



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 17

Sunday, February 8, 2009

75¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Calendar Photo Contest open

Calling all shutterbugs! The South Florida Water Management District's Okeechobee Service Center is seeking Lake Okeechobee, Lake Istokpoga and Lower Kissimmee River Basin area digital photographs for the 2010 Lake Okeechobee Area calendar. Winning images will be published as the featured monthly photos. Entry forms and contest rules are available on our website at: www.sfwmd.gov/okee -- select "Info & Education." This contest is open to amateur photographers only; individuals may submit up to three digital photos until July 31, 2009. Please call 863-462-5260 with any questions.

AARP offers income tax filing help

The AARP Tax-Aide program was created to help low- and middle-income taxpayers prepare and file their income tax returns with the IRS, free of charge. Every year, from February through April 15, trained and certified volunteers help prepare federal tax returns. Tax-Aide volunteers will be available in Okeechobee County at the American Legion Hall, 501 S.E. Second Street, on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Feb. 9 through April 15. For more information about the AARP Tax-Aide program online, go to www.aarp.org.

Early Learning Coalition meets

Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee Counties, Inc. -- Okeechobee County Provider/Advisory Council will meet Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009 at noon at the American Red Cross, 323 North Parrott Avenue. The Bylaws/Personnel Committee will meet at 2 p.m.

Drought Index

Current: 654
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

13.21 feet
Last Year: 10.04 feet

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

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Annual parade: Speckled Perch Festival



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
The Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce Speckled Perch Court for 2009 rode in the parade on Saturday, Feb. 7. The court was as follows: 2009 Miss Speckled Perch Erin Moore; 1st runner up, Kayla Stokes; 2nd runner up, Kathleen Turner; Teen Miss Morgan Crawford; 1st runner up, Caitlin East; 2nd runner up Crystal Garcia; Jr. Miss Shelby Kirton; 1st runner up, Jenna Rodriguez; 2nd runner up, Katelyn Roberts; Miss Congeniality Raybon Durrance; Princess Sierra Weaver; 1st runner up, Emma Wilkerson; 2nd runner up, Kimmy Shaw; Little Miss, Taylor Bennett; 1st runner up, Audrey Jenkins; 2nd runner up, K'Lynn Tijerina; Tiny Miss Hailey Quesinberry, 1st runner up, Sage Allen; 2nd runner up, Sierra Sullivan; and Little Mr. Jayton Howard.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Audrey Jenkins displayed her many trophies in the Speckled Perch Parade. Ms. Jenkins is the reigning 2008-09 Sweet Pea Sweetheart and Overall champion.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
The 2008-09 Miss Seminole Jaryaca Bak-erthe rode in the 41st annual Speckled Perch Parade on Saturday, Feb. 7.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
The 2008-09 Jr. Miss Seminole Amber Craig rode in the 41st annual Speckled Perch Parade on Saturday, Feb. 7.

State Farm situation undecided

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Despite letters sent to State Farm Insurance customers stating a possible discontinuance of property insurance, you will still have a "good neighbor" in Okeechobee.

"It's not a done deal yet," stated Gretchen Robertson, local State Farm agent. "Our agency isn't going anywhere."

She and fellow insurance agent David Hester are hoping the legislature will come up with some sort of compromise that will allow them to continue issuing property insurance.

State Farm Florida has petitioned the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation (OIC) to discontinue coverage for homeowners, renters, condominium unit-owners, boats and other real property.

At any rate, the parent company, State Farm Mutual, will continue to issue automobile, life and health insurance and

other financial products and services in Florida.

"It's a long process," Mrs. Robertson said.

The plan has been submitted to OIC. That organization has 90 days to act. Then, if the plan is approved, customers will have to be given at least six months and policies cannot be terminated during hurricane season. However, if the plan is approved, State Farm plans to take up to two and a half years to implement the plan.

"Customers don't need to panic," Mrs. Robertson said.

She said high risk areas, such as the east and west coasts of Florida, would be discontinued first if the plan were approved.

Statewide, 1.2 million policy holders would be affected by a discontinuance. It is hard to tell how many people in Okeechobee County would be affected.

While statewide figures are available in many cases, for

See Insurance — Page 11

School Board to name top teacher, coach

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board will announce its top teacher as well as the new Okeechobee High School football coach at their meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 6 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Okeechobee County School Board office, 700 S.W. Second Ave.

In addition to those announcements, the board will also consider several bids for construction and custodial services.

The board will consider the Seminole Elementary classroom building construction bid submitted by Boran Craig Barber Engle Construction in the amount of \$2,152,929.

The low-based bids for custodial services for the district offices and for the multipurpose building which houses the food service office, transportation department and maintenance department both went to All and All Cleaning, Inc. for \$783.08 for the district offices

See OCSB — Page 11

Criminals 'washing' checks for profit

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

Next time you write a check, make sure you have a gel pen! This fact was definitely apparent to Kiwanis members as they were shown first hand how easy it is for a criminal to take a check and "wash" it to allow them to make it out to anyone they want and steal a person blind.

Captain Vance Akins, from the State Law Enforcement Agency for the Florida Department of Financial Services -- Fraud Division, and Detective William Hill explained to the very large crowd at the Kiwanis weekly luncheon about some of the cases they have worked and how to keep yourself safer

from these criminals.

Each table was able to write out a fake check in a regular ink pen and then place it in a container with an acetone solution. The solution literally makes the ink wash out of the check before your eyes. The solution does not harm the check.

However, an easy way to avoid having your checks stolen and altered is to write them with a gel pen. The checks written with the gel pens did not change when placed in the solution. In fact, the criminals use a gel pen to trace your signature so that they can alter the check and make it out to themselves.

The Division of Insurance Fraud investigates crimes associated with insurance claim

fraud, insurance premium fraud, workers' compensation claim fraud, workers' compensation premium avoidance and diversions, insurer insolvency fraud, unauthorized insurance entity fraud and insurance agent crimes.

They also investigate other forms of fraud including health care and identity theft.

Mortgage fraud has been increasing due to the economy according to Capt. Akins. Brokers solicit assessors and cause prices to inflate and lie to mortgage companies as well. There are also a growing number of straw buyers, which means that they have good credit to buy a home but no money to

See Checks — Page 11



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
This check was written with a regular ink pen and placed in an acetone solution which began dissolving the ink instantly. This allows criminals to alter the check and go cash it, stealing money from the owner of the check.

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Okeechobee Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. Calm wind becoming east northeast between 5 and 10 mph.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50. East northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 76. Calm wind becoming east between 5 and 10 mph.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52. East wind around 5 mph.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. East southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. East south-east wind around 5 mph.

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Submitted photo/Bobbi Poole

American Legion Pageant Winners

The annual American Legion Pageant was held Thursday, Feb. 5, at the American Legion. The winners are Elizabeth Ann Turner - first place (center), Heather Thomas - second place (left), and Morgan Crawford - third place (right).



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
The Okeechobee High School JROTC Color Guard began the 41st annual Speckled Perch Parade on Saturday, Feb. 7.

Lotteries

The Florida Lotto - Numbers selected Friday in the Florida Lottery are: **Cash 3:** 1-6-0; **Play 4:** 7-1-6-0; **Fantasy 5:** 6-15-27-30-31; **Mega Money:** 1-8-28-41, **MB 13.** Numbers selected Saturday are: **Cash 3:** 3-6-4; **Play 4:** 5-1-7-9.

At Your Service

Okeechobee News

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To Reach Us

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Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

High School Rodeo

The Okeechobee High School Rodeo Association rode atop a swamp buggy in the 41st annual Speckled Perch Parade. The festivities in the park will be ongoing until 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

The Irish Shamrocks from the Sacred Heart Catholic Church graced parade goers with a tune donning their red, white and blue. The festivities and entertainment will be ongoing in Flagler Park until 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8.

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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Poodle skirt

On Friday, Feb. 6, Central Elementary School celebrated its 50th anniversary. Martha DelPrete, third grade teacher, got into the spirit of the celebration by wearing a poodle skirt.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

50s beauties

These fourth graders at Central Elementary School wore saddle oxfords, bobby socks and poodle skirts to help the school celebrate its 50th anniversary on Friday, Feb. 6. They are, left to right, Alicia Rodriguez, Kylee Johns, Melannie Watson and Bernice Garcia. They are posing in front of a 1955 Chevrolet Belair, one of several cars of that era that were on display at the school. Students also participated in a hula hoop contest and viewed relics from the 50s such as a typewriter, record player and Lincoln Logs.

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Task force funding dwindling

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

Attorneys general across the United States are joining together and pleading with the U.S. Congress to restore federal funding for a crime and drug enforcement program.

The 50 attorneys general are specifically addressing the funding of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne/JAG). They are asking congress to restore funds for the program and maintain adequate funding levels in fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

In a Feb. 4, letter to Congress, the attorneys general point out that in fiscal year 2007 Byrne/JAG funding was cut 67 percent — from \$520 million to \$170 million.

Locally, because of the Byrne/JAG the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force was formed over 15 years ago to help fight the escalation in drug use and drug-related crimes. At that time, the grant

funded the entire task force.

However, all of that has changed now and the majority of funding for the multijurisdictional unit comes from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) and not the federal government.

"Every year it (grant funding) keeps going down," said OCSO Major Noel Stephen.

Last year, the sheriff's office received Byrne/JAG funds totaling \$29,536. Just three years ago, some \$80,000 was received to fund the task force.

The bulk of the funding for the eight-member task force, which also includes a detective from the Okeechobee City Police Department, now comes from the sheriff's office and amounts to more than \$500,000.

"The sheriff's office has about absorbed all of the costs for the task force," said Maj. Stephen.

He added that those monies also help pay for the OCPD detective's slot on the task force.

Maj. Stephen said funding for the task force not only includes salaries, but operation costs and capital.

"Florida law enforcement needs these funds more than ever," said Gerald Bailey, commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). "Byrne/JAG dollars provide agencies with important tools and technologies to keep our communities safe."

At the local level, the task force does more than solely work drug cases.

"They help in any and all criminal investigations we have," explained Maj. Stephen. "But, their primary responsibility is narcotics."

According to a task force detective, that unit made: 180 arrests in 2006; 195 arrests in 2007; and, 214 arrests in 2008. All of these arrests are narcotic related, said the detective.

"Those numbers don't include

any arrests we made out-of-town when we were helping another agency," the detective added.

Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum said a cut in Byrne/JAG funding would have a very adverse impact on state law enforcement.

"With the economic downturn and a potentially correlated increase in crime, these federal cuts could not come at a worse time," said Mr. McCollum. "Significant cuts in the federal funding of our law enforcement initiatives will only further disrupt our state and local efforts."

However, regardless of what happens at the national level the OCSO will continue to absorb the cost of the task force and keep it in operation.

"It's going to have to," said Maj. Stephen. "All of our crime is directly connected to narcotics."

As for what's going to happen with the Byrne/JAG funding for next year's OCSO budget, Maj. Stephen said he and Sheriff Paul May will continue to plead with the government to keep the funding available.

"It's a shot in the dark," he said, in regard to the amount the OCSO will receive from the grant. "We don't know what to project for this year."

Man charged with hitting teen

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

A Daytona Beach man has been arrested and charged with hitting a local teenager in the face with his fist when stealing the vehicle being driven by the teen.

Jason Andrew Maupin, 31, Tomoka Farms Road, was arrested Feb. 5, on a felony charge of grand theft auto. He was also charged with the misdemeanor of child abuse without great bodily harm.

Following his arrest by Officer Ryan Holroyd, of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), Maupin was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$3,500.

According to Officer Holroyd's arrest report Maupin was a passenger in a vehicle being driven by the 16-year-old teenager, and became angry when the teen wouldn't take him to another man's home.

When the teen stopped the vehicle in the parking lot of a downtown business around 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Maupin and the teen reportedly began to argue. The argument escalated and culminated with the 5-foot-7-inch, 200-pound

Maupin hitting the teen with his closed fist, stated the report.

Officer Holroyd said the teen was struck in the forehead and in the mouth.

Following the altercation, Maupin got into the vehicle and left.

Maupin was arrested around 8:37 p.m. at a home on N.W. 44th Ave.

Since the arrest was made in the county, Officer Holroyd said he was aided by deputies Joseph Gracie, Mark Shireman and Carrie Arnold from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office.



Jason Maupin

Okeechobee's Most Wanted

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



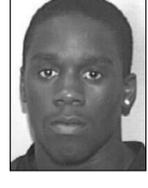
Angie Borjas AKA Stevenson



Wilbert Perez-Borja



Jason Hormuth



Antonie Faust



Emillio Serrano

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

Law Enforcement Calls

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office received the following calls from Friday, Jan. 30, through Thursday, Feb. 5:

- Jan. 30
 - burglary in the 6600 block of N.E. 10th Lane
 - burglary in the 16000 block of N.W. 222nd St.
- Jan. 31
 - theft in the 2700 block of N.W. Second St.
 - burglary in the 1800 block of S.W. 28th Ave.
 - assault in the 3900 block of U.S. 98 N.
 - assault in the 700 block of N.E. 14th Ave.
- Feb. 1
 - gang activity in the 1000 block of N.E. 62nd Ave.
 - vandalism in the 6600 block of Center St.
 - theft of money in the 1700 block of N.W. Fifth St.
 - stolen 4-wheeler in the 1700 block of N.W. 364th Road
 - burglary in the 7800 block of

- N.W. 86th Court
 - assault in the 8100 block of S.E. 57th Drive
- burglary in the 4400 block of U.S. 441 N.
- Feb. 2
 - assault in the 1700 block of U.S. 441 N.
 - stolen ATV in the 4400 block of U.S. 441 N.
 - burglary in the 3500 block of N.W. 10th Ave.
- Feb. 3
 - gang activity in Playland Park
 - assault in the 1700 block of U.S. 441 N.
 - assault in the 2800 block of U.S. 441 N.
 - stolen dump truck on N.W. 36th St. at N.W. 10th Ave.
- Feb. 4
 - larceny in the 2500 block of S.E. 30th St.
 - larceny in the 3600 block of S.E. 34th Ave.
 - assault in the 3400 block of N.W. 20th Ave.

- Feb. 5
 - lewd and lascivious acts on S.E. 44th Ave.
 - fraud in the 6800 block of N.E. 30th St.
 - burglary in the 3500 block of N.E. Eighth Ave.
 - larceny in the 13000 block of N.E. 14th Ave.
 - larceny in the 7800 block of N.W. 86th St.
 - assault in the 1500 block of N.E. 15th St.
 - vandalism in the 3400 block of U.S. 441 S.E.
- Editor's Note: Only calls dealing with either a felony or a potential felony are entered into this column.

Public Issues Forums: Join the discussion!

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The American Soul & Rock & Roll Choir
 Tuesday, February 10
 at 7:30 pm
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Mary Helen and her husband, Dean, at the beach in 1934

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Speak Out/Public Forum

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

Thanks for participating!

Okeechobee's lost revenue

DISCRETION: From my understanding, there are not any black and white set rules on who qualifies for ag classification. I think that is a big part of the problem. It is very subjective. They have a paper you have to fill out, but you don't have to meet ALL of the criteria on the list, just some — and they aren't real clear and which rules you have to meet to qualify.

FAIR: I printed and looked over the ag exemption application. It seems to me that there are a lot grey areas. I did not see anything about acreage. It looks like the property appraiser can approve or disapprove any property he deems is or is not "good faith commercial agricultural use of the land". I also would like to know why the question about the owner having his property rezoned for nonagricultural use is on the application. Does it mean that you lose you exception if you change zoning classification. As far as acreage, there is a 1.88 acre property on 441 SE along the rim canal about a mile south of Route 78 intersection that only pays taxes on \$394. We need to have the public pressure on the appraisers to standardize and equalize the procedure. We need more of the commercial land back on the tax rolls or the rest of us will be paying for those chosen few.

PROPERTY: Rescind some of the abatements on large plat property, then watch how the revenue increases.

Viking

ATVS: More deputies are needed at Viking. This past weekend I counted between Friday and Monday, 32 4-wheelers throughout the days, along with drunk kids at 1 a.m. yelling and screaming as they drive by. What's going to be a shame is when someone dies and their family finds a real attorney that knows the law, we will be paying for the mistakes of this county again, like the pink elephant on 70 aka the money pit.

BUDGET: Well, I know the Sheriff's Office has had its share of budget cuts thanks to our fearless leader Charlie Crist. Do not think the county is not struggling. If I were you I would keep calling in complaints. They will get someone out there. I promise you that.

DIDN'T BUY A HOME THERE: I feel for those in Viking with problems with the 4 wheelers. Just this past Saturday when we were heading over to Fort Pierce we saw all these pick ups with trailers LOADED with 4 wheelers turning off 441 to head out there, and then a bunch more heading west on Orange Ave., towards 441. Hubby said, "Aren't you real happy we DID NOT buy out there and build?" It just really frosts my flakes how people have NO RESPECT for other people's property and their right to quiet use and enjoyment. That's one of the true reasons we left Port St. Lousy and headed to Ft. Drum. At least here the most noise I hear is the screeching owls at night and early morning going in for the kill or the occasional bombs bursting in air from the range.

CHARGE THEM: Here's an idea for the homeowners association out there. If you can't stop them — charge them. Set up roadblocks at all the entrances to Viking on the weekends and charge anyone who doesn't live there \$20 or \$30 per four-wheeler to enter. You could use the money to improve the roads or hire some private security. If you make the "use fee" high enough, maybe they will turn around and never come back!

Field trips

PARENTS: People of the USA: Quit looking for a free handout from your school system or your government! If you want field trips, stand up parents and give your kid \$5 to go on these field trips and charter your own bus. You have to pay to play as the saying goes!

HANDOUTS: Free handouts aren't free, somebody's tax money pays for it.

HB 541 - sterilization of dogs and cats

AFFORDABLE SPAYING: It would be more prudent to provide affordable spaying/neutering, say \$25 an animal. If more people could afford the procedure, I believe more would have it done.

ENFORCE EXISTING LAWS: No new laws! Solving the problem with old laws. Use a dog catcher to round up these stray dogs and any dog that is not on a leash need to be taken to the dog pound and put down. PERIOD. That will solve this problem with the over population and the running of animals at large. Quit whining people!

PETS: You have to have a dog catcher that WANTS to catch STRAYS, and by that I mean the hairless, starving, roaming around having babies before they can dry up from the last litter. Killing them is harsh but some of the lives that are being made and lived are worse than putting them down. If the HSUS or PETA or whomever wants to focus on a spay/neuter then the puppy mills should be the absolute first to go. We have hunting dogs with a long lineage but are not registered or in any kind of field trials and I can assure you it will be a COLD day in hell before any of our dogs are spayed or neutered just because someone feels that penalizing the responsible owners for the few that refuse to take responsibility. We rarely have puppies and if so they are gone — promised to homes before they ever take their first breath. If you can't afford to or won't feed them, do not get them or let them reproduce. It is that simple.

LAW: My understanding is that the proposed law is that all dogs and cats must be spayed unless they are registered with the county or city as breeding animals, and there will be a fee for that registration. As long as the fee is reasonable, I think that might be a good plan. And when giving the breeding permit, the county should also inspect the area where the animals are kept to prevent allowing any puppy mills.

Obama fights deportation

IN THE NEWS: In the news this week, President Obama's aunt is in the country illegally and is fighting deportation. Zeituni Onyango — Obama's father's half-sister, — was ordered to leave the country in 2004 by an immigration judge, who rejected her request for asylum. A native of Kenya, Onyango is staying with relatives in Cleveland after leaving her public housing apartment in Boston, where she lived for five years. Her lawyer told the Associated Press on Friday she is exploring legal options and may file a motion to reopen Onyango's case. I'd say the president will be criticized if he doesn't help her and he will be criticized if he does!

LAWS: She was ordered to be deported in 2004 and she is still here? And after five years of disobeying an order to leave, her attorney wants to reopen her case. This country has just gone plain nuts. There are no immigration laws.

PRESIDENT: Let the authorities handle it. It isn't his place to get involved. He already said back in November that the law should be followed in regards to this case. He doesn't need to do anything to make that happen.

IMMIGRATION: What's good for the goose ... Something needs to be done about these immigration laws STAT!

Fun this weekend

FESTIVAL: Yup, it's that time of the year again. Time for the Speckled Perch Festival. They say the weather is going to be nice. Stop by our booth to meet our volunteers and see some of our pets available for adoption from the Humane Society Pet Rescue Fl., Inc.

Reflections from the Pulpit

By Rev. Tommaso Pasquarella

Pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church

Standing on the promises of God should be simple and yet we choose to go about life our way. What if God always keeps His promises? What would your life look like? Would you have peace? Would you have joy? Would God not give the things the Word promises? God who is mighty to save, has promised to save, is that promise a promise you hold on to? God keeps His promises.

"But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt" (Acts 7:17)

Look at the "but" in this verse it hinges on what happened before. God had just provided for His people Israel. A promise is unfolding, because it says the promise drew nigh, came near, has come to fulfillment. What promise? The promise God gave to Abraham. The people grew and multiplied in Egypt.

"Thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years" (Genesis 15:13)

The Jewish people came in as strangers in a strange land that was not their land, and will serve them as slaves for four hundred years and be afflicted.

"Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph. The same dealt subtly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live. (Acts 7:18-19)

The new king did not know Joseph and was exploiting the kindred. He treated the fathers with evil, they commanded midwives to kill any males.

At the end of this four hundred years of punishment promised by God, another promise was being fulfilled. At this time Moses was born, before giving any further notice that he speaks of Moses in great detail. Why?

"For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us." (Acts 7:14)

They accused Stephen of saying Jesus would destroy the customs which Moses gave them. Stephen was affirming that this new Jewish sect that will be called Christianity is still firmly rooted in the Old Testament Scriptures and so he speaks of Moses with detail, to show God keeps all of his promises.

Are you relying on his promises? He will never leave you nor forsake you. He will give you words to say when you speak to people, He will answer all your prayers according to His will. He will give you the fruit of the Spirit. He will complete you. If you do not know Christ the only promise that will help you is the promise of salvation. Take hold of Jesus and He will save you, because He is hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.

God is about to develop the testimony of Moses because of His promise to save Israel. When he was cast out because of the Egyptians, who wanted all the males dead to stop the spread of the Jewish people, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him as her own. He was saved by the God who called him. Why would God allow the savior of the Jews at this critical time in history to be brought up in the house of the enemy?

"And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds." (Acts 7:22)

God was developing his testimony. Moses was mighty in words and in deeds. But doesn't Moses tell God that he is not a good speaker?

"And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue." (Exodus 4:10)

Moses told God he is not eloquent, He is slow of speech and slow of tongue. What was Moses trying to do? He was trying to talk God out of sending him. God took away every excuse asking, who gave you your tongue? God controls all things even our tongues, but he appointed Aaron to be the mouth piece. How cool is it that God could let Moses use all the wisdom of Egypt and yet not be satisfied?

Before God appointed him to this calling he had to further develop his testimony. Moses knew He was Jewish. At forty he visited his people, upon arriving he tried to protect one of them from an Egyptian, and killed the Egyptian. Moses knew that his purpose was to deliver his people and so when he showed up and tried to resolve a conflict with some Jewish men, one got upset and rejected his help. The man who was against his neighbor pushed asked "who are you to judge us?" Moses was rejected. His rejection pushed Moses into the wilderness where he eventually met God.

If you are in Christ and there are trials in your life, they are there to teach you, grow you, or correct you. They are there to build your testimony. Don't flee from rejection, but stand firm in His truth. Your testimony is important, because that is what draws people to Jesus. Tell them what you were like before Christ and how you were lost in your sin, what God did to save you, how your life has changed because of Jesus, and how God continues to grow you. If God is not developing your testimony and growing, you might want to check yourself and where you stand with God. If you do not know Christ, God may also be developing your testimony. You maybe be living a life that is pretty bad and should you trust Christ, your life changed by the Gospel will be your testimony.

God sends you to do His calling when His promise is confirmed.

"I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt."

God has seen the suffering of His people and has heard their crying out and has come to deliver them, and He tells Moses He will send him to save His people. God has seen the suffering of those who are in sin and has heard them crying out and has made a way of salvation and has sent Jesus to save them and yet now He sends you and I to go out and help His people receive salvation. Jesus has the authority and He gives us the authority and responsibility to go and preach the gospel to all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

If you know Jesus you have a responsibility to share your faith, if you want training ask and ye shall receive. If you had the cure for cancer what would you do with it? You have the cure for sin and His name is Jesus, shout it from the rooftops, because God is the keeper of promises.

Community Calendar

Sunday, Feb. 8

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

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

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

Monday, Feb. 9

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

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

VFW #10539 Ladies Auxiliary lunch and bingo will start at noon at the Post, 3912 U.S. 441 S.E. Auxiliary members and their guests are invited. Please R.S.V.P. to 863-763-2308.

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, Feb. 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Okeechobee News

Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge ...

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

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For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2

Out of Work? Is starting your own business a solution?

By Sean Moore, business analyst
Small Business Development Center

It seems every day for the last 6-8 months you have not been able to open a newspaper or turn on a TV, without hearing about another company cutting thousands of jobs. In small communities like Okeechobee I am sure

we can all name one person close to us that has been let go from their job for budget reasons. At the Small Business Development Center we get a lot of people who are out of work and are thinking since nobody will hire them, they will just hire themselves. Starting your own business is not a bad idea, but there are certainly a lot of factors that have to be addressed, here are the first



two. The biggest issue will always be money. Money is the biggest catch-22 in the business start up process. You do not have a job al-

lowing you to make money, but you can't start your own business unless you have money to invest. The question you really should be asking yourself here is simple: I have saved some money but I need that money to live on. Is it smart to take a big portion and hope for business success? If you can afford to take some of that savings and use it to invest in your business dream and still feel com-

fortable in your ability to be able to live for several more months then you can go on to the next question. The next big question you really should be asking yourself is why are you going to open a business? If the answer is: "Because no one else will hire me" you should really reassess the situation. If the answer is: "To make a lot of money," reevaluate the situation and your motivation. The best reason for you to think about getting into business for yourself is simple; you enjoy what it is you intend to do enough that you want to take the risk every single day.

The process is long, but the SDBC is here to help if you want to take the next step. We have two programs geared to answer

those first two questions and many more. First on Feb. 12, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. we will host "Business Idea or Real Opportunity" and on Feb. 17, we will kick off a 10 week in depth program that meets once a week from 6-9 p.m. and will walk you through the entire process. Both programs will be held at Indian River College on Ninth Avenue in Okeechobee. Please call us for further details. I can be reached at 863-517-0097 or through email spmoore@fgcu.edu.

New law firm boasts 35 years experience

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The Fort Pierce law firm of Ohle and Ohle, made up of the father and son team of Robert and Michael Ohle, with over 35 years of trial experience, recently opened an office in Okeechobee. It is run by attorney Clyde Killer who is no stranger to Okeechobee. Mr. Killer once had a private practice in Okeechobee and also served as public defender and prosecutor. He was the first full time public defender in Okeechobee.

Mr. Killer, who has worked for some time in the firm's Fort Pierce office, has enjoyed his return to Okeechobee.

"Old fashioned manners count a lot here and I like that," he said. "You can agree to disagree. You don't have to get ugly."

Mr. Killer said that opposing attorneys can still be friends.

The law firm specializes in criminal and family law. They offer free consultation and accept major credit cards. The Okeechobee office of Ohle and Ohle is located at 414 N.W. Third St. The hours are 9 to 5 Monday through Friday and the telephone number is 863-467-0743.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Attorney Clyde Killer and his secretary Juli Snow operate the Okeechobee office of the law firm, Ohle and Ohle.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Contract postal unit has grand opening

On Thursday morning, Feb. 5 the contract postal unit at Mid Florida hardware held a ribbon cutting as part of a grand opening. Taking part in the ribbon cutting were, left to right, Scott Bowne, CFO of Mid Florida Hardware, Linda Rucks, operator of the contract postal unit, Mark Pinson, Okeechobee Postmaster, and Dee Dee Morris, supervisor with the Okeechobee Post Office. The contract postal unit, which opened Dec. 22, is located inside the Mid Florida Hardware building at 3603 U. S. 441 S. The hours are: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The postal unit offers postage for domestic and international mailing, certified mail, insurance and much more.

Florida Credit Unions partner for 'Invest in America' program

TALLAHASSEE—Florida credit unions have joined the consortium of more than 7,900 credit unions participating in the "Invest in America" program. Through the program, credit union members are eligible to receive manufacturer discounts on vehicles from General Motors and Chrysler Corporation LLC. The two auto manufacturers have announced that the "Invest in America" credit union loan partnership has been expanded from the 12 pilot states to all of the U.S. This gives 90 million credit union members across the country access to GM's "Credit Union Member Discount Program" and Chrysler's "Credit Union Member Cash" discounts as well as access to affordable financing on new vehicle purchases.

Credit unions have always been embedded in their communities. "Invest in America" is an example of how the cooperative nature of credit unions benefits the local, state, and national economies. By participating in the program, Florida credit unions will be able to help new and current members save money when purchasing a vehicle from GM or Chrysler, as well as help boost business for local auto dealerships. "Participation in this program is another one of the many ways credit unions help members save money and support their community," said Guy M. Hood, Florida Credit Union League President/CEO. "Credit unions are already well-known for their affordable financing, so it makes sense for Florida credit unions to partner with GM and Chrysler."

The "Invest in America" programs, running from Dec. 2008 through June 30, 2009, offer GM manufacturer-price discounts or Chrysler rebates of \$500 or \$1,000 on eligible vehicles.

Traditionally, credit unions offer lower loan rates. According to DataTrac, a survey company that tracks auto loan rates, the credit union loan average is 5.4 percent compared to 6.9 percent for the average bank rate. The GM and Chrysler programs within "Invest

in America" are uniquely different. To learn more about the programs, visit www.lovemycreditunion.org.

(The "Invest in America" program was created by CUcorp, a marketing company based in Livonia, Mich. and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Michigan Credit Union League.)

(The Florida Credit Union League is a Tallahassee, Florida-based statewide trade association offering a myriad of services focused on meeting the current and future needs of Florida's credit unions. It is the mission of the Florida Credit Union League to ensure an operating environment in which credit unions will thrive.)



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

New name, better service

What was formerly One Stop Career Center has been reorganized and renamed Workforce Solutions. Helping to celebrate the occasion on Thursday morning, Feb. 5 were, left to right, Cliff Betts, chairman of the board of directors of Workforce Solutions, Gwenda Thompson, president and CEO, Michael Waninger, vice president and Mary Snyder, branch manager. Workforce Solutions serves Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties training people for employment and working with employers to find the right employees.

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Man walks through Okeechobee for veterans



Courtesy photo/Nat'l Wild Turkey Federation

Austie Heacock makes his way across Florida to raise awareness and funds for the care of veterans.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Austie Heacock admits he is not a talented man so when he had to decide how best to raise funds for disabled veterans he turned his eyes to the ground. He figured he had a good set of legs and could walk as well as anyone.

Heacock has walked across the peninsula of Florida on three occasions in the past four years. This week he walked through Okeechobee, Highlands, St. Lucie, Hardee, and Manatee Counties.

Heacock is the regional director for the National Wild Turkey

Federation. They have partnered with Disabled American Veterans to provide outdoor opportunities for disabled vets. That includes hunting, fishing, bird watching, trap shooting, and other enjoyable activities.

Heacock walked through Okeechobee on Tuesday. He began the trek in Fort Pierce on Monday. His route include state road 68, U.S. 441, and U.S. 98. He walked from the St. Lucie line to Basinger on Tuesday. He averages between 20 and 30 miles per day.

"This has been the toughest walk yet," he told the Okeechobee News, "I walked all day in the rain Monday, Tuesday it was windy, Wednesday I had a 30

mile per hour head wind on U.S. 98. Traffic seems worse than ever. Thursday it was freezing cold. It's one thing after another."

Heacock hopes to raise \$15,000 this year for veterans. He thanked Alison Murphy of Okeechobee and Jake Williams for his fundraising in Okeechobee. "Anything you can do would help with our cause. I have several checks roll in from publicity. I also send out mailers in Sebring. My goal is \$15,000 but in these days and times I'll be lucky to get \$6,000 to \$7,000 this year. Every little bit helps."

Some federations do gun raffles, others poker tournaments and other things to raise funds.

He said he is proud his federation is doing something to help, "Some people pledge a penny, and some pledge a dollar. It's a 150 mile walk and if they pledge a dollar per mile that \$150 bucks."

Heacock doesn't want any sympathy either. He noted he gets a lot of time to think on the road, "It's not that bad. At one time in

our history soldiers walked from Maine to Louisiana and then fought a war. So walking across Florida really isn't nothing but a thing. It's a lot of fun, it's interesting and it does a lot of good."

Walking for Vets donations can be sent to Mr. Heacock at 100 South Huckleberry Lake Drive, Sebring, Fla., 33875.

Community Events

Masonic Lodge holds breakfast

The Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth, will hold an All You Can Eat breakfast on Sunday, **Feb. 8**, from 8 until 11 a.m. Tickets are \$5 each. Menu includes: eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee. The public is welcome.

Church of Our Savior sponsors trip to Germany

Church of Our Savior is sponsoring a trip to Oberammergau, Germany in July of 2010. Every ten years this exquisite little town presents the Passion play commemorating the last few hours of Jesus's life to celebrate their town's being spared the plague. Monday, **Feb. 9**, at 6 p.m. a representative from Collette Tours will present the itinerary with films, brochures and additional information. The meeting will be held in the office located in the brown building west of the church at 200 N.W. Third Street. For more information call 863-357-1713.

Healthy Start Coalition BOD to meet

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

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.

'Ideas and Opportunities' business seminar

Do you have a business idea or business opportunity? Come to the Florida Gulf Coast University - Okeechobee Branch Small Business Development Center 'Ideas and Opportunities' Seminar.

The seminar set to be held on Thursday, **Feb. 12**, from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. at IRSC will deal with considerations in new business start ups including:

- Pricing
- Target market identifications
- Proper marketing selection
- Expense and funding issues
- Market analysis

The seminar is free to attend and is sponsored by the Small Business Development Center Networks at Florida Gulf Coast University and Indian River State College.

Reservations for the seminar are required. Please contact Sean Moore at 863-517-0097 or email spmoore@fgcu.edu. Program outline and further descriptions available along with online registration at <http://cli.fgcu.edu/cob/sbdc>.

Children's Services Council meeting

The Children's Services Council will meet on Thursday, **Feb. 12**, at 5 p.m. in Room 303 of the Okeechobee County School Board Office, 700 S.W. Second Ave.

Area Agency on Aging announces directors meeting

The Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. Special Board of Directors meeting is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, Feb. 12**, at The Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc., 4400 N. Congress Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33407. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and is taking the place of the regularly scheduled monthly Executive Committee meeting. Contracts requiring the expenditure of funds are a regular agenda item of this meeting. Please call Vivian Pfau, Area Agency on Aging, at 561-684-5885 for more information.

Tax Collector's office set to be closed

The Tax Collector's office will be closed for training on President's Day, Monday, **Feb. 16**.

Adopt a sweet pet this Valentine's Day

The Animal Emergency and Referral Center of Fort Pierce and the Humane Society of St. Lucie County are teaming up to help pets find new homes. On Saturday, **Feb. 14**, the Animal Emergency and Referral Center is offering to pay for all adoption fees for the first three qualified pet adoptions. In addition to paying for the adoptions (which include spaying or neutering, micro chipping and routine vaccinations), the Animal Emergency and Referral Center will also pay the premiums on these three adoptions for pet health and wellness care insurance for a full year. The insurance will assist pet owners with their medical care expenses at most Treasure Coast veterinary hospitals during the adopter's first year of ownership. If you already own a dog, please bring it to meet the dog you might be adopting to make sure they get along. If you rent your home, your landlord will have to okay the adoption of the animal. Make sure you have his/her contact information. A short interview will be conducted after the steps mentioned above. The shelter is located at 100 Savannah Road in Fort Pierce. Saturday hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please contact us with any questions or concerns. Our email is drylman@animalemergency.net, phone 772-466-3441.

BHR W.O.T.M. holds dinner/dance

The Buckhead Ridge Women of the Moose will hold a Valentine "dinner/dance" on **Feb. 14**. Menu will be a choice of swiss steak or Cornish hen with au gratin potatoes, green beans, jello salad and ice cream, dinner will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Sue Conner from 6 until 11 p.m. The dinner/dance is open to members and qualified guests. Dinner tickets are available for a \$9 donation at the door and \$8 in advance. For more information call 863-467-0064.

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.

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.



Submitted photo/Teresa Chandler

Health & Safety Fair Volunteers

The Second Annual Health & Safety Fair was a huge success for 2009! The event went off without a hitch thanks to the many volunteers, businesses and organizers. Sharon Vinson and Donny Arnold, event organizers, were pleased with the turnout and comments of the attendees. Present at the event were: Billy Dean (WOKC), Sharon Vinson (Event Chair), Ken Keller (Volunteer), Jill Rogers (Volunteer), and Donny Arnold (Event Chair).



Submitted photo/Teresa Chandler

Safety Fair supporters

Seacoast National Bank employees, Cheryl Zrioka, Eileen Casian and Teresa Chandler attended the Second Annual Health & Safety fair. Seacoast served free popcorn, coffee and homemade brownies and cookies by Eileen Casian.

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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 REDUCED!	FORECLOSURE 8035-A: 13+ Acres right off HWY 98th N. (FRA-MAR Ranches). Make offers. Bank will consider any and all offers. MLS# 202104 \$89,900

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- *5+/-acres Sunset Strip Airpark @ SW 13th St. MLS# 201396
- *Basswood lots from \$15,000-\$33,000
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Yearling offers before & after school tutorial program

Tutorial Programs

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

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

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

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

PTO Meeting
We had our third PTO Meeting of the year on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 6 p.m. in the Library. We discussed plans for the year and explained to parents the current grade promotion requirements.

We informed the PTO of current discipline and testing data. Ideas for fundraising for Teacher Appreciation Week were discussed.

School related employee of the year

Okeechobee Schools has chosen our Nancy Yates, YMS Principal's Secretary, as the School Related Employee of the Year. We are all very proud of Nancy for her commitment to excellence, and the professionalism that she exhibits on a daily basis.

We are all very proud of you, Nancy. Go Yearlings! Yearling students excel at the District Science Fair.

At the District Science Fair, Yearling students did extremely well. The winners include the following:

Behavioral Science- First Place: Sarah Davis, Brandon McKee
Botany- Third Place: Rhiannon Robshaw, Lucas Ritchie, Jacqueline O'Connor, Jose Duran, Jacob

Greseth, Nicholas Flood. Second Place Khrysta Herndon, Haley Burkhalter. First Place: Jessica Wisner, Justin Osceola, Audrey Metcalf, Christopher Boney.

Chemistry- Third Place: Nelida Perez, Kyle Kelso, Nicholas Kielbasa, Angelina Ruiz, Jaisalyn Santiago, Ashton Armstrong, Tabatha Henry. Second Place: Destinee Villareal, Krista Ward, Kyla Hargraves, Tyler Chartier. First Place: Brendon Jonassaint, Krista Pope, Rachel Roehm, Dalton Hodges

Consumer Science- Third Place: Selena Bowman. Second Place: Lorraine Lutjen. First Place: Raela Ridley

Engineering- First Place: Dayla Ferneau

Environmental- Third Place: Avery Plemons, Chriatian O'Connor. Second Place: Garrett Thomas. First Place: Samantha Rivero

Mathematics- Second Place: Katlyn Haymond
Medicine and Health

First Place: Monica Hernandez Physics- Third Place: Stephen Geary, Jessica Jaimes, Carissa Licata, Maci Thomas, Corey Walters, Terry Williams. Second Place: Jennifer Arellano, Kasandra Baker, Michael Carter, Macy Gamiotea, Savannah Treadway, Brandon Ball. First Place: Julianne Meives, Brent Baughman, Ryan Reister

Zoology- Third Place: Ismael Santuchi. First Place: Hannah Sadler

Best of Show - Biological Sciences- Chris Boney

Best of Show - Physical Sciences- Ryan Reister

Congratulations to all students who won and/or participated in the YMS and District Science Fair.

Those students placing first and second will proceed to the 28th Good Luck to all Okeechobee County students who are participating!



Submitted photo/YMS

Yearling Students of the Week

Students of the week selected at Yearling Middle School for the week of Feb. 2 are: (top left to right) Chris Gonzalez, Jose Santibanez, and Cody Walker. At the bottom from left to right are: Alejandro Jaimez, Monica Reyes, Lavonta Spivey, and Damien Womble and Mr. Tedders and Mrs. Markham.

OHS beat state average in recent placement tests

Okeechobee High School has set high expectations and increased rigor in order to prepare students for post-secondary education, a fact proven by the most recent release of Common Placement Test Results for Florida Public High School Graduates. Okeechobee High School students outscored the state in math, reading and writing.

When combining all three subject areas, OHS students scored 7 percent higher than the state average. What is even more astounding is the 25 percent increase in the last two years. In 2005, 46 percent of OHS students earned a passing score in all three subject

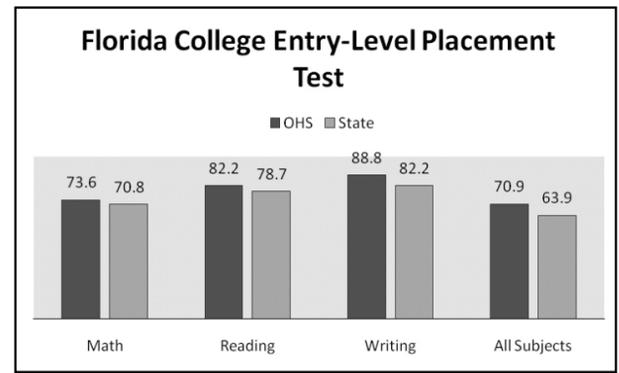
areas. The percentage passing in 2007 was 70.9.

High school graduates who enroll in Florida's public community colleges and universities

must demonstrate certain basic skills before beginning college-level courses. The Florida College Entry-Level Placement Test (CPT), the SAT and the ACT are

three assessments used to determine students' appropriate placement for college level work. Students not receiving a passing score must take remedial classes before beginning college level work. Not having to enroll in remedial classes not only saves tuition and books, but it also decreases the time necessary to get an advanced degree.

The current focus on improving student achievement at Okeechobee High School is paying off. The recent scores are yet another testament that Okeechobee County Schools are truly Achieving Excellence!



Central Elementary School preparing for FCAT

Third Grade

This week in Ms. Luchetta's and Mrs. Atwell's class we are preparing for FCAT. In reading, we are reading "Here's My Dollar." In math, are learning about probability. In writing, we are writing newspaper articles. In social studies, we are reading "Time for Kids" magazine. In science, we are continuing "Forces that Shape the Land." Please remember to practice multiplication daily. Congratulations to the students of the week.

Ms. DelPrete is proud of how hard her class is working to prepare for the FCAT test. Parents please be sure your child is reading every night. Also, help your child correct those FCAT reading and math practice pages sent home. This week we enjoyed researching history facts of 1959. We had a great time dressing in 50s style clothing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of Central Elementary. Our reading story this week was "Seven Spools of Thread." It was a fable that taught us how working as a team helps us accomplish our goals. In Math, we are learning about congruence and symmetry of shapes. Please encourage your child to read and initial those 100 Book Challenge folders so your child can meet his/her goals. Congratulations to our recent student of the week Johnny Brooks!

Ms. Enfinger's class has been learning about line segments

and angles, types of lines, plane figures, triangles, and quadrilaterals. They are also working on problem solving. Students are also expanding their knowledge on cause and effect, compare and contrast and phonic skills, this week in reading. We are learning about conserving energy in science. Renewable, reusable, and non-renewable resources are main topic for this week. Students of the week are Wilian Lopez, Davan Resendez, and Lauren Bostwick. Happy birthday to Robert Bigford, Dustin Long, and Steven Rusinko. Don't forget to read!

Happy 50th Birthday to Central!

Ms. Cowden's researched 1953 and learned some new facts in celebration on Central being open for 50 years. Our class took practice FCAT tests to see the progress we are making. In math, we have just talked about geometry and tessellations, and we even colored our own tessellations. We are finishing up Chapter 9 in Science which is Conserving Resources. The students have been hard at work reviewing important key points for FCAT in Reading like Fact and Opinion, Main Idea and Details, Plot Development, and many other key points. Next week, we will celebrate Valentine's Day with a party on Friday. Happy Valentine's Day! I want to thank all the parents for their continued support. It takes the combined effort to get our students where they need to be.

In Mrs. Snyder's Third Grade we are working hard preparing for the FCAT test coming up in March. We are practicing how to go back into a passage we have read and find the answers to questions. This is good practice and can be done at home with any type of reading passage. We are also covering math concepts such as parallel lines, perpendicular lines, congruency, similar forms, and many other math vocabulary we will see on our test. Please continue to go over multiplication facts at home. Come March, we will be ready for our test. We are also getting ready for and looking forward to Central's 50th Birthday Celebration. We are going to have a Sock Hop, listen to guest speakers, look at cars from that era, and have Root-beer floats. YUM! Our Students of the Week for January were: Emily Harrison, Sarah Gabor, Jonathatn Bustos, and Melissa Rosalino. Good job guys. Our January birthdays were Raymond McMillan and Dylan White. Happy Birthday boys.



3rd Grade BASE

We are having learning about the 50s, preparing for Central's 50th Anniversary. We are also getting ready for the FCAT test and the students are definitely prepared. In Science, we are learning about Conserving Resources. In math, we are learning about geometric figures. Congratulations to the Students of the Week: Taylor Jordan, Luis Terrazas, Hailey Spearow, and Hunter Strickland.

Mrs. Jennifer Lopez

Students in P.E. are learning about volleyball. Skills being taught are the bump, set and underhand serve. Students will be playing Nukem a popular variation on the sport of volleyball.

Coch Spearow Computer Lab

Students in second, third and fourth grade have been working very hard in the Success Maker program. They are trying to earn Gold Success Maker points to spend on prizes in the lab.

Congratulations to Ethyn Johnson, Cole Melton and Victor Gaona for earning enough points to spend on prizes this week. Students keep working because there are still plenty of neat prizes to be bought.

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"BHR BEAUTY"
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"AFFORDABLY PRICED"
Nice 3BR/1BA home close to town. Some remodeling work in the process of completion. Attractive pricing. Call to see the property. **# 201941 \$79,900 WOW!** MOTIVATED SELLERS!

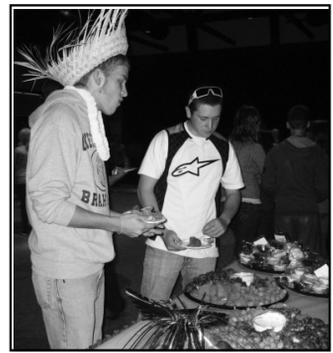
"GREAT LOCATION"
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Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Teachers Patti Padgett, Brooke Brown, Lori Howard and Brooke Weigand received the Kiwanis-Marge and Dick Blair Memorial mini-grant from the Blair's daughters, Rikki Blair, Marge Merrill, and Kiwanis members Frank Irby, Don Kelly, Jim Vensel, Dowling Watford, Greg Thogerson, and Kelly Owens. Their principals Brian Greseth and Renee Geeting also extended their support for their teacher's mini-grant award.



Submitted photo/OFC

OFC—positively a mystery

As part of the school's Positive Behavior Support Program, students who received at least 40 positive signatures were eligible to attend a Mystery Event on Jan. 16. The most recent event was a dance. A DJ played music while students danced, ate, and played games like limbo. Assistant Principal Matt Koff, Guidance Counselor Tracy Sills, and teacher Tonya Hargraves lead OFC's PBS team. Right, Mrs. Sills shows the students how to do the limbo while Mrs. Hargraves cheers her on!



Submitted photo/North Elementary
Bryce Clark, Savannah Goggans, and Dylan Eubanks research their presidents for their presidential research project.

Add the edge to your education with the honors program at IRSC

The satisfaction of reaching ambitious goals, giving back to the community and studying abroad are among the opportunities for students in the Indian River State College Honors Program. Information about the Honors Program will be presented at an Information Session on Wednesday, March 11, at 6 p.m. in the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies, Room V-110 on the IRSC Main Campus at 3209 Virginia Avenue in Fort Pierce just off 35th Street.

The Honors Program is designed for students committed to high academic achievement, and graduates are strong candidates for transfer scholarships to elite universities. IRSC Honors Program graduates can automatically transfer into the Honors Program at Florida Atlantic University or the University of Central Florida.

Providing students with opportunities for community service, the civic engagement component of the Honors Program involves students in real-world experiences related to their field of interest at scientific facilities, museums, businesses and other organizations.

For more information, visit www.irsc.edu or contact the IRSC Information Call Center at: 1-866-792-4772.



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Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

February 2 and 3, 2009

Cows	Breaking	\$48.50	\$57.50
	Cutter	\$46.00	\$55.50
	Canner	\$40.00	\$46.50
Bulls	1000-1500	\$57.00	\$61.00
	1500-2000	\$60.00	\$68.50
Monday	Tuesday		
Calves	533	903	
Cows	94	325	
Str	9	39	
Hfrs	0	65	
Bulls	7	50	
Yrlngs	69	94	
Mix	14	17	
Total	726	1493	

Med #1	Steers	Hfrs
150-200	175-200	115-180
200-250	120-155	97-107
250-300	117-127	92-107
300-350	103-109	87-97
350-400	98-106	80-89
400-450	93-105	80-91
450-500	90-102	77-88
550-600	84-93	78-88
600-650		77-82

Med #2	Steers	Hfrs
150-200	0-0	87-110
200-250	100-127	75-102
250-300	90-112	80-100
300-350	91-112	76-87
350-400	80-103	72-83
400-450	80-97	75-76

Small #1	Steers	Hfrs
220-235	0-0	85-100
250-300	0-0	0-0
300-350	94-112	75-83
350-400	85-100	73-81
450-500	0-0	70-79
550-600	0-0	72-73

Don't Forget Our Regular Menu Items at Super Low Prices! Including...

super COUPON values

\$100 OFF* ANY LUNCH OR DINNER

2 SENIOR DINNERS* \$11.59 (3.19 Savings!)
 SERVED WITH: Choice of Potato, vegetable, soup or salad, roll or biscuit

PRIME RIB DINNER \$9.99 EACH For Only

BREAKFAST BUFFET 7 Days A Week! \$7.19

Our Famous TOUCHDOWN Breakfast \$4.89

Our LUNCH BUFFET (Mon - Fri: 11:30am - 1:30pm)
 Includes: Cold Cuts, Tuna & Chicken Salads, Hot Dogs & Hamburgers w/all the fixings. Add drink for \$.99
\$7.99

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SHRIMP & FISH (Friday & Saturday's) \$9.99

KIDS EAT FREE! Tuesday: 4-9pm One Child & Adult

Clock Family Restaurants
 Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner
 Come Visit Okeechobee's Friendliest Restaurant

Call-In Orders To Go 1111 S. Parrott Ave. Hours:
 7 Day Breakfast Buffet! Sun-Thur: 6am-10pm
 Banq. Room Avail. Seats 50 **467-2224** Fri & Sat: 6am-11pm

*One Coupon per visit. Must Present Coupon to server when ordering. Not valid after date noted on coupon or w/ any other offer

Women Love
Okeechobee Medical Cosmetic Center

look great
 by reversing sun & aging damage...

- Brown & Red Spots
- Facial & Leg Veins
- Irregular Skin Color
- Rosacea
- Chin & Lip Hair
- Wrinkles
- The "Frown of Aging"
- Reduce or Eliminate Facial Lumps & Bumps

\$100 OFF ~ First Treatment
 Good till May 15, 2009

SKIN LASER • RESTYLANE • BOTOX
 (all FDA approved)

Free Consultation

Botanical Cosmeceuticals (Skin Care Products & Sunscreens)
 Make Your Botox, Laser & Restylane Appointment Today!

Leland M. Heller, M.D.
 1713 Hwy 441 N., Suite E • Okeechobee, FL 34972
467-8771

Are You On Medicare?

*Add \$1,156 to Your Social Security Check Every Year**



The QHP Advantage Plan Does That and More...

- No Deductible
- No Plan Premium
- Hospital Coverage
- No Deductible Drug Coverage
- Fitness Club Membership
- Transportation Reimbursement
- Dental Care
- Hearing and Vision Care

Call Now to Reserve Your Seat at One of Our Seminars

Okeechobee County

Clock Restaurant
1111 S. Parrott Avenue
Okeechobee
Feb 10, 17 - 2 PM

Village Square Restaurant
301 SW Park Street
Okeechobee
Feb 12 - 1 PM

REF #:ON020809

Call Toll Free
1-866-747-9017
TTY: 1-866-455-6010



An HMO with a Medicare contract available to anyone enrolled in Part B and entitled to Part A of Medicare through age or disability who continues to pay any applicable Medicare premiums. Members must use network providers except for emergency, urgently needed, or out-of-area dialysis services. * Your monthly Part B Premium paid by you is returned to you in your Social Security check. A sales representative will be present with information and applications. Responding to this ad or attending one of our seminars will constitute permission for us to call you. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1, 2010. Please contact Quality Health Plans for details. For accommodation of persons with special needs call 1-866-747-2700, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday - Friday.

H5402 QHP0973FU(12/08)

Classifieds

FREE!
Absolutely
FREE!

Personal classified items under \$5,000 • Personal classified items under \$5,000

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Ads
Free
Speech

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How to place
your ad:

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

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For All Other Classified Ads:
classads@newszap.com

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

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at WWW.NEWSZAP.COM - Click on Classifieds

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

BUSINESS HOURS
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

GUIDELINES FOR PLACING FREE ADS!

- All personal items under \$5,000 ABSOLUTELY FREE when placed online
- Ads phoned in subject to charge.
- Price must be included in ad
- Private parties only
- 2 items per household per issue

Special Notice 0155

Special Notice 0155

CASTLE
The Parenting Professionals
Support our fight for the prevention of child abuse
Call (863) 467-7771

Employment Full Time 0205

Employment Full Time 0205

CDL DRIVERS NEEDED

Private School - One on One Tractor Trailer Training @ IRCC. No exp. req'd. Job Placement. Earn \$35,000 - \$50,000 + benefits. 866-832-7243
www.sageschools.com

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Shop from a gift catalog that's updated regularly: the classifieds.

Raulerson Hospital located in Okeechobee, FL has openings for the following positions:

- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist
- Registered Nurse ICU/Med Surg/ER - (FT, PT, PRN & Seasonal)
- PCA's FT, PT & PRN
- Educator FT

Send resume to:
RHTC.Hospitaljobs@hcahealthcare.com.
Must have legal authority to work in the U.S.

Employment 200

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

Employment Full Time 0205

MODEL TYPES Mad, Daily, CASH

3 Busy Locations
All shifts available
561-891-3946
Must be 18 plus to apply

HEALTHCARE SPECIALIST

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

MAINTENANCE PERSON

F/T for Local RV Park. Must have experience. Call 863-467-5774

RN-Nurse Manager

Needed full time at Florida Community Health Center in Okeechobee. Must have current FL License. Administrative/management experience required with strong leadership skills. Bilingual Spanish/English preferred. Competitive salary & excel. benefits. Fax resume to (561)844-1013 hr@fchcinc.org. EOE/DFWP

Employment Part Time 0215

CLEANING PERSON
Needed Part Time for local business. 10-20 hours per week/\$9.00 per hour. Fax application to: (863)467-5804

DRIVER WANTED - Desire self-employed & insured with current Florida license and clean driving history. Needed approx 3 days a wk/7 hrs a day to drive gentleman around area. Call (863) 634-4596 & leave detailed message for Don to obtain application.

Shop here first!
The classified ads

Employment Wanted 0220

SUPER GOOD Cleaning person seeking work, trustworthy, dependable, thorough, reasonable (863)824-0545

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

Financial 300

Business Opportunities 305
Money Lenders 310
Tax Preparation 315

Business Opportunities 0305

INVESTORS NEEDED - 10 to 12% Return, Dan Lakes a state general contractor and realtor. Need investors to secure 1st mortgage on properties \$40,000 to \$80,000 Please Call (561)635-8478

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

Employment Medical 0210

Employment Medical 0210

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER (Big Cypress)

Provide MSW services & counseling services re medical conditions. Coordinate handicapped issues for patients. Diagnosis, crisis intervention, case planning, referrals to outside agencies. Bachelor's + min. 2 yrs. work exp. in health care, mental health, or social work. Master's deg. preferred. Min. 1 yr. clinical exp. with dual diagnosis (Chemical dependency/Mental Health). Valid FL DL. Willing to work flexible hours.

ADVANCED REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONER (Big Cypress and Brighton)

Perform act of diagnosis treatment in the primary care setting in accordance with the FL Board of Nursing guidelines & established protocols with collaborating physician. E.g. pathophysiology, pharmacological interventions, periodic screening/health maintenance, etc. MSc. in Nursing Family Practice, Certified in Family Practice. Active, current ARNP license in the State of Florida. Valid FL DL. Current CPR/HIV certs. Prefer primary care exp. & ACLS. This is a float position - required to travel between two reservations on an as needed basis.

Business Opportunities 0305

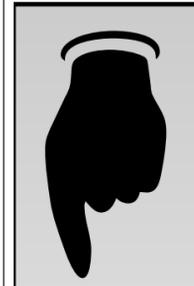
NOTICE
Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

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

Handyman Services

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

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



ADVERTISE and Get Results

Services 400

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

Child Care

BRIGHT FUTURES
Preschool Childcare Center

1811 SW 2nd Ave Okeechobee 863-467-5000

Infants to 12

Free Breakfast, Lunch & Snacks

Free VPK

Before & After School Programs

24/7 Surveillance Cameras

www.fdapreschool.com

How do you find a job in today's competitive market? In the employment section of the classifieds

Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

Christian Books, Bibles and Videos

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

Merchandise 500

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

Pets/Supplies 0670

YORKIE - 14 week old females with papers and shots. \$800 Firm. **MINIATURE HORSES** (6) \$500 each.
PEACOCKS, 10, \$40 each
Call (863) 467-0218

Agriculture 800

Christmas Trees 745
Farm Equipment 805
Farm Feed/Products 810
Farm Miscellaneous 815
Farm Produce 820
Farm Services Offered 825
Farm Supplies/Services Wanted 830
Fertilizer 835
Horses 840
Landscaping Supplies 845
Lawn & Garden 850
Livestock 855
Poultry/Supplies 860
Seeds/Plants/Flowers 865

Farm Feed/Products 0810

HAY - Fertilized. Argentina Bahia 4x5 Round Bales. \$30ea or \$25 for 4 or more. South Basinger (863)228-0073

Horses 0840
PONY Carmelo/White mare 7 yrs old rides good. Miniature horses 1 filly, 1 stud, 1yr old buckskin & paint \$1200 or will separate (772)260-6852

Rentals 900

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

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

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

Apartment 0905

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

FOR RENT - 2 bed 1.5 bath Apartment \$800 mth. Must See! (863)763-7552 or (863) 634-7722

KINGS BAY - 2/2, \$695 per mo 1st & last, no pets (863)763-7301 (863) 697-1623

Okeechobee, 2br, 1ba, Near town. \$750 mo. Annual Lease Sec-8 ok. 561-255-4377

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

Condos/Townhouses Rent 0920

APARTMENT in BHR, 800 Sq Ft- 1/1 Extr bk rm \$495/mo. (954)290-0861

Houses - Rent 0930
COTTAGE ON WATER: Washer & Dryer, \$600 month or pay wkly. (863)763-3977

OKEECHOBEE, 3br, 1ba, Lg yard, inside city limits, \$800. mo. + Util., 1st & Last mo. sec. dep. (863)990-3294

Rent to own or sell 3/1 CBS, new roof, newly renovated \$99,900 (561)801-3002

Land - Rent 0935

LAND FOR LEASE - 10 acres Animal grazing. Great Oaks Est., Lot #9, Highlands County, (954)772-7230

When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.

Office Space Rent 0937

PHYSICIAN OFFICE for long term lease call (863)467-9500 for more information.

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

Vacation Rentals 0962

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL - Race week at Daytona, Condo, slps 6, 2br, on the beach & pool. \$800 for the week Rent or Buy. (302)335-0416

Real Estate 1000

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

Farms - Sale 1020

PARK MODEL, '94 - 12x40 & 12x20 Florida room, in Buckhead Ridge Resort, \$18,500. (863)763-7196

Houses - Sale 1025

CBS 2/2 w/lg detached bldg, fenced, on 2.4 acres \$120,000 (863)414-1102
Sandy Hughes at Century 21 Compton.

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

Land - Sale 1040

WOODED 4.4 ACRES - With a private 3/2, w/d, jacuzzi & lg deck. \$850/mo. 1st, last & sec req'd. (863)467-6472

LOTS - Sale 1045
5 Acres - 5 minutes north of town off 441, cleared \$89,900.00 (561)801-3002

Waterfront Property 1080

BHR - Furn Modular home 3/2 w/1 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

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

Campers/RVs 3010

For Sale

1967 GMC Coach 4107 - 8V71 Detroit New clutch, Florida Coach. Must sell due to health. \$26,000 O.B.O.
863-610-3313
KOA Lot 355 • Okeechobee, FL

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

BHR Area - RENT WITH OPTION TO BUY! Owner Financing. 2BR/2BA, with lake access, covered boat slip w/lift, 18x45 screened in porch, storage shed w/half bath, clean, quiet, furnished, great for retired person or couple, \$500 mo. (859)661-4344

MOBILE HOME - 100 Ft. Waterfront, Close to shopping. \$400 mo. + util. Call (863)763-7262 for info.

MOBILE HOME - 1BR/1BA, all util, \$650 mo. 863-763-2098 or (863)610-1092

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms
Low Deposits & Reasonable Payments
863-983-3554

OKEECHOBEE - 3br, 2ba, rent or buy, 7-9 mi East of Oke, \$800/mo or best offer. (863)655-2454

OKEECHOBEE - 6mi east on Hwy 70. 3br, 2ba, rent or rent to own, \$800/mo or best offer (863)763-8725

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

MOBILE HOME Sale 2020

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

KRFR - Adult Park, Lot 90, 2/1.5, furn., Fl. rm., carport, boathouse, workshop, \$25,500 neg 763-8382

MOBILE HOME SALES - Huge 4BR/3BA 32x80 Set up on Your Lot - \$550 Monthly 800-330-8106 or 863-467-6622

MOBILE HOMES

Need your mobile home moved? We have 28 years experience. Call for your Free Quote! (863)983-8106

Park model - 1/1 - 36' w/2 tip outs, perm roof, 10x36 fl rm, parking canopy, fully furn, on rented lot in Okeechobee RV Park (573)748-0134 \$11,500

Campers/RVs 3010

Recreation 3000

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

Boats 3005

CAROLINA SKIFF - 19 Ft, 90 hp., 24V trolling motor w/ auto pilot & remote, depth finder, trailer. Very good condition. \$6,995 Call (863)634-7021 Okeechobee

Campers/RVs 3010

MERCURY - 6 cyl, 175 hp merc on 17.5' hydra sport bass boat Trailer included. \$3200 (863)467-2267

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

Fifth Wheels 3012

COBRA SPINNAKER 1994 - Oak cabinets, gn.size sofa sleeper; 37'x 8 ft. Must sell. \$9000 or best offer. (863)467-4596

Motorcycles 3030

HARLEY HERITAGE SOFTAIL, 4400 miles. Loaded w/chrome & extra's. Excellent condition. \$12,500 or best offer. (863)763-5933 Okeechobee

Sports Vehicles/ATVs 3035

SUZUKI 80 CC 4Wheeler - Very good condition. \$1100 (863)634-7021 Okeechobee

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

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY '05 - 39K mls. Loaded! Garage kept. 1 Owner. Immaculate condition. \$12,500 (863)675-0215 LaBelle

DODGE CARAVAN - 2000 Power windows, a/c Runs Great! \$2500 (863)763-3036

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

No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!

Automobiles 4005 Automobiles 4005

LAKE MOTORS
147 Hwy 441 SE • Okeechobee
Best Prices in the Lake Area!
863-467-5243 se habla español

Parts/Repairs 4045 Parts/Repairs 4045

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

Public Notices
5000
Public Notice State Public
5005

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONSIDER THE ABANDONMENT OF A PLATTED EASEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Okeechobee County, Florida will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Meeting Room, Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

A copy of this notice will be available for public inspection at the Planning and Development Department, 499 NW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida each weekday except holidays between the hours of 8:00 a.m and 4:30 p.m.

All interested parties and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard at this public hearing. Any person desiring to appeal any decision by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this hearing will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

Cliff Betts, Jr., Chairman
Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, Florida
Petition 8-2008-0045
309174 ON 2/8/09

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.

Public Notice 5005

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

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

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 Sarras
DEPUTY CLERK
306333 ON 1/25, 2/1, 8, 15/2009

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

The Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast - Region 20 and the Treasure Coast Workforce Consortium announces a meeting of the Executive Committee to which all persons are invited:

Date & Time: Friday, February 13, 2009 - 8:00 a.m.
Place: Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast University Park
584 NW University Blvd., Suite 100 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986

PURPOSE: To discuss matters concerning the Workforce Investment Act, Workforce Employment Opportunities, the Welfare Transition Program, One-Stop Career Centers and the Workforce Development Board. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting:

Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast University Park
584 NW University Blvd., Suite 100 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986

Should any person wish to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above referenced meeting, they will need to ensure a verbatim recording of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based, in order to provide a record for judicial review.

310130 ON 2/8/09

Insurance

Continued From Page 1

various reasons, people in one county are insured by a State Farm agent in another county.

State Farm agents are urging their customers to contact the governor to allow State Farm Florida to continue writing property insurance.

"Faced with steeply declining resources to cover future claims and

expenses, State Farm Florida has little choice," stated Jim Thompson, president of the organization.

This action was sparked in large part by the recent OIC denial of a 47.1 percent rate increase requested by State Farm Florida.

Since 2000, State Farm Florida claims to have paid out \$1.21 in claims and expenses for every \$1 of premium received totaling \$1.4 billion more in claims and expenses than was collected in premiums.

OCSB

Continued From Page 1

and \$783.33 for the multipurpose building.

Scott's Quality Cleaning holds the low-cost bid for the Freshman Campus Auditorium in the amount of \$440.

In other business, the board will consider approving the advertisement of several different policy changes being

spurred as a result of Senate Bill 1712, Ethics in Education.

The first section for this bill falls under Complaints Against Employees. School boards are required to have a policy in place for the reporting of complaints against school board employees that affect the health, safety or welfare of students.

The second advertisement concerns Professional Ethics with a policy which addresses adherence to ethical standards by school personnel.

State Farm Florida's third quarter financial report shows a loss of \$198.6 million and a decline of \$202 million in surplus funds to date this year.

"We will carefully review State Farm's intended plans to ensure that they are in compliance with Florida law, and we will explore all legal options as well," stated Florida Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty "I will do everything within my power to protect Florida consumers from unnecessary destabilization of the insurance market

that this might cause and to ensure that Florida consumers are protected and have access to insurance rates that are not excessive or unfairly discriminatory."

Commissioner McCarty has issued a subpoena to State Farm Florida requesting detailed information about the company's Florida property insurance policyholders.

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

Checks

Continued From Page 1

actually repay the loan.

Other issues going on today include cheating homeowner's insurance by making false claims just to get items replaced or get new items that the homeowner never had.

There have also been cases where

individuals commit Property Injury Protection (PIP) fraud where attorneys solicit people who have been involved in accidents and help them to fraudulently claim the maximum on the PIP insurance.

There are even cases where someone has been in an accident and there would be little to no damage and the two in the accident just decided to leave the scene. In one instance, one vehicle

was still at the scene of the accident and a large van full of people drove up that had visible damage on the van.

They were not involved in the accident, but since there were so many people in the vehicle, versus the one person's testimony of the true accident victim, the officers believed that they were involved and they made false insurance claims including vehicle and health claims.

Fraud is prevalent in basically any area of life and it is definitely hard to realize just how much something can change and affect your life until it happens to you.

For additional information visit www.fldfs.com; or, call 1-800-378-0445.

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

OHS boys soccer loses at regional

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Matt Behrhorst scored the only goal of the game, midway through the second half as Merritt Island ended Okeechobee's boys soccer season, with a 1-0 victory on Thursday.

The match was played in brutal con-

ditions. Temperatures were in the low to mid 40s with a brisk wind which made it tough for the offenses on both sides.

Okeechobee ends their season at (10-7-4). It was the first visit to the regional for Okeechobee in five years.

"The cold weather sure made it miserable but it got better for the play-

ers once the game began," Brahmans Coach Lonnie Sears said, "It was a defensive struggle. The only goal came on a beautiful shot from 35 to 40 yards out. It was a great play."

Otherwise Okeechobee played a strong defensive game as the midfielders and fullbacks did a good job protecting the Brahmans net. Goal keeper Pablo Caballero had four saves, including a brilliant one in the first half.

"Merritt Island is a really good team. They were ranked second or third in the state this year. It shows you where we are at and what we can do," Sears noted.

Okeechobee did have some offensive opportunities in the match but were unable to cash in on them. They had two very good shots on goal in the first half but didn't score.

"If we put those balls in the net, its an entirely different game. We just missed.

Putting the ball in the net has been our problem. That's all there is to it. They weren't easy opportunities but they weren't hard either. If you don't make them, it costs you and it came back to cost us."

Sears said he feels his program is on the upswing and that good things will happen in the future. The Brahmans will lose a strong bunch of seniors this year including two main stars and their goal keeper. Alan Najera, Ivan Torres, and Misael Alvarado, could all sign scholarships to play college soccer.

"A lot of the guys who are leaving were role players. They knew what to do out there. We'll just plug people in and see what we can do next year. We have good players coming up the ranks and good players already in the system. The club soccer program will also help," Sears said.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gauda

Christmas cheer

Health occupation students from Okeechobee High School brought some Christmas cheer to Northside Headstart student on Friday, Dec. 12.

Patricia G. Cooper, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
309268 ON 2/8/09

Farm Bill programs deadlines near

GAINESVILLE — State Conservationist Carlos Suarez with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces Feb. 27, as the cutoff date for two Farm Bill conservation programs. All applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program

(EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) will be accepted until close of business on Feb. 27. Landowners are encouraged to sign up early to allow enough time to determine eligibility and to thoroughly complete the application process.

EQIP and WHIP offer financial and technical assistance to install structural and management practices on eligible non-federal lands to address natural resource concerns and wildlife habitat restoration. Conservation treatment activities for EQIP and WHIP are carried out in accordance to a conservation plan that is developed with the landowner or manager.

State-wide priorities for EQIP include erosion control, water quality, water quantity, animal/plant health and confined livestock operations. Priorities for WHIP include habitat restoration on scrubby flatwoods, pine rocklands, tropical hammocks, and native grasslands for bobwhite quail. Individual county priorities may vary slightly due to locally established objectives.

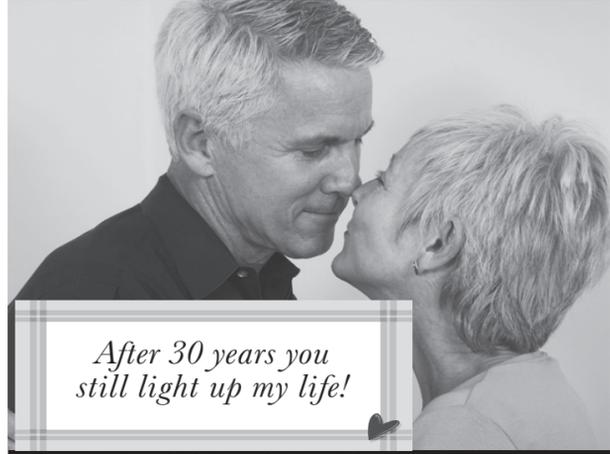
For additional details on these Farm Bill programs and for specific eligibility requirements to participate, contact your local USDA Service Center. For Okeechobee, please call 863-763-3619.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

Crossword puzzle grid with clues:
ACROSS: 1 Tiny bits, 6 Incan pack animal, 11 Best-seller, 14 Real hoot, 15 Legendary storyteller, 16 Colony denizen, 17 "Gift-wrapping material", 19 Bonding words, 20 Loses it, 21 Lose one's footing, 22 Eager beaver's demand, 25 Trattoria orders, 27 Source of strength, 28 Like some garages, 30 Tennis tactics, 31 A mint may freshen it, 33 Elected officials, 36 Summer, to Sartre, 37 Item for Gil Grissom's team—one begins the answer to each starred clue, 38 Caught on to, 39 Inspiring talk: Abbr., 40 Fortune, 41 Farming prefix, 42 Lime and rust, 44 Childish retort, 45 Pinellas Peninsula city, briefly, 47 Like some candles, 49 "Damn it!", 50 Cote cries, 52 Kimono accessory, 53 "Handy PC key", 58 VCR button, 59 High-calorie cake, 60 Rush, 61 Road wiggler, 62 Calculator, at times, 63 Everglades wader.
DOWN: 1 Likely choice, 3 Come—: lures, 4 Social duds, 5 Rush, 6 Wash softly against, 7 Security concern, 8 African snakes, 9 Duff Beer server, 10 Earth Day mo., 11 "Easily provoked", 12 Where rupees are spent, 13 Sporty sunroofs, 18 Some Texas A&M grads, 21 Luggage-screening org., 22 Burros' relatives, 23 Cybermemo, 24 "Modern communications science", 25 White House res., 26 Yearn (for), 28 Computer company whizzes, 29 Corduroy ridge, 31 It's usually not a 11-Across, 32 Dinner side dish, 47 Spud, 48 Crunch targets, 50 Martin or swift, 51 Preliminary stake, 53 School support org., 54 Casting need, 55 Get it wrong, 56 Byron's "before" speech?, 57 Empire St. paper since 1851.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
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N I T W I T S E L L M O E
T E C H A L D A T A I L
S H I N O L A T A U N T S
T U B E S O C K S
D E L E T E I N H A S T E
I V E S S A K S L I N T
G A S W E T A D D E N D A
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Seniors lead the way on senior night

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

It was appropriate that the three seniors on the Brahman's basketball team this year had excellent games on what might have been their final home appearance.

Corey White hit three, six point baskets, one short of the school record, and David Jeune had a double double as the Brahman's seniors won their final home game of the year, 67-31 over Moore Haven on Friday.

Senior Joey Voss added 10 points as did Terrence Allen.

"We came out here really fo-

cused tonight and I hope that will show up again at Districts. We will be tough to beat," Brahman's Coach Jon Enrico said, "I was really happy to see all my seniors play well. It was a fun night for them."

Enrico was sad to see David Jeune play his final home game. Jeune had 15 points and 17 rebounds. His excellent play will be sorely missed next year.

Okeechobee was never threatened by the small but quick Terriers. Jumpers by Voss, White and Allen gave Okeechobee a 12-2 lead early. Okeechobee led 26-6 after the first quarter.

Okeechobee got a great rejec-

tion by David Jeune on a Terrier shot early in the second and led 38-10 at half time. A three point play by Voss gave the Brahman's a 53-23 lead in the third quarter. Okeechobee led by 34 after three periods.

White hit two, three pointers in the final two minutes to approach the school record. His try for the seventh three point basket hit the back of the rim and bounced away with 30 seconds left.

White had one of his better games of his career. He scored 20 points, most of them on the long distance shots. "My shot was good tonight. The intensity was

there. We were really pumped up and ready to play. I think the whole team played excellent."

Voss, a role player for much of the year known for his defense, played his longest stint of the year, about 26 minutes. He noted he was likely to get a good sleep Friday night.

"We all played hard and played to the best of our ability tonight. I'm pretty glad that we won our senior night game," he noted.

The Brahman's will face off with Suncoast in the first round of their district tournament Tuesday night at Glades Central High School. The Brahman's have defeated the Chargers twice this year.

The Brahman JV team had an excellent campaign as they won 13 out of 18 decisions. DeForrest Shanks, Alonzo Coleman and

Jonathan Hudoff were all called up to varsity for the district tournament.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
A group shot of senior players and their parents. From left Rick Voss, Joey Voss, Stacey Voss, Patty White, Corey White, Rick White, David Jeunen and Deriaus Jeune.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Corey White and his parents Rick and Patty.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Joey Voss (center) poses with his dad Rick and mom Stacey.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
David Jeune and his father Deriaus Jeune.

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Baseball scrimmage highlights potential

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Brahman purple squad, the varsity, won the annual Purple White scrimmage, 11-2, over the junior varsity Friday night but it wasn't the score that really mattered.

Coaches kept their eye ball peeled on the improvement each returning player has made and also grabbed their first look at a new freshman class that has a lot of potential.

For some players they probably want the season to start tomorrow. Brice Buckner had two base hits, Adam Tewksbury cleared the bases with a hit, and Mike Minondo had a timely two run single in the first inning. Dustin Stokes also looked terrific on the mound in his two innings of work.

For others, they were glad it was only a scrimmage. One of the team's top starters Cameron Tewksbury had a rough first inning as he gave up four runs. Reliever Brandon Farless was also touched up in the late innings.

Mike McCoin opened the game with a double against JV pitcher Austin Hamilton. The game had JV batters hitting against a

JV pitcher and catcher and a varsity defense. The varsity batters hit against a varsity pitcher and catcher and a JV defense.

McCoin was erased after he tried to steal third on a nice throw by Will Jackson.

The varsity scored four times in the bottom of the first. Drew Selvey was hit by a pitch, Mark Weir walked and Buckner drove home a run with a single up the middle. Farless drove home a run with an infield grounder and Minondo drove home two with a sharp single up the middle.

Cameron Tewksbury pitched better in the second as he allowed only a single by Matt Dorriety.

Ryan Meigs made a mistake in the second as he forgot how many outs there were. He was on second after a bunt single and a stolen base. Adam Tewksbury skied out to center field but Meigs was off at the crack of the bat and was jogging into the dugout when he was called out at second.

Timmy Farrell pitched an impressive third for the JV as he retired three hitters, including Joey Conroy by strikeout.

Dustin Stokes retired Cameron Tewksbury on a weak pop up, Justin Morgan on a sharp grounder to short, and struck out



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Cameron Tewksbury had a rough first inning in the Brahman intersquad scrimmage Friday.

Kerwin Givens in a strong third inning for the varsity.

The baseball program held their annual 50 inning fund raiser on Saturday. The Brahman's host a pre season tournament next Thursday. Okeechobee will play Port St. Lucie on Thursday.

Researchers find new uses for LEDs

By Stu Hudson
University of Florida

GAINESVILLE — University of Florida researchers are using a new type of lighting to grow crops.

Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are now common replacements for incandescent bulbs in applications ranging from coffeemakers to holiday string lights. They stay cool to the touch, don't burn out as easily and use up to 90 percent less energy.

However, LEDs can also be designed to emit very specific frequencies of light, and researchers are using those exacting frequencies to promote plant growth.

"Everyone knows about greenhouses or home growers that use these special fluorescent white lights or filtered light to help plants grow," said Kevin Folta, a horticulture researcher at the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. "Light is the language plants listen to when deciding how to grow, and broad spectrum light is a noisy combination of different languages. We're learning how to speak these various ways to make the plant do what we want it to do, when we want them to do it."

In a paper published in a special December issue of the journal HortScience, Folta and undergraduate researcher Kayla Shea Childers report on progress made using combinations of LEDs to direct plant growth.

All plants have a unique combination of photoreceptors, pigments used to specific frequencies of light. These pigments trigger different behaviors in the plant, such as leaf growth, flowering, rooting or even speeding up and slowing down stem and shoot growth. As a demonstration of the technology, they report using specific light frequencies to restrict flowering in the early life of strawberry plants -- causing the plants to divert their resources to growing more runners and leaves.

If such techniques were employed by growers, the result could be stronger plants that produce more fruit. Farmers may even want to employ colored mulches and reflective panels to supplement the effect.

"We still have a lot to learn before we can start using these techniques on a large scale, but it is certainly looking more and more attractive of a possibility," Folta said. "Overall consumer

demand for LEDs is beginning to make the technology really inexpensive, so it's not inconceivable to picture acres of crops spurred on by LEDs."

Similar studies are taking place around the planet on crops such as rice, peas, tomatoes and maize. However, one of the most prominent uses of the technology could someday be off-planet.

Future astronauts could use the same technology used to light Christmas trees to grow their own

trees and plants in space.

"As we start to explore space for longer periods of time, we're not going to be able to just take food with us, we'll have to grow it," Folta said. "Humans can do well with anything that lets us see, but crops have evolved to specifically need the kind of light that they get on Earth, and not -- oh, say -- Mars. We'll have to give it to them to ensure that desirable plant products are there when we need them."



University of Florida/IFAS/Eric Zamora
In this file photo released from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, horticulture researcher Kevin Folta observes strawberry plants grown under various colors of light emitting diodes. LEDs, while gaining popularity for use in household appliances and holiday decorations, may prove valuable to farmers as specialized light sources to promote plant growth.

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