

## Briefs

### 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](http://www.aarp.org), or call Neile Foreman at 863-357-1694. Please do not call the American Legion.

### Back to work seminar set

Pritchard's Insurance and Raulerson Company Care will present a "Back to Work" program on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 1802 South Parrot Avenue, from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. There is no charge for the seminar. Guest speakers will discuss topics that deal with issues concerning returning to work after occupational injuries. Anyone is invited to attend this informative seminar. For more information, please call Lisa Rodriguez at 863-824-3114 or by email at [lrodriguez@pritchardsinc.com](mailto:lrodriguez@pritchardsinc.com).

### Adoption orientation session planned

Considering Adoption? Please join the Children's Home Society of Florida at our monthly Adoption Orientation session. The Adoption Orientation session will take place at 415 Avenue A, Suite 100, Fort Pierce, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 26. Anyone interested in learning more about adoption is invited. This fun, casual and FREE open house-style orientation will provide an overview of adoption and answer all questions related to adoption and CHS' adoption process. Please help us raise adoption awareness in our community as we try to find additional permanent, loving homes for children in foster care. To RSVP or for more information, contact Children's Home Society's Adoption information line at 772-489-5601, ext. 277.

### Drought Index

**Current:** 670  
**Source:** Florida Division of Forestry  
**Local Burn Ban:** None

### Lake Levels

**12.89 feet**  
Last Year: 10.11 feet

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

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# Housing boom went bust

Planned developments in county stalled as economy flounders

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

As in the rest of the United States, the housing boom in Okeechobee County has gone bust. It all fell apart like a house of cards.

Three years ago the county's planning board was entertaining

many requests for zoning changes and special exceptions to allow for subdivisions, townhouses and apartment complexes. As evidence of the change over three years' time, this month's meeting did not even have an agenda. There was no business to come before the board and an open discussion was scheduled.

In 2006 there were several large housing developments in the works. Two separate parcels of property on the west side of S.W. 16th Avenue were zoned for multifamily dwellings. An-

other apartment development was planned further south on the east side of S.W. 16th Avenue. A housing project was approved for next to Osceola Middle School.

Eagle's Landing was to be built on a 101-acre tract on U.S. 441 near Nubbin Slough. Ambitious plans called for 622 housing units consisting of 242 multi-story condominiums, 264 two-story townhouses and 116 one-story villas. There were also to be 15 acres of commercial property including a grocery store, a bank, a

drug store and restaurant.

The Grove was a nine square mile tract in the extreme north-eastern corner of the county. It is bounded by the Indian River County line and the Florida Turnpike on the north and the St. Lucie County line on the east. Original plans called for 4,000 dwelling units, 1.35 million square feet of retail services, 420,000 square feet of office space, 350,000 square feet of light industrial uses and 800 acres of golf courses, parks and other open spaces. The Grove

was planned to have its own water and wastewater treatment systems. Originally the work was to start in 2008 in stages.

In March of 2006 the county approved the first planned development sponsored by Coker Cattle Company and Freshwater Development Corporation of Wellington. It was to be a 4,780-acre development on both sides of Charles Harvey Highway that was to consist of 1,200 residential units, 25 acres of commercial

See Bust — Page 12

## Hostage drill: Seeking a safe resolve



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp  
Members of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team (SRT) move toward an open window through which Sergeant Robert Coleman threw a telephone so that negotiators could communicate with the two men inside the home. The men were holding a woman hostage in the Tuesday, Feb. 24, training exercise.

## Training exercise helps keep officers' skills sharp

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

As the sniper, clad in a Ghillie suit, inched ever so cautiously toward the stucco-covered white house, Lt. Lester Yeates' radio cracked and a voice on the other end softly said, "there's a window open on the west side."

The sniper continued to describe Tuesday morning's hostage situation by telling Lt. Yeates how many men were inside the home, how many windows the house has, how many exterior doors and how they opened and, most importantly, that there was a female hostage wearing an orange shirt.

While the situation was dramatic, it was one of the training exercises routinely carried out by members of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office. Three snipers were doing their job by slowly moving up on the home to get as close as possible and "paint a picture" of what was transpiring to their supervisors.



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office detectives Sgt. T.J. Brock (left) and Sgt. Brad Stark (right) manned the telephone and communications system whereby they could speak with and negotiate with the two men who were holding a woman hostage in Tuesday's training exercise. Lieutenant K.J. Ammons is also a member of the negotiating team.

OCSO Major Noel Stephen said the snipers will establish a perimeter and could be hiding in a ditch, behind a tree or in any other safe location.

"They need to be in a safe location so they can be moved," he said. "Closest is not always

See Training — Page 12

## Three charged in shooting incidents

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

Three men were arrested in connection with two separate shooting incidents Sunday, Feb. 22, during a Mexican rodeo held at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center, 4200 S.R. 70 E.

In one incident Jose Barbosa, 23, S.W. Eighth St., Pompano Beach, was arrested and charged with five counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$100,000.

No one was injured in either shooting incident.

"A couple of fights broke out and things got out of hand," said Detective Sergeant Brad Stark of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO). "But



Jose Barbosa



Luis Gutierrez



Ernesto Moreno

He went on to say he didn't know yet what caused

See Shooting — Page 12

## Schools ask for funding help

By Chauna Aguilar  
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board, along with all the District 16 county school board members attended a town hall style meeting Friday where State Representative Tom Rooney did less talking and more listening to the needs of the district as a whole.

The meeting was "educational" as the District 16 school leaders from Okeechobee, Glades, Highlands, Palm Beach, Charlotte, St. Lucie, Hendry, and Martin counties all gathered to pool their concerns so that Representative Rooney would be able to make the best representation of what they need.

Educations leaders from all of the counties were given a copy of the letter drafted to the U.S. Department of Education and signed by all of the Florida Congressmen to strongly urge them to grant a waiver as provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to allow the state access to critical education funding through the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.

Besides funding and the constant unfunded mandates that are placed on the schools, another key concern is the unfair comparisons that were established as a result of the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP).

When AYP was established, it was left up to each individual

See Funding — Page 12

## New at this year's county fair: Lego competition

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

In a continuing effort to make each year's Okeechobee County Fair bigger and better, the fair association has added a Lego competition to the 2009 fair. For the first time, the fair, which runs Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 22, will feature a Lego building contest. Entries will be judged on the basis of originality and creativity (25 points) and precision (25 points). The project

must be assembled so that it can withstand being handled and moved by the judge without collapsing. There are four age divisions: 4-6, 7-9, 10-12 and 13 and up. Entries should be checked in between 4 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11. The fair should have something for everyone with daily pig races, a rodeo, a livestock show, a beauty pageant, midway rides and the traditional creative skills and crafts, veg-

See Fair — Page 12



Submitted photo

## KOA prepares for Musical Variety show

The cast and crew of KOA's Bi-Annual theatrical show are busy preparing for this year's musical variety show, titled "From Broadway to Hollywood" it's filled with great music, dancing and humor. Additionally, students from Leslie's Dance Studio are a wonderful addition to this year's cast. All proceeds for this event are contributed to our "Kid's Care Camps," our charity which sponsors camps throughout the United States and provides wonderful, carefree weeks for children with cancer. The show will be held Feb. 27 and 28 and is open to the public. Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased at the front office from 1 until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday as well as at the door.

# Blake Crum

Adam and Wendy Crum of Okeechobee are proud to announce the birth of their son, Austin Blake.

He was born on Jan. 28, 2009 at Martin Memorial in Stuart, Fla. He weighed 7 lbs 4 ounces and was 18 1/2 inches long at birth.

Austin was welcomed home by his big sister, Kayleigh.

Maternal grandparents are Linda and Frank Pearce of Okeechobee.

Paternal grandparents are Darryl Crum and Sharon Barbaree of LaBelle and Ft. Meade, Fla.



Submitted photo  
**Austin Blake Crum**

Great grandparents are Boyd Mounts, Idell and Johnny Pearce, Margaret Mitchell, Carolyn Massey, Nan Carrier and Georgia Gerran.

# Winifred Hamner

Winifred and Norman Hamner Sr. of Okeechobee will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on March 1, 2009.



Submitted photo  
**Winifred and Norman Hamner, Sr.**

# Fischer

David and Janet McKenna of Okeechobee are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter Samantha McKenna to Matthew Fischer of Okeechobee.

The wedding is planned for April 2010.



Submitted photo  
**Samantha McKenna and Matthew Fischer**

## At Your Service

# Okeechobee News

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## Okeechobee Forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny with a high near 71 and winds from the east between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy with a low around 52 and winds from the east northeast around 5 mph.

### Extended Forecast

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny with a high near 78 and winds from the east northeast between 5 and 15 mph with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Thursday night:** Partly cloudy with a low around 54 and winds from the east around 5 mph.

## Lotteries

**Florida Lottery** — Here are the numbers drawn Monday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 9-0-1; **Play 4:** 5-5-9-2; **Fantasy 5:** 13-14-25-29-33; **Mega Money:** 16-23-41-43 MB 17; **Florida Lotto:** x418-25-31-41-44-47; **Powerball:** 13-31-41-45-46 PB21. Numbers drawn Tuesday, **Cash 3:** 1-8-9; **Play 4:** 0-4-1-1.

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# Commissioners to look at economic development

By Pete Gawda

Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Commissioners are facing a long agenda for Thursday's meeting. Among other things they will discuss economic development, utilization of the county's parks and the county's financial situation.

Mark Smith will present Okeechobee Main Street's long awaited economic development plan. This is a plan to implement the economic development plan prepared for the county by economic development advisor William Fruth in 2006. The plan is designed to result in a proactive approach to help existing businesses reach their full potential and attract new businesses. The benefits of the plan include increasing our tax base, increasing our payrolls and profits, increasing employment opportunities, creating jobs and lessening the impact of downturns associated with the normal business cycle. Consultants David Barth and

## If you go ...

**What:** Meeting of the Okeechobee County Commissioners

**When:** Thursday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m.

**Where:** Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 N.W. Ninth Ave.

Allison Crnic will present the park master plan needs assessment. The needs assessment was conducted through a telephone survey, focus groups and the park and recreation advisory committee.

In another park related matter, the board will hear from William Floyd and Donald Abbott who are not pleased with the fees they have been charged for long term camping at Okee Tantee Campground and Marina. In connection with their presentation, the board will have been presented with a letter signed by about 40 campers at the park suggesting specific changes in administrative

policies at the campground.

In another park matter, the sheriff's office will ask for a temporary waiver of the fees at Okee Tantee in order for a newly hired deputy to live there until he finds permanent housing.

Deputy county administrator Robbie Chartier will give an overview of the county's current financial situation as of Jan. 31. A budget amendment will be necessary to reduce the current operating budget to reflect revenue shortfalls.

Turning to other matters, city councilman Dowling Watford and Gary Ritter, director of the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Okeechobee Service Center are scheduled to address the board to discuss the proposed physical reconnection of SFWMD and St. John Water Control District.

In other action the board is expected to:

- consider abandoning a plated easement in Taylor Creek Isles;

- consider waving the fee for the softball field for a Habitat for Humanity fund raising event;
- make appointments to the agri-civic center advisory committee, planning board, library advisory committee, and Okeechobee Utility Authority Board of Directors
- nominate a person for appointment to the Children's Services Council;
- approve a special services

contract for the airport and industrial park;

- execute a Federal Aviation Administration grant for rehabilitation of the airport beacon and taxiway A;
- change the tire repair worker position at the road department to a road maintenance technician position;
- purchase a truck for the fire prevention/training officer;
- approve a contract for ac-

- counting consulting services;
- amend the budget to receive unanticipated funds from a Natural Resources and Conservation Services grant and transfer the county's matching amount from the Landfill Trust Fund; and,
- approve a change order to Better Roads, Inc for the Royal Concrete intersection realignment project and accept unanticipated funds from Royal Concrete to pay for this change order.

## Child accused of hitting bailiff, deputy

By Eric Kopp

Okeechobee News

A 10-year-old Okeechobee girl has been taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Detention Center in Fort Pierce following her second arrest in four days.

The girl was first arrested Thursday, Feb. 19, around 10:30 a.m. at the Okeechobee County Judicial Complex after she hit and kicked a courtroom bailiff and a female detention deputy. She was arrested on a felony charge of battery on a law enforcement officer (two counts) and a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct.

The 3-foot-8-inch, 80-pound, child was again arrested Sunday, Feb. 22, after she reportedly struck both her aunt and uncle in the mouth. She was taken to the Okeechobee County Jail where she was booked on a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery.

Records indicate the girl was first arrested Nov. 25, 2008, when she became enraged at her mother. An arrest report by Deputy Raul Marrero, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, states that she became angry at her mom and then hit her mother in the stomach and chest.

The girl also threw her shoe at her 28-year-old mother and hit her, stated the deputy's report. The girl also slapped her mother and kicked her until a third party intervened, said Deputy Marrero.

In Thursday's incident, the girl was in Courtroom C of the Judicial Complex attending a hearing for a family member when she reportedly became unruly. A report by court bailiff Dennis Donnelly indicates the girl was climbing on and under the courtroom benches and when he asked her to calm down she began to yell at him.

This escalated to the point that Mr. Donnelly had to escort the

girl out of the courtroom. As he was doing so she began to kick and punch the 42-year-old court bailiff. He then called for female detention deputy, Lisa Outten.

When she left the holding cell area in courtroom D and entered the outside hallway Deputy Outten saw a family member of the child sitting on her in an attempt to get her under control. When Deputy Outten tried to take control of the child she began to kick and hit her, stated the deputy's report.

The girl was finally placed in hand restraints and taken to a third-floor holding cell. Once inside the cell she began to curse DJJ staff members who were waiting on another court case, stated Deputy Outten.

After finally sitting down, the

girl began to bang her head on the wall and a metal partition. Deputy Outten then opened the cell door and told the girl she was going to sit with her when, at this point, the girl reportedly called the deputy "an idiot."

The child then kicked the deputy in the left leg.

She was then taken to sheriff's office where she was processed.

On Sunday, the girl was again arrested after she reportedly struck both her aunt and uncle. According to a report by OCSO Deputy Brian Cross, the girl had hit each one of them in the mouth.

His report went on to state that both adults had swollen lips -- apparently as result of being hit.

Deputy Cross took the girl into custody and she was later taken to the detention center.

## IRSC Foundation Board appoints new member

Frank M. Irby of Okeechobee County has been appointed as a member of the Indian River State College Foundation Board.

Mr. Irby is a retired hospital administrator, formerly serving as the CEO at Raulerson Hospital in Okeechobee. Mr. Irby earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Mississippi in 1965 and then served in the U.S. Army from 1965-1968.



Frank Irby

Continuing members of the IRSC Foundation Board are: Michael L. Adams, St. Lucie County; Edwin Arnowitz, Martin County; Theodore A. Brown II, Martin County; Susanne H. Clemons, Okeechobee County; José L. Conrado, Indian River County; Cheryl Kirton, Chair of the IRSC District Board of Trustees, Okeechobee County; Joseph P. Lembo, Foundation Board Chair, Indian River County; Michael D. Minton, St. Lucie County; Thomas H. Thurlow Jr., Martin County; John W. Williams, Okeechobee County; and Frank "Sonny" Williamson, Okeechobee County.

The IRSC Foundation Board of Directors is a managing body

comprised of volunteers primarily from all four counties served by IRSC. The IRSC Foundation, Inc. is a Florida corporation not-for-profit, organized and operated exclusively to receive, hold, invest and administer property, and to make expenditures to, or for the benefit of IRSC. To accomplish this the Foundation actively supports the long-range plan of IRSC by providing scholarships, high technology equipment, faculty chairs, support of capital projects, and improvements to further enhance student accessibility, and improve the learning environment. For more information, contact the IRSC Call Center at 1-866-792-4772.

## Arrest Report

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

• Ricardo Martinez, 47, N.W. Seventh St., Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 20 by Deputy Justin Akins on a charge of possession of cocaine. His bond was set at \$5,000.

• Jose Ines Galicia, 33, N.W. 47th Terrace, was arrested Feb. 21 by Deputy Augustin Saucedo on a felony charge of aggravated battery. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of battery. His bond was set at \$5,500.

• Israel Castillo, 23, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 21 by Deputy Marcus Collier on a felony charge of possession of cocaine. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of disorderly intoxication. His bond was set at \$5,500.

• Diego Hernandez, 18, S. Ninth St., Okeechobee, was ar-

rested Feb. 21 by Officer Chad Troutman on a charge of grand theft. His bond was set at \$5,000.

• Mary M. Kallister, 77, Madison Court, Bartonville, Ill., was arrested Feb. 22 by Officer Justin Bernst on a charge of driving under the influence. Her bond was set at \$500.

*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.*



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

**Boys and Girls Club donation**  
Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club Anne McCormick gladly accepts a donation from Willie Gary and his family.

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## Workforce Solutions Provides Answers for Today's Economic Climate

Treasure Coast businesses are continuously making adjustments in their workforce to maintain a competitive edge in today's economic climate. As the public employment and training resource for businesses in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie County, Workforce Solutions aligned a Business Services Team consisting of a Branch Manager, Business Services Consultant, and a Recruiter in each county. This team serves as business and community liaisons with economic development and educational partners to maintain a world-class business climate.

At Workforce Solutions, professionally credentialed consultants work directly with employers to identify job openings and assess the skills required for a successful job candidate. Jobseekers are qualified and prepared for job openings, so employers are confident that the right candidate is matched to the right position. Additionally, the team facilitates education

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—Gwenda Thompson, President/CEO, Workforce Solutions

and training services and provides a link to federal funding and grants to train prospective employees, upgrade the skills and certifications of current employees and train workers while on the job. Job Fairs and workshops can be customized to train people specifically for a company's needs.

To learn how Workforce Solutions can help you with your workforce recruitment problems, issues and staffing requirements, call the toll-free hotline 866-4U2-HIRE (866-482-4473) to connect with a Business Services Team, or visit our website at [yourworkforcesolutions.com](http://yourworkforcesolutions.com).

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# Speak Out/Public Forum

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

Thanks for participating!

## Childcare Centers not accepting infants

**CONCERNED CITIZEN:** There are only a few childcare centers that accept infants. What are these single and working parents of those infants supposed to do? These days both parents have to work, and childcare is so expensive. Why can't our community get together and come up with a solution on this matter? Why don't we have a childcare center just for infants? The centers that do serve infants have no openings, and children have to be put on a waiting list. There are professionals that have the education and willingness to operate an infant center but there is no financing available.

## Teenage mother wants a bus pass

**BUS PASS:** I've been trying to get a bus pass to where I currently live for almost three weeks now. The school has been telling me they have to get permission from DCF because I don't live with my parents. I live with my daughter's father. I am 16. The only thing is the DCF workers don't have a case on my family because they've already contacted my mother-in-law-to-be to see where the baby is while I'm at school. They had no major concerns about the father and me living together. What they were worried about was my child, which is in perfectly good hands while I'm at school. I'm sure everyone is familiar with the "no child left behind" act for buses, at least in the mornings, well now I'm not allowed to ride the bus to school because the father of my child is 16. If you ask me, I think this is ridiculous. The school would rather a teenager mother to get married or quit school before they give a bus pass to a teenager who does not live with a parent.

## Home robbed

**ROBBERS:** I just heard that a neighbor got robbed of a lot of valuables in the home near me. I know times are tough but when you take a chance to rob a home or person, you have to be prepared to die for that effort. When you enter a home, you have to be prepared to take a life. Me? I am prepared to end a life, for when you enter my home uninvited, you are inviting me to take care of you in a way that is violent and useless except for it gets rid of you permanently which is usually the best way. I am sorry if this offends anyone but it is the bare facts these days. Times are tough but not that tough to die for.

## Suggestion for something for teens

**HELLO OKEECHOBEE:** I am a lifetime Okeechobee resident and I have noticed that there is not much for young teens to do in this town. I also know from experience that most kids in this town really enjoy boxing. When I say experience I mean because I myself grew up in this town interested in boxing but never came upon the chance to explore the sport due to the unavailability of it. I think that there should be a boxing gym in this town because it would give many people something positive to do in their spare time. It would also give the young kids something to do to keep them out of trouble. Just like baseball, football, and basketball, boxing is a sport too. So who can I speak with about having a gym in okeechobee because I am sure there are a lot of athletes that would also be interested.

**SKATING RINK:** Okeechobee kids are bored. They need something to do. I wish someone would open a skating rink. The old one stayed pretty busy even though it wasn't even air conditioned.

## Handicapped parking complaints

**HANDICAPPED PARKING:** The complaints are true about people using them who aren't really handicapped, or using them when the handicapped person isn't there, that's true; however, I think some of these doctors should be responsible for some of these problems too. There are a lot of people out there that truly don't need a handicapped sticker. I have watched some of them get out of their vehicles, and they don't seem to have any ailments, they seem to get out just perfectly, like nothing's wrong with them. To me, if you're not in a wheelchair, or on an oxygen bottle, you shouldn't have it.

**PERMITS:** Handicap Placards are issued by the State to those who -- in their doctor's view -- need them. Unfortunately, these can be misused. Also I've noted that the "striped" areas are becoming a parking area for motorcycles and golf carts. Why is that?

## Clarify the statement

**COMPUTER SERVICE:** I am calling in reference to an item in the paper that referred to Okeechobee's local computer service. I think it should be clarified that there is more than one computer service business in town.

## Unwanted calls

**CALLS:** We just installed a phone and within one day we had three solicitation calls. Please, somebody tell me how to get on the Do Not Call list so that telemarketers can no longer call you. *Editor's Note: You can register with the National Do Not Call list online at <https://www.donotcall.gov/>.*

## Problems with the economy

**ECONOMY:** I would just like to address this current situation we are in with the economy. You know, back in the day, my mother grew up in a depression, you know what? The government didn't throw, a bunch of millions and trillions of dollars out there. They started with an idea that took off -- cheap, but good housing. Small homes for people. They put the money into that, and that created jobs, and created the boom for the wood, for material, and that created more jobs. It went on and on and on, then interest struck, and the roads and this and that. But they didn't throw this much money into it, just like the banking system. We threw all this money into the banking system and took vacations with it. We can't have that, that's crazy. That is our tax dollars.

**HOUSING:** I only wish people could see the value of good cheap housing. What you run into more often than not is municipal or county laws in the form of zoning ordinances etc. that will prevent people from doing as well as they possibly can. It is either build to these standards or we don't want you to build at all or even live in our community. It is a board of misdirected snobs who are trying to keep "blight" out of the communities they are in charge of, and of course they get to decide who and what blight consists of. I wonder how many communities will change their ordinances in time to come, to accommodate people, again, to provide for themselves in a way that they can afford, rather than going overboard on their housing costs.

## Looking for doll repair

**DOLLS:** I have a rather old doll, and I would like to know if there is anyone in Okeechobee that repairs dolls.

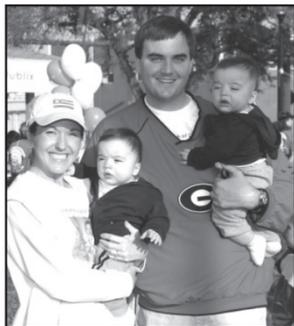
## It's tax time

**TAX COLLECTORS:** They are hiding, they are lurking, they are ready to pounce, and it's not even Spring time. Not the alligators, the tax collectors.

**AARP:** I want to thank the AARP volunteers who are providing the tax help service at the American Legion. They are volunteers, donating their own personal time to help others. They deserve some appreciation.

# March of Dimes making a difference

The March of Dimes has made a difference to many people in Okeechobee, including the family of Jenny and Health Schoenfeld. Jenny is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. David Wemmer. Jenny Schoenfeld and David Wemmer are the orthodontists at Wemmer Family Orthodontics, with offices in Okeechobee, Vero Beach, and Sebastian.



Heath, Jenny, Jacob and Casey Schoenfeld.

## A father's story

**By Health Schoenfeld**  
Life is all about little moments. And those little moments can certainly hold a big spot in our hearts.

My wife happily broke the news to me we were going to have a baby December 19, 2007. We had tried for about half the year and were filled with joy and fear when we found out Jenny was pregnant.

A week later, Jenny and I were at the doctor's office for the first time going over what it's like to have a baby... It was all new to us... not to mention frightening.

As a precaution, the doctor said it would be best if Jenny had an ultrasound performed the next day, just make sure all was well. I unfortunately, would be unable to make that appointment, but we thought, heck, there probably wouldn't be much to see.

How wrong we were... So the next day, I'm at work waiting on Jenny to phone me and let me know all is well. She didn't call and she didn't call.

Finally, she phones me and says she is still waiting to go in and would let me know.

She was lying. She was actually on her way to my office, 40 miles away to show me a little print out of her ultrasound. And right there THEY were: fetus A and fetus B.

With tears in her eyes and mine, it was one of those little moments.

Our doctor was terrific, and very cautious. We had several ultrasounds, including a level 2, to confirm the babies were fine ... and boys.

Months went by and her belly grew little by little. We had a due date of Aug. 24, and by the time we got to June; Jenny was on slight bed rest. She could still work, but she was sent home after lunch each day to rest ... and wait.

A test came back positive and just like that; she was out of work and staying at home. I stayed with her one day and was ordered out of the house and told to come back with killer chocolate cake. A little moment that was rather tasty.

July arrived and it seemed like there was no way Jenny and the boys would be able to last until Aug. 24. We were right.

One night, while working late, Jenny was at home, watching TV on the couch. I called around 9 p.m. to let her know I was done and on my way home. I asked if she was fine, she said yes but something didn't feel right. Not even three minutes later Jenny called back to let me know her water had broken and the babies were coming.

I was about 10 minutes from home ... but made it about five. I slid into the drive way and rushed Jenny to the truck, luggage in tow, and sped off for the hospital.

Needless to say we weren't pre-registered so there we were, filling out forms with Jenny in writhing pain. After a few minutes we were wheeled back into a room -- the doctor arrived to perform a planned c-section and less than two hours after her water broke, we had two boys: 4 pounds 5 ounces and 4 pounds 9 ounces.

And a little more than five weeks early.

Baby A was little, but seemed to be doing fine.

Baby B was having trouble breathing on his own and the doctors were working feverishly to make sure he would be fine. As a new father, there is not a worse sight than seeing one of your children screaming and kicking while the other stays quiet and lifeless.

Needless to say, my mouth dried up, the room started spin-

ning, and I was about three seconds away from hitting the floor and needing a little attention myself.

After coming to, I was told they had basically stabilized baby B, but he would need to be transported to a hospital with a neonatal intensive care unit -- a NICU.

As I was telling Jenny in recovery of what was going on, she reminded me that we hadn't decided which boy would get the names we picked out: Jacob and Casey.

Then she remembered a small name card her mother had given her. One detailed the origin of the name Jacob and what it stood for. The other did the same for Casey, a name that means Brave. Baby B would be brave as he traveled to Melbourne in the middle of the night. Baby B would be Casey.

Three days after the birth, Jenny was released from the hospital and Jake was sent to be with his brother at Holmes Regional. For three weeks, the boys were under 24 hour supervision. They were tube fed, kept in sealed isolates with ultra-violet lights burning. Their little heads were no bigger than the palm of my hand. They grew, they learned to suck a bottle, swallow the formula, and breathe all at the same time. And three weeks later, they finally came home with Mom and Dad.

The three weeks of going back and forth and sleeping in hospital beds was mind boggling. Sometimes we look back and think "wow, what a crazy time."

But we also look back with thanks and gratitude. Gratitude to organization like March of Dimes. Without the March of Dimes, hospitals that cater to premature babies would not have the resources to revive and keep alive babies like Jake and Casey. The money the March of Dimes raises allows babies like ours to slowly learn things like breathing normally, swallowing formula and keeping it down.

This organization will always have a special place in our heart. It provided our hospital with the resources to keep our babies when we couldn't and to send them home healthy, with a lifetime of little moments ahead of them.

## Heath Schoenfeld

*This annual March of Dimes fundraiser, March for Babies will be held March 7 starting in Flagler Park. The walk will cover four miles and will start at 8:30 a.m. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. Teams and individuals are encouraged to participate. For more information go to [www.marchforbabies.org](http://www.marchforbabies.org), or call Laura McCall at 863-763-3131.*

# Community Calendar

## Wednesday, Feb. 25

**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.

**Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** Grapevine Group Open Discussion at 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.*

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

**N.A.** meeting at 8 p.m. at the Just For Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 Fifth Ave. For information call 863-634-4780.

**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.

## Thursday, Feb. 26

**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.**

**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.

**Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick Group Basic Text at 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.

**Family History Center** meets from 10 a.m. until 1 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 Robert Massey at 863-763-6510.

**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.

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

**Cowboys for Christ** will meet at Dunklin Memorial, 407 N.W. Third 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 meet 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.

**Grief Support Group** for parents who have lost a child will meet at 7 p.m. The group will meet at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Ave. For information, call Stephanie at 863-763-2893 days, or 863-467-2480 evenings. If you know of someone that might need this group, please pass the word.

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

**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. 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, 411 S.E. Fourth St. For information, call 863-467-2321.

**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.

**Narcotics Anonymous** meets Thursday night for a Basic Step Meeting at 8 p.m. at the Just For Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 Fifth Ave. For information, call 863-634-4780.

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

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

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

**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.



Submitted photo/Okeechobee Animal Control

## Adopt a Pet

**This is Sherbert a very talkative and playful three-month old male domestic short hair. His adoption fee is \$95 which includes his neuter, a feline leukemia/aids test, a rabies vaccine, FVRCP and FELV 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.**

# Okeechobee News

## Our Purpose...

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

## We Pledge ...

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

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**For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2**

# Community theatre presents 'Mockingbird'

The Okeechobee Community Theatre (OCT) will celebrate its 30th birthday in March with a special live stage production of Harper Lee's classic American story "To Kill a Mockingbird."

The show will be performed four times, on March 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. at the theatre on the Okeechobee Freshman Campus, one block behind Golden Coral Restaurant. Advance reserved seat tickets are \$12 each, and are available at the Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce.

Theatre coordinator, Ron Hayes, says the group wanted to do a show worthy of a 30-year celebration, and that "To Kill a Mockingbird" was an easy

choice. The play is based on the novel that won the Pulitzer Prize for literature for its author, and is, of course similar to the Academy Award winning movie. Both the book and the movie are consistently ranked among the favorites of Americans of all ages.

"We're doing all we can to make this our biggest production ever," Hayes said. "There are 25 in the on-stage cast, and a crew of nearly double that behind the scenes, building sets, creating costumes, preparing the lights and sound, and the hundreds of other little details required by such a project. The production costs for the show will run into several thousand dollars."

"To Kill a Mockingbird" tells the story of racial prejudice in a dusty Alabama town in the 1930s, as seen through the eyes of a young girl. It contains healthy doses of humor, drama, mystery, action and music from a biracial cast ranging in age from nine to eighty-plus.

Three central characters are under 12, but the rest of the cast is made up of adults. The role of Jean Louise (Scout) Finch is being played by nine-year old Kaylee Whidden. Her brother Jem is being portrayed by Andrew Hall, 12, and nine-year old Mason Heater appears as their friend, Dill.

"As young as these performers are, they are nothing less than

professional," says Hayes.

Michael White, who was last seen in the OCT's 2007 production of "State Fair," plays 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.

Other cast members, James Garner, John Garner, Joey

Marcinek, John Koepke, Genna Lute, Kevin Lute, Tom Murray, Scotty Rae, Robyn Garner, Robert Steiner, Mike Zierden, and Rahl Wilkinson are all veterans of previous OCT productions.

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 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.

## Okeechobee Health Department Report

### What is TB? Tuberculosis

**By Marcia Woodham, Sr., LPN**

TB is caused by bacteria called Mycobacterium Tuberculosis. These bacteria can attack any part of the body but usually attack the lungs. It is spread through the air from one person to another. When an infectious person coughs, sneezes, talks, sings, or spits they can propel TB germs into the air—people who are near to them might breathe these bacteria and become infected. When a person breathes in TB bacteria it settles in the lungs and starts to multiply and from there can move to other parts of the body includ-

ing the kidney, spine or brain. TB in the lungs and throat can be infectious whereas TB in other parts of the body usually is not. If left untreated, a person who has active TB and is symptomatic will infect on average between 10 to 15 people every year according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

In 1993 the World Health Organization declared TB to be a global emergency. And each year an estimated 8 to 10 million people contract the disease and about two million die. Approximately one third of the world's population (approx. 2 billion people) carries the TB bacteria but never develop active disease and this condition is called latent TB.

People with latent TB infection do not have symptoms and cannot spread TB to others. On the other hand, people with active TB often have symptoms and can spread to others. These symptoms may include a bad cough that lasts longer than two weeks, chest pain, coughing up blood or sputum, weakness or fatigue, weight loss, chills, fever or night sweats.

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms please contact your primary physician. If you have any questions or need more information regarding TB please call the Okeechobee County Health Department at 863-462-5819 or Marcia Woodham at 863-462-5767.

## Basinger church has new pastor

**By Pete Gawda**  
Okeechobee News

Rev. Michael W. Peppers is the new pastor of First Baptist Church of Basinger. He assumed this position upon the recent retirement of former pastor Rev. Charles Breland.

"I felt like the Lord gave it to me as an assignment," he said. "God is worth loving. He has a Son worth serving, a book worth reading and will give us life worth living," is the message Rev. Peppers will bring to Basinger.

Rev. Peppers, his wife, Pamela, and daughter, Emily, (born in 1990) are no strangers to Okeechobee. In 1989 at the request of leadership at Faith Farm and Dunklin Memorial Camp, he and wife Pamela moved to Okeechobee to establish the first of its kind ministry in this area for young men from the ages of 18-25 with life controlling problems. Out of this came 20 years



Submitted photo/Bobbi Pool  
**Rev. Michael W. Peppers is the new pastor at First Baptist Church of Basinger.**

of ministry in Okeechobee and DC Ranch. The "DC" stands for Disciples of Christ. The organization provides spiritual and occupational training for single young men. He plans to continue his work with DC Ranch.

Rev. Peppers said he will bring to the Basinger church the same principle he has used in ministry for the past 25 years, which is Jesus in the ONLY answer to life.

More recently Rev. Peppers served as associate pastor at The Gathering for three years.

"I'm excited about it," he said of his new position. "I feel there's a good bunch of people there. I believe that church can be an impact center for that entire area. I'm going to give it my heart.

He really loves Okeechobee and feels for the most part it's a great place to live and raise a family.

The hours at First Baptist Church of Basinger are Sunday 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m., Wednesday 6 to 7 p.m. chili dinner and 7 to 8 p.m. Bible study. Everyone is welcome. The church is located at 19836 U. S. 98 N.

## IRSC Shares the "Memories"

Indian River State College Fine Arts program will take its audience on a stroll through the eras as the IRSC "Company" Singers and Jazz Ensembles team up to present "Memories" starting Thursday, March 12-14 at 8 p.m. and on Saturday, March 14 at 2 p.m.

This performance will be a trip down memory lane as the audience is treated to a diverse display of a rich heritage of standards and

jazz tunes, featuring a patriotic finale from George M. Cohan that the audience is sure to remember.

"Memories" will be performed at the McAlpin Fine Arts Center Thursday, March 12 through Saturday, March 14 at 8 p.m. and on Saturday, March 14 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Purchase tickets online at [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu) or at the box office located in the McAlpin Fine Arts Center lobby at the IRSC

Main Campus at 3209 Virginia Avenue in Fort Pierce, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by phone with VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. Call the McAlpin Fine Arts Center Box Office today at (772) 462-4750 or toll-free at 1-800-220-9915 to reserve your seats, as shows sell out quickly. Tickets can be picked up at the IRSC Box Office at will call.

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# Okeechobee churches plan special events

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

*I had no choice over being born, but I've lived a life of choice. And when it's time for me to go, I'll know my Saviour's voice. I don't know how I'll go, nor do I know when I'm going. But praise the Lord, I do know! Where it is I'll be going. Some folks I know think it strange I care little for this world's gold. But my rewards are stored in heaven, multiplied a hundred fold. The closer I get to heaven, and each day its day nearer, I'm reminded of His promises and they all seem dearer. Promises - Promises, by Harvey Sampson*

**Feb. 25 and 26** are the last two days of the jubilee at **New Testament Baptist Church**, 523 N.E. 22nd Lane. Services begin at 7 p.m. For more information call 863-763-6682.

**Oakview Baptist Church**, 677 S.W. 32nd St., will be having "Oak-Fest" on Friday, **Feb. 27**, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Please make plans to join them for a night of fun for the whole family with inflatable games, horses, food and live entertainment. Best of

all it's FREE! For more information please call 863-763-1699. The church will also be having a Missions Fair on Saturday, **March 14** from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and learn about Oakview's mission and also see other mission opportunities.

**Buckhead Ridge Baptist Church**, 1043 Cypress St., is having their third bi-annual quilt show on Saturday, **Feb. 28**. There will be free admission, refreshments and door prizes. For more information or to enter a quilt please contact Wilma at 863-763-2047 or Goldie at 863-763-1049.

The Annual West Virginia Day covered dish dinner will be held in the fellowship hall of **First Baptist Church**, 410 S.W. Fourth St. from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, **Feb. 28**. For more information call Ray or Phyllis, 863-467-8636 or 863-634-1427.

**Treasure Island Baptist Church**, 4209 U.S. 441 S.E. will be hosting a program by the Driven Quartet, on Saturday, **Feb. 28** at 6 p.m. The church will also sponsor a Gaither style concert celebrating the 15th anniversary of Okeechobee's own Trust Quartet at 6 p.m. on Saturday, **March**

7. That concert will feature the Gulf State Quartet, Chapter Three Trio and soloist George Shelton, Jr. Refreshments will be served afterward. A donation of \$6 will be requested at the door.

**His House Fellowship Church of the Nazarene**, 425 S.W. 28th St., will have a Sunday school grand opening on **March 1**. The pastor, Rev. Lois Moranville, invites everyone for refreshments at 9 a.m. and Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. This is part of their Faithleap Ministry with the motto of "Frog" (fully rely on God).

Pastor Jim Waters of **Grace Brethren Church**, 701 S. Parrott Ave., will present the second message of the seven-part series "At Calvary" on Sunday, **March 1** at 10:30. The focal verses are Luke 23:42-43 and the church invites everyone to come for an exhilarating and heart-examining message as the story of truth unfolds before you and the glorious light is shed on why Jesus went to the cross for you. CDs of related material will be available.

Country Gospel recording artists Ron and Sharon Frazier will be in concert **March 1** at 1 p.m. at **Westside Christian Church**, 8082 S.R. 70 W. Ron's country type voice shows a passion that reminds one of the prodigal son come home! Sharon has a joy and enthusiastic spirit in her presentation of gospel music. The couple is known to this area as



## Places of Worship

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

well as the Indiana and Kentucky areas. A free will offering will be received. For more information call 863 467 2278.

**Brighton Baptist Church**, 74050 SR 70 West, will be in revival, **March 1-6** with services starting at 7 p.m. each evening. Reverend Salaw Hummingbird, pastor of Fairfield Baptist Church in Oklahoma will be guest speaker. The Brighton Blue Grass Gospel and guest singers from local churches will be performing. For more information call pastor Calvin Fryar, at 863-763-3063.

**Grace Camp**, 19566 U.S. 98 N., is hosting a weekend retreat **March 6-8** — a reflection of

"The 12 Steps" and "The Journey to Freedom" led by people in recovery. Accommodations are first come-first serve. There are four cabins, bunkhouse style and bath house, four RV spaces and tent camping. Bring your own linens. Suggested donation of \$40 covers accommodations, meals, retreat and instruction. Reservations are required. Non-refundable deposit of \$20 needs to be paid by **Feb. 27**. Make check payable to Basinger Ministries, 19655 U.S. 98 N., Okeechobee, FL 34972. Space is limited so make reservations early. For more information contact Jeff and Debbie Clemmons 863-634-1152, 863-763-6987 or email jefftd@hughes.net

**March 6-8** the youth of **Peace Lutheran Church**, 750 N.W. 23rd Lane, will attend the Fl-Ga District 2009 High School Youth Gathering at the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel in Jacksonville. This is a great opportunity to spend time with old friends, meet new friends, and grow closer to God. The youth will connect the community to Christ through several high energy, high-impact service projects and enjoy great music, speakers and fellowship. All interested youth are invited to call the church office for more information.

**Okeechobee Missionary Baptist Church**, 4212 U.S. 441 N., will be having a revival **March 9-15** with services at 7 each evening. The evangelist will be Rev.

John Hancock, an Okeechobee High School graduate. On **March 15** the church will be celebrating Homecoming with Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., worship at 10:45 a.m. and dinner after church.

The youth of **First United Methodist Church**, 200 N.W. Second St., are sponsoring a Gold Party on **March 14**. If you have old, unwanted gold jewelry or anything else made of gold, bring it to the church between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Professional gold buyers will be on hand to give you top dollar for your gold. Sell as much gold as you want and you will be helping the youth group raise money for their summer mission trip to London. A free meal will be provided to all who attend. Call 863-763-4021 for more information or to make an appointment for faster service to cut down on the wait time for your gold to be weighed and analyzed. This is a win-win situation for all. You get extra cash and the youth get money for their mission trip.

The **Pentecostals of Okeechobee**, 405 S.W. 10th Avenue, are sponsoring Worship Fest 2009 on Saturday, **March 21** at 6 p.m. This community wide sing will bring Christian musicians from across our community together for a night of singing and music that will glorify Jesus our Savior. Anyone who would like to participate by singing or playing should call 863-634-4554 for information. The line up will include solos, duets and group performers. Any style of Christian music is welcome. Snacks and fellowship will follow.

On Saturday, **April 4**, the day before Palm Sunday, the public is invited to join **Abundant Blessings**, 4550 U.S. 41 N. in a dinner theater beginning at 5 p.m.

*The Okeechobee News welcomes news from area churches for this column. E-mail okeneews@newszap.com or call Pete Gawda at 863 763-3134, extension 4225.*

## Obituaries

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

### Dorothy Louise 'Dot'

#### (DeLong) Kaufmann, 79

KEECHOBEE — On Feb. 18, 2009, Dorothy Louise "Dot" Kaufmann (nee DeLong), 79 years old, peacefully passed to join her entire family in heaven.



She was born July 13, 1929, in Jefferson City, Mo., to Frederick J. and Mary (nee Schwartzrock) DeLong; and was a cherished sister to Joe, Phil, Albert, Helen, and Jim.

Dorothy married Harry Kaufmann in 1951 and moved to the St. Louis area. They had a beloved son Nicky, that passed too soon at the age of 6. She was a devout wife to Harry for 58 years.

Dorothy had a successful 30-year career at Monsanto, St. Louis, Mo., starting out on the switchboard, she soon made her way to management and retired as a Shipping Dept. supervisor. She was given many honors throughout her career, she was known to have a brilliant mind and outstanding character.

Pat Trybus, of Owensville, Mo., her best friend and co-worker through all her years at Monsanto, remarked, "There's not enough good things I can say about Dot, she was a best friend to all."

After retiring, Dorothy and Harry moved to Okeechobee, in 1985, to enjoy their hobbies of fishing, camping, dancing and traveling the United States. Their favorite lake continued to be Lake of the Ozarks, Mo., and they came annually to vacation and visit family.

Dorothy was a dearly loved aunt by all her nieces and nephews, with many fond memories of her incredible spirit of fun; she would always be up for playing games or joining on a carnival ride. She laughed easily, often at herself, was warm to everyone in her life, yet she remained humble about her beauty and the admiration she received.

She had won the hearts of her care-givers in Okeechobee during her last couple years; she never complained, was always sweet and cheerful and all commented on her natural beauty, shiny jet black hair (never grayed!) and big blue eyes.

Dorothy is survived by her dear husband Harry of Okeechobee; sisters-in-law, Betty Jo DeLong of Jefferson City, Mo., Nancy Grimshaw of Bardstown, Ky., Evelyn Ruff of Waterloo, Ill., and Alice Cunio of Waterloo; many nieces and nephews; one being her godchild, Brenda Dunkle of Stuttgart, Germany; and numerous great-grandnieces and nephews. There will be an interment memorial service held at a later date in Jefferson City, Mo.

Cards may be sent to Harry Kaufmann, 4040 S.E. 24th St., Okeechobee, FL 34974-6585.

### Imagene Oliver, 67

KEECHOBEE — Imagene Oliver, of Okeechobee, died Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, in Columbia Hospital. She was 67.

Born June 21, 1941, in Yerkes, Ky., she had been a resident of Okeechobee for the past 38 years and was of the Baptist faith.

She was preceded in death by her sons, Wayne and Timothy Oliver; daughter, Wanda Faye Garcia.

She is survived by her sons, Jesse Oliver (Kayla) of Okeechobee, and Adam Oliver of Okeechobee; daughters, Helen Oliver (Alberto) of Channelview, Texas, Rosetta Siers (Elisha) of Corinth, Miss., Peggy Longoria (Arturo) of Okeechobee, Andrea Garcia (Jesus) of Okeechobee; brothers, Dave Baker of Mississippi, and Willie Baker (Stella) of Connecticut; and sister, Alta Coach (Carlos) of Hazzard, Ky.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until service time of 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee. Interment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

### Douglas Henry Williams

KEECHOBEE — Douglas Henry Williams, age 66, of Okeechobee, died Friday, Feb. 20, 2009, at Raulerson Hospital.

Born on Dec. 28, 1942, in Cleveland, Ohio, he was the son of Herbert and Elizabeth Williams.

Mr. Williams served in the U.S. Navy for 32 years, served in the capacity of both a submariner and an aviator and retired as a Commander. He has been a 10 year resident of Okeechobee and attended the Presbyterian Church of Okeechobee.

He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Victoria; daughter, Wendi Blaha (Mark) of Lebonon, Ohio; and two grandsons, Nicholas and Zachary Blaha. In addition, he is survived by one brother, John Williams of San Diego, Calif.

The family received friends at the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, at which time services were also conducted with Pastor Loy Mersheimer officiating. Music was provided by Anne Brough, Michael Hayes, violinist John Olsen, Patricia McCoy and the Okeechobee Community Choir. Additional services and interment with full military honors will be under the direction of the Tomlinson Funeral Home in Seebree, Ky.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Presbyterian Food Bank or to Big Lake Mission.

Memorial condolences may be made at [www.buxtonfuneralhome.com](http://www.buxtonfuneralhome.com).

All arrangements are under the direction of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory.

## Community Events

### Benefit to help fire victim

Saturday, Feb. 28 an auction will be held for Gloria Heslin, (daughter of Vincent Heslin.) Gloria's home burned down with a total loss and there was no insurance. The auction will begin at 3 p.m. and food will be served at 5 p.m. for a \$7 donation. Donations for the auction are being accepted.

### Easter Cantata to begin practice

The Okeechobee Community Choir, in its 11th year under the direction of Sandy Perry, will be rehearsing for the presentation of the Easter Cantata, Alpha and Omega, on Sunday afternoons from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church on Second Avenue. The cantata will be presented Palm Sunday weekend, April 3, 4, and 5. All interested singers who can match pitch and read music just a little are encouraged to join. Practice CDs are provided, as well as the music. Rehearsals are fast-paced and laughter is included free! Nineteen local churches were represented in the presentation of the last Cantata. Participating in this group is a great way to meet new people who share a similar love of singing. Come join in the creation of glorious harmonies celebrating the risen Savior. Call 863-634-7714 if you have any questions.

### Library Book Club to meet

The Friends of the Library Okeechobee Book Club will meet on Thursday, **Feb. 26** at 6 p.m. at the library. The book for discussion is *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe.

### Masonic Lodge announces

#### food tent at ArtFest

The Okeechobee Masonic Lodge #237 will be serving food in Flagler Park during Artfest on **Feb. 28-March 1**. Look for our tent for hot dogs, hamburgers, pulled pork sandwiches and the latest special entry - Shish-kebobs! Look for us from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

### Calling all Brands

The American Cancer Society Committee is planning the 2009 Cattlebarons' Ball. The ball will be held on April 4, at Quail Creek Plantation. The committee has built a beautiful picnic table which will be branded and auctioned at the ball. If you would like your brand to be included on the table, please join us at the Branding Event on Saturday, **Feb. 28**, from 1-3 p.m. The location address is 1690 S.W. 28th Street, Okeechobee. For more information, please contact Billy Dean at 863-467-1570 or Shannon Martin at 863-467-2376.

### Church holds third bi-annual quilt show

The Women's Ministry of Buckhead Ridge Baptist Church will

sponsor their third bi-annual quilt show on Saturday, **Feb. 28**, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The show will be held in the fellowship hall of the church, 1731 Hunter Road. Admission is free, there will be refreshments and door prizes. For more information or to enter items call Wilma 863-763-2047 or Goldie 863-763-1049.

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Submitted photo/SES

### Students of the week

Students who earned Student of the Week recognition at South Elementary School are Foy Cunningham, Alex Miller, John Fish, Lyndravious Allen, Yesenia Leon, Jennifer Hernandez Cancin, Gauge Chandler, Iris Celestino, Kaitlyn Williams, Robert Wright, Jr., Ilen Garcia, Haley Land, Erin Rodriguez, Josue Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Mario Pineda, Jr., Jerrius Fowler, Taylor Henry, Svannah Dubberly, Jonathan Hedrick, Angela Langdale, Alyssa Damron, Korlena Lashley, and Marisabel Gomez. Congratulations students!

# Cattlemen plan Spring rodeo

The Okeechobee County Cattlemen's Association announce that sign up for the Spring Rodeo Mutton Bustin' is under way. Mutton Bustin' is open to any child between the ages of 3 to 5, and takes place prior to the rodeo performance. To register for the Mutton Bustin call the Livestock Market at 863-763-3127 to register.

The Okeechobee County Cattlemen's Association will hold their Spring Rodeo on Saturday, March 14 and Sunday March 15 in

conjunction with the Okeechobee County Fair which will start March 13 and run through March 22. This PRCA Rodeo will feature all of the traditional rodeo events including bareback riding, steer wrestling, bull roping, saddle bronc riding, calf riding, team roping, barrel racing and more.

County Fair Gates open at noon; rodeo action begins at 2:30 at the Okeechobee County Agri-

Civic Center 4601 Hwy 710 East and will be held in the covered arena come rain or shine!

Advance tickets are: Premier Seating, Adults; \$18., Children under 12; \$10, Reserved Adults; \$12 and Children under 12 \$6. Advanced Tickets are available at Eli's Western Wear 907 NW Park Street, Okeechobee or call 863-763-2984. Tickets can also be purchased at the gate.

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Submitted photo/Everglades Elementary

### 100 Book Challenge

Mrs. Dodson's Kindergartners read during 100 Book Challenge time "back to back." Next, they will face each other and tell them about their books.



Submitted photo/Everglades Elementary

### Phonics time

Mr. Claypool's students work together during small group time on a phonics activity.

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# United Way helps families cover prescription costs

If you don't have health insurance, or need medicine not covered by your insurance plan, you need the FamilyWise prescription drug discount card being distributed by United Way of Okeechobee. This card could lower the cost of your medicine by an average 35 percent.

United Way of Okeechobee is providing these cards free-of-charge to everyone in our community. There are no age restric-

tions, no income restrictions, no limit on how many times you can use it and no waiting to get a card. In fact, you can cut this one out and use it today.

"Healthcare costs are one of the top concerns for people in our community," said Cathleen Blair, President of Okeechobee United Way. "Forty percent of adults don't buy the medicine they need, have difficulty affording it or reduce the required dosage because of the

high cost. The FamilyWise prescription drug discount cards will help individuals and families who otherwise could not afford to buy the medicine they need. Too many people have insufficient coverage, no prescription coverage or need medications not covered by their insurance, Medicare, Medicaid or VA benefits."

Cards are available from the School Board office at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Room 304. The

FamilyWise cards are accepted at CVS Pharmacy, Okeechobee Discount, Wal-Mart Pharmacy, Winn Dixie Pharmacy and 5th Street Pharmacy.

"We hope everyone in the community will take the time to thank their pharmacist, United Way of Okeechobee, and everyone else involved for the difference they are making in the lives of so many people in the community," said Dan Barnes, Co-Chair

of the FamilyWise Community Service Partnership. The participating pharmacies in the community have agreed voluntarily to accept the FamilyWise cards and provide these savings to people in need. Brown Printing, Independent Graphics and Rob-Win Press, all of Pennsylvania, donate the printing for the cards, FedEx Express donates the shipping of the cards and the pharmacy benefit manager provides a portion of

the processing fee to cover the administrative costs. United Way of Okeechobee is coordinating the distribution of the cards locally.

Additional information about this program is available at United Way of Okeechobee at 863-634-0915 and online at [www.FamilyWise.org](http://www.FamilyWise.org).

## Main Street Clipboard

A great big welcome to Main Street's newest business members:

Avon Products - Carolyn D. Thomas; Eli's Western Wear - Roland Durrance; Tattoos with Style - Eric (Pain) Bray; and, 4C Properties, LLC - Jacqueline Claxton.

The Top of the Lake Art Fest takes place on Feb. 28 and March 1, 2009. Call Bridgette at 863-467-7300 or email at [bridgette-mainstreet@earthlink.net](mailto:bridgette-mainstreet@earthlink.net) for more information.

This year's Art Fest will feature two days of entertainment featuring Grammy Nominated Jeanie Fitch, winner of the 2001 Florida Folk Festival Heritage Award, nationally recognized flutist Carl Adams, the award winning Sounds of Sebring Barbershop Quartet and on Sunday afternoon, South Florida's premier contemporary musician and entertainer Billy Bones will be in concert.

For Artist information call Bridgette at 863-467-7300 or email [bridgette-mainstreet@earthlink.net](mailto:bridgette-mainstreet@earthlink.net).

net. Or call Okeechobee Main Street Executive Director Toni Doyle at 863-357-MAIN (6246).

The Okeechobee Community Theatre continues its 30th birthday season with a presentation of the stage version of the American Classic, "To Kill a Mockingbird," to be presented on March 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. All performances are at the Freshman Campus Auditorium, one block west of Golden Corral Restaurant. Reserved seat tickets are \$12.00 each and may be purchased at the Cham-

ber of Commerce during regular business hours.

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will be holding Adult CPR/AED classes on Monday, March 9, Infant/Child CPR/AED on Wednesday, March 18 and First Aid Basics on Tuesday, March 31. All classes begin at 6 p.m. and are held at the Service Center, located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

The 2009 Miss Okeechobee County Fair Teen Pageant will take place on March 13. Entries are still being accepted for a young lady who would like to represent Okeechobee throughout the year and also have the opportunity to participate in the Miss Florida Teen USA Pageant! Applications and rules may be obtained online at [www.okeechobeeountyfair.com](http://www.okeechobeeountyfair.com). Or, call pageant director Donny Arnold at 863-634-6464 for more information.

The Healthy Start Coalition of Okeechobee will be developing a KidCare Coalition here in Okeechobee and are recruiting Community Ambassadors and a Board of Directors along with other levels of commitment. Your participation is needed and greatly appreciated. There will be a meeting from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Visiting Nurses Association, 208 SE Park Street on Tuesday, March 3 to discuss expectations, obligations and future trainings for those who will commit to assisting the public. For more information contact Becky Posey Smith at 863-462-5877.

The Entrepreneur Develop-

ment Institute at Indian River State College will present a "Lunch and Learn" Seminar on Thursday, March 19. This program assists aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners to grasp the realities of business ownership and to overcome challenges. This free seminar is presented by experts in Banking, Finance, Marketing, Advertising, Human Resources and Technology. Seating is limited; call 888-283-1177 to register.

Hospice of Okeechobee is raffling off an Air Boat on March 22 at the Okeechobee County Fair. Tickets are \$10 each. To purchase your tickets or to find out where you can see the Air Boat call Cathy at 863-697-1995.

The Okeechobee County Fair has a 10-day pass on sale for the 2009 County Fair for only \$30! The 2009 Okeechobee County Fair will be held March 13-22. Passes

can be purchased at Okeechobee Main Street 111 NE 2nd Avenue, call 863-357-6246 or at Syble's Flowers and Gifts 119 S. Parrott Avenue, call 863-763-2225. This year's fair will include the second annual Miss Okeechobee County Fair Beauty Pageant open to girls age 15-19, the Seminole Heritage Show, the Okeechobee Cattleman's Spring Rodeo, Okeechobee Idol, Bike Show, Livestock Show, Pig Races, Blue Grass Music, a Demolition Derby and lots of food and rides on the midway.

Rotary's 6th Annual LOST Bike Ride will be held on Saturday, March 28, beginning with registration and sign in at 7 a.m. The course will begin and end at Scott Drive Boat Ramp on Hwy. 78 West. Registrations must be received by March 14. Call Jim at 763-3101 for more information.



Submitted photo

## Mainstreet Mixer

Okeechobee Main Street's February Mixer was hosted by Pristine Properties located at 1120 South Parrott Ave. on Thursday, Feb. 19. More than 50 attendees enjoyed refreshments, door prizes and networking. (Pictured) Pristine Properties Karen MacClean and Amy Davis, Main Street President Maureen Burroughs, Executive Director Toni Doyle, Pristine Properties Gail Brown, Main Street Promotions Director Donna Huth, Volunteer Director Linda Woloski, Pristine Properties Jeri Wilson and Steve Jara. Main Street's next mixer will be held on March 24 at the American Red Cross, 323 N. Parrott Ave. The public is invited.

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# Tennis teams roll over Centennial

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Keechobee News

Both the boys and girls tennis teams had easy victories last Wednesday when they visited St. Lucie West Centennial.

Both the boys and girls teams defeated the Eagles, 6-1.

On the boys side Corey White defeated Andres Tapia 8-2. Zach Fowler defeated David Bicksler 8-5. Alex Nielson lost his singles match to Andrew Granello 8-5. Max Norman defeated Sebastian Ostrandro 8-4. Kyle Lunt of Okeechobee won his match by forfeit.

In doubles matches the team of White and Fowler defeated Tapia and Bicksler 8-5. The team of Norman and Nielson defeated Granello and Ostrandro, 8-1.

The girls also had an easy time of it against the Lady Eagles. Kari Berger lost the number one singles match 8-3 to Ashley Simmons. Shaina Ragamat gritted out a close match over Lilian Blackmon, 8-6. Alisha Wilcox defeated Stephanie Johnson 8-1. Katie Walker defeated Jarret Uribe 8-4. Katherine Ragamat shut out Samantha Garber, 8-0.

In doubles action Okeechobee swept the matches. Berger and Walker combined to defeat Simmons and Blackmon 8-6. The team of Shaina Ragamat and Wilcox defeated Johnson and Uribe, 8-1.

The tennis teams travel to Clewiston on Thursday.

# Boys baseball defeats Port St. Lucie

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Keechobee News

There's nothing like homeruns to get a team out of a batting slump.

"We woke up. Two homeruns kind of ignited us," Coach Dylan Tedders said after his Brahms defeated Port St. Lucie 12-6 on Friday.

"We just needed a spark. Sooner or later somebody would spark us and we'd put it all together, that's basically what happened," he noted.

Okeechobee had to rally from behind against a Port St. Lucie team but they did it in style. Jonathan Crawford had a career day with three hits, which included a long grand slam. He also threw five shutout innings of relief to get the win. He allowed just three hits and struck out nine.

"He was on. He looked real good. That was a career day for him. The bats woke up," Tedders noted.

Austin Hamilton started for Okeechobee. He allowed two un-

earned runs but no hits in his two innings of work. In the third Hamilton gave up a lead off triple to Cory Reed, and couldn't rebound. Three walks and an error helped PSL create a four run rally which gave them a 6-1 lead.

Okeechobee scored single runs in the first and fourth innings. Crawford drove home a run with a fourth inning double to make it 6-2.

The real fireworks began in the fifth as Cameron Tewksbury hit a three run homerun to right field to pull Okeechobee to within 6-5.

Okeechobee took the lead for good with a six run sixth inning. Aaron Suarez had a base hit to lead off the inning. After a Jake Davenport fielder's choice, Drew Selvey flied out. Mark Weir hit what appeared to be the third out when he grounded the ball to second. However the felder threw the ball away and Suarez scored to make it 6-3. After that it was all Okeechobee. Dustin Stokes walked, and Weir scored on a single by Adam Tewksbury.

PSL Coach Tony Malizia decided to intentionally walk Cameron Tewksbury to load the bases and the decision backfired when Crawford a 380 foot bomb over the left field fence into a 20 mile per hour wind for a grand slam.

Okeechobee's final run was scored by Drew Selvey in the seventh. Selvey singled, stole second and scored on a single by Weir.

Drew Selvey went 2 for 5, while Dustin Stokes was 2-4, and

scored three times. Adam Tewksbury went 4-4, scored two runs, and had two runs batted in. Cameron Tewksbury went 1-2, with a three run homerun. Jonathan Crawford was 3-3 with the grand slam, and Aaron Suarez was 2-4, with an RBI and run scored.

The boys travel to Forest Hill on Tuesday, and host Glades Central Friday. Okeechobee travels to play John Carroll Saturday at 6 p.m. in Fort Pierce.

## O.G. & C.C. Golf Results

### P.I.G.S. League

P.I.G.S. League - Feb. 16: First place - Kenny Curran; second place - Max Sherry; last place - Russ Adams.

Closest to the pin: Don Gray, Max Sherry, George Earl Goudy, Doug Stuvent.

O.L.G.A. T's & F's - Feb. 17: First place - Paula Fisher; second place - Vonnie Maines; third place - Nancy McAlinden.

Chip-Ins: Vonnie Maines, Nancy McAlinden, Janice Rhyne, Kay Duball.

P.I.G.S. League - Feb. 18: First place - Russ Papy; second place - J.C. Armstrong; last place - Jeff Buchanan.

Closest to the pin: Max Sherry, Russ Adams, Terry Atkinson, Levi Clem.

O.L.G.A. Scramble - Feb. 19: First place - Faye Black, Vonnie Maines, Wanetta Johnson; sec-

ond place - Sunni Adams, Paula Fisher, Janice Rhyne, Fran Dierig; third place - Eilene Hammond, Jeanette Butler, Shirley Esterline, Ann Bearden.

P.I.G.S. League - Feb. 20: First place - Gary Gary; second place - George Earl Goudy; last place - Max Sherry, J.W. Cain, John Kanche.

Closest to the pin: Sunni Adams, John Kanche.

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- 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

### Antiques 0510

JD MODEL B TRACTOR 1936 - Runs well \$4000.  
(863)357-5837

### Appliances 0515

GE Washer and Dryer will sell together or separate \$120. for both (863)610-0685

KENMORE - Full size dishwasher only used 6 mo. \$100 or best offer (863)467-4567 or 467-6865

REFRIGERATOR - Amana white s-b-s, water/ice disp. 24.6 cu ft. excellent condition. \$200. (863)675-2491

Refrigerator - Kitchen Aid, Stainless Steel 24.5 cubic ft. side by side. Very good \$700 (863)467-9048

TWO WHIRLPOOL Refrigerators (interchangeable parts) \$250 for both (863)484-0210

WHIRLPOOL WASHER / Dyer Set - Like New \$225. (863)612-5333

WHIRLPOOL WASHER with FREE DRYER - Big Tub Washer 3 years old \$150. (863)675-3693

### Wanted To Buy 0740

### We Buy Scrap Gold, Silver and Coins

### Elliot's Pawn Shop

419 W S Park St • (863) 763-5553

### Appliances Small 0521

FRYER - Electric, removable tub, 2 Sm., 1 Lg. Basket. Easy to use/clean. Almost new. \$30 (863)532-8180

PANINI MAKER / GRILL By: Wolfgang Puck. New (gift) So nice! New \$69. Sell now for \$35 (863)467-8140

### ROTESERIE, SHOWTIME - NEW! Complete w/extras.

Was \$190. Sell now \$135 FIRM. (863)467-8140

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

### Barns Sheds & Lawn Items 0522

CRAFTSMAN-RIDING LAWN TRACTOR 18.5 HP, 42" x \$400. (239)340-5278 (239)633-3601

JOHN DEERE L-130 GARDEN TRACTOR - 48CUT 23hp KHOLER, NICE \$1000. (873)467-1358

### Bicycles 0530

EXCELLENT Ladies TREK bike has balloon tires, cost \$400 asking \$275 (863)763-3796

### Building Materials 0540

BIG POLES - 20' x 18" and up \$3.50 per foot. 772-260-4514

### Children's Items 0555

BOYS SUMMER Clothes 4T - Clean, spotless, excellent condition (Okeechobee) \$12. (863)763-6131

BOYS WINTER Clothes 4T - Clean, spotless, excellent condition (Okeechobee) \$8. (863)763-6131

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

CRIB W/MATRESS - 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

EDDIE BAUER convertible Baby Travel Bed - Used only 1 time. Paid \$249.00 \$100. (863)675-0104

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

STEP TWO Cabin Play House - Excellent Condition. \$60/firm. (863)634-3324

### Clothing 0565

BIG MANS 2X black leather jacket - Gently worn with zip out lining and hood. \$125/or best offer. (863)763-0722

### Automobiles 4005

### LAKE MOTORS

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

'98 Chrysler Sebring ... only \$3495  
Conv. loaded #19738

'99 Honda LX Civic ... \$4995  
4 Dr. AT. ac. #12216

'92 Lexus ES 300 ... only \$2895  
loaded, low miles, 1 owner 11262

'97 Jaguar XJ6 ... \$5695  
one owner, low miles, x-clean #13517

'00 Toyota Solara ... \$4695  
2dr. auto, loaded #16933

03 GMC Sonoma King Cab ... \$3695  
3dr. 6 cyl. auto, ac, loaded, fiberglass topper #12124

'01 Volvo S40 ... only \$5695  
red, loaded, x-clean, #17761

'00 Eclipse ... \$3995  
6 cyl. 5 spd. moon roof, #16268

'02 FI50, 4x4, LB ... Only \$4595  
auto, A/C, leather, V8 #13966

'99 Subaru Outback ... \$3995  
AWD, loaded, auto, ac #2078

'99 Dodge 1500 ... \$3895  
x-cab, auto, A/C, V8 #11885

'98 Toyota Corolla ... \$3995  
one owner #18217

'00 VW Jetta ... Only \$4295  
5 spd, A/C, loaded #19990

'98 Ford Explorer XLT ... \$3995  
loaded, #16717

'94 E350 12 Passenger Van ... \$3695  
dual AC, #12589

'97 Toyota Avalon ... only \$3995  
Moon roof, leather, loaded #11374

### Furniture 0610

COLOR TV - 13" color TV in good condition. \$15. (863)467-5299

DINETTE SET - FREE dropleaf table & 4 chairs. U haul \$0. (954)629-6766

DINING TABLE/CHAIRS - Nice French Country table.(only 2 chairs)/Seats up to 6 people. \$150. (863)357-5773

DRESSER - \$100.00, chest of drawers - \$100.00, round drop leaf dining table w/2 chairs - \$50.00, child's colorful solid wood table w/2 chairs - \$75.00, baker's rack - \$45.00 - All in excellent condition. \$370/will sep. (863)843-0759

FRENCH PROVINCIAL By Lexington. Bdrm. & more 11 pcs. \$1500 for ALL! (863)532-8180

KING SIZE bed and matching armor - Solid wood headboard, footboard and wooden side rails. Armors has 1 removable shelf and 3 drawers. \$350. (863)634-7291

### Automobiles 4005

### LAKE MOTORS

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

'02 FI50, 4x4, LB ... Only \$4595  
auto, A/C, leather, V8 #13966

'99 Subaru Outback ... \$3995  
AWD, loaded, auto, ac #2078

'99 Dodge 1500 ... \$3895  
x-cab, auto, A/C, V8 #11885

'98 Toyota Corolla ... \$3995  
one owner #18217

'00 VW Jetta ... Only \$4295  
5 spd, A/C, loaded #19990

'98 Ford Explorer XLT ... \$3995  
loaded, #16717

'94 E350 12 Passenger Van ... \$3695  
dual AC, #12589

'97 Toyota Avalon ... only \$3995  
Moon roof, leather, loaded #11374

### Guns/Supplies 0619

SAVAGE O/U 30-30, 20 GA. Mod 24V Checkered Stock w/Scope \$400 Call 863-634-4758

S/W 44 Mac 2" Barrel 5 shot - New \$500 863-634-4758

WALTHER P38 (Pre WW2) w/12 GA. Pump, Acces & books (863)484-0210

### Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

Women Love Okeechobee Medical Cosmetic Center  
Look Great by reversing sun & ageing damage...  
Skin Laser • Restylane • Botox  
Free Consultation  
Leland M. Heller, M.D.  
1713 Hwy 441 N. Ste E  
863-467-8771

ROLAND DIGITAL Piano - will donate for tax Exemption \$1000/firm. (863)484-0015

SCHWINN EXERCYCLE-UP-RIGHT - Sturdy, w/reading stand, comfortable adj seat. \$45/neg. (863)381-6273

WEIDER PROOLUB weight bench and 300lb weight set - \$300/or best offer. (863)885-1172

### Household Items 0630

TANNING BED Wolff Systems 16bulb Dark Tanning - \$1000. (863)517-1965

Outdoor Furniture 0648  
NEW BENCH SWING 5ft - Comfortable w/heavy duty frame & support \$275. (863)675-7306

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

Large Musical Carousel with table \$200 (772)205-0121

### Public Notice 5005

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) 6000000240  
2010 Water Savings Incentive Program  
The Procurement Department of the South Florida Water Management District, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406, will receive sealed proposals up to 2:30 p.m. opening time on April 23, 2009 for qualified entities for the 2010 Water Savings Incentive Program.

An OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE will be held on March 13, 2009, 1:30 p.m. in the Storch Conference Room, 3rd Floor, B-1, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida for all interested respondents. NOTE: This event will be video-conference to all Regional Service Centers.

An official public meeting (Selection Committee Meeting) will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the SFWMD District Headquarters, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL in Building B-1, Richard Rogers Conference Room.

All proposals must conform to the instructions in the RFP. Interested respondents may obtain a copy of the complete RFP (1) at the above address; (2) by downloading the solicitation from our website at www.sfwmd.com; (3) by calling (561) 682-2715; or (4) by calling the 24-hour BID HOTLINE (800) 472-5290. The public is invited to attend the proposal opening. Further information on the status of this solicitation can be obtained on our web site - www.sfwmd.gov.

All public meetings will be held at the dates, times, locations and conference rooms referenced above. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by writing the South Florida Water Management District, Procurement Department, P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33416-6880. Persons with disabilities or handicaps who need assistance may contact the District clerk, (561) 682-2087, at least two business days in advance of the meeting to make appropriate arrangements.  
3/19/09 ON 2/25/09

### Musical Instruments 0660

Brighton Baptist Church has a CABLE Spinnet Piano for sale, 41 inches high, no bench, no broken strings, nice cabinet. \$400 (863)763-9377

CLARINET - Black color with silver lining and like brand new. \$200/or best offer. (863)610-1545

TENOR SAXOPHONE - with case, CONN brand, gold, asking \$350 (863)675-4098 evenings

TWO SPEAKERS - 2, 12" kick-er speakers in box and AMP \$750 LIKE NEW (863)763-2858 Cathy

### Pets/Supplies 0670

KITTENS - 1 blk male, 1 blk/w/white female, 14 weeks/litter trained \$0. (863)634-0567

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

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

REGISTERED Boston Terrier puppies, 8 wks old, ready for good home. Parents on site \$400 or best offer (863)634-3420

ROOSTERS - 2 White Silky Roosters about 9 months old. Free \$0. (863)634-3452

### Sporting Goods 0705

SOLOFLEX HOME Gym - Bench, lever arm, butterfly, dip bar, leg ext, guide. \$185/neg. (863)381-6273

TREADMILL - Owned for less than a year. Automatic incline. In excellent condition. Padded track. \$400/neg. (2 3 9) 7 0 7 0 - 1 2 3 5 (863)674-1600

### Stereo Equipment 0710

SONY SURROUND Sound System - Sony system with dvd player.Call after 5 \$250. (863)763-4493

PHILLIPS-MAGNAVOX TV - 60 inch projection TV \$300/or best offer. (863)484-0015

THREE Color 27" TVs - \$50 each. FIRM (863)610-0685

### Television 0715

PHILLIPS-MAGNA

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

Rentals

Table with 2 columns: Rental type and Price. Includes Apartments (905), Business Places (910), Commercial Property (915), etc.

Apartment 0905

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

KINGS BAY - 2/2, \$695 per mo 1st & last, no pets. Avail 2/22/09 (863)763-7301 or (863) 697-1623

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

OKEECHOBEE, 2BR, 1BA, Near town. \$750 mo. Annual Lease Sec-8 OK. 561-255-4377

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

Houses - Rent 0930

PRIVATE WATERFRONT RENTAL

Rent to Own with 10% down 2/2 on the rim canal, washer & dryer, large storage shed, fenced yard. \$850 plus utilities

863-467-8683

BASSWOOD - 3br, 2ba, 2 car garage, \$950/mo will take Section 8, will rent with option to buy (772)323-4758

BASSWOOD ESTATES 3 BR, 2 BA w/Den, All appl. including W&D, 1 Car Garage. \$1050 mo. (954)303-9804

DIXIE RANCH Acres- 2br/1ba duplex \$500 month + \$400 dep., includes water, lawn, garbage, NO PETS. Call (863) 467-9029

DUPLEX - 2/1, CBS, screen porch, W/D, yard, inclds water, 1 month free \$550/mo. HOME - 2/1, large yard, carport, CBS, \$695/mo, 1 month free (863)467-2100 Century 21 Horizon

FT DRUM - 1/1 on four acres, new cabinets and carpet \$625 mo. (912) 224-4658 or (734) 637-2697

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

OKEECHOBEE- On the water, 1br, 1ba, fully furn. W&D, Elec & satellite, HBO incld., \$600/mo. (863)467-1950

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

Office Space Rent 0937

Professional Office Space for Rent with conference room from \$1500 per month

Call for details 561-436-2020

Behind Bill's Mini Mart, 2br, 2ba, nice corner lot, \$50,000. (863)467-2156

KINGS MH PARK - 48 x 12 Furn 1/1 w/21' concrete porch & roof, in good cond. On rented lot. Must see to appreciate. Reduced \$7000 (863)467-8773

LARKEE LAKES- 2BR/1BA, on culdesac, has renter in place. \$50,000. Call (863)467-2156

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 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

Recreation

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

AIRBOAT - 220 Ground power, 12'4", alum sides, fiberglass hull. \$6500 OBO (863)357-3567 after 5 pm

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

FORD EXPLORER 1994 - White, new tires, runs good. \$1700. (239)657-4348

FORD F250 1993 - 4-wd, auto, V-8, Runs Good. \$2500/ or best offer. (863)763-6297

CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 2001 - Ltd. Edition, 5-sp, 4-cyl, original owner. \$2500. (231)675-3615

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

FEMALE looking for female roommate for house in Oak park. \$325/mo. All utilities incl. Call 863-261-5789

Boats 3005

Aluminum Star craft boat - 14' with 15 horse motor and trailer \$900 (269)240-0797

SELECT 20 FT Pontoon Boat, LaBelle. Also single axle trailer. NO MOTOR \$1600. (239)229-2974

TRACKER Alum boat, 2001, 16', 1999, 40 hp merc, 2 depth frds, trolling mtr \$3500 or best offer (309)337-9083

V-Bottom alum boat w/ trailer, 15 hp evenrude motor. \$1,550 (863)946-3377 or 863-228-6636

Campers/RVs 3010

COACHMAN 1985 - 28 Ft. Pull Behind. \$1800 or best offer. (863)675-7105

COMPLETE SET Tie-Downs for slide-in Camper, new 15" spare tire - 6 hole rim w/fold down carrier, Blue ox hitch for car pulling \$450 for all w/ will separate (863)763-5062

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

FORD F250 White Super Duty 4x4 w/towing pkg. 32,000 miles, Excellent condition with 2005 27 ft Coachman 5th wheel, 2 slides, King size bed, excellent condition \$26,500 for both. (863)357-4827

MUST SELL NOW - Loaded 2009 Puma, 33 ft, 2 br, 2 slides, 19" color TV-DVD, Bradenton-\$17,700 (321) 287-8747

TRAVEL TRAILER - 31' with screen room attached, can be seen at Lakeside RV Park 4074, 441 E 2nd St. Okeechobee, FL 33029 (269)240-0797

VINTAGE 1970 DODGE MOTORHOME - 318 eng., fi-berglass body, \$1500 or trade (863)801-3667

Lots - Sale 1045

5 Acres- 5 minutes north of town off #41, cleared \$79,900.00 (561)801-3002

Waterfront Property 1080

LAKEPORT- Lake Okeechobee east-2/1 CBS, fully furn, 2 boat-boathouse w/1.5 bath, laundry, shop w/auto doors, fish cleaning screenroom. Too many extras to list, includes Bass boat and air boat \$250,000 Bill Smith (941)772-8898 or (941) 448-0367

Marine Miscellaneous 3025

FOR SALE - 1982, 150 hp Evenrude outboard, complete less prop \$75 or best offer (863)763-1370

Motorcycles 3030

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

HONDA REBEL 2006 - black and chrome excellent cond \$2500. (239)707-8606

SUZUKI RM 125 2000 - needs a rear fender, runs good, A must see. \$1000 or best offer. (863)763-6297

SUZUKI VOLUSIA 800CC 2003 - silver/white, windshield, saddlebags, sissy-bar, roadpeds, floorboards, crashbar, excellent condition, \$3000/firm. (863)824-6189

Yamaha Star 03-650, 8,000 miles. Extras \$3,000 firm 863-673-4341 cell

ON RIM CANAL: Small, 1 Bdrm., \$450 mo. (includes utilities), + \$300 sec. dep. (863)697-0214

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms Low Deposits & Reasonable Payments 863-983-3554

MOBILE HOME 2020 - Behind Bill's Mini Mart, 2br, 2ba, nice corner lot, \$50,000. (863)467-2156

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

Automobiles 4005

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

CADILLAC SADAN DEVILLE 1994 - FAIR CONDITION, NEW BRAKES, POWER WINDOWS LEATHER INTERIOR, HUNTER GREEN WITH FLAKES ALSO LOW MILEAGE, CD, air bags, anti-lock brakes, heated seats, a/c, auto. Cc, rear defrost, V-8. FOR MORE INFORMATION FEEL FREE TO CALL. \*\* MUST SELL MOVING. \*\* \$1200/ or best offer. (863)634-6843

CHEVROLET CAMARO 1995 - blk z-28 v8 lt engine, leather int, float master 110,000 original miles, a/c \$3500. (9 5 6 1) 9 0 7 - 2 8 8 0 (956)533-9831

CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 2001 - Ltd. Edition, 5-sp, 4-cyl, original owner. \$2500. (231)675-3615

FORD EXPLORER 1994 - White, new tires, runs good. \$1700. (239)657-4348

FORD F250 1993 - 4-wd, auto, V-8, Runs Good. \$2500/ or best offer. (863)763-6297

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FEMALE looking for female roommate for house in Oak park. \$325/mo. All utilities incl. Call 863-261-5789

Automobiles 4005

FORD T-BIRD 1996 - 113k miles, v6, cold air, automatic \$1200. (863)467-7374

GRAND MARQUIS - 1996, Leather, V8, auto, alloy whls, cold a/c, antilock brks, power \$2300 (863)763-8027

JAGUAR XJ6 SOVEREIGN 1991 - JAGUAR XJ6 Sovereign. Loaded. 6V, 116,000 miles. \$3,500 Neg. Call (863)484-4099. \$3500/neg. (863)447-0796

OTHER 1999 - Fleetwood Discovery Motorhome w/2 pull-outs. Exc. Cond. \$7800. (239)633-6903

TOYOTA COROLLA - 2001 Grey, 47000 miles. Auto, tilt, cruise. Exccl cond. \$4,950 (812)989-3022

Four Wheel Drive 4035

FORD F150, '77 - 4 wheel drive, stepside truck, Must See! \$5,000. Call Pete (863)697-3766

Golf Carts 4037

CLUB CAR ELECTRIC 2003 - New Batteries, Side Curtains, Reconditioned \$2995/ or best offer. (863)843-0062

GOLF CART - Club Car, 48 volt, elect, sun roof, used, Excellent cond. \$1750 or best offer (863)467-2824

FORD 1976 - Dump Truck w/wood side rails. Needs battery. Runs good. \$1000. (239)633-6903

TOYOTA HAUL BOX 1990 - 1Ton rear drive, aluminum box, cold ac \$2650. (561)261-0682

Parts/Repairs 4045

18" FORD RIMS - 18" FACTORY F4 Ford RIMS \$400/ or best offer. (863)634-1545

4 CHROME wheels w/ tires - 8 lug w/ cups LT 265/70 R 17 \$200/ or best offer. (863)612-5333

MUD TIRES - 5 BRAND NEW BFG MUDTERRAIN TIRES 35"12.50\*15 \$600/firm. (863)697-8696

OFF ROAD tires in good condition 4-15" - 1/2 new price \$160. (863)675-6314

TRUCK RIMS & Tires - Off a Chevy Z71, 265/75/16 A/T's Make Offer \$125/ or best offer. (863)634-4557

Pickup Trucks 4050

ALUMINUM Truck beds and racks, \$1200 each OBO (863)357-3567 After 5 pm

CHEVY 1 TON DUALY 77 - 454 eng., 4 speed, great to restore or farm use, \$1750 or trade (863)801-3667

DODGE D100 1984 - 6cyl, 4spd, runs good, many new parts, tires & body fair. \$850/neg. (863)763-3669

FORD - 1992 F-250, 7.3 L, Diesel 5 speed, Good work truck. \$2500 or best offer (863)835-3251

FORD 2000 - Pickup truck, Exc. Cond. Auto. V-8, 5,000 miles \$7000/ or best offer. (239)633-6903

FORD F-150 1984 - Tan color, 300 eng, 4sp, 70,000 miles on the engine, cold ac. Runs and drives like new or better. Super clean work truck, must see this one. \$2400/ or best offer. (561)261-0682

FORD F150 1996 - Ford F150 pickup truck, 5 speed, 300 6 cylinder \$1800/ or best offer. (863)634-3280

FORD F-150 1997 - 2 F-150's One 4x4 Runs One 2wd for parts. \$2000/neg. (863)634-0556

FORD RANGER - Great condition, low miles \$5000 (214)978-7372

FORD RANGER - Runs great, call for details \$2500 (214)978-7372

FULL SIZE Truck Topper Black, good condition. For long wheel base truck. \$150 (863)532-1054

ISUZU PICK UP 1994 - 4-cyl, 5-sp, teal color, runs good, nice dependable, Gas efficient work truck \$1300. (8 6 3 1) 6 1 2 - 5 9 2 3 (863)675-4139

Sport Utility 4055

NISSAN FRONTIER 2000 - White, AC, CD, 4 cyl, 2nd mpg., bumper hitch. \$2700 (863)357-6113

Utility Trailers 4065

CULVERT - CULVERT plastic 20'x 30inch diameter cash \$400. (863)634-2303

ENCLOSED TRAILER 05 - Single axle 6x12 vent, lights, side/rear doors. Clewiston \$2300. (863)599-0809

FLAT TRAILER 06 - 6x16 dual axle, 12" side rails, wood floor, electric brakes. Clewiston \$1750. (863)599-0809

Haulmark - 2006, 6 x 12 V-Nose, fold down rear ramp, side door \$1,850 (863)763-0944

TANDEM double axle 19' \$800 OBO, 32' heavy duty \$400 OBO (863)357-3567 after 5 pm

UTILITY TRAILER - single axle ENCLOSED, single axle 6x12 vent, lights, side/rear doors. \$2000. (863)634-2303

Vans 4070

DODGE CONVERSION VAN 2000 - asking \$4700 (863)675-0077 /674-1333

DODGE RAM 50 1996 - V-6, a/c, loaded, blue, conversion. \$950. (863)763-3551 (863)467-1358

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

Public Notices 5005

Public Notice 5005 State Public - Legal Notice 5500

Public Notice 5005

AMENDED LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) -- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE, pursuant to Section 287.055, Florida Statutes, the State of Florida's Consultants Competitive Negotiations Act and the State Requirements for Educational Facilities 1999, will consider the contracting of an architect/engineer for providing professional services for the following project(s):

The project(s) will consist of: Minor Projects College Wide

The Professional Services requested include the following disciplines:

- Architecture
Civil
Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing
Structural
Surveying
Geographical Information Systems
Geotechnical & Materials Testing
Environmental
Commissioning Services

Firms desiring to provide Professional Services for the discipline(s) described above shall submit one (1) original and five (5) copies, clearly indicating the discipline(s) for which you are submitting.

# Bust

Continued From Page 1

development, a marina and various lakes, parks and public area. In February of 2006 realtor Brandon Tucker stated that the average price for a home in Okeechobee County was in the \$220,000 to \$230,000 range. Then the bottom fell out. Of the many housing developments that were being planned during the boom times three years ago the only one where any visible activity going on is Silver

Palms, an RV subdivision on S.W. 32nd Street. Construction is well under way on that project and several lots have already been sold. Mr. Tucker attributes Silver Palms' success to the fact that it is a "niche market." Lots are sold only to owners of motor homes and RVs. Currently, with the exception of Silver Palms, no visible work is going on at any of the sites which were in the planning stage three years ago. To complicate matters, the agreements that many of the developers signed with Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) in order to reserve sewer capacity will

be expiring soon. What happened to all those planned developments? In one case the developer went bankrupt. In many cases developers are just waiting for better economic times. In one case the original developers have dropped out and the project is for sale at a much reduced price. In 2008, for the first time in many years, housing prices in Okeechobee County dropped. Today the average price of a house in the county is \$140,000 to \$150,000. In January of 2006 Okeechobee County Clerk of the Courts

Sharon Robertson's office recorded 12 foreclosures. In January of this year 64 foreclosures were recorded. What happened to the building boom? It seems to be a complicated situation made up of many factors with no single explanation or solution. Mr. Tucker attributes the real estate decline to several factors. The first is an oversupply of houses. The second is past lending practices. He said that in the past banks were too lenient in providing loans to people to buy houses they really could not afford based on their income. He said that in

many cases prospective home buyers did not have to document their income. Another factor he stated is the rising unemployment rate. No matter how good a mortgage deal a person has, if they lose their job, they cannot make house payments. The unemployment rate in Okeechobee County is around 10 percent. Mr. Tucker added that part of the problem was caused by speculation with people hoping to be able to "flip" a house. That is they would buy a house hoping to be able to sell it within a short time for a substantial profit.

However, Mr. Tucker said that in the last few months residential sales have picked up. Some of these sales have been repossessions. It remains to be seen how economic stimulus plans for the housing industry will effect the local area.

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

# Shooting

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the fights. According to Sgt. Stark, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has placed a detainee on Barbosa. This means regardless of what happens with his case, he will be deported. Barbosa is a documented member of the Cypress Boys gang in Pompano, said Sgt. Stark. A juvenile was also arrested

in connection with this incident. The 16-year-old boy was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. After he was booked into the county jail he was taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Department Detention Center in Fort Pierce. In the first incident, Sgt. Stark said a fight apparently erupted inside the arena then was taken outside. Once outside the arena, Luis Gutierrez, Jupiter, reportedly pulled a .25 caliber Baretta and fired. But, added Sgt. Stark, he

fired at no one particular person. Gutierrez, who had been assaulted inside the arena, was arrested by OCSO Detective Fred Bradley and charged with two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Detective Bradley also arrested Ernesto Moreno and charged him with carrying a concealed weapon. He was booked into the county jail under a bond of \$2,500. According to Sgt. Stark, following his arrest Gutierrez was released on his own recognizance and then air lifted to a hospital

on the coast due to injuries he received during the fight. He apparently was struck in the forehead with an unknown object. After the shots were fired Gutierrez then gave the semi-automatic weapon to Moreno, which brought about the concealed weapon charge, indicated Detective Bradley. An arrest report by OCSO Deputy Javier Gonzalez indicates that Barbosa was arrested after he reportedly fired up to five rounds from a .40 caliber Springfield Arms semi-automatic hand gun

while riding in a moving vehicle. He reportedly fired the weapon into a crowd of people as he was leaving the Agri-Civic Center. Both weapons were seized by Detective Bradley. According to Sgt. Stark, this second shooting incident is gang related. He went on to explain that if Barbosa is convicted of his crime he will serve whatever sentence he is given and then taken to the nearest ICE office to be deported. "Even if he bonds out (of the county jail) they (ICE) will come

and get him and he will be held without bond on their detainer," explained Sgt. Stark. He went on to add that it has yet to be substantiated that Gutierrez and Moreno belong to a criminal street gang. County attorney John Cassels said rodeo promoters must carry liability insurance and if someone had been injured in either incident "... it's very unlikely the county would be held liable."

# Training

Continued From Page 1

the best." The Tuesday, Feb. 24 training exercise included not only the OCSO sniper team, but the department's Special Response Team (SRT) and hostage negotia-

tors. The OCSO team consists of 12 SRT members, five negotiators and five snipers, said OCSO Major Noel Stephen. Maj. Stephen said the situation consisted of two "bad guys" who had just been involved in a home invasion. A man in that home armed himself and shots were fired. The "bad guys" then ran to a home across the street

and were holding a female in that house hostage. The "bad guys" were being played by Corrections Officer Brian Tatum and OCSO Auxiliary Deputy Brian Holden. The hostage was OCSO Detective Susan Morrison. As the snipers were inching their way toward the dairy home members of the SRT went house to house to evacuate everyone. Once that was done, and the snipers had described to Lt. Yeates what they saw, it was up to the SRT deputies to move cautiously toward the open window and toss in a telephone by which negotiators could communicate with the suspects.

what the suspects are wanting. "They have to have the gift of gab and the ability to think on their feet," Maj. Stephen said of the negotiators. "One of the first criteria is to identify who they're dealing with, then what the crisis is and their (suspect's) demeanor." The major said this OCSO team has handled roughly a dozen such situations. "And, they've always been successful," he said. Of course their main goal is to find a peaceful solution that effects the safe release of the hostage, an easy arrest of the suspects and one that allows members of law enforcement to go home to their families once it is all over. "The first thing is the safety of the community," said Maj. Stephen. "Deadly force is a last resort."

County Fire/Rescue -- Ricky Jones and Justin Hazellief -- who have undergone the same training as the deputies but double as medics and can render medical aid when needed.

"That's a definite plus to the team," said Maj. Stephen. The home being used in the exercise was donated for use by Larson Dairy.



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp

**A sniper clad in his Ghillie suit slowly moves toward a home during an Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office training exercise Tuesday, Feb. 24, in which two men were holding a woman hostage in the home. The snipers first establish a perimeter then relay everything they see back to their supervisors, who can then brief the OCSO Special Response Team on the situation and what to expect.**

Once communications have been established, the negotiators will begin the task of assessing the situation and trying to learn

the situation and trying to learn



Submitted photo/Humane Society Pet Rescue Fl, Inc.

**Pet of the Week**  
**Peewee enjoys cuddling. Must be spayed when he comes of age—we will do that for you. Peewee has been sad lately, he is missing his sister Susie who was adopted. We do not have a facility of our own yet, but working toward it. To see this little guy, please call 863-532-1110 to make an appointment. Adoption fee is \$75.**

# Funding

Continued From Page 1

state to come up with the formula to establish their AYP. Certain states held it to their rigorous standards like Florida and others chose to have more relaxed standards with their formula. This creates a situation where a school in Florida can be an "A" or "B" school but not make AYP and thus they face sanctions. Over 400 schools out of 2,500 this year faced sanctions for not meeting AYP standards. Florida raised the bar for accountability and has now gotten penalized for it by AYP. With the current economy, it is paramount that this unequal comparison be repaired so that businesses looking to expand do not automatically discard Florida off of their option list because Florida schools "seem" inferior to schools in some other states. Board members urged him to support evening the playing field which would allow Florida, which has a very rigorous grading and testing system in comparison with some other states to fare better when compared.

pressed by board members were to provide flexibility, a no strings attached approach to funding so that each individual county can place the funds where their greatest needs are. Another key issue is the fact that the schools currently get funding through Medicaid reimbursement for administration and transportation expenses for special needs students through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). This accounts for millions of dollars per year in each county. These services are required to be provided by the schools, yet if the moratorium is not extended, then next year districts are going to have to take on the burden of major expenses to provide such services. Districts also expressed their concern for IDEA shortfalls constantly which were guaranteed 40 percent in the beginning when they were first authorized, however, they have never been funded higher than 18 percent. This leaves the districts to fund the increasing costs of services to special needs students which are also more readily identified and therefore increasing in their numbers.

students and no one really talks about it publicly. Additionally, vocational programs continue to see cuts in funding yet they cost more to operate with the increasing cost of technology which must be kept up to date in order for the programs to remain certified for programs for the students. Everything today is computer based and all that funding is being cut continually. Okeechobee School Board Chair Kelly Owens urged Representative Rooney to err with caution when he hears anyone comparing education in other countries to that of the U.S. Being a child from a military family, Mrs. Owens went to school abroad. She pointed out that in other countries when they compare their education system, it seems higher because they do not educate all of their children as the U.S. does. The U.S. educates all children regardless of their abilities, many other countries do

not. She also pointed out that if you compare the elite of students from the U.S. with other countries, then many scales place the U.S. near the top of the list. Those same elite foreign students come to universities in the U.S. to further their education. Another added cost that Florida schools have been bombarded with are emergency shelter costs during hurricanes. District leaders urged Rep. Rooney to encourage a more rapid system for reimbursement of funds for the extra operating and maintenance costs incurred during disasters. A share of cost with the other agencies such as the county for the additional construction costs incurred by school districts to provide specialized buildings with hurricane proof requirements was also encouraged.

with funding, a push for a National commitment to education as a whole in order for this country to continue to succeed. It was expressed that there was an apparent lack of attention to education during the presidential campaign and yet that is how even small countries are making their countries great by increasing their education programs. School safety concerns were also addressed which could possibly be able to obtain some funding from other sources such as Homeland Security. Some board members who have backgrounds in law enforcement explained that they would formulate a plan to present at a later time to try to help districts with the costs of the SROs in their schools. Due

to the strong cultural differences in schools including gang issues, which affect discipline, the board members encouraged Representative Rooney to encourage a dedicated funding source for this safety aspect of our schools. The stimulus package, if the waiver is approved, would extend much needed funding of an estimated \$2.7 billion into the state of Florida for education. While this would not cover the deficits that have already been created by additional funding cuts that have continued to cut at the bottom line of all of the school districts, it would help for the next two years. **Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com).**  
**Reporter Chauna Aguilar can be reached at [caguilar@newszap.com](mailto:caguilar@newszap.com).**

Most school districts are their county's largest employers and therefore if the government is putting money into education, then they are putting money into the local economy. Education is an economic engine for every county in District 16. Other issues that were ex-

Okeechobee School Board member Joe Arnold brought up another topic dealing with ESE students dealing with the limited resources on discipline. He urged that there be some type of toolbox to allow discipline to be meaningful. There has been a real issue with disciplining ESE

not. She also pointed out that if you compare the elite of students from the U.S. with other countries, then many scales place the U.S. near the top of the list. Those same elite foreign students come to universities in the U.S. to further their education. Another added cost that Florida schools have been bombarded with are emergency shelter costs during hurricanes. District leaders urged Rep. Rooney to encourage a more rapid system for reimbursement of funds for the extra operating and maintenance costs incurred during disasters. A share of cost with the other agencies such as the county for the additional construction costs incurred by school districts to provide specialized buildings with hurricane proof requirements was also encouraged.

This could also be alleviated by requiring other public buildings to be built as shelters, not just schools. In addition to the many is-

# Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

<b>ACROSS</b>	66 PX patrons	34 Posh	50 Seeing red
1 Enjoyed a trail	67 Pinkish-orange	35 Ring	51 Not a good looker?
6 <a href="http://www.amazon.com">www.amazon.com</a> , e.g.	<b>DOWN</b>	36 Uppity sort	52 Part of Hispaniola
9 Eschew driveway gravel, maybe	1 Patio party letters	38 Like cactus	53 Seder staple
13 Cumberland Gap explorer	2 Promising letters	39 Lip-___	56 Tiny part of a min.
14 Voting choice	3 Ornamental carp	40 Delaware's northern border, e.g.	58 Powder holder
15 Waist-length jackets	4 Things with ltrs.	5 Tricky rink move	45 Like tangled hair
17 Two paces per second, in a march	5 Androgynous	6 Androgynous dish	46 Armies
19 "Don't play," in scores	7 Japanese noodle jackets	8 Drano ingredient	47 Taxing trip
20 Flat agreement	8 Women's size	9 Whatever happens	49 Word with beat or abbr.
21 Two-star system	10 Whatever happens	11 Words, informally	
22 Makeshift folk instruments	11 Words, informally	12 Part of el año	
25 Where a rule-breaking Canadian may be seen	12 Part of el año	16 Earth/Hades boundary, in Greek myth	
27 Mandela's org.	16 Earth/Hades boundary, in Greek myth	18 Magnetic medium	
28 Ranch handle	18 Magnetic medium	21 Russian pancakes	
29 Zwei and zwei	21 Russian pancakes	22 Ancient Israeli port	
30 Like some starts	22 Ancient Israeli port	23 Take a piece from?	
32 Path to enlightenment	23 Take a piece from?	24 Staff symbol	
33 Theater technique	24 Staff symbol	26 Sans opposite	
37 Freudian technique	26 Sans opposite	28 Sri Lankan export	
41 Switch on a radio	28 Sri Lankan export	31 Visual signaling apparatus	
42 Joe-___ weed:	31 Visual signaling apparatus	32 Pulitzer playwright Akins	
43 In once more	32 Pulitzer playwright Akins		
44 Oscar-winning Whitaker role			
46 National Do Not Call Registry org.			
48 Menagene			
49 Park surrounded by water?			
53 Games magazine's 1994 Game of the Year			
54 Year in which the Colosseum was opened			
55 Sphere of activity			
57 Parcel out			
58 Energize, and what the first words of 17-, 25-, 37- and 49-			
62 Company with an antlered animal logo			
63 Somme summer			
64 Web issue			
65 Case in an 1857			

# ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

B	A	P	B	E	N	J	I	A	T	B	A	Y		
E	T	A	E	L	I	A	N	C	A	R	P	E		
C	O	G	F	L	E	W	T	H	E	C	O	O	P	
A	N	O	M	I	E	A	R	R	O	W				
M	A	D	E	T	R	A	C	K	S		N	S	A	
E	L	A	N	T	O	E	T	A	B	O	R			
			S	T	I	R	F	R	I	A	R	S		
G	O	T	O	U	T	O	F	D	O	D	G	E		
W	I	N	I	N	G	N	E	A	T					
A	F	R	O	S		D	E	L		A	L	T	A	
G	T	E		H	I	T	T	H	E	R	O	A	D	
			P	O	L	E	S		Y	A	K	I	M	A
T	O	O	K	A	P	O	W	D	E	R	T	A	G	
S	T	R	A	W		W	H	I	N	E		E	L	I
A	T	T	Y	S		N	O	M	A	D		R	E	O

# Sudoku

**SUDOKU**

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

Level: Advanced

**Fun By The Numbers**

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

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

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

ANSWER:

# Fair

Continued From Page 1

etable and horticulture exhibits. The Okeechobee Cattlemen's Spring Rodeo will take place Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15 at 2:30 each afternoon. The Miss Okeechobee County Fair Beauty Pageant will be held Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m. That date will also be Support Our Troops Night with free admission to those bringing three items listed on [forgottensoldiers.org](http://forgottensoldiers.org) website. Saturday, March 14 is Seminole Heritage Day with a Seminole Heritage show from noon to 2 p.m. There will also be a car show from noon until 4 p.m. Sunday, March 15 is Family Day with a Hispanic band jamboeree and low rider car show. The Okeechobee Idol Contest will be the highlight of Monday, March

15. Bike Night is Tuesday, March 17. Bikers with a valid motorcycle license will get in for \$2. Tuesday also marks the beginning of the youth livestock show. Wednesday, March 18 is Student Dollar Night. The admission is \$1 with a student ID. Food Drive Night is Thursday, March 19. The fair admission that night is \$2 along with 3 cans of food. The last Friday and Saturday of the fair will be devoted to a blue grass festival. As has become the tradition, the fair ends with a demolition derby at 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Gates open at noon on Saturdays and Sundays and at 5 p.m. weekdays. Daily tickets for \$5 and 10 day passes for \$30 are available at the fair's website [www.okeechobeecountyfair.com](http://www.okeechobeecountyfair.com). **Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com).**  
**Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com).**

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

A local girl is blazing her own trail as she became the first Okeechobee girl to qualify for the state weight lifting tournament this month.

Angelina Cardenas travelled with her coach Brandi Burlingame on Valentine's Day to River Ridge High School in New Port Richey, and immediately knew she was onto something special.

"I was like, oh my Gosh, this is so big. I just blinked and said wow, I was nervous a little bit," she said.

Cardenas actually joined the team late this year but her coach said that didn't stop her from becoming good at the sport.

"She didn't let that stop her. She's probably one of my hardest workers. She never stops. She always does all the lifts. She will finish up her work. She is a machine, she kept going, and going and going," said Coach Burlingame.

Burlingame is optimistic that the sport will grow. This year the weight lifting team had nine members. They competed with teams on the Treasure Coast. She noted the teams compete in two events the bench press and the clean and jerk. Cardenas represented OHS at the state meet after she qualified at the regional competition on Feb. 7. Ninety-five schools competed at the state tournament. "We're really excited about building the program. The girls had a lot of fun this year and I had a lot of fun working with them."

Burlingame stated the word has gotten around campus that there is a weight lifting team. They've only been around for two years. Jacquie Robinson was the coach in the inaugural year. Burlingame said her lifters are working to drum up other girls that want to compete.

"I think the lifters have started

recruiting girls. We've had a lot of girls come and approach me about next year, open gyms, and weight lifting in general.

Angelina is one of two freshmen on the squad. Coach Burlingame has high hopes for her. She noted she has natural talent and should set some records in the next few years. Her high bench press lift was 135 pounds. She had a season high of 115 pounds for the clean and jerk.

The clean and jerk is similar to what you would see at the Olympics. A large barbell sits at the lifters feet. They must grab it quickly to their chest and then raise the bar over their head for a second to earn points.

Cardenas said she is now more popular at school and that new students come up to her all the time and ask her questions, "It feels awesome. I have more people talking to me. Guys are like, (they call me dude because I can

bench and lift more than them.) They ask why I do it. I tell them I like it. My brothers, Brandon and Pablo, and my teammates pushed me to do better. Pablo is the main one who was behind me all the way. He showed me what I was doing wrong."

Cardenas said she is the adventurous type and didn't shy away when she saw weight lifting for the first time, "I've always been the tom-boy type. I like doing what guys do. It was the first sport that I saw that looked pretty easy. I got into it and started liking it more."

Cardenas also predicted more girls will start competing in weight lifting. "I already told my friends about it. One of them said they would try out. A couple said the sport looked alright. They sound interested."

Cardenas thanked her mom, her brothers, her teammates, and her coach for always being there for her and encouraging her.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Weight Lifting Coach Brandi Burlingame shows how strong her freshman lifter Angelina Cardenas (right) is.**

**Ladies' Golf Update**

**Ladies' Golf Association Update**

On Feb. 5, the Okeechobee Ladies Golf Association held their yearly Invitational Golf Tournament at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club.

Ladies in attendance were from Ft. Pierce, Hobe Sound, Clewiston, Sebring, KOA in Okeechobee and the Ladies Association members.

A scramble was held after which a baked chicken and beef luncheon was enjoyed by all.

The following were the winners in all categories:

First place - Ann Bearden, Karen Larson, Vicki Middleton.

Second place - Tina Smith, Ida Curtiz, Wanda Kubitz, Carol Knox.

Third place - Bernice King, Rachel Nordstrom, Pat Johnson, Helen Butryn.

Fourth place - Sunni Adams,

Nicole Wood, Jean Williams, Shirley Esterline.

Crying Towel Team: Saba Curren, Fran Dierig, Eileen Hammond, Kay Duball.

Closest to the pins: Kay Duball, Mary Muffeld, Carol MacKinnon, Nicole Wood.

Closest to the pin 2nd Shot: Jean Williams.

Longest Putt: Ann Bearden.

Longest drive: Bernice King.

Closest to the line: Sunni Adams.

**Girls softball team wallops Westwood**



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Taylor Kinman prepares for action at third base during the third inning of Friday's game.**

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Eleven runs in the second inning propelled the Okeechobee High School girls softball team to an easy, 20-0 win over Fort Pierce Westwood on Friday night.

Courtney Wilson allowed just one hit in five strong innings to get the win for Okeechobee, (3-1). Alicia Moore had Westwood's only hit, a third inning single.

Brahmans Coach Kim Hargraves knew her team would have to adjust to slower pitches, and the girls were able to do that Friday. "Our team reacted better to this than in the past. Sometimes we have absolute guerillas who can't react to the slow pitch," she said. "Our girls tonight

were disciplined, they were patient at the plate, and they waited for their pitch."

Wilson said she feels a little more pressure to perform this year especially on the mound. She noted she is being counted on more to pitch quality innings.

Okeechobee went down 1-2-3 in the bottom of the first, but lit up the scoreboard in the second inning. Emily McCullough started the rally with a double. Before the inning was over 15 Brahman hitters had come to the plate. Eight of the Brahman hitters drew walks against Westwood's Alexis Gilliam. Key hits included a three run triple by Taylor Douglas, an RBI double by Megan Clements and an RBI single by Katarina Suarez.

Wilson was fine on the mound as she worked around a walk in the second and a one out single in the third to shut out the Panthers, "I think we did pretty well. We all worked as a team. We all hit the ball and the defense was good. I feel good about tonight."

Okeechobee added two more runs in the third and then exploded again for seven runs in the fourth. Ten straight hitters reached base in the seven run fourth.

Coach Hargraves said she likes what she has seen from her girls early this year, "I'm feeling very good about where we are. The girls are pulling together well and jelling as a team. Next Friday is Lincoln Park, and next Saturday we play Gulliver Prep and Palm Beach Gardens. They are tough games."

The game was played in brutally cold conditions. Temperatures were in the 40s throughout the game. Hargraves said softball might be a spring sport but that half of their games are played in cold weather. Wilson said the girls didn't even know it was cold because they were working hard. "It really doesn't bother us, we get used to it," Hargraves noted.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
**Courtney Wilson warms up on the mound prior to Friday's victory against Westwood.**

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<sup>4</sup> Withdrawals may be taxable and, if made prior to age 59 1/2, may be subject to a 10% IRS penalty. Surrender charges may also apply.  
<sup>5</sup> Death benefit payments are dependent upon the claims-paying ability of New York Life Insurance and Annuity Corporation (NYLIAC) (A Delaware Corporation).  
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**New this Fall**

- ◆ 2nd grade
- ◆ Physical Education program
- ◆ Indoor Gym facility
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- ◆ Fieldtrips
- ◆ A-Beka Curriculum
- ◆ AND small class sizes.

**Ronnie Cauley**  
Grades K - 5

**Staci Duncan**  
First Grade

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- Kindergarten
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## BRAND NEW 2009 CHEVY 1/2 TON 1500 SILVERADO EXT CAB



2 Wheel Drive STK#N9214  
MSRP..... \$30,805  
Rebate..... -\$4,000  
Supplier Discount -\$3,306  
Lease to Buy .... -\$3,000†  
**AS LOW AS**

**0% FOR 60 MOS.\***

# \$20,499

NEVER BEFORE SEEN PRICE!  
THIS IS NOT A GIMMICK!

## 2009 CHEVY MALIBU



Stk#N9181  
MSRP..... \$22,370  
Rebate..... -\$2,750  
Supplier Discount -\$1,621  
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**SALE PRICE \$15,999**

**37 MPG** **5 YR / 100,000 MI WARRANTY**

## NEW 2009 CHEVY COBALT XFE

STK#N9186 yellow, 2 dr, Cruise control, onstar, ground effects, sport pedals, rear spoiler, manual shift

MSRP..... \$19,195  
Rebate..... -\$2,500  
Supplier Discount ..... -\$696  
Lease to Buy ..... -\$1,000†



**0% FOR 60 MOS.\***

**SALE PRICE \$14,999**

**5 YR / 100,000 MI WARRANTY**

## NEW 2009 CHEVY HHR

STK#N9098 Silver, chrome appearance package, automatic

MSRP..... \$21,960  
Rebate..... -\$2,500  
Supplier Discount ..... -\$961  
Lease to Buy..... -\$1,000†



**0% FOR 60 MOS.\***

**SALE PRICE \$17,499**

**5 YR / 100,000 MI WARRANTY**

## NEW 2009 CHEVY IMPALA LS

STK#N9032 Grey, Auto, Power windows, power locks

MSRP..... \$24,215  
Rebate..... -\$3,250  
Supplier Discount ..... -\$966  
Lease to Buy..... -\$3,000†



**0% FOR 60 MOS.\***

**SALE PRICE \$16,999**

**5 YR / 100,000 MI WARRANTY**

## NEW 2009 CHEVY TRAVERSE

STK#9152

MSRP..... \$29,065  
Rebate..... -\$2,250  
Supplier Discount ... -\$1,816  
Lease to Buy..... -\$2,000†



**0% FOR 60 MOS.\***

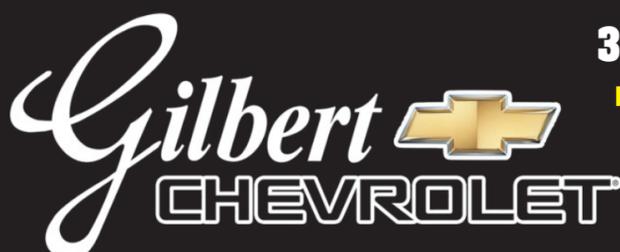
**SALE PRICE \$22,999**



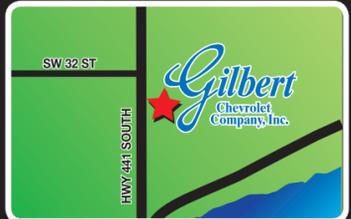
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STK#U6550 4 DR, 15" ALLOY WHEELS, AUTO AND ANTILOCK BRAKES
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- 08 HHR LT..... \$199 PER MO.\*\***  
STK#U4873 1 OWNER, POWER SEATS, ALLOY WHEELS, ONLY 14,000MILES
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