



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 35

Sunday, March, 22 2009

75¢ Plus tax

Briefs

Commissioners to meet on Tuesday

Okeechobee County Commissioners will meet this coming Tuesday, March 24, rather than on their regular meeting day of Thursday, March 26, because of a meeting in Tallahassee later in the week. The highlight of the meeting will be the swearing in of new commissioner Joey Hoover. The meeting is expected to be rather brief. It starts at 9 a.m. at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 N.W. Ninth Ave. The agenda includes a discussion of the county ordinance regarding culverts.

County planning board meets Tuesday

The Okeechobee County Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals meets Tuesday evening, March 24 at 7 p.m. The only item of business is a request for a special exception by Daniel Braswell, III, property owner, and Jeff Wait, applicant. They are requesting a special exception to allow an indoor shooting range in an agriculture zoning district on N.E. 48th St. The meeting will be held in the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 N.w. Ninth Ave.

CCC to meet

The next meeting of the Community Collaborative Council, a part of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee, will be Tuesday, March 24, at 10 a.m. in the Board room of the School Board Office.

Mainstreet Mixer

In celebration of American Red Cross Month, Okeechobee Main Street's March Mixer will be hosted by the American Red Cross located at 323 North Parrott Avenue on Tuesday, March 24, from 5-7 p.m. There will be refreshments, door prizes and great networking. Join us and invite a friend. For more information call Okeechobee Main Street at 863-357-6246.

Drought Index

Current: 695
Source: Florida Division of Forestry
Local Burn Ban: None

Lake Levels

12.37 feet
 Last Year: 10.17 feet

Sponsored By:

 Pogey's Family Restaurant
 1759 S. Parrott Ave.
 763-7222

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

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Woman avoids scam; warns others



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp
Rosemary Pye wants other Okeechobee residents to be aware of the scam that targeted her.

By Eric Kopp
 Okeechobee News

Rosemary Pye is nobody's fool. When she received a check in the mail and congratulations for being selected as an "evaluator," she knew something was up.

"I may be retired and 71 years of age, but I know no one gives you \$2,500," she said Friday, March 20.

The former director of surgery at Raulerson Hospital said when she received the letter she noticed there was no return address and that there was a Canadian postmark on the envelope.

Inside the envelope was a letter telling her she had been selected as a Customer Service Evaluator. A Los Angeles, Calif., address and phone number was listed at the top of the letter.

According to the letter, Ms. Pye had been chosen to be part of a research program that was evaluating services and how to improve the customer service department.

There was also a check for \$2,880 in the envelope. The check was drawn on the Resource One Credit Union in Dallas, Texas.

From that point on, it's pretty

much the same as the Mystery Shopper Scam and several other types of scams going on across the nation.

The letter instructed Ms. Pye to pose as a customer and go to any Walmart store and evaluate their moneygram system by buying a moneygram for \$2,500. The letter then instructed her to send the moneygram to an address in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The letter told her she could use any name she wanted on the moneygram.

She was then instructed to use \$80 to pay for the money-

See Scam — Page 2

At the fair: Youth Livestock show



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce
A steer raised by Marshall Johnson was named the Grand Champion Steer at the Okeechobee County 4H and FFA Youth Livestock Show at the Okeechobee County Fair this week. On Saturday, the fair featured the Livestock Sale. Today (Sunday) is the last day of the county fair. Gates open at noon. The fair closes at 8 p.m. At right is Miss Okeechobee Alex Ming.



Submitted photo/Sandra Pearce
A steer raised by Tyler Hayes was named the Reserve Champion Steer at the Youth Livestock Show at the county fair. At right is Miss Okeechobee Alex Ming.

Third man arrested in murder case

By Eric Kopp
 Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man was taken into custody late Thursday and was the third person to be arrested in connection with the March 18 shooting death of Angel Pulido, 28.

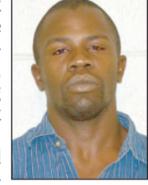
Daniel Saloman, 30, S.R. 70 W., was arrested March 19 on a charge of principle in the first degree of armed burglary of an occupied dwelling. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$100,000.

Two other men, Brad Cardell Boswell and Hugo Fernando Lopez, were arrested within

hours of the killing near Lake Placid. Both men have been charged with first degree murder and armed burglary with assault.

Following his first appearance hearing Friday, March 20, Lopez is being held without bond.

Boswell was also arrested on an outstanding arrest warrant



Daniel Saloman

See Murder — Page 2

L.O.S.T. ride helps fund scholarships

By Chauna Aguilar
 Okeechobee News

Rotarians will hold their fifth annual Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (L.O.S.T.) Bike Ride-Run-Walk on Saturday, March 29, beginning at 8 a.m.

The event will raise funds for local Rotarian scholarships that are given to Okeechobee High School seniors each year and to the Boy Scouts of America Troop #955.

The event begins at Scott Driver at the Okee-Tantie Recre-

ation located off of S.R. 78 West. Last year cyclists came from as far south as Homestead, and as far north as Vero, as far west as Sarasota and as far east as West Palm Beach.

Cyclists, runners and walkers are all welcome to this family fun event where you can appreciate the nature of Lake Okeechobee.

Cost for the event registration packet is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ten and under;

See L.O.S.T. — Page 2

'Make-A-Wish' to help Okeechobee children

By Chauna Aguilar
 Okeechobee News

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida announced at a county commission meeting that they have recently expanded their territory to serve Okeechobee County. Make-A-Wish representatives also spoke to local Kiwanis members about how they can help spread the word about the foundation to allow more children to be granted wishes.

This non-profit organization grants wishes to children who have life-threatening medical conditions and is actively seeking local resources of referrals and volunteers to help them complete their mission.

"This is great news for our county," said Commissioner Chairman Cliff Betts. "The Make-A-Wish Foundation does amazing things for so many children and we're thrilled that they will be granting wishes in a community that is sure to support their efforts."

The foundation is asking that everyone in the community to refer children who may be candidates to insure that every medically-eligible child gets to experience the power of a wish.

To qualify for a wish, a child must be between the ages of 2 1/2 and 18 years old; be diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition; live or be

treated in one of the 13 counties in this foundation's territory; and not have been granted a wish by any Make-A-Wish chapter or other wish-granting organization in the past.

Richard Kelly, the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida spoke to Kiwanis members about their 25 years of service to South Florida. The Southern Florida chapter serves children in 13 counties: Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Okeechobee, Highlands, Monroe, Hendry, Glades, Collier and Lee. Their biggest cities include

See Children — Page 2



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar
Kiwanis members president Jim Vensel (left) and Wendy Woodham (right) invited Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida's Vice President-Chief Operating Officer Richard Kelly (center) to speak about their organization and how everyone can help refer children who qualify for wishes.

Murder

Continued From Page 1

that charged him with the felony of possession of a firearm or ammunition by a convicted felon, and the misdemeanor of resisting

a law enforcement officer without violence. His bond on those charges has been set at \$11,000.

Seventh St. in DeBerry Gardens Wednesday around noon.

kicked out the glass in the back door and entered the home a second time. This time they took the keys to the woman's Dodge Durango and drove away, said Detective Van Deman.

both been living in Clearwater. Sgt. Brock praised the Highlands County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) and HCSO Deputy Andy Spires for their quick action in finding the two men.



Submitted photo/Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office
Fatboy, a 90-pound pit bull, was shot and killed shortly after his master, Angel Pulido, was killed by gunmen in his home on N.W. Seventh St. Wednesday, March 18. Brad Cardell Boswell and Hugo Fernandez Lopez have been arrested and charged with killing the 28-year-old Pulido.

Court records show that Boswell was sentenced to three years in prison on Aug. 22, 2005, after being found guilty of battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting a law enforcement officer with violence. That arrest also violated his probation from a 2003 arrest for the sale of cocaine. Court records show he entered a plea to that charge and was given probation. When Boswell violated that probation he received a prison sentence of three years. All sentences were to run concurrently.

“He was the driver of the vehicle that took the other two men to the neighborhood to commit the crime,” said Detective Van Deman.

The woman was not injured. The two suspects were captured at 1:42 p.m. in the Bear Hollow subdivision near Lake Placid. Detectives say the men were in the process of committing other burglaries in the hopes of finding keys to another vehicle. Investigators said the men were wanting to get rid of the Durango and steal another vehicle so that they could flee to Clearwater.

“Everything went very well,” he said. “We had our major players in custody within two hours.” Although a medium caliber handgun was found in the Durango, Detective Van Deman said it's too early to tell if that gun was used to kill Pulido.

Records also indicate that Boswell has yet to have his first appearance hearing on the murder and burglary charges.

Detective Van Deman said the intruders then took an undisclosed amount of money and drugs and fled out the back door of the home. He said the money was kept in a gallon plastic jar and was primarily coins.

CSO Detective Sergeant T.J. Brock, the lead investigator in the case, said Boswell and Lopez had

Detective Van Deman added that one of the two men also shot Pulido's blue pit bull, Fatboy. He said the 90-pound dog was shot in the head near the front door but was found dead in another room of the house.

L.O.S.T.

Continued From Page 1

opportunities are still available to help support the youth of Okeechobee.

ting up two booths to provide a rest area, water and a snack during their bike trip.

demonstrates service above self. Students who receive the Rotarian scholarship also maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average.

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which includes a goodie bag and T-shirt. For registration only, cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ten and under. Sponsorship and volunteer

Cyclists, runners and walkers will take to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail to enjoy the beauty of nature around Lake Okeechobee.

Participants have choices of four different round trips ranging from 12 miles to 54 miles all beginning and ending at the Scott Driver Boat Ramp, S.R. 78 W.

For more information about the L.O.S.T. Bike Ride-Run-Walk contact Jim McInnes at 863-763-3101.

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

Members of the Boy Scout Troop 955 will participate by set-

Scam

Continued From Page 1

via Western Union or moneygram instead of regular mail so that they can avoid postal inspectors.

Lottery

Okeechobee Forecast

RAPE
Talk About It

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This publication was made possible by the Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund, administered by the State of Florida, Department of Health (DOH)

gram, and keep the \$300 for herself. She was also instructed to fill out a form and fax it back to the main office, but there was no such form in the letter.

“It looked for the world like a regular check for \$2,880,” she said. “But I know if anyone wants money up front, it's a phony.”

The Florida Lotto: Numbers selected Friday in the Florida Lottery are: **Cash 3:** 9-4-1; **Play 4:** 0-2-29; **Fantasy 5:** 6-21-25-26-29; **Mega Money:** 17-20-39-41 **MB 7.** Numbers selected Saturday are: **Cash 3:** 8-3-9; **Play 4:** 4-3-9-5.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Increasing clouds, with a high near 76. Northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



RAPE
Talk About It

Of course, to do this she would have had to deposit the check into her bank account. Then, when she withdrew the money to pay for the moneygram, she would be out the \$2,580 – not to mention the \$300. And, there would also likely be bank fees added.

Ms. Pye, who came to the U.S. in 1959 from England as a “young bride with three children,” said she wanted people to know about the scam and to be wary of easy money.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58. East northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 78. East wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Brahman Theatre

March 20th - March 26th

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Fri., Tues. & Thurs @ 7:00 only.
Sat., Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00 and 7:00 only. Mon. @ 3:00 & 7:00.

THEATRE II
“RACE TO WITCH MNTN”
Fri. @ 7:00 & 9:00. Sat., Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon. @ 3:00 & 7:00. Tues & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00.

THEATRE III
“MADEA GOES TO JAIL”
Fri. @ 7:00 & 9:00. Sat., Sun. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon. @ 3:00 & 7:00. Tues & Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00.

Tickets: Adults - \$5.50 • Children 12 & under - \$4.50
Senior Citizens - \$4.50 all movies • Matinees - \$4.00

MONDAY NIGHT is \$1.00 per person @ 7:00 PM

But, the scammers would be able to cash the moneygram for a cool \$2,500.

“There are some people who are not quite with the program and would think this was true,” she said. “For all the world, it looks like a perfect check.”

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. East wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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Children

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want to have something such as a computer, puppy, a horse, etc.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. East wind around 10 mph.

Additional copies of the newspaper are available for 50 cents Wednesday and Friday and 75 cents for Sunday at the office. Home delivery subscriptions are available at \$18.00 for three months.

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There are 67 Make-A-Wish chapters covering the U.S. and 28 affiliates of Make-A-Wish Foundation International.

Thanks to the generosity of in-kind donors and the dedication of volunteers, the average cost of each wish granted in the Southern Florida chapter is just \$5,000. The family pays nothing for their wish and they are granted regardless of the financial situation of the family.

They finance their endeavors through corporate sponsorships, special events, foundation grants and individual contributions. The Foundation does not solicit funds by telephone and receives no government funding.

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The Southern Florida chapter has granted over 7,000 wishes in 25 years and over 500 each year. This past year they granted a record number of 514 wishes to Southern Florida children.

There were six wishes granted in Okeechobee County last year and they are striving to double, or even triple that number this year. Anyone can refer a child for a wish including their physician, social workers, other health care professionals, family members, or even themselves!

Another way that you can help the Make-A-Wish Foundation is to volunteer as a wish grantor which goes into the homes of wish recipients to find out what they want for their wish.

For more information on how you can help make wishes come true, visit www.sfla.wish.org or call 954-568-2100.

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

Stuffed animals collected for children in crisis

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

Kiwanis members have begun an initiative to collect stuffed animals and hats for a worthy cause. The Kiwanis Florida Governor, Dave Liddell began this initiative state wide as a project that his wife had begun.

His wife passed away shortly before he took office as governor.

Stuffed animals will be collected by Kiwanis clubs all over the state of Florida to be distributed to their own county sheriff's departments. The Okeechobee County Sheriff's department patrol officers will be able to keep the stuffed animals on hand to distribute to children when they have times of crisis to give them a source of comfort in a trying time.

Stuffed animals can be any shape or size and new or gently used. All stuffed animals must be clean and in good repair for donation.

The second project is to collect hats of various types to be distributed to cancer centers for

children who are experiencing hair loss from chemotherapy due to their cancer treatments. These hats provide these children with more self confidence in this trying time of their lives.

Hats can be new or gently used as well.

These programs are just one more way that Kiwanis strives to help children locally, across the state and nationally.

The district governor, Bill Hansen has collected bears and caps himself and will distribute them to the clubs in his district as his contribution to these projects as an incentive for the clubs to match or exceed his donations.

If you would like to donate any stuffed animals or caps please contact Kiwanis President Jim Vensel at 863-697-1792.

The Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Indiantown and was chartered in 1971. Since many of the charter members were dairy farmers and ranchers, the club was originally a breakfast club so everyone could get to work and not break up their day's work. In the 1980s as the club grew, the

meeting was changed to a lunch meeting.

The Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee has always had a focus on serving the children and youth of Okeechobee and supports many projects to accomplish this. The Club was one of the first to offer a scholarship at OHS, and they were the founding sponsor

of the Grad Night Party, and the co-sponsor of the RIF (Reading is Fundamental) program for the elementary schools.

In addition the club sponsors Builder's Clubs at the middle schools and a Key Club at OHS, has a Terrific Kids awards program at New Endeavor High School, and sponsors: Math

Mini-Grants thru the Okeechobee Educational Foundation, Farm-City Week BBQ, EYDC Christmas party, Santa-in-the-Park, Souper Bowl of Caring, National Day of Prayer, Baby Shower for the Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee, and a school supply drive for Real Life Children's Ranch. To fund these projects the Club holds a radio

auction, and an Easter pancake breakfast.

The club meets at the American Legion Post 64 hall, behind City Hall, at 501 S.E. Second Street on Thursdays at noon.

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

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



Kiwanis members are collecting stuffed animals for the OCSO to distribute to children during times of crisis and hats for children who are going through cancer treatments and have lost their hair.

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Parking ticket leads to drug arrest

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man was arrested on a felony drug charge after he was detained for illegally parking on a street in Playland Park.

Jonathon Lon Stripling, 32, S.W. 19th St., was arrested March 19 on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (methadone) without a prescription. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana under 20 grams.

Stripling was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$3,000.

According to an arrest report by Deputy Javier Gonzalez, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), Stripling was arrested Tuesday night in the 4200 block of N.W. 18th St. The deputy's arrest report stated that the 2004 white Ford Expedition Stripling was driving was parked in the roadway, but he began to drive away as the deputy approached in his patrol unit.

After stopping the Expedition, Deputy Gonzalez stated in his report that he learned that Stripling's driver's license had been suspended.

Deputy Gonzalez and fellow OCSO Deputy Justin Akins then asked Stripling and the two passengers in the vehicle to get out. During a search of the SUV, a small amount of a green leafy substance was found in the center console.

That substance was field tested and indicated a positive result for the presence of marijuana, stated the arrest report.

The suspected marijuana weighed 1 gram, the deputy stated.

Stripling was then placed under arrest and during a search of his person Deputy Gonzalez stated he found three tablets in the man's pants pocket. The tablets were identified as methadone, added the report.

Deputy Gonzalez went on to state in his report that Stripling was issued a traffic citation for driving while license suspended without knowledge and for improper stopping or parking.

The passengers in the vehicle were not arrested.



Jonathon L. Stripling

Woman, nephew charged in burglary

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A man and his aunt have been arrested and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail accused of stealing a refrigerator and selling it for scrap.

Arrested Tuesday, March 17, were Bufford Tyson Wilson, 20, N.W. 53rd Terrace, and Nancy Ruth Nelson, 47, N.W. 53rd Terrace. Both were arrested on felony charges of burglary and dealing in stolen property. They were also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of petit theft. Bond for each was set at \$6,000.

Burglars reportedly entered property on N.W. 32nd Drive, took the refrigerator then sold it, stated an arrest report by Deputy Sarah Green of the Okeechobee County



Bufford T. Wilson



Nancy R. Nelson

Sheriff's Office (OCSO).

The deputy's report indicates that according to a sales receipt the pair was paid \$16 for the appliance.

Deputy Green indicated that the refrigerator was not in a building, but was in a pile of other scrap material located outside a building on the property.

Public Issues Forums: Join the discussion!

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Okeechobee 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).

- Walter David Saunders, 27, N.E. 101st Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 17 by Deputy Paul Jackson on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with grand theft auto. His bond was set at \$5,000.
- Jason Andrew Maupin, 31,

S.W. 13th St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 18 by Deputy Harold Hancock on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with carjacking. His bond was set at \$20,000.

- Kevin Kress, 33, S.E. 25th St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 18 by Deputy Harold Hancock on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with grand theft. His bond was set at \$2,500.
- Brandon Robert Grady, 20,

N.E. 106th Court, Okeechobee, was arrested March 18 by Deputy Marcus Collier on Texas fugitive warrants charging him with violation of probation - burglary of a building and violation of proba-

tion - abuse of a credit card. He is being held without bond.

- George W. Byrd, 42, S.E. 33rd St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 19 by Deputy Sergeant J. Royal on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with failure to appear - worthless check over \$150. He is being held without bond.
- Jason Thomas Adams, 24,

N.W. Fourth Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 19 by Deputy Sgt. J. Royal on Okeechobee County warrants charging him with grand theft (two counts), dealing in stolen property (two counts) and giving false information to a pawnbroker. His bond

was set at \$55,000.

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

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 arrest.



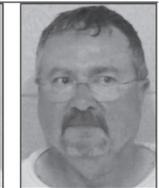
Pedro Gonzales



Jason Maupin



Benji Sanders AKA Juan Tapia



Francis Parker Oswald

Benji Sanders aka Juan Tapia, 33, FTA-Poss Cocaine
Jason Maupin, 31, Car Jacking - Bond \$20,000
Pedro Gonzales, 46, FTA - Manufacture Marijuana, Poss.

Marijuana W/I To Sell, Trafficking Cannabis more than 25lbs, No Bond
Francis Parker Oswald, 58, DUI W/Priors. Bond \$5,000.

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- DUI/DWLS -JUVENILE
- DRUG OFFENSES -APPEALS
- PROBATION VIOLATIONS
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



FAMILY LAW

- DIVORCE -CUSTODY
- CHILD SUPPORT
- ADOPTION -ALIMONY
- PATERNITY -MODIFICATION
- DEPENDENCY
- PROPERTY SETTLEMENT

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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!

Rodeo and Fairs

IMPRESSED: I went to the rodeo at the county fair and I was surprised and impressed that there was an attendant in the ladies' room spraying disinfectant everywhere and keeping the place spotless. It was one of the cleanest public restrooms I have ever been in. I spoke to her a bit and she explained that while the pay wasn't much, she did get some tips and in this economy, she was just happy to have a job of any kind.

EXPENSE: The parents in Okeechobee can't afford two fairs. The attendance at the county fair is showing that.

TICKETS: I think instead of charging everyone entry fees, the fair should sell the ride wristbands at the gate and if you buy a ride wristband, then you don't have to also pay to get into the fair. They do that at other county fairs. I don't think it is right to have to pay \$5 for each kid to get through the gate and then spend another \$20 for a wristband. The kids only care about the rides. They aren't there for entertainment. Those who don't buy a wristband could be charged the \$5 entry fee.

AT THE FAIR: We did not go to the county fair. Neither my sweetie or my mom could ever do the amount of walking involved. And to be honest it was a little too expensive for my pocketbook. The American Legion Post/Unit 64 Free Fair has been an annual event every year for more than 25 years. It is a fund raising event, and in case you're not aware of some of the things done by the American Legion and the American Legion Axillary let me clue you in. They hand out many scholarships annually to members of the OHS Graduating Class. They also sponsor the students who go to Girls and Boys State each spring. They provide baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Several times a year they bring appropriate gifts to the Veterans infirmed at the Okeechobee rehab Center. They provide the program at Memorial Day in the Veterans Park. They hold the Free Fair on their own property annually. Wednesday is KIDS day. Busses from the schools, daycares, and centers bring lots of kids. Wednesday Night is also kids days with discounted arm bands for the rides.

FREE FAIR: I am a kid in Okeechobee, and I personally loved the American Legion Fair. The rides were fun, and well set up, and the wristband was absolutely worth the money. The other fair was not so fun. I spent \$25 (admission and wristband) and the rides were not that great. There was almost nothing to do.

TIMING: The county fair dates are determined by the livestock show and those are set by the state because the 4-H and FFA projects are completed in a certain time frame. So the county fair has no choice about the dates. The Legion has had the February festival for a long time -- more than 30 years anyway. So they are too close together and they do hurt each other, but I don't see any way to fix it unless they were willing to join forces and combine.

Lake Level

BIG LAKE: 14 feet would be good. Deep enough for the fisheries, and not too deep for the South-enders.

MOTHER NATURE: I believe the Army Corps of Engineers came to the same conclusion with the current lake schedule. They want it no higher than 14 feet and no lower than 11 feet, which gives the highs and lows the lake needs to be healthy. At 11 feet enough of the littoral zone dries out for the native vegetation to grow so that when the lake level rises the vegetation provides spawning area for the fish. However, Mother Nature does not always comply with man's plans. As was mentioned, we have no way to control water loss from evaporation -- the main source of water loss from the big lake. And we have no control over when we will have rain or how much. If the rain doesn't fall in the upper Kissimmee River Valley, the lake level will slowly go down from evaporation.

AGRICULTURE: It always surprises me when people think agriculture interests want the lake lowered. If Big Sugar had their way, the lake would be kept at 17 feet so they would have that big reservoir of water for irrigation always available. But high lake levels are very bad for the fisheries as it kills off the vegetation for the spawning areas. I thought the 13 to 15 feet lake schedule was sensible, but then they found the dike was in trouble. On the north end of the lake where we live that is not really a problem. But on the south end, with elevations as low as 11 feet, I can see where that is a concern.

Expensive problem still not fixed

BUYER BEWARE: In early 2008, I responded to an ad for a complimentary hearing test, which revealed that I did have a problem understanding speech. I informed the technician that I had tried hearing aides before without much success, the last time in May 2003 at a cost of \$3,800 for hearing aides that did not work and I did not intend to suffer another loss. I was assured that my problem could be corrected if I would agree to spend \$4,990 which I did. The new hearing aides were delivered on April 17, 2008 and I was told to try them and then come back for fine-tuning, which has amounted to 25-30 adjustment sessions by not only the office where I ordered the hearing aids, but also by both owners of the company and two adjustments by a factory technician. When I went for my next appointment, I was informed that I was no longer their patient and I would have to deal with some other dealer. They now have my \$4,990 and I am the proud owner of two very small pieces of plastic which work as well in my pocket as in my ears. My recourse consists of filing a complaint with the Department of Health in Tallahassee and the Okeechobee Small Claimers Court. Be careful who you deal with.

Halt wasteful spending

ROADWAYS: Why in this time of drought are our tax dollars being wasted on equipment scraping away grass-weeds and dirt from Hwy. 710 to have sod laid during a drought, weather wise and financially with a recession. What exactly is this wasteful project costing the hard working middle class tax payers? Aren't the jail birds and prisoners out walking, picking up trash along side of the roads, the trash that trashy people throw out. Sweeping up the intersections and picking up cigarette butts that the lower class of people throw out. These are just a few chores for the very well kept jail birds men and women could do to save money for our schools and senior programs.

Another grow house raided

DRUGS: The use of marijuana has probably remained pretty steady since the 70s. A lot of people that grew up in that time are now our community leaders. You would be shocked to know some of the users. People in high (no pun) places here in Okeechobee are among the pot crowd. Yet, they carry out their duties and live normal lives. Pot smokers show up for work and perform their jobs. Pot is a much less dangerous drug than alcohol. You are only going to get just so high from pot, once this point is reached, smoking more is just a waste, you cannot OD. Putting pot in the same category as Meth, Heroin, Alcohol, and prescription drugs is just wrong. Of all of these, pot should be the one allowed for recreational use.

MARIJUANA: I think most of us can agree that in some point in our lives we have all been stupid ... and by the grace of God are still here. I have honestly never in my life tried pot, seriously. But, I just don't know how you can drive stoned. I think the difference of hearing so much of drunk drivers vs. "pot" accidents is they just usually say "drugs" were involved. From what I am aware of and what I see, prescription drugs are the new epidemic. I know many, many kids who do them. It's a shame, it really is.

PILLS: Prescription drugs are a growing problem, and the drug companies profit from it. There are doctors writing scripts and passing them out like candy. You can tell me that they cannot make a non-narcotic pain reliever, that is non-addictive. It seems every one thinks the are depressed, and can't sleep without some kind of pill. When really it is just a dependency. But they feel their addiction is ok because they got it from a doctor.

Reflections from the Pulpit

Rev. Jim Dawson

Assistant Pastor, First United Methodist Church

Apathy is defined as a lack of feeling, emotion and/or interest. When churches become ineffective, normally apathy is to be found in the problem. Sometimes apathy can occur because of the ignorance we are comfortable in living with. We claim that we are followers of Christ because we hear the Word of God and it resonates with us spiritually. But when we fail as a church of God it is not because the Word doesn't resonate with our spirit, normally it is because we are not motivated to live out God's Word in our family, church, and community. Quite simply, it is easier to do nothing than get involved with the work of Christ. Our faith is without works and is dead because apathy allows us to avoid our commitment to the work of Christ so that we can enjoy ourselves even more.

I want to examine what kind of church we are becoming in America from the problem that comes from within Christianity, apathy. God has called us to be hearers and doers of His Word and we all agree that this is how we are supposed to live. So why don't we live the way we are supposed to? Why do church members do more complaining about the minister instead of praying for him? Why do Christians like to point out the problem without looking for the answers? I believe it is because of apathy.

Jesus was walking along one day when He came upon a man crying and He asked, "My friend, what's wrong?" The man replied, "I'm blind; can you help me?" Jesus healed the man and went on His way.

Soon, He came upon another man sitting and crying. Jesus asked, "Good friend, what's wrong?" The man answered, "I'm lame and can't walk; can you help me?" Jesus healed the man and they both went down the road.

As they continued, they came upon a third man crying. Jesus asked, "Good friend, what's wrong?" He said, "I'm a minister." And Jesus sat down and wept with him.

It is tough to be a minister in today's world and get respect. Most disrespect that a minister receives comes for his own people.

For example, as Paul Harvey once reported, a young couple invited their minister for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having. "Goat," the little boy replied, "Goat?" asked the startled man of the cloth. "Are you sure about that?" "Yep," said the youngster, "I heard Dad say to Mom, "We might as well have the old goat for dinner today as any other day."

A church being active in the community is almost a thing of the past. We have so little expectation from churches nowadays. I asked a pastor from a large thriving church, "Do your people come to church expecting something?" He replied, "Yes, they do, they expect to out by twelve." By the way, this is the same pastor that Jesus sat down and wept with.

One dying church reported: I know that all of you were saddened to learn this week of the death of one our church's most valuable members -- Someone Else. Someone's passing crated a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years, and for every one of those years, Someone did far more

than the normal person's share of work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results.

Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone lips, "Let Someone Else do it." It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest givers in the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed that Someone Else would make up the difference. Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing super-human, but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did? Remember, we can't depend on Someone Else any longer.

When some ministers look at the community as a whole they often think, "What is wrong with the churches in our county? Is it ignorance or apathy?" When one pastor asked a deacon in his church this very question, the deacon replied, "I don't know and I don't care." I believe Jesus wept with this minister as well.

When ignorance and apathy becomes a part of one's life, family, church, and community, there will be an absence of faith to be found. Rabbi Shammai, in the third century of the present era, noted that Moses gave us 365 prohibitions and 248 positive commands in the law. David, in Psalm 15, reduced them to eleven; Isaiah 33:14-15 made them six; Micah 6:8 binds them into three; and Habakkuk 2:4 reduces them to one, namely, "The just shall live by faith."

We begin to live by faith in Jesus Christ when we hear, read and obey His Word and stop looking to our government to help us through difficult times. The object of our faith must be in Jesus Christ and not in each other. The human spirit is flawed and has failed us time and again. Jesus is the only answer to do away with the ignorance and the apathy that has plagued our lives and that comes when we start trusting in Him, which is the very definition of faith.

The comic Steve Martin once said, "It's so hard to believe in anything anymore... I guess I wouldn't believe in anything if it weren't for my lucky astrology mood watch, my lucky rabbit's foot, and my lucky four leaf clover."

No one believes in nothing. Everyone has faith. The only difference is in the object of our faith and its intensity.

We as a church have more faith in ourselves than we do in Jesus. Do you put your faith in things or people? Do you look to your government, your family, or your friends, to handle your problems? And then pray to Jesus for help when they can't help you and/or you mess things up worse than ever? The problem with the church is we are out of focus. We become a church more concerned with programs than evangelism, more self centered than Christ centered, and more apathetic than motivated.

We must break this cycle of apathy. This must be done individually, between you and God. When I am in a spiritual quagmire I find the best way to get out of it is on my knees.

Community Calendar

Sunday

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

Monday

A.A. meeting will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. This will be an open meeting.
Okeechobee Senior Singers will meet at 9 a.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 North Parrott Ave. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited to join the group. For information or to schedule an appearance, contact Patsy Black at 863-467-7068.
The **Okeechobee Historical Society** meets at noon at 1850 U.S. 98 N. Join us with a covered dish for lunch, followed by a business meeting. The dues are \$10 per person, per year, and are due in September. For information, call Betty Williamson at 863-763-3850.
Artful Appliquers is a recently formed chapter in Okeechobee. This chapter meets at the Turtle Cove Clubhouse, 10 Linda Road, in Buckhead Ridge 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.

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee meets at 101 N.W. Fifth Street (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.

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

Tuesday

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

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.
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.
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 Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St.
The Lighthouse Refuge Support Group is for women who are hurting, homeless or been abused. They meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month from noon until 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 401 S.W. Fourth St., and on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Red Cross, 323 N. Parrott Ave. For more information call Donna Dean at 863-801-9201 or 863-357-2106.

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.

The **Camera Club** meets every other Tuesday from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. Learn types and uses of film; speeds and technology; and, how to see your world and capture it on film. Class is basic through extensive. Registration is \$20, and each class is \$10. Call Bobbi at 863-467-2614 for information. Some of the proceeds will go towards Big Lake Mission's Outreach.
Widows and Widowers support group meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Clock Restaurant, 1111 S. Parrott Ave., for breakfast. For information, June Scheer at 863-634-8276

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

The **Okeechobee Lions Club** meets at 7 p.m. at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Ave. Anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome. For information, contact Elder Sumner at 863-763-6076.
Bible study at the Living Word of Faith Church, 1902 S. Parrott Ave., at 7 p.m. Informal and informative discussions bring many Bible truths to life. Everyone is invited.
Grief and Loss Support Group meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Hospice building located at 411 S.E. Fourth St. in Okeechobee. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact Brenda Nicholson at 863-467-2321.

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

A.A. meeting will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. This will be an open meeting.
The First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St., will be hosting **God's Time** -- a morning of free organized Christian activities that includes play, instruction and interaction for parents and their preschool children. The event will be held each Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Child care will be provided for infants during the class. For information, call 863-763-4021.

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

Okeechobee News

Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge ...

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

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H5402 QHP0973FU(12/08)

Community Events

Business women's group chapter to meet

Women of Tomorrow Chapter of ABWA will meet on Thursday, **March 26**, at the Brahma Bull from noon to 1 p.m. Sharon Ming from Edward Jones will present the program "Crisis to Confidence - Looking at the Current Marketing Condition and Focusing on the Future." All professional women are invited. For more information about ABWA, contact Chapter President Karin Ammons at 863-763-3131.

Book Club meeting set

Friends of the Okeechobee Library Book Club will meet Thursday, **March 26**, at 6 p.m. in the Library Board Room. The group will be discussing "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini. The club is free and open to the public. For more information call Jan Fehrman at 863-357-9980.

Adoption orientation session planned

Are you considering adoption? Please join the Children's Home Society of Florida at our monthly Adoption Orientation session on Thursday, **March 26**, from 5:50 until 6:30 p.m. at 415 Avenue A, Suite 100, Ft. Pierce. Anyone interested in learning more about adoption is invited to attend this fun, casual and free open house style orientation will be provided an overview of adoption and have the opportunity to have all questions related to adoption and the Children's Home Society adoption process. Please help us raise adoption awareness in our community as we try to find additional permanent, loving homes for children in foster care. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Children's Home Society's Adoption Information hotline at 772-489-5601, ext 277.

New book celebrates natural resources

"Treasured Waters - The Indian River Lagoon" Book Signing and Art Exhibit is **March 27**, at 5:30 p.m. at the Williamson Center at the IRSC Dixon Hendry Campus at 2229 N.W. Ninth Ave., Okeechobee. Reception with hors d'oeuvres, book signing and art exhibit. Tickets are \$25. Call the 866-792-4772, Ext. 4786.

Christian Academy to hold Spring Fest

On Saturday **March 28**, Okeechobee Christian Academy is having its very first Spring Festival and Open House. The purpose of the event is to invite the local community to come and see the changes ongoing at the school. The school is offering an open enrollment period with scholarships available. We would like to also say thank you to Okeechobee for supporting the school for 31 years. The event will include free activities such as face painting, kids activities, live music, a bounce house and a free barbecue pork and chicken lunch! The event will take place from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. with tours of the school on the hour from 10:30 a.m. For more information, please call 863-763-3072 or go to the website: www.Okeechobeechristianacademy.net.

Casino Royale VFW style

The Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528, Hwy 78 West., will have a "Casino Royale" on Saturday, **March 28**, from 6 until 10 p.m. There will be casino games, door prizes, a grand prize drawing, auction and food. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the less fortunate - receive \$5 play money. All proceeds will be donated to the "Children and Families in Need Fund." This event is open to the public.

Dine with the doctor

This month's "Dine with the Doctor" medical series presentation will take place at Raulerson Hospital on **March 31**. Dinner serving time is 4:45 p.m. and the doctors presentation will begin at 5:30 p.m. Have you ever wondered what happens in the Radiology Department? Do you know how the process works? If not, stop by for dinner and enjoy Alex Vennos M.D., Board Certified Radiologist, present the radiology process and describe the new State-Of-The-Art equipment at the hospital. Dinner is only \$5 for the entree', salad, rolls, dessert, and beverage. R.S.V.P. to Bill Casian at 863-824-2702 for a reserved seat.

Spring break at Lake Denton

Lake Denton Camp in Avon Park is having camp **April 1-7**. The cost is \$120. If your spring break is the last week of March, you will arrive April 1 (4-6 p.m.) and depart on April 5 (4-6 p.m.) If your break is the first full week of April, you arrive April 3 (4-6 p.m.) and depart Tuesday, April 7 (4-6 p.m.) Any questions contact Pam Elders at 863-453-3627 or 863-634-9280.

Autism support group holds bowling night

The Okeechobee Autism Support Group will hold a bowling night on Thursday, **April 2**, at 6 p.m. at Stardust Lanes. \$1.75 a game, free shoes, bumpers. For more information email okeechobeeautismsupportgroup@gmail.com.

4Hers, celebrity servers

The Okeechobee 4-H Bits and Spurs Horse Club's Mounted Drill Team will be "celebrity servers" at Golden Corral on **March 31** to 5 to 8 p.m. Tips given the servers will go to help pay for the team's entry fees and equipment.

Community Choir plans cantata

The Okeechobee Community Choir, in its 11th year under the direction of Sandy Perry, is rehearsing for the presentation of the Easter Cantata, Alpha and Omega at the First United Methodist Church on Second Avenue. The cantata will be presented Palm Sunday weekend, April 3, 4, and 5. For more information, call 863-634-7714.

Johnny DeRose in concert

The Okeechobee Shrine Club will have Johnny DeRose to perform on **April 4**. Johnny has performed all over the U.S. and has opened for The Platters, Dell Viking, The Drifters, Jay Black, The Chiffons and Liza Minnelli. Tickets are \$30 each and include dinner and the show. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the show will begin at 8 p.m. For tickets or information call 863-763-3378 or 863-697-2765.

Autism group holds meeting

The Okeechobee Autism Support Group will hold a meeting on **April 9**, at 5:30 p.m. Adult attendance only. For information and location, please call Johanna at 863-467-0841.

FOE 4137 hosts children's Easter party

The FOE 4137 Ladies Auxiliary, 9985 Hwy 441 North, will host a children's Easter party on Saturday, **April 11**, from 2 until 4 p.m. for children ages 0-16. Must be signed up by **April 4**. For further information call 863-763-2552.

Kiwanis to host annual Easter breakfast

Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee will once again host their annual Easter Morning Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, **April 12**, from 7 until 11 a.m. The breakfast will include Larson sausage, piping hot pancakes, fresh orange juice and Florida fresh milk. This year, the breakfast will be held at Cowboy's Restaurant and tickets are \$5. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Libby Maxwell at 863-763-1119.

Nutrition class to be held

Dr. Edward Douglas will teach a CRA Nutritional Analysis Class on Monday, **April 13** at 5:30 p.m. at Douglas Chiropractic and Fitness Center. For more information call 863-763-4320.

Everyday heroes needed!

Volunteer Guardians ad Litem give a voice to children who are victims of child abuse and are involved in court proceedings. The Guardian ad Litem Program will be offering free training for volunteers and new classes begin March 31. Training involves thirty hours and will be held at our Saint Lucie West office on various days. You can be that voice for an abused child! The Guardian ad Litem Program needs Volunteers to represent Abused - Abandoned - & Neglected Children in

Obituaries

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

David E. Ashley, 76

OKEECHOBEE — David E. Ashley, of Okeechobee, died Jan. 3, 2009. He was 76.

He was born May 22, 1932, in New Castle, Ind.

A memorial service will be held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 28, 2009 at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee. A light luncheon will be served following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Arrangements were entrusted to Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory.

Saint Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties! They deserve a voice! For dates and times of all training please contact Pattra Dodd at 772-871-7225.

Family Learning Event invites participants

The East Coast Migrant Head Start Project invites participants to attend a Family Learning Event planned for March 28, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Community Civic Center in Okeechobee, 1003 N.W. Second Street. The event will provide parents with information on Okeechobee community services. We are inviting Community Partners to come and join us to help local families. If your organization is interested in attending, please call Sharon Vinson for more information at 863-467-1822. Sign up for the event should be no later than March 24.

Honor for Veterans

The American Legion Post 64 is taking applications for names to be engraved into the Wall of Honor at Veterans Park. Submitted names will be added before Memorial Day with a cut off date of April 18.

The Wall of Honor is for veteran's discharged under honorable conditions, living or deceased. The cost is \$60 per name. Applications can be obtained at the American Legion Post 64 office or lounge. Applications must be submitted separately for each veteran. For further information, please call 863-763-2950.

Angel Pulido, 28

OKEECHOBEE — Angel Pulido, of Okeechobee, died Wednesday, March 18, 2009, in his residence. He was 28.

He was born Dec. 31, 1980, and has been a lifetime resident of Okeechobee.

He is survived by his father, Guadalupe Pulido Valdez; mother, Ester Ponce; and son, Noah Pulido, all of Okeechobee.

The family will receive friends from 4 to 7 p.m. today, March 22, 2009, and services will be 10 a.m. Monday all in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel. Father Lorenzo Gonzalez will be officiating and burial will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

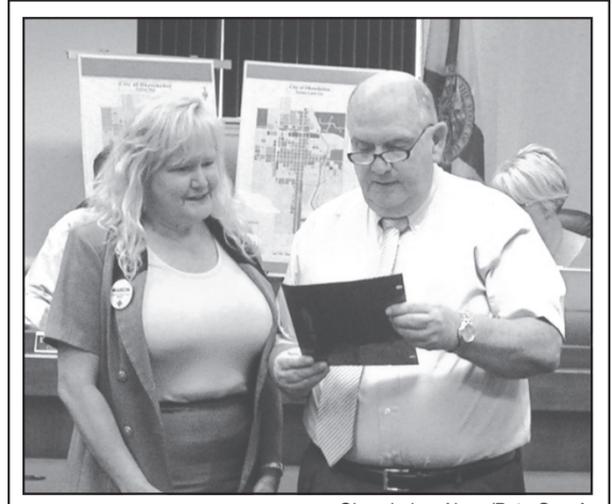
All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 1100 NEW 5th St., Okeechobee.



Okeechobee news/Pete Gawda

A quarter century of service

At the March 17, Okeechobee City Council meeting, Mayor Jim Kirk presented Assistant Fire Chief Billy Douglas with a certificate for 25 years' service to the city.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

American Red Cross Month

At the March 17, Okeechobee City Council meeting, Mayor Jim Kirk proclaimed the month of March to be American Red Cross Month in the city. He presented the proclamation to Debbie Riddle of the local Red Cross chapter.

Okeechobee splits tennis match with South Fork

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The boys tennis team continued their strong season Thursday with a tight 4-3 victory over South Fork. While the boys were winning in dramatic fashion, the girls squad lost an equally competitive match, 4-3.

Corey White and Zach Fowler again paced the boys team as they won their singles matches and then propelled their doubles partners to victories to decide the match.

White defeated Scot Leary in a one sided match, 6-2, 6-1. He then teamed with Alex Nielson to defeat the team of Adam Glenner and Ryan Weiss 6-0, 7-6 (7-3 in the tiebreak).

Fowler continued his strong season with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over

Glenner in singles. He then teamed with Max Norman to defeat the team of Trevor Brisky and Ryan Rhoades, 6-3, and 6-2.

South Fork took the other three singles matches. Sean Chagani defeated Nielson in a tight match, 7-6, and 6-3. Weiss defeated Norman 6-2, and 6-0. Brandon Howard took the fifth seeded singles match in impressive fashion 6-1, and 6-3 over Kyle Lunt of Okeechobee. Okeechobee is now 9-1 on the year. South Fork fell to 6-3.

The girls team lost for the second time in 10 decisions as they dropped three crucial singles matches.

Katie Tobin won the top seed match 6-2, and 6-3 over Kari Berger. Michelle Hook of South Fork defeated Shaina Ragamat 8-7, and 6-2. In the fourth seed match

Sarah Ferguson of South Fork defeated Katie Walker of Okeechobee 6-2, and 6-2.

Okeechobee won the three seed matches with Alisha Wilcox battling Lauren Brogan for a three set victory, 3-6, 6-1, and 6-3. Liz Turner took the fifth seed match over Christie Hall when Hall retired in the second set.

Tobin and Hook wrapped up the victory for the Lady Bulldogs with a victory in the first singles match 8-5 over the team of Berger and Walker. Okeechobee won the other doubles match behind Ragamat and Wilcox, 8-6.

The tennis teams are back in action Monday at the Okeechobee Sports Complex against Avon Park. Match time is 4:30 p.m.

Sports Brief

Tryouts planned for Firestix softball

The Firestix softball program will hold open tryouts on April 11, for girls ages 8 and under and 1 and under from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Okeechobee High School softball fields.

Try-outs for girls under 12, 14 and 16, will try out from 6-8 p.m. on April 11, at the same location.

An alternate tryout date has been set for April 13, from 6 until 8 p.m. for girls of all ages. It will also be held at the Okeechobee High School softball complex.

The Firestix are a travel softball team that plays throughout South Florida.

For more information please call Kim Hargraves at 863-634-6322.

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MidFlorida Federal Credit Union to move to old Captain D's

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A local bank will soon be moving to a larger location with drive through lanes.

With some contingencies, on Thursday, March 19, the City of Okeechobee Technical Review Committee gave final approval for the site plan submitted by MidFlorida Federal Credit Union.

The bank plans to move from their present location near Wal-Mart to the old Captain D's site at 1100 S. Parrott Ave. Engineer Kendall Phillips submitted plans for remodeling the existing 2,600

square foot building from a fast food restaurant to a bank with four drive through lanes, three for tellers and one for an ATM machine.

City planner Bill Brisson said almost everything met city codes. However, he expressed three areas of concern. He said the setback from the street was not adequate, the landscaping was not adequate and a lighting plan was needed for the parking lot. Mr. Phillips responded that since there was more than adequate parking, some parking spaces

could be eliminated to make a wider setback. He promised that the landscaping plans would be updated and said that an electrical engineer is working on the parking lot lighting.

City attorney John Cook was not present. Secretary Betty Clement was instructed to get an opinion from Mr. Cook if a pedestrian easement would be needed for a portion of the sidewalk that would be on the bank's property. Mr. Phillips said that would be no problem if an easement were required. Police Chief Denny Davis

expressed relief that the parking lot would not have an entrance from U.S. 441 South.

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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Submitted photo/Everglades Elementary

Students of the week

Everglades Elementary is pleased to announce the names of the students of the week for the week of March 16-20. Kindergarten students are: Madisen Cosme, William Grace, Kimberlee Marquis, Ian Hernandez-Alfaro, Cyla Jenkins, Jasmine Chapman, Alejandro Alvarez; first graders are: Jordin Bradley, Cody Wojcieszak, Tanner Adams, Saryna Boone; second grade students, Emily Hernandez, Ariel Eason, Docie Safewright, Brian Sell, Benjamin Williams, Gabino Lopez; third graders, Sarah Gabor, Alyssa Howard, Taylor Boatwright, Nate Nicoll, Annabella Ulysse, Nina Nunez; grade four students, Kaylie Yingling, Maria Bucio, Dionte Gardner and fifth grade students, Doris Alvarez, Kyla Andrews, Tyler Brown, Travis Farrenkoff, Karen Garcia. Congratulations to our many outstanding students.

Everglades Elementary School News

Kindergarten

Mrs. Moore's class enjoyed making a little face on a cup and planting some grass seeds in the cup. We will watch to see if our little person grows some "hair."

We made a bubble map with words that describe sunflowers (adjectives). Cyla Jenkins and Ian Hernandez-Alfaro have been our Students of the Week so far this month. We made Leprechaun hats and a puppet and looked for a pot of gold on St. Patrick's Day.

Mrs. Claypool's class had a pesky leprechaun visit her class this week. We brainstormed some ideas on how to catch him. The kids designed a box trap and caught him, but he broke through and ran away! He did leave some gold coins and cookies for the boys and girls! We are learning about graphs in math. It sure is fun, we graphed our "lucky charms!"

Mrs. Dodson's also had a "wee" visitor! He turned our chairs upside down and spread our puppets everywhere! We couldn't catch him, but sure had fun trying! We're do-

ing a fantastic learning in all of our subject areas, and our excellent behavior has earned us lots of cotton balls in the "Warm Fuzzy" jar! When we reach the top we'll have a party!

Ms. Hyde's class would like to wish our readers a "Top 'O The Morn!" We had a visiting Leprechaun this week who played tricks on us! We were lucky and caught him Monday night! Unfortunately our trap was not strong enough and he got away! Ms. Hyde is very proud of how much her students are reading! Parents, please listen to your child read our 100 Book Challenge books nightly—we are fantastic!

Mrs. Wright's class learned about the origin of St. Patrick's Day. We are learning the letter "Gg" by playing real guitars and tasting guava. There are only a few high frequency words left to learn.

Fourth Grade:

Mrs. Davis' class is busy using the EETT lap tops to research and build ecosystems. They are also learning that algebraic equations are really easy with "hands on" approach. Congratulations to Maria Bucio, and Haven Walters, our class Spelling Bee winner and runner-up!

Ms. Stokes class just completed "story wheels" as a review of Because Of Winn Dixie. We look forward to adding some Ag. In The Classroom activities to our science unit. Congratulations to Alexa Delgado our class Spelling Bee winner and our alternate Kaylie Yingling.

Ms. Damora's class is very busy choosing a science fair project. The students are working in groups of two to four and will do everything in class. We will be collecting all the materials needed for the different projects. Our Spelling Bee winner is Casey Adams and the alternate is Alexis Kelly.



Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

March 17, 2009

Cows		
Breaking	\$48.00	\$53.50
Cutter	\$43.00	\$53.50
Canner	\$30.00	\$45.00

Bulls		
1000-1500	\$54.00	\$61.00
1500-2000	\$54.00	\$64.00

	Monday	Tuesday
Calves	N	949
Cows	O	341
Str		16
Hfirs	S	16
Bulls	A	62
Yrlings	L	112
Mix	E	46
Total		1542

Med #1	Steers	Hfirs
150-200	125-210	130-205
200-250	115-145	95-125
250-300	110-127	94-104
300-350	107-121	87-99
350-400	106-115	87-92
400-450	105-114	82-93
450-500	98-107	80-88
550-600	97-100	78-84
600-650	94-99	76-77

Med #2	Steers	Hfirs
150-200	120-140	100-110
200-250	105-120	80-97
250-300	100-117	82-95
300-350	94-112	70-85
350-400	75-107	70-85
400-450	83-104	62-82

Small #1	Steers	Hfirs
220-235		
250-300		
300-350	102-115	
350-400	100-108	80-87
450-500		
550-600	0-0	

Cows and bulls sure sold better this week, up \$2-3. Lightsey Cattle Co. had a bull that weighed 2700#, bringing \$1,715 — you do the math! Calves sold good too. Some 500# steers were up to a \$1 a pound. Still, short supply is the main reason for good prices. High slaughter cow goes to Lightsey Cattle Co., Lake Wales, for \$55.50 bought by Central Packing.

High calf price goes to E L Partin Ranch, Kissimmee, for \$2.10 bought by Foy Reynolds Cattle Co.

White Farms, Chiefland, has 25-30 Brahman Bulls for sale, call 352-493-3322 if you need a Brahma Bull. We also have 10 Angus Bulls on hand. If you need an Angus Bull come by and take a look.



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Local contractor recognized for safety

Zenith Workers Comp Safety & Health Manager, Andy Tatum, recently traveled to the U.S. Sugar plant in Clewiston to deliver the Zenith Safety Award and congratulate Ted Acheson, president of American Welding & Design, based in Okeechobee, on his excellent safety record and commitment to keeping his employees safe. Zenith insures over 35,000 businesses' employees nationwide. "We only give a few of these out a year", said Mr. Tatum, a seasoned safety professional. "I wish we had more employers that cared as much about workplace safety as Ted."

Also on hand for the award were Manny Padilla, Safety Director and Mary Burris, Certified Work Comp Advisor, both from Pritchards and Associates, American Welding & Design's insurance agency and Chris Parker, Safety Manager for U.S. Sugar. Mr. Parker stated that, "Ted is definitely one of our very best contractors."



Submitted photo/Pritchards and Assoc., Inc.

From left to right are: Mary Burris, Manny Padilla, (Pritchards & Assoc.) Ted Acheson (American Welding & Design), Chris Parker (U.S. Sugar), and Andy Tatum (Zenith Insurance). Mr. Acheson was recently awarded the American Welding Safety Award.

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Seminole Elementary School News



Submitted photo/SEM
Jordan Bobrowski, of Seminole Elementary School, is working on a picture of a cabin in a forest. The cabin is made with stickers and the forest with the painting tool on Pixie 2 program. The program and the laptops were purchased with EETT grant money.



Submitted photo/SEM
Faith Davis in Mrs. Jordan's kindergarten classroom at Seminole Elementary School practiced using the painting tools in Pixie 2 on her laptop. The laptops and program were purchased with EETT grant money the school district received.



Submitted photo/OFC

Top 12
 On Thursday, March 12, the Okeechobee Freshman Campus held a drawing to determine the most recent Top 12 students for the 2008-2009 school year. The students were entered into the drawing if they received five positive signatures in the last three weeks. The winning students from the class of 2012 received a book or t-shirt and candy. In the top row from left to right are: Karli Rowell, Jen Ranftle, Tyler Baird, Jesus Castillejo. In the bottom row from left to right are: Jenny Draughon, Omar Alvarado, Zachery Clark, Brittany Runyon. Not pictured: Heather Abner, Jesse Oliver, Austin Hamilton, Erica Frederick.

Kindergarten

The kindergarten students are excited about their trip to the Children's Museum in Highlands County. The students have learned a b o u t many careers in reading and social studies. At the museum they will have an opportunity to pretend to be many different workers. They will also experience activities involving bubbles, musical instruments, and facing painting.



Mrs. Peterson's class had many students enjoy a popsicle for earning 75 stars in the Math superstar program. They were Jack Santamarina, Billy Bailey, Angel Gomez, Valek Martinez, Chris Roth, Nicki Schwendeman, Alberto Abreo, Justin Tellez, Annabella Cardoso, Audrey Johnson, Quannaisa Futch, Alexis Hernandez, Francisco Valdez, Luiz Reynoso and Zachary Collins. This week the students made bugs on a log and ate them. Jack Santamarina and Annabella Cardoso both have 150 steps in the 100 book challenge program. Congratulations to them!

Mrs. Jordan's students are using the program Pixie 2 on laptops. With the program the students are learning to use the drawing tools controlled by the mouse to draw and design pictures. Next, the students will learn to use the keyboard to write a sentence about their picture. The Pixie program and the laptops were purchased

through the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grant from the Department of Education. The project is entitled "21st Century Teachers in 21st Century Classrooms" and was designed to create classrooms with 21st century technologies and teachers who are trained to integrate that technology to reinforce Sunshine State Standards as well as 21st Century Skills. Mrs. Jordan's students are enjoying using the fun programs to learn important computer skills and communication skills.

Second

In Mrs. Perviss' second grade we are pretty sure that "Spring has Sprung!" We are full of energy and are ready to continue learning all about the world around us. We have explored the freezing temperatures of the Arctic and Antarctic Regions and now have made our way to the hot and dry desert. There are many different people and animals that call these places their home including wolves and the interesting spade foot toad. Who knows where we might end up next on our journey around the world or who we might meet? In math we are counting money. Family, could you please help me practice counting money by putting the coins in order from greatest to least? The students of the week for the month of February are: Ashton English, Jonathan Watson and Devin Ihle. Students of the week for the month of March have been, Jasmine Watkins and Jose Gonzalez. Congratulations students, for a job well done! Parents, please don't forget to read with me every night and sign my



Submitted photo/SEM
The students in Mrs. Jordan's kindergarten classes at Seminole Elementary School are learning to use the laptops and paint program purchased with EETT grant money. Mohammad Yousef used the Pixie 2 program to make a picture of a policeman standing by a tree. The policeman is a sticker that is enlarged and the tree and background were made with the paintbrush tool.

I want to go on a bowling trip at the end of the year. Mrs. Perviss hopes everyone in the class will be able to go.

Congratulations to Cristina Torres in Mrs. McClanahan's class for being the Student of the Week. Cristina loves to read. Congratulations also goes to Elyssa Rivera for being our Character Counts nominee for Caring. She is always the one in the class helping out others. Mrs. McClanahan's second grade class is learning about a desert habitat. Many students

were busy locating on the computer deserts from around the world while others were studying the unusual animals and how they survive. The class has been working with money by counting coins using a hundred chart and exchanging coins for objects. Fictional dialogue has been the focus in writing. The desert was the theme. It sure helped them recall those facts when they had to put it into conversation form. The class is now ready to take a trip to a desert!

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 <p>4001-M: BHR Mobile home completely furnished, screened patio, shed, boat dock and seawall. MLS# 201911</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WATERFRONT!</p>	 <p>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# 202216 \$109,000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BUCKHEAD RIDGE!</p>
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Community News in Brief

Help with electricity bills available

Are you over 60? Is your FPL electric service being disconnected? Are you low income? If the answer to those three questions is yes, please call Kim at Okeechobee Senior Services, 863-462-5180. We have additional EHEAP funds available.

Senior citizen help available

Are you over 60, need help with housekeeping or everyday activities? Are you low income? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, please call Kim at Okeechobee Senior Services, 863-462-5180. Additional Community Service Block Grant funds have been obtained and will be adding new clients to current programs.

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 <p>PRICE REDUCED</p> <p>FISHING PARADISE Park Model on a deep private canal. Turn Key condo unit, completely furnished. MLS #9442, \$124,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.</p>	 <p>PRICE REDUCED</p> <p>WATERFRONT PROPERTY. Well maintained DWMH. Many mature trees. Two nice sheds, fish cleaning station with dock. Large private well stocked captured lake. MLS #201995, \$89,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.</p>

 <p>LARGE WATERFRONT HOME. This lot has a canal on two sides of property. Mature oaks and a nice boat dock. Well maintained home and ready to move in. MLS #201606, \$150,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.</p>	 <p>VERY NICE SWMH. FL Room, two screened porches, two sheds, boat dock, fenced in yard. Painted white with drywall and vertical blinds. Aluminum Hurricane Shutters. MLS #202416, \$67,900. Call Vicki 863-634-4106.</p>
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Sometimes people don't like what has been written about them. In those cases, we offer a "right to reply" and allow them to tell their own side of the story.

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Central Elementary School News

Third grade

This week in Ms. Luchetta's and Mrs. Atwell's class, we are reading Carousels of Dreams. In math, we are reviewing division. In social studies, we are reading Time For Kids. In science, we are studying the water cycle. Congratulations to the Students of the Week! Thank you to all the students who tried their best on the FCAT.

Ms. DelPrete's class is working hard to make their AR goal. Students who meet it will enjoy a lunch at Golden Corral. Congratulations to Robert Padgett who has earned over 300 steps in 100 Book Challenge. Parents remember to initial the folders when your child reads for 15 minutes. Congratulations to Yiselt Pineda who represented our class in the Spelling Bee, and Congratulations to Juan Orozco and Ana Munoz for being students of the week.

Ms. Enfinger's third grade class; Please make sure your child reads for 15 minutes each day, aloud to an adult. It will help them become better readers. If they don't know a word tell them

and they can repeat it and go on. March 25- Student of the Week Luncheon, Writing Display Day March 26- end of the nine weeks March 27- Planning Day / NO SCHOOL April 1- Spring Photo Day April 3r Report Card Day and Field Day

We are making Tribe T-Shirt for field day, send a shirt in now, and I'll send it home for Field Day! Thanks! Mr. Paulson approved us for a field trip to Golden Corral for earning our goal with Accelerated Reader points. Talent show is coming up soon. Think about your idea for a great act this weekend! don't forget to read!

Miss Cowden's class is learning about the Solar System in Science and made a book that includes each planet. In Math, we talked about patterns and we are moving on to probability. We are anticipating Field Day, which this year has a Survivor theme. We have chosen the tribe name "Klamath" which means "people of the lake."

In Mrs. Snyder's Third Grade, we are so glad that FCAT is over



and feel confident that we all did a great job. The students are looking forward to their upcoming field trip to the Crystal Mines in Fort Drum. Parents make sure you sign and return those permission slips. We had two March birthdays, they included Rafe Edwards and Malcolm Chambers Happy Birthday boys I hope you had fun. Our Student of the Week so far for March are: Logan Selph-Dunn, and Hannah Morales. Way to go!

Fourth grade

The 4th graders at Central Elementary are getting ready for their Public Speaking Unit. Each classroom is working on reciting poems and memorizing articles

or readings to present in preparation for their public speaking or speech unit. Students are also working at their athletic running skills as Coach is working on his Hershey Track and Field Participants. Students are collecting Coins for Cancer as well as Collecting for Jump Rope for Heart. According to Mrs. Steiert, the school has already collected over \$3000 - WOW - Central's Students are so Generous!

Mrs. Pritchard would like to remind everyone that the yearbook for the 2009 school year is still on sale until March 30th. Buy yours today, extras will not be ordered, you must purchase it ahead of time -- just like the High School. Speaking of the High School - so many of our students are doing so well with Accelerated Reader and Success Maker, we think a few could skip Middle School and go straight to the High School. I believe almost 1/4 of the 4th graders will earn a trip to Golden Corral for finishing their A/R goals ahead of schedule. Parents, remember the third quarter is ending next week. Report Cards will soon be here.

And, Well Done to many of the 4th graders. Several Students from each class made it to the School Spelling Bee which was held last week. Seaira Moore from 4th grade will represent our school very well -- Congratulations Seaira.

In Mrs. Pritchard's classroom, Haiku Poetry was being created, jealousy was being discussed, and students found out what an electric pulsing fence could do -- and all of that is just from reading a book or two.

Several students made their A/R goals and were able to enjoy lunch at Golden Corral this past week and Happy Belated Birthday to Tsaggaris Olsen! Student of the Week was Zoe Miliron and Justice Talley, both girls show others how a person of character is to act. You know, true character is how you act when NO ONE is watching. What are your best character traits? What are the ones you should improve on? Don't forget to buy a yearbook!

Physical education

In P.E. students at Central are continuing with Hershey Track

Tryouts. Students are competing in the 200 and 400 M runs. Younger students are learning proper techniques to throw and catch objects. Students are gearing up for Central's Survivor Field Day to be held on Friday April 3rd. Students are also excited about the opportunity to SLIME Coach Spearow and Coach Eldred after successfully raising enough money for Jump Rope for Hear.

Mrs. LaFlam would like to congratulate Carmen Coreas and Gage Ingram for earning enough Gold Success Maker points to spend on prizes in the Computer Lab. Way to Go!!! Students just a reminder that there are still a lot of prizes to be bought so keep up the good work.

This week Kindergarten and First grade began using the lab during their specials time. Kindergarten went through an orientation and began learning how to log in with their logins and passwords. First grade worked in the Success Maker program. Mrs. LaFlam is so proud of all her students.

South Elementary School News

Gate, gorilla, guitar, girl, and goat all begin with the letter G! This is one of the letters Kindergartners learned this week. Another letter we learned this week was W. It won't be long and they will be able to identify every letter of the alphabet and the sound for each letter. When they know this, they can read almost anything. Kindergartners are still working on high-frequency words and being able to read them. The two words learned this week are "he" and "she." With all the high-frequency words learned so far, they can make some pretty neat sentences.

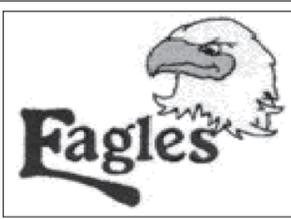
In math Kindergarten students are talking about graphing. They have had to use a picture chart and then graph how many students had stripes on their shirt and how many did not. They drew pictures of t-shirts to show the number of students and learned how to use tally marks for the number.

Third grade is recreating Whooville with clay, paint and posters for the upcoming Dr. Seuss Event. Students have read several of the famous author's books and practiced reading skills such as cause and effect, comparing and contrasting, facts vs. opinions and predicting outcomes.

The fourth graders are having lots of fun preparing for the Dr. Seuss celebration on March 31,

at 6 p.m. This week, they read 13 Dr. Seuss books and will be voting on their favorite book. Later, they will make a graph to plot the outcome of their findings and use their FCAT skills to find the mean, median, mode, and range for the data. Also, the students are working on a choral reading for the celebration. Parents will be able to view the students' work in the hallways. In math and science classes, the students are working on mastering their multiplication facts and discussing ways to preserve and conserve resources.

If you went to the Okeechobee Fair, you may have seen a booth set up from South Elementary. The theme was inventions. Kindergarten had read many Dr. Seuss books and decided to make up their own animal. Many of these projects were displayed at the fair for all to see. It was a lot of



fun to see our work and we hope you enjoyed them.

South Elementary's Spelling Bee was held on March 18. The students had studied, learning word groups and those odd words that do not follow any rules. It was evident that they were ready to vie for first place when three rounds were necessary to identify a winner, Mitch Mulholland. The next two contestants, Donnie Watson and Alex Figueroa, could not be separated and remained tied for second place. All three of these students will represent South El-

ementary in the District Spelling Bee which will be held on April 17. Other contestants in the South Elementary Bee were Jarrett Mills, Shane Merian, Savannah Hendrix, Nathan Allen, Cristian Rios, Michelle LaRowe, Hunter Mehrer, Elias Sowell, Chandler Pearce, Lorraine Caulan, Luis Leon, Nolan Carpenter, Clay Rogers, Rylie Norton, and Ryan Kasik.

March 27, is a Teacher Workday. No classes will be held for students.

March 31, is our PTO night to celebrate the culmination of Dr. Seuss month! Students at South Elementary have celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday all month and are excited to show the community some of the projects they have completed. Please come to South Elementary at 6 p.m. for an evening of exciting exploration.

Disaster assistance extended for producers

USDA extending buy-in waiver for those impacted by natural disasters

GAINESVILLE — The recently approved American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) allows producers to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill even if they did not previously obtain otherwise statutorily required crop insurance from the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 by now paying a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009.

"President Obama is providing an additional opportunity to producers who suffered losses as a result of natural disaster because they understand they are going through tough times and he acknowledges their importance in helping stimulate the economy and create jobs," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Paying such a buy-in fee does not provide the producer with crop insurance or NAP for the 2008 crop year; it merely permits the producer to become eligible for the 2008-crop disaster assistance programs.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.



Submitted photo/South Elementary

Students of the Week

The following students earned Student of the Week recognition at South Elementary for the week ending March 20: Alivia Ferrell, Piper Hans, Michael Simpson, Jestice Mond, Dallas Miller, Rebecca Rhoden, Joseph Rivera, Yesica Olvera, Cambell Platt, Armanni Gallegos, Elana Rodriguez, Evan Neal, Shermaine Hicks, Shelby Kirton, Merydian Causier, Minh Thy Nguyen, Kari Pope, Cheyenne Rhoden, Kiara Zetina, Taylor Hammack, Eva Vannoy, Ashley Arnold, and Shyane Adkins.

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<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>STYLED FOR FAMILY LIVING on Taylor Creek! 3/2/2 + Office CBS home w/ 2166 SF of living, French doors, Tongue & Groove Pine ceilings & Master Ste. Above Ground Pool, Tree House & Dock. \$174,000 Call Lori (863) 634-1457</p>	<p>NEW PRICE</p> <p>GREAT 3/2 HOUSE on Lake Access canal in Buckhead Ridge. Has living room and family room and extra room for shop, computer or whatever. Gorgeous location with seawall and dock. \$142,500 #215E Call Ron (863) 697-6221.</p>	<p>NEW PRICE</p> <p>LOOK NO FURTHER! 3/2/2 carport 1985 mobile home w/1456 TSF situated on captive lake w/stunning views to enjoy throughout the day, workshop, large enclosed porch, split plan, tip-top shape!!! NEW PRICE \$115,000 #417B Call Cindi (863) 697-0433.</p>
<p>NEW PRICE</p> <p>SEMINOLE COVE 2004 Homes of Merit 2/2 DWMH w/ 1404 SF of TLA in 55+ gated community. 6x8 Storage shed, Hurricane panels, Sprinkler System. Many community amenities. NEW PRICE! \$84,000 #206 Call Lori (863) 634-1457</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>THREE HALF ACRE industrial zoned lots, side by side on railroad. \$50,000 EACH. #308F Call Bill (863) 634-6797.</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>LIVE AND WORK HERE! 7000 + SF of warehouse and beautifully decorated 2/2 cottage. #313E Call Bill for details. (863) 634-6797</p>

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<p>"BRING THE WILDLIFE"</p> <p>CBS 3/1 west of town. Home updated in 1981. Tile flooring and counter tops including an eat-in bar in the kitchen. Open tiled porch. Gazebo w/kitchen and gathering area! New metal roof after hurricanes. #202455 \$115,000</p>	<p>"WANT LOW MAINTENANCE??"</p> <p>Nice two bedrooms. One and half bath. Home has stackable washer and dryer. New panel roof and wood fence on back porch. Located close to schools and shopping #202454 \$77,000</p>
<p>"NICELY CONVERTED"</p> <p>Cute 3/2 remodeled and converted mobile. C/AH with 2 back up window units. Nice FL rm overlooking canal. Seawall, covered dock and boat house. Would make a Great Retreat or home. #202461 \$90,000</p>	<p>"INCOME PRODUCING PROPERTY"</p> <p>Renovated Duplex in City Limits great for investment or live in one side and rent the other. Priced to sell!!! #202245 \$85,000</p>
<p>"GREAT CURB APPEAL"</p> <p>Homes of Merit on the water in Lakeport. Locks are located almost across the water from property. 3 bdrm, 2 ba, shed, screened porch, deck, shed, fireplace (wood) burning, fish cleaning station, seawall. Great for the fisherman. #202370 \$139,500</p>	<p>"WHAT A TREASURE"</p> <p>CBS 3/2/2 home with remodeled kitchen, new appliances and ceramic tile floors. lg pantry. Open concept with Great Room and cathedral ceilings. Upgraded carpet in living room and bedrooms. Lg screened back porch. #201066 \$250,000</p>

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Contact Telephone Numbers (863) 983-2150 or (863) 805-5450

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Baseball team wins district showdown

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Great pitching, solid defense, and execution on offense paced the Okeechobee High School Brahman baseball team to an old school 2-1 victory over Lincoln Park Thursday night.

The win put the Brahmans in first place in their district and gave them an excellent chance of getting the top seed in next month's district tournament.

"This was big for us. I applaud the kids for executing tonight, Lincoln Park is always a tough opponent," Brahmans Coach Dylan Tedders said. "Jonathan really wasn't feeling great today, he had a high fever, and we got a great effort from Cameron Tewksbury."

Crawford and Tewksbury combined on a three hitter to lead Okeechobee. Crawford' sacrifice fly in the sixth brought home the winning run.

Mike Minondo had two hits, including a triple, and made a nice running catch in left field. "I feel good about the win. We're first in our district, and are having a good year."

Minondo said it feels good to be able to contribute this year. He didn't get a lot of chances to play the field last year. This year he is getting more playing time and more at bats and has come through with some big hits.

"I've had some arm soreness, but I hope to get back on the mound and contribute soon," he said.

Lincoln Park actually took the lead in this game as they took advantage of Crawford's wildness in the top of the second. Trevor Alley, Brad Shea and Morgan Miller drew consecutive one out walks

against Crawford as he struggled to throw strikes. Crawford struck out Nicky McWilliams for the second out and appeared to be out of danger. However, Lincoln Park's ninth place hitter John Fairbanks dropped down a two out bunt down the third base line and beat the throw for an infield hit and an RBI. Crawford got out of further trouble when he got Gio Alfonso to foul out to first baseman Brice Buckner.

Okeechobee battled back to tie the game in the fourth as Crawford reached on a two out single and second. Cameron Tewksbury appeared to make the final out of the inning when he hit a high pop on the infield. Third baseman Morgan Miller lined it up but at the last second it bounced off his glove. Crawford reached third on the play. Minondo came up in a big spot and got a clutch single to center field to tie the score at 1.

"I just feel good about contributing to the team. I have swung the bat well," he said.

Crawford left the game in the fourth after he walked two batters. From there Tewksbury took over and looked like the Tewksbury who was the staff ace last year. He dominated the Greyhound lineup and easily worked out of a jam in the fourth. He worked around an error in the fifth and retired nine of ten batters at one point.

Okeechobee's offense got him a run in the sixth to send him home with a victory. They did it the old school way, a single, a sacrifice bunt, and a sacrifice fly. Dustin Stokes stayed hot with his second single of the game through the hole into right field. A terrible decision by catcher Nicky McWilliams to try and pick Stokes

off resulted in a throwing error. Stokes hustled down to second but barely beat the throw from right fielder Trevor Alley. Adam Tewksbury laid down a perfect sacrifice bunt to move Stokes to third with one out. Crawford then hit a routine fly ball to left that scored Stokes to give Okeechobee a 2-1 lead.

Things did get a little hairy in the seventh as Lincoln Park threatened to tie the game. An infield single and an error by Mark Weir appeared to ruin the Brahmans evening. Weir overthrew first on a ground ball by Alonso with one out. However, Brice Buckner hustled after the ball and threw a bullet to the plate. No one was covering the plate at first but Cameron Tewksbury heard the coaches and got to the plate in plenty of time to apply the tag for the second out of the inning.

Lincoln Park argued that Tewksbury dropped the ball at the plate but the argument appeared to have no merit. Sean Downing was running hard all the way on the play but was a sitting duck once Tewksbury covered the plate.

Tewksbury then retired Tim Frawley on a comebacker to the mound to end the game.

Okeechobee has now won three straight games and are 6-1 in district play. They are 8-6 overall. The Brahmans travel to Jensen Beach for another big district game on Monday. The boys will hold a double header next Friday at home against Suncoast. First game starts at 3 p.m.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Jonathan Crawford battled flu-like symptoms, but was good enough to keep his team in the game Thursday.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Brice Buckner awaits a pickoff throw to tag Jason Alley of LPA at first base.

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Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Adam Tewksbury catches a called third strike against Luke Stewart in the first inning of Thursday's game.

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