The task force detective's report on Tuesday's incident states that he also issued Mitchell a traffic citation for driving while license suspended - without knowledge. Mitchell was also given a verbal warning about the brake lights on his car.

# Pretend lawman booked into the county jail

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

Julio Cesar Luna, Jr. wanted to be a cop. So, he's now learning about law enforcement from the inside of a jail cell.

Luna, 23, was arrested Wednesday, Jan. 21, on a misdemeanor charge of impersonating a law enforcement officer. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$5,000.

The Florida man was taken into custody after he confronted two sets of campers at the Kissimmee Public Use area at the Cornwell boat ramp Monday night around 10:30 p.m. He approached the campers and identified himself as a law enforcement officer with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), said Gary Morris, an FWC spokesman.

"He identified himself as an FWC officer and demanded to search their camps," said Mr. Morris.

But when he couldn't produce the proper identification the campers refused his demands.

"He threatened one set of campers with calling in another officer, but they still refused," Mr. Morris said.

At 9 a.m. the next morning a volunteer host for the campground was told about the pretend FWC officer. The campers, who turned out to be better cops,

took down Luna's tag number and gave it to the volunteer, continued Mr. Morris.

On Wednesday, Luna was paid a visit by a couple of real law en-

forcement officers. FWC Lieutenant Joe Allen and FWC Officer Joe Brooks, who interviewed Luna and placed him under arrest.



**Julio Cesar Luna, Jr.**

**American Legion Post 64**

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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!

## Shopping center

**LAND SOLD:** YIPPEE. Brantley's is finally going to be something positive. Okeechobee desperately needs some alternative shopping choices, then maybe we can keep our money in Okeechobee and not give it to the folks on the coast. I just hope we get something more than another laundromat, another small restaurant, another jewelry store. Know what I mean? We need some major retail chain. If not, it's back to the coast.

**TREES:** Now that the old salvage yard will be developed, I wonder if any of the oaks there will be saved. In other counties the removal of such majestic trees would not be allowed without any uproar from the community. Will the same people so eager to save dilapidated buildings do anything for these much older trees? Or will they stand by as they are chopped down to make room for an unneeded strip mall? Why couldn't the county turn this beautiful property into a park? Was it ever even considered? Call me a tree hugger, but to pave over this property reflects the uncaring nature of this city's leaders.

**BUY LOCAL:** I can't see how any new store could think of coming here right now. We are not supporting the ones we have. Buy local, buy American.

**PARK:** No private owner is going to turn a valuable piece of highway frontage property into a free park to be maintained for the rest of the world to frolic and play, fly kites and eat ice cream, and watch Toto play. What would be their incentive unless they were just filthy rich and benevolent. And neither the county nor the city has the funds to purchase this property. We have a beautiful property suited for what you describe that is already set aside for park use. It just needs to be developed. The sports complex has a large area on its east side that should have an entrance opened from 441 at the high school entrance light. The trees and shrubs would make a beautiful area for walking trails and BBQ pavilions, a place for the everyday young and old citizen to enjoy spontaneously, which I believe we need more of now than we need more organized sports areas. But it costs money to develop and maintain these things. Right now, if you proposed it to the county, they would probably tell you to go fly a kite.

## Should Mrs. Obama receive a salary?

**FIRST LADY:** On the news they are discussing whether or not Michelle Obama should receive a salary for her duties as First Lady. None of the other first ladies have been paid. Hillary Clinton was a lawyer -- like Mrs. Obama -- and she had to give up her law practice to be first lady and she wasn't drawing a salary. So why now all of the sudden are they talking about whether or not the first lady should receive a salary?"

**DUTIES:** The first lady has no official duties, therefore should not receive a salary.

**FIRST MOM:** Michelle Obama, if she chooses to become a stay at home mom, child care should not be an issue. Could you imagine being a stay at home mom in the White House, with cooks, maids, yard maintenance ... I could handle that.

**KIDS COME FIRST:** Mrs. Obama is not instigating this bid for First Ladies to get a salary. This first came up when Hillary Clinton was the First Lady. Michelle Obama has said publicly that her intention is to stay at home indefinitely until her children are acclimated to their new home, school, and community. She said she doesn't intend to take on any official duties at this time, but she does look forward to doing so at some point in the future. I'm looking forward to her at some point having some sort of input because she is highly intelligent and has an impressive education. She was earning a 6 figure salary before Obama was elected.

**PAY:** Get a divorce and see how much your first lady gets paid.

## Litter bugs

**HIGHWAY MESS:** My employer assigns me to pick up litter along the 13 miles of Dark Hammock and Berman Roads between U.S. 441 and S.R. 70. After four years of careful analysis I have concluded that over 95 percent of the debris is fast food containers. I ask myself, why would a usually law abiding, tax paying citizen toss these items on the highway? Maybe this individual doesn't want his spouse to find a McDonald's bag or a large Town Star Styrofoam cup or a Wendy's french fries container in the vehicle so they dispose of it along the road. Whatever the reason, I have a special request to make: Either dispose of your lunch trash in a responsible way or please put all the napkins, Styrofoam and empty containers into a single bag before placing it outside your car window. That will make it much easier for me to gather it up. Thanks.

**FLYING DEBRIS:** Wonder how much junk I've seen flying out of a back of a pickup bed over the years.

## DCF not putting children first

**DCF:** DCF does exactly what they want to do and don't you know that they are always right? I have been working on a case with DCF and AHCA concerning an abuse case with my stepfather. And don't you know that with all the photos of the abuse and other charges that they still don't get it?

**CHILDREN:** I have a very close friend who is raising his little boys by himself due to the drug abuse of the mother, not to mention the emotional and physical abuse she has bestowed upon them. Every time she doesn't like what the judge tells her, she runs out hires a new lawyer and takes the dad back to court with abuse allegations of her own. Those little boys will never have any peace in their lives because mommy dearest will always be there to strike out with the bad words. Their father is a wonderful man, supports the children, pays his rent on time every month and the children are in school on a consistent basis. More than what I can say that the "mother" ever did for these children. It makes me sick that she keeps dragging these kids through the courts without any thought for anyone but herself.

## Obama ... what's going on?

**QUESTION:** If Colin Powell would have run last term and won, would he be getting the great celebration that Obama is getting now?? I am tired of hearing that Obama is African American ... and that is all that is harped on. What about his white heritage? Not much of a mother but great grandparents with morals and standards. After all he was raised by them, and look what a great job they did.

**THE RACE CARD:** Now that the election is over, there is no harm in celebrating the fact that this country elected a Black man. Obama did not use the race card in his campaign -- the media did and the voters did. This is a great feat, not for Obama because in the end it is the people who voted for him. As a country we accomplished something many people never thought would happen, and we should all be proud, because it means as a country we are moving towards equality, and whether you like his platform or not, that is something EVERYONE should be proud of.

**UPBRINGING:** Obama did not harp on race -- in fact, he avoided it at every opportunity. Also, he never mentioned how "hard he had it." In fact, he gave great credit to his mother for her ideals, to his grandparents for their guidance, and to his Indonesian stepfather, who he said was a decent man. He went to private schools in Indonesia, was then raised in Hawaii, then went on to Ivy League colleges, where he was president of the Harvard Law Review. I don't think he had it very hard.

**MEDIA:** I am sick of the media harping on his African-American status as well. He is half white. And he did accomplish some major goals. And yes Tuesday was history making, but it would have been history making if he were all white because it is still another new president. The media is making a bigger deal out of this because he is half black. I did vote for Obama. I voted for him because I did truly believe that our country could not withstand another eight years of the same.

**MIXED RACE:** I think the election of Barack Obama is a great thing for all the mixed race children in this country. Too often they feel like outcasts in both the white and black communities. Now they have a great role model.

# A Healthier You

By Lison Philor-Jonassaint RD, LD  
Okeechobee County WIC Program Director

What should I eat to stay healthy? There is not a day that goes by without someone trying to answer this question. Newspapers, magazines, books, radio and television give us a lot of advice about what food we should or should not eat. Unfortunately, much of this advice is confusing and unsound.

Food alone cannot make you healthy. Health depends on many things including, genetics, lifestyle, mental and health attitudes and the environment. Good eating habits based on sound nutrition can, however, help keep you healthy and even improve your health.

Good nutrition can prevent health problems such as iron deficiency anemia, obesity, eating disorders, undernutrition, and dental carries. Over the long term, good nutrition can help you lower the risk of having chronic disease such as heart disease, diabetes mellitus, stroke and certain cancers. It can also lower the risks that can lead into these diseases, for example high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol.

Although there is no ideal diet

for everyone, there are some general guidelines that researchers have developed that are believed to optimize your health through eating right. These are guidelines intended for people who are healthy.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2005, can direct the way to a healthier you. Some of its recommendations include making smart choices from every food group. Giving your body the balanced nutrition it needs by eating a variety of nutrient-packed food every day and staying within your daily calorie needs. Getting the most nutrition out of your calories by choosing the most nutritionally rich food from each food group each day, those packed with vitamins, minerals, fibers and other nutrients but lower in calories.

Finding your balance between food and physical activity by including regular exercise every day is important for your overall health. It helps control body weight, promotes a feeling of well being, and reduces the risk of chronic diseases.

For questions about developing a healthy lifestyle please contact the Health Department at 863-462-5819, or your Healthcare provider.

# Community Calendar

## Friday, Jan. 23

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

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

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

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

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

## Saturday, Jan. 24

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

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

## Sunday, Jan. 25

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Okeechobee News

## Our Purpose...

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

## We Pledge ...

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

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THEATRE III  
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# Butterfly garden planned

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

Flagler Park will soon be improved by the addition of a butterfly garden thanks to action taken by the Okeechobee City Council at their Tuesday evening, Jan. 20 meeting.

The council also approved three ordinances dealing with land use, a developer's agreement for Southern Trace and accepted an easement. Council members gave approval to plans for a butterfly garden presented by Maureen Burroughs of Okeechobee Main Street (OMS) and Dan Culbert, county extension agent. Mrs. Burroughs said that OMS has a \$5,000 grant which they were originally going to use to beautify the courthouse lawn. However, since remodeling of the courthouse would delay the lawn improvement and the grant

has a time limit, the organization decided to put a butterfly garden in Flagler Park Number 6, which is the western most park.

Mr. Culbert presented drawings of the proposed garden and explained what type of plants would be used. He said the plants would be very colorful to attract butterflies and the seeds would attract songbirds. He said the plants chosen would be low maintenance and would require very little watering after they were established.

The garden could possibly include a trellis and benches and will be mulched heavily with donated mulch.

After lengthy discussion, the council approved a developers agreement for a multifamily residential project in the northwestern part of the city known as Southern Trace. According to the terms of the agreement, the developer

agreed to pay his fair share of the costs of any traffic signals necessary. The developer will also be required to have two park areas available to the general public.

Recently the council voted to close the undeveloped portion of N.E. Second St. adjacent to Taylor Creek because of a proposed commercial development in the area. The owners gave the city an easement to the right of way.

Turning to land use ordinances, the council passed an ordinance concerning business parking areas. It deals with the sale of an existing business that does not meet current parking standards. If the same type of business continues in that location, use of existing parking would be allowable. However, if a different type business went into that location that required more parking, current parking standards would have to be met.

In a zoning issue, the zoning on the property on N.W. Second Avenue owned by the county and leased to ARC was changed from commercial professional office to public facilities. The new zoning is more in line with the actual use of the property.

In another zoning matter the council changed the zoning from residential multiple family to commercial professional office for property on N.E. 11th Street. The zoning change would allow the owner, A.M.S.A. LLC, to operate a home health service on the property.

The council also approved temporary downtown street closings for OMS and Chamber of Commerce events in the coming year.

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).

# Monofilament line recycled

Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with Okeechobee County Parks and Recreation has installed 18 monofilament line collection bins throughout the county for the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP). The program was initiated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission which relies on partners to carry out the program.

So why do we need a Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program in our county?

An article in Friday, Jan. 16, 2009 Okeechobee News regarding the entangled white ibis that was rescued by Charlie's Tree Service and Arnold's Wildlife Center is one of the many examples why the recycling of monofilament line is so important.

Monofilament line is another name for single-strand, high-density, nylon fishing line that is used on fishing reels and in the manufacturing of fishing nets. Most monofilament is non-biodegradable and can last hundreds of years depending on environmental conditions. Because it is thin and often clear, it is very difficult for birds and animals to see, so they can easily brush up against it and become entangled. Mobility is then hindered which results in animals

becoming weak, starved or often fall prey to predators. Manatees are especially affected by misplaced monofilament, for these animals are known to put new objects in their mouths for investigation. Ingestion of monofilament causes intestinal problems or a false "full" feeling and can lead to starvation.

Monofilament also causes a threat to divers and boaters. There are several cases of divers running out of air before they were able to free themselves from tangles near piers, bridges and on artificial wrecks where fishing and diving both occur in these areas. Boaters are most familiar with monofilament entanglements around boat propellers.

There are numerous ways you can help control the amount of monofilament in the environment while walking along banks and piers and recovering it. If you throw line in the trash, cut it up into small lengths to protect wildlife at the landfill from entanglement. However, line at the landfills is not recycled. A better choice is to put the monofilament line in a recycling bin.

Anglers should also be aware of what kind of line and tackle they are using. Make sure you use the proper test line for what you are fishing for, in order to



Submitted photo  
Left to right, OSWCD Board Members Douglas Burnham, Nicki Smith, Dr. Jim Harvey, Chairman- Nano Corona, District Employee-Audrey Driggers and Glynn Rutledge with an outdoor recycling bin and the Lock 7 Boat Ramp.

prevent broken lines. Retrieve miscasts into the trees if it is realistic to do so and place the line in a cooler, tackle box or your pocket until you can properly dispose of it versus throwing it in the boat where it can later blow out into the water. Sign up for lake cleanup days or adopt an outdoor recycling bin by volunteering to collect recycled line. Henry Creek, Nubbin Slough, Jaycee Park and Platts Bluff are some of the boat ramps that are equipped with recycling bins.

Line and spools that are collected are sent to Pure Fishing Line (a Berkley company) and recycled into tackle boxes, spools for line and toys. If you are interested in volunteering for collection, or would like a map to all the monofilament recycle bin sites, please contact Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District for more information at 863-763-3619. Citizens are welcome to recycle their unwanted line in our office, as well.

## Lottery

The Florida Lotto - Numbers selected Wednesday in the Florida Lottery are: **Cash 3:** 8-2-0; **Play 4:** 9-2-9-6; **Fantasy 5:** 1-2-18-30-36; **Lotto:** 4-23-28-30-40-43-47; **Power Ball:** 20-26-38-46-54; **PB 23.** Numbers selected Thursday are: **Cash 3:** 4-6-2; **Play 4:** 0-2-5-3.

## Okeechobee Forecast

**Friday:** Sunny with a high near 72. Areas of frost can be expected before 9 a.m. with wind chill readings as low as 32. Winds will be calm becoming southeast around 5 mph.  
**Friday night:** Mostly clear with a low around 39 and calm winds.

## Extended Forecast

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny with a high near 77. Winds will be calm becoming east southeast around 5 mph.  
**Saturday night:** Partly cloudy with a low around 45. Winds will be calm becoming northeast around 5 mph.

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**WATERFRONT** Beautiful fully upgraded DWMH. Pelu Windows w/double panes throughout. Oak floors, upgraded kitchen cabinets. 50 year warranty on siding. One car garage, boat dock. Too many features to include. MUST SEE THIS BEAUTY. MLS #201548, \$149,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106

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The Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.  
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# Community Events

## Moose Lodge holds Las Vegas night

Buckhead Ridge Moose Lodge #2417 is having their annual Las Vegas night on Saturday, **Jan. 24** from 7 until 10 p.m. A donation buys play money to play the games. Play money won can be used for auction items at 10 p.m.. Snacks available, many door prizes, and lots of fun. Everyone welcome.

## Little league signups this weekend

The Okeechobee Little League Program is holding signups at the Okeechobee Wal-Mart on Saturday and Sunday, **Jan. 25-26**, and Saturday, **Feb. 1**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Boys and girls up to the age of 15 can participate in the program. Games are played in town. Certain age groups and teams will play out of town games. Games are held at the Willie Alderman field in Douglas Park on week nights and Saturday. Okeechobee will also have inter-league games with teams from Indiantown this year. For more information on the program please call James Shockley at 863-634-3482.

## Safe Boating Class planned

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

## Church has special guests

Sunday, **Jan. 25**, New Testament Baptist Church will have The Walker family. They are a family with 7 children and each child sings and plays a musical instrument. They will be singing special music during the morning service at 10:30 a.m. For more information please call 863-763-6682.

## All you can eat breakfast to be held

Okeechobee Chapter No. 128, Order of the Eastern Star will sponsor an All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast on Sunday, **Jan. 25** at the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth Avenue. Menu will include Biscuits and Sausage Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrown Casserole, Sausage & Bacon, Grits, Florida Orange Juice and Coffee. \$7 per person. For information, contact Mary Ann Holt at 863-634-8087.

# 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).

## Cleyo Spruill, 65

OKEECHOBEE — Cleyo Spruill, of Okeechobee, died Jan. 20, 2009, at Raulerson Hospital. He was 65. Born May 10, 1943, in Eupora, Miss., to William and Euna Spruill. He came to Okeechobee from Louisville, Miss., in 1980. He worked for H.W. Rucks and Sons Dairy. He was of the Baptist faith. He was preceded in death by Arthur, Paul, and Joseph Spruill. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Marie Spruill of Okeechobee; daughter, Barbara Ann (Warren Jr.) Marlow of Yulee; two sons, Billy C. Bailey and Bobby Spruill, both of Okeechobee; three sisters, Minnie Lee Bouchgua of Gulf Port, Miss., Louise Lane of Eupora, Miss., and Linda R. Vaughn of Greenwood, Miss.; three brothers, Lester Spruill of Okeechobee, William "Jack" Spruill and L.B. Spruill, both of Miss. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, at Bass Okeechobee Chapel. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at Bass Okeechobee Chapel with Mark McCarter officiating. Friends may sign the guestbook at [www.bassocheebefun.com](http://www.bassocheebefun.com).

## Smoked chicken dinner planned

A smoked chicken dinner, sponsored by United Methodist Men, 200 N.W. Second St. (behind Walgreens), will be held on Friday, **Jan. 23** from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. (take out only, delivery available for 10 or more dinners), from 4 until 7 p.m. (dine-in or take out.) The menu includes 1/4 chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, roll and dessert for \$6 donation. Tickets are available at the church office or you may fax orders to 863-763-2481 by 10:30 a.m. Thursday include contact name, phone number and address to deliver dinners.

## Fish or chicken dinners available

The Knights of Columbus will sell fish or chicken dinners at St. Theresa's Church, on State Road 78 at Chobee Loop in Buckhead Ridge, from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, **Jan. 23**. Dinners are available to eat in or take out for a \$7 donation per meal.

## Benefit yard sale planned

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

## VFW hosts ham dinner

The VFW post 9528 in Buckhead Ridge will host their annual ham dinner on Sunday, **Jan. 25**, from noon until 4 p.m. The menu consist of VFW special baked ham, green beans, coleslaw, yams, dessert raisin sauce. The post will honor policeman, fireman, and E.M.T. who are special this year. The post will be accepting applications from eligible veterans for the VFW. Entertainment will be provided, hourly drawings will be held for steak dinners. Members and guests welcome. Donation is \$7.

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# Girl's soccer season ends at district tournament

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Girls Soccer Team had high hopes when they played Dreyfoos School of the Arts in the first round of the District 14-4A tournament at Jensen Beach high school Tuesday.

The optimism didn't turn into success as Okeechobee fell 4-1 and ended their season at (3-13).

Senior Jordan Aspden scored the Okeechobee goal unassisted. Goal keeper Caitlyn Gaucin did have 15 saves in the Brahman net.

Avalon Cudia scored two goals and Amanda Petrozelli and Renee Hart added goals for the Jaguars, (6-9-1). Dreyfoos moved on to play Suncoast in the district semi-final.

# Okeechobee High School girls' hoops clobber struggling Clewiston

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Jewel Buck had 15 points and 17 rebounds as the Okeechobee High School Girls Basketball Team got back on track with a big 56-8 win over struggling Clewiston Wednesday night.

The win snapped a four game losing streak and earned Okeechobee their 12th win of the season. Dorothy Burkhardt had nine points and Monica Koger and Graciela Varela each had eight points for Okeechobee (12-7).

Okeechobee was ranked in the state earlier this month before they went into a skid. They lost to top

teams like Lincoln Park and Labelle, but also lost in overtime to Suncoast.

Coach Tony Sherlock said despite the recent struggles, his girls still have a chance to make the state regional. While Lincoln Park is clearly the class of the district, Okeechobee, Suncoast and Jensen Beach are still in the running for the runner up position. Okeechobee plays at Jensen Beach on Saturday afternoon.

"That will be a big game for us. We can still get the second seed," he stated.

Against Clewiston, Sherlock knew he had the other team out manned. There was a running clock in the second quarter. He also started three ju-

nior varsity players. All of the Okeechobee girls scored in the game.

"We ran our offense well tonight.

The girls passed the ball very well. They were able to find the open person," he said.

The girl's final home game will be on Jan. 30, against Lake Placid. It will be senior night for the girls.

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**Farms - Sale 1020**  
**Houses - Sale 1025**  
**Hunting Property 1030**  
**Investment Property - Sale 1035**  
**Land - Sale 1040**  
**Lots - Sale 1045**  
**Open House - Sale 1050**  
**Out of State - Property - Sale 1055**  
**Property Inspection 1060**  
**Real Estate Wanted 1065**  
**Resort Property - Sale 1070**  
**Warehouse Space 1075**  
**Waterfront Property 1080**

**Houses - Sale 1025**

**FOR SALE** - New CBS Home, Playland Park, 3/2, Cathedral ceilings, tile throughout, wood cabinets, plant shelves, appliances, \$113,000 including lot (863)634-0571

### Mobile Homes 2000

**Mobile Home - Lots 2005**  
**Mobile Home - Parts 2010**  
**Mobile Homes - Rent 2015**  
**Mobile Homes - Sale 2020**

### Mobile Home Rent 2015

**HWY 70 - EAST** - 3/2 on 10 acres, horses welcome, fenced, \$1000 mo 1st & \$500 Sec. (863)467-0023 Okeechobee Real Estate Co.

**KISSIMMEE RIVER ESTATES** - 2/1, 2 Car garage, \$500 MO + dep. Dep negotiable. (863)467-8062

**OKEE** - 2/2, Very nice w/lot! 9317 SE 57th Dr. \$55K or \$700/mth. 772-597-2098 or 561-234-6470.

**OKEECHOBEE-2bd/1.5** ba, Central Heat & Air, Screen room, \$600 mo. Will lease with option @ \$55,000. (863)634-3451

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

**WATERFRONT PROPERTY** Okee 3br, 2ba, Lake access, No pets. \$800 mo, 1st & sec. dep. (561)927-8211

### Mobile Home Sale 2020

**BANK REPO'S** MOVE TO YOUR LAND Mobile Home Angels 561-721-2230

**LAKE ACCESS WATERFRONT** - SWMH, 1/1 with additional room, on rental lot. Call for details, leave msg (863)763-8054

### 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 863-634-7756
- Pine Ridge Park Vacant Lot, 80'x100' for Home or MH, Asking \$15,000, MAKE OFFER! 863-634-7490 or 863-634-7756
- Lake-Access Waterfront Lot behind Sun Trust @ 309 SE 8th St. Make Reasonable offer! 863-634-7490 or 863-634-7756
- FOR RENT! 2/1 with enclosed garage, C/A/H, Nice Yard, Great Neighborhood, 1009 SW 8th St, \$850 Month (incl. yard maint.) First & Security - Will negotiate! 863-763-5109

### Houses - Rent 0930

**OKEECHOBEE** - 4br, 2ba, great neighborhood, tile throughout, \$1195/mo, 1st & sec move in or (561)248-3888 (863)599-0156

**OKEECHOBEE**, 3br, 2ba, with garage. C/Air. Lazy 7 area. 1st, last & sec. 863-467-2541

### Waterfront Rentals 0965

**Furnished** - rim canal, dock, annual or seasonal, \$550/\$800 mo., Century 21 Horizon. 863-634-5352.

### Real Estate 1000

**Business Places - Sale 1005**  
**Commercial Property - Sale 1010**  
**Condos/Townhouses - Sale 1015**  
**Farms - Sale 1020**  
**Houses - Sale 1025**  
**Hunting Property 1030**  
**Investment Property - Sale 1035**  
**Land - Sale 1040**  
**Lots - Sale 1045**  
**Open House - Sale 1050**  
**Out of State - Property - Sale 1055**  
**Property Inspection 1060**  
**Real Estate Wanted 1065**  
**Resort Property - Sale 1070**  
**Warehouse Space 1075**  
**Waterfront Property 1080**

### Houses - Sale 1025

**Basswood** - 2/1, tile throughout, no pets, \$650 mo, 1st & last. (863) 763-7301 or (863)697-1623 Anytime

**BEAUTIFUL SAMANTHA'S GARDEN APTS** - In Town, 2br/2ba, W&D, \$850 mo. + \$500. sec. (863)634-5780

**Duplex** - 2BR/1BA Screened porch, 1st & security, \$595 mo., Century 21 Horizon. (863)634-5352

**SPECIAL-MOVE-IN**, 1/2 Month Rent for 1st Month w/\$500 Sec. 2/1.5 carpet, tile, fridge- 10lb N of Wal-Mart. (863)763-8878

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

### Condos/Townhouses 0920

**TAYLOR CREEK CONDO** 1BR/1BA, 1st floor, furnished, pool & tennis, boat dock, rock room, very nice. Reasonable 561-324-4902 or 561-582-8693.

**Are you looking for a Rental? We have over 50!** Century 21 Horizon (863)634-5352

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

**BEAUTIFUL 3 Bdrm.**, 2 Ba., New floors. Basswood Estates. \$900. mo. + dep. & ref's. Call (786)417-2135

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

**COUNTRY CLUB HILLS**-2BR, 2BA on wooded lot. Hot Tub. Must see to appreciate. 1st & last. Call 863-885-1347

**DIXIE RANCH** - 2BR/1BA \$700 mo. 1st last & \$500 Sec. Call (863)357-6700 between 9am-5pm.

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

**IN TOWN** - spacious 3/1, fenced backyard, with shed, \$800 month, 1st, last & security. Call 863-467-7838 or 863-634-5095.

**OKEE:** 3/1 on 1/2 ac. Renovated, laundry, C/A/heat, screen porch, carport. \$925 mo, 1st mo. & dep. Call 305-458-8659

### 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 863-634-7756
- Pine Ridge Park Vacant Lot, 80'x100' for Home or MH, Asking \$15,000, MAKE OFFER! 863-634-7490 or 863-634-7756
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### Mobile Home Sale 2020

**OKEE** - 2/2, Very nice w/lot! 9317 SE 57th Dr. \$55K or \$700/mth. 772-597-2098 or 561-234-6470.

### Recreation 3000

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

### Campers/RVs 3010

**COLEMAN POP-UP** 1997 - SLEEPS 7, AC, HEAT, REFRIG \$2500/or best offer. (863)467-0164

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

**MALLARD** - 2002, 26 ft. travel trailer, sleeps 3, good cond, very clean \$3900 or best offer (518)46

Public Notice 5005

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB) 600000218

LAKESIDE RANCH STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA (STA) NORTH MARTIN AND OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

The South Florida Water Management District will receive sealed bids through the Procurement Office, B-1 Bldg., 3301 Gun Club Rd., West Palm Beach, FL 33406, for Lakeside Ranch STA North, Martin and Okeechobee County, FL, on February 24, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. local time...

An OPTIONAL pre-bid conference will be held at the South Florida Water Management District's Okeechobee Field Station, 1000 NE 40th Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34972 on February 3, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., call (561) 242-5520 ext. 4061 for directions. Site visit will immediately follow.

All bids must conform to the instructions in the Request for Bidders (RFB). Interested respondents may obtain a copy of the complete RFB by downloading it for free at www.sfwmd.com...

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

IN RE: ESTATE OF DENNIS BREHM Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Dennis Brehm, deceased, whose date of death was July 31st, 2005, and whose social security number is XX-XX-2340, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 North West 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972.

The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

The date of first publication of this notice is January 16th, 2009.

Personal Representative: NEAL HARVEY, CFO ORIGINATOR LLC, 4120 Islander Way, Anacortes, WA 98221

BOONE, BOONE, BOONE, KODA & PROOK, P.A. Attorneys for Personal Representative P.O. Box 1596 11001 Avenida Del Circo Venice, FL 34284

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

CAVELO MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff vs. JORGE VALLADARES; SANDRA VALLADARES; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN TENANT #1 IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; UNKNOWN TENANT #2 IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 3, 2008, and Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated December 2, 2008 and entered in Case No. 2007-CA-437, of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the highest and best bidder for cash in the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 at 11:00a.m., on the 28th day of January, 2009, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOTS 9, 10, 11 AND 12 OF BLOCK D, OKEECHOBEE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK # 106 & PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in the proceeding should contact Court Administrator no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW County Club Florida, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1-772-807-4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice.

SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY: Sandra Creach As Deputy Clerk

Van Ness Law Firm, P.A. 239 E. Newport Center Drive Suite #110 Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442 Phone (954) 771-7031 Fax (954) 571-2033 308149 ON 1/21/23/09

READING A NEWSPAPER MAKES YOU MORE INFORMED AND INTERESTING PERSON.

No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!

We are not alone. There's a wonderful world around us. Full of fascinating places, interesting people, amazing cultures, important challenges. But sadly, our kids are not getting the chance to learn about their world. Our surveys show that half of America's youth cannot locate or find on a map, then we have to wonder what they do know about their world.

CLARK ADVANCED LEARNING CENTER COMMITTEE - 1:45 PM. FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE - 2:00 PM.

ANY PERSONS SEEKING TO APPEAL DECISIONS OF THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE.

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CLARK ADVANCED LEARNING CENTER COMMITTEE - 1:45 PM. FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE - 2:00 PM.

County

Continued From Page 1

in this county. They could join the system right away and maintenance would be handled for \$9 a month per radio.

The proposed Motorola system would be a joint effort between Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin and Highlands counties and it could be six months before it is operational. The county would be responsible for maintenance, however, the other participating counties could help with maintenance costs. It would use only the two towers in the county.

Mr. Waugaman said he had never seen such lobbying over a \$5 million contract. He said that type lobbying usually accompanies a \$50 million contract. Perhaps that is a sign of the hard economic times and could be to the county's advantage.

The vote was 3-1 to table the issue

for 60 days to see if Motorola could get approval for grant funding. Commissioner Ray Domer cast the only negative vote. He was in favor of immediately approving SLERS.

Looking at the employee pay raise that just went into effect, the board decided that those employees who are not at the top of their pay grade will receive a 3 percent addition to their base salary. Those employees at the top of their pay grade will receive a 3 percent quarterly bonus.

In a conservation issue, the board was asked to adopt a resolution supporting the reconnect of South Florida and St. Johns water control districts. Commissioner Noel Chandler said the proposed reconnect would allow the exchange of water between the two water management districts. If there were an abundance of rain in one district, the excess water could be sent to the adjoining district. Commissioner Domer said he thought it could be a good thing

but he felt he did not have enough information to make a decision. The consensus of the board was that not enough information was available so the board decided to take no action. Turning to the proposed new jail, the board authorized advertising for a request for information to solicit information about construction financing that may be used to develop a request for proposal. It is not a request for bids.

- In other action, the board:
• proclaimed the week of Feb. 11 - 17 to be 211 Awareness Week in Okeechobee County;
• scheduled a public hearing for Feb. 26 to abandon a utility easement in Taylor Creek Isles;
• approved current waterway regulatory markers as sufficient;
• approved removal and replacement of the concrete floor as part of the courthouse rehabilitation project;
• decided on a design for floor tile for the courthouse;

• tabled for further information a request by Okeechobee County Property Appraiser Bill Sherman for a special draw of \$217,086 against budgeted funds for anticipated legal and other professional expenses relating to pending litigation;

• approved expenditure of \$19,820 to pave over 19 road cuts that are the result of installing drainage pipes;
• approved two change orders for the Douglas Park stormwater drainage project totalling \$87,768.50;
• approved a traffic signal and street light contract with Curren Electric, Inc.; and
• rescheduled the March 26 meeting to March 24 because of a conflict.

At 11 a.m. the board conducted an executive session to discuss pending litigation with American Drilling Services. Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gauda can be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.

Cocaine

Continued From Page 1

GCSO arrest affidavits indicate that the alleged transaction was recorded both visually and audibly.

Arrested in Okeechobee were: Clemente Baltazar, 26, S.W. 15th St.; Stephanie Michelle Starcher, 25, N.W. 47th Terrace; and Iva Jean Maya, 31, N.W. 46th Ave.

Baltazar was charged with the felonies of trafficking in cocaine and child endangerment (three counts). He was also charged with the misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Starcher was charged with the fel-

ony of trafficking in cocaine, and the misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Maya was charged with the felony of trafficking in cocaine. She was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Records at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) indicate that Baltazar, Starcher and Maya were in the process of being booked into the Okeechobee County Jail Thursday afternoon, Jan. 22, so their bonds had not been set.

Following the arrests in Lakewood, the investigation switched to the home on S.W. 15th St. where an undercover officer entered the home

shortly before 6 p.m. and purchased 2 ounces of suspected powder cocaine, stated a task force detective's arrest report.

According to the report, the buy was made with marked money and was monitored both visually and audibly.

Once the alleged transaction had been completed officers from the three agencies entered the home where they not only found Baltazar, Starcher and Maya but three children ages 5, 4 and a baby under the age of 1 year.

The officers then executed a search warrant and found suspected marijuana, suspected cocaine, scales and a large sum of U.S. cur-

rency, stated the arrest report. The report went on to state that during the search the officers also found the marked money used to make the buy. In fact, some of that marked money was in the possession of Baltazar's 5-year-old son, stated the detective's report.

According to the task force detective there were also two other women in the home at the time of the alleged transaction, but they were not charged.

"They had no connection with what was going on," said the detective. "They had no connection with the illegal activity."

The detective went on to say that this investigation is continuing.

Leaders

Continued From Page 1

provements on U.S. 441 and S.R. 70.

John Hayford, executive director of OUA, requested funding for expansion of the wastewater treatment plant and for an east sewer main that would allow taking Treasure Island off septic tanks.

"Thank you for being friends of public education," Okeechobee County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Cooper told the panel. She presented them each with a parents' guide and her card which has her legislative issues printed on the back.

"We all know that adequate funding for public education is critical," the superintendent said.

Most of her presentation dealt with opposition to any further reduction in education funding. She said that state funds for Okeechobee schools had been cut for the first time in many years. She requested that the legislature eliminate unfunded mandates, restore funds for education programs above the level of basic education programs and continue to give local school districts flexibility in spending funds. Dr. Cooper also asked the panel to consider new or additional revenue sources to fund education.

"Public education is an investment in our economy," she told the lawmakers. "We ask that you invest in public education and the economy."

"Even though I'm wearing a tie,

I'm not asking for money," Okeechobee County Sheriff Paul May said. He asked the delegation for their support for House Bill 85 which would make constitutional officers the head of their departments. If passed, it would mean that the sheriff, the property appraiser, the tax collector and the supervisor of elections would each have the final word in disputes with unions representing their employees.

Instead of requesting funds, Dr. Mary Locke, of Indian River State College, gave an update on the progress her school has made in the last year. She said that historically when the economy is bad, people go back to college. She spoke of the new Williamson Conference and Education Center which was built with private funds solicited in Okeechobee County plus matching state funds. Dr. Locke said the new facility allowed the college to teach courses never before offered there. She said that 90 percent of Okeechobee County students who go to college attend IRSC. Dr. Locke reminded the legislators that colleges are catalysts for economic development.

Elizabeth Maxwell of the Okeechobee County Economic Council said her organization endorsed the requests made that afternoon by the city, the county and OUA. She reminded the delegation that Okeechobee County has been designated a rural area of critical economic concern.

"Okeechobee is literally a crossroad of the state," Mrs. Maxwell said. "All roads lead to Okeechobee."

She urged improvements for the in-

tersection of the U.S. 441 and S.R. 70 stating that it was a safety issue and hampered the growth of the area.

"We've got to accelerate the S.R. 70 and U.S. 441 projects," Senator Pruitt said. He added that that intersection is the only intersection in the five counties he represents that causes such a bottleneck.

The Senator closed the meeting with words of encouragement. He said the state budget still has some federal money for local projects plus any federal money

that might be available. He reminded the group that money is sometimes reverted back to the state because it is not used. He said that IRSC received funds that were originally earmarked for another college that did not use them.

"Leave no stone unturned," he urged. "There are windows of opportunity."

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

Okeechobee lags behind in some health issues

By Charles M. Murphy Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County has higher rates of obesity, tobacco related illnesses, coronary heart disease, cancer, and diabetes when compared to other Florida Counties according to the latest county health status summary compiled by the Florida Department of Health.

The annual 'Charts' report said Okeechobee had fewer adults who engage in physical activity, and more who smoke tobacco products.

The number of adults who meet moderate physical activity recommendations was 31.9 percent. The state average is 34.6 percent. Okeechobee also had a large amount of adults who engage in no leisure time physical activity, 37.3 percent. The state average was 26.4 percent.

The obesity rate among adults in Okeechobee was 34.4 percent, about 10 points higher than the state average.

While Okeechobee had a higher rate of tobacco use than the state, the rate, 20.4 percent, has been reduced in recent years. The state average was 19.3 percent.

The charts report said 34.9 percent of Okeechobee adults 25 years and older did not have a high school diploma or equivalency. The state average was 20 percent. Those numbers were according to the 2000 Census.

Okeechobee had 69 percent of adults with health insurance. That compared to the state average of 81.4 percent.

The County also had a lower rate of licensed family physicians. Okeechobee had a rate of 9.5 physicians per 100,000 people. The state average was 17.4 per 100,000.

Health Department Director Frank Kruppa said the state breaks down the counties into four quartiles. One is the best, and four is the lowest 25 percent or for counties who need improvement. Okeechobee turned up in the bottom quartile in many categories.

Mr. Kruppa said his department continues to focus on tobacco use. The Students working against tobacco program has helped the county make strides in their rate of tobacco users. He noted that many rural areas share the same problems when it comes to health issues. He noted many communities share the need for physicians. He noted there is a shortage of health care professionals in Florida.

The report said the county had a high death rate due to coronary heart disease, 197 per 100,000, but that the rate has improved in recent years. The state average was 125.9 per 100,000.

Okeechobee had a high hospitalization rate for congestive heart failure, and have a large segment of the adult population who haven't gotten tested for cholesterol levels.

colorectal cancer, 18.6 per 100,000. The state average is 15.3 per 100,000.

55.4 percent of Okeechobee women 40 years and older have received a mammogram in the past year. The state average was 64.9 percent.

The County had a high rate of cervical cancer, 14.7 per 100,000, but a very low rate of prostate cancer, 12.9 per 100,000.

Okeechobee had a higher than average rate of diabetes, 11.2 percent, compared to 8.7 percent in the state.

Mr. Kruppa said a lack of activity and high smoking rates will lead to these types of numbers. He said the department tries to get to the root causes of these illnesses and try their best to utilize the resources they do have to improve the situation.

"We look at it from a holistic point of view. We focus our programs on these problems. We use these numbers as an organization to integrate our activities and to improve our services," he added.

The report stated Okeechobee had a higher death rate for HIV/Aids. The rate was 10.3 per 100,000. The state average was 9.1 per 100,000.

The report stated 69.2 percent of pregnant women received early prenatal care in the first trimester of their pregnancy. That compared to 77 percent in the state.

Okeechobee also had a high rate of births to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19. The rate was 85.2 per 100,000. The state average was 42.9 per 100,000.

The repeat birth rate to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 was 19.1 percent, which was above the state average, 16.3 percent.

The fetal death rate, 9.7 per 100,000, was also higher than the state average of 7.5 per 100,000.

The report also stated that Okeechobee had high rates of deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes, 43.4 per 100,000, more than twice the state average, and stated Okeechobee adults were more likely to commit suicide and be murdered.

"We take the overall message of this report and use it as a tool to direct our activities and our limited resources in the most productive fashion," Kruppa added.

Okeechobee Health Director Dr. Pasqualino Caputo is leaving the health department at the end of this month. Mr. Kruppa said a plan is being formulated to find a successor. He noted the department will continue services in the interim while a successor is found.

Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS
1 Sandler of "Billy Madison"
5 Wanders here and there
10 Bilko and Preston: Abbr.
14 NBC's peacock, e.g.
15 Pop singer
16 Mouse catcher
17 High-fiber fruit drink
19 Prepare for the national anthem
20 Last Greek letter
21 Paltry
22 Feed the kitty?
23 Queue after Q
25 Unevenly balanced
27 Fastest feline
31 Russian refusals
32 Recuperate
33 Steal from
35 \_\_\_ Park, Colorado
38 Geico's business: Abbr.
39 Ten-spot
42 Sapporo sash
43 Course in which you might study
B.F. Skinner
45 Calypso cousin
46 Put \_\_\_ appearance
47 Prolonged assault
50 Whammy-inflicting stare
52 Skip 43-Across for no reason, e.g.
55 Blowup: Abbr.
56 Gillette razor
57 Home of the NCAA's Bruins
59 Kind of cheese or steak
63 Clarinet part
64 Chinese restaurant utensils
66 Field of expertise
67 Jalopies
68 Opposite of ja
69 Little tykes
70 Dadaist Max
71 Cuba Scout groups

- 32 Campus quaters
3 Fulfills symptoms
4 The Tramp, but not Lady
5 British rule in India
6 Egg cell
7 Disney mermaid
8 Millionth of a meter
9 "The Legend of \_\_\_ Hollow"
10 Narrow waterways
11 Sharpening wheel
12 Flavor
13 Exceed the limit
18 "\_\_\_ of Eden"
24 "Gone With the Wind" plantation
26 Request, as advice
27 Piece of the old block?
28 Coop group
29 Life with no money worries
30 Question of method
34 Air rifle ammo
36 Online auction site
37 Ratio involving a hypotenuse

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

GREASEGUN ESTABLISHMENT
LEFT ALONE LEONARD
OFFER BACH BEANO
TRAKOTO BARTAB
TACTWILLAUUSA
ICERSALTS CRUISE
STRETCH DAPHNIS
AOL AAR
KRATI ON ANGORAS
NAVY CROSS OMEGA
IDE OWNED ECOL
SINTAX OPECONA
HAGAR COSMOQUINZA
ENERO EZIOPINIZ
STRADLES BAXTER

Down 1 Purina competitor
By Pancho Harrison
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# Yearling boys and girls defeat rival

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

After the game most of the Yearling Middle School girls basketball players were overjoyed and full of energy. During the game they seemed to have plenty of energy to out-work rival Osceola Middle School.

Ami Edwards (pronounced I-Me), had 14 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Lady Yearlings to a 26-20 victory over Osceola on the Warriors floor. She said the victory made her very happy as she got to play in front of her mom, her pastor, and her mom's co workers at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office.

"It was really fun. I was glad because they beat us at our home gym and we beat them at their home gym. It was really cool," she said.

Osceola had won the earlier battle in December in overtime. This time Yearling was looking for revenge.

The game was a tough defensive battle. Neither team scored in the first three minutes of the game. Yearling led 5-2 after one quarter. The second quarter was full of turnovers and sloppy ball handling. Edwards made a lay in to make it 9-2. Amber Cunningham, eight points, hit a jumper to pull Osceola within five points. Janet Smith's bucket gave Yearling an 11-6 lead at halftime.

The second half was close as well. Edwards and Cunningham again traded baskets in the third quarter, and Shamara Shanks hit a jumper to give Yearling a 16-13 lead after three quarters.

The Yearlings took a nine point lead early in the fourth quarter as Shanks hit a bucket and a free throw. Delaney Osceola added a bucket for Yearling. Osceola didn't give up as they rallied to within four points after a lay up by Garionna Johnson, who sat out the first half. Edwards followed a missed shot with a bucket to make it 24-18. Cunningham then hit a 14 footer to make it 24-20. Yearling put the game away as Edwards hit a shot from the baseline to finish the scoring.

Coach Erin Morrow said she was proud of the way the Yearlings held together late in the game. "They played really well. They held their composure when the other team came back at the end. We did what we needed to do and I've very proud of them. They were really passionate about winning this game."

Shanks had five points for Yearling (2-4). Thad Sanders had six points for Osceola.

Yearling also took the boys game with an impressive first quarter. They scored the first 11 points of the game and defeated the Warriors, 48-28. Alejandro Diaz had 13 points for Yearling. Sylvester Butler led the Warriors with 13 points. Lavonte Spivey had five steals in the first six minutes of the game to set the tone on defense for Yearling.

Nine Yearling players scored. Marshall Tommie had nine points. Joey Santibanez had eight points. Jose Loreda had six points, JT Osceola had four points and three players, Lavonte Spivey, Ezequiel Gomez and Layton Thomas had

two points. Eddie Neal had 11 points for Osceola.

Yearling Coach Lance Sluder said he was impressed with how his team played, "We won the game. Osceola went on a late rally but it was not enough. I would

like to thank my co-coach Efrain Ochoa, along with the parents of the players for being patient and allowing our student athletes to have a successful season."

Yearling ended their season with a record of (7-5). Osceola plays next week at Sebastian Middle.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Janet Smith (front) and Emily Worth #22 pursue a loose ball during Wednesday's game.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Ami Edwards (left) is defended by Bethany Stuart #11 as Shamara Shanks looks on.

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Eddie Neal (left) is guarded by Alejandro Diaz during the Osceola-Yearling boys' game.

# Juene pours in 34 in loss to Clewiston

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

David Juene had an almost super human effort Tuesday as he scored 34 points and grabbed 14 rebounds in a 72-65 loss to Clewiston.

Jonathon Williams had 20 points to lead the Tigers to their second win this year over Okeechobee. Corey White added 18 points for Okeechobee.

Brahman Coach Jon Enrico said his team got off to a slow start and couldn't rebound against Clewiston. Okeechobee trailed 46-32 after a sluggish first half.

"We have to make up our mind that we are going to play defense. Giving up 46 points in one half is just unacceptable," Enrico said.

Juene and White combined to make eight, three-point baskets on the night. Juene hit 10 of 12 free throw attempts. Other than those two, Okeechobee couldn't manage much offense.

Austin Willard and Joey Voss were praised for their work on the defensive end.

"We still are having a hard time putting four quarters together. We just got down in this game and couldn't dig our way out of it. You can't wait until the last minute to play the game," Enrico added.

Okeechobee has a key district game at Lincoln Park tonight (January 23). They return home on Tuesday, January 27, to host Forest Hill in another district game.

The Okeechobee JV defeated Clewiston.

M-66633 ENG. 01/22/09

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Q: This will be our first winter in the extreme north. There will be lots of snow. Do we need studded tires or will snow tires do the trick?  
 A: Go for a set of good-quality snow tires. Studs make no sense for the normal driver, even when he or she is regularly driving through deep snow.

I spent several winters living in the Colorado high mountains near Vail and Breckenridge where there's 300 inches or more of snow every year. Good snow tires (and cautious driving) got me through even the worst storms without unpleasantness. Moreover, my friends who were ski instructors, snow plow drivers or ambulance attendants - folks who had to be on the road at 4 a.m. when conditions were often at their worst - did not use studded tires, which are just plain awful when you're not driving through thick ice or 12 inches of snow.

Keep your road speed slow, even if the lunatics around you haven't reduced speed a whit in deference to the conditions, and you'll maintain good control of your vehicle.

Q: We're buying our daughter a new car for her birthday. We're doing the legwork, narrowing the field to about six models and then on her birthday taking her to the various dealerships so she can make her own choice. You've written a couple of really good columns making suggestions about how we should go about making the right choice and cutting the right deal, and we've saved them. Is there anything else that has occurred to you in the several months since sharing that advice?

A: Yes. First, make sure she gets to see the dashboard at night, when it's all lit up like a Christmas tree. A friend bought a car a couple of months ago that she loves in almost every regard. But the first time she drove at night she recoiled in horror. The dashboard is a bilious, unnecessarily copious spread of red lights of a particularly putrid shade. She claims she would not have purchased that car had she known of the light issue ahead of time. Indeed, the light configuration and color is alarming enough that even weeks after settling in with this otherwise perfect vehicle, she is unhappy with night driving. She's an artist, so is a bit more sensitive to some things than others of us. But I'm no artist, and I find the dashboard sufficiently eye-wearing that even I don't enjoy being a passenger in her car at night.

Also, I have often recommended to budget-conscious readers that they buy a solid, low-mileage vehicle that's a year old or so in order to avoid the shocking depreciation that occurs with a brand-new car the moment you drive it off the lot. That may still be the best way to go - or maybe not. I discovered when I set out to buy a one-year-old vehicle during the summer that although they had two on the lot that were exactly what I was looking for, the new car was actually cheaper. The reason: not only was it practically the end of the model year, there were manufacturer rebates and incentives to move that new(ish) inventory before the next wave of new-model-year vehicles arrived. So I went the new-car route, on the grounds that everything, including the tires, would last longer than would be the case with the vehicle with 11,000 miles on it.

You/she will pay more for car insurance for a new one than a year-old one and also more for the tags and registration, so that's something to factor in.

The economy is so screwy now that the past rules of wise car buying don't always apply. You'll have to alter your thinking and buying approach - even on the very same day as you move from dealership to dealership.

But if you stick to the original advice of doing price comparisons, not buying add-ons you don't really want, being open to a color that may not be the first choice, working with a salesperson who respects your thoughts and limitations and moving on if you don't get the deal you want, you'll do fine.

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*What's your question? Sharon Peters would like to hear what's on your mind when it comes to caring for, driving, repairing and making the most of your vehicle. Send your*

Supplement to the Okeechobee News ~ Auto Showcase ~ January 23, 2009

Buying

AUDI A4



By JIM GORZELANY | CTW FEATURES

Those who have a few extra dollars extra to spend and are looking to buy a new luxury sedan will find that it's a buyer's market out there, precipitated by the recent slump in sales. "It appears that the confluence of tighter credit and the overall economic downturn is impacting purchases of high-end vehicles," says Tom Libby, senior automotive analyst with the marketing information firm J.D. Power and Associates in Westlake Village, Calif.

Still, despite the economy's effect on the overall market, the industry is rolling out an assortment of new upscale sedans, particularly in the so-called "near luxury" segment where sticker prices come in at less than \$50,000. These models provide added comfort, performance and features over broad-branded midsize models, with an element of exclusivity that's a cut above the norm.

Here's a look at a few reasonably affordable, yet accommodating luxury sedans that are either all-new or

SEE AFFLUENCE page 12

# ENTRY-LEVEL AFFLUENCE

SEVERAL NEW 'NEAR LUXURY' CARS DELIVER ADDED POSHNESS AT WHAT ARE RELATIVELY REASONABLE PRICES, FOR UPSCALE BUYERS ON A BUDGET.

Trends

## WORTH THE WAIT

CAR-DEALER SERVICE DEPARTMENTS ARE FAST BECOMING THE PLACE TO GO FOR PREMIUM COFFEE, GYM WORKOUTS AND EVEN THE LATEST FEATURE FILMS.

By DEB ACORD  
CTW FEATURES

There's a health and fitness center. Gourmet coffee shop. Restaurant. Internet business center. Barbershop. Boutique. Movie theater.

Is it a high-end mall? A big-city airport concourse? No, it's the customer service area at Island Lincoln-Mercury-Jaguar-Land

Rover, a car dealership on the east coast of Florida.

Drivers waiting for their cars to be serviced here don't have to pass the time flipping through two-year-old magazines, trying to find a comfortable position on cheap plastic chairs, and choking down burnt coffee.

No, while these car owners wait, they can get in their 30 minutes of cardio on a

treadmill at the Cougar Health and Fitness Center which also features free weights and weight machines.

Not their day to work out? There's gourmet coffee and treats at the Carback's coffee shop, lunch at the Tiki Grill, Internet access in the Wall Street business area and an 1890s-style barbershop with \$2 haircuts. And, oh yeah, movie times are at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

This dealership in Merritt Island and others around the country have taken the concept of customer service to new heights. As the car business has become ever more competitive, dealers are being increasingly creative in their efforts to lure new customers and to keep their regulars coming back again and again. A recent

See service page 12

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# Service

Continued from page 11

survey by the market research firm J.D. Power and Associates in Westlake Village, Calif., asked consumers to list amenities that add value to the waiting room experience. Both customers of premium and non-premium car models said clean and comfortable seating was the most important element at a dealership. Other amenities in the top five in both categories (in order of priority) were wireless Internet access, premium coffee, large-screen TVs and computers with Internet access.

Adding a touch of luxury at Island, a dealership that opened in 1985, has made waiting a positive experience. "When this facility was opened, the owner and his wife had this vision that would place us well above other dealers," says Jim Cavanaugh, general manager.

Island customers have enthusiastically embraced the dealership's amenities. Cavanaugh says, "We have one couple who cancelled their gym memberships after they bought their car here. Now, they come in every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to use the gym." Oh, and gym rats don't have to worry about freshening up after their workout - the dealership has men's and women's full-service locker rooms with showers.

Island's idea of the perfect full-service dealership "has worked really well," Cavanaugh says. "Customers don't pay a penny more here than they would anywhere else, but we have created a place that is the talk of the town."

The dealership hasn't forgotten traditionalists and offers them a more ordinary waiting room with a TV. But the other amenities - a Cartoon Zone play area for kids, a library stocked with books, a bar (open for special occasions) and a great viewing window which happens to offer a panoramic view of lift-offs at the nearby Kennedy Space Center - make it unique. "We don't want people to get bored," Cavanaugh says. "We want people to feel satisfied when they come here."

Maintaining a high level of comfort for customers is tantamount at Herb Chambers Lexus in Sharon, Mass., says general manager Giovanni Tosti. "We are trying to not miss anything," he says.

"That's the key to selling cars right now. That's the difference. Everybody is selling the same cars, so you have to make yourself different."

Chambers Lexus has an elaborate waiting room with a fireplace, big-screen TVs and a well-equipped



## WAITING IN STYLE

The in-dealership experience can be enhanced by movie theaters like Island's 38-seat facility or other diversions limited only by the dealership's size, location and capacity for innovation. Free Wi-Fi Internet connections and computers are fairly common. Coffee bars are becoming routine, too. But how about a putting green? Check out these innovative amenities offered by dealerships around the country:

- Atlanta Classic Cars in Duluth, Ga., has a golf driving range and putting green and complimentary massages.
- Galpin Aston Martin Los Angeles features Club Aston, a private club with areas for members to gather with friends.
- In Newport Beach, Calif., the Newport Lexus dealership's entrance features two majestic fountains, a grand player piano, an onsite putting green and a Tommy Bahama store.
- Meade Lexus of Southfield, Mich., advertises an owners lounge "that rivals that of a five-star hotel" and its own roadside assistance program.
- Heuberger Subaru in Colorado Springs, Colo., has CD music listening stations, video games and TV with wireless headphones.

playroom for children. And like many dealers, it takes service beyond its facilities, offering pickup and delivery programs for test drives and monitoring car update and news that could affect its customers.

Tosti says more elaborate dealerships and thoughtful amenities are going to help the industry survive. "We are trying to bring the retail auto industry into the 21st century. We have to think outside the box to do that. It has taken a long time for our industry to change."

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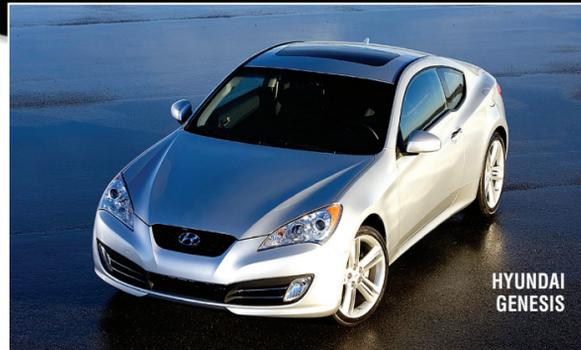
LINCOLN MKS

# Affluence

Continued from page 11

significantly redesigned for 2009, offered for those with a need for four doors and some additional panache:

- Acura TL. Acura's redesigned Honda Accord-based midsize TL sport sedan is larger than before, carries dramatic new styling and offers added features, many of which are borrowed from its larger sibling, the RL. A 280-hp, 3.5-liter V6 engine is standard, with a 305-hp, 3.7-liter V6 coming with the top SH-AWD model. The latter stands for Acura's road-holding "Super Handling All-Wheel-Drive" system. The TL's five-speed automatic transmission comes with steering wheel-mounted paddle shifters for manual operation. The TL's interior is now more spacious, with 1.3 inches added rear legroom. Already amply equipped, an optional technology package adds bells and whistles such as real-time traffic navigation, Doppler-radar weather maps and a 440-watt DVD-audio surround-sound system. MSRP: \$34,955.
- Audi A4. A redesigned Audi A4 midsize sedan is larger than before and carries a fresh exterior appearance with friendly "eyebrow shaped" LED running lights. The A4's 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder and 3.2-liter V6 engines now generate a stronger 211- and 265-hp, respectively, with enhanced fuel efficiency. A 40:60 rear-biased ver-



HYUNDAI GENESIS



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sion of Audi's quattro all-wheel-drive system affords sportier and more secure handling; it's standard with the V6 version and is optional with the 2.0. Depending on the version, the car can be fitted with either a gearless six-speed continuously variable transmission, a six-speed manual or a conventional six-speed automatic with Tiptronic manual gear selection. The driver-focused interior design is both handsome and functional. MSRP: \$32,700.

• Hyundai Genesis. Hyundai nudges its way firmly into the luxury market with the new full-size Genesis luxury sedan. Tastefully stylish with a handsome exterior and a rich looking interior that suggests a more upscale brand name, the Genesis is the automaker's first rear-drive car. A 290-hp, 3.8-liter V6 engine is standard, with a refined

375-hp 4.6-liter V8 alternately offered. Both engines come mated to a six-speed automatic transmission with manual-shift capability. Standard equipment is plentiful, though it's just a notch below the best cars in its class in terms of overall refinement. MSRP: \$32,250.

• Jaguar XF. The midsize Jaguar XF attempts to break the automaker's stodgy image with contemporary coupe-like styling and a rich and novel interior that literally springs to life when the door is opened. When the driver enters the vehicle, the backlit start button pulsates like a heartbeat. Push the button and the dashboard air vents automatically rotate open while the JaguarDrive Selector (used to select various performance modes) rises to hand from the center console. Otherwise, the XF shares much with its larger sedan sibling, the XJ, including its standard 300-hp, 4.2-liter V8 engine and available 420-hp supercharged version. Both engines are mated to a six-speed automatic transmission. The top Supercharged model adds the XJ's computer-controlled suspension that allows a user to dial in more or less ride comfort or cornering grip. MSRP: \$49,200.

• Lincoln MKS. Not as sporty as some models in this segment, the Lincoln MKS nonetheless holds its own with an attractive exterior and solid overall performance. It comes with a 275-hp, 3.7-liter V6 engine and smooth-shifting, six-speed automatic transmission; a V8 isn't available, but a quicker turbocharged V6 will arrive next year. A higher than average roofline contributes to what is a generous amount of interior room. A long list of tech-oriented features include Ford's Sync multimedia system and the optional Sirius Travel Link system that provides weather and traffic information, sports scores, movie listings and local gasoline prices. MSRP: \$37,665.

• Volkswagen CC. Essentially a sleeker-looking, lower-riding and costlier version of the midsize Passat, the CC (it stands for "comfort coupe," though it is, in fact, a sedan) can be equipped with either a 200-horsepower turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine or a more-suitable 280-horsepower 3.6-liter V6. The four-cylinder Sport version comes standard with a six-speed manual transmission, with a six-speed automatic optional there and standard elsewhere in the line. Handling is reasonably nimble, and all-wheel-drive is offered on the top V6 model for added authority on wet or dry roads. A nicely designed interior features four separate bucket seats. MSRP: \$26,790.

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