



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 18

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

50¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Teacher of the Year named

At their Tuesday meeting, the Okeechobee County School Board named Vicki Goggans, teacher at OHS, as Okeechobee County Teacher of the Year. For details, see the Friday edition of this newspaper.

Football coach announced

The Okeechobee County School Board announced Tuesday that Jeremy Beckham, from Dayton, Ohio will be the new football coach for Okeechobee County. For details, see the Friday edition of this newspaper.

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 2 p.m., now through April 15. For more information about the AARP Tax-Aide program online, go to www.aarp.org, or call Neile Foreman at 863-357-1694. Please do not call the American Legion.

Healthy Start Coalition to meet

The Board of Directors 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.

Drought Index

Current: 662
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

13.20 feet
Last Year: 10.01 feet

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

Index

Accidents & Arrests.....	3
Classifieds.....	11-12
Community Events.....	6
Crossword.....	4
Obituaries.....	6
Opinion.....	4
Speak Out.....	4
Sports.....	13
Sudoku.....	12
Weather.....	2

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

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Gaming compact talks under way

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Talks are again under way in the Florida Legislature in regard to a 2007 gaming compact between the state and the Seminole Indian Tribe.

If the state ratifies the compact it could mean an infusion of \$288 million into next year's budget. The Seminole Tribe has been paying since the compact was originally approved and the money has been sitting in escrow.

For financially strapped coun-

ties like Glades County, even a small percentage of that money would constitute a healthy boost to their budget. The money will be even more important once the U.S. Sugar Corporation closes its doors and an estimated 1,700 people will be out of work.

"Florida is in such a budget crisis that the state needs the money. The state is looking at the money like a ravenous dog toward a piece of meat," said State Senator Dave Aronberg, D-Greenacres. "I think we should treat these counties fairly."

Glades County is in Sen. Aron-

berg's district.

Governor Charlie Crist and the Seminoles entered into an agreement in 2007 that would allow the tribe to provide higher stakes slot machines as well as blackjack. These are not available at other gaming facilities in the state.

In return, the tribe promised that the state would receive \$100 million in the first year; \$125 million in the second year; and, at least \$150 million in the third year.

The Florida Supreme Court tossed out that agreement last

summer. They ruled that Gov. Crist exceeded his authority and that such a deal must be approved by the Legislature.

The tribe, however, has gone along with its expansion plans.

According to State Representative Mike Horner, R-Kissimmee, there is enthusiasm in expanding gambling in Florida. However, the District 70 representative added, Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum believes the tribe cannot put in table games unless the Legislature ratifies the compact.

"It's pretty clear that it will

be a tough legal fight to prohibit Vegas-style slots," said Rep. Horner, whose district includes Okeechobee County. "This creates a pretty interesting showdown between the feds, the state and the Seminoles."

The representative said approval of the compact would give the Seminoles exclusive rights to have blackjack in their casinos. And, the only way the state is going to get any money from the tribe is by approving the compact.

See Gaming — Page 10

Learning the ropes: Cowboy School House

Old West lives on at ropers gathering

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

They come to Okeechobee from all around the country and around the world to learn the old tricks of the trade of the American Cowboy. They learn ropes, whips, knives and guns from the old master, Gordie Peer.

The Eighth Annual Ropers Gathering and Cowboy School House was held this past weekend at Peer's VP Ranch and there was something for everyone.

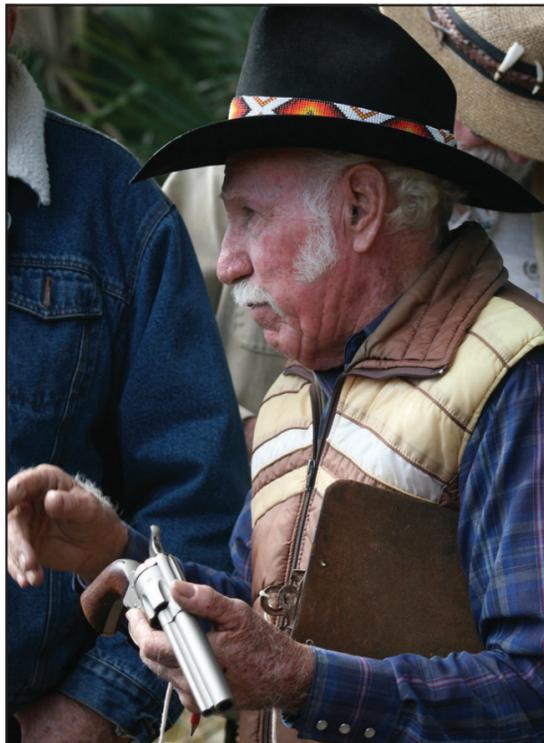
There were the famous, and the not so famous, on hand. There was plenty of camaraderie, fellowship, back slapping, and encouragement. There was the code of the Old West where everybody chipped in and put in a good day's work.

Mr. Peer was once again at his best as he taught the younger generation about roping, whips, and knife throwing. Bill Leighton tutored the attendees on how to handle a six shooter. Karen 'KG' Gogolick and 'Ranger' Rick Roltgen taught the cowboys and cowgirls how to yodel.

There was western movies on the big screen, an award banquet, plenty of cowboy food, and a nightly campfire.

Che Che White Cloud, aka Kenny Pierce was there, along with Don Reynolds, who played Little Beaver in the old Red Rider series. If you were a Tonto fan from the Lone Ranger series, you could have seen a Tonto impersonator, who was a dead ringer

See Ropers — Page 10



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Gordie Peer was always there to give tips on certain cowboy skills at the Eighth Annual Ropers Gathering and Cowboy School House.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Che Che Whitecloud (left) and Don Reynolds who both played in the Red Rider western series, were at the Ropers Gathering held last weekend.

County jail escapee sought

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The search is continuing for an Okeechobee County Jail inmate who was successful on his second attempt to escape his confines.

It is believed that Alejandro Perez, 45, has fled the area and is hiding in Miami, although he also has ties to Clewiston. He escaped from what is described as a 4-foot-by-8-foot outdoors individual recreation pod. Perez was supposed to be under special watch since his attempted escape in January.

"He was classified as high risk and was a close management inmate," said Major Noel

Stephen of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO). "His movement about the jail was different than the general population."



Alejandro Perez

Perez escaped around 2:21 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, while in the jail's outdoor exercise yard. The OCSO major said Perez is not considered violent.

"I don't think there's any violent history in his past," Major Stephen explained.

See Escapee — Page 10

Commissioners plan to honor one of their own

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Commissioners will begin their meeting tomorrow with a memorial for Commissioner Marvin Wherrell who died Dec. 22, 2008. Commission Chairman Cliff Betts is expected to honor the late commissioner who was half way through his first term.

Turning to the agenda, capital improvement projects and transportation plans will be among the items to occupy

If you go ...

What: Biweekly meeting of the Okeechobee County Commission
When: 9 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 12
Where: Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 N.W. Ninth Ave.

their time at the meeting.

Capital projects manager Donnie Oden will address the board concerning floor work in

See Honor — Page 10

Fire fighters predict active wild fire season

By Charles M. Murphy
INI Florida

The Okeechobee District of the Florida Division of Forestry is ready to go for what should be a very busy fire season in 2009.

Spokesperson Melissa Yunas said there already have been some wild fires in the county, and one vehicle was destroyed when it overheated and started a wild fire. Another fire was started by a person using a lawnmower to cut down

some heavy vegetation.

Ms. Yunas said the wild fire season runs from December until July. The most active part of the season is between April and June. Most of the fires that occurred between December and April are man made. In April, lightning strikes and other things can cause wild fires.

The Okeechobee Service Center covers six counties, Okeechobee, Glades, Highlands, Martin, Indian River, and St. Lucie. They have a fixed-wing aircraft and a helicopter

stationed in Okeechobee. The fixed wing aircraft has already spotted some small wild fires this year and helped firemen put out the flames before they got too big. Helicopter pilot Larry Davis is also stationed in Okeechobee. He can fly to any location in Florida to assist in the extinguishment of wild fires.

Last year the Okeechobee district helped put out a large wild fire in Brevard County that

See Fire — Page 10



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Spokesperson, Melissa Yunas poses by some of the Division of Forestry's top tools, the plow. The wild fire season is Florida usually runs from December until July.

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Community Theatre presents 'To Kill a Mockingbird'

Tickets are now available for the upcoming Okeechobee Community Theatre (OCT) production of the stage adaptation of Harper Lee's classic novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Reserved seats may be purchased for \$12 each during regular office hours at the Okeechobee County Chamber of Commerce. Performances are scheduled for March 5, 6, 13 and 14, at 8 p.m. at the theatre, (S.W. Second Avenue at Seventh Street, one block behind Golden Corral restaurant.)

To Kill a Mockingbird was specially performed as the community theatre marks its 30th year of producing Broadway-style musicals, comedies and dramas for local audiences.

"We've pulled out all of the

stops to make certain that this production is worthy of this milestone," said theatre coordinator/director, Ron Hayes. "The story is a true American classic, the cast of children and adults is proving to be outstanding, and the stage set will be quite unique."

The book on which the play is based won the Pulitzer Prize for literature for its young first-time author, Harper Lee, in 1960. The following year it was adapted for the big screen, and took numerous honors from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, including the award for best actor for its star, Gregory Peck. Both the book and the film are constantly voted among the American top 10 favorites of all time.

To Kill a Mockingbird tells the

story of racial prejudice in a dusty Alabama town in the depression years of the 1930s as seen through the eyes of a young girl. The youth and innocence of its central character assure that the serious subject matter is handled gently, and never becomes heavy handed. As a result, the play is appropriate for all ages.

The OCT cast is made up of more than 25 performers, including the all-important young peoples' roles of Jean Louise (Scout) Finch, her slightly older brother, Jem, and their friend, Charles Baker (Dill) Harris.

"All three youthful cast members have taken to the stage as though born to it," Hayes says.

The role of Scout is being played by nine-year old Kaylee

Whidden. Jem is being portrayed by Andrew Hall, 12, and nine year old Mason Heater is Dill.

The adult members of the cast largely consist of veterans of numerous Okeechobee Community Theatre productions. Michael White, who was last seen in the 2007 production of *State Fair*, will play the important role of Atticus Finch, the attorney who has been assigned the task of defending an innocent black man who is on trial for his life.

Also in the cast are Mike Zerden and Rahl Wilkinson, who have each made 17 previous OCT appearances.

Other cast members include James Garner, John Garner, Joey Marcinek, John Koepke, Genna Lute, Kevin Lute, Tom Murray,

Scotty Rae, Robyn Garner, and Robert Steiner.

Appearing for the first time on the OCT stage are Albert Whiteside, Shirley Johnson, Daniel Delagall, Seth Garner, Shirlean Graham, Sharon Williams, Terry Cotton, Sarah Marcinek and Tom Johnson.

The stage set will stand out from those of previous productions in several ways. The group received the generous donation of a supply of weathered Kentucky barn lumber from which to construct one of the two houses that will appear on the stage. Also a part of the set is a tree which is being created by the OCT stage crew, that serves as a centerpiece of the story.

Following *To Kill a Mocking-*

bird, the Okeechobee Community Theatre will complete its 30th birthday season with an encore performance of its 1995 production of A.R. Gurney's *Love Letters*. This show will be presented two times only, on March 27 and 28, as a birthday gift to the group's season ticket holders. And additional seating for this show will be extremely limited.

The Okeechobee Community Theatre is an all-volunteer organization of local residents who produce live theatre for local audiences. To become a part of the group, or for more information on its programs, contact Ron and Jacque Hayes at 863-763-1307.

Wedding Announcement

Grace - Banuelos

Denise Grace and Jose Banuelos were joined in marriage on Jan. 17, 2009.

The bride is the daughter of Daniel and Nancy Bartholomew of Okeechobee.

The groom is the son of Idalia Garcia of Moore Haven.

The wedding ceremony was held at the beach in Key West.

Eileen Jensen officiated at the ceremony. The bride was given away by her father and son, Will.

The maid of honor was Erin Grace of Okeechobee. Brides-

maids were Briana Banuelos of Okeechobee and Natalie Banuelos of Okeechobee.

The best man was Joey Banuelos of Okeechobee. Groomsmen were Jose Tagle of Okeechobee and Will Grace of Okeechobee.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at Harbour View Cafe.

After a honeymoon trip to Ocho Rios Jamaica, the couple is at home in Okeechobee. The groom is employed as a welder with FPL. The bride is employed as a Computer Tech with Okeechobee County Schools.



Mr. and Mrs. Jose Banuelos

Birth Announcement

Masen Allen Rucks

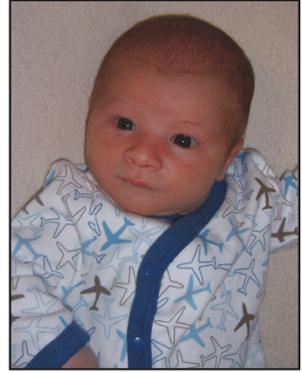
Traci and Chad Rucks of Okeechobee are proud to announce the birth of their son, Masen Allen.

Masen was born on Jan. 20, 2009 in Vero Beach, Fla. He weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 20-1/4 inches long at birth.

Masen Allen was welcomed home by his brothers Conner and Romin.

Maternal grandparents are Steve Johnson of Okeechobee and Debbie Rogers of Tampa.

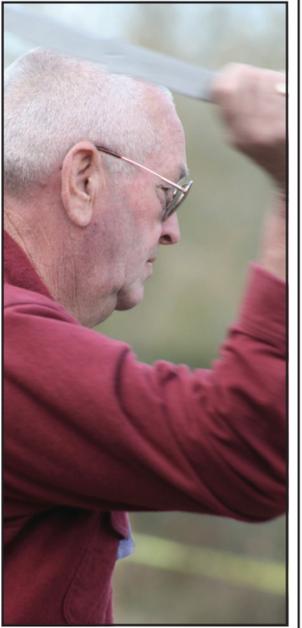
Paternal grandparents are Cliff and Margaret Rucks of Okeechobee.



Masen Allen Rucks

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
(Left) This cowboy learned the quick draw, and how to do it safely. (Right) John Stokes of Australia has taken to knife throwing.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Partly sunny with a high near 82. Winds will be from the southeast between 5 and 15 mph with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a low around 62. Winds will be from the south southeast around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 84. Winds will be calm becoming west southwest between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday night: Mostly cloudy with a low around 59. Winds will be calm becoming north around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 82. Winds will be from north around 5 mph becoming east southeast.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Monday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 6-3-7; **Play 4:** 4-4-5-5; **Fantasy 5:** 8-23-31-34-36; **Mega Money:** 1-8-28-41 MB 13; **Florida Lotto:** 20-28-29-39-43-49; **Powerball:** 5-18-20-28-53 PB27 x2. Drawn Tuesday, **Cash 3:** 6-1-8; **Play 4:** 1-2-4-7.

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Guidance when you need it most

Two charged in theft of pipe

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Two local men have been arrested in connection with the theft of some specialized copper tubing, and one of them was charged with trying to sell the tubing to a local recycling center.

Joseph Clinton Herbst III, 24, N.W. 90th Court, was arrested Friday, Feb. 6, on charges of grand theft and dealing in stolen property. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$5,000.

Also arrested was Jerrid Wakefield Douglas, 22, N.W. 86th Court. He was charged with grand theft, and his bond was set at \$2,500.

While both were charged with the alleged theft, only Herbst was charged with reportedly selling the tubing.

An arrest report by Deputy Sarah Green, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO),

indicates the men went to the victim's residence and took a total of 260 feet of tubing from under a tarp. The tubing was then cut into smaller lengths and taken to the recycling center, the report added.

Deputy Green said the medical grade 'K' tubing had an estimated value of \$954. She went on to say that Herbst was paid \$178.50.

According to the arrest report, the copper tubing is a special medical copper and the tubes are capped at each end to keep the inside sterile.

The victim was able to identify the tubing by lettering on the outside. The victim also had documentation for the tubing that aided in its identification, stated Deputy Green.

Deputy Green went on to state in her report that the 20-foot lengths of pipe had been cut into shorter lengths and are now of no use to the victim.



Joseph Clinton Herbst III



Jerrid Wakefield Douglas

Car crash claims man's life

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man died at a West Palm Beach hospital Saturday, Feb. 7, from injuries he received in a single-vehicle accident on U.S. 441 S.E. earlier that day.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) accident report, Gabriel Zane Painter, 22, was pronounced dead at St. Mary's Hospital at 4:45 p.m. Saturday.

Mr. Painter was in a vehicle driven by Reginald Marquis Hayles Jr., 23, also of Okeechobee.

The report states Mr. Hayles was taken to Raulerson Hospital and was in serious condition.

The 8:13 a.m. accident was alcohol related, stated the accident report by Trooper R.T. Ruiz.

Trooper Ruiz states in the report that the 1998 Ford Explorer driven by Mr. Hayles was southbound on U.S. 441 S.E. when he lost control of the SUV near the Okeechobee-Martin county line. The vehicle left the road and struck a utility pole on the east

side of the highway.

The Explorer then overturned twice, hit a fence post and rolled over a third time. Mr. Painter was thrown from the vehicle when the SUV rolled over the third time.

Mr. Hayles was found about 50 feet from the vehicle.

According to the accident report, neither man was wearing a seatbelt.

Trooper Ruiz estimated that the Explorer sustained \$10,000 in damages.

Woman charged with meth possession

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Detectives from the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force found suspected methamphetamine as well as a cutting agent after they stopped a vehicle for running a stop sign Monday afternoon.

Margaret Louise Hamblen, 32, S.E. 18th Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 9 on a felony charge of possession of methamphetamine. She was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Hamblen was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$12,500.

According to a task force arrest report, detectives stopped a red 1995 Jeep in the 1000 block of U.S. 441 N. for running a stop sign at the intersection of N.W. Fifth Avenue and N.W. Sixth Street.

Hamblen, continued the report, was a passenger in the Jeep.

After stopping the vehicle, the detectives asked for and received permission to search the vehicle.

The arrest report states that during the search the detectives found a clear plastic baggie containing a suspicious substance stuffed inside a teddy bear. The substance was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of methamphetamine.

Another bag was also found inside the bag. That bag, continued the report, contained a substance commonly used to 'cut' methamphetamine.

The suspected meth, the report stated, weighed 1.7 grams.

Detectives also issued the driver of the Jeep a traffic citation for the stop sign violation, the report added.

Arrest Report

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

• Ricky Garza, 21, N.W. 45th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 3, by Deputy Donnie Holmes on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with burglary of a conveyance (11 counts), criminal mischief over \$1,000 (two counts) and grand theft (six counts). He is being held without bond.

• Gilford Elias Clark, 36, Brewton Circle, Deltona, was arrested Feb. 3, by DOC's Joseph Cracchiola on charges of violation of probation - purchase of a controlled substance and violation of probation - tampering with physical evidence. He is being held without bond.

• Kolton James Coon, 16, S.W. Warfield Blvd., Indiantown, was arrested Feb. 5, by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee County adult arrest warrant charging him with burglary of a dwelling with assault or battery while armed, criminal mischief (two counts) and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. His bond was set at \$23,500.

• Alexander N. Weygant, 60, S.W. Fourth Ave., Fort Lauderdale, was arrested Feb. 6 by Deputy Harold Hancock on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with failure to appear - driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$1,000.

• James Matthew Hartig, 53, Sabel Ridge Court, Palm Beach Gardens, was arrested Feb. 7 by Deputy Cari Arnold on charges of driving under the influence and possession of marijuana under 20 grams. His bond was set at \$1,000.

• Michael Dorek Evans, 28, N.E. 18th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 7 by Deputy Corporal Timothy Higgins on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - falsely impersonating a law enforcement officer. He is being held without bond.

• Amanda Lee Robertson, 29, N.E. 342nd Trail, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 9 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with

failure to appear - possession of methamphetamine and failure to appear - possession of drug paraphernalia. She is being held without bond.

• Gary Dwayne Chaney, 29, Ave. E, Fort Pierce, was arrested Feb. 9 by Deputy Harold Hancock on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving while license suspended - habitual offender. He is being held without bond.

• Victor Gandarilla, 42, N.E. 128th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 9 by Deputy Corporal Randy Thomas on a charge of driving under the influence and driving while license suspended with knowledge. His bond was set at \$1,000.

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

Local traffic infraction leads to drug arrest

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man has been arrested on felony drug charges after over 600 grams of suspected marijuana were found in his car.

Ariel Gonzalez, 23, N.W. 113th Drive, has been charged with the felonies of possession of marijuana

with intent to sell, possession of marijuana over 20 grams and driving while license suspended/revoked — habitual offender. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Gonzalez was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$10,000.

An arrest affidavit by Officer Scott Morgan of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD) states that he stopped Gonzalez for failure to stop at a designated stop area. Gonzalez, continued the report, "... was sweating profusely and seemed very nervous."

After learning that Gonzalez was driving illegally, the officer asked him to get out of his green Pontiac. The officer then asked for permission to search the man's

car, but was refused.

At this point, Officer Morgan contacted the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) and requested a K-9 be brought to the scene. An OCSO detective and his K-9 walked around the exterior of the Pontiac and the K-9 alerted to the trunk and the driver's door.

During a search of the vehicle, Officer Morgan stated they found a pipe — commonly used to smoke marijuana — and a green leafy substance in the center console.

In the trunk, another OCSO detective found a small safe. After opening the safe the detective found two large plastic bags that each contained a green leafy substance. Another small amount of a similar substance was found in the bottom of a clothes basket.

Officer Morgan stated that the substances were all field tested, and all indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana.

The officer's report states that the large amount of suspected marijuana found in the safe weighed 599.79 grams with the packaging. The other two packages of suspected marijuana had a combined weight of 2.744 grams.

The OCPD officer also issued Gonzalez traffic citations for driving while his license was suspended and for failing to stop.



Ariel Gonzalez

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Toddler killed in accident

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A toddler was killed Sunday, Feb. 8, when he fell under the rear wheels of an F-250 pickup truck while riding his bicycle in the parking lot of the Town Center Apartments.

Savion Jones, 3, was pronounced dead at the scene, according to a press release from the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD). The apartment complex is located at 1799

S. Parrott Ave.

OCPD Officer Justin Bernst states that the child was riding his bicycle around 11:45 a.m. and rode into the side of the three-quarter ton Ford pickup — driven by Andres Soliz Jr., 29, of Clewiston — as it was backing out of a parking space. After hitting the truck, the toddler was pulled under the rear wheels.

The release goes on to state that the accident is still under investigation.

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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!

Where have all the good employees gone?

JOBS: I'm trying to understand why it is so hard to find decent employees who want to work. People need to be thankful they have employment when the unemployment rate is so high. I just don't understand where work ethics went?

EMPLOYERS: I've always held true to the theory, that if you don't like the job you got there's a better one right down the street. The employer should be thankful for an employee who gives his all, but unfortunately most times that does not happen. So down the street we go in search of one that does.

THANKFUL: at the present time where the unemployment is so high and jobs are scarce you would think that people would value their jobs whether good jobs or not. With so many people facing layoffs, down sizing or being fired, the job prospects are getting to be slim pickins especially in a small area like this one. I love my job but have "corporate issues" at times. However, even though the frustrations run high I go to work every day (sick or not) and on time, and take responsibility for what needs to be done and give 100 percent doing it. I need my paycheck to support my family.

WHERE ARE THE WORKERS: Where are all these people who are building the statistics and how can they afford not to work? Turnover is at an all time high and we are not even getting applications for new hires. Is it just the area in general or is this a situation that is occurring in other places? Then when we finally get someone, they are late consistently, do sub standard work and eventually either quit or get fired... go figure.

WORK: You want to know why others don't want to work? It is because the majority has been brought up to believe they don't have to work in order to get anything they want in life. Actually, mommy and daddy have taught them they don't need to. In days gone by, a son often worked alongside his dad and learned how to do what he did, from the ground up, so to speak. Or some owner of a business would take in a young willing worker to work alongside him and learn a trade. Nowadays, since everyone wants a better life for their children they try to see that sonny or daughter enters the business at the top of the ladder. What you often have is know-it-all young people at the top telling older workers how it's done. Bad outcome.

JOBS: In the past six months, I have had several people quit because they thought they could do better. Since then, all of them have called, begging, trying to get their old jobs back. But they were out of luck. Sometimes, I think you need to appreciate what you have rather than always thinking you can do better somewhere else.

Speckled Perch Festival

PARADE PARKING: I went yesterday morning to the parade. I was downtown at 9:20 a.m. We drove down Fifth Avenue and went to pull into a spot across and couldn't believe there was someone standing in the spot holding it for someone and would not move for us to park. Then as we turned left onto S. Park there were three ladies camped out in lawn chairs in a parking spot. I felt like I was back in elementary school asking one of my friends to "hold my spot" in line. But the parade was great and so were all the vendors.

FISH: I am a little confused. Why don't they have Speckled Perch on sale to eat at the festival? *Editor's note: Due to health department rules, only fish that have been commercially harvested and processed may be served at public events. Speckled Perch, a game fish, cannot be commercially harvested. When the festival started many years ago, Chamber of Commerce members did catch and serve Speckled Perch. However, more than 20 years ago the festival organizers had to switch to commercially harvested fish.*

New Restaurants in town

GRAND OPENING: I'm with those who are waiting for the new restaurants to put their "grand opening" ads in the newspaper. When they're ready to announce the grand opening, I figure they will have all of the people trained and any kinks worked out. I wish them luck and will be watching the paper for their ad.

What about this summer?

SLOW SEASON: what is going to happen this summer with our local economy? We always have slow summers but with all that's happened with the national economy, what are we going to be facing here? I know there are some new restaurants opening but when the snowbirds go home, business will drop off and hurt the ones that are already here. Just wondering what others might be thinking about this issue.

Obama's Town Hall Meetings

MEETINGS: What in the world is going on with Obama jettisoning all over the place holding town hall meetings about this stimulus package? I never in my days have heard of a president doing this, perhaps I am just not up to date on how presidents get bills passed. Why isn't he at the White House tending to other business? This bill can't be the only thing that needs taking care of. I would think being briefed on world situations might come in there somewhere. He surely can't have learned all there is to know in such a short period of time. What about all the buck he is spending, jettisoning around with his security forces. We are paying for that also. If he would just pass an across the board NO PORK bill I am sure the bill would pass as I believe that it is about fifty percent pork but don't hold me to that figure.

ERROR: President Obama made a grave error. Instead of designing this "Spendulous Bill," he allowed the House to design it giving Madam Pelosi and her associates a golden opportunity to load this bill with items that would never pass normal budgetary appropriations. Then without much review he allowed it to be crammed down the House's throat. Bad mistake, he had the votes there, but on to the Senate. When it went to the Senate (after a non-partisan vote for, but a partisan vote against) it ran into trouble. The Senate doesn't have that "bullet proof" majority the House has. That means, they had to have Republican input and Republican approval. It didn't happen, the pork was too much to swallow. And the longer it "lingered" the more the smell of rancid lard was noticed. So he must flit around to try to spend some of his personal capital gained during the election to "sell" this dead hog.

COULD HURT: On Wednesday, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said President Obama's economic recovery package will actually hurt the economy more in the long run than if he were to do nothing. They added that the House and Senate bills will help in the short term but result in so much government debt that within a few years they would crowd out private investment, actually leading to a lower Gross Domestic Product over the next 10 years than if the government had done nothing. Why are we "rushing" this bill through? Cut the spending that occurs after two or more years down the road -- we can debate it at ease -- look at the spending that will occur now, debate it, then pass a clean bill.

DEMOCRATS: I am ashamed to be a registered Democrat after reading about all of the special interest spending the Democrats in Congress added into the stimulus bill. Everyone has their hand out to get some of that pork barrel spending. I agree that we should spend on infrastructure -- such as roads and schools. But there are so many crazy special interest projects thrown in that it is a joke. Only about one-third of the money will be used for infrastructure projects. I don't think we need to go into debt just to create more big government agencies.

Okeechobee Health Department News

Why is the infant-feeding decision so important?

By Linda Wier
Okeechobee County Health Department

As a mother prepares for the birth of her child, she must make many important health decisions, including how she will feed her baby. In order to make an informed decision, women need objective, accurate information. Unfortunately, misinformation about breastfeeding is common, and a mother may receive mixed messages.

Children who are not breastfed are at a greater risk for a variety of diseases including diabetes, childhood overweight, obesity and

some childhood cancers such as leukemia. Formula-fed infants are also more likely to suffer from diarrhea and ear infections and have a higher risk for developing dangerous respiratory illnesses such as pneumonia and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Some studies also indicate that the lack of breastfeeding can be a risk factor for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Premature infants who do not receive human milk are also at a greater risk for life-threatening gastrointestinal diseases and premature infants who DO receive human milk get out of the NICU sooner.



Linda Wier

Breastfeeding helps mothers

recover from childbirth and keeps them healthier throughout their lives. Breastfeeding also helps the uterus to shrink to its pre-pregnancy state and reduces the amount of blood lost after delivery and this in turn helps prevent anemia in the mother. Mothers who breastfeed for at least three months are more likely to return to their pre-pregnancy weight than those who do not. Mothers who breastfeed are at reduced risk for breast, endometrial and ovarian cancers. Breastfeeding reduces maternal stress, promotes confidence, encourages bonding with the newborn, and may reduce risk of postpartum depression.

Some barriers to breastfeeding may include a mother's concern that she may not be able to supply enough milk. The more the baby feeds, the more milk the

mother will produce. Her milk has everything her baby needs even in the first days after birth. Other concerns may include embarrassment, fear of pain, lack of support, or lack of basic information about how to get started.

The entire Okeechobee County Health Department WIC staff has had training regarding promoting breastfeeding and answering breastfeeding questions. For answers to breastfeeding questions or assistance with breastfeeding concerns, call Linda at 863-462-5824, Amanda at 863-462-5715 or Shonda at 863-462-5814. Linda is available to assist all pregnant or breastfeeding mothers in Okeechobee County even if the mother is not a WIC participant. There is no charge for any of the above services.



Submitted photo/Okeechobee County Animal Control

Pet of the Week

"Miss Ellie," a very shy Terrier mix would make a great companion dog. Her adoption fee is \$105 which includes her spay, a heartworm check, a rabies vaccine, DA2LP and parvo vaccine and a County license. All adoptions require a home visit and any other pets to be currently vaccinated against rabies. For more information contact Animal Control at 863-357 3225.

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS: 1 Domino on the keys, 5 Two-time Grammy winner, 11 Chutzpah, 15 Steaming roller, 16 Too, 17 It's sold in bars, 18 Composer, 19 Antelope that believes in corporal punishment?, 21 Himalayan hair style?, 23 Brewer's need, 24 For the ages, 25 Fitting, 26 Pinch, 27 Put the metal to the metal?, 32 Dismissal from the court?, 36 Prefix with -zoic, 37 Phillip of "Kung Fu", 38 Pop, as a soda can, 40 Rather, for one, 41 Hubs, 43 "Just what you'd expect Capote to say!", 45 Beer go-with, 47 "The Girl From Ipanema" setting, 48 Co. with keywords, 49 Identify, in a way, 54 English-speaking, 57 Hearth ailment?, 59 Amorous murmur in the barracks?, 61 Large piece of cake?, 62 Col. neighbor, 63 Nasal divider, 64 Basie's "Clock Jump", 65 Noticed, 66 Like some palms, 67 They cause blowups.

DOWN: 1 Heartthrob, 2 Baseball's Hammerin' Hank, 3 "American Idol" judges, ultimately, 4 Longtime Georgia senator, 5 Kenyan tribesman, 6 Defense secretary after Cheney, 7 Banjo sound, 8 Keep an eye on, 9 Nevada's second-largest county in area, 10 Clay, today, 11 Spirited exhortation, 12 Pond organism, 13 Contact, e.g., 14 Lug, 20 "Blue", 22 Former leader?, 25 Medicinal creams, 27 Kaput, 28 "My bad!", 29 Motel 6 alternative, 30 Birthright seller, 31 Get into, 32 Red-bearded god, 33 Recon goal, 34 Social satirist, 35 Places with lots of white robes, 37 Chalet backdrop, 39 Scandinavian land, to its natives, 42 It might be creamy, 44 Stroller passenger, 46 Kind of 1940s suit, 49 Orders, 50 Declaration from a folder?, 51 Societal collapse, 52 Unwelcome forecast, 53 Continental capital, 54 It's between Mason City and Des Moines on I-35, 55 "Way to go!", 56 Stick together, in a way, 57 Manners?, 58 Ballyhoo, 60 Twit.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE: ATOMSL L LAMA HIT PANIC AESOP ANT TISSUEPAPER IDO FREAKS TRIP MEFIRST PASTAS UNITY TWCAR LOBS BREATH INS ETECSICLUE GOT SER RICHES AGRO OXIDES ARESO STPETE TAPERED NUTS BABAABA OBI PRINTSCREEN REC TORTURE HURRY ES ADDER EGRET

By Dan Naddor
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Okeechobee News

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For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2

Community Calendar

Wednesday, Feb. 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Feb. 12

Okeechobee Stitchin' meets every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 North Parrott Ave. Bring your sewing project and join in on the fun. All types of sewing is welcome, such as quilting, applique, embroidery, crocheting, knitting, serging. Bring your sewing machines if you like to sew. For more information call Belinda Boyle at 863-357-0166 or Corry Geissinger at 863-467-2231.

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

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

Tantie Quilters meet every Thursday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Historical Society Museum on U.S. 98 N. For information call Margaret at 863-467-8020, or Marie at 863-357-0868.

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.

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.

Prayer Group meets at 10 a.m. at the Community Center located at 412 N.W. Sixth St. For information, call 863-763-5996.

Christian Fellowship Prayer group meets at 9:30 a.m. at the fellowship hall at 412 N.W. Sixth St. For information, call 863-763-5996.

Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee will meet from noon until 1 p.m. at the American Legion Post 64 501 SE Second St. All Kiwanis and the public are welcome. For information, contact Frank Irby at 863-357-1639.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. 47 will meet from 5 until 6:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. Please join us or ask questions. Call Phyllis at 863-467-8636, or Hazel at 863-763-4920 for information.

Cowboys for Christ will meet at Dunklin Memorial, 407 N.W. Second Ave. Everyone is invited. For information, call Mike Fletcher at 863-357-6257.

Grieving parents support group is a nondenominational group of parents who meet every Thursday from 7 until 8:30 p.m. at the Red Cross building classroom, Court Plaza, 323 N. Parrott Ave. To help support and comfort one another after the loss of a child through shared experience. For information call Georgene at 863-763-2957 or Melanie and Tony at 863-763-4149.

Martha's House Inc. sponsors weekly support groups for women who are, or have been, affected by domestic violence and abusive relationships. The support groups are held every Thursday at 6 p.m. For information call 863-763-2893, or call Shirlean Graham or Irene Luck at 863-763-2893 or 863-763-0202.

Free Adult Basic Education/GED and English as a second language classes are available at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 701 S.W. Sixth St., from 7 until 9 p.m.

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.

Hand & Hand Ministries of Palmdale meets the second Thursday of each month in the community club house on the corner of Fifth and Main at 6 p.m. for food and fellowship and gospel music and the word at 7 p.m. For information call 863-612-0640.

Narcotic Anonymous NA-meets at Believers Fellowship, 300 S.W. Sixth Ave. at 7 p.m. For information call Monika at 863-801-3244.

Taylor Creek Bass Club will hold meet at the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post #9528 at 7 p.m. The club meets the second Thursday each month with bass tournaments held the following weekend. For information call Dave Stout at 863-467-2255.

Classic car show at Beef O'Brady's, 608 S. Parrott Ave., from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

Ongoing Caregiver Support Group Hospice of Okeechobee and the Area Agency on Aging sponsor a caregiver support group every Thursday at 2 p.m. Anyone who is caring for an ill family member is welcome to join. The group is facilitated by social workers and provides an opportunity for caregivers to give one another support, information and ideas. The meetings are held at Hospice at 411 S.E. Fourth St. For information, call 863-467-2321.

Raulerson Hospital offers a monthly **Diabetes Support Group** which meets on the second Thursday of each month in the hospital cafeteria at 2 p.m. If you have any questions please call the program coordinator, Wanda Haas, R.N., B.A., C.D.E., C.P.T., at 863-763-5093.

Depending on Christ **Depression Support Group** meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month on Martin County Grade. For information and directions please contact Laura Lee at 772-597-0463.

Daughters of the American Revolution host special program

The Okeechobee Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) held its January meeting at the Okeechobee County Public Library with a special program presented by Tony Bullington, the Program Manager for the Education Department of the Seminole Tribe. He presented an interesting power point presentation giving an overview of the services that are provided by the Education Department of the Seminole Tribe to the children of the tribe and their families. He gave an exciting

update of the "Pemayetv Emahak Elementary School" that is housed on the property of the Seminole Tribe. The name of the school translates as the "Our Way School." One of the focuses of the school is to maintain the history and culture of its native people. The Seminole Education Department cares not only for the school but also offers a; Parent Advisory Committee, Education Advisory Board, "10-12 Graders Close Up Trips", end of the year incentive awards, "Florida Indian Youth Summer Programs",

college recruitment programs, college scholarships, adult education, GED training, oversees a summer "Work Experience Program", offers tutorial services, as well as many other areas of services to the Seminole Tribes families. Mr. Bullington assists Ms. Emma Johns, the Seminole Tribe Director of Education, with day to day operations of the department. He is also a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and provides in school counseling services for Seminole students.

The February meeting was held on Saturday, Feb. 7. It was the 14th birthday of the Okeechobee Chapter DAR. Following a birthday celebration a program was presented by chapter member Debbie Clemons titled, "Presidential Inaugurations" in honor of February 16th, "Presidents Day". The program chronicled the highlights of many of our nations Presidential Inaugurations including this year's inauguration of President Barack Obama. Many interesting facts and humorous sidelights of past celebrations were told.

Beginning with George Washington, the president has always been sworn in with these words, "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." This also serves as one of the goals of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It is their desire to follow the beliefs of the "American Creed" as it is quoted at every meeting: "I believe in the United States of America as a

government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of may sovereign states; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its Flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

Consignment shop offers great deals

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Do you have old clothes that still have a lot of life in them? Would you like to find clothing at reasonable prices?

In both cases come to Upscale Retail, the consignment shop run by Dawn Huddleston and Elma Yates. They specialize in women's and children's clothes, baby furniture and women's accessories such as jewelry, purses and shoes. Both ladies have lived in Okeechobee for many years and also work at other jobs. Ms. Huddleston is a beautician and Ms. Yates manages the Shrine Club.

They say they can clothe your family for less and in style.

If the clothing does not sell, with the owner's permission, they donate it to either Real Life Children's Ranch, Hospice of Okeechobee or the ARC. The shop is located at 2303 S. Parrott



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Dawn Huddleston, left, and Elma Yates, right, operate Upscale Retail, a consignment shop located at 2303 S. Parrott Ave., Suite A.

Ave., Suite A. There is parking in the rear of the building. The hours are Monday and Saturday, 11 a.m.

to 3 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The telephone number is 863 467 2629.

Navigation locks to be closed

Boat traffic will not be allowed due to lowering lake levels

The navigation locks, S-193 at Taylor Creek, G-36 at Henry Creek and S-135 at J&S Fish Camp will be closed to all boat traffic when Lake Okeechobee's water level falls to 13.00 ft. NVGD.

Currently, the forecast calls for a continuing dry weather, with little to no significant rainfall predicted to recharge local drainage basins along the rim canals that flow into Lake Okeechobee. The weather pattern has triggered the

decision to close these navigation locks. This is being done in order to maintain current canal water levels in the areas serviced by these locks. Once these navigation locks are secured in the closed and unmanned position, they will remain closed until water in Lake Okeechobee is recharged through rainfall to a level that water managers feel will enable them to resume normal lock operations while maintaining canal levels north of the lake.

These closures will slow the loss of water from boat lockage in the local drainage basins including Taylor Creek and Treasure Island canal systems and maintain

navigable levels in these systems as these dry conditions persist. During the recent drought, low water levels in these canals caused them to become impassable and overgrown with vegetation. Following requests from the surrounding community, the District closed the navigation locks to preserve the remaining water for both navigation and for water supply. This action will provide similar protections.

For additional information about the navigation locks, water levels or other District projects, please phone the SFWMD Okeechobee Service Center at 863-462-5260 or 800-250-4200.

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Community Events

'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.

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.

Grace Brethren holds Valentines event

The Okeechobee Grace Brethren Church will have a Valentine get together Saturday, **Feb. 14**, from 5 until 8 p.m. Come join us for fellowship, fun, food and music. Call 863-763-7800 for more information, directions and to R.S.V.P. This is a free event. The public is invited.

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Obituaries

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

Gennaro Joseph Monichetti, 81

CAPE MAY, N.J. — Gennaro Joseph Monichetti, of Cape May and winter resident of North Lake Estates, Okeechobee, died Monday, Feb. 9, 2009, in Raulerson Hospital. He was 81.

Born May 26, 1927, in Sea Isle City, New Jersey he had been a lifetime resident of New Jersey serving in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He was a member of the South Seaville United Methodist Church, Seaville, Villas Fishing Club, Moose Lodge, Lower Township, Director of the 4H Foundation for many years, Cape May Court House, and retired Volunteer Fireman, Cape May Court House.

He is preceded in death by a son, Gene Francis and a brother, Salvatore.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, JoAnne; daughters, Susan Beth Monichetti of Marlton, Carol Sawyer of Cape May Court House; son, James T. Monichetti of Cape May Court House; sisters, Rose Marie Reno (Raymond) of Oceanside, Calif., Rita Ann Gore (Edward), of Hamilton Square, Mary Elizabeth Keene of Cape May Court House, Maria Josephine Conlow (Frederick) of Cape May Court House, Joan Carol Sigafoos (Fred) of Willow Street, Pa., and Barbara Jane Kennedy (John) of Yardley, Pa. In addition he is survived by grandsons, Marc Monichetti of Elmira, N.Y., and Matthew Monichetti of New Jersey.

The family will receive friends today, Feb. 11, 2009, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, 1110 NE 5th St., Okeechobee.

Condolences may be sent to www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

All local arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, Okeechobee.

Savion Elijah Jones, 3

OKEECHOBEE — Savion Elijah Jones, of Okeechobee, died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009, in Okeechobee. He was 3.

Born Sept. 25, 2005, in Sebring, he had been a lifetime resident of Okeechobee.

He is preceded in death by his aunt, April Brown and cousin, Sydney Page Brown.

He is survived by his father, Adrian Jones of Okeechobee; mother, Angela Yates of Okeechobee; brothers, Adrian Jones of North Carolina, Deandre Jones of Georgia, Ladarian Jones of Okeechobee; sisters, Tamakia Jones of Okeechobee, Shandrian Jones of Georgia; maternal grandmother, Marlena Garcia (Gilbert) of Okeechobee; maternal grandfather, Paul Yates (Allie) of Palatka; paternal grandmother, Dorothy Mae Jones; paternal grandfather, Aron Brown. In addition he is survived by a host of uncles, aunts and cousins including uncle, Paul Yates.

The family will receive friends on Saturday from noon until service time of 1 p.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

Friends may leave condolences at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

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



Gabriel 'Gabe' Painter, 22

OKEECHOBEE — Gabriel Painter, of Okeechobee, died Feb. 7, 2009. He was 22.

On June 16, 1986, a blessing was born to Mark Painter and Marquita Fruge. He was the best son, brother and friend, to those that knew him could ever ask for.

He was awarded Mr. Brahman at his alma mater, Okeechobee High School. He was a member of the class of 2004 where he was captain of the football team. He worked as an air conditioner and refrigeration repairman and accountant.

He was predeceased by his grandparents, Joe and Bea Painter, and Cormet Fruge.

He is survived by his father, Mark Painter; mother, Marquita Fruge; paternal grandmother, Della Walker; sister, Shannon Mariah Burch of Ragley, La.; three brothers, Michael, Zachariah "Zack" and Ezekiel "Easy"; girlfriend, Jade; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Bass Okeechobee Chapel.

Memorials may be made to Seacoast National Bank in the account for Marquita Fruge for Gabriel Painter.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bassokeechobeeff.com.

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



Charles 'Chip' Miller Campbell, 62

OKEECHOBEE — Charles "Chip" Miller Campbell, of Okeechobee, died in his home Feb. 9, 2009. He was 62.

He was born Aug. 8, 1946, in Beaufort, S.C., to the late Charles M. Campbell Sr. and Barbara Mitchell Campbell. He was a citrus grower and an avid fisherman.

Mr. Campbell was preceded in death by his brother, John Douglas Campbell.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara "Barbie" Campbell of Okeechobee; son, Charles "Chad" Edward Campbell (Niki) of Okeechobee; sister, Barbara Ann Campbell of Stuart; two granddaughters, Lacey and Layla.

Memorial service will be held 2 p.m. Thursday at Oakview Baptist Church with Pastor John Garrison officiating.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bassokeechobeeff.com.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 NE 2nd St., Okeechobee, FL 34972.



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Margaret E. Loomis, 82

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Margaret E. Loomis, of Springfield, and Okeechobee, Fla., died Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, in Lawnwood Medical Center in Fort Pierce, Fla. She was 82.

She was born June 3, 1926, in Niantic Township, Macon County, the daughter of Herman and Maude Disney Burge.

She married Robert E. Coe, who preceded her in death in 1976. She then married John R. Bice. Following his death she married Robert W. Loomis who also preceded her in death in 2002.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Mary; brothers, Otis, Percy and David; and a daughter, Nancy Carr.

She is survived by a son, Carrell (Doc) Coe of Dawson Il; five grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; a sister, Sarah Boyett of Bronson, Texas; and several nieces and nephews.

Margaret was a resident of Mechanicsburg from 1942 to 1988. In 1980, she became a winter resident of Okeechobee, Fla.

She was the founder and Queen Mother of the Seminole Cove Cuties Chapters of the Red Hat Society in Okeechobee, Fla., past president of Springfield Lioness club, a member of the order of the Easter Star-Venus Chapter 408.

She enjoyed gardening, cooking, caring for her house and caring for others in need.

There will be a memorial service at the club house in the Seminole Cover, Okeechobee, Fla., on Friday at 10 a.m. The Rev. James Dawson will be officiating.

Anyone caring to donate in Margaret's memory may do so to Okeechobee Hospice.

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OUA recognizes board member and employee

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

While the Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) Board of Directors discussed several issues without taking formal action, they did honor outgoing board member Elder Sumner and thirty year employee Roy Reno for their contributions to the utility.

Mr. Sumner stepped down after 12 years on the board of directors. He was presented a plaque by board chairman Steve Nelson.

"It's been a pleasure, I think," Mr. Sumner said of his time on the board. "This is the most informed and most unselfish board I have sat on."

Mr. Sumner noted that the utility has made a lot of improvements during his 12 years. At first he said city and county appointees were representing only the interests of the particular governments that appointed them. That has changed, he said, and now the board operates in unity. Mr. Sumner went on to say that the unity displayed by the OUA board contributed to unity between the city council and the county commission.

Mr. Sumner said he wants to spend more time on his Georgia farm.

Mr. Reno, director of operations, was presented by a certificate by Mr. Nelson recognizing his 30 years service to the utility.

The board spent some time discussing a developers agreement that fell victim to the hard economic times.

Last February the board granted a 12 months extension of their

developers agreement with Dr. Ben Schachter, an east coast veterinarian. The original agreement called for work on a proposed housing development on S.W. 16th Avenue to begin by last February. Dr. Schachter and his family own the land which was being developed by Sunland Homes. Sunland Homes went bankrupt leaving the property owners holding the bag. Dr. Schachter said he was actively seeking another financial backer to develop the property. He had paid in full the fees to reserve wastewater service for 24 units. According to the terms of the agreement, he should have forfeited all the fees he had paid. However, the board agreed to a one year extension provided Dr. Schachter would pay the monthly base charge for

wastewater service. The year's extension is over and Dr. Schachter stated that he cannot continue to pay the monthly base payments. The veterinarian asked for a 24 month extension. Instead of paying monthly base fees, he offered to forfeit two of the 24 reserved wastewater units already paid for.

Board members expressed a reluctance to set a precedence by allowing the swap. However, since Mr. Schachter was not at the meeting, the matter was tabled until next month.

The board also took no action on approving a contract and grant involving South Florida Water Management District and Williams Cattle Company over the use of treated wastewater to irrigate Williams' citrus groves.

There were still some details that the board asked Mr. Conley to iron out before they took action.

In other action the board:

- approved a scope of work totaling \$638,000 to Metzger & Willard for a wastewater system including preliminary design, surveying, geotechnical, final design, permitting, financing and overall project management for the north end of Treasure Island and the south end of Treasure Island including an extension to Kings Bay.
- approved the finance report for the period ending Jan. 31;
- approved a progress payment in the amount of \$298,467 submitted by Wharton-Smith, Inc. of Palm City for work completed on the wastewater treatment plant expansion;

- approved a payment in the amount of \$90,855.28 submitted by Derrico Construction Corp. of Melbourne for the SE-2 lift station and gravity sewer rehabilitation project;
- approved a work change directive to Wharton-Smith in the amount of \$6,095 for additional equipment in connection with the centrifuge, a piece of electrical/mechanical equipment that initially processes and dries residuals as part of the wastewater treatment plant expansion; and
- approved expenditure of \$15,187.50 to Premier Chemicals, LLC of Tampa for a trial of an odor control system for the wastewater treatment plant.

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



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Leaving the board

Okeechobee Utility Authority Board of Directors Chairman Steve Nelson, right, presents board member Elder Sumner, left, with a plaque commemorating his 12 years on the board. The presentation took place at the Feb. 10 board meeting.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Thirty years' service

Okeechobee Utility Authority Board of Directors Chairman Steve Nelson, left, presents a certificate to Roy Reno, right, honoring Mr. Reno's 30 years' service to the utility. The presentation took place during the Feb. 10 board meeting.

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Pageant to Crown '2009 Miss Okeechobee County Fair'

Sign-up deadline is Feb. 13

When Miss Okeechobee County Fair is crowned on Friday, March 13, she will begin a year-long reign that may even include participation in the Miss Florida Teen USA pageant later in the year. The girl who wins here may choose to take a cash award toward going on to Miss Florida Teen USA or accept a college scholarship."

Miss Okeechobee County Fair, will crown the 2009 Miss Okeechobee County Fair. The new queen will preside over events during this year's fair and will be the official representative of the county fair at other events throughout her reign.

Donny Arnold is pageant director. He is also a local firefighter and has run the annual Mr. and Miss Firecracker Pageant for the past fifteen years. Leslie Stokes is the pageant coordinator; training the girls to put on an exciting show, which will begin at 7 p.m.

Emcees for the pageant are David Lee and Bridgette Waldau. Rafael Pacheco, of Creations in Fotografia is the pageant's official photographer.

The competition begins earlier in the day, with individual interviews with a team of well-qualified judges. The on-stage judging will include evening gown and swim suit competitions. The young ladies will be questioned on stage as a part of the final determination of who will have the honor of becoming the 2009 Miss Okeechobee County Fair.

The winner, finalists will receive a number of prizes, and awards will also be presented to "Miss Photogenic" and "Miss Congeniality."

"This is more than just a beauty pageant," Donny Arnold says. "We are looking for a girl who is proud of her accomplishments and her community."

Mary Kathleen Barber, 2008 Miss Okeechobee County Fair, represented Okeechobee with great style and grace, not only at the Miss Florida Teen USA pageant but also around the state and

our community. You can follow her busy year on the Okeechobee County Fair's web site.

There is still time to sign up. The committee has extended the deadline to February 13. This is a wonderful opportunity for a young lady in our community.

Please contact Donny Arnold at 863-634-6464 for any questions. Applications and rules may be obtained on line www.okeechobeeountyfair.com or pick up an application at Cottage One-Eleven, 111 N.E. Second Street.



Submitted photo Mary Barber was crowned the first Miss Okeechobee County Fair in 2008. Now it is her turn to turn over her crown to the 2009 queen. Pageant deadlines have been extended to Thursday, Feb. 13.

Brush fire threatens Okeechobee homes

By Charles M. Murphy Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Fire Rescue and the Division of Forestry were able to protect several structures from a fast moving brush fire at 1546 NW 110th Street on Sunday according to fire reports.

Three units and five firemen from the county along with several units and plows from the Division of Forestry responded around 1:30 p.m. and found the flames within 50 feet of a structure, and a boat in the front yard.

A fire report from paramedic

Everette Wooten said that about 1/4 acre burned in the blaze. A neighboring home was also threatened before firemen got the flames under control. There was no property damage reported.

A resident at the home stated they had a fire in the backyard the

night before that had been smoking. The juvenile said his father told him to put some water on the fire. He later saw the flames in the back yard and ran to a neighbor's house to call 911.

The Division of Forestry issued a notice of violation in the fire.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

New members

Kiwanis President Jim Vensel (left) and past President Frank Irby (right) inducted new member Diana Whitehall (center-left) who was sponsored by Sherri Enfinger (not pictured) and new member Lori Mixon (center) who was sponsored by her son, J.D. Mixon (center-right).



Courtesy art

Former resident in football classic

Cody Williams has been invited to play for Team Georgia in the 2009 King Kamehameha Football Classic in Honolulu, Hawaii this summer. Cody, who is a Senior this year at Tattnall County High School, is the son of Billy and Tina Williams of Cobbtown, Ga., formerly of Okeechobee. He is the grandson of Ernestine Caldwell and Bill and JoAnn Williams, all of Georgia, formerly of Okeechobee. Cody's uncle, Buddy Mills is the ag teacher at Yearling Middle School.

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Area churches plan special programs

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

On Sunday mornings at 10:30 Matthew and Rachel Belleville will be taking kids in children's church at **Abundant Blessings**, 4550 U.S. 441 N., to a new level of excitement. Also, a new youth pastor joined the Abundant Blessings staff on Feb. 1. He is looking forward to working with the youth in our church and community. The adult song service has changed some-

what, with the use of videos and new contemporary music. Saturday, **Feb. 21** will be an exciting day for kids and adults alike. Eight inflatable bouncers will be set up for the kids, and there will be free food and a yard sale. This will be the new pastor's way of saying to the community, "Let's get acquainted." The hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Saturday, **April 4**-the day before Palm Sunday - the public is invited to join Abundant Blessings in a din-

ner theater beginning at 5 p.m.

Okeechobee Grace Brethren Church, 701 S. Parrott Ave., is sponsoring a Valentine get together Saturday, **Feb. 14** from 5 to 8 p.m.. Come join them for fellowship, fun, food and music. Call 863-763-7800 for more information and R.S.V.P.

Peace Lutheran Church, 750 N.W. 23rd Lane, has a youth group for grades 5 -12 that meets Wednesdays from 5:15-7:30. Students in 8th grade and up are invited to the Fellowship Hall after school to work on homework, play board games or just hang out. Each week we have an activity, meal and Bible study. Come and bring a friend. On **Feb. 20** the youth will travel to the Riverside Retreat Center in La Belle for their second annual Heartland Circuit Spring Youth Retreat. They will get to know youth from other churches in the area, spend time in God's Word, and participate in activities such as kayaking, volleyball, archery, basketball and cycling. Call the church office for more information. The Fl-Ga District 2009 High School Youth Gathering with the theme "Connected" will be held **March 6-8** at the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel in Jacksonville, Fla. This is a great opportunity to spend time with old friends, meet new friends, and grow closer to God. They will



Places of Worship

connect the community to Christ through several high energy, high-impact service projects and enjoy great music, speakers and fellowship. All interest youth are invited to call the church office for more information. Adults are invited to join any of the following Bible classes: Firm Foundations, a study of the Catechism by Pastor Hirst; In the Grip of Grace, a study of Max Lucado's book led by Ed Van Deman; Resting in Him, a study on finding rest in Christ led by Angie Achong; The Purpose-Driven Life, a study of discovering God's purpose for your life led by John Simms. Call the church office for meeting times.

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 1258 N.E. 13th Ave., will celebrate its 39th Church Anniversary on Sunday, **Feb. 15** at 11 a.m.

Oakview Baptist Church, 677 S.W. 32nd St., is taking a group of

adults to the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater in Fort Myers to see the hilarious comedy "Church Basement Ladies." **Feb. 15** is the deadline for the **March 6** trip. The cost is \$60 per person, which includes the chartered bus, buffet dinner at the theatre and the show. For more information, please call the church at 863 763-1699 from Monday through Thursday. Oakview Baptist Church will be having "Oak-Fest" on Friday, **Feb. 27**, from 6-8:30 p.m. Please make plans to join them for a night of fun for the whole family with inflatables, games, horses, food and live entertainment. Best of all it's FREE! For more information please call 863-763-1699.

Cornerstone Baptist Church, 18387 U.S. 441 N. at McArthur Dairy, is hosting the movie "Fireproof" Saturday, **Feb. 14** at 6:30 p.m. This is a movie that will encourage your heart and show you a new way to look at marriage, strengthen your marriage and provide help to marriages that are struggling. Free child care will be provided. Please RSVP by calling 863 532 8519 or e mailing Tom@Cornerstoneokee.org.

Okeechobee Church of Christ, 1401 S. Parrott Ave., will be having a Gospel Meeting **Feb. 15-18**. Sunday services will be at the regular times. Bible study is at

930 a.m., Sunday morning worship is at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday evening worship is at 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday nights services will be at 7 p.m. Rev. James Watkins from Tennessee will be preaching. The church also has two new classes for ladies. Each Monday at 10:30 a.m. there is a Ladies Bible Class. The theme is "Seasoning Your Words." Each Thursday night at 7 p.m. there is a class for ladies on healthy living. Everyone is welcome.

The Gathering Church, 1735 S.W. 24th Ave., is hosting weekly "growth groups." Each group will focus on a different area of interest or need; such as grief support, health & nutrition, and debt elimination, as well as a variety of interactive Bible studies. Everyone will meet in the main sanctuary at 7 p.m. and be dismissed to the group of their choice. For more information call the church office at 863-357-4418. Everyone is welcome to attend.

First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St., is sponsoring Mother's Morning Out as a service to the community. The church has openings for Tuesday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Contact Nancy Vaughan at the church office for more information, 863-763 4021.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

Rotarian president Maureen Budjinski (left) and the Okeechobee Rotary Club learned about the upcoming March of Dimes' March for Babies which will be held on Saturday, March 7, from the local coordinator Laura McCall (center) and the divisional director Pam Crowley (right).



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Ropers

Continued From Page 1

for Jay Silverheels. Dick Haines, a member of the International Knife Throwers Hall of Fame, was there for his second visit. He is known as the world's fastest knife thrower. "I love this. You get to do some lariats, bull whips, throw some knives and have all sorts of fun," he said.

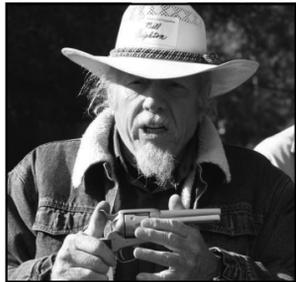
A.J. Silver, one of the best trick ropers in the country, was also on hand. He was educated in dance, and combined that with his roping abilities to put on shows in Branson, Pigeon Falls-Tennessee, and other areas.

Mr. Reynolds, known in recent years as a horse trainer, relived his memories of playing Little Beaver on the old Red Rider series. He also played in movies alongside Roy Rogers and Gene Autry. He also appeared with Robert Mitchum in the film, "The Red Pony." Reynolds was the last actor to play Little Beaver. The most famous actor to play the role was Robert Blake. Tommy Cook

played the role on radio. Mr. Reynolds played alongside Jim Bannon as Red Rider. Don Redberry also played Red Rider at times as did Wild Bill Elliott and Alan Rocky Lane.

Mr. Reynolds said he really enjoyed himself and loves to talk about westerns. "It's dying off because the younger generation has just outgrown it. You ask them who Red Rider was and they don't know. They've all outgrown it."

Mr. Reynolds helped train Shad-owfax the white horse in the Lord of the Rings series. He instructed the horse on all of his actions in the



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy **Bill Leighton shows the crowd how to properly handle a Colt revolver.**

movie. He also has trained elephants, camels and cattle. He trained six horses in the Disney movie, "Kate and Leopold" in 2001. He also worked with cattle on the movie set of "The Scorpion King."

"I met Gordie at a film festival in Memphis a few years ago and he invited me down here. I'm having a real good time," he said.

John Stokes came a long way to visit Okeechobee. He is a resident of Melbourne, Australia. He noted he saw an advertisement about the Ropers Gathering and decided to drive from Los Angeles in a camper to learn more about his new love, knife throwing.

"It's a marvelous turnout. I wish we had something like this in Australia but our laws won't allow it. You can't carry guns or knives in Australia," he said.

Mr. Stokes said he bought some knives in Las Vegas and has been practicing with them every chance he gets. "Could you believe I've only been doing it for a few hours. I'm hoping to get interest in this in Australia. It's not expensive and it suits all ages," he said. "Yesterday, a seven year old boy threw the knife



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy **Doug Smith showed off some fine roping skills at the ropers' gathering.**

and it stuck in the board and he was hooked. He was smiling from ear to ear."

Smiles were commonplace at the VP Ranch all last week as many got to relive their childhood and pursue the dream of being a cowboy or cowgirl.

Escapee

Continued From Page 1

Perez was arrested Dec. 16, 2008, on charges of burglary, grand theft and possession of burglary tools. His bond was set at \$46,000. Then, on Jan. 1, 2009, he tried to escape from the county jail by breaking out a window.

He was subsequently charged with attempted escape and felony criminal mischief. His bond on those charges was set at \$15,000.

Records indicate that Perez was scheduled to appear in circuit court Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 9 a.m. on the January 2009 charges.

Maj. Stephen went on to say the man's jail-issued orange jumpsuit was found in close proximity to the jail and he suspects Perez had help.

When Perez was taken to the outdoors pod Maj. Stephen said

he would have been in handcuffs and shackles, but the restraints would have been removed once he reached the pod. Sometime after the restraints were removed, Perez made his escape.

A criminal investigation is under way, as well as an administrative probe as to how Perez was able to escape.

Maj. Stephen said as far as he knows Perez is the first inmate to escape from the county jail.

As the county's top law enforcement official, Sheriff Paul May said he is taking responsibility for the escape.

"A lot of things go right at your sheriff's office and when they do I, as your sheriff, get the credit. With the escape of this inmate, something has gone wrong and I, as your sheriff, take full responsibility for this incident," he said in a prepared statement.

The sheriff said Jail Administrator Ronnie White and his staff are reviewing the jail's security

system, with particular attention being paid to those times when inmates are in the outdoors recreation yard.

"A thorough investigation of the escape in under way, and inmate Perez is being sought nationwide," the sheriff added. "I regret this incident occurred and I will assure you that everything within my power will be done to see that this does not happen again."

Maj. Stephen said no one was injured during the escape.

Perez, who listed a local address of N.W. 112th Terrace, was arrested in December of 2008 after he reportedly broke into a home on Eagle Bay Drive and took an estimated \$1,200 in jewelry. He apparently gained entry into the home by prying open a window at the back of the house, said OCSO Detective Rick Durfee.

Not long after he allegedly entered the home, the young couple who live there returned home to

eat lunch. The detective said as they entered through a back door, Perez left via the front door. Shortly after sitting down to eat lunch they discovered their bedroom had been ransacked and some jewelry was missing, the detective explained.

Perez was arrested a short time later while hiding behind some homes across the street from the home he had just burglarized, said Detective Durfee.

The detective said a bag containing a hammer was found in the area as well as a pair of gloves.

Friday's escape is under criminal investigation with OCSO Detective Sergeant Brad Stark being the lead investigator.

If anyone has any information about the escape or the whereabouts of Perez they should contact Sgt. Stark at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, 863-763-3117.

Fire

Continued From Page 1

destroyed many homes. Ms. Yunas said they hope nothing like that happens in Okeechobee.

"The forecast for this year would be very busy," Ms. Yunas said. "The two recent frosts last week has created a lot of drying affects. We ask people to be very cautious. Now is the time to protect your home and also be cau-

tious when you're outside."

Ms. Yunas said you can protect your homes by clearing off the roof of your home. She said campfires start with pine needles, sticks, twigs and leaves. These items can also set your house on fire. She urges homeowners to clear off their roofs, gutters and areas near their homes for anything that is flammable.

"Remember burning embers can fly a quarter of a mile. If you have these items accumulating on your roof you're asking for it.

The embers can settle and ignite your roof. The roof is the most vulnerable part of your home," she added.

Ms. Yunas said keep your home lean, clean and green. That means you should clear off areas near your home so firemen can protect it in the event there is a wildfire.

Already this year the drought index has been very high in Okeechobee County.

Indian Hammock and Viking historically have the most wild

fire problems in Okeechobee. Homes in these areas are often put at risk due to wild fires. Ms. Yunas said Indian Hammock is a fire wise community. Volunteers have cleaned off roofs, and cleared yards to make their community safer.

Ms. Yunas said he and her fellow staff members are available to make presentations to the public on ways that they can better protect their homes and businesses. Information can be obtained on the web at www.fl-dof.com

Honor

Continued From Page 1

connection with the courthouse renovation. The board will be asked to approve terrazzo tile as the finish floor type and approve a change order in the amount of \$82,016 for concrete floor removal and replacement, existing fill material removal, replacement/compaction.

In another construction matter, Mr. Oden will present a proposal from L.E.B. Demolition and Consulting Contractors, Inc. of Jensen Beach to demolish the historic jail and remove all debris from the property. Some bricks and artifacts will be saved to be incorporated into an expansion of the current jail.

Commissioners will once again be facing the effects of budget shortfalls when they decide whether to continue, terminate or suspend for a specified time, the development of the county's long range transportation plan. The county had contracted with Kimley-Horn and Associates to prepare the plan. The original agreement was for \$195,000. As of Jan. 30, \$103,00 had been spent for work performed. The work is funded from the transportation trust fund and must be completed by Aug. 31.

In other action the board is expected to:

- proclaim the week of Feb. 15-21, to be National Engineer's Week in Okeechobee County;
- consider approval of a change order in the amount of \$44,475.61 to Sheltra and Son Construction to use the remainder of CDBG grant money on the Douglas Park stormwater project;
- hear a presentation from the Florida Department of Transportation on the S.R. 70 four laneing project;
- consider a request from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office to use the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center for D.A.R.E. Graduation on May 20;
- authorize advertisement for a public hearing to consider adoption of an ordinance to amend animal control regulations;
- make two appointments to the tourist development council board;
- consider awarding a contract of \$31,158.47 to Roumelis Planning & Development Services for grant administration and project

delivery services for the CDBG Wilma Supplemental Grant;

- consider issuance of a request for proposal for development of an emergency medical services assessment;
- approve a family medical leave policy revision concerning

family members of military personnel to comply with state law; approve a domestic violence leave policy to comply with state law; and

- consider final plat approval for Silver Palms RV Village Phase 1, which consists of 167 lots of

the 512 in the total project which is located across S.W. 32nd Street from Oakview Park Baptist Church.

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

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Gaming

Continued From Page 1

"Right now it would fill holes," he continued. "Clearly, revenue is down. State government is a barometer of the economy. That money could help soften those cuts."

He went on to say that legislators need to take this very seriously.

At this point no one has any idea just how money from the Seminoles would be used. Initially, it was earmarked for education, said Sen. Aronberg.

"It's too early to say exactly how it will be distributed. It's not earmarked right now," he said.

Besides the financial boost to the state, the tribe said expanding their casino operations could create as many as 45,000 new jobs — both directly and indirectly.

Still, there is also a concern among legislators that giving the Seminoles the go-ahead would give them an advantage over pa-

rimutuel operations that can't offer the card game. It would also impact revenue these operations can offer to Florida through tax dollars.

The state does not have the power to tax operations on tribal lands.

"Parimutuels have a 50 percent tax rate. The talk is to possibly lower that to encourage growth," said Sen. Aronberg.

As for what's going to happen to the compact, it's too early to tell. Sen. Aronberg said it has support in the Senate, but the House is a different story.

"The House is a bit dicier," he said. "The House has been opposed to gaming."

The senator said while the House is more conservative, the Senate is more moderate.

"The Senate actually supported gaming in the past," he added.

He went on to say that people he has spoken with are in favor of the compact.

"But, they have different ideas of what the compact should be," he said.

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Announcements 100

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

Auctions 105
Car Pool 110
Share a ride 115
Card of Thanks 120
In Memoriam 125
Found 130
Lost 135
Give Away 140
Garage/Yard Sale 145
Personals 150
Special Notices 155
900 Numbers 160

Found 0130
FOUND: DOG near Skip's Bar-B-Que. Small, black. Please call 863-467-5652.

Special Notice 0155

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

BUSY CHILD CARE CENTER- seeking CDA TEACHER that has exp w/young children. Full-time or Part-time avail. Call (863)467-5588

FULL TIME STYLIST position now available at Stafford's Hair Salon. Call for an appointment to interview (863)763-3933

SALES, Generators home and business, straight commission, mileage paid. (772)778-0131

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

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

Special Notice 0155

Wanted To Buy 0740

We Buy Scrap Gold, Silver and Coins
Elliot's Pawn Shop
419 W S Park St • (863) 763-5553

Financial 300

Business Opportunities 305
Money Lenders 310
Tax Preparation 315

Business Opportunities 0305

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

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

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

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
Free Breakfast, Lunch & Snacks
Free VPK
Before & After School Programs
24/7 Surveillance Cameras
www.fidapreschool.com

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

Handyman Services
DEE'S MINOR REPAIR & Pressure Washing
Cool Sealing, Painting, Carpentry & Much More!
No Job Too Big or Small.
(863)467-2917
or (863)261-6425
License # 5638 & #1126

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

Tax Services
TAX RETURNS
I will do simple returns for \$50-\$100.
(863)467-7999

Wanted To Buy 0740

We Buy Scrap Gold, Silver and Coins
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419 W S Park St • (863) 763-5553

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/Stamps 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

Books & Magazines 0535

NEW - Hardback Patricia Cromwell book Scarpetta \$15.00 (863)763-7165

Buildings & Sheds 0537

RUBBERMAID SHED 7 x 7 - 1 year old. Comes with tie downs. \$225. (863)634-8527

Children's Items 0555

BOYS CLOTHES 3-9 months - Several tops/shorts and one piece sets. Excel cond (Okee) \$15. (863)763-6131

CRIB SET (POOH) - 10 Pc crib set, GREAT cond. 7 Free pooh toys, call for info [Okee] \$80. (863)261-2604

CRIB W/MATTRESS - Spindle-Jenny Lynn. Light Maple Colored. Good Condition. \$50. (863)634-3324

EDDIE BAUER Adventurer Stroller/Car Seat - used only a few times. Paid \$329.00 \$150. (863)675-0104

FISHER PRICE CRADLE SWING - Swings 2 ways, 6speeds +ALOT MORE PD 150! \$80. (863)261-2604

NEWBORN to 26 lbs - Several white snap t-shirts/onsies. Clean, spotless, excel cond. (Okee) \$12. (863)763-6131

EDDIE BAUER convertible Baby Travel Bed - Used only one time. Paid \$249.00 \$100. (863)675-0104

STOVE - Ge, white electric very good condition. \$125. (239)410-6870

FREEZER - Kenmore upright freezer. Med size, good condition come see. \$80/or best offer. (863)467-5680

PANINI MAKER / GRILL By: W. Puck. New (gift) So nice! New \$69. Will sell for \$45 (863)467-8140

ROTESSERIE, SHOWTIME - NEW! Complete w/extras. Was \$190. Will sell for \$135. (863)467-8140

SMALL Microwave Oven, \$10.00 - 1536 Hwy 441 S.E. Lot 7 Seminole Village. East of Bowling Alley. (863)467-4567

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Automobiles 4005

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

'02 Acura 3.2 Cl. \$5195
Loaded, moon roof, leather #H5014

'99 Honda LX Civic \$1995
4 Dr. AT, ac, #12205

'99 Ford Expedition \$5995
Eddie Bauer, loaded, low miles, auto #H9464

'02 Landrover Discovery SD \$5995
4x4, at, vr, load #H6501 NOW... \$1995

'00 Toyota Solara ... WAS \$2995
2dr, auto, loaded #H6933 NOW... \$1695

'03 GMC Sonoma King Cab ... \$3695
3dr, 6 cyl, auto, ac, loaded, fiberglass topper #H2124

'99 Ford Ranger King Cab ... \$3895
auto, 6 cyl, ac, #H0919

'00 Eclipse ... \$3995
6 cyl, 5 spd, moon roof, A/C #H0286

'97 Jaguar XJ6 ... \$5995
one owner, low miles, x-clean #H3517

'99 Subaru Outback ... \$3995
AWD, loaded, auto, ac #H2070

'02 Taurus ... \$1995
V6, AT #H3310 #H5719

'00 El50 Cargo Van ... WAS \$2995
V6, AC #H9148 NOW... \$3695

'98 Ford Explorer XLT ... \$3995
Loaded, #H6717

'04 E350 12 Passenger Van ... \$3995
Dual AC #H2589 NOW... \$3695

'95 DeVille X-Clean ... \$3695
#H3835

'00 Eclipse ... \$3995
6 cyl, 5 spd, moon roof, A/C #H0286

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'00 El50 Cargo Van ... WAS \$2995
V6, AC #H9148 NOW... \$3695

Golf Clubs/Equipment 0618

Must See!
CLUB CAR - Used, Good condition, charger, \$900 or best offer. (863)697-1350

Guns/Supplies 0619

COLT AR15 Match Target - 24" Stainless Bull Barrel 2.5X10 Scope (TRADE) \$2000. (772)461-8822

MAK 90 - \$750. (863)673-3893

MAUSER CARBINE Sporterized - Model 1895 7MM Bolt Action \$200. (772)461-8822

RUGER 357 Magnum special, stainless steel. New. \$400 firm Call after 6 pm 863-675-3255 LaBelle

RUGER 45 ACP - S.S. with 3 S.S. magazines. Excellent shape. \$425. (863)673-3893

Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

GOLD'S GYM squat bar comes w/300 lb of weights & olympic bar. Excellent condition. \$900/neg. (863)697-1247

ORBITREK ELLIPTICAL - Exc. cond. tracks time, distance & spd. For home use. \$300 best offer. (863)697-1247

Household Items 0630

BEIGE MOBILE Home Tub Surround - New In Box \$40. (863)467-7996

Outdoor Furniture 0648

NEW BENCH SWING 5ft - Comfortable w/heavy duty frame & support \$275. (863)675-7306

Medical Items 0650

POWER WHEEL chair 2006 - for extra large person. Like new condition. \$1200/or best offer. (863)634-5225

SCOOTER - Merits S541 Pioneer \$695 (863)983-7949

WHEELCHAIR - \$50. Call 863-675-1910.

Miscellaneous 0655

BOWFLEX POWERPRO - Never been used. Includes leg attachments. \$550. (863)763-7750

FIREPLACE - charming, moveable, faux, w/heater & faux lit logs, 1950s? \$250. (863)675-4098

Pets/Supplies 0670

FEMALE SHITZU - Black & White, short haired, playful, great with kids, mostly indoor dog. \$400 (863)467-8743

MALE Apple head tea cup chihuahua - 12 wks old, crate trained, good with kids. Has papers \$700 (863)235-1739

SINGER QUANTUM Futura 200 Embroidery Machine - plus 4 hours lessons \$450. (863)467-0290

Stereo Equipment 0710

KICKER SYSTEM - SX650 AMP/12" L7/fairy cap/like new in boxes \$350. (863)634-2131

SPEAKERS in box with 2000 watt amp \$600. (863)697-9014

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.

Tools 0725

SEARS Craftsman table type router. Good condition \$50. 863-675-1218

TOOL BOX - UWS DIAMOND PLATE W/TOP RAIL...FITS 2002 TOYOTA TACOMA. \$100. (863)634-1161

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

Toys & Games 0730

LITTLE TYKES Swingset - CALL FOR INFO/PICS \$350. (863)634-1897

Wanted To Buy 0740

Looking to Buy Ceramic or Glass - Electric Kiln. (301)904-1534

Agriculture 800

Christmas Trees 745
Farm Equipment 805
Farm Feed/Products 810
Farm Miscellaneous 815
Farm Produce 820
Farm Services 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

Apartments 905
Business Places 910
Commercial Property 915
Condos/Townhouses - Rent 920
Farm Property - Rent 925
House - Rent 930
Land - Rent 935
Resort Property - Rent 940
Roommate 945
Rooms to Rent 955
Storage Space - Rent 960

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

KINGS BAY - 2/2, \$695 per mo 1st & last, no pets or (863)763-7301 (86

Parts/Repairs 4045

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

St. Lucie Battery & Tire 198 US Hwy 98N • Okeechobee • (863) 357-2431 • www.slb.com

Waterfront Property 1080

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

Mobile Homes 2000

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

Mobile Home Rent 2015

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

MOBILE HOME - 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

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

Mobile Home Sale 2020

Bank Repo. 4br/2ba doublewide, over 2,000 sq ft, excellent condition \$49,900 set-up on your lot. Set-up & a/c included (863) 357-4848

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

KINGS MH PARK - 48 x 12 Furn 1/1 w/21' concrete porch & roof, in good cond. On rented lot. Must see to appreciate. \$8000 (863)467-8773

KRRF - Adult Park, Lot 90, 2/1.5, furn., Fr. rm., carport, bathhouse, workshop, \$25,500 neg 763-8382

Lowest prices in south Florida. No money down on your lot. Very easy financing. 2, 3, & 4 bedroom models avail (863)357-4848

MOBILE HOME on rented lot, Dew Drop Inn, Lot 1, 2/1, furnished, c/a/h, washer-dryer, Fr. room, carport, storage, bldg \$12,000 or best offer, 467-1837 or 859-749-3348

~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

New 3br/2ba doublewide \$49,900 setup & a/c included. Very easy financing (863) 357-4848

OKEECHOBEE - Db Wide, on canal, elec boat lift, lg attached Util Room, lg Util shed, golf car, furnished, Exc cond., 1307 S Parrot, #40, Riverbend Mob Home Pk, (217)852-1238

RIVER RUN MH PARK - For sale by owner 2/2, fully furnished, master bath has a retreat room, with shed. (863)763-7101

S/W MOBILE HOME - 14x50, 2BR, 1BA, 12x22 Scr/Vynl Rm. Newly refurb. Lake access w/dock. Treasure Island. In park. \$24,000 or best offer. (772)318-8218

Tired of paying lot & maintenance fees? Own your own doublewide manufactured home with full size residential lot 3BR, 2BA, open concept floor, LR/DR/kitch., den, utility rm, C/A & heat. Double driveway with carport, 2 covered porches, fenced back yard. \$90,000. Call 863-467-7911

Recreation 3000

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

AIRBOAT HULL - Apache, 12', with good trailer & cage works, no motor, \$1500 or best offer. (863)357-5754

PONTIAC FIREBIRD '90 - black, V6, exc. cond., \$1900 or best offer (863)634-7254/467-0913

Parts/Repairs 4045

PONTIAC GRAND PRIX 1997 - EXC CONDITION. AUTO, V6, NEW TIRES! \$2800/neg. (863)697-2032

SATURN SL2 1994 - runs great; cold a/c; excellent gas mileage; 120K miles. \$1500. (863)610-0084

Classic Cars 4015

FORD BRONCO CLASSIC 1978 - Antique, 6 cyl, roll bar, grill guard, magwheels \$5600. (863)763-3966

ROW BOAT - 12', with pair of 7' oars, \$50. Call 863-675-1910.

SEARS 14' BOAT Select - TRAILER INCLUDED \$475 or best offer. (863)675-1111

SKEETER 150 BLKMAX 1982 - exc. condition \$3000 or best offer. (863)675-7897 (863)517-0301

TRITON - 1999, 21 ft, FS, 225 Merc EFL, with trailer, excellent cond. \$12,900 (863)763-1365

TROPHY BAYLINER '85 - 20.8 ft w/bimini top, marine radio, new antenna, fish/depth finder needs outboard motor only \$1500. (863)634-7524

Campers/RVs 3010

COACHMAN 1985 - 35 Ft. \$1800 or best offer. (863)675-7105

DUTCHMAN, 2000 RV - 26', sleeps 6, \$5,000 or best offer. Call 863-675-0077 or 863-674-1333.

KAR KADDDY Select - Car dolly, like-new condition with brakes \$1000. (239)248-0082

SPARE TIRE CARRIER, for 4 inch square bumper, like new \$25.00 or best offer (863)357-6703

Marine Accessories 3020

MERCURY O/B MOTOR - 4 hp. engine w/kill switch. Recently serviced. Exc. cond. \$395 or best offer. 863-467-9800

Motorcycles 3030

GEELY 49CC GAS SCOOTER - low miles, New \$1200 asking \$ 800 (863)467-4551

HARLEY DAVIDSON SPORTS-TR 883 - 1998, Low miles, nice condition \$4500 (863)430-6987

HONDA 600 SHADOW 2000 - Like new only 7000mi, new tires & Batt \$3000. (863)673-8230

Sports Vehicles/ATVs 3035

CLUB CAR ELECTRIC 2003 - New batteries, side curtains, reconditioned \$2495 or best offer. (863)843-0062

HONDA ODESSY - 1983, 250 CC, Fast. Good condition \$700 (863)610-2993

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

SUZUKI VINSON 500 2006 - Warn winch, Kodiak storage, heated grips, delivery pos \$4000/firm. (772)204-2821

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

CADILLAC Fleetwood 96, Re-built Trans & new tires, Life-time Aamco warr, very sound \$800 FIRM (863)634-5914

CHEVROLET MALIBU 2000 - V-6, a/c, auto, CD \$3200 or best offer. (863)634-4056 (863)634-2296

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

FORD EXPLORER 1994 - White, new tires, runs good. \$1700. (239)857-4348

FORD MUSTANG 1998 - SA-LEEN BODY KIT, FAST CAR & STRONG SOUND ENGINE, STAGE 2 HAS PROGRAMMER SUPER CHIP AND READY TO UPGRADE ENGINE, LEATHER SEATS, LOW MILEAGE, RUNS GREAT, EXCELLENT CONDITIONS. CD, a/c, tinted windows \$15000 or best offer. (561)993-2280

FORD TAURAS XL 1997 - 4drs 70,000 or miles great car, a/c, 1 owner \$2300 or best offer. (863)447-0965 (863)447-0941

Ford Taurus - 1995, Auto, a/c, clean, good condition \$2000 (863)763-2858

HONDA CIVIC 1995 - runs good \$3000. (8 6 3) 2 0 1 - 3 4 9 2 (863)261-1181

JAGUAR XJ6 SOVEREIGN 1991 - JAGUAR XJ6 Sovereign. Loaded. GV. 116,000 miles. \$3,500 Neg. Call (863)484-0499. \$3500/neg. (863)447-0796

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JAGUAR XJ6 SOVEREIGN 1991 - JAGUAR XJ6 Sovereign. Loaded. GV. 116,000 miles. \$3,500 Neg. Call (863)484-0499. \$3500/neg. (863)447-0796

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

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY MINI VAN '94 - well maintained, \$3500 (941)524-8932 LaBelle

BUYING A CAR? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.

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FORD EXPLORER 1994 - White, new tires, runs good. \$1700. (239)857-4348

FORD MUSTANG 1998 - SA-LEEN BODY KIT, FAST CAR & STRONG SOUND ENGINE, STAGE 2 HAS PROGRAMMER SUPER CHIP AND READY TO UPGRADE ENGINE, LEATHER SEATS, LOW MILEAGE, RUNS GREAT, EXCELLENT CONDITIONS. CD, a/c, tinted windows \$15000 or best offer. (561)993-2280

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Public Notices 5005

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO.: 47-2008-CA-112

CITIMORTGAGE, INC., PLAINTIFF VS. HUMBERTO GUTIERREZ - UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF HUMBERTO GUTIERREZ, IF ANY, AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; JOHN DOE AND JANE DOE AS UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION DEFENDANT(S)

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated January 21, 2009 entered in Civil Case No. 47-2008-CA-112 of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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Seven Brahman wrestlers qualify for Saturday regional

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Three Brahman wrestlers, Donny Bush, Tyler Hayes and Josh Gruber won championships at the District 14-2A wrestling tournament Saturday at Treasure Coast High School.

Okeechobee finished in fourth place overall and had seven of their wrestlers qualify for the regional tournament this Saturday at Martin County High School.

Donny Bush cruised at the 145 pound level. He defeated Luke Dehon of William T. Dwyer and Joey Munao of South Fork to win the championship.

"I'm very happy to win my fourth district title. This helps me next week at the regional as I'll be the number one seed," he noted.

Bush said he was slowed a bit by a mild stomach ache and wasn't as into the matches as he usually is. Still, he was able to survive after an early take down against Munao.

"I'd wrestled him four times and beat him pretty handily. He made a nice take down. Hopefully I'll feel better next week," he added.

Hayes also won his 4th district championship as an individual. He noted he wasn't as happy as he normally would be, because he didn't dominate the final match against Thad Boucher of South Fork. "I'm kind of disappointed in myself. I won, that's great, but I want to dominate. I came from behind and won pretty fairly but I don't want to win like that, I want to win in a dominating manner," he said.

Hayes said he might have been over confident and over aggressive and that got him into some trouble. Boucher scored 11 points on him in the final match. Hayes won 22-11. He won his preliminary match against Nick Vinson of Port St. Lucie.

The third championship was won by Josh Gruber, a junior. Gruber defeated Dylan Kohler

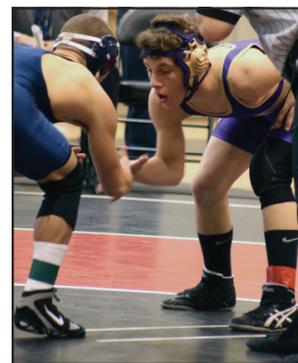
of Fort Pierce Central, Matthew Wisehaupt of South Fork and Brando Smith of William T. Dwyer to claim the championship.

"I'm really tired but I feel really good. I felt I stayed on top the whole time and didn't let him get a chance. It just went really well," he noted.

Gruber wasn't able to wrestle last year in the region due to job responsibilities. He said he looks forward to competing in the state regional this week and that his goal is to reach the state tournament.

Other Brahmans who reached the regional are Tony Bowers who finished in fourth place at 112 pounds, Mitchell Dean, who finished fourth at 125, Craig Cleckley who finished second at 160, and

Tony Bonnett who finished third at 215 pounds.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Donald Bryan (right) shakes hands with Bobby Nunn of William T. Dwyer before their match at 140 pounds.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Vance Wilkerson (right) wrestles Ruskoy Edmond of Fort Pierce at 130 pounds.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Tyler Hayes won the 152 pound championship, 22-11, over Thad Boucher of South Fork.

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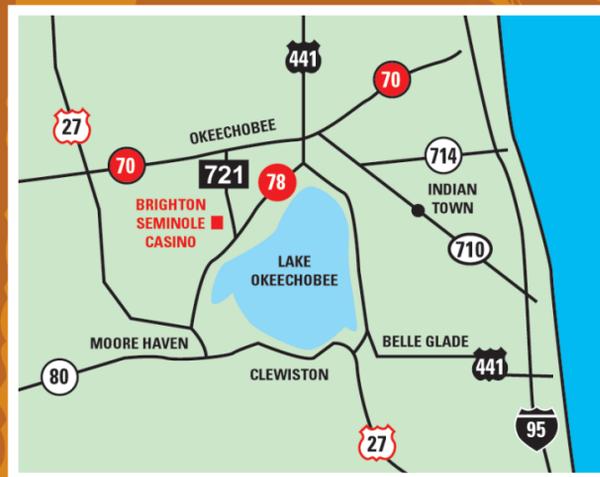
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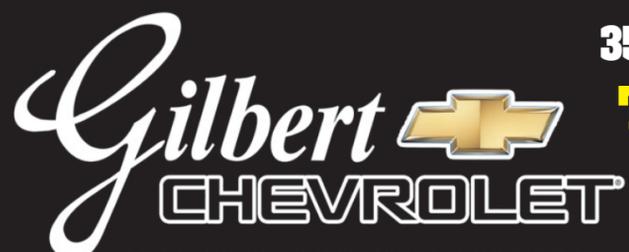
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