



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 29

Sunday, March 8, 2009

75¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Health and safety classes planned

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

Controlling garden pests seminar set

Are Bugs bugging you? There are over ten thousand insects in Florida but only about ten that are harmful to plants. Small in number, but they can cause lots of destruction. Come to our garden pest workshop and learn easy and sensible ways to control the terrible ten without poisoning the planet. We'll show you how to prevent pests and also good ways to deter them when they do show up. The workshop will be presented by Angela Sachson, Florida Yards & Neighborhoods.

The workshop will be held on March 10, from 1-2:30 pm or 5:30-7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Extension Service, 458 Highway 98 North.

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

'Business in a soft economy' seminar set

"Doing business in a soft economy" - a small business seminar will be held at Indian River State College, Williamson Conference Center Rm c-105 on March 19, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. With a slow economy affecting most areas of business, the time has come to make sure that business owners are exploring every potential issue that could be costing money. This seminar will examine product and service mix, advertising strategy, and proper market identification techniques to help ensure that business owners are dotting every "i" and crossing every "t" to get through this rough period in this tough economy. To reserve your spot please contact Sean Moore at 863-517-0097 or by email, spmoore@fgcu.edu.

Drought Index

Current: 688
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

12.61 feet
Last Year: 10.12 feet

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

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Prescription pills can kill

Abuse of prescription narcotics growing

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Many pill junkies rationalize that they aren't taking anything that's going to harm them because the medication was prescribed, but the statistics tell a different story.

"Their perception is it's got to be OK because the doctor pre-

scribed it," said a detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force. "Right now, I'm convinced the whole world is on dope -- I'm serious."

According to a 2008 report released through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) by the Florida Medical Examiners Commission, prescription drugs accounted for 73 percent of all drug occurrences, when alcohol is excluded.

In Okeechobee County last year 14 people died due to drug

overdose, according to a report from the 19th Judicial Circuit Medical Examiner's Office in Fort Pierce.

The FDLE report was compiled from autopsies performed by Florida medical examiners from January through June 2008.

During that time period there were about 89,000 deaths in the state, with 4,055 of them having one or more drugs specified in their bodies, stated the report.

According to the report, the

three most frequently occurring drugs found during those autopsies were alcohol (1,923), benzodiazepines (1,469) and cocaine (955). The drugs that caused the most deaths were oxycodone, all benzodiazepines (with alprazolam accounting for the most deaths), cocaine, methadone, alcohol, hydrocodone and morphine.

The three most lethal drugs -- meaning more than 50 percent of the deaths were caused by the drug when it was found

-- were heroin (91.5 percent), methadone (75 percent) and oxycodone (60 percent).

In a similar 2007 report for the same time period, the three most frequently found drugs were alcohol (1,902), all benzodiazepines (1,167) and cocaine (1,008). The four most lethal drugs were heroin (84.4 percent), methadone (73.5 percent), oxycodone (56.9 percent) and fentanyl (55.3 percent).

See Pills — Page 3

Champion: Peppy's Picasso, reining cow horse



Submitted photo/Bobbi Poole
Mike Ricker, of Mi-Cin Ranch, is here with his two-time world champion cow horse Peppy's Picasso.

Champion cow horse will compete for more honors

A champion reining cow horse will compete later this month for another title.

Peppy's Picasso, a 12-year-old gelding, is owned by Mike Ricker of Mi-Cin Ranch. Peppy's Picasso (by Dual Peppy and out of Kitty Banjo) was purchased by Mr. Ricker in 2007 from David Phillips.

This is a phenomenally consistent horse. Some of his triumphs are Open Bridle Reserve Champion in 2007 and Champion in 2008. Also in 2007 he took home the Champion to the Dixie Reining Cow Horse Association title in Ocala, Florida and in 2008 he received National Reining Cow Horse Association Champion.

Peppy's Picasso has traveled all the South Eastern states, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida and the Carolinas, to gain the most earned points in many competitions. He will run the same scores week after week and just keeps on going.

Mr. Ricker wants to make it very clear that they do not push their horses or harm them in any way.

"By pushing a horse they tend to get burned out with just a very few shows, we do not sacrifice our horses for any show," Mr. Ricker stated. "Even though these winnings and titles are Peppy's Picasso, it wouldn't have been possible

without his trainer Rick Steed. I want to thank him for his invaluable training and his extraordinary horsemanship. He will be world renowned and it has been an honor to have him."

Mr. Ricker thanks his wife Cindy, in appreciation for her support.

Keep your eyes out, and wish him good luck, for this local star, Peppy's Picasso, as he will be in the Open Bridle Spectacular later this month in Idaho, representing Okeechobee in this four-event show with competitors from all over the United States.

Elephant sanctuary planned

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The elephants are coming! The elephants are coming!

The National Elephant Center recently announced another step toward completion of a 300 acre elephant sanctuary on property leased from Waste Management off Berman Road.

News of the elephant sanctuary was first announced locally in the Feb. 8, 2008 edition of the Okeechobee News. The National Elephant Center recently sent out a press release

stating that a contract had been awarded to Richard K. Davis Construction Co. of Ft. Pierce to manage construction for phase 1.

The National Elephant Center is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring the future of elephants in zoos and in the wild by advancing science in artificial insemination and breeding; promoting elephant research and conservation programs; providing specialized training for elephant caregivers; and becoming a voice for

See Elephant — Page 2

Two suspected pot houses raided

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Three people were arrested Thursday, March 5, when detectives raided two suspected grow houses and seized suspected marijuana plants valued at over \$1.7 million.

Arrested were: Mario L. Gonzalez, 44, N.E. 22nd Ave.; Leidys Y. Rodriguez, 25, N.E. 22nd Ave.; and Miguel Angel Cadalso-Cagigas, 60, N.E. 18th Ave.



Leidys Y. Rodriguez



Miguel A. Cadalso-Cagigas

Although arrested in separate operations, all three were booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on felony charges of trafficking in marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to sell and cultivation of

See Pot — Page 2

Local teams take top spots at competition

Okeechobee Xplosion All Stars traveled to the "King of The Jungle" All-Star National Championships in Ft. Lauderdale in January.

More than 85 all-star teams competed at this nationally ranked competition, creating a challenge for the Okeechobee's only competitive all-star cheer-leading and dance program. All 46 athletes quickly rose to this challenge, bringing home a fourth place, third place and a first place! The Mini level one All-Stars consisting of athletes from 3-8 years old brought home third place out of 9 competing teams. The Junior level 2 All-stars consisting of athletes from 7-14 year olds brought home an impressive fourth out of 11 competing teams.

Finally, Xplosions Senior level 3 consisting of athletes from the ages of 12-18, brought home an "amazing first" ranking the athletes National Champions out of 10 competing teams. Congratulations athletes!

Okeechobee Xplosion All-Stars will be having evaluations for 2009-2010 competitive teams during the first week of May, Xplosion All-Stars also offers classes such as tumbling and a fun non competitive cheer and will be offering many summer programs such as a week long Hip-Hop Dance clinic taught by World Champion TOP GUN ALL STARS. Please call Coach Victoria with any questions 863-441-3826, xplosionallstarcheer@yahoo.com, www.xplosionallstars.weebly.com.



Submitted photo/Victoria Osteen
The Okeechobee Xplosion Dance and Cheer teams took over the "Jungle" during the Jan. 10-11, competitive cheer competition. All 46 girls on the teams in each age group excelled bringing home one of the top spots.

Pot

Continued From Page 1

marijuana. All there were also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

"We will continue to eradicate these illegal grow houses from our county, especially when they are in our neighborhoods where our kids are," said Okeechobee County Sheriff Paul May on Friday.

Bond for the trio had not been set as of newspaper deadline because they had yet to have their first appearance hearing.

Arrest reports indicate that detectives from the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force executed a search warrant on a home on N.E. 22nd Avenue occupied by Gonzalez and Rodriguez at 10:58 a.m. The detectives then went to a garage behind the home where they reportedly found 100 suspected pot plants with active root systems.

The plants had a combined weight of 214.1 pounds, according to the report, and had an estimated street value of \$1.6 million. That figure is based on each plant producing 1 pound of marijuana every three months with an estimated street value of \$4,000 per pound, the report continued.

Besides the plants, detectives reportedly seized timers, CO2 filters, ballasts, PVC piping, breaker boxes, 1,000 watt light bulbs, irrigation devices, hoses, water containers and air conditioning units. These items, indicated the report, are items found to be consistent as those used in marijuana growing operations.

The task force investigation then led them to a home on N.E. 18th Avenue that was inhabited by Cadalso-Cagigas. Detectives then applied for and received a second search warrant and served it on that home at 4:28 p.m.

During a search of sheds on the property, task force detectives reportedly found 27 suspected marijuana plants with active roots that weighed approximately 100.6 pounds, as well as another 14 suspected pot plants without active roots that weighed .2 pounds.

Using the same formula as with the other seizure, these plants had an estimated street value of \$108,000.

The task force report goes on to indicate they found items used for an alleged marijuana growing operation as they found in the first house.

It is believed that Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Cadalso-Cagigas are from the Miami area.

to indicate they found items used for an alleged marijuana growing operation as they found in the first house.

It is believed that Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Cadalso-Cagigas are from the Miami area.

Elephant

Continued From Page 1

elephants nationally and internationally through advocacy and collaboration.

Phase I involves the design and construction of several savannah-like elephant habitats, support buildings and infrastructure. Other contractors involved in phase I are the Wantman Group of West Palm Beach, conducting extensive site surveying and mapping; Construction Engineering Group of Melbourne, providing civil and structural engineering services; PBS&J of Orlando, providing mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering and Universal Engineering Services of Rockledge, conducting geotechnical engineering.

er contractors involved in phase I are the Wantman Group of West Palm Beach, conducting extensive site surveying and mapping; Construction Engineering Group of Melbourne, providing civil and structural engineering services; PBS&J of Orlando, providing mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering and Universal Engineering Services of Rockledge, conducting geotechnical engineering.

Upon completion, the center will have on-site staff housing and two large barns, one for Asian elephants and one for African Elephants.

"Elephants are among our most endangered animals in the world and their future depends on innovative programs that integrate science, research, education and animal care expertise," Marc C. Reed, president of the center

board. "Waste Management's support of the project, including its nominal lease to the center of the land will help."

The 77 North American zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums have nearly 290 elephants. This center will support those zoos in a number of ways. One of those ways is to develop new habitat and landscape features that will be used by zoos across the country.

Ground breaking is expected by the end of the year. The center expects to have its first elephants early next year. Once operational, the center will be available for group tours.

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

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March is Red Cross Month

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

March marks American Red Cross Month which is officially declared each year by the President.

President Barack Obama officially declared March Red Cross Month in a signed Presidential Proclamation, marking the 66th time the month has been celebrated in honor of the organization since 1943, when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt used the declaration in support of Red Cross efforts to raise funds for World War II services.

The proclamation reads, in part—"The Red Cross has continued to serve those suffering from large-and small-scale disasters. The organization is best known for its work helping communities deal with major disasters such as hurricanes, floods and wildfires. These large-scale disasters represent a major part of the work of the American Red Cross. Just as important are the tens of thousands of small-scale disaster that occur every day in communities nationwide, and the volunteers who respond to them. These efforts include supporting our military and their families, collecting and distributing blood, helping the needy, delivering health and safety education, and providing aid abroad."

The Greater Palm Beach chapter is joining more than 700 Red Cross Chapters across the country in celebration of the occasion by hosting 11 awareness events during the month, which began with its 19th Annual International Polo Luncheon and Auction on Sunday, March 1st. The Red Cross will also hold over 56 Health and Safety and emergency preparedness courses.

The local Okeechobee Service Center will also be doing their own celebration efforts to spread the word about the American Red Cross through events like "Life's a Beach Party" hosted by Good Spirits under the Tiki each Thursday in March from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.

There will be music, prizes, a 50/50 drawing and good food. Come out and join the fun and support your local American Red Cross. For more information about this event call Toni at Good Spirits at 863-763-2734.

Come ride for the Red and support the Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross which is hosting its first ever Red Cross Motorcycle Poker Run. The day-long event takes place on Sunday, March 29. Riders begin registering at 11 a.m. at Okeechobee's J & S Fish Camp, with the last bike out at 12:30 p.m.

Along the scenic route, riders will make three stops at local Okeechobee hot spots before ending at the Seminole Brighton Casino, which is sponsoring the event. At each stop, participants will receive cards for their poker hands. The last hand must be in by 4 p.m. for the Brighton Seminole Casino finale (17735 Reservation Road). At the casino, each participant will enjoy a \$20 free play.

There is an Okeechobee Route and a Glades Route that can be taken to benefit the Okeechobee Service Center. The cost for a poker hand is \$10 each or three for \$25 and there's no limit on how many hands can be purchased. Everyone is welcome to join the festivities at the Seminole Brighton Casino where there will be entertainment, raffles, contests and food for purchase.

At the finale, the best and worst poker hands will be tallied and the winning hands will receive a \$500 cash prize for 1st place, \$300 for 2nd and \$100 for worst. The event will raise funds for the humanitarian work of the Okeechobee and Lakeside Communities' Branches of the American Red Cross, which both provide life-saving services to the community 365 days a year.

Red Cross CEO Larry Casey said, "March is the time in south Florida to begin preparing for a busy storm season." He continued, "We will prepare our community to be ready for what nature can throw at us." The Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter, which was chartered in 1917 and is deeply rooted in the history of Palm Beach County, has been celebrating March is Red Cross Month since the tradition first began.

The American Red Cross is a non-profit organization that is not government funded yet is mandated by a Congressional Charter to provide disaster relief.

For more information about the Okeechobee Red Cross chapter call (863) 763-2488.

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).

- Casey Sammons, 19, U.S. 98 N., Okeechobee, was arrested March 2 by Deputy Sarah Green on a charge of grand theft auto. His bond was set at \$5,000.
- Walter Roy Powell, 40, N.E. Ninth Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 2 by Deputy Michael Hazellief on a felony charge of possession of prescription medication without a prescription. He was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana under 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$5,000.
- Osiel Lugo, 28, Okeechobee, was arrested March 2 by Deputy Sarah Green on a Hillsborough County warrant charging him with violation of probation - grand theft auto, violation of probation - burglary of an unoccupied structure, violation of probation - grand theft and violation of probation - burglary of an unoccupied conveyance. He is being held without bond.
- Eric Wayne Harris, 21, N.W. Sixth St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 2 by Deputy G. Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence. He was released on his own recognizance.
- Willie Joe Harris, 30, U.S. 441 S.E., was arrested March 2 by Deputy Lieutenant Keith Murrish on a warrant charging him felony petit theft. His bond was set at \$2,500.
- Jose Ramon Fernandez, 31, Ortiz Circle, Fort Myers, was arrested March 4 by Deputy Sergeant J. Royal on a Hillsborough County warrant charging him with violation of probation - lewd or lascivious battery and violation of probation - failure to redeliver leased personal property. He is being held without bond.
- Craig Bleil, 27, Deerfield Drive, Jupiter, was arrested March 5 by Deputy Harold Hancock on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving while license revoked-habitual offender. He is being held without bond.

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.

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Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming east southeast between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. East southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming east southeast between 5 and 10 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. East southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. South southeast wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. East southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Thursday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 7-6-9; **Play 4:** 3-1-6-3; **Fantasy 5:** 23-29-31-32-34; **Mega Money:** 5-12-21-31 MB 12; **Florida Lotto:** 1-5-8-36-37-44; **Powerball:** 1-6-44-49-55 PB36 x2. Numbers drawn Friday, **Cash 3:** 0-2-9; **Play 4:** 0-3-2-1.

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Pills

Continued From Page 1

During this reporting period there were 87,500 deaths in the state and 3,980 were found to have died with one or more drugs in their bodies.

In local deaths, acute methadone toxicity accounted for three deaths, while one person died due to fentanyl toxicity and another died due to acute clonazepam toxicity. In the remaining overdoses, multiple drugs were found including oxycodone, cyclobenzaprine, diazepam, benzodiazepines, phenobarbital and cocaine.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opiate analgesic similar to, but more powerful than, morphine.

Clonazepam, diazepam and xanax are members of the benzodiazepine family.

Phenobarbital is a barbiturate that is used to control epilepsy, and as a sedative.

In Okeechobee, the pill of choice right now is roxycodone -- also known as roxy -- followed by xanax and methadone, said the detective.

Roxycodone, as well as oxycodone, is a brand name of the powerful pain reliever oxycodone.

"It's (roxycodone) a synthetic heroin that's opioid based. It's kind of legalized because doctors are giving it," the detective added. "Roxys are time release and once you crush them, and snort or inject them, it's an instant high."

Many people are taking roxys -- as well as oxycodone or hydrocodone -- by crushing them, mixing the crushed pills with water and injecting the mixture.

"When I arrest someone I'll ask them what phase they're in," the detective said. "The first phase is denial, the second is snorting and the third phase is shooting (injecting). When you start crushing and injecting, you're a junkie."

Many of the junkies will take a roxy then follow it with alprazolam or methadone to calm the adverse effects of coming down from the roxy high. This is also known in the medical world as polydrug synergy, and can many times be a lethal mixture.

In looking at the medical examiner's report for local overdose deaths, it should be noted that 13 of the 14 who died were white. One American Indian male died of polydrug synergism. Eight of those who died were male and nine were over the age of 40. Two were under the age of 20 and two were over 50.

"The trend in Okeechobee is 21 to 30," the detective said.

"Older people are starting to get in it as well. You start out with a true injury and you just get on this stuff and it takes over."

"And they're more white than anybody -- usually white males 25 to 30. White females seem to start a little younger. I've yet to arrest a black or Hispanic for pill fraud. There's rumor that blacks and Hispanics are slinging them, but most are white," he added.

And because these medications are so prevalent in today's society, trying to stop the business of peddling the medications is nearly impossible -- both on the street and in the courtroom.

"They're the biggest market now. They're easier to get rid of with less trouble," the detective explained. "You almost have to catch them red handed. And, 90 percent of the juries today are made up of people who are on a handful of pills themselves."

Pushing pills on the street is a big, and profitable, business. The detective explained that a person may have to pay up to \$600 for a doctor's visit, if they don't have insurance, and will normally get around 240 pills. Those pills can then be sold for as much as \$15 each, which means a tidy profit of \$3,000.

"It's a very lucrative business," the detective said.

Many times local people are

going to such areas as Fort Lauderdale to see a doctor and get a script for roxys. That person will then go to such places as Sebring to get the script filled. By doing all this travelling they are hoping to avoid the law and a charge of doctor shopping.

"You have some who don't mess with it and are just selling, but most are truly addicted," said the detective.

Which means once they've made their \$3,000 profit, they immediately turn around and start looking to buy more pills to feed their addiction.

"They're all searching for that ultimate high," explained the investigator, "and their family finally knows it when they find them in the morgue."

Street Talk

Some Common Street Names for Prescription Drugs

Barbiturates: barbs, reds, red birds, phennies, tooies, yellows, yellowjackets

Benzodiazepines: candy, downer, sleeping pills, tranks

Fentanyl: Apache, China girl, China town, dance fever, drop dead, Fat Albert, friend, goodfella, great bear, he-man, Incredible Hulk, jackpot, king ivory, Murder 8

Methadone: Amidone, fizzies Morphine: dreamer, emsel, firs line, God's drug, Miss Emma, Mister blue, morf, unkie, monke, white stuff

Oxycodone: Oxy, O.C., killer OxyContin: Hillbilly heroin, OCs, Os, Ox, pills Phenobarbital: Karachi Vicodin: vike

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse; Office of National Drug Control Policy

Sexual Predator Notification

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office is disclosing this information to the public in order to enhance public safety, awareness, and protection. This information is not intended to increase fear: rather it is this agency's belief that an informed public is a safer public.

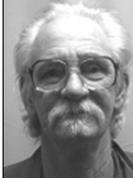
This bulletin should be used only for information purposes. Citizen abuse of the information to threaten, intimidate, or harass offenders will not be tolerated, in any manner.

The individuals who appear in this bulletin have served the sentence imposed on them by the courts. They are NOT wanted by the police at this time.

Sex offenders have always lived in the communities. The only change is the public is now better informed.

SCOTT STROHM
21525 NW 262 STREET
W/M; DOB: 8/19/49
Height: 5'8"; 159 lbs.
Hair: GRAY; Eyes: BLUE
Strohm was convicted of Lewd & Lascivious Molestation, Victim 12-15 YO, Offender 18 or Older, in 2005 in Palm Beach County, Florida; Strohm was also convicted of Sexual Battery by Adult/Victim Under 12 YO, in 2006 in Palm Beach County, Florida. Victims were minors.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, contact Michele or Connie, Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, 763-3117.



Scott Strohm

Women arrested after chase

Deputies seize suspected cocaine and pot

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A brief chase Friday morning ended with two women being arrested and a large amount of cash and suspected powder cocaine being seized.

A detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force said March 6 over 500 grams of white powder substance, about 38 grams of a hard substance and about 18 grams of a green leafy substance was seized.

He went on to indicate that the powder substance and the hard substance were both field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of cocaine. The leafy substance was also field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana.

Also seized were two sets of scales and over \$500 in cash.

The names of the two women were not released since they were still in the process of being booked

at the Okeechobee County Jail as of newspaper deadline.

But according to the detective, the driver of the vehicle could face possible charges of aggravated assault with a motor vehicle on a law enforcement officer, felony fleeing and eluding a law enforcement officer, trafficking in cocaine over 400 grams and possession of marijuana under 20 grams. The passenger in the car could face the same charges, excluding the aggravated assault and fleeing charges.

When the women were taken into custody a 2-month old baby was also found in the car. Another task force detective said the baby was turned over to the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

The chase began around 10:20 a.m. after a car was pulled over on Berman Road just south of the Okeechobee Landfill, said the detective. Deputy Corporal Brian Hagan, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), reportedly stopped the automobile for speeding.

As another task force detective arrived on scene as backup, along

with the detective's K-9 Rex, the driver put her automobile in drive and tried to flee from the two officers, the detective said. As the car was speeding away the deputies at the scene saw several items being thrown from the car's window. Those items were picked up and turned out to be the suspected cocaine and marijuana.

The detective went on to say several attempts were made to stop the fleeing auto, and as the women were fleeing they nearly struck OCSO Deputy Lieutenant Gary Bell.

According to the detective, the car was finally found abandoned at a residence on N.W. 136th Trail. During the ensuing search the two women were found hiding in a van parked on the property. Neither the property owner or the van were involved in what had transpired.

One of the women is from Clearwater, while the other is from Port St. Lucie.

Because of the amount of suspected cocaine seized, the task force detective said the women will likely be prosecuted at the federal level.

Woman charged with meth possession

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee woman was arrested on a felony drug possession charge after she was stopped by a police officer because the license tag decal had been altered.

Melinda Josephine Fredricks, 27, N.W. Ninth St., was arrested Thursday, March 5, on a felony charge of possession of methamphetamine. She was also arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia (two counts) and driving while license suspended.

She was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$2,500.

An arrest report by Officer Justin Bernst, of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), indicates he stopped a 1997 Dodge Ram pickup being driven by Fredricks and noticed the tag decal had been altered from "08" to "09." He said a check revealed that the tag had expired in December of 2008.

While he had the woman stopped, Officer Bernst stated he also learned that Fredricks' driver's license had been suspended for failure to pay traffic fines.



Melinda J. Fredricks

After placing the woman under arrest, he began to inventory the truck in preparation for it to be towed. During this inventory the officer reportedly found in the overhead console a glass pipe with a white residue, as well as a small plastic bag that contained a crystalline substance.

When that substance was field tested it indicated a positive result for the presence of methamphetamine, stated Officer Bernst.

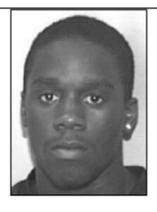
The OCPD officer went on to state that a second pipe, containing a similar white residue, was found in Fredrick's purse.

Officer Bernst stated that the suspected methamphetamine weighed .208 grams.

Okeechobee's Most Wanted

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

If you have any information on the whereabouts of any of Okeechobee's Most Wanted you can call the Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 1 (800) 273-TIPS (8477). If you call Treasure Coast Crimes Stoppers, you have the option of remaining anonymous. You can also receive a reward if the information results in an ar-



Antonie Faust



Wilbert Perez-Borja



Jackie Cottrill



Benji Sanders AKA Juan Tapia

rest. Jackie Cottrill, 45, Grand Theft Motor Vehicle, DOB 6-24-1963.

Antonie Faust, 22, Burglary w/assault. Bond: \$100,000
Wilbert Perez-Borja, 25,

H/M, Poss Cannabis more than 20 Grams; possession with intent to sell.

Benji Sanders aka Juan Tapia, 33, FTA-Poss Cocaine, DOB 3-12-1975.

LAW OFFICES
of
GLENN J. SNEIDER, LC
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Okeechobee, FL 34974
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CIVIL LITIGATION

- GENERAL LITIGATION
- EVICITIONS
- FORECLOSURES
- QUIET TITLE
- CONTRACTS
- SUBROGATIONS

Commonly abused prescription drugs & their brand names

- Barbiturates: Amytal, Nembutal, Seconal and Phenobarbital
 - Benzodiazepines: Ativan, Halcion, Librium, Valium (diazepam) and Xanax (alprazolam)
 - Fentanyl/Fentanyl analogs: Actiq, Duragesic, Sublimaze
 - Hydrocodone/acetaminophen: Vicodin, Vicodin ES, Anexsia, Lorcet, Lorcet Plus, Norco
 - Methadone: Diskets, Dolophine, Methadose
 - Morphine: Roxanol, Duramorph
 - Oxycodone: Oxycontin, Roxicodone, M-ox, ETH-Oxydose, Oxyfast, OxyIR
- Sources: National Institute on Drug Abuse; MedicineNet.com

Celebrity deaths due to prescription pill overdoses

- Heath Ledger -- Actor, Jan. 22, 2008; Age - 28
- Elvis Presley -- Musician, Aug. 16, 1977; Age - 42
- Marilyn Monroe -- Actress, Aug. 5, 1962; Age - 36
- Dorothy Dandridge -- Actress, Sept. 8, 1965; Age - 41
- Brian Epstein -- Music manager (Beatles), Aug. 27, 1967; Age - 47
- Anissa Jones -- Actress, Aug. 28, 1976; Age - 18
- Keith Moon -- Drummer for The Who, Sept. 7, 1978; Age - 32
- Margaux Hemingway -- Actress, July 1, 1996; Age - 42
- Dana Plato -- Actress, May 8, 1999; Age - 34
- Anna Nicole Smith -- Actress/model, Feb. 8, 2007; Age - 39

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Speak Out/Public Forum

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

Thanks for participating!

Mortgage bail out

WHY HELP: If you were so stupid as to get yourself in mortgage trouble, would you please try to convince me that it's anyone else's responsibility to bail you out?
FORECLOSURES: I don't think there should be bail outs for people who bought homes they could not afford to begin with. They knew they could not make the payments. And if you bail them out with a new loan, they won't make those payments either. However, I would like to see some help for people who lost their jobs through no fault of their own and now don't have enough to pay the mortgage. Perhaps they could refinance and give them lower monthly payments or some kind of grace period until they can find another job. I don't think it should be just free money, but give them a break until they get back on their feet. When a lot of homes in a community are foreclosed on, it hurts the whole community.

SYMPATHY: There are only two class of home owners that I have any empathy for: those who got burned/caught in the cross fire after they made reasonable purchases but after county re-appraisal their land value plummeted below what was left on their mortgages; and or those who lost jobs due to the failing economy. Other than those, they should suffer their own consequences. I believe there will be many that will get "help" that will simply allow the mortgages to fall in arrears again ... a repeat of what got them there in the first place, walking away with our tax dollars

Basketball games

OCRA: I was just wondering why the OCRA games are not played at Osceola Middle School instead of Yearling. Osceola has a much better court and its bigger and it should be utilized and I was just wondering what the problem is. Because Yearlings court is entirely too small. And they should take turns and let Osceola have it sometimes and let Yearling have it another. Editor's note: According to Parks and Recreation Director Darrell Enfinger they use Yearling Middle School because they have a long standing arrangement with the school and the partnership has worked well. He noted the school has been very accommodating to the county basketball program. He noted it is also close to the county recreation department and is convenient for them to use. They did use Osceola on a short term basis three or four years ago. He noted if the programs continue to expand they will probably ask to use Osceola Middle School's gymnasium in the future.

Opinion, pro and con of 4 day school week

BAD FOR THE KIDS: I have read about other communities going to a four-day school week to save money -- but I think it is a bad idea for the kids. Either they wind up with less time in the classroom or else they have longer days and they get too tired to pay attention. Plus, being off three days means they have that much longer to forget what they learned. Teachers think Mondays are bad now -- imagine how wild the kids would be every Tuesday after having three days off.

FAMILY TIME: Long weekends, every weekend. It would make planning family events easier. So many times kids are bringing "Excuse Junior from class Monday as we were away for a family event." With the Long Weekend's there would be less days missed. I guess there are lots of Pro's and Con's to this possibility. I asked our OFC 9th grader if they have heard anything, or what his feeling is. According to him the kids "know" that at least one school in West Palm Beach and they cut one hour off the school day. Still 5 days a week just one hour less. I asked what he thought of what we have been talking about here... He said he didn't think it would be very good to extend the day. The middle school kids are last picked up and last dropped off. It could be 6:30 at night before they get home. Wednesday night is church night for the majority of the kids. Homework would suffer as the kids would be tired when they get home.

BAD IDEA: I think going to a four-day school week would be a terrible idea because in nearly every family all of the adults work full time. So one day a week, there would be a big problem with daycare, or else kids would be home alone. It's bad enough when they have all these teacher workdays. If they actually consider an idea like this, they should let the parents vote and I think the vast majority would want to stay with the five-day school week.

STAY IN SCHOOL: My husband and I would just like to see the kids actually do school work on the days they go to school. Every day one or the other kid comes home and complains about what a waste of time school was--and they are in advanced classes. I wish we could get rid of all the teachers/administrators who are just taking up space (and a paycheck) and get in more people who care about education and the future of these kids. I empathize with those who are dedicated to education and have to deal with some of their coworkers.

More fires

DRY CONDITIONS: Once again we find ourselves dealing with very dry conditions with little rainfall over the last few months, and the drought index is increasing fast. The recent very cold and freezing weather, and damaging freezes has also set the stage for dangerous fire ground conditions. Common sense and precaution when outside with cigarettes, camp fires, motor vehicles and any burning, will help keep unnecessary local fires from getting started. The only thing we can't control is lightning with the onset of the storm season this upcoming Spring.

CLUELESS: Now another neighbor is burning trash in his back yard in all this wind. Some people are completely clueless.

BE PREPARED: If there is no burn ban there is nothing that can be done, other than a smack on the hand telling them to watch it, just get out your hoses and be ready for the worst. Being prepared is a lot of your defense at this particular moment.

GARBAGE: I don't understand why people burn trash when we have mandatory countywide garbage pickup. You have to pay for it whether you use it or not. It's part of the tax bill.

Sex education for the older generation

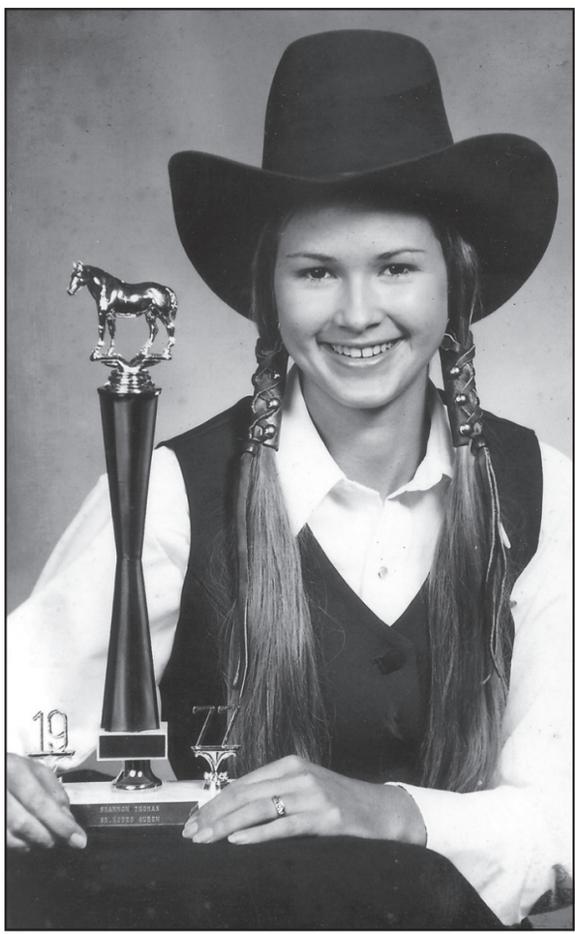
GET THE FACTS: Sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS are on the rise amongst the older generations, in some cases as much as 127 percent. Reports cite the lack of sex education as a factor. For anyone out there, regardless of age, don't be afraid to talk to your doctors, use protection, and become educated.

FBLA bass tournaments

CLEWISTON: I was down in Clewiston last weekend and noticed there was a big bass tournament going on down there. Virtually every motel and hotel was packed. Why aren't we having more of these tournaments in Okeechobee? It seems like they're all going out of Clewiston this year.

LAKE LEVEL: The schedules for these tournays were made up last year when the lake levels had been extremely low. The higher powers failed to notify those that did the scheduling and inform them that tropical storm Faye would come along and raise the levels by several feet. Therefore the decision was made to hold the tournaments at a ramp that would be functional. Hopefully Okeechobee will get some of the tournaments back at Scott Driver next year. Just what I heard.

LOCATION: I've talked to quite a few of the bass pros out on the lake while they were pre-fishing, most of them say they would rather go out of Clewiston and most the them either fish the mid to lower end of the lake or the west end. Clewiston caters to them, I don't think Okeechobee can compete with that, having a decent ramp doesn't mean anything. Most of the pro trails don't hold weigh-ins at the ramp, FLW holds them at WalMart and the Chobee WalMart is too far from the ramp area unlike Clewiston.



Courtesy photo/B. & B. Thomas

Looking back...

Shannon D. Thomas is shown in this "Rodeo Days" photo, taken when she was selected as the Rodeo Queen of Okeechobee in 1977.



Submitted photo/Humane Society Pet Rescue FL, Inc.

Pet of the Week

Pennie is very affectionate. We feel she would be easy to train. Adoption fee, \$135. Email reunitepets@aol.com or call 863-532-1110. Okeechobee pets can be seen by public adoption events and by appointments only. <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/FL846.html>. We operate our rescue from the generosity of your donations. Please help us help homeless pets.

Letter to the Editor

Thank you

Chad, Niki and I would like to express a huge heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful people who sent flowers, brought food or just came to "sit a spell" in the recent illness and loss of our dad and husband, Chip. I know that God

used each and everyone of you to encourage and strengthen us as we all said good-bye to him. Please know that your kind words and deeds will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,
Barbie Campbell
Chad and Niki Campbell

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 Calendar

Sunday, March 8

A.A. meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. It will be an open step meeting.
A.A. open 12 step meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Savior, 200 N.W. Third St.
Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** weekend noon meeting open discussion. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

Monday, March 9

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick open discussion 7 p.m. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.
A.A. meeting will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. This will be an open meeting.
VFW #10539 Ladies Auxiliary lunch and bingo will start at noon at the Post, 3912 U.S. 441 S.E. Auxiliary members and their guests are invited. Please R.S.V.P. to 863-763-2308.
Okeechobee Senior Singers meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 North Parrott Ave. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited. For information or to schedule an appearance for your organization or group, contact Marge Skinner at 863-532-0449.
The Genealogical Society of Okeechobee will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Public Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. The meeting is open to anyone interested in tracing his or her ancestry. The annual membership is \$10 per person, and \$12 for a family. For information, call Eve at 863-467-2674; or, visit their web site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgs>.

Artful Appliquers is a recently formed chapter in Okeechobee. This chapter meets at the Turtle Cove Clubhouse, 10 Linda Road, Okeechobee on Mondays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Karen Graves, Chapter leader would like to extend a warm welcome to any interested persons to come by and see what they are about. For information call 863-763-6952.
Flotilla 57 - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Station located at the entrance to Okeetantie on Road 78 on the second Monday of each month. Everyone is welcome to come as a guest and inquire about membership. Watch the paper we are planning a one day boat safety program in January 2009. Do get your safe boating certification. Call to enroll for course or to inquire about membership 863-763-0165.

Tuesday, March 10

Civil Air Patrol set to meet

The Civil Air Patrol meets each Tuesday evening at the Okeechobee Airport T-Hanger #1, meetings start at 7:30 p.m. For information please call Capt. Joe Papasso 561-252-0916 or Lt. Greg Gernat 863-697-9915

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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H5402 QHP0973FU(12/08)

Brantley code violation case comes up again

If you go ...
 What: City of Okeechobee Code Enforcement Board
 When: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 10
 Where: City Council Chambers, Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.

By Pete Gawda
 Okeechobee News

A code violation problem that has been ongoing for at least 15 years will be heard again Tuesday night.

Marvin Brantley, operator of a junkyard on S. Parrott Avenue has been cited numerous times for junk and public nuisances.

The case last came up during the January code enforcement board meeting. At that time code enforcement officer Fred Sterling said Mr. Brantley told him the property was sold and the deal would be closed in a few days.

Keith Duffy of Parrott Avenue Partners told the board that he was in the process of buying the property and putting in a shop-

ping center. There were complications to the sale but he said they were settled and he had financing in place to buy the property.

"Once we close, we are committed to cleaning up entirely," Mr. Duffy promised.

In order to give Mr. Duffy time to clean up the property, the board postponed action on the case for sixty days.

Turning to other cases, Jason Estes and Kristy Petty have asked for a reduction of the fine on their S.E. 12th Avenue property. Gwynn and Linda Johnson were cited for having disabled vehicles and public nuisances on their N.E. Ninth and Tenth Street properties.

According to code enforcement officials, general cleaning and beautification needs to be

done on the N.W. Tenth Avenue lot belonging to Financial Resources of America. Marie Fenton was also cited for the same reason because of the condition of her S.E. 12th Avenue property.

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

Buckhead VFW recognizes outstanding officers

VFW Post 9528 in Buckhead Ridge held their annual ham dinner/awards ceremony on Jan. 25. The dinner was great but the awards were the hit of the day. Each year, Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528 honors those men who serve their community by being a Sheriff's Deputy, a firefighter or an EMT. VFW Commander Robert Hare gave a memorable speech that garnered a standing ovation, not to him, but to the men and women who served their community. The awards were given to Joseph Saruppo, deputy sheriff of Glades County, William Ranson, EMT of Glades County EMS, and Scott Obenstine of the Glades County Fire Dept.

"Every day of every week, in every month of the year there is an accident, a fire, a robbery, a murder and many other modes of mayhem occurring in the real

world. We have had a number of these in little old Buckhead Ridge. We had one such accident right down the street just a week or two ago. That incident was a tragedy that could have been prevented, but I am not going to delve into that area," said Commander Hare as he began his speech. He continued by stating that what happened after the emergency occurred is what these awards are all about.

"The Glades County Sheriff's Dept, Fire Dept. and Emergency Medical Services rushed to the scene. No questions asked and no thought about it, this is just what they do," he said.

The first to be honored and presented with a plaque Glades County Deputy Sheriff, Joseph Saruppo. Deputy Saruppo is a dual certified law enforcement and corrections officer and has

been with the department for three years. His career in law enforcement spans nearly 20 years. Officer Saruppo was also congratulated on being selected as one of the first motorcycle officers for Glades County.

The second award was presented to William Ranson and EMT of Glades County for the past three years. Officer Ranson is also certified as a Firefighter II, and has also become the fire inspector for Glades County.

Lastly, Scott Obenstine, a 10 year veteran firefighter with the Buckhead Ridge Fire Dept. with the rank of lieutenant and was named as fireman of the year. Firefighter Obenstine was presented with the VFW Post 9528 Gold Medal for his service.



Submitted photo/Robert Hare
 Glades County Emergency Officers were recently recognized by the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528 for their outstanding service to the community in 2008. Glades County Sheriff, Stuart Whiddon (left), Capt. Jeffrey Hill and Chief Dwayne Pottorff stand behind Officer Joseph Saruppo as he accepts his award for Outstanding Deputy of the Year.

Community Events

IRSC to host annual Classic Car Show

IRSC River Classic Custom Car Show Sunday, **March 8**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce. Admission is free. Juried competition, \$25. Sound challenge, \$25. Park-

n-Shine entry, \$15. Juried competition for 31 categories of custom and classic cars and trucks. Participants may register from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Judging starts at 10 a.m.; trophies awarded at 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.irsc.edu or call 1-866-792-4772.

Free nutritional class offered

Monday, March 9, at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Edward Douglas will teach a CRA Nutritional Analysis class at Douglas Chiropractic and Fitness Center. For more information call 863-763-4320. This is a free class.

Obituaries

Leopold (Paul) Fournier
 OKEECHOBEE — Leopold (Paul) Fournier passed away quietly and while in the care of staff at Okeechobee Health Care Facility. He passed away Saturday, Feb. 25, 2009, while Nurse Lou, holding his hand, recited the Lord's Prayer, which the family thanks her for.



Paul was born July 28, 1935, the eldest of 9 children; he grew up on a small family farm in rural Maine.

Following his honorable discharge for his service in the U.S. Army at Fort Hood, Texas, Paul returned home to Maine and worked with his father on the construction sites in upstate New York for a few years. Paul ultimately moved to Florida, where he lived a happy fulfilled life.

Paul was a tough guy. He owned P&R Bar in Cocoa Beach while he worked as a machinist in that area. Paul had a reputation for arm wrestling at his bar and he did his own bouncing of unwelcomed visitors.

Paul gained skills in steel fabrication and later became high rise steel erector, a rigging lead person. Many years ago Paul suffered the loss of one of his legs and significantly damaged the other in an industrial accident on the job. Even though he only had one leg, which required a brace, he was still capable of getting around following the accident and maintained a physically active life. In fact he made his own prosthesis out of a crow bar for his "stump" so he could have a third hand when assembling steel for welding on his ranch.

He loved work, life and people. He had a huge heart and concern for others; he especially loved his ranch in Okeechobee. He raised beef cattle on his ranch located on the outskirts of town and continued to operate the ranch up to a year ago, tending to the cows, pigs and lots of dogs.

Paul lived a rough and tumble lifestyle but it was his way of enjoying his life and frequently shared his thanks to the Lord for his many blessings. He loved blue grass, and frequently held week long fund raising parties on the ranch, where bands would donate their time, restaurants would donate food, Paul would butcher a few cows and pigs and all would donate money to a needy cause.

The family is grateful for the quality at home care provided by Rita Sovine to their oldest brother over the past decade.

Paul was preceded in death, by his father and mother; and his sister Claire.

He is survived by three sisters, Joyce, Lillian and Pauline; and four brothers, Don, George, LeRoy and Victor.

No services will be held. Friends may sign the guestbook at www.bassokeechobeeff.com.

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

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

Betty Jane Shaffer, 67
 OKEECHOBEE — Betty Jane Shaffer, of Okeechobee, died Friday, Feb. 20, 2009, in Raulerson Hospital She was 67.

Born Feb. 8, 1942, in Indiana, Pa., she had been a resident of Okeechobee since 1996 and was a member of the Ladies VFW.

She is survived by her husband, Jim Shaffer of Okeechobee; sons, Steven Shaffer of Pennsylvania, and Justin Shaffer of Okeechobee; daughters, Doreen Lihnec of Pennsylvania, and Georgian Woods (Jimmy) of Colorado Springs; granddaughter, Amanda Gensmar of Colorado; and brother, Robert Beers of Pennsylvania.

There will be no services or visitation.

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

Betty E. Polster, 89
 OKEECHOBEE — Betty E. Polster, a resident of Okeechobee for the past 25 years, died Feb. 27, 2009, in the Arbor Village Rehabilitation Center in Wildwood, after a short illness. She was 89.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, she moved to Okeechobee in 1983, and was a member of St. Teresa's Catholic Church in Buckhead Ridge. She volunteered many years at St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store and also at Big Lake Mission Outreach.

She is preceded in death by husband, Norman E.; sons, Raymond E. and Norman R.; sisters, Lena, Thelma and Ruth.

She is survived by son, Tom (Judy) Polster of Curtice, Ohio; daughter, Carol Hunter (Dan) of Oregon, Ohio; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

A Memorial Service is being held today, March 8, 2009, from 1 to 3 p.m. at St. Teresa's Catholic Church, Rt. 78, Buckhead Ridge, Okeechobee.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Big Lake Mission Outreach, P.O. Box 1663, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

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

OCEA holds membership meeting

The Okeechobee County Education Association (OCEA) will have its third general membership meeting of the 2008-09 school year, on Thursday, **March 12**, at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center at Osceola Middle School, 825 S.W. 28th St. They will: form the financial review and negotiation committees, hear reports from the Medical Insurance Committee and Rally attendees, and find out what to expect with possible budget cuts and educational legislation. If you are not a member of OCEA, you may join at the meeting. There will be refreshments and door prizes.

Support group has special guests

Depending on Christ Mental Health Support group will be hosting authors of the book "Broken Minds," Steve and Robyn Bloem from Heartfelt Counseling Ministries on Thursday, March 12 at 6 p.m. For more information call Lauralee at 772-597-0463 or 772-631-9305.

Area Agency on Aging plans upcoming meeting

The Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. is planning its upcoming monthly Board of Directors Executive Committee meeting, to be held at the Area Agency on Aging, 4400 N. Congress Ave., West Palm Beach, on Thursday, March 12. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. Contracts requiring the expenditure of funds are a regular agenda item of this meeting. Please call Vivian Pfau, Area Agency on Aging, at 561 684-5885 for more information.

Library presents free program

Paul Buster is an excellent historian, storyteller and singer of Seminole stories, legends, and songs. Join Mr. Buster for a fun-filled evening of Seminole culture at the Okeechobee Library on Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m. The program is provided by the Florida Humanities Council and is free and open to the public. The Okeechobee Friends of the Library will provide light refreshments.

School board to discuss grants

The Okeechobee County School Board will host a meeting to inform private schools of federal grant opportunities for the 2009-2010 school year. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 13, at 3 p.m. and will be held in room 301 of the Okeechobee County School Board Office. Representatives of all private schools are encouraged to attend.

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Honorable Noel Chandler Board of County Commissioners - District No. 2
Honorable David Williams School Board - District No. 5
Citizen Member Michael Sumner Business Owner within the school district
Citizen Member Gene Woods Homestead property owner

The Value Adjustment Board (VAB) meets each year to hear petitions and make decisions relating to property tax assessments, exemptions, classifications and tax deferrals

SUMMARY OF YEAR'S ACTIONS

| Type of Property | Number of Parcels | | | | Reduction in County Taxable Value Due to Board Actions | Shift in Taxes Due to Board Actions | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Exemptions | | Assessments* | | | | Both Withdrawn or Resolved |
| | Granted | Requested | Reduced | Requested | | | |
| Residential | | 1 | | 2 | 4 | | |
| Commercial | | | 1 | 10 | 3 | \$89,463 \$1,351 | |
| Industrial and Miscellaneous | | | | | | | |
| Agricultural or Classified Use | | 17 | | 3 | 5 | | |
| High Water Recharge | | | | | | | |
| Historic Commercial or Nonprofit | | | | | | | |
| Business Machinery and Equipment | | | | 1 | 2 | | |
| Vacant Lots and Acreage | | | | 1 | 22 | | |
| TOTALS | | 18 | 1 | 17 | 36 | \$89,463 \$1,351 | |

*Include transfer of assessment difference (portability) requests.

Questions concerning the actions taken by this Board may be addressed to the chairperson or clerk at the following telephone numbers:

CHAIRPERSON Noel Chandler 863-763-4559
 (Name) (Phone)

CLERK Sharon Robertson 863-763-2131
 (Name) (Phone)

Search obituaries nationally at <http://www.legacy.com>

It's rodeo time at Gethsemane Ranch

By Cherish Pilgrim

Gethsemane Ranch is continuing their purpose and "pressing on toward the upward call" Philippians 3:14.

This is a ministry that keeps growing and growing as more people are brought together with the same love for the rodeo and for the Lord. Gethsemane Ranch is organizing a Christian Rodeo,

Sunday March 8, at 2 p.m. at the St Lucie County Fairground Arena. Entry fee for contestants is \$30 (8 contestants per event) with 100% payback for 1st and 2nd place.

You may be asking how this is any different from any other rodeo? Well, the sponsor (which you usually see tobacco and alcohol) is Jesus. As well as this rodeo Gethsemane Ranch is

hosting monthly rodeos which will include Barrels, Poles, Senior Bulls, Junior Bulls, Mutton Bustin, Break Away (Boys & Girls), Team Roping, Calf Roping, Saddle Bronc and Bareback riding. To throw some extra excitement in there they are also going to have some ranch rodeo events: Steer Saddlin' & Ridin', Buddy Pick Up, Team Sorting, Roping and Brand-

ing, and the Wild Cow Milking.

For rodeo events it is \$20 per contestant per event with 50 percent pay back and for the ranch rodeo events it is \$30 per team (which includes 3). The dates for the rodeos are March 13, April 10 and May 8 and they begin at 7 p.m. Please call in the Tuesday prior to Rodeo between 6 and 9 p.m. Karen 772-260-9902 or

Jesse 772-905-7625. The Youth Rodeo Spring break camps are coming up again also which are, as always, a gift and there is no charge. For more information, or to sign up please call Karen or Jesse. The dates for camp are Martin and Okeechobee County, April 6 - 8 and St Lucie County April 13 - 15. These camps have always been a blessed time for

everyone to share their gifts and guide our youth with purpose in their life.

Events for the Christian Rodeo Sunday March 8, at 2 p.m. are: Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Barrel Racing, Bare Back Riding, Saddle Bronc, Bull Riding, Calf Roping, Break Away (girls only).

Horse disease eradication announced

TALLAHASSEE — Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson has announced that the last premises determined to have had horses infected with Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) has now been released from state quarantine.

The Department's Division of Animal Industry began to investigate and respond to the outbreak on Aug. 13, 2008, when an ill horse was admitted to a veterinary hospital and was diagnosed with (EP).

"I believe a quick and thorough response to the outbreak by our Division of Animal Industry helped to keep it relatively contained," Mr. Bronson said. "I am pleased and relieved that we have

been able to eradicate it in a short period of time."

Equine Piroplasmosis is a blood-borne parasitic disease of horses and is listed as a foreign animal disease in the United States. The country was considered to be free of EP since 1988 until the outbreak in Florida. The disease is primarily transmitted to horses by ticks or contaminated needles. EP is not directly contagious from one horse to another but requires direct blood transfer. Acutely affected horses can have depression, fever, anemia (decreased red blood cells) jaundiced (yellow) mucous membranes and low platelet counts. EP can also cause horses to have roughened hair coats, constipation and colic.

In its milder form, the disease causes horses to appear weak and show lack of appetite. Some horses become chronic carriers of the disease.

During the disease investigation, 25 premises were quarantined and 201 horses were tested for the disease. In all, 20 horses on seven premises were determined to have been infected with EP although the majority of the horses did not show any symptoms. Currently no horses testing positive for the disease remain in Florida. Despite extensive tick surveillance, the Division of Animal Industry was not able to locate any ticks that carry the disease and believe it was spread through contaminated needles or

blood transfusion.

In order for a quarantine to be lifted from a premises, all horses must test negative, have no exotic ticks found, and no domestic ticks determined to be infected with the EP organism.

Because they can continue to be carriers of EP, horses that test positive for the disease must remain quarantined for life, be euthanized, be shipped to a research facility in the United States or be shipped to another country. Now that the last quarantine has been released, Florida and the U.S. mainland are considered free of the disease EP.

For more information about the disease, visit <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/>.

Agricultural producers assess freeze damage

TALLAHASSEE -- Agricultural producers as far south as Lake Okeechobee are assessing crop damage caused by the frigid temperatures last week. Seventy million citrus trees and tens of thousands of acres of fresh fruits and vegetables were in regions where temperatures remained below 30 degrees for several hours on two nights.

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles H. Bronson said that while initial reports are coming in, the extent of the damage will not be known for several days. In addition to citrus, other crops at risk include strawberries, blueberries, snap beans, celery,

sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive/escarole, peppers, radishes and squash, tropical fish and horticulture.

"Many growers and producers implemented precautionary measures such as running irrigation pumps to help insulate some crops from sub-freezing temperatures," Mr. Bronson said. "This is peak harvest season for many Florida crops, so damage at this time could have significant consequences stretching far outside Florida's borders. Most of the United States' domestic supply of fresh produce comes from Florida during the winter months."

Temperatures dipped into the

upper-teens in parts of northern Florida, while temperatures in the 20s were seen as far south as Collier, Glades and Charlotte counties.

While the entire citrus belt experienced very cold temperatures and growers are reporting damage, citrus industry officials say that the Indian River region, which produces the bulk of Florida's fresh fruit market, fared relatively well. They also report that the current inventory of juice oranges is high, which will help minimize that market's losses due to freeze damage. Strawberry and blueberry industry officials say that early assessments suggest that crop damage is limited. Sugar cane industry officials said they are fortunate that the harvest is two-thirds complete, since frost can burn young cane plants back to the ground and cause mature cane to stop producing sucrose.

A week ahead of the cold front Mr. Bronson requested an Emergency Order through the Governor's Office to ease highway restrictions on weight, height and width for vehicles used to transport harvested crops to market.

Bronson's action has enabled growers and producers to speed up their harvest and transport a larger portion of their crops ahead of the arctic blast, thereby helping reduce the potential for widespread freeze damage.

The Emergency Order went into effect on Jan. 14 and was to remain in effect for 14 days. Bronson's office has requested that the Governor's Office extend the order for an additional 14 days to further facilitate the speedy transport of crops and help mitigate financial loss, and is awaiting approval of the request.

Florida's more than 40,000 farmers grow more than 280 different commercial crops, which furnish the nation with a dependable and safe supply of food and provide Florida with a stable economic base. Florida farmers annually produce more than 35 billion pounds of food and more than 1.5 million tons of livestock feed. Florida is the nation's ninth agricultural state overall, ranking first in citrus production, and second in the production of vegetables and horticulture products.



Submitted photo/Vicki Anderson

Breakfast bunch

The monthly Realtors breakfast held at Ed and Rosa Anderson's home showcased their beautiful house in Buckhead Ridge. Local area realtors attending the breakfast included (in the front row): Kathy Godwin, Preferred Properties; Marcia Barber, Preferred Properties; Sharon Johnson, Tucker Group; Velva Cannon, Exit Realty; Debra Pinson, Preferred Properties; Vicki Anderson, Goolsby Realty; Bill Seabolt, Exit Realty. In the second row are: Cindi Fairtrace, Tucker Group; Eric Anderson, Goolsby Realty; Pat Goolsby, Goolsby Realty; Donna Huth, Wells Fargo.

Unemployment jumps to nearly 11 percent

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Jobless rates jumped one percent in Okeechobee to 10.7 percent in January according to the latest report released Friday by the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Center, and local Area Unemployment Statistics Program.

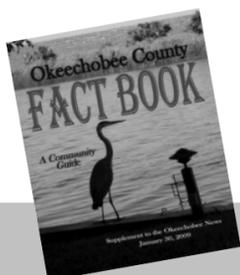
There were 1,983 people out of work in Okeechobee County in January. That compared to 1,787 in December. It is one of the largest jumps in a single month in recent history.

In January, 2008, there were 1,020 people out of work, a rate of 5.8 percent.

Glades County reported 7.8 percent unemployment in January, up from 7.3 percent in December. There were 392 people out of work in Glades County in January and 371 out of work in December. In January, 2008, there were 232 people jobless, a rate of 4.8 percent.

Okeechobee was tied for 12th highest among the state's 67 counties. 20 of the state's counties had double digit unemployment rates in January.

Glades County was ranked 45th among the 67 counties last month.



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Steve Hoskins, Senior Partner of Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd attended the Spedded Perch Festival. The Firm had a booth and entry in the Spedded Perch Parade. One area of the law that the Firm specializes in is personal injury, and Steve Hoskins was on hand to answer questions concerning auto insurance coverage.

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Central Elementary students confident FCAT went well

Third Grade

At Central Elementary School Miss Luchetta and Mrs. Atwell's students have worked to hard on their FCAT test. This week's reading story is "Boom Town," a great story about a girl and the town she moves to. Writing is all about the newspaper. Students are writing newspaper articles about a topic they have chosen. Please keep practicing your multiplication facts as they will be needed for the rest of the year! Please continue to read at home for 100 Book Challenge.



to our students of the week Zack Lara, Devin Tijerina, and Briyuna Salazar. Parents, thank you for the snacks! The students really enjoyed them. Congratulations to our students of the week: Sierra Brydebell and Beatriz Perez.

Fourth grade

In Mrs. Fullea's class students are busy as bees! Students had the privilege of having Mrs. Fawn McNeill Barr, a local artist, come in and teach them step by step how to draw a blue heron, panther, and alligator. They researched and wrote a fact sheet about these Florida Wildlife animals. The student's work will be displayed at the County Fair. Thank you Mrs. Barr for sharing your talent! Students of the week for the month of February were: Alexis Osceola-James, Sabree Hall, Ramon Liberato, and Kailee Alvarado. Happy Birthday Jaen Torres and Mackenzie Mackin!

The fourth graders at Central have been working on basic skills, reading and reading, comparing and contrasting, and practice with different test taking strategies and they are ready for their FCAT. Students have not stopped writing and you can see awesome limericks and other types of poetry on the walls of Building 14. And, the fourth graders want to rule the school and collect the most money for Jump Rope for Heart later

this month! A big thank you to Mr. Paulson and everyone at Central who helped make our "testing" week run smoothly.

In Mrs Pritchard's class, Ms. Barscansky worked with the students and reviewed problem solving strategies. Students listened to a thriller by Gary Paulson and created some pretty fantastic Black History Charts. Sherry Altman, Chance White, and Amanda Tinsley have been recent Students of the Week. Happy belated birthday to Mikayla Corde and Apple Nunez. And a big thank you to every parent who donated snacks for our testing week. Have a great day!

Mr. Goff's class has been working hard on learning our multiplication facts and hopefully by the end of the year every child will have them mastered. We are reading a good story called Dear Mrs. LaRue. We are also working hard so we can meet our Accelerated Reader goal so we could go to Golden Corral at the end of the quarter. In P.E. students at Central are gearing up for Field Day to be held on Friday, April 3. This year's theme is Survivor and we have some great new games. Students are also busy training for Hershey Track to be held in May.

1st Grade

Miss Shindeldecker's class finished Unit 4 in our reading series and started Unit 5. In math, we are learning about solid figures. We're also learning about faces and vertices on solid figures. Our next chapter will be on Spatial Sense. We'll see how good our first graders are on directions!

Writing we are retelling the story "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." Students know that every story has a beginning, middle, and end which makes a story

complete. Soon they will be writing and illustrating their very own story!

Weather is a big deal, so we are learning about it in science. Students are very fascinated with tornadoes and thunderstorms and are wanting to learn so much more.

Students of the week were: **Artemio Virto and Allison Meara.** Good job!

Mrs. Klaffer's Super Kid Student of the Week was Thayli Valdez Thhayli was also the Student of the Month exemplifying the word CARING! Other Student of the Week students was Georgia Harris, Mason Burke, and Christian Campos.

Recycling was a very interesting week with the kids after they heard the story of a woman who actually built her house out of bottles. I don't think they ever did believe that it truly happened, but man did it ignite the kid's enthusiasm on other things they could build with (most I can't print here in the column!).

The school's 50th B-day party saw all the students participating in a sock hop, an aerial photo, antiques and memorabilia from the 50s and the indignation of having the staff actually put photos of ourselves as toddlers or small children. Luckily after showing the kids my old photos they didn't believe it was me, so I just went with them and told them it was really Mr. Paulson with the black horn-rimmed glasses in third grade!

The Super kids were quite super by simply blowing away that DIBELS test with extraordinary results! They had to revive Mr. Klaffer when he saw the numbers and asked three dozen or so times if they did have the right results?!



Submitted photo/Central Elementary

Exemplary students

Students that show exemplary behavior in the area of Fairness for the month of January are: **First row: Elia Martinez, Noelia Martinez, Kai Ichimura, Chase Mangold, Makalyn Jones, Sarah Harrison, Austin Allen; Second row: Megan Underwood, Monica Ordonez, Hannah Holley, Raelyn Bell, Jayda Howell, Josh Osterman, Yasmine Adams, Jose Ramirez, Xavier Peterson and Mrs. Friend; Third row: Alysa Osterman, Wilian Lopez, Homer Bowers; Last row: Mr. Paulson, Sherry Altman, Alicia Rodriguez, Steven Hull and Natalie Alt. Absent are: Kymer Sauerwine and Seena Fawzy.**

South Elementary students honor Dr. Seuss



This week at South Elementary School kindergarten learned the letter U and the sound it makes! Along with the letter U, they can read the words here and was. These words are helping them read and create sentences. With all the letters they have learned so far, they are becoming excellent readers because we can sound out the words.

It was Dr. Seuss' Birthday on Monday so students have been learning about him. Kindergarten has been reading many of his silly dilly books. Since he has many funny animals in his stories, they invented their own silly animals. They gave them a name and found out where they lived. You can look for some of them at the Okeechobee Fair.

Kindergarten is looking forward to their trip to the Children's Museum in Sebring. They will get to see many neat tools and inventions. Some kindergarten classes will attend Thursday, while the others will go on Friday. They are very anxious to go!

Next Thursday, Third grade will be making Terrariums and we need all of your clear plastic salad containers. If you could please donate your salad containers by Wednesday, March 12. Thank you!

Parents, it's time to mark your calendars for a big celebration. We are going to celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday with Books on March 31, at 6 p.m. in South's Cafetorium.



Submitted photo/South Elementary

Students of the Week

South Elementary students of the week are: **McKenzie Simmons, Jalyn Lightsey, Tristan Sweat, Angel Kasik, Logan Clay, Savannah Schmidt, Zachary Pattison, Emily Beaty, Joshua Allen, Keegan Sarros, Abigail Myers, Taylor Shatzer, Garrett Causey, Daniel Arellano, Maya Kneidel, Jacob McKee, Koby Chapman, Jesus Gomez, Brianna Ingram, Blas Aguilar, Hannah Fralix, Alyssa Damron, and Bradley Muffler.**

During the month of March our students will be celebrating with Dr. Seuss's books. Students are enjoying reading his books and working on projects while some of the younger ones are listening to his books and doing activities. On March 31, we would like for you to come and celebrate with us by watching students perform and visit the hallways to see their work or projects. Each family that

attends will receive a bag with items for home. Please mark your calendar for a fun night at South. A short PTO update will begin the meeting.

Everyone was a little stressed out because of FCAT this week. Mrs. Geeting and Mrs. Paulson worked with the PTO, American Fundraising, and other funding sources to provide a one day Oasis for the staff members. The Oa-

sis was softly lit with small lamps, scented with smokeless candles, and had an abundance of plants. Comfortable chairs were brought in for the staff to sit on as they ate desserts donated by American Fundraising. Tracy Vinson supplied shoulder massages for any interested staff members throughout the day. It was a great way to unwind after a crazy week of testing.

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1000-H: 3 Bd 1 ba CBS home located in the NE section of town. Built 2001, chain link fenced. \$60,000 - Bank will consider any & all offers. MLS# 202362

FORECLOSURE!

2002-M: Taylor Creek 3/2 DWMH completely furnished, front and back porch with workshop/storage RM, irrigation system, RV hook up, carport and more. MLS# 201270

WATERFRONT!

4001-M: BHR Mobile home completely furnished, screened patio, shed, boat dock and seawall. MLS# 201911

WATERFRONT!

4004-H: BHR lake access home on a large cul-de-sac. Attached carport, metal roof, paved driveway/water on both sides, boat slip and seawall. Call today to see! MLS# 202218 \$109,000

BUCKHEAD RIDGE!

5014-H: 3 Bedrooms 1 Bath CBS home located in Whispering Pines (NW 35th LN). -Bank will consider any & all offers \$30,900. MLS# 201428

FORECLOSURE!

5043-M: MH on 1 fenced acre. 3/2 with fireplace, large screened rear porch, circle driveway, large garage/workshop and upstairs storage. MLS# 201860

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DELIGHTFUL COUNTRY LIVING 2008 CBS 3/2 home w/ 1718 SF on 1 Acre. Spacious island kitchen, Ceramic tile, Walk-in closet, Cathedral ceilings & Screen porch. **SHORT SALE! \$157,000** #212G Call Lori (863) 634-1457 **MAKE AN OFFER!**

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PRESTIGIOUS RIVER-FRONT LIVING! 1.52 Acres w/ 285 Ft. on the water in River Acres. Remove older mobile home & build the home of your dreams. Fly-In community. **PRICED TO SELL! \$149,000** #122 Call Lori (863) 634-1457

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ELBOW ROOM AND ECONOMY! 3/2 Concrete block home. New A/C, wood laminate floors & water system. ONE ACRE w/ fenced yard on cul-de-sac. Super Starter Home! **SHORT SALE! \$89,000** Call Lori (863) 634-1457

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BUCKHEAD RIDGE 2/2 mobile home w/ 1184 SF of TLA. Florida room w/ Vinyl windows, Boat hoist, Storage building & NEW flooring. Carport, Sprinkler system & Alarm system. **NEW PRICE! \$78,000** #421 Call Lori (863) 634-1457

NEW LISTING

BUILDING LOT IN SW SECTION! Vacant and ready. Zoned for home or mobile home. **PRICED TO SELL! \$18,000** #109 Call Lori (863) 634-1457 and visit www.LoriMixon.com!

OFFERS WELCOME!

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There's a wonderful world around us. Full of fascinating places. Interesting people. Amazing cultures. Important challenges. But sadly, our kids are not getting the chance to learn about their world. When surveys show that half of America's youth cannot locate India or Iraq on a map, then we have to wonder what they do know about their world. That's why we created My Wonderful World.org. It's part of a free National Geographic-led campaign to give your kids the power of global knowledge. Go there today and help them succeed tomorrow. Start with our free parent and teacher action kits. And let your kids begin the adventure of a lifetime.

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My Wonderful World.org

Gobbler season: It's time to start 'talkin' turkey'

By Tony Young
Media Relations Coordinator
FWC

Better start brushing up on your turkey calling, because spring gobbler season's here. Whether you prefer to use a mouth call, box call, slate or any combination, March means it's time to start talkin' turkey.

One of the most coveted and sought-after game species in Florida is the Osceola turkey, also known as the Florida turkey. This unique bird is one of five subspecies of wild turkey in North America.

The Osceola lives only on the Florida peninsula and nowhere else in the world, making it extremely popular with out-of-state hunters. They're similar to the Eastern subspecies (found in the Panhandle) but tend to be a bit smaller and typically are darker with less white barring on the flight feathers of their wings.

The white bars on the Osceola are narrower, with an irregular, broken pattern, and don't extend to the feather shaft. It's the black bars of the Osceola that actually dominate the feather. Similarly, secondary wing feathers also are darker. When the wings fold across the back, the whitish triangular patch formed is less prominent on the Osceola. And, Osceola feathers show more iridescent green and red colors, with less bronze than the Eastern.

March proclaimed as

Guardian ad Litem month

March has been proclaimed guardian ad litem month by Governor Crist. But what is a Guardian ad litem?

A Guardian ad Litem or GAL is a trained volunteer who follows a child through the child welfare system, and prevents them from falling through the cracks. When a child becomes a ward of the state due to abuse or neglect many people become involved; judges, magistrates, lawyers, social workers, foster parents, doctors, and more. Sometimes the best interest of the child can be lost in the confusion. A GAL makes sure that never happens, by speaking with the child, and other involved parties and presenting their recommendations and the child's



Outta' The Woods

By Tony Young
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

ers also are darker. When the wings fold across the back, the whitish triangular patch formed is less prominent on the Osceola. And, Osceola feathers show more iridescent green and red colors, with less bronze than the Eastern.

The National Wild Turkey Federation and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commis-

sion (FWC) recognize, in their respective turkey registry programs, any wild turkey harvested within or south of the counties of Dixie, Gilchrist, Alachua, Union, Bradford, Clay and Duval to be the Osceola subspecies. Eastern turkeys and crossbreeds are found north and west of those counties in the Panhandle.

The highly anticipated spring turkey season runs March 7 - April 12 in the South Hunting Zone and March 21 - April 26 in the Northwest and Central zones. The exception is Holmes County, where the season runs March 21 - April 5.

Hunters may take bearded turkeys and gobblers only, and the daily bag limit's one. The season and possession limit on turkeys is two, except in Holmes County, where the season limit's one.

Shotguns are the best choice when hunting turkeys, but if you're so inclined, you may use a rifle, muzzleloader or handgun,

or you can try your luck with a bow or crossbow.

Shooting hours on private lands are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, but on wildlife management areas (WMAs), you must quit hunting at 1 p.m.

Of course, you can use turkey decoys to help entice that stubborn old bird, but you're not permitted to hunt turkeys with dogs, use recorded turkey calls or sounds, shoot them while they're on the roost or over bait. You also can't hunt them when you're within 100 yards of a game-feeding station, when feed is present.

To participate in spring turkey hunting, you'll need a Florida hunting license and a turkey permit. If you plan to pursue a gobbler on one of Florida's many WMAs, you also must purchase a management area permit.

All of these licenses and permits are available at county tax collectors' offices, most retail outlets that sell hunting and fish-

ing supplies, by calling toll-free 888-HUNT-FLORIDA (486-8356) or online at www.wildlifefl.com.

If you didn't put in for a special-opportunity or quota permit, don't worry, several WMAs don't require them. Visit MyFWC.com/Hunting and under "This Month's Hunting Opportunities," click on "2009 Spring Turkey Guide: What you need to know" to see a list of WMAs where you need only a hunting license, management area permit and turkey permit to hunt spring turkeys.

If you take a turkey with at least an 11-inch beard and 1 1/4-inch spurs, get your name listed in the FWC's Wild Turkey Registry by applying for an "Outstanding Gobbler Certificate." There's also a "First Gobbler Certificate" awarded to hunters under age 16 who harvest their first gobbler, regardless of beard and spur measurements. Applications for both are available at MyFWC.com/Hunting.

Whether it's going solo after that elusive old tom or double-teaming a pair of birds with your buddy, March means spring gobbler season.

Here's wishing you a successful spring turkey season. Remem-

ber to introduce someone new to the sport of hunting when you can. As always, have fun, hunt safely and ethically, and we'll see you in the woods!

get CULTURIZED!

Stig Rossen

Tuesday, March 17 at 7:30 pm
Tickets: \$20 Adults * \$17 Seniors
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Submitted photo

Thanks for help

Bruce Swinford, associate director of Big Lake Missions, recently presented a plaque of appreciation to Heritage Village, in appreciation of their donations to the mission's holiday food and toy drives.



Submitted photo/Riverside Nat'l Bank

March of Dimes team

March of Dimes team members are Kristy Crawford, Tabitha Trent, Megan Gwaltney, Sherri Enfinger and Jamie Webber.



Submitted photo/Riverside Nat'l Bank

Kiss the Pig

Riverside Bank branch manager Tabitha Trent was the winner of the "Kiss the Pig" contest they held to raise money for the March of Dimes. Tabitha got to "smooch" Carley Enfinger's pig Lily.



Submitted photo

Top 12!

On Thursday, Feb. 19, Okeechobee Freshman Campus assistant principal, Matt Koff, drew names to determine the most recent Top 12 students for the 2008-2009 school year. The students were entered into the drawing if they received five positive signatures in the last three weeks. The winning students from the class of 2012 received a book or t-shirt and candy. Students are: Justin Morgan, Jacalob Akins, Jalen Watts, Marcos Sanchez, Emilie Lege, Macy Cox, Gabriel de la Cruz, Mr. Koff, Hernan Santibanez, Teresa King, Alma Quiroz, (not pictured) Noah Wilcox, and Charles Shannon.



Submitted photo

"A New You"

The Ladies "Joy" Sunday School class of Oakview Baptist Church sponsored "A New You" Ladies Fashion Tea on Saturday, Feb. 21. The highlight of the tea was a complete makeover of one lucky lady. That lady was Marie Stout, who is a member of Oakview. She received a facial, a hair style, cut and color, a manicure and pedicure, new outfit, jewelry, a hand-made quilt, flowers, a gift certificate for a dinner for two and a gift certificate for a massage. There were about 141 ladies who attended the tea and enjoyed music, guest speakers, lots of treats with strawberry tea and door prizes.

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A WELL-MAINTAINED HOME in a beautifully maintained park w/all the amenities. Clubhouse, pool, shuffleboard, activities daily. It is a place that will be fun to live in and also safe. It has an aluminum roof over. CALL VICKI AT 863-634-4106. MLS #202363, \$69,500.



WELL-MAINTAINED MOBILE HOME close to the rim canal and locks. This package comes complete with a boat. 16' Tri Hull Larsen, 60hp Johnson. It is a nice large lot with an assortment of trees. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106. MLS #201939, \$107,578.



ADORABLE ONE ROOM WINTER OR WEEK-END RETREAT. A great little efficiency. It is a large corner lot with a beautiful view of the water and many trees. It has a nice carport. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106. MLS #200971, \$85,000.



FULLY UPGRADED MOBILE HOME. One car garage, boat dock, FL Rim, Carport, Boat lift w/roof. Too many features to include. MUST SEE THIS BEAUTY. Call Vicki on 863-634-4106. MLS #201548, \$149,900.



ADORABLE FRAME 2/2 HOUSE on 5+ acres, 2nd kitchen w/separate entrance. Shed in backyard. Truly country living, spacious area with wild life. Fully furnished. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106. MLS #93200, \$194,900.

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"TAYLOR CREEK CUTIE"
Newly Reduced!
Lake Okeechobee Access, 2000 3/2 DWMH, split floor plan, eat in bar in kitchen and wood laminate floors. Covered patio and open deck. Property has a dock and seawall. This is worth taking a look at. MLS# 201540 \$110,000



"NEED SOME ELBOW ROOM?"
Motivated Sellers!
ATTENTION COMMUTERS!! Bring offers MOTIVATED SELLERS!! Very cute 3/2 Mobile Home on 1 acre completely fenced in a great neighborhood! Animals Welcomed!! MLS# 94576 \$92,000



"ENJOY LIFE"
Price to Sell!
Look at this 3/2 DWMH situated on over a 1/2 acre lot!!! 2 sheds are on the property for plenty of storage space. This is affordably priced, don't let this get away!! MLS#202192 \$100,000



"GREAT FAMILY HOME"
Spacious Living!
Nice for a family who wants some ROOM - 2/2.5 CBS home with extra lot. Master suite with 2 closets and half bath. Large screen room across the front. Roof was replaced in 2008. MLS# 202032 \$129,900



"TAYLOR CREEK LIVING"
Lake Access!
This is a beautiful doublewide in Taylor Creek Isles. Three bedrooms, 2 baths, lake access lot. Call to see. MLS# 202186 \$150,000



"CLOSE TO TOWN"
Bring Offers!
Doublewide on 3 nice lots with large oak tree. Has additional building which can be used as three car garage or large storage building. Close to everything. MLS# 201709 \$95,000



"PEACEFUL WATERFRONT"
New Listing!
Has new laminated flooring, new ceramic in both bathrooms, new carpet in bedrooms, and is on Taylor Creek in the City limits, has a shed in backyard for additional storage. It is a must see home. Possible Owner Financing!! Come With offers!! MLS#202350 \$135,000



"WHAT A GREAT AREA!!"
New Listing!
Three bedroom/two bath doublewide. Walk-In-Closets. Master bedroom has office space. Fireplace in living room. Home is situated at the end of a cul-de-sac for added privacy! MLS#202394 \$89,900



3 BR, 2 Baths on your lot from \$89,000 and up

Other models available. CBS construction, wood cabinets, tile in LR, kitchen and baths, carpet in bedrooms. Pick your colors. Upgrades available.

\$119,000, lot included

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✓ Friday
11 a.m. Thursday for Friday publication
✓ Sunday
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• Price must be included in ad
• Private parties only
• 2 items per household per issue

Special Notice 0155

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ATTEND IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ELIMINATING CRIME & UNKEPT PROPERTIES IN OUR COMMUNITY
WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18th
WHERE: CLOCK RESTAURANT, PARROTT AVE, OKEECHOBEE
TIME: 6:30 PM

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Support our fight for the prevention of child abuse
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Announcements
100

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against Independent Newspapers. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Independent Newspapers' style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

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Found 0130

FOUND GOATS - Please call to describe. (863)824-7593 no calls after 9 pm please.

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Lost 0135

FEMALE JACK RUSSELL - On east grade 101 side of the prairie. She is white with brown on her head and a little on her body! Please call, she needs her med's and our son misses her.
(863) 634-8057
(863) 697-1184
(863) 763-7843

GOLDEN RETRIEVER - 5 mo. old female. Last seen behind Race Trac Gas Station, Hwy 70. (863)697-6852 Reward.

Special Notice 0155

CDL DRIVERS NEEDED
Private School - One on One Tractor Trailer Training @ IRCC. No exp. req'd. Job Placement. Earn \$35,000 - \$50,000 + benefits. 866-832-7243
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Okeechobee store
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or apply in person
2302 Hwy 441 S., 34974

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Employment Medical 0210

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MRI TECH - Part Time
Okeechobee Center
Fax Resume To:
863-824-6737

Employment Part Time 0215

SECRETARY - Part time for Okeechobee office. Experience in Word preferred. Professional appearance. Working w/offender population. \$9.50 hour plus excellent benefits. Fax resume to (772)465-8488 or email to charlenecc@coreprogram.org

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

Employment Full Time 0205

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

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Financial 300

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Business Opportunities 0305

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

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Services Offered 425
Insurance 430
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Power Washing
FREE CONSULTATION
(863)763-4775

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TAX RETURNS
I will do simple returns for \$50-\$100.
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Employment Full Time 0205

CDL DRIVERS NEEDED
Private School - One on One Tractor Trailer Training @ IRCC. No exp. req'd. Job Placement. Earn \$35,000 - \$50,000 + benefits. 866-832-7243
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Business Opportunities 305
Money Lenders 310
Tax Preparation 315

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Services 400

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

Handyman Services

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

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

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.

Tax Services

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

Employment Full Time 0205

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

Aaron's Sales & Lease
Okeechobee store
RETAIL MGR. TRAINEE SALARY + COMM/BONUS. SUNDAYS OFF.
Must pass criminal/drug test, clean MVR, 21yrs or older, FT, email resume
rebecca.sosa@aaronrents.com
or apply in person
2302 Hwy 441 S., 34974

Financial 300

Business Opportunities 305
Money Lenders 310
Tax Preparation 315

Business Opportunities 0305

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

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

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Real Estate 1000

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

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

Waterfront Rentals
Starting at \$850 Mth/Yearly
Washer/Dryer - Lawn Maintained
On Large Private Lots
(863) 467-8683 • (772) 215-1680
Ask About Rent to Own with 10% Down

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

OAK PARK - 3/1/1 newly remodeled CBS, non-smkg. env., no pets, \$975 mo. + \$1000 sec. (863)697-2818

INDIAN HAMMOCK - New 3/2 two story on 2.89 acres, \$275,000. Also have a 2.85 acres lot \$59,900. Okeechobee 36th st N. 2/1/1 CBS \$65,000 Canal Point ridge facing lake 3/1 on half acre \$70,000. And 3/2 \$85,000
Real Estate Broker
(561)635-8478

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

5 Acres - 5 minutes north of town off 441, cleared \$79,900.00 (561)801-3002

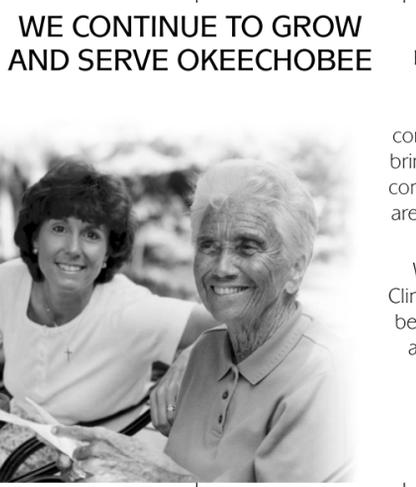
BHR - Furn Modular home 3/2 w/FI Room, Incl 3 HD TV's. Just updated plumbing, elect, new sod & sprink sys, fenced, boat ramp, dock, conc drive, car port, shed.
\$138,500
(561)818-2348

LAKEPORT - Lake Okeechobee access 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

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

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT
2/2, \$610 mo., 1st. last & security, 1st Month Free!
(863)983-8106

TAYLOR CREEK 3/2 Lake Access. \$975 plus utilities, 1st. last & sec. No pets. Rent or Buy. (772)463-4465





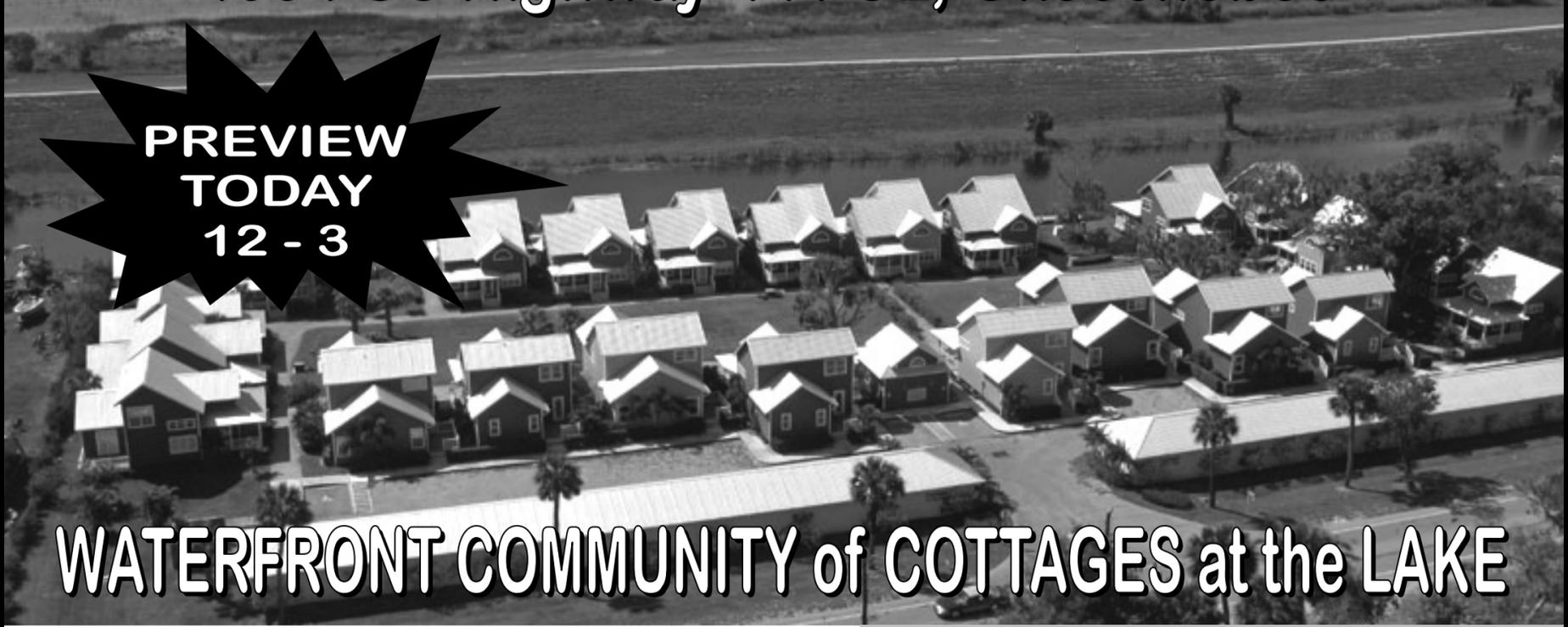
BY ORDER OF THE DEVELOPER

Absolute Auction



SATURDAY ★ MARCH 14th ★ 11am
4334 US Highway 441 SE, Okeechobee

PREVIEW TODAY
12 - 3



WATERFRONT COMMUNITY of COTTAGES at the LAKE



- ★ Waterfront Community on the Rim Canal
- ★ 9 Single Family Key West Style Cottages Available
- ★ 1 or 2 Bedrooms + Loft in (Various Stages of Interior Completion)
- ★ 24 Individual Boat Slips
- ★ Just Minutes to GREAT Bass Fishing

AT LEAST 1 SELLING TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER...REGARDLESS OF PRICE!!

FOR COLOR BROCHURE CONTACT:
772-219-8448
www.elliotpaul.com

Elliot Paul & Company
Licensed Real Estate Brokers and Auctioneers, Palm City, FL AU1582AB1589

Mobile Home Rent 2015 Campers/RVs 3010 Parts/Repairs 4045 Parts/Repairs 4045 Automobiles 4005 Automobiles 4005 Public Notices 5000 Public Notice 5005 Public Notice 5005

Mobile Home Rent 2015
TAYLOR CREEK ISLES, 2br, 1ba, furnished, boat dock. Incl lawn svc. \$650/mo. 1st & last. (321)777-1376

Campers/RVs 3010
TRAVEL TRAILER - 31' with screen room attached. can be seen at Lakeside RV Park 4074, 441 SE Lot#4. Oke. \$2500 (269)240-0797

Parts/Repairs 4045
STOP IN AND START SAVING!!!!!!
30% OFF All In Stock Bed Mats, Bug Shields, Bug Screens and More.
St. Lucie Battery & Tire
198 US Hwy 98N • Okeechobee (863) 357-2431 • www.slbtc.com

Parts/Repairs 4045
REMEMBER your loved one... with a Memorial Tribute in the newspaper.
To order: 1-866-379-6397 • www2.newszap.com/memorials

Automobiles 4005
LAKE MOTORS
147 Hwy 441 SE • Okeechobee
Best Prices in the Lake Area! **863-467-5243** se habla español

Automobiles 4005
Public Notice 5005
5000 Public Notice State Public - Legal Notice 5005

Public Notices 5000
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
JUVENILE DIVISION
CASE NO.: 2004-0P-008

Public Notice 5005
INVITATION TO BID
FIRE BRUSH TRUCK
BID NO. FD 01-00-03-09

Public Notice 5005
INVITATION TO BID
HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AND VERTICAL LIFT
BID NO. PW 02-10-03-09

Mobile Home Sale 2020
AFFORDABLE S/W Mobile Home for sale. 14X50 2 BR, 1 BA. 12X22 SCR/Vinyl Rm. Newly refurb. Lake acc. w/ Dock. Treasure Island. In park. @3425 SE 36th Ave. \$24K neg. 772-318-8218

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

Automobiles 4005
TOYOTA COROLLA - 2001 Grey, 47000 miles. Auto, tilt, cruise. Excell cond. \$4,950 (812)989-3022

Automobiles 4005
TWO STOCK CARS - One 1979 Malibu and one 1979 Z28 Camaro \$2400 for both or will separate. (772)323-7096

Automobiles 4005
When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Public Notices 5000
IN THE INTEREST OF: R.R. DOB: 12/28/03
Mother of the minor child: Cheryl Rosier (parental rights terminated)

Public Notice 5005
Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Okeechobee General Services Department, Room 101 at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974, (863) 763-3372 ext. 216, no later than 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers. Bids may not be revoked after bid opening. Any BIDS received after the time specified will not be accepted.

Public Notice 5005
Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Okeechobee General Services Department, Room 101 at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974, (863) 763-3372 ext. 216, no later than 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2009 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers. Bids may not be revoked after bid opening. Any BIDS received after the time specified will not be accepted.

Public Notice 5005
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DEW DROP INN - Custom
2/1.5 Fully furnished, nice cov patio. REDUCED \$18000 (863)763-3945

DOUBLEWIDE, 2005 - 1/2 acre, 2 out buildings, \$75,900. Call 772-260-0078

LAKEPORT - 2 sep properties, 2br, 1ba mob homes, completely furnished, 1 with large workshop, 1 with large garage. \$45,000. MUST SELL !! (863)946-0989

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

~MOBILE HOME SALES~ Brand New Park Model 12x36. Very Nice! \$26,800 800-330-6623

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

READING A NEWSPAPER...
saves you money by providing information about best buys.
No wonder newspaper readers earn more!

SUDOKU
Level: Advanced

ANSWER:

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

Four Wheel Drive 4035
CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 HD 2002 - 4-wd, 4door, diesel, C/D w/amp & 4-8" spkrs, 22" rims/W/Toy/M/T-tires&lot of extras, big&beefy \$18000. (863)357-2816 (863)447-0941

Golf Carts 4037
GOLF CART - Club Car, 48 volt, elect, sun roof, used, Excellent cond. \$1750 or best offer (863)467-2824

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
ADEAL CABAL OIL
SAMBAA ARETE UMA
ILIAC BEATS TAZ
FIRST PLACE FOX Y
HOLE ONION
LBS SECONDC LASS
ORALEXAM SUDDEN
FACE RAH EAVE
AGREES REPARTEE
THIRDPERSON ERR
FEDEX IOTA
AVIDELASTRESORT
BICALCOANINER
USELETAENTATIVE
TADBRAKANTSY

Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

WHO-STORY IN THE MAKING.
Find out about movies, sports, cuisine and far-off places that you've never seen! So whether you're an elephant, ostrich, or a who, reading the paper's a great thing to do!

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Find out about movies, sports, cuisine and far-off places that you've never seen! So whether you're an elephant, ostrich, or a who, reading the paper's a great thing to do!

SUDOKU
Level: Advanced

ANSWER:

Boats 3005
CAROLINA SKIFF - 40 hp motor \$1700 (863)763-8132

RECREATION 3000
NITRO 170 1995 - 17ft bass boat, 115hp, mariner outboard, trailer included front & rear fish finders, 47lb. trolling motor, on board 8 amp battery charger, green & gold color, excellent condition. 50mph+ \$5200. (203)213-3929

RECREATION 3000
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Brahmans lose to Port St. Lucie



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Kerwin Givens dives back to first during a pick off attempt in the second inning of Thursday's game.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Dustin Stokes follows through with a pitch during the first inning of Thursday's game.

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Edgar Esquivel tossed a complete game seven hitter to lead the Port St. Lucie Jaguars to a 5-1 victory over Okeechobee High School in boy's baseball action Thursday night in Okeechobee. Esquivel didn't overpower the Brahmans but did enough to avoid their big bats. The win was the first against Okeechobee in three tries this season for PSL. "This was definitely a night where we looked past them for whatever reason," Coach Tedders said. He noted his team didn't have a good approach at the plate and didn't get very many good swings. "He did a good job keeping us off balance. He didn't go with the

fastball and beat us with off speed pitches. We have to be patient as hitters. We were jumping at his ball and were too good for that." Cory Reid hit a two run homerun in the third to start the scoring for Port St. Lucie. Jesse Hunter started the inning when he was hit by a pitch. He was out on a force play on a ground ball by Kevin Stone. Reid followed with a blast over the left field fence. Things got chippy in that inning when PSL Coach Tony Malizia yelled toward the Brahmans dugout after his top hitter Steve McGee was hit by a pitch. It followed the homerun by Reid. Brahma coaches assured him they weren't trying to throw at his players. PSL made it 4-0 in the fifth as

Hunter and Stone opened with singles and scored on a two run single by McGee. Stokes was dominant at times but struggled at others. He allowed just four hits in five innings, but was charged with four earned runs. Stokes struck out eight batters. Mike Minondo pitched a scoreless sixth but ran into trouble in the seventh when he allowed an opening double to Reid. Brandon Farless relieved and allowed a sacrifice fly by Kyle Hurley. Okeechobee's only run scored in the bottom of the seventh as Jake Davenport drove in Farless with an infield grounder. Adam Tewksbury had two hits for Okeechobee. Okeechobee did have other

opportunities. They loaded the bases but didn't score in the second. Tewksbury and his twin brother Cameron singled and Jonathan Crawford drew a walk but Esquivel worked out of trouble by retiring Farless and Mark Weir on ground balls. The scoring opportunities were few and far between on this night, "We didn't show up at the plate, that's my fault, we didn't have these guys ready to play. We can't cry in our soup. We just got to get ready to go," Tedders said. He hinted some lineup changes may be in order if the team continues to struggle at the plate. "A couple of guys aren't swinging the bat very well. Some of the other guys will get opportunities. We need to have better approaches at the plate," he added. The Brahmans host Forest Hill on Tuesday and travel to Glades Central on Friday night.

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Submitted photo

Thank you
A special thank you goes to C.I.S. and Ms. Mina Coleman for all the things they do for the skaters at the skate park. On Feb. 13, they had a skate night with hot dogs and lots of safe fun. The park is open Monday through Friday, from 3 until 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from noon until 6 p.m.

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