



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 14

Sunday, February 1, 2009

75¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Change a child's life this year

The time of year has come to plan for the future. What do you want to accomplish in 2009? Make a resolution to change the life of an abused child forever. The Guardian ad Litem Program needs volunteers to help lead children out of the dark and sometimes frightening realities of the court and foster care system, and into safe, permanent homes. The Guardian ad Litem program will be training volunteers from Okeechobee, Indian River, Saint Lucie, and Martin Counties on **Feb. 3, 5, 10 & 12**, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Guardian ad Litem Program Office, 584 N.W. University Blvd., Suite 600, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986. Call 772-785-5804 for more information.

Flag football teams forming

Parks and Recreation announces the formation of an Adult Flag Football League. Registration begins on Feb. 2, with games scheduled to open the week of Feb. 23. Games will be played on week nights between 7-9 p.m. at the Sports Complex. For more information, please call Parks and Recreation at 863-763-6950.

Free prostate cancer screening

The Okeechobee Cancer Center and Tristan Pangilinan, M.D., Board Certified Urologist will sponsor a free prostate cancer screening on Tuesday, **Feb. 3** from 4 until 6 p.m. at 301 N.E. 19th Drive, Okeechobee. Call now to schedule an appointment, 863-357-0039.

Drought Index

Current: 663
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

13.44 feet
Last Year: 10.08 feet

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

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Ethanol plant planned on Lykes land

Variety of sugar cane to be turned into fuel

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

There may soon be a new industry in the area that would not only employ more people but would help cut this country's dependence on foreign oil.

Verenium Corporation, a pioneer in the development of next generation cellulosic ethanol, recently announced its partnership

with Lykes Brothers to build the first ever, commercial scale cellulosic ethanol facility in nearby Highlands County.

The plant would be located on Lykes Brothers property on S. R. 70 just west of the intersection with the northbound section of S.R. 721.

One of the good things about this method of ethanol production is that it does not use corn or other food sources as raw material. Lykes Brothers will be growing a variety of cane that is not used for sugar. The ethanol produced will be blended with

gasoline to make it go further.

According to Kelly Lindemboon, Verenium's vice president for corporate communications, Verenium partnered with Lykes Brothers because they are a well known and established land owner. She said they have talking with Lykes Brothers for some time.

"We foresee great potential for fuel production from biomass," asserted Howell Ferguson, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Lykes Brothers, "and we believe that it will offer significant benefits for the U. S.

and for agriculture throughout Florida. It is exciting to join in a project using cellulosic ethanol technology pioneered at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, and we are very pleased to work with Verenium on this project."

Verenium is anticipating it will take 18 to 24 months to construct the plant. They are in the process of finalizing the necessary permits. The corporation is expecting the plant to be in production in late 2011. About 400 people will be employed in the construction of the plant. The plant

itself will generate 140 new jobs. About half of these jobs will be in farming and the other half in operation of the plant. Plant operation will require a good deal of technical capability. However, Verenium will provide training for plant employees.

"This plant, the first of many we anticipate building in the years ahead, will help fulfill the U. S. government's mandate for advanced, sustainable biofuels to meet America's energy needs," said Carols A. Riva, Verenium's president and chief executive

See Lykes — Page 2

Seminole War: Re-enactment this weekend



Okeechobee News/Teresa Matushek

The Battle of Okeechobee which took place on Christmas day, 1835 was re-enacted on Saturday, Jan. 30. The battle took place on state-owned property in Treasure Island. Festivities will continue on Sunday, Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with another simulation of the battle taking place at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Battle of Okeechobee continues

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A 145 acres site on S.E. 38th Avenue across from the Treasure Island Fire Station has been the site of two battles. The first battle, fought on Christmas Day, 1837 and commemorated this weekend, was the largest battle in the Seminole Wars and marked the beginning of the end of hostilities between the U.S. and the Seminoles. The second battle, to convert the site to a state park, is still in progress.

In 2006 the state purchased 145 acres of the battle site at 85 percent of the appraised value. However, the "Second Battle of Okeechobee" began much earlier. First, the exact site had to be located.

In 1974 Bob Carr, executive director of the Archeological and Historical Conservancy, came to Okeechobee as a graduate student and did an arche-

ological survey of the area. He discovered that the site was not registered with the state. In addition, there was no evidence as to where the battle was actually fought and there were no artifacts of the battle.

"What we thought would be easy turned out to be a 20-year quest," he stated during an Oct. 19, 2006 press conference on the site.

Mr. Carr visited eight or 10 families who claimed to have artifacts, but none of them dated back as far as the Battle of Okeechobee. He wondered how people could be living here and never find anything from the battle.

Archeological discoveries and maps discovered by Bill Steele, historian for the Seminole Tribe, in Missouri helped in the location of the site. Many of the troops in the battle were Missouri Volunteers.

Among the artifacts found were a bayonet, an old Indian

knife, musket balls and uniform buttons left behind.

Mr. Carr said the Daughters of the American Revolution marker on U.S. 441 S.E. is in the right place only because Seminole Chief Billy Bowlegs said his mother told him that was the battle site.

Part of the confusion came about because Lake Okeechobee was not on the official maps of the day.

Eventually the efforts of Mr. Carr and Mr. Steele gained support from the community including the Okeechobee Historical Society, Okeechobee Battlefield Friends, who sponsor the annual re-enactment, and former State Representative Richard Machek. The site became a registered national landmark, but until the state purchased the land, there was no public access to the site.

"It's been a long time com-

See Battle — Page 11

Teacher of the year soon to be announced

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Teacher of the Year selection process has begun and the following is the last article with additional details of three Teachers of the Year from the school district.

For Okeechobee High School, Vicki Goggans was awarded as the Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Goggans received her associates degree from Indian River Community College and her bachelors degree in mathematics education from the University of Central Florida.

She has been with the Okeechobee County School

system for 15 years where she is currently teaching tenth through twelfth graders geometry, liberal arts math and algebra 1B. She has been at the high school for two years and previously worked at Osceola Middle School, Yearling Middle School and began her career at OHS.

Mrs. Goggans strives to show her students that she has respect for them as a person and that her respect is not based on how much math they know. Her primary goal is of course to help her students gain success in mathematics. She has found that one of the best ways to get

See Teacher — Page 2

Vensil applies for county commission

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Jim Vensil, 64, director of the Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition, has thrown his hat in the ring for consideration for the county commission seat vacated by the death of Marvin Werrell.

That makes a total of nine people vying for the governor's

appointment to the position. Applying earlier were nursing home administrator Andrew McKillop, paving contractor Joseph Hoover, real estate salesperson Melissa Lee Arnold, building contractor Theodore Kelchner, environmental specialist Isaiah Mosley, licensed contractor Noah Wilcox, busi-

See Vensil — Page 2

Students to go to regional science fair

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The District Science fair showcased 131 senior division projects (9-12th grade) and 313 projects in the Junior Division (seventh and eighth grade). Of those projects, there are 97 Okeechobee County students who are eligible to participate in the Heartland Regional Science Fair.

Those who won first and second place will go on to regional competition which will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 18 and Thursday, Feb. 20, at DeSoto Middle School, in Arcadia.

From regional competition, 16 students are selected to go

on to the State competition as well as two from the region to be selected to go on to the International competition in May.

Judges for the district competition included: Joe Arnold, Okeechobee County School Board; Sharon Suits, Director of Assessment and a State Science Fair Director;

Jill Holcomb, Former Chemistry Teacher and past International Science Fair representative; Kay Duke, science teacher at OFC; John Barnett, Boyle Engineering; Matt Buxton, Buxton Funeral Home; Jim Vensil, businessman and Kiwanis's member;

Debbie Clements, Pat Hogue, and Pat Miller, UF Extension

Service; Kara Butts and Sara May, USDA; Gary Ritter, Robert Boney and Raulie Raulerson of South Florida Water Management District; Bill Suits; Randy Burnham, dairyman; and Dr. Candace Davis, Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital.

Best in Show projects were determined by the judges reviewing all first place projects in each category.

Christopher Boney, an eighth grader from Yearling Middle School won the Junior Division Best of Show in the Biological Sciences for his project entitled, "Different Water Effects on Plant Growth," a two-

See Students — Page 11



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

The following students won Best of Show in their categories for the District Science Fair 2009 (left to right) Christopher Boney, Ryan Reister, Ashley Hassan, and Celena Letcher.

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Teacher

Continued From Page 1

them there is to develop relationships with her students by getting to know them and letting them know her.

As an educator, she believes that she cannot expect her students to continue to seek and acquire new knowledge without setting the same high expectations for herself. She works to enhance her professional development by staying involved in all workshops and councils on mathematics that she can.

While math is not text-driven, there are many ways that she integrates literacy into her classroom including a thematic word wall that focuses on both Latin and Greek prefixes that denote numerical amounts.

Mrs. Goggans works with struggling math students and helps convince them that they can achieve and that they can learn math.

The Teacher of the Year candidate for New Endeavor High School is David Brent Stuart. Mr. Stuart Indian River Community College with his associates degree while on a full baseball scholarship. He continued his education at the University of Florida where he received his bachelors degree in sociology, while also on a full baseball scholarship.

He has been with the district for 12 years and for the last eight he has worked at NEHS as the high school discipline program where he teaches math, science, English and social studies to students in ninth to twelfth grade.



Vicki Goggans

Mr. Stuart sets high expectations for his students which are evident by the posted grading policy (Quality, Quantity, Effort and Essays). Poor quality work will be returned to students to be re-done. A lack of effort is taken seriously with the proper administration or parents.

Excellence equals focus plus effort plus attention plus time is displayed on his wall to remind all his students and visitors that he takes this vision for the county, "Achieving Excellence" very seriously.

According to Mr. Stuart, it is absolutely evident that the most successful students are the best readers and writers, no matter what the topic or subject. He strives to infuse literacy and practice of literacy skills in order to better his students.

Beyond the normal high school subjects, he also teaches personal skills which is about character, morals, work ethics, family life and social skills.



David Brent Stuart

While his students are in his classroom because of an expulsion, suspension or retained ninth grade, he tries to make their stay at NEHS a little interesting. One of his students explained that Mr. Stuart currently has students helping refurbish old bicycles for those who cannot afford a bicycle.

Due to the diverse array of subjects and grade levels, Mr. Stuart successfully breaks up what would otherwise be sterile computer based content by constantly engaging them with challenging real world, real life experiences.

The Teacher of the Year candidate for Okeechobee Freshman Campus is Elisabeth Fox. Mrs. Fox received her associates degree from Indian River Community College and her Bachelors degree in English from Florida Atlantic University. Mrs. Fox has been with the district for four years, all at OFC. She has been in her current position as the reading coach for two years.

As a reading coach, Mrs. Fox



Elisabeth Fox

wants the students to know that when she is in the classroom, she is there to help them comprehend the lesson, provide scaffolding and model lessons for the teacher. She is a resource for the students and teachers to utilize.

At OFC she works with over 450 students school-wide and their 24 teachers. She provides workshops for the school to help further develop her teachers and allow them to tap into her as a resource.

While a lot of her job involves helping the teachers, she has made it her first priority to work with small pull-out groups in all content areas where she uses innumerable strategies for improving comprehension.

The Teacher of the Year will be announced at the Tuesday, Feb. 10, board meeting at the Okeechobee School Board room at 6 p.m.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

Correction

It has come to our attention that some quotes were inaccurately reported in a story in the Friday, Jan. 30, edition of the Okeechobee News under the headline: James found guilty; faces life. First, while Nathan James was convicted of aggravated battery, robbery with a firearm and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon he does not face a mandatory life sentence as reported. It should have been stated that he could face up to a sentence of life in prison. Secondly, in a quote by Assistant State Attorney Don Richardson, he was quoted as saying "I don't think there's any doubt Nathan James robbed him (William Curry), but I don't think he meant to kill him." The quote should have read: "The jury's verdict reflected that he robbed him but did not mean to kill him." Finally, Mr. Richardson was quoted as saying "But, I guess the jury believed him (Curry's testimony)." That quote should

have read: "The jury believed him (Curry)." We apologize for the inaccuracies and any confusion they may have caused.

In the story in the Friday newspaper headlined, "High School Rodeo at Agri-Civic Center," a name was accidentally left off the list of the Okeechobee High School Rodeo Team Members. The list should have included Kayla Davis.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Thursday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 0-4-2; **Play 4:** 8-2-2-4; **Fantasy 5:** 4-11-14-25-30; **Mega Money:** 1-12-26-37 MB 10; **Florida Lotto:** 7-10-12-27-35-51; **Powerball:** 5-10-18-23-32 PB4 x4; On Friday, **Cash 3:** 0-7-1; **Play 4:** 2-5-8-9

Lykes

Continued From Page 1

officer. "The facility will serve as a blueprint for how we develop future projects. This milestone is just the beginning."

Verenium had previously operated pilot and demonstration-scale plants in Jennings, LA.

The project has been awarded a \$7 million grant under Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H.

Bronson's "Farm to Fuel" initiative, designed to stimulate the development of a renewable energy industry in Florida.

"The message today is that Florida's agricultural industry can produce fuel crops on a major commercial scale without sacrificing food crops," Commissioner Bronson said. "This is a major step forward for our 'Farm to Fuel' program and hopefully will serve as a catalyst for additional investment by companies interested in producing renewable energy in Florida."

The Environmental Protection Agency says that cellulosic ethanol's high oxygen content reduces carbon dioxide better than other fuels.

In addition to using non-food crops, Verenum claims that using cellulosic biomass as the raw material for ethanol costs less, uses marginal lands and requires less fertilizer and water.

In June of 2008 Alico, a land management company in central and southwest Florida, announced that it had abandoned plans for an ethanol facility in

LaBelle because of the risk involved.

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

Vensil

Continued From Page 2

ness owner Terry Burroughs and general contractor Mitchell Hancock.

Mr. Vensil, a Republican, has lived in Okeechobee since 1989 and has a BS in professional administration from Barry University. For several years he served as director of Rebuilding Okeechobee After Disaster (ROAD) and is a substitute teacher with Okeechobee schools. He unsuccessfully ran twice for city council.

There is no time limit for submitting an application but the governor wants to move as quickly as possible according to Sterling Ivey of the governor's appointments office. Mr. Ivey said the governor will accept applications from

persons of any party affiliation and there is no age requirement. However, the applicant must be a registered voter. Mr. Ivey said the governor is looking for someone who has integrity and can represent the citizens well.

Besides Mr. Vensil, four other applicants, Mr. Burroughs, Mr. Mosley, Mr. Mckillop and Mrs. Arnold have a bachelors degree or higher. Mr. Kelchner, Mr. Burroughs and Mr. Hoover have served on volunteer boards or committees for the county. Some of the applicants have no civic involvement at all listed on the

questionnaires. While higher education, and civic involvement might be assets, they are not necessarily a requirement to be a commissioner since many people have been elected to the office without college degree or prior civic involvement.

This vacancy is a little different since it was caused by a death. Most vacancies the governor is asked to fill are caused by wrong doing of the incumbent.

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

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Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. East northeast wind around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75.

Monday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 61. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 32. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

At Your Service

Okeechobee News

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Inmate facing more burglary charges

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A man sitting in the Okeechobee County Jail on burglary charges was arrested Friday, Jan. 30, on additional felonies in connection with a November 2007 burglary.

Jason Thomas Adams, 24, N.W. Fourth Ave., was arrested on charges of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, dealing in stolen property (two counts), grand theft and defrauding a pawnbroker (two counts).

Since Adams was arrested Friday morning by Detective Ted Van Deman of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) his bond had not been set as of newspaper deadline.

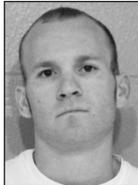
Adams was originally arrested Nov. 25, 2008, for his alleged connection with the burglary of a home belonging to a 79-year-old Okeechobee woman. He was charged with grand theft, criminal

mischievous over \$1,000, aggravated assault with a motor vehicle and armed burglary. His bond was set at \$136,000.

Also arrested in connection with that case was Jennifer Kristine Conner, 24, of the same address. She was charged with grand theft and armed burglary. Her bond was set at \$110,000.

Detective Van Deman arrested Adams Friday after learning that he was a convicted felon.

According to the detective's arrest affidavit, Adams was found guilty on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription on Oct. 8, 2007, by Judge Sherwood Bauer Jr. The detective then submitted a written request to the Florida



Jason Adams

Board of Clemency to see if Adam's rights had been restored. But, he later received a letter from the Florida Parole Commission that the man's rights had not been restored.

The affidavit states that following the burglary of the elderly woman's home, investigators applied for and received a search warrant for the residence where Adams and Conner were living. During the execution of that search warrant investigators found a Remington .22 caliber rifle that had been reported stolen from a N.W. 35th Ave. home around Nov. 19, 2008, stated the report.

Detective Van Deman said the rifle was found in the master bedroom under a mattress. The victim was called and identified the rifle. The victim also identified jewelry that was photographed at a local pawn shop, the detective added.

Jewelry taken in that burglary included a 14 carat gold chain with a large 14 carat gold crucifix pendant valued at \$2,500; a 14-carat gold woman's chain and pendant valued at \$800; and, a mobile phone valued at \$200.

The detective said on at least two occasions Adams pawned jewelry items and signed documents stating that the items were his to sell. These items, said Detective Van Deman, were identified by the owner and returned to the rightful owner.

Detective Van Deman said the crucifix and mobile phone have not been recovered.

Adams was also arrested Jan. 7, 2009, by OCSO Detective Rick Durfee on a warrant charging him with dealing in stolen property (two counts) and giving false information to a pawnbroker (two counts). Those charges stem from an Oct. 7, 2008, burglary in which Adams is accused of taking a lap-

top computer, a guitar, a cordless drill and about \$100 in change.

Detective Durfee said the drill and laptop are still missing and that the change had been spent.

The guitar was found in Adams' residence during that November 2008 search.

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If you go ...
What: Okeechobee City Council
When: 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3
Where: Council Chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.

will consider a lease-purchase agreement for 17 traditional 2009 Ford Crown Victoria police cars with full wheel covers and left hand spotlights. In addition, the resolution provides for five 2009 Dodge Charger police cars with V6 engines and spotlights.

will not hold up under road patrol conditions.

Of the 17 new Fords, one will go to the fire chief, one to the city administrator and one to the code enforcement officer.

The police department usually purchases 24 cars at a time.

The council will also be discussing annual evaluations for city administrator Brian Whitehall and city attorney John Cook.

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

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Police Chief Denny Davis said that the Dodge Chargers will be used for road patrol in an effort to get better gas mileage.

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

The council will also be discussing annual evaluations for city administrator Brian Whitehall and city attorney John Cook.

Instead of the traditional Ford Crown Victoria, City of Okeechobee Policemen may soon be patrolling the streets in Dodge Chargers.

The purchase of police cars will be the big item at Tuesday's city council meeting. The council

will consider a lease-purchase agreement for 17 traditional 2009 Ford Crown Victoria police cars with full wheel covers and left hand spotlights. In addition, the resolution provides for five 2009 Dodge Charger police cars with V6 engines and spotlights.

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The council will also be discussing annual evaluations for city administrator Brian Whitehall and city attorney John Cook.

Arrest Report

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

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

The council will also be discussing annual evaluations for city administrator Brian Whitehall and city attorney John Cook.

- Francis Parker Oswald, 58, Pollywog Pt., LaBelle, was arrested Jan. 27 by FWC Officer Daniel Caron on a charge of driving under the influence. He was released on his own recognizance.
- William Brandon Bailey, 22, N.W. 110th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 27 by Deputy Corporal Paul Ferrell on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on his own recognizance.
- Nicholas Ryan Pierce, 23, S.E. 22nd Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 28 by Deputy Brian Cross on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving while license suspended/revoked - habitual offender. He is being held without bond.
- Jose Olivarez, 33, Harney Pond Road, Okeechobee, was arrested by Deputy Lieutenant Keith Murrish on a warrant charging him with possession of a weapon by a convicted felon. His bond was set at \$20,000.
- Jeffrey James Varnadoe, 31, N.W. Fifth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 28 by Officer S. Morgan on a charge of grand theft. His bond was set at \$2,500.
- Teresa Lynn Hite, 41, S.E. 14th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 28 by Officer Lawrence Parzygnat on a charge of driving while license suspended/revoked - habitual offender. Her bond was set at \$2,500.
- Jose Romero, 17, N.W. 36th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 29 by Deputy G. Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felony of robbery. He was also arrested on a warrant charging him with the misdemeanor of possession of marijuana under 20 grams. His bond was set at \$22,500.
- Tobey Kathleen Long, 64, N.W. 34th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 29 by Detective Rosemary Farless on a Polk County warrant charging her with grand theft (three counts). Her

- Melissa Alane Smith, 24, N.W. Fifth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 29 by Deputy Marcus Collier on Okeechobee County warrants charging her with the felonies of violation of probation - grand theft, violation of probation - petit theft, violation of probation - possession of drug paraphernalia and violation of probation - drug offender probation possession of controlled substance. She was also charged with resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. She is being held without bond.
 - Curtis William King, 43, N.E. Sixth St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 29 by Deputy Brian Cross on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with grand theft. His bond was set at \$2,500.
 - Fernando Seca, 20, N.W. Seventh St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 29 by Deputy Donnie Holmes on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of violation of probation - battery and violation of probation - criminal mischief. He is being held without bond.
 - Aaron Joe Gaucin, 20, N.W. First St., Okeechobee, was arrested Jan. 29 by Detective Ted Van Deman on a warrant charging him with felony battery. His bond was set at \$5,000.
- This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.*

- Samuel Medrano, 21, DOB 4/21/1987, VOP - Simple Battery, Criminal Mischief w/Property Damage. No Bond

- Emilio Serrano, 46, Sale of cocaine, Poss cocaine with intent to sell.

Two injured in head-on crash

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee teenager is listed as being in critical condition at a Melbourne hospital following a head-on automobile crash Wednesday, Jan. 28, on County Road 700 A in Okeechobee County.

Savannah M. Joiner, 18, was airlifted to Holmes Regional Medical Center following the 8:30 a.m. crash, stated a Florida Highway Patrol accident report. A passenger in the 1997 Ford pickup being driven by Ms. Joiner -- Michael T. Ramsey, 17 -- was uninjured.

The driver of the second ve-

hicle, Everardo Alaniz, 59, is said to be in serious condition at St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach, stated the report.

Trooper K. Wallace, the FHP crash investigator, stated in his report that Ms. Joiner was southbound on CR 700 A when she tried to pass a southbound tractor-trailer. The report goes on to state that she entered the northbound lane and struck a 1993 Toyota pickup driven by Mr. Alaniz.

Ms. Joiner was cited for improper passing, stated Trooper Wallace's report.

The report also states that everyone involved was wearing their seatbelts.

- Angie Borjas aka Stevenson, 29; DOB: 03/08/1979, Poss. of Methamphetamines, Poss. of Drug Paraphernalia.
- Wilbert Perez-Borja, 25, H/M, Poss Cannabis more than 20 Grams; possession with intent to sell.
- Jason Hormuth, 28, DOB: 02/27/1980, VOP - Dealing in stolen property.
- Antonie Faust, 22, Burglary w/assault. Bond: \$100,000

- Antonio Faust
- Samuel Medrano

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

Restaurants

NEW AND DIFFERENT: The new restaurant in town is a breath of fresh air. It has provided jobs for many young people in town. Let's not be critical so soon. They need an opportunity to work out all the kinks. I am happy to see them here and wish them the best of luck. Something different always scares some residents of Okeechobee and it's time to lighten up. Choices are a good thing.

CHOICES: I am not sure which restaurant the Speak Out comment was about, as I know of three new restaurants in the Okeechobee area. I think it is great we have more choices. We need more choices. Competition is good for the customers because if one has poor service, doesn't keep the place clean or charges too much, we can go somewhere else. Good luck to all of the new restaurants.

GOOD SERVICE: If the new restaurants provide good food, good service and keep the place clean, I think they will do great. I give any new restaurant a month or so to work out the startup problems and then give it a try. Any place will have some problems to work out when they first open. I wish all of the new restaurants well. If you stay open at least two months, you will see me try a meal there.

DECIDE FOR YOURSELF: I think any new business is worth a chance. I don't listen to what others say. I try it and decide for myself. But if I have a bad experience, I am not likely to come back. Any business needs to think about that. Any time a customer has a bad experience, you have lost a customer. Can you afford to lose even one customer?

Battle of Okeechobee

WHY RE-ENACT: I have a question. Not being from here and all, but why would you want to re-enact a war that was lost? From my understanding both sides claimed victory but after viewing the stats, it looks like the Seminoles won. "26 U.S. soldiers, including the majority of Taylor's officers and NCOs, were killed, with 112 wounded, against 11 Seminoles killed and 14 wounded. No Seminoles were captured, although Taylor did capture 100 ponies and 600 head of cattle." If it is to honor those men that died, that's honorable and understandable but why the whole re-enactment? Just doesn't make sense to me.

HISTORY: I think the reason we re-enact historic battles is to draw attention to that part of our history and teach another generation about it. Re-enactments are a lot more exciting and interesting to the kids than reading about it in a history book. I always take the kids to the re-enactment. Every year they learn at little more about that period of our history.

HISTORY: In the re-enactment event, not only will you see a battle re-enactment but you'll also witness period settlers and military and Indian camps. Not to mention all the great food that will be available. The Seminole Indians take great pride in the fact that they were never conquered. During that period it was the charge of the U.S. Military to capture all the Native Americans in Florida and ship them out. The failure of the U.S. Military in this case was the beginning of the end of the Indian Wars although Zachary Taylor claimed victory even though he never accomplished his mission. I guess he marketed himself so well we elected him President.

NEVER SURRENDERED: The Seminole Wars were the "Vietnam" war of the day. The U.S. government tried but failed to remove all of the Seminoles to reservations further west because it could not contend with the terrain and with the costs of the war. The Seminoles are the only tribe of which I am aware that never fully surrendered.

Okeechobee Police Department

HANDICAPPED PARKING: Fifty percent of all of these people who are parking in the handicapped spots doing the illegal parking in the striped 'no parking' areas don't even have a handicapped placard. I watched one the other day in the Wal-Mart parking lot. He was around 30 with a 10 yr old son. When I mentioned the law to him, he laughed and said big deal. Now that's a good way to raise your child. Daddy does it so why can't I? Remember, children learn what they live.

State law - restricting the volume

LOUD NOISE: I didn't even live on a waterway and I had the problem with the neighbor driving his airboat around in the back yard when it rained. And it was LOUD. I also have a problem with ATVs with no mufflers running by my house late at night. After 10 p.m., residential areas should be quiet so the working folks can get some sleep.

Should elected officials take drug tests?

DRUGS: I believe the elected officials should be tested... and those tests should be randomly repeated just like they are in the public work place. Now, with that said, we need to decide what if any drugs are allowed. ALL prescriptions, you might say. Well remember that many people in stressful jobs are medicine cabinet junkies. This is why they are not tested. The chances are they wouldn't pass. They wouldn't pass to get a job like Joe the plumber, average guy, with some of the scripts they chuck down like Skittles, and some of them have little cases filled with lots of pretty colored tablets. Just think, where would the country be if it were found to have a large number of elected officials released from their duties for excessive prescription drug use or for doctor shopping.

SOBER: What's fair is fair ... daily sobriety tests should be included as well! Everyone must blow after passing through the metal detectors!

ALCOHOL: I think it might be a good idea to require elected officials take a test to make sure they are sober before they vote on any issues. The only explanation I can come up with for some of the decisions made over the years is that someone was intoxicated.

Stimulus bill

BUDGET: If the president had the line item veto, it would be a major hit to lobbyists. It appears as though the Congressional Democrats can't take a hint from past budgets. They are nearly as bad as the corporate execs who have wasted some of the bailout money on bonuses and office refurbishing. There are some good spending items in this bill, however. I hope the Republicans aren't short-sighted or partisan to shoot down things that work too. Also this bill includes more tax cuts than those garnered by the Bush administration -- so all of this talk about liberal/socialist spending is only half the story.



Submitted photo

Sunglasses winner

Dr. Christine V. Brennan from Brennan Eye Care congratulates Billy Bob Wehde for being the winner of a pair of designer sunglasses from a drawing that was held at the Health and Safety Expo on Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Agri-civic Center.

Reflections from the Pulpit

Rev. Calvin H. Fryar
Pastor, Brighton Baptist Church

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:7-8)

"For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; where there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD." (Jeremiah 8:11-12)

Dr. O.J. Nease tells of a sad mistake relative to transfusion. You know the former method of transfusion was to place a well person beside the sick one, insert a tube into the arm of the well person and one into the arm of the sick one, and then, through a mechanical process, pump the blood from the well to the sick person. But on one occasion the device did not work properly, and in some way the pumping was reversed from what was expected. They pumped the blood full of deadly germs into the arm of the well person. A whole pint had been transferred before it was known. The results were disastrous. It looks as though the devil has succeeded often in these days in injecting the deadly poison of deception and damning counterfeits. - William Moses Tidwell, "Pointed Illustrations"

Satan has poisoned the human race with his lies. The poison has robbed man of all reason and peace of mind. There was no hope, only death. But God promised a blood transfusion to cure the destructive illness which plagued all mankind.

Because of this terrible disease, mankind has turned the beautiful world which God gave him into a vast wilderness - a world of thorns. Satan, with the help of man's disease, has turned our lives upside down.

We have seen endless wars, blood thirsty tyrants, murder and endless hatred. Where will it end? How can we find a cure for such things?

I have heard of some queer ways of doctoring sick people. In Peking, China, it is said, they have a brass mule for a doctor! This mule stands in one of their temples and sick people flock there by the thousands to be cured. How can a brass mule cure anybody you ask? Sure enough, how can he? And yet these poor ignorant people believe it.

We cannot trust our fellow man because the disease causes him to treat his fellow man with deceit and violence.

Young Anderson and old Patterson had grocery stores in the same block. Eggs were the subject of their frequent price wars, with Anderson one time lowering the price of eggs by one half. The next day Patterson had met the price. So, on the third day Anderson lowered the price another third. This pattern continued until finally Anderson went to the older man in despair and said "I surrender. We've both been selling eggs at a loss for a long time." "Not me," laughed Patterson, "You see, I've been buying my eggs from you."

Two American Indians were talking things over in a fox hole between air raids during World War II. "The way I figure it," one

said, "is that when they smoked the peace pipe in 1918, nobody inhaled!"

This poison is often undetected until it is too late.

There are a thousand or more varieties of mushroom that are good to eat ... The most dreaded of the poisonous mushrooms are two members of the Amanita group. One is the death cup, and the other is the fly amanita.

The death cup grows in the woods from June until fall. Its poison acts like the venom of a rattlesnake, as it separates the corpuscles in the blood from the serum. No antidote is known for the poison of the death cup. The only hope for anyone who has eaten it is to clean out his stomach promptly with a stomach pump. It is small wonder that one variety is know as the destroying angel.

The death cup has often been mistaken for the common mushroom. A person should not make this mistake if he observes carefully. The poisonous plant has white gills white spores, and the fatal poison cup around the stem. The plant that is safe to eat has pink gills, brown spores, and no cup. Many of the mistakes come from picking it in the button stage, for it does not show all these differences until it has grown larger - Steve Farrar, "Family Survival in the American Jungle, 1991, Multnomah Press pp. 17-18.

The deadly disease is ignored by those who should know better.

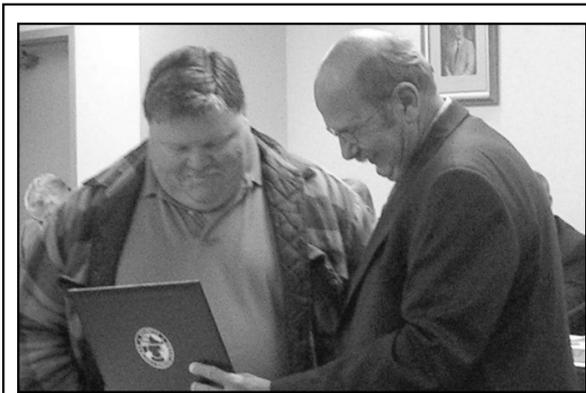
A good example of how the disease affects us is the story which I read of a school teacher. She lost her life savings in a business scheme that had been elaborately explained by a swindler. When her investment disappeared and her dream was shattered, she went to the Better Business Bureau. "Why on earth didn't you come to us first?" the official asked. "Didn't you know about the Better Business Bureau?"

"Oh, yes," said the lady sadly. "I've always known about you. But I didn't come because I was afraid you'd tell me not to do it." - Source unknown

The folly of human nature is that even though we know where the answers lie - God's Word - we don't turn there for fear of what it will say.

God's Word has explained our disease and revealed the only cure. That cure according to God's Word is "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son." (1 John 1:7) It "cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7) God has not only supplied us with a cure for our malady, He has delivered us from the fear of violence which characterize this terrible disease. He did this by sending His Son to give us a transfusion of His holy and sinless blood. God has given the only cure at Calvary.

A young lady was dying, and one Scripture which she had heard in health came to her at this time. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) And she was led by the Holy Spirit to rest in Him on whom it spoke for salvation. A friend said to her one day, "You suffer much, I fear." "Yes she said," but," pointing to her hand, "there is no nail there. He had the nails; I have the peace." Laying her hand on her brow, she said, "There are no thorns here. He had thorns; I have peace." Touching her side she said, "There is no spear here. He had the spear; I have the peace." "Young People's Delight"



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Twenty years of service

Robert Banfield, left, lieutenant firefighter/EMT, has been with the county for 20 years. At the Thursday, Jan. 22, meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission, chairman Clif Betts, right, presented Mr. Banfield with a certificate honoring his service. Mr. Banfield began employment with the county in 1988 as an assistant mechanic. While he was working he went to school and obtained his Firefighter/EMT certification. Mr. Banfield became a firefighter/EMT with fire/rescue in 1989. During his tenure with the county he obtained EMT, Medic, Fire Officer I, Dark Water Diver and Inspector certification. He earned the rank of lieutenant firefighter/EMT in 1989 and became a lieutenant firefighter/medic in August of 1996.

Community Calendar

Sunday, Feb. 1

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

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

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

Monday, Feb. 2

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

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

Okeechobee Model Airplane Club will meet at the Peace Lutheran Church, 750 N.W. 23rd Lane at 7 p.m. For information, contact Robert Rosada at 863-467-5440.

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.

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

Tuesday, Feb. 3

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

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

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

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

Al-Ateen - meeting will be held at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St., at 8 p.m. For more information, please call Amy at 863-763-8531 or Dan 561-662-2799.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2

Investor to purchase controlling interest in local bank

Investor Wilbur L. Ross has announced that he will acquire the majority shares of First Bank and Trust Company of Indiantown. The agreement allows Mr. Ross to acquire 68.11 percent of the shares in the community bank, subject to regulatory approval.

The bank has branches in Lakeport, Okeechobee and Palm City. As of Dec. 31, 2008, the financial institution had assets of \$83 million and equity of \$8.1 million.

Mr. Ross reached the agreement with Linda M. Post, widow of the former chairman of First Bank and Trust Company of Indiantown. Mr. Post's family founded the bank in 1959. Mrs. Post will remain a director of the bank and will be named chair emeritus, retaining 22.75 percent interest in the bank.

"This is one of the few banks in Florida that has avoided the credit crisis very effectively," Mr. Ross said.

"Because it is well positioned to grow, I am prepared to provide the institution with additional capital so that it can continue to thrive and continue to serve as a stalwart financial institution in the communities it serves."

Mr. Ross has made his interest in purchasing a financial institution in Florida well-known and has exhibited a strong commitment to investing in the financial industry not only in

Florida but throughout the nation. "We are thrilled that an experienced and successful investor like Mr. Ross has agreed to join our bank to help us continue the institution's success and commitment to the community which we have had for the last 50 years," said Mrs. Post. "Mr. Ross embodies many of the same principles that form the foundation of this institution: growth, exem-

plary service and an unwavering commitment to our customers,

depositors and the communities we serve."

Brother - sister team carry on family trade



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Vinny Marcellino works on a biker's vest while his sister, Ann, alters a wedding gown at Ann-Vinny's Tailor Shop.

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Tailoring runs in the Marcellino family. The brother sister team of tailors who run Ann-Vinny's Tailor Shop are third generation tailors. Their father and grandfather were tailors who worked at Central Tailor Shop in Cambridge, Mass, in the early 1900s. They both grew up sewing and have been following that trade all their lives.

Vinny has had his own tailor shops before. He ran a shop in Boca Raton for 18 years before coming to Okeechobee. He was working in another location in Okeechobee when he decided to move to the present address and go in business with his sister.

Ann has never had her own business before. In the past she either worked for someone else or did sewing at home. She didn't like retirement so she decided to go back to work with her brother.

While Vinny alters men's clothing, Ann does women's clothes, weddings gown, drapes, valences and home decor.

Their shop is located at 2303 S. Parrott Ave., Suite H. The hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or by appointment. The telephone number is 863-467-7800.

Area teenagers in foster care need help

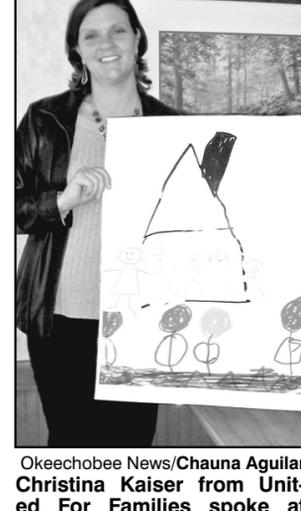
By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

Chamber members gathered for their monthly luncheon on Jan. 14, at Golden Corral where they heard from Christina Kaiser from United for Families about what they do for Okeechobee including their Road to Success program for children who are aging out of the foster care system.

Teenagers aging out of the foster care system is a growing problem in Florida and throughout the nation. Children who are not adopted before they turn 18 years old are historically cut off from services that have been their only way of life.

These teenagers that have been in the foster care system for sometimes a good portion of their lives don't have any family to fall back on. They become basically "homeless" when they turn 18 years old and are considered adults by the state.

United for Families (UFF) the lead child welfare agency for Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast, organizes community based care for children in the dependency system. Because these services are provided through a private organization, UFF also does fundraising to create additional programs to fill in gaps in what the state funding offers the children and their families.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Christina Kaiser from United For Families spoke at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon about the many programs that they offer to children in the dependency system including the Road to Success program. This artwork was created by a child in the foster care system who is learning to put the family back in their "empty house."

UFF coordinates all services from a case management basis which is contracted locally to the

Children's Home Society. UFF also provides placement services for foster care. Through this case management, families are sent to appropriate counseling and any other services they may need.

In the UFF Road to Success program, children ages 13 to 23 in the foster care system, receive services to get them prepared for independence. These teens are taught skills such as balancing a check book and even simply how to open a checking account. They are also taught basic skills of just how to keep themselves out of trouble.

Once they turn 17, they go through intensive counseling one-on-one. They are assisted with applying to college and applying for financial aid. They are also shown what is entailed in getting their own apartment or house. Mrs. Kaiser explained that there have been teens that she has worked with who didn't know that they had to turn on the power separately from just renting the apartment.

The one-on-one counselor provides a basis of stability for these teens.

UFF receives funds from the state and federal government for the bare bones of the programs that they offer to families. In addition, UFF raises funds to be able to provide additional programs to continue to better the lives of chil-

dren and families that are in the system.

In addition to the Road to Success program, UFF also has a mentor program for foster parents which provides a local veteran foster parent as a contact to new foster parents for support in their times of need. This mentoring program has decreased instances of children bouncing from one foster home to the next by over 30 percent.

For more information about UFF call 1-800-868-0332.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com.

Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

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School district praised: 'Success in Literacy' program

WINTER HAVEN -- Senator JD Alexander has praised Okeechobee schools for being in the top 25 percent of all school districts in the state for the Reading First program. The district was recognized in a ceremony with the

Florida Department of Education and Education Commissioner Dr. Eric J. Smith on Wednesday, Jan. 14. The ceremony was part of Florida's ongoing Celebrate Literacy! week.

"Each day, Florida's schools

play a crucial role in preparing tomorrow's leaders," said Senator JD Alexander. "It is important these schools are recognized for their hard work and achievements in programs like Reading First. I am encouraged to know that the students of Okeechobee County are excelling in the area of reading and are participating in a program that will further give them the tools for success later in life."

Florida Reading First serves 570 schools within 45 districts. Reading First schools are given a variety of resources and training through the federal Reading First program to help them achieve two goals: 1) increase the percentage of students reading at or above grade level; and 2) reduce the percentage of students with serious reading difficulties. Reading First grants assists Florida school districts implement proven methods of reading instruction to prevent reading difficulties in grades K-3.

New Public Relations professional named at Riverside Bank

Lisa Jensen, a 14-year employee of Riverside Bank, was named Vice President, Public Relations and Communications. She will handle the management of all public relations and media relations activities, internal and external communications, event management and grand openings.

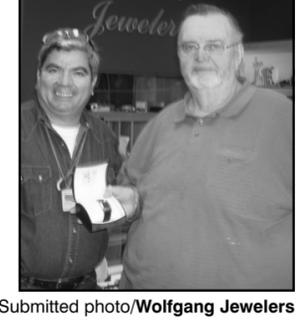
Ms. Jensen began her banking career at Riverside in 1993 as a Corporate Trainer. During her tenure she has held positions in Human Resources, Lending and most recently as Vice President, Retail Project Manager. She is currently president of her Florida School of Banking class and will graduate later this year. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in

Education from Warner Southern College in Lake Wales.

"Riverside Bank is fortunate to have such an energetic and enthusiastic person as Jensen," said Scott Williams, Sr. Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer. "She is familiar with all aspects of the banking business and I have no doubt her success will continue in this new role as she assumes our forthcoming public relations efforts."



Lisa Jensen



Submitted photo/Wolfgang Jewelers

Christmas give-away

As a thank you to its valued customers, Wolfgang Jewelers gave away three watches. Customers who purchased \$100 or more before Dec. 24, 2008, were eligible to enter the drawing. The watches were presented to Jeffrey Striebel, Randall T. Edwards, and Don Piper. Yolanda and Wolfgang Cortez presented the watches.

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-JuDeane Garrett
Daughter of Mary Helen

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

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Community Events

Speckled Perch Festival Feb. 7 & 8

The 41st Annual Speckled Perch Festival will be held Feb. 7 & 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Flagler Park. The parade starts on Saturday at 10 a.m. Admission to the festival is free. There will be live music, a fish fry, a mechanical bull, a rock climbing wall. Arts and crafts booths will include handmade jewelry, wood works, wood carvings, Art work & paintings, The Pickle Lady, Yard décor, clothing and handbags, many different food vendors, fresh squeezed lemonade and much, much more!

For more information on Festival and Booth availability contact:

The Chamber of Commerce at 863-763-6464 or commerce@strato.net

'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 will be holding the following Health & Safety classes in February:

- * 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, located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

American Legion Pageant announced

The annual "Miss American Legion Post 64" beauty pageant will be held on Thursday, Feb. 5, at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. Young ladies must be in the 9th-12th grades and attend either Okeechobee High School or the Freshman Campus, as well as having never been married and have no children. There is NO entry fee and the winner will receive a beautiful crown, custom banner, a bouquet of flowers a trophy and \$50 cash. First and Second Runner-ups will also receive trophies, flowers and cash prizes. "Miss American Legion 2009" will be furnished with a convertible for all parades so she may proudly represent American Legion Post 64. Applications may be picked up at the American Legion Hall. For more information please call Myra Partridge 634-4193 or Shelly Sickels 863-467-0790.

Volunteers needed for child advocates

Volunteer Guardians ad Litem give a voice to children who are victims of child abuse and are involved in court proceedings. The Guardian ad Litem Program will be offering free training for volunteers and new classes will begin in February and March. Training involves thirty hours and will be held at our Saint Lucie West office on various days.

You can be that voice for an abused child! The Guardian ad Litem Program needs Volunteers to represent Abused - Abandoned - & Neglected Children in Saint Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties! They deserve a voice!

For dates and times of all training please contact Pattra F. Dodd at 772-871-7225.

Author to speak on 'Wacky' history

Native Floridian, Author and veteran reporter for the Palm Beach Post News will present, "Florida's Wacky History and Why You Should Care." The program will help to answer questions on some of the state's peculiarities on Friday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Public Library. The program is provided by the Florida Humanities Council and is free and open to the public. Okeechobee Friends of the Library will provide light refreshments after the program. Come and join us for this entertaining and enlightening program.

Valentine's Teen Dance Party

A Valentine's Day Teen Dance Party will be held on Sunday, Feb. 15, at Pier II from 6-10 p.m. Ages 12-15 are welcome. The cost is \$7. A live D.J. will play the latest hip-hop! Admission includes dinner. All proceeds will benefit the Okeechobee Communities in Schools. For more information, call Teresa Chandler at 863-697-6819.

Landscaping with Native Plants

In Florida we are lucky to have many native plant species which are very ornamental. Including low-care native plants in your landscape is a way to reduce maintenance as well as beautify. Native plants are also attractive to Florida birds and butterflies.

During this workshop you can design your space and create a list of native plants you want to complement your own landscape. Leave with a detailed plan for your garden and a Florida Friendly native plant. The workshop will take place on Feb. 10, from 1-2:30 p.m., or 5:30-7 p.m. Okeechobee County Extension Service 458 Highway 98 North, Okeechobee.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call 863-763-6469 to sign up.

Church to present 'Fireproof' movie

Cornerstone Baptist Church will present, "Fireproof," a marriage strengthening movie for couples on Saturday, Feb. 14, at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided. The church is located at 18387 441 North. Please call the church office to reserve childcare space. There is no charge for the movie or childcare. For more information, please call 863-763-3338.

Boy Scouts selling discount cards

The Boy Scout Troop 964 are selling Scout Honor Discount cards until mid February. For only \$20 you can get savings of up to 50 percent from over 200,000 locations across the United States. Some locations here in Okeechobee that offer the discounts are: Big Lake Eye Care, The UPS Store, Beltone, Roto Rooter Plumbers, and more. For more information or to purchase one of these discount cards call Alison Hudson at 863-634-8628.

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing 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.

Cheryl Ann Osterman, 64

OKEECHOBEE — Cheryl Ann Osterman, of Okeechobee, died Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009, in her residence. She was 64.

Born May 26, 1944, in Davenport, Iowa, she had been a resident of Okeechobee since the early 1960s.

She is survived by her son, Josh (Angela) Osterman; grandchildren, Joshua Osterman II, Alysa Osterman; daughter, Leihann Street all of Okeechobee; cousins, Janie Queen of Orlando, Deborah Brock of Okeechobee, Sue Carlson of Okeechobee, Virginia Fry of Houston, Texas, and William Cook of Leaf River, Ill.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

Cordell D. Jumper Sr., 49

BRIGHTON — Cordell D. Jumper Sr., of the Brighton Reservation, died Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009, in Raulerson Hospital. He was 49.

Born Sept. 12, 1959, in Hollywood, he had been a lifetime resident of Brighton and was a member of the 1st Indian Baptist Church of Brighton.

He is preceded in death by his sons; Corey Jumper, Cordell Jumper Jr.; father, Billy Jumper; and brother, James Jumper.

His is survived by son, Cordey Jumper of Brighton; daughters, Thomasine Jumper, Pamela Jumper both of Brighton, Codene Wigfall (Andre) of Okeechobee; brother, Roy Jumper of Brighton; sisters, Joyce Piz (Matt) of Okeechobee, Claudia Olivarez (Joe) of Brighton; and mother, Agnes Jumper of Brighton. In addition he was survived by nine grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, in the Ortona Cemetery.

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

Cowboys for Christ to meet

Cowboys for Christ plan to meet on Thursday, Feb. 17, at the Basinger Civic Center. Everyone is invited. Come join us for fellowship and prayer, "It's not just for Cowboys."

If you need additional information, please call Doyle McDuffie at 863-763-2285.

Church to hold benefit yard sale

Lakeport Christian Church on Highway 78 in Lakeport will hold a huge yard sale on Friday, Feb. 6, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 8 a.m. until noon. For more information, please call Barbara at 863-946-1472.

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1002-H: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION! NW 6th St. 3 bedroom CBS home with family and utility room, picket wood fencing. Close to everything in town. Could be re-zoned commercial. \$93,000 MLS# 201649

1007-M: Pine Ridge Park 1992 14 X 56 singlwide mobile home with screen porch addition...2 sheds and fenced. \$68,000 MLS# 202123

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5007-H: KING'S BAY SHORT SALE! 3BR/2BA CBS home on a 57x90 Lot. Home has ceramic tile and carpet floors and appliances. Built 2003, paved drive way and interior laundry room. \$160,000 MLS# 201257

5026-M: DW 4BR/2.5BA MH on 5+/- acres. Open living room w/fireplace, dining and kitchen, large walk in closets, appliances, covered patio for those BBQ weekends. Fenced and crossed fenced, barn and tack rm has water and elect. MLS# 201470

5029-M: Spot in the Sun 2005 DW MH on 1/2 acre. Nice and clean and ready to move in. Nice back yard with two storage buildings and trees. \$89,900 MLS# 201534

5035-M: Ft. Drum 3/2 DW MH, split bedroom plan with fireplace, screened porch, wood floors and carpet. Some appliances included. \$95,000 MLS# 200663

5027-M: Spot in the Sun 3/2 Mobile home on 1/2 acre, split plan floor, open front and back porch, open concept, lot size 100x128, built 2004. \$98,000 MLS# 92463

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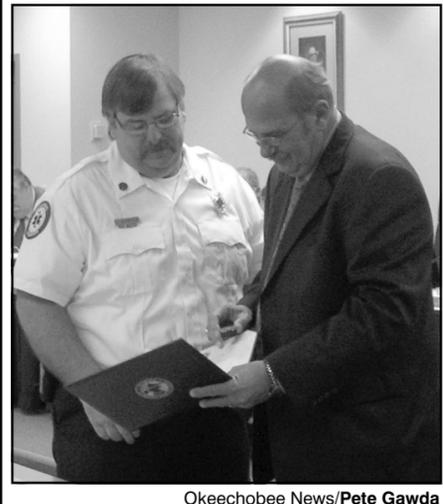
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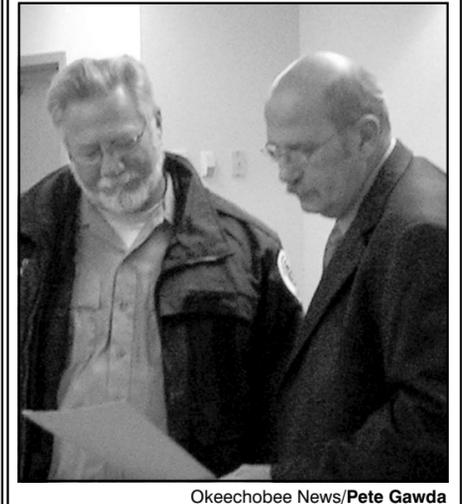
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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Twenty five years of service

Arthur Borgstrom, left, was recognized at the Jan. 22 Okeechobee County Commission meeting by chairman Clif Betts, right, for 25 years' service to the county. Mr. Borgstrom, a Lieutenant Firefighter/Medic with fire/rescue began his employment with the county in November of 1983 as a firefighter/EMT. During his tenure with the county, Mr. Borgstrom obtained his Medic and Fire Officer I certification and earned the rank of Lieutenant Firefighter/Medic in December of 1992.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Big Day

Thursday, Jan. 22 was a big day for Clayton Stone, left. At the Okeechobee County Commission meeting on that date, chairman Clif Betts, right, recognized Mr. Stone for 20 years' service to the county. The commission also issued a proclamation honoring Mr. Stone for his outstanding service and dedication upon his Jan. 23, retirement. Mr. Stone, a firefighter/medic, came to Okeechobee County from the Division of Forestry in October of 1988. During his tenure with the county he obtained EMT and Medic certification. He earned the rank of firefighter/medic in August of 1991.

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WATERFRONT - JUST BRING YOUR TOOTHBRUSH!! Turn key 3/2 DWMH. Furnished w/lg workshop and shed.. DON'T LET THIS ONE GET AWAY. MLS 201290, \$89,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

RIVER AND LAKE ACCESS Very nice well-kept DWMH on canal that goes directly to the Kissimmee River. Well-established park. MLS #200067, \$125,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.

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North Elementary students prepare for FCAT

Fourth Grade

The fourth grade students at North Elementary School are getting ready for the FCAT! Students are busy with mock FCAT Writes papers every Friday, and are constantly working to improve their

writing by adding more specific details, using better vocabulary words, and creating more engaging essays!

Reading is going well, too! We are using many different resources to learn how to determine exactly what a question is asking,

and where to find the best answer. We have been working on brain-based versus book-based questions all year long! Students are also working to improve their short- and extended-response answers by answering all the parts of the question, as well as by citing specific details and other evidence from the story whenever possible!

Our math classes just enjoyed a visit from Tom Ramsey, who is our school's consultant for Academics. This program is used to ensure that students are more than ready for FCAT Math! In fact, we are working on reaching 1200 exposures to various problems from every math strand! That means we'll have answered 1200 questions about math by FCAT—which only has 40 math questions!

The fourth grade teachers would like to take this opportu-

nity to thank all of the parents who came to our Parent Night on Jan. 22. We were thrilled by the turnout! We loved discussing everything from the resources we have available for home use to improved math tricks, such as the ten multiplication facts that every child needs to know and a better way to make flashcards. We are all so excited to hear how students are already using these tricks at home!

Mr. Gaatz' science class is 'electrified' by their study of energy and electricity! Students are learning all about energy, but are focusing on electricity. They are discovering static electricity, and are doing investigations about current electricity. Students have been creating circuits using batteries and will be discovering why some materials are conductors, while others are insulators. Students will also be making switch-

es using various materials! Mr. Stanley's class has been busy this year. In addition to getting ready for the tests we'll take, we've begun literature circles, as well as started writing reports. Students have loved reading our first literature circle selection, "Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days" and have enjoyed the activity centers that tie into the book's message. Also, after learning how

to use the internet for research while creating their Powerpoint presentations for Christmas traditions around the world, students are once more using the laptop lab to create reports on various American presidents. After learning to create an outline to organize their information, students will not only type their reports, but will also create a podcast to present to the class.



Submitted photo/North Elementary
Gabe Greseth uses the internet to find out more about George H. W. Bush, who is the subject of his project.



KidSmart computers donated to Head Start kids

OKEECHOBEE -- IBM is donating 600 KidSmart Young Explorer computer learning centers to preschool programs nationwide, including East Coast Migrant Head Start Project OKEE I and OKEE II Centers, to help children with disabilities and their classmates build skills for future academic success. The donation is being made to PACER Center, a national organization for parents and professionals working with children with disabilities, such as autism, vision loss or other learning disabilities and physical impairments. PACER will work with groups including the National Head Start Association and federally-funded Parent Centers to deploy the computer learning centers and training, expecting to reach nearly 20,000 children in the next year.

IBM's KidSmart program, now in its 10th year, includes the Young Explorer, a computer housed in brightly-colored, kid-hardened Little Tikes furniture and equipped with award-winning educational software to help children learn and explore concepts in math, science and language. The computer centers can also help children learn important socialization skills such as how to work together and sharing. Exploration and socialization skills are important to prepare children for future

success in school, help level the playing field and ensure all children have access to educational tools. The KidSmart program also includes teacher and parent training material critical for education. The KidSmart website: <http://www.kidsmarterlylearning.org/>, provides information for teachers and parents on early childhood learning and technology.

IBM developed the KidSmart program a decade ago to help reduce the digital divide, especially in urban areas, where it was becoming apparent that children from less affluent backgrounds could benefit from access to specialized technology tools and educational materials to better prepare them to enter school. Since then, more than 100,000 teachers have been trained on how to use the programs effectively in the classroom. IBM estimates that millions of children worldwide have used a Young Explorer. Based on the success of the program in the United States, IBM expanded the program to 60 countries around the world with tremendous success and translated the educational software into 30 languages. In several countries such as Vietnam, China, India and Jordan, it has become fully integrated into national education programs and has served as the



Submitted photo/ECMHSP - Okee II Center
Eager learners gather round to see the newest in learning tools at the East Coast Migrant Head Start Center in Okeechobee. Both Okeechobee Centers benefitted from the 600 computers donated nationwide.

model for teacher training.

For more information about IBM, please visit: www.ibm.com.

For more information about PACER, please visit www.PACER.org.

For more information about (East Coast Migrant Head Start Project), visit (www.ecmhsp.org) or call 863-467-6930 or 863-467-0702.

Osceola Middle Honor Roll



Editor's note: The following students are on the second nine weeks honor roll at Osceola Middle School. They were accidentally left off the honor roll list which ran in the Wednesday newspaper.

Fifth Grade

Bronze Award (3.0-3.4 GPA)

Tyra Baker, Allison Gopher, Elizabeth Johns, Rumor Juarez, Rayven Smith, Tamea Allen, Harley Johns, Brydgett Koontz, Trista Osceola, Lahna Sedatol.

Silver Award - (3.5-3.9 GPA)

Keyana Nelson, Cheyenne Nunez, Donovan Osceola, Boyd Brown, Jaron Johns, Kalgary Johns, Zeke Matthews.

Gold Award - (4.0 GPA)

Josh Greenbaum, Zach Hudson, Melany Williams, Kailin Brown.

Sixth Grade

Silver Honors - 3.5 GPA
Brandon Shockley
Gold Honors - 4.0 GPA
Emily Alicea, Pablo Alvarez, Payton Byrd, Sean Chauhan, Kylie Daniel, Michael Daniel, Kirby Dobbs,

Tyler Elliott, Logan Evans, April Floyd, Sebastian Fullea, Sandra Hernandez, Glenn Jarriel, Katya Kolbassinskaya, Baldemar Medrano, Brittany Milrot, Aalia Murphy, Carmela Olivares, Fernando Perez, Megan Perona, Lucas Pinedo, Otto Ramirez, Lynn Romer, Christen Sheffield, Isabelle Sheldon, Jacalyn Sutton, Jason Viens, Tammie Ward, Natasha Williams.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Honor Roll

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School

Honor students in grades one through five are congratulated on their academic achievements for the second nine weeks of the 2008-09 school year.

Honor students include:

First grade

Bronze Award - (3.0-3.4 GPA)

Marcie Osceola, Nyah Davidson, Myron Billie, Redheart Billie, Robert Harris, Sage Motlow, Malcolm Jones, Tucker Johns.

Silver Award - (3.5-3.9 GPA)

Keira French, Jacee Jumper, Echo Billie.

Gold Award - (4.0 GPA)

Kamani Smith, Madisyn Osceola, Katie Beck, Ozzy Osceola, Mallorie Thomas, Dante Thomas, Aniya Gore.

Second Grade

Bronze Award - (3.0-3.4 GPA)

Andrew Fish, Aidan Tommie
Silver Award - (3.5-3.9 GPA)

Krysta Burton, Aleina Micco, Kyle Palmisano, Oscar Yates, Gage Riddle, Satie Rico

Gold Award - (4.0 GPA)

Keelie Billie, Joseph Nichols, Kano Puente, Raeley Matthews.

Third Grade

Bronze Award - (3.0-3.4 GPA)

Elijah Billie, Bly Davidson, Michael Girtman, Joseph Osceola, Brian Bishop, Chloe Chalfant, Dalton Girtman, Easton Moss, Rylee Smith, Morgan King.

Silver Award - (3.5-3.9 GPA)

Shalynn Josh, Jalynn Jones, Rudy Juarez, Brady Rhodes, Layne Thomas.

Gold Award - (4.0 GPA)

Aiyana Tommie, Dyami Nelson, Camryn Thomas

Fourth Grade

Bronze Award - (3.0-3.4 GPA)

Robert Fudge, Ruben Burgess, Diamond Shore, Drayton Billie, Demetrius Clark, Courtney Gore, Martina Herrera, Crysten Smith.

Silver Award - (3.5-3.9 GPA)

Andrew Dobbs, Sean Osceola, Odessa King, Kelton Smedley.

Gold Award - (4.0 GPA)

Trevor Thomas, Bailey Tedders, Jaden Puente, Erik Garcia.

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"THE PERFECT PLACE"

BEAUTIFUL 2006 3/2 HOME in Kings Bay. Very open and looks brand new. HOA includes pool, tennis courts, club house, and yard maintenance. #202200 \$167,000 **NEWLY REDUCED!**

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5+ acres w/2 CBS homes, beautifully maintained, 1 duplex/2 mobile homes. Property is truly paradise. Beautiful trees. Let the rentals help make YOU money. Call for your appointment! #200864 \$1,250,000 **POS. RENTAL INCOME**

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Master Gardeners: 'Going green' in 2009

By Dan Culbert, Extension Horticulture Agent
Okeechobee Branch Service Center

too late to act on a suggestion from your local Extension office - consider being a Florida Master Gardener!

Many folks have resolved to be more environmentally conscious in the New Year. Some have decided it's time to learn

some new skills that can help open up job opportunities. Others have resolved to help others or to get back in touch with the community. All of this and more can be yours as a Florida Master Gardener. Here are the basics:

Master Gardeners are volunteers trained by UF that help people in the community. In return for 70 hours of training, Master gardeners agree to provide 75 hours in a year of help back to the community.

You don't have to know a while lot about gardening - that's what the training program is going to teach. What is needed is a desire to learn and a willingness to help others.

After the training class, volunteers will work alongside UF Extension agents and other veteran Master Gardeners at times that they are available.

A training class is now forming in Okeechobee, to begin on Wednesday Feb. 11, at the local Extension office. It will meet from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for 11 weeks. Instruction will be provided by UF experts via a video conference system, and will be supplemented by locally develop field trips and hands-on experiences to help volunteers understand horticulture.

Trainees receive a "notebook" full of current information about gardening that they can use on their own and as a volunteer, or possible use this to help get ready for new employment opportuni-

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ties.

On completion of the training class, a name tag and polo shirt will also be provided in return to a program fee of \$110. Once the volunteer gives back 75 hours, they even get \$25 back too!

For more details, persons can view an on-line "Sprouting kit" on the internet: <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu/Master%20Gardeners/MG.Sprouting.Kit.htm>. Residents can stop by the Extension office and pick the "kit" up or call to have one mailed.

Applications are due by Wednesday, Feb. 4. More information is on our Okeechobee web page, <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu>. If you need additional information on Master Gardening, please email us at okeechobee@ifas.ufl.edu or call us at 863-763-6469. Local residents can stop by our office at 458 Hwy 98

North in Okeechobee, and visit our Okeechobee County Master Gardeners from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons.

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at 12 p.m.
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Submitted to the Okeechobee News/South Florida Water Management District

Weather radio winner

Gary Ritter, right, head of South Florida Water Management District's Okeechobee Service Center, presents Noram Ceja with a weather radio she won at a drawing held at the Health and Safety Expo Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

January 26 and 27, 2009		170-190	125-165	90-100	350-400	90-105	68-82
Cows		200-250	120-155	88-94	450-500	73-86	69-73
Breaking	\$51.00 \$55.00	250-300	117-130	78-87	550-600	70-81	
Cutter	\$44.00 \$53.00	300-350	105-110	74-82			
Canner	\$32.00 \$43.00	350-400	100-102	72-79			
		400-450	91-103	72-79			
		450-500	88-104	74-83			
		550-600	84-89	72-84			
		600-650	70-81	70-81			
Bulls							
1000-1500	\$ \$						
1500-2000	\$55.00 \$61.00						
Med #2							
Calves	Monday Tuesday	150-200	92-110	85-125			
Cows	827 1404	200-250	95-122	65-100			
Str	99 331	250-300	90-115	65-92			
Hfns	9 1	300-350	80-105	52-87			
Bulls	5 21	350-400	80-101	65-80			
Yrlngs	26 39	400-450	78-91	65-79			
Mix	28 116						
Total	0 994 1912						
Med #1							
Steers		220-235	95-122	73-75			
Hfns		250-300	90-115	0-0			
		300-350	107-117	0-0			

Calf prices were quite a bit lower this week. Hopefully, its only due to bad winter storms in the midwest, or it could be signs of economic troubles our country is in. Either way, calves were off \$6-8. Slaughter cows sold good, maybe \$1 or 2 higher. Steve Seims of Avon Park, topped the calf market with the high of \$1.85. Lundy Farms of Moore Haven topped the cow market with the high of .59.

See ya next week, Todd

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Money to Lend

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

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

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

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

ARM(ed) But Not Dangerous

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

Technology & Convenience

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

New Lock & Shop Service

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

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Roommate 0950

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Business Opportunities 0305

Business Opportunities 0305

Antiques 0510

Wanted To Buy 0740

Apartments 0905

Roommate 0950

Real Estate 1000

Business Opportunities 0305

Business Opportunities 0305

Antiques 0510

Wanted To Buy 0740

Apartments 0905

Roommate 0950

Real Estate 1000

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Roommate 0950

Real Estate 1000

Business Opportunities 0305

Business Opportunities 0305

Antiques 0510

Wanted To Buy 0740

Apartments 0905

Roommate 0950

Real Estate 1000

LAKE MOTORS
147 Hwy 441 SE • Okeechobee
Best Prices in the Lake Area! 863-467-5243 se habla español
'02 Acura 3.2 CL\$5495
Loaded, moon roof, leather #15014
'01 PT Cruiser\$3995
LE moonroof, leather, auto #16529
'02 Kia Sedona LX Van\$4495
Low miles, auto, ac, loaded #19133
'02 Landrover Discovery SD \$5995
4x4, auto, VR, loaded #18301
'00 Toyota Solara\$4995
2dr, auto, leather, loaded #16933
'03 GMC Sonoma King Cab\$3995
3dr, 6 cyl, auto, ac, loaded, fiberglass topper #12124
'99 Ford Ranger King Cab\$3895
auto, 6 cyl, ac, #10919
'99 Chrysler 300M\$3295
V6, leather #15172
'01 Ford Taurus\$3995
6 cyl, auto, low miles #18005
'99 Subaru Outback\$3995
AWD, loaded, auto, ac #2070
'02 Taurus\$4995
V6, AT
'02 El50 Cargo Van\$4695
V6, AC
'00 Mitsubishi Gallant\$4495
4 cyl, auto, AC
'94 E350 12 Passenger Van\$3995
Dual AC
'95 DeVille V-8\$3695

Houses - Sale 1025
For Lease or Sale Okeechobee Indian Hammock 3/2 House Gated Community 1800 sq. ft., 2.5 acres. Includes barn w/2 horse stalls, fenced, great condition. Available furnished or unfurnished. Contact Brandy at (863)467-0831

Waterfront Property 1080
BHR - Furn Modular home 3/2 w/FI Room, Incl 3 HD TV's. Just updated plumbing, elect, new sod & sprink sys, fenced, boat ramp, dock, conc drive, car port, shed. \$138,500 (561)818-2348

Mobile Homes 2000
Mobile Home - Lots 2005
Mobile Home - Parts 2010
Mobile Homes - Rent 2015
Mobile Homes - Sale 2020

Mobile Home Rent 2015
BEST VALUE IN TOWN! For Rent: 2/1 apartment. Unit newly remodeled. Located 12 miles north of Okeechobee on Equestrian Ranch. Monthly water, trash & lawn maintenance included. No Pets! \$495 - Move in special. M-F (863)467-2982

Mobile Home Sale 2020
HWY 441 SE - 1/1 Includes electric and direct tv \$750 mo. + Security (561)723-6183

Mobile Home Sale 2020
KISSIMMEE RIVER ESTATES - 2/1, 2 Car garage, \$600 MO + dep. Dep negotiable. (863)467-8062

Mobile Home Sale 2020
WATERFRONT 2br/1ba, completely furnished, non smk. env., no pets \$750 mo. + 1st & sec. 772-285-5856

Mobile Home Sale 2020
BANK REPO'S MOVE TO YOUR LAND Mobile Homes 2015 \$611-721-2230

Mobile Home Sale 2020
LAKE ACCESS WATERFRONT - SWMH, 1/1 with additional room, on rental lot. Call for details, leave msg (863)763-8054

Recreation 3000
Boats 3005
Campers/RVs 3010
Jet Skis 3015
Marine Accessories 3020
Marine Miscellaneous 3025
Motorcycles 3030
Sport Vehicles/ATVs 3035

Boats 3005
SHAMROCK CUDDY CABIN 1987 - Excellent condition, V8 Ford Inboard, low hours, Top, depthfinder, radio, Trailer. Fresh water run \$11500. (863)824-0801

Campers/RVs 3010
MALLARD - 2002, 26 ft. travel trailer, sleeps 3, good cond, very clean \$3900 or best offer (518)469-0990

Automobiles 4000
Automobiles 4005
Autos Wanted 4010
Classic Cars 4015
Commercial Trucks 4020
Construction Equipment 4025
Foreign Cars 4030
Four Wheel Drive 4035
Heavy Duty Trucks 4040
Parts - Repairs 4045
Pickup Trucks 4050
Sport Utility 4055
Tractor Trailers 4060
Utility Trailers 4065
Vans 4070

Automobiles 4005
CHEVY CAVALIER - 1996 Automatic, Air \$1900 (812)989-3022

Public Notices

5000

Public Notice 5005
State Public - Legal Notice 5500

Public Notice 5005

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE WILL MEET WITH THE AREA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION FOR A LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009, AT 12:00 P.M. IN ROOM 231 IN THE SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM, THE CAPITOL, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA. ANY PERSONS SEEKING TO APPEAL THE DECISIONS OF THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS 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. 309431 ON 2/1/09

READING A NEWSPAPER MAKES YOU A MORE INFORMED AND INTERESTING PERSON.

No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!

Public Notice 5005
Public Notice 5005

Public Notice 5005

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

JUVENILE DIVISION
CASE NO.: 2007-DP-066

IN THE INTEREST OF:
S.B. DOB: 10/19/07
Father of the minor child:
Mario Duran

TO: Father of S.B., Mario Duran
Residence and Address Unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A PETITION UNDER OATH HAS BEEN FILED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE ABOVE-STYLED COURT FOR THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS RELATIVE TO S.B. A FEMALE CHILD, BORN ON THE 19th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2007. THE CHILD WAS BORN IN THE COUNTY OF OKEECHOBEE, IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. YOU ARE COMMANDED TO BE AND APPEAR BEFORE A JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, JUVENILE DIVISION IN THE ABOVE-STYLED COURT LOCATED AT:

OKEECHOBEE JUDICIAL CENTER
312 N.W. 3RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

AT 2:30 P.M., ON THE 6TH DAY OF April, 2009, IN COURTROOM "D" FOR HEARING AND TO SHOW CAUSE WHY SAID PETITION SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED.

FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THIS CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE.

BE ADVISED THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU IN THIS MATTER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, ONE MAY BE APPOINTED FOR YOU.

WITNESS MY HAND AS CLERK OF SAID COURT AND THE SEAL THEREOF, THIS 16TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2008.

SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF COURT

By: Kimberly Sarros
DEPUTY CLERK
306333 ON 1/25, 2/1, 8, 15/2009

Public Notice 5005

Students

Continued From Page 1

year project.

Ryan Reister, a seventh grader from YMS won the Junior Division Best of Show in the Physical Science with his project entitled, "The Music in Science."

In the Senior Division sophomore Celena Letcher won Best of Show in the Biological Sciences with her project entitled, "Regeneration of Brown Planaria."

Freshman Ashley Hassan won the Senior Division Best of Show in the Physical Sciences with her project entitled, "Does Pond Water Make a Difference."

The following are the first, second and third place winners of the junior division in each category.

Behavioral, Biochemistry, Medicine and Health, Zoology: first place-Sarah Davis, Brandon McKee, Monica Hernandez, Hannah Sadler; second place-Bryan Levins, Ismael Santuchi; third place-Emily Murrow.

Botany: first place-Jessica Suit, Jessica Wisener, Justin Osceola, Audrey Metcalf, Christopher Boney; second place-Amber Sumrall, Kylie Shirley, Khrysta Herndon, Haley Burkhalter; third place-Rhiannon Robshaw, Thania Liberato, Lucas Richey, Jacqueline

O'Connor, Frank Adamo, Jose Duran, Jacob Greseth and Nicholas Flood.

Chemistry: first place-Brendon Jonassaint, Krista Pope, Rachel Roehm, Dalton Hodges; second place-Samantha Norris, Kyle Nichols, Benjamin Levins, Katie VanBeek, Destinee Villarreal, Krista Ward, Kyla Hargraves, Tyler Chartier; third place-Nelida Perez, Kyle Kelso, Nicholas Kielbasa, Angelina Ruiz, Jaisalyn Santiago, Nicolas Suarez, Anali Torres, Ashton Armstrong and Tabatha Henry.

Consumer Science: first place-Raela Ridley, Jessica Humphrey; second place-McKenzie Richey, Caitlyn Strippling, Lorraine Lutjen; third place-Zak Kemple, Nikki Tomlinson, Selina Sanchez, Selena Bowman and Erica Ruiz.

Earth and Space Science, Engineering, Environmental, Mathematics: first place-Markita Skeen, Samantha Rivero, Darby Jones, Dayla Ferneau; second place-Paola Prado, Garrett Thomas, Kailey Hoover, Katlyn Haymond, Sierra Story; third place-Ashalee Dreher, Avery Plemons, Allyson Trimble, Christian O'Connor, Todd Norman, Brandon Vickers and Eric Voss.

Physics: first place-Julianne Meives, Jenna Rath, Brent Baughman, Ryan Reister; second place-Brandon Alvarez, Jennifer Arellano, Kasandra Baker, Michael Carter, Macy Gamioatea, Maria Jaimess, Brandi Perona, Diego Rodriguez, Savannah Treadway, Jordan Watts, Brandon Ball, Zachary Wingfield; third

place-Tuff Durrance, Stephen Geary, Carson Harris, Jessica Jaimess, Carissa Licata, Brandon Parramore, James Steiert, Patsy Thomas, Maci Thomas, Darin Walker, Korey Walters and Terry Williams.

The following are the first, second and third place winners of the senior division.

Behavioral, Biochemistry, Medicine and Health, Zoology: first place-Juan Lugo, Shyanne Prescott, Joey Barletto, Kelsi Burnham, Celena Letcher, Joy Burnham; second place-Mishal Mehta, Daniel Jansen, Josh Lea; third place-Tadarrell Smith, Margaret McKane and Emily Raulerson.

Botany: first place-Sam Harrell, Courtney Lopez, Shelby Pollock, Stanly Ngo; second place-Lauren Halliday, Brenda Aguirre, Brittany Serrano, Jen Ranfle; third place-Erika Klinger and Jonathon Kemp.

Chemistry: first place-Alec Hert, Megan Premorel; second place-Joseph Chandler, Kyle Foster; third place-Tiffany Rowlett.

Consumer Sciences: first place-Taylor Fulford, Sara Brewer; second place-Marie Renfranz, Elizabeth Turner, Kayla Harrison; third place-Megan McNabb, Allyson Matthews; Brittany Runyon; Noah Pulitzer, Raychel Rabon and Jose Wallace.

Computer, Engineering, Environmental, Mathematics: first place-Max Norman; Tyler Finney; Ash-

ley Hassan; Trent Johnson; second place-Judson Harris; third place-Wesley Mims.

Physics: first place-Tim Gray, Sam Kenworthy, Karli Bowers; second place-Robert Stafford, Savanna Whitlock, Richard Donegan, Makenna Tomlinson, Justin Morgan, Isabella Penido; third place-Ryan Born, Timothy Farrell and Whitney Sweet.

The district would like to thank teachers involved in the science fair: Magi Cable, Mary Kneidel, Brynne Emley and Peggy Dubose from Osceola Middle School; Cindy Letcher, Melinda Gray, Ron Altice, Rosemary Palmero and Brian Mercurio from Yearling Middle School; Dan Thomas and Richonda Manson from Okeechobee Freshman Campus; and Wendy Reister and Dan Biebel from Okeechobee High School.

The district would also like to show their appreciation to Waste Management of Okeechobee which provided funds to purchase the certificates, ribbons and Best of Show trophies for the district science fair.

Ninety-seven Okeechobee students will go on to represent the county at the regional science fair. Good luck to all.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at caguilar@newszap.com.

Central students celebrate 100th day of school

Kindergarten News

We have made it through 100 days of school!! The 100th day of school was on January 28. Kindergarten celebrated the day with a "Wacky Wednesday." The students rotated to other kindergarten classes and worked on special 100th day projects such as 100 Fruit Loops necklaces, 100 framed glasses, cowboy hats with 100 stickers, and chains with 100 links. In the afternoon, students enjoyed a 100th day refreshment. Using pretzel sticks and donuts, they made the number 100. Kindergarten also worked on projects at home to bring in on this special day. Students brought in projects made out of 100 sticks, 100 Cheerios, 100 beans, and 100 Skittles just to name a few.

First grade

On Friday, Jan. 23 Kindergarten had the pleasure of going to the Dolly Hand Theatre to see the play Rainbow Fish. The students worked on the letter Rr that week and enjoyed hearing stories about Rainbow Fish read by their teacher. Kindergarten will be watching another play, Puss 'n Boots, at the Okeechobee High School this week.

Mrs. Vaughn's class had a great 100th day of school. Our class started the day by reading 100 books. We wrote our numbers to 100. We wrote 100 words that we know. We counted to 100 forwards, backwards, and by 2s, 5s, and 10s. We finished our day by making a necklace out of 100 pieces of cereal. We are all 100 days smarter. Most of our class is finishing the Hot Pencils timed tests. Our class has been working on using the verbs were and was correctly. We learned about our new President Barak Obama and were able to watch when he was sworn in as president. We learned that it was a historical event we were a part of. We are looking forward to our trip next week to see Puss-n-Boots. Congratulations to our Students of the week: David Adams, Austin Allen, Brian Garcia, Anallely Maldonado, and Ta'Makia Jones. Happy Birthday to: Saul Momdragon.

Mrs. Bostwick's class at Central Elementary School has been learning about different types of birds and the importance of recycling. The students are very aware of the importance of keeping our planet clean for the sake of all living things! We have been exploring gravity and magnetism in science. Students have also been learning more about verbs and writing persuasive papers and ads. We have been exploring number patterns in math and are now working on

addition and subtraction facts to 12. Students of the Week these past few weeks were Trina Wiggins-Williams and Anthony Jimenez. Congratulations, kiddos! Keep up the good work!

Miss Shineldecker's students are really working hard. We can't believe that we've made it through 100 days of school already. On Wednesday, January 28th we celebrated the 100th day of school. Students counted 100 pennies, marbles, beans, and many other spectacular things to share. We celebrated by counting out 100 M&Ms and 100 pretzels for snacks. We even made sure to include exercise by doing 100 jumping jacks (10 intervals of 10). They were so excited to learn that we only had 80 days of school left in first grade. WOW!!

We've been making our brains work in overtime in reading lately. Our stories are getting longer and tougher. The long O and U sounds have been a major focus for us. In grammar we are still working very hard on verbs. We've been using the past tense verbs was and were along with the present tense verbs have and has. It's very confusing, but I want to say they are being SUPER TROOPERS by working so hard. Great Job!!

Social studies we've been discussing President Obama and Martin Luther King, Jr. Their minds have been so curious about both of these individuals.

In math we've been practicing our addition and subtraction facts. We just learned how to start adding three digit numbers. For example: 3+2+1+6. It's amazing to see how far along they've come.

Wednesday, Jan. 28 was writing display day. Our students were so excited to display their hard work on their Three Little Pigs story. They were proud of their work and so was I. Lately we've been writing in our journals. They have enjoyed making up stories themselves. Their writing abilities have sure come a long way. Next we will be working on writing and illustrating our very own books.

Friday, Jan. 6, is Central's 50th Anniversary. Our school has been open for 50 years and our staff and students are excited to celebrate by traveling back in time to the '50s. We are planning on dressing like staff and students did back when the school first opened. Girls will be wearing poodle skirts and boys

with jeans and white t-shirts. It's sure to be a rockin' good time!!

Students of the week were: Janelle Castro and Leandra Aguilar. Good Job girls!

Second grade

Mrs. Greseth's class has wrapped up their money unit and is now really excited that they are starting time. So far they are doing a super job of telling time. In Science, they have been learning about natural resources and how to protect them. They have been talking about recycling and how important it is for them to take care of our Earth. In Reading they have been enjoying reading about people helping animals. Congratulations to Brenden Bostwick and Daniela Caballero for getting 200 steps in 100 Book Challenge! Way to go!

Miss Miller's second graders have enjoyed learning about Martin Luther King Jr. and the Chinese New Year. We have also been working hard on counting money. Do you know how to make 75 cents with only two coins? In science we have been learning about the different kinds of rocks and how the earth changes.

Congratulations to the following Students of the Week: Jayda Howell, Jasmine Lamb, Paislea Plant, and Andrew Simmons.

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For the second year in a row, the reenactment has been held on the state property. Previous reenactments had been held near King's Bay on private property.

City councilman Dowling Watford, a member of Okeechobee Battlefield Friends, said that the process of converting the land into a state park is still in the works, but has been delayed because of budget cuts.

The first of two required public meetings was held Sept. 25, 2007. The goal of the meeting was to explain the planning process and begin gathering information necessary to proceed in planning the park. The second public meeting has been delayed because of budget cuts.

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

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EXPIRED PERMITS WITH NO FINAL INSPECTION

2007 BUILDING CODES TAKE EFFECT MARCH 1, 2009. ANY PERMIT WHICH HAS EXPIRED ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 28, 2009, WILL BE NULL AND VOID WHEN THE NEW CODES TAKE EFFECT. TO CONTINUE TO PERFORM WORK A NEW PERMIT APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED. A WRITTEN REQUEST TO EXTEND A PERMIT MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE BUILDING OFFICIAL TO BE HANDLED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. SECTION 105.4.1.2 OF THE FLORIDA BUILDING CODE AUTHORIZES THE BUILDING OFFICIAL TO REQUIRE ANY WORK COMPLETED BE REMOVED FROM THE BUILDING SITE IF A NEW PERMIT COVERING THE CONSTRUCTION IS NOT OBTAINED WITHIN 180 DAYS OF THE DATE THE PERMIT BECAME NULL & VOID. 308830 ON 2/1, 8/09

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2009 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE ADMINISTRATION ANNEX BUILDING, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE, SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM, 458 HIGHWAY 98 N., OKEECHOBEE, FL. A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE UNDER-SIGNED. IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING, THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, IS MADE. ANY PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING MUST HAVE THEIR NAME AND TOPIC PLACED ON THE AGENDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING. ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S OFFICES BY CALLING (863)763-4601 AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING. NOTICE: COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT HAS AN ONGOING AQUATIC SPRAYING PROGRAM, DISTRICT WIDE.

WILLARD M. BYARS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
17429 NW 242ND STREET
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972
(863)763-4601 OR (863)834-3166
309198 ON 2/1/09

NOTICE OF VACANCIES PLANNING BOARD

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS

The Board of County Commissioners of Okeechobee County, Florida is seeking interested persons for appointment to the Okeechobee County Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals. The appointment of two or more regular or alternate members is for a three year term. Incumbents whose terms are expiring may reapply for a new term.

This Board conducts public hearings and renders decisions on special exception, variances and appeals; conducts public hearings prior to making recommendations to the County of County Commissioners on changes in zoning and amendments to the County's land development regulations and comprehensive plan; considers and approves certain site plans and development orders, and performs other duties as established by the County's land development regulations. The Board is also designated as the Local Planning Agency for the County. Board members are appointed to represent the public interest and must be residents of Okeechobee County.

Applications may be obtained from the County Administrator's Office on the second floor of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center at 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida. Applications may also be downloaded from www.co.okeechobee.fl.us. Completed applications, along with proof of residency in Okeechobee County, must be submitted to the County Administrator's Office no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2009.

Applications submitted shall be valid for those and other vacant positions that may occur on the Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals or other citizen boards during the next 12 months.

Clif Belts, Jr., Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
309171 ON 2/1/09

READING TOGETHER

A Family Affair

The most important 20 minutes of your day is the time spent reading with your child from birth to age nine.

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- Math class calculation
- Noxious
- Tear into
- Pitch
- Postseason sampling?
- Reacted pleasantly to
- Commonly used saws
- Area components
- They can't be beaten
- "Lonely Days" group
- Steak remains
- Something seen when you're in the clouds?
- Swiss capital?
- Henny Youngman staple
- Fr. address
- Dovekie
- That, in Oaxaca
- Butterflies source
- Point
- Took extra minutes at the meeting
- Walk over
- Not under control
- Skewered
- Speaking up?
- Colorful pet store purchases
- Santa ___: Arizona mountains
- Puddle-jumper
- Titled retirees
- Like many a tuxedo shirt
- Bond report?
- ___ Alps: Eiger locale

DOWN

- Set up
- Superprivileged ones
- Tea ceremony mats
- Mind set?
- Is routed by, say
- Surpass in the market
- Pioneering cell phone co.
- 1999 teammate of Brandi, Briana et al.
- Next Saturday
- Realize
- Heavy hitter
- Student's concern
- 2002 World Series city
- "Show me"
- Put under
- Security personnel?
- Stick (out)
- Blew
- Ligurian Sea resort
- Supergiant in Scorpio
- English king succeeded by William of Orange
- Rehearse
- Herpetologist's subject
- One driving
- Read between the lines?
- Climbing tools
- Vigil site
- Lasagna features
- Wickerwork material
- Military address
- Statewide call, maybe

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

M	A	R	T	P	A	T	T	I	D	I	S	H	
A	S	I	A	E	L	I	A	N	I	O	T	A	
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28 years going strong - Taylor Creek Bass Club



Taylor Creek Bass Club recently celebrated their annual awards banquet at Poge's Family Restaurant. Following a superb meal of chicken or prime rib, President and MC for the evening, Chan Garrett, turned to Tournament Director, Bill Seitz for awards presentation. Darrell Brackin won "Angler of the Year". This is the club's most significant fishing award as it requires consistent top-level performance throughout the entire year regardless of water, weather or fishing conditions. Darrell's advice to the other members of the club, who might seek this award in the future, was to "just keep your bait in the water". The next two awards for "Annual Big Fish" and "Classic Winner" went to Jim Wilson (8.29 lbs.) and Ernie Johnson (Classic Total = 16.11) lbs. respectfully.

Each year the club gives an award to the angler who caused the most humorous on-water event. Past awards have been given for running aground, falling overboard, locking the tow vehicle with engine running while boat launching and many other anomalies. This year the award was given for dancing on the front deck of a boat after landing a significant fish. Unfortunately, several rods needed replacing after the performance. In keeping with necessary security, the recipient of this award will not be named.

The club's most prestigious award, "The Hank Morley Award" is given each year to the member who has done the most for the club during the year. The 2008 winner, Bill Seitz, managed, coordinated and directed all of

the club's tournament activities in a year of low water and minimal fish by locating and arranging tournaments on many lakes other than Okeechobee. Additionally, he coordinated and supported many aspects of the 23rd annual "Lee McAllister Memorial Kid's Day Fishing Festival" held at the Agri-Civic Center, and was a captain for the "Big O" Teen Anglers".

Needless to say the 25-member, B.A.S.S. affiliated club enjoyed a great evening at the banquet and looks forward to the 2009-fishing year. The club has a long history of youth, community, and environmental service. These efforts remain the focal point of the members when they are not fishing. Funding for the events is raised through the club sponsored Bill Sprigle Memo-

rial Benefit Tournament and the sale of sponsorship ads on our club equipment trailer. TCBC is the prime sponsor of the "Big O" Teen Anglers" of Okeechobee for kid's 10-18 years of age. This October (2009) the club will hold it's 24th annual "Lee McAllister Memorial Kid's Day Fishing Festival". During the festival, kids 4-17 have the opportunity to fish a stocked pond, and participate in a national Bassmaster® Casting Kid's Contest" (pitch, flip and cast). Prizes are awarded to all participants. Past Community projects have included managing/operating tournament weigh-ins for local sponsor charity events, personal care kits for the

elderly and donations to Hospice of Okeechobee. Environmental projects have resulted in the removing of over 30,000 lbs of debris from the Kissimmee River shoreline, placing trash bins at many of Lake Okeechobee's boat ramps and installing public boat dock access ladders.

TCBC is actively seeking new members, both boaters and especially non-boaters. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528. Monthly tournaments are held on the following weekend.

For additional information, please contact Dave Stout at 863-467-2255.

Outdoors

Share your news and photos for this column by email to okeeneews@newszap.com

Softball team plans for continued success

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Why stop at two straight district championships when you can have three ... or even seven straight?

The Okeechobee High School Girls' Softball Team got back to work this month for the upcoming season. They never really left as the girls play travel ball in the fall and work out throughout the year.

Gone are college players like Mary Huff, Jordan Marcum, and Lauren Throop. Back are Naomi Stevens, Taylor Douglas, Megan Clements, and a new generation of stars.

"We expect to be competitive again and a district championship is a realistic goal," Brahman's Coach Kim Hargraves said. Her team was 19-5 last year. They won the district championship by mercy rule and reached the regional semifinal. They have become the only outdoor sport at the high school to win back to back district championships.

A number of Hargraves former players are playing college ball this year. They include Huff and Throop who are at St. Petersburg College. Kelley Smiley, nominated for pre season All American, is still at Indian River State College (IRSC), and is being highly recruited by Florida State. Alicia Claxton is also at IRSC. Those four girls will play this Sunday in Fort Pierce in a double header which starts at 12 noon.

Other Brahman alumni in college this year include Kelci Breaux at Brevard Community College, and Rachel Lowe at Stetson University.

A number of the current Lady Brahman's have the potential to go as far as or even further than their predecessors.

Douglas will return to play first base, pitch and catch. She is only a sophomore.

Stevens will be back to captain the infield at short stop. She showed tremendous ability as a freshman.

Ashtyn Brown will likely take over for Huff at second base. Megan Clements could see time at third base and catcher.

Others in the mix are Taylor Kinman, and Victoria Blevins.

Courtney Wilson figures to start in LF, with Sam Harrell starting in CF and Emily McCullough in right field.

Leanna Cotton will see time at first base and third base.

This year's team has athletic ability and versatility. If there is one difference this year it is on the pitcher's mound. The Brahman's were spoiled in the past few years. Breaux and Huff were both dominant during their senior campaigns. This year some younger girls will have to carry the load.

In the mix on the mound are Katarina Suarez, Taylor Douglas, and Courtney Wilson. Some other girls will also get a chance. Suarez will likely bat in the middle of the lineup and serve as the designated hitter. In softball the correct term to use for DH is DP or designated player.

"We have a young group of girls this year. They've been spoiled a little as the older girls really led them very well. Now some of these younger girls will have to step up and take over that role. We may have a couple of leaders this year or they may lead collectively. Overall, if the girls put it together and play together I don't think there is a district team that is close to us," Hargraves said.

Other top teams in the district this year include Jensen Beach and Suncoast. Coach Hargraves

will get help from Heather Stillians and Scooter Gillis. The JV squad is coached by Gina Davis and Tyrone Smith.

Hargraves said the girls must work as hard as ever to continue the success at OHS, "We did extremely well in the fall without our full team, but the girls can't get comfortable. If they want to win a district title they have to earn it."

Members of the varsity squad are Samantha Harrell, Victoria Blevins, Taylor Kinman, Taylor Douglas, Courtney Wilson, Cindy Wine, Katarina Suarez, Emily McCullough, Frances Bosworth, Naomi Stevens, Megan Clements, Leanna Cotton, and Ashtyn Brown.

The girls open the season on Feb. 5 and 6, when they play in the Palm Beach Gardens High School Pre Season classic. Okeechobee is scheduled to play St. Lucie West Centennial and the hosts Palm Beach Gardens, a defending state



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Taylor Douglas will be one of the teams top hitters this season.

champion. The girl's varsity home opener will be held on Feb. 13. A ball drop fund raiser will also be held. For more information call Coach Hargraves at 863-634-6322 or the high school office at 863-462-5025.

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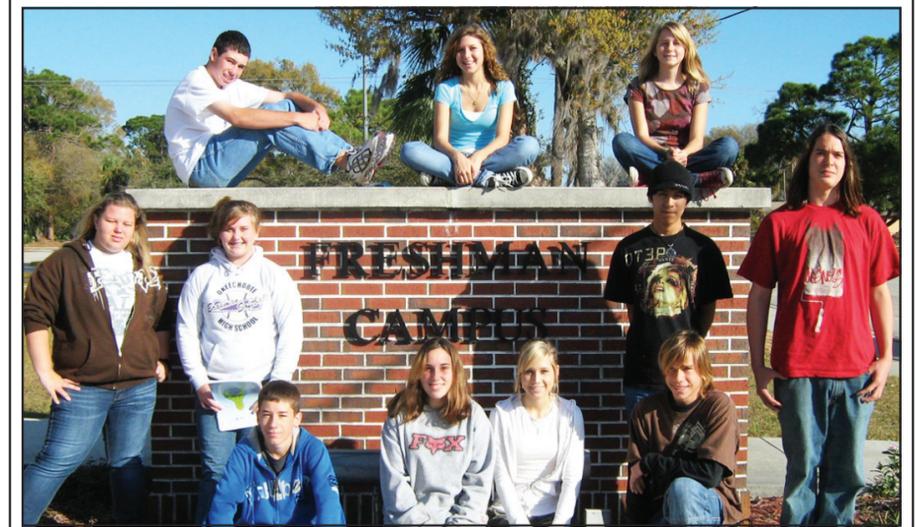
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Submitted photo/Okeechobee Freshman Campus

Students of the Week

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, Okeechobee Freshman Campus principal, Carol Revels, drew names to determine the most recent Top 12 students for the 2008-2009 school year. The students were entered into the drawing if they received five positive signatures in the last three weeks. The winning students from the class of 2012 received a book or t-shirt and candy. In the top row from left to right are: Richard Donegan, Karli Rowell, Emily Raulerson. In the bottom row standing from left to right are: Kelsi Brown, Corbin Davis, Stormin Youngblood, Daniel Eng. Seated from left to right are: Daniel Jansen, Natasha Bayless, Andrea Strark, Dwayne Sheffield. Not pictured - Timmy Farrell.

Boy's soccer team gets revenge

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Turn about is fair play. Just ask the Okeechobee High School Brahman Boys' Soccer Team.

Okeechobee defeated Forest Hill, 2-0, in the semifinal match of the District 14-4A tournament Wednesday night at Jensen Beach High School. The win propels the Brahman's into the championship match on Friday against the hosts Jensen Beach. More importantly, it also qualified Okeechobee for a trip to the state regional next week. It will be Okeechobee's first taste of post season play under current coach Lonnie Sears.

Ivan Torres and Eddie Guerrero had goals for Okeechobee. Alan Najera had an assist. Pablo Caballero had four saves in net. Okeechobee improved to (9-5-4)

on the year while Forest Hill ended their season at (12-5).

Coach Sears said the kids got a lot of satisfaction from this victory, "It wasn't a surprise. We knew we had the talent to do something this year. They executed, and were confident. If we do those things, we can win."

Okeechobee switched their defensive alignment late in the year and it has really made an impact on their overall performance. Najera and Oscar Garcia were moved to full back. The pair has helped Okeechobee shut out three of their past four opponents.

"Our defense has been tough. It gives our midfielders more options. Both Alan and Oscar are very talented and can clear the ball well," Sears said.

Offense continued to be a

worry in recent matches. However Sears said he decided that the team can only win low scoring games and must have some of their best players on defense.

"We didn't have much fire power anyway this year, but the boys knew they could do it," he said.

Forest Hill ended Okeechobee's season last year with a surprisingly easy, 6-0 victory in the semifinal match. Okeechobee earned revenge with this defeat on Wednesday.

"It's like any sport. If you control the ball and make good decisions, you can be successful," he stated.

If Okeechobee wins Friday they will host a game next Tuesday. If not they will travel most likely to a school in the Melbourne area.

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