

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 41

Sunday, April 5, 2009

75¢ Plus tax

4th of July fireworks
may be cancelled
... Page 9



Central Elementary
hosts field day
... Page 14

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Lake Levels

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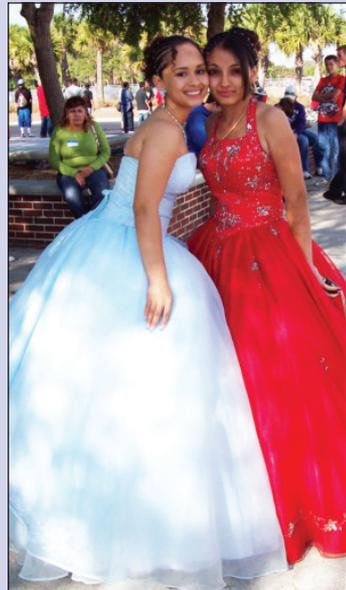
Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level

See Page 4 for information on how to contact the newspaper.

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Heritage Day: History and culture



Students and staff at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus recently participated in Heritage Day. Heritage Day is a celebration of the culture, history, and traditions of OFC students and members of the community. Artifacts and displays were presented by students and volunteers. Students performed dances and skits and offered food from various cultures. OFC staff members Kay Duke, Bobbie Ingram, and Yolanda Gomez worked tirelessly to make the day a huge success. (Top left) Dulce Cardoso and Pamela Tinajero show off their beautiful quincenera dresses. (Top right) Representatives from the Okeechobee Historical Society shared the history of local pioneers. (At left) Dowling Watford offers students a look at the life of a Civil War soldier. (Below) Florida cowboy Gordie Peer teaches OFC students about his tools of the trade.



Rainfall shortage brings water limits

Restrictions on water use in effect

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

When it comes to rainfall, it seems its either feast or famine in Florida. While some parts of the state are feasting, in the Okeechobee area we are in the midst of a famine with stricter enforcement of water restrictions likely in the near future.

The contrast in conditions was demonstrated on Tuesday night, March 31. Overnight the Okeechobee County Airport did not receive a measurable amount of rainfall. However, there were flood warnings Tuesday afternoon in north-eastern Palm Beach County. During the 24 hour period ending 7 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2.89 inches of rain fell in that area.

Unfortunately, east of I-95, when the flooding conditions were, there is no way to save excess rain water and it just drains to the ocean.

The contrast is felt in other parts of the state also.

"Rainfall varied widely throughout the state over the weekend, leaving areas in the Panhandle flooded while the central and southern peninsula still have high wildfire risk," Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles Bronson said in a

Palms for Palm Sunday: an Okeechobee story

Okeechobee man once made Palm Sunday services possible around the country

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The faithful in Okeechobee will be joining with other Christians around the world today in celebrating Palm Sunday.

According to the Associated Press, 640,000 palm fronds will be used today in Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopal and other churches across the country. Most local churches in Okeechobee gather their own palm fronds. Many of the palm fronds used in other parts of the country came from Guatemala and Mexico. However, there was a time when many of the palm fronds used in churches around this country came from Okeechobee.

Palm Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday before Easter to commemorate the tri-

umphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as recorded in Matthew 21. In some churches palm fronds are waved in a procession around the church and small crosses are made from them.

The following year, the palm fronds are burned and the ashes are used for Ash Wednesday services.

In 1941, John A. Abney, grandfather of John Wesley Abney, contractor and former county commissioner, began hiring Seminole Indians from January to April each year to gather the buds from the Sable palm, or the cabbage palm as it is commonly known. However, the business is more closely associated with Parker Abney, father of John Wesley Abney.

The bud of the Sable palm was cut with a hatchet or axe without harming the plant. They were gathered in bundles of 25 and loaded onto trucks to be shipped all over the country. About 60,000 palm buds were shipped out each year.

Most tribe members lived in chickees

and had no transportation so Parker Abney would come to Brighton every Saturday and pick up the bundles of buds. So great was their mutual respect there was no need to make sure each bundle had 25 buds or recount the bundles. Because of their close relationship three Brighton residents were named after the Abney family.

So great was the bond between the Seminoles and Parker Abney that on Dec. 20, 1969, the Seminoles, in recognition of his qualities of leadership and benevolence,

made him an honorary chief with the name Chief Dah-Lah-Moglo-Augee (Cabbage Palm Spikes).

John Wesley Abney continued the seasonal family business until 1996.

Editor's note: Some material in this story came from the book, "Strolling Down Country Roads, Okeechobee County, A Pictorial History" by Tivila Valentine and Betty Williamson and from Okeechobee News files.

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



Courtesy photo/Okeechobee Historical Society

For many years each spring Parker Abney, center, father of contractor John Abney, hired the Seminoles to cut palm fronds to be shipped to churches all over the country for Palm Sunday Services. With Mr. Abney are Billy Osceola, left, and Bill Osceola, right.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Rev. Loy Mershimer of Okeechobee Presbyterian Church will be joining with other ministers around the country and around the world in celebrating Palm Sunday today.



Courtesy photo/Betty C. Williamson

Many of the palm fronds used in Palm Sunday Services around the country in years past came from Okeechobee. For many years Parker Abney hired Seminole Indians to cut buds from Sable palms with axes or hatchets. These buds were gathered in bundles of 25, loaded on trucks and shipped all over the country.

The Okeechobee Community Choir

in its 11th year under the direction of Sandy Perry,
will present the

Easter Cantata

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Local man arrested after chase on ATV

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A man was charged with several felonies after he allegedly tried to run from a deputy on a four-wheel All Terrain Vehicle (ATV). Billy Cecil Bailey, 30, N.W. 33rd Ave., was arrested April 1, on felony charges of driving while license suspended - habitual offender,

attempt to flee and elude a law enforcement officer and possession of a controlled substance.

He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence.

Bailey was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$15,000. Jail re-

ords show that Bailey has been released on bond.

Records at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) indicate that Bailey was also arrested Thursday, April 2, on a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery. His bond on that charge was set at \$1,000 and he has since posted bond and has been released from jail.

An arrest report by OCSO Deputy Steven McKinley indicates that he saw Bailey riding a black ATV on N.W. 36th St. around 10:50 p.m. Wednesday. When he tried to stop the man, Bailey led Deputy McKinley on a chase that reached speeds of up to 50 mph, the report stated.

The chase finally ended when Bailey turned off the lights on the ATV, turned into a field and then overturned the 2008 Suzuki Quad Runner he was riding, stated the deputy. Deputy McKinley stated he placed Bailey under arrest after a brief scuffle.

Prior to transporting Bailey to jail, OCSO Deputy Corporal Paul Ferrell searched the man and reportedly found a 2 mg xanax pill in the man's pants pocket.

The deputy's report goes on to state that Bailey was issued traffic citations charging him with improper use of an ATV, driving while being a habitual traffic offender and possession of a controlled substance while operating a motor vehicle.

Teenager stabbed in fight

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man has been charged with stabbing another man during a March 28 fight in the Playland Park subdivision.

Ramiro Reyna, 18, N.W. 46th Terrace, was arrested Thursday, April 2, on a charge of aggravated battery. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$5,000.



Ramiro Reyna

Jail records indicated Friday that he had

posted bond and had been released.

Deputy Mark Shireman, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated in his arrest report that Reyna was charged with stabbing another 18-year-old man in the upper left thigh and buttocks.

According to the deputy's report, the victim was going to a party on N.W. 47th Terrace on Saturday, March 27. As he approached the residence several men in the driveway to the home "... began throwing gang signs at him."

A fight ensued and Reyna stabbed the victim, the report stated. Deputy Shireman said the victim was taken to Raulerson Hospital where his wounds were treated.

Stolen TV found in man's home

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local man was arrested after a search warrant was executed at his home and detectives found a television reportedly stolen in a March burglary.

William Thunder Ihle, 29, N.W. 30th St., was arrested April 1, on charges of dealing in stolen property and possession of ammunition by a convicted felon. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$15,000. Records show that Ihle was also arrested on a warrant for a civil family offense of desertion/withholding support. His bond is a cash purge of \$250.

Detective Marty Faulkner, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), applied for and received the search warrant on March 30. Then, along with the OCSO Special Response Team, he served the warrant at 7 a.m. Wednesday. During that search,

Detective Faulkner said a 46-inch Sony LCD television was found. That television, he continued, was taken in a March 24, burglary of a N.W. 84th Court home.

The OCSO detective arrested Emanuel L. Dunn, 23, N.W. 84th Court, on March 25, in connection with that theft. Dunn was charged with grand theft and filing a false report to law enforcement. He was booked into the county jail in lieu of \$4,000 bond.

According to Detective Faulkner, Dunn allegedly stole the television and several other items then took them to Ihle where he traded the property for 20 to 30 roxycodone pills.

Detective Faulkner said Ihle did not take part in the burglary.

While searching Ihle's home Wednesday, the detective said two 9 mm bullets were found in the man's bedroom closet. Because Ihle is a convicted felon he cannot have a firearm or ammunition in his possession.

Okeechobee's Most Wanted

The following 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.



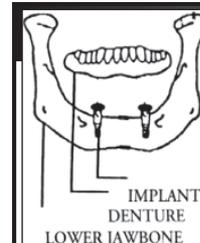
Benji Sanders



Pedro Gonzales

Benji Sanders aka Juan Tapia, 33, FTA-Poss Cocaine

Pedro Gonzales, 46, FTA - Manufacture Marijuana, Poss. Marijuana W/I To Sell, Trafficking Cannabis more than 25lbs, No Bond.



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 T.A. Aliapoulios, D.D.S. Lic. #DN1847	 Wade B. Harrouff, D.D.S. Lic. #DN10761	 Jonathan M. Royal, D.M.D. Lic. #DN12061	 Salvatore V. Melita, D.D.S. Lic. #DN8575
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Public Forum/Speak Out

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!

Taxed enough already

• Instead of giving the stimulus money to the businesses, they should just let us keep our tax money so we could stimulate the economy by paying our bills.

• Tax his land, Tax his bed, Tax the table at which he's fed. Tax his tractor, Tax his mule, Teach him taxes are the rule. Tax his work, Tax his pay, He works for peanuts anyway! Tax his cow, Tax his goat, Tax his pants, Tax his coat. Tax his ties, Tax his shirt, Tax his work, Tax his dirt. Tax his tobacco, Tax his drink, Tax him if he tries to think. Tax his cigars, Tax his beers, If he cries, tax his tears. Tax all he has then let him know that you won't be done, till he has no dough. Then tax his coffin, Tax his grave, Tax the sod in which he's laid. Put these words upon his tomb, "Taxes drove me to my doom..." When he's gone, do not relax, It's time to apply the inheritance tax.

• Congress says it is looking into this Bernard Madoff scandal. It seems ironic that the guy that made \$65 billion disappear should be investigated by the people who made \$750 billion disappear. The economy is so bad that:

- CEO's are now playing miniature golf.
- Even people who have nothing to do with the Obama Administration aren't paying their taxes.
- Hotwheels and Matchbox stocks are trading higher than GM.
- People in Beverly Hills fired their nannies and learned their children's names.
- A truck of Americans got caught sneaking into Mexico.
- The most highly paid job is now jury duty.
- Dick Cheney took his stockbroker hunting.
- Motel Six won't leave the light on.
- The Mafia is laying off judges.

Okeechobee News changes to new compact format

• I like the new format -- I was afraid that it would have less room for stories and photos but the first two papers in the new size seem to have more stories and photos than the old format papers did. It seems every time I turn on the TV they are talking about another newspaper going out of business in this country. I am glad our local paper is finding a way to make it work and stay in business.

• I think it's much better. In fact I have been wishing for ages that all the papers would publish in the smaller sizes. With normal size papers, it seems one spends half their time flopping and arranging the thing so they can read it.

Want government assistance? Say no to drugs

• I think Florida should adopt the rule that some other states have, that in order to receive any government assistance, you have to pass a drug test. The people who work in many government jobs have to pass a drug test. The people accepting our tax money as government assistance should prove they are not using it to buy and use illegal drugs.

• I just heard on the news, Florida is implementing an on-line drug data bank that will track prescription fills/refills and compare to physician names. Long, long overdue. This will cut down on so much prescription abuse. There are going to be some very unhappy pill poppers out there before long.

• It might affect regular people but it won't affect veterans who get theirs filled by the VA, but there is a problem with the vets also. Some of them sell their pain medication prescriptions, last time I was in they checked me to see just how much of the prescriptions were in my system. If you don't have close to the correct amount of the prescribed drugs in your system, then your suspect of selling them.

• There are a lot of people on public assistance who just need a little help due to the economy. I think it would be degrading to make them take drug tests. That is like accusing them of being drug users. They are embarrassed enough already having to ask for help.

Teachers losing jobs

• I think that if a teacher is cut, it should be because of repeated poor performance.

• They most definitely need to start with administration but they won't. They'd rather take from the poor people. Those one year to three year teachers are the least paid.

• Administration in the schools also have a full plate they just don't sit behind their desks and look pretty. They are in charge of every operation in the school facility, if something goes wrong they have to answer to a higher up. If you haven't been in any of their shoes I wouldn't be saying to much. If everyone wants to help they need to flood the legislature with emails and phone calls like Candy said in the paper. Also when the amendments come up at election time like the savings on your property taxes VOTE NO because you don't see anymore money anyway.

• If they want to save money, I think they need to look at the "double dippers" who are already getting a pension plus a paycheck. The teachers who are being let go appear to be those at the low end of the pay scale anyway.

• I thought it was interesting that the page one story in the paper had the "official" version of what happened, quoting what the school officials said about it. But the opinion page had the frank letter from Candy Walker that told the rest of the story. The public has the right to know what is really going on. I'm glad Mrs. Walker took the time to write that letter.

Pro-Life t-shirt worn to school

• No matter which side of this issue you're on, it appears the High School dress code give the administration a lot of wiggle room in the interpretation, "Inappropriate dress may include, but is not limited to." Judging by the controversy stirred up in this discussion, by both sides, it would seem the shirt is controversial and possibly disruptive. That is why it probably should not have been worn to school.

• I wonder if the reaction to the T-shirt would have been different if it just said something like "Adoption -- the loving option," or just "Pro-Life." Apparently the administration thought "Abortion is murder" on a shirt was too extreme for school.



File photo

The Okeechobee County Courthouse

County lays off workers

• Instead of cutting people's jobs, why doesn't the county cut back on some of its projects like all that money they are spending on the old county courthouse. The place has been there since the 1920s. It could wait a little longer for renovations. I think the county needs to rethink how they spend their money.

• I think the county commissioners should donate part of their salaries to help out with the budget. They all have other jobs.

• All you people who thought it was such a great idea to change the homestead exemption because you thought you would pay less in property taxes, well I hope you are happy. We have to lay off county workers and teachers because there is not enough money in the budget. When you wonder why you can't find anyone to help you at the county offices or why your child's classroom is so crowded, just take a look in the mirror.

• Nothing against the people who lost their jobs, but I think it is obvious that during the building boom we needed more people in the building department, and now there is not much construction going on, we don't need as many workers there. There aren't as many permits to process, construction to inspect, etc. So even if the budget weren't so short on funds, it would still make sense to let some of those people go. Even in good times, there is no sense spending tax money for someone to just sit around with no work to do.

• I am wondering if the county needs so many people in administration spots. Those salaries seem to be pretty high. Maybe we could save money there.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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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.

MEMBER OF:



Letter to the Editor

Gethsemane Ranch has a different kind of rodeo

So, you keep seeing stories written about Gethsemane Ranch and I'm sure you are wondering, "what is this place anyway?" Well, let me tell you a little something about it.

My first time out to visit was in September of 2007 and I am telling you the honest truth that my life has not been the same since. At my first visit, there happened to be a rodeo going on. Little did I know this was a youth rodeo ministry and I would be encountering more rodeos than I could ever imagine.

As I watched the kids run barrels and poles, rope and finally ride bulls, I noticed that this was much different than any other rodeo I had ever been to. The music filled the air with its angelic harmonies.

There were no attitudes when the contestant didn't do as well as planned. All involved cheered each other on as if they weren't competing against each other. To top all that off, as a young bull rider fell and was having trouble getting up, a group circled around

him, not to call him names and tell him to get up, no, they gathered to pray over him that he rise without injuries.

I thought to myself, "there is something truly extraordinary going on out here." I was fascinated, and needless to say I have been out there two to three times a week since. Who knew that one day would change my life forever?

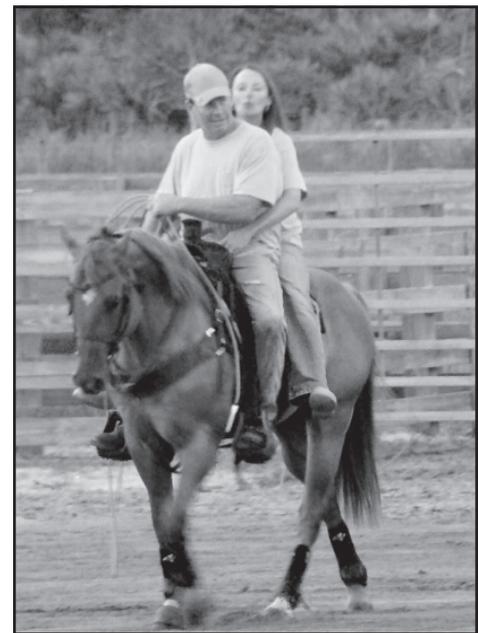
It all started with the vision of God and the obedience of a truly devoted servant, Mr. Jesse Jones. And, he doesn't come alone—his magnificent wife Karen stood by him, completely committed to the purpose. What is the purpose you ask? The purpose of Gethsemane Ranch is to "provide a place for the encouragement of today's youth, to establish solid values and beliefs, and to become settled firmly in our Christian character. Our hope is that together, through team work and dedication, looking to Christ as our example, we will carry the champion spirit into all areas of our life. In our common bond of love for God's creation and his creatures, in a cowboy lifestyle we Press Toward These Goals.

As it says in Philippians 3:14 "I Press On Toward The Goal To Win The Prize For

Which God Has Called Me Heavenward In Christ Jesus." Never have I seen devotion, determination and sacrifice to make a difference done with such a humble spirit as Jesse and Karen. And while this all started with their perseverance, they are not alone. Many, just like myself, have found their way to serve a new purpose and make a change in their life.

What was once a small group gathered for church has now flourished into a large family. That is what we are — family. We are there for each other, through it all, encouraging one another and most importantly we are all there to help with what was a vision given by God to Mr. Jesse and to learn ourselves what it means to truly be a servant of God. I would like to thank Jesse and Karen for their utmost devotion and for the love that they have shown. Not just to me, but to all those who have entered the gates at Gethsemane Ranch. There are a lot of events and happenings throughout the year and we would like to welcome you to visit the website for more information and schedules. See it at www.gethsemaneranch.com.

Cherish Pilgrim



Submitted photo/Cherish Pilgrim
On the horse are Mr. Jesse and Karen Jones, founders of Gethsemane Ranch.

Reflections from the Pulpit

Get Your Own Dirt

By Rev. Ed Skiba

Chaplain, Big Lake Hospice

Many people I have talked to lately are very concerned about our economy, immigration, foreign influence in our society and a general change in the image of the USA in the world. Some foreign nations want to see us thrive because they depend on us for support, both financial and moral. Others want to see us fail utterly; some for ideological reasons and others out of sheer jealousy. My concern is that the patriotism and dedication that has brought us this far, through wars both active and cold, and through financial up and down turns, that patriotism is not as deeply rooted as it was in "the greatest generation" that saw us through WW II and Korea. I'm afraid that our younger folks have fallen into the deception that tells them that everyone thinks the same way we do and

we just have to sit down and talk with our perceived enemies to convince them that we just want to "live and let live."

I'm afraid the forces of evil that we face today will not settle for that compromise. They will only be happy when we are gone and they are in total control. Scripture admonishes us to be "wise as serpents, and gentle as doves." (Matthew 10:16) In the realm of international politics we need to seriously heed that admonition. A wise old country gentleman once told me ... "I only trust two people, me and momma, and I ain't real sure about momma."

Our trust has to be in our Creator, in the shed blood of Jesus, or our trust is misplaced. You can agree or disagree with that statement as you choose. Acts 4:12 says ... "for there is no other name (Jesus Christ) under heaven by which we must be saved." Man in his pride would like to think that by being a "good person" he can save himself. In the early 1990s I was a chaplain on "death

row" at Union Correctional in Raiford, Florida. The Lord allowed me to talk with men that had committed the ultimate act of violence against their fellow human beings ... murder. In my time with them, I grew to see that they had a sense of shared experience and that they were actually "good" to each other. I wonder how their "good" actions will stand up before a just God at the final judgment? Unless they have appropriated the shed blood of Jesus Christ as an atonement for their horrific action and have true repentance in their hearts, I shudder to think of their eternal fate.

I'm reminded of the panel of scientists that decided they had advanced in knowledge and ability to the point that they no longer needed God. The senior scientist, a gray bearded old evolutionist, was chosen to go to God and tell Him that He could retire. He approached the Creator with a sort of smug attitude and made his announcement. The Great I Am stroked His white beard and

answered the scientist with a contest; a challenge of sorts. He said, "before I retire, let's have one last test. Let's each make a man, a living human being." The scientist very confidently smiled in agreement and reached down for a large clod of dirt to begin when the Almighty interrupted him and said, "Oh no my child, you must get your own dirt!"

No matter what may be happening in the natural world, we know who is really in charge. The next time you are upset by the circumstances taking place in our society, pray the Blood of Jesus over them and remember where your trust needs to be. In the One who created the heavens and the earth, put the stars in the sky and breathed life into your soul.

My "life verse", Proverbs 3:5-6 says: "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." Blessings.

KOA announces Sixth Annual 'Come Kamp and Care with Us'

Hundreds of Kampgrounds of America (KOA) across the U.S. and Canada are preparing for their 6th Annual "Come Kamp and Care With Us" weekend event, May 8 and 9.

Campers who make reservations at participating KOA Kampgrounds pay for only Friday, May 8, and camp for free on Saturday, May 9, at nearly 400 participating KOA Kampgrounds in North America.

Each KOA Kampground holds its own fundraising activities on the campgrounds that include auctions, crafts and games.

"We look forward to this weekend in May, when we begin the camping season with an affordable event that brings families

and friends together in safe, healthy, outdoor settings. It allows all of us to contribute to a program that means so much for these deserving kids who are facing the fight of their lives," said Shane Ott, KOA president and COO, in a new release. Ott is also on the board of directors of Camp Mak-A-Dream, a KOA Care Camp in Missoula, Montana.

KOA Care Camps are a network of 41 independent, specialized camps for children under treatment or in recovery from cancer, and their siblings. "Helping kids experience the camaraderie and fun of the outdoors with other cancer patients is in complete alignment with the mission of KOA, the goals of our KOA Owners Association, and is

the very nature of what we do," says Ott.

The KOA Owners Association created the KOA Care Camps Trust in 1984 and raised \$8,000 that year. In 2008, the KOA Care Camps Trust's total donation was just over \$250,000, from the combined efforts of

nearly 14,000 camping families who stayed more than 32,000 nights at 370 KOA locations, along with matching funds from the KOA Holdings board of directors.

A list of participating campgrounds is available at KOA.com.

Public Issues Forums: Join the discussion!

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Community Events

Masonic Lodge holds breakfast

The Masonic Lodge, 107 N.W. Fifth, will hold an all you can eat breakfast on Sunday, **April 5** from 8 until 11 a.m. Tickets are \$6 each and menu consists of eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee. The public is welcome.

Church to host concert

Buckhead Ridge Baptist Church will host Stan Shuman in Concert, Sunday, **April 5**, 11 a.m. Stan Shuman is an internationally known singer/song writer. He was formerly with Jerry and the Singing Goffs, Naomi and The Segos. He is currently with Danny Funderburk and Mercy's Way. Stan has written for The Kingsmen, Gold City, The Anchormen, and many more! His product will be set up for you to view and purchase. Everyone is welcome! Buckhead Ridge Baptist Church is located on Hunter Road, one mile on the left after turning at the Sunoco Station in Buckhead Ridge. For information, contact Pastor Richard Postell, 863-763-3442 or 863-634-6792.

Blood drive Sunday

The Big Red Bus Bloodmobile will be at Golden Corral today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Blood donors are needed to maintain a safe blood supply in area hospitals. The need is so great that currently there is a 24-hour turn around meaning blood donated one day is often needed for a patient within 24 hours. Since blood testing and processing takes about 18 hours, the situation could easily become critical. If you have questions about blood donation, visit the blood drive and speak to the medical personnel there.

Red Cross to hold 'Health and Safety' classes

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will be holding the following Health & Safety classes in April:

- Tuesday, April 7-Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m.;
- Monday, April 13-Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 21 - First Aid Basics at 6 p.m.
- Saturday, April 25 - Adult/Infant/Child CPR/AED & First Aid at 9 a.m.

All classes are held at their Service Center, located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

Autism group holds meeting

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

Early Learning Coalition meeting

Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee Counties, Inc. – Okeechobee County Provider Meeting; Advisory Council Meeting at conclusion of provider meeting Wednesday, April 8, at noon at the American Red Cross, 323 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee.

It's Honey Baked Ham time!

Okeechobee Main Street is offering Honey Baked Hams for Easter. Spiral hams, boneless hams, whole smoked turkey breast, side dishes and desserts! Orders must be placed by Wednesday, **April 8** for pickup on Friday, April 10. Call 863-763-2225 or 357-6246 to place your order or if you'd like to be emailed a complete list of items available.

Area Agency on Aging to meet

The Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. is planning its upcoming monthly Board of Directors Executive Committee meeting, to be held at the Area Agency on Aging, 4400 N. Congress Ave., West Palm Beach, on Thursday, **April 9**. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. Contracts requiring the expenditure of funds are a regular agenda item of this meeting. Please call Vivian Pfau, Area Agency on Aging, at 561-684-5885 for more information.

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. Children must be signed up in advance. For further information call 863-763-2552.

Parks and Rec holds egg hunt

The Parks & Recreation Department and Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), will host an Easter Extravaganza on Saturday, **April 11**, from noon until 3 p.m. The event will take place at the Rec Park at 350 NW Sixth Ave., between Los Cocos and the Skate Park. There will be an egg hunt for three separate age groups starting at noon. There will be lots of games and treats for free. For more information call 863-763-6950.

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.

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. This is the major fundraiser for the Kiwanis Scholarships. Advanced tickets are available at Syble's Flowers. Please call J.D. Mixon at 863-634-1778 for information on being a sponsor or purchasing tickets.

Support group hosts seminar

The Okeechobee Autism Support Group will hold a teacher/counselors/supporters seminar on **April 15** at 3 p.m. Contact Cathleen Blaire for more information at 863-462-5000 ext. 256.

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.

Irene Mae Adkins, 84

OKEECHOBEE — Irene Mae Adkins, of Okeechobee, died Wednesday, April 1, 2009, in her residence. She was 84.

Born March 27, 1925, in Bloxom, Va., she had been a resident of Okeechobee for the past 15 years and was of Baptist Faith.

She enjoyed flowers and her family.

She is survived by her husband Everett Adkins of Okeechobee; Becky Rasmussen (Danny) of Parksley, Va.; Reny Taylor of Bloxom, Va.; Alisa B. Durham of Okeechobee; grandchildren, Virgil Wessells (Anne), Renee Crockett, Jenee Taylor, Amy Borum (Stanley), Danny Chris Rasmussen, Michael B. Durham, Candace D. Salmons (Adam), Carri D. Pippin (Nate), Kyle Durham, Rachel Durham; and 11 great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends today from 4 to 6 p.m. and services will be 11 a.m. Monday in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Al Padgett officiating. Interment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

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

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Agriculture census shows increase in area farms

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson said while the rest of Florida's economy slumps, the numbers of farming operations in the state are growing.

The 2007 Census for farms, released earlier this year, showed an increase of 35 agriculture operations in Glades County, and 28 more agriculture operations in Okeechobee County, since the last census in 2002.

A survey from the United States Department of Agriculture shows the number of farms increased from 44,081 to 47,463.

Commissioner Bronson said agriculture isn't making the money they used to, and that young people aren't staying on the land as much anymore. He did predict that the future of Florida agriculture looks strong.

The number of farms, agriculture jobs and total sales has substantially risen in the past five years, but other economic pressures have made farming less profitable, Mr. Bronson added.

Florida ranked seventh in the nation in overall sales. They were first in oranges and grapefruit, foliage and squash. The state is also second to Kentucky in horse sales and second to California in various vegetable

sales.

The Ag census showed Okeechobee had 656 farms, an increase from 638 in 2002. The number of acres in farm use is down from 392,495 in 2002 to 338,357 in 2007. The average size of an Okeechobee farm dropped from 615 acres to 516 acres.

The census showed the market value of production on the farms rose from \$144.3 million to \$177.6 million between 2002 and 2007. Crop sales accounted for 25 percent of those numbers, just under \$44 million. Livestock sales made up 75 percent of the market value, or just over \$133.6 million.

Okeechobee was ranked 14th out of 67 counties in the total value of agriculture products sold, and 410 among all of the counties in the nation, some 3,079.

Milk accounted for just over \$103.7 million, cattle and calves just over \$141 million, and land used for hay, grass and other feed accounted for just over \$13.4 million. Harvested sod accounted for \$3.8 million.

Okeechobee was number one in Florida counties in Dairy products from cows, and in cattle and calves inventories. They were ranked 52nd in the nation in dairy products and 67th in the nation on cattle and calf inventories.

The census stated the average age of the

primary operator of Okeechobee agriculture operations was 57 years. A large majority of these owners, over 90 percent, were white.

The census in Glades County showed 311 farms in 2007 and 231 in 2002. The number of acres used for farming dropped from 407,950 to 402,478 over that five year period. The average size of farms in Glades County dropped from 1,766 acres to 1,294 acres.

The market value of production increased from \$72 million to \$85.3 million. Crop sales, \$59.2 million accounted for 69 percent of the production and livestock sales, \$26.1 million, accounted for 31 percent.

The census showed that cattle and calves accounted for \$55.6 million, sugar cane for sugar just over \$25 million, oranges and citrus just over \$9.4 million, and fruits, tree nuts and berries, just over \$32.3 million. The majority of principal operators were male, 261 of 321, and the average age was 57.5 years. 461 of the operators were white.

Mr. Bronson reported that net earnings across the state for agriculture operations fell from 40 percent in 2005 to 22.1 percent in 2007, "This means that our farmers are working harder for less return. We're not making quite as much money as we were but were still making money, we know we're going to face the same economic issues as anyone else. We've just been able to do it with less heartache than some sectors in the country."



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Spring dancing!

On March 20, Palm Village Ranch (Okeechobee's best kept secret) held a multi-park Spring Dinner Dance raising, \$500 for Martha's House. More than 155 guests attended this gala event, representing Oasis, Heritage, Blue Cypress, Starlite and Palm Village Ranch, as well as Lakeshore Title and Okeetantie Title. In addition to a marvelous dinner, guests were entertained by Anne-Marie Lapointe and Gaetan Chenard who performed Canadian clogging, Jerry Proulx who sang and played his guitar and Nathalie Lockhead, who serenaded the group with a French Canadian folk tune. The evening was complete with Line and Couples Dancing lead by Jeanne April who teaches at many parks. Everyone had a grand time and hope to enjoy more inter-community events next season.

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AIDS cases increase in 2008

Not counting inmates in the state prison, 28 AIDS cases reported in county

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

You are more likely to survive AIDS than ever before, and despite a slight increase in the number of cases in Okeechobee County last year, health officials are encouraged that more people are actually getting tested, and taking steps to protect themselves.

Linda Gordon with the State Health Department compiles the annual HIV/Aids Surveillance Report in District 15. She reported 116 cases of AIDS in Okeechobee, an increase of four cases from 2007.

The report shows 71 of the Okeechobee residents who have AIDS have died since the statistics started being kept.

The latest report said 31 white residents, 60 black residents, and 21 Hispanic residents have or have died from the disease. The most common ages are between 20-29 which had 19 cases, 30-39 which had 29 cases, and 40-49 which had 32 cases. "Four more cases isn't something to be alarmed about," Ms. Gordon said, "I don't mean to trivialize it, but there are fewer younger people infected, I think the word is out to get tested."

The most common way of getting AIDS is through sexual relations. Twenty-four residents contracted it that way. Fifteen of the cases were related to injection of intravenous drugs. In 31 cases, health officials were not able to determine the risk factor involved.

In Okeechobee County 61 percent of those with AIDS are males. That compares to a 74 percent rate in the nation and a 76 percent rate in Florida.

Ms. Gordon said for the first time the figures in 2008 were available for the county excluding inmates at the Department of Corrections prison. She stated that this gives a more accurate picture of what is really happening in the community.

The report said excluding the prison, there are 28 HIV cases currently in Okeechobee County. 61 percent of those cases are black residents. 56 percent of the HIV cases were men.

Ms. Gordon said the health department still pushes hard for young people to get an AIDS test. She noted there have been major improvements in AIDS drugs. The disease is now considered more of a chronic disease than a fatal disease. She noted the economy also has an impact on the treatment of AIDS.

"Homeless people provide complications because they often don't get the diet they need and can't always take the prescriptions, that is a growing problem," she noted.

Ms. Gordon added that the health department will continue to push people to get AIDS tests. She noted a concerted effort is made to get out into the community and raise awareness about Aids tests. She said they have also increased their community outreach and advertising, even leading billboards on the Treasure Coast.

"We are putting an emphasis on knowing your HIV status, the message is getting out," she said.



Submitted photo

Fair prize winner

Jeri Wilson of Pristine Properties won the Reach FM Prize Pack drawing at the Okeechobee County Fair and presented by Reach FM Community Relations Rep Debi Large.

Ricardo J. Quintero-Herencia, MD



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Man arrested after low-speed chase

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A Buckhead Ridge man was arrested early Friday after a brief low-speed chase from that town into Okeechobee County.

Tracy Lee Bronson, 39, 10th St., was arrested April 3 on felony charges of fleeing and attempting to elude a law enforcement officer and driving while license suspended. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence.

Because Bronson was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail Friday.

Deputy Corporal Paul Ferrell, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), stated in his arrest report that Deputy Sergeant Steve Wikert, of the Glades County Sheriff's Office (GCSO), contacted him at 2:23 a.m. about a van being stolen in Buckhead Ridge from a 10th Street address.

At 2:31 a.m. OCSO Deputy Sergeant Robert Staton tried to stop the vehicle in the 9100 block of S.R. 78 W. It was learned later that Bronson was driving the vehicle. Cpl. Fer-



Tracy Lee Bronson

rell indicated in his report that Bronson refused to stop and continued driving toward Okeechobee at speeds of about 40 mph.

Cpl. Ferrell stated that the van was finally forced off the road in the 1600 block of S.R. 78 W.

The OCSO corporal went on to state in his report that he and OCSO Deputy Steven McKinley then approached the van and found all of its doors to be locked. They also saw Bronson sitting in a chair in the back of the van, apparently drinking a beer, added the report.

When Bronson refused to unlock the vehicle's doors, Cpl. Ferrell broke a side window to gain entry. At this point the man tried to get to the driver's seat, despite orders for him to surrender, stated the report.

The OCSO corporal then fired his taser. One barb struck Bronson in the stomach and the other hit his right hand. At this point, he was placed under arrest.

Fourth of July fireworks may be cancelled this year

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Unless a benefactor steps forward very quickly, there will be no Fourth of July fireworks in Okeechobee this year. For the past 18 years the Okeechobee Jaycees have sponsored the fireworks. According to Mark Branel, who has headed up the fireworks project for several years for the Jaycees, hard economic times have forced the Jaycees to drop their sponsorship of the event. For the past several years the county has donated \$10,000 for fireworks and the use of either Okee Tantee Campground and Marina or the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center. This year the county did not contribute toward the fireworks and other sources of donations have dried up also. In years past the City of Okeechobee contributed \$1,000. This year they did not budget for fireworks.

However, the Jaycees are hoping some

individual or organization will step forward to make the fireworks happen. They will have to act fast, though. Mr. Branel said he has been in contact with the Zambelli fireworks people they have dealt with in the past. While no deadline was set for making a commitment, the Jaycees were told the fireworks season is fast approaching and some sort of commitment must be made soon. Also a suitable site would have to be secured. Mr. Branel said that \$20,000 would put on a good fireworks show. The minimum amount needed would be \$15,000. He said that anything less than that amount would not make a fireworks display worthwhile. Mr. Branel will be happy to share his fireworks information with anyone wishing to tackle the project. He can be reached by calling 634-7021.

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

Real ID Act makes it harder to get a drivers license

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

While the changes went into effect in October 2008, many have not had to have an encounter with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to get a new driver's license. It isn't as easy as it used to be thanks to the Real ID Act.

The purpose of the Real ID Act is to strengthen the DMV's ability to verify an applicant's identity and legal presence which allows them to continue to protect citizens and visitors while improving domestic security. The changes will mean fewer visits to the DMV for a majority of our customers.

Long gone are the days of going into the driver's license office to get a new license without proof of identity or your social security card. You must now have two of the following which prove residential address: Deed, mortgage, monthly mortgage state-

ment, mortgage payment booklet or residential rental/lease agreement; Florida Voter Registration Card; Florida Vehicle Registration or Title; Florida Boat Registration or Title (if living on a boat/houseboat); A statement from a parent, step-parent or legal guardian of an applicant.

The parent or guardian must reside at the same residence address, accompany the applicant and present Proof of Residence Address; utility hook up or work order dated within 60 days of the application; Automobile Payment Booklet; Selective Service Card; Medical or health card with address listed; current homeowner's insurance policy or bill; current automobile insurance policy or bill; educational institution transcript forms for the current school year; unexpired professional license issued by a government agency in the U.S.; W-2 form or 1099 form; Form DS2019, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) status; letter

from a homeless shelter, transitional service provider, or a half-way house verifying that the customer resides at the shelter address; utility bills, not more than two months old; mail from financial institutions; including checking, savings, or investment account statements, not more than two months old; and mail from Federal, State, County or City government agencies.

You also must have proof of your social security number with either: Social Security card; W-2 form; pay check; DD-214; school

record; or documentation from the IRS containing your social security number.

Also keep in mind that you can "Skip the Trip" to renew your driver's license by: visiting www.GoRenew.com; or completing and mailing the renewal form with a check or money order.

Contact the Okeechobee DMV for more information or to schedule an appointment 863-462-5225.

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

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New burger restaurant adds unique charm

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

If anyone goes away from 5 Guys Burger and Fries™ hungry, it's their own fault. The newly opened restaurant at 301 N. Parrott Ave. is not your ordinary fast food restaurant. They undoubtedly serve the best hamburgers in town. A serving of french fries often proves to be more than one person can eat. The walls are plastered with favorable print reviews of 5 Guys in other parts of the country.

In 1986 Jerry Murreel told his five sons they could either go to college or go into

business. They decided to open a hamburger restaurant. The rest, as they say, is history. After several successful stores in the Arlington, VA area, they decided to offer franchises in other parts of the country. There are now 450 5 Guys nationwide.

The local 5 Guys franchise is owned by Jerry Donovan and his two partners. They operate another 5 Guys in Vero Beach and hope to open one in Sebring. Mr. Donovan said that at first, he was not convinced that buying a franchise would be the right thing to do. However, half way through a 5 Guys hamburger, he changed his mind.

The hamburgers are 100 percent beef, fresh, never frozen. The hot dogs are Hebrew National, also 100 percent beef. The french fries, which are cut daily, are fried in peanut oil.

Boxes of peanuts are readily available to munch on while the customer waits for his custom made hamburger. The restaurant has a good family atmosphere.

Mr. Donovan said corporate headquarters insists that all franchises be operated at the same level of excellence. They constantly inspect each franchise operation to ensure quality of service.

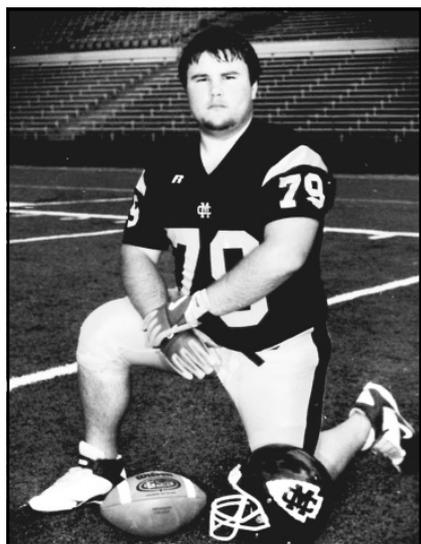
With 10 percent unemployment in Okeechobee, Mr. Donovan said he was glad to be able to bring 26 jobs to the community. In the future, 5 Guys plans to get involved in community activities and sponsor bike nights and classic car nights.

They are open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. The telephone number of 863-357-8732.

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



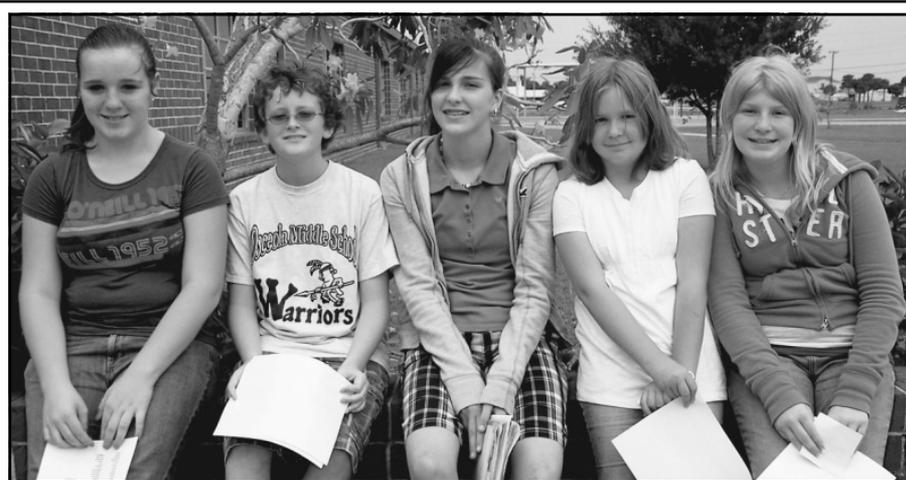
Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
John Donovan, left, franchise owner and Sean Ingels, right, manager, enjoy their 5 Guys hamburgers, made with fresh, not frozen, 100 percent beef.



Submitted photo

Dean's list

Justin Oldham York of Okeechobee, and a student at Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., has been named on the Dean's List for the Fall 2008 semester.



Submitted photo/OMS

Spelling Bee winners

The 2009 Osceola Middle School (OMS) Spelling Bee winners are: Emily Crews, Denise Ihinger, Emily Worth, Bethany Stuart, Kirby Dobbs. This students will compete in the District Spelling Bee to be held on April 17, at OMS.



Submitted photo/OMS

Students of the Week

Students from Osceola Middle School as Outstanding Students of the Week include: Bobby Neese, Michael Micoll, Chelsea Wharin, Aubrey Bertram, Lizzie Buck, Maria Garcia, Eva Mavarro, Michael Russell, Jose Jimenez.

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Submitted photo/SES

Students of the Month

Students who earned recognition as Students of the Month for March included Alilvia Ferrell, Piper Hans, Alyssa Vavra, Jacob Hardy, Logan Clay, Joseph Rivera, Megan Mitchell, Erica Perera, Jesus Denova, Shermaine Hicks, Shelby Kirton, Brianna Gomez, Johanna Betancourt, Jose Martinez, Jesus Gomez, Kiara Zelina, Taylor Hammack, Hannah Fralix, Alyssa Damron, Bradley Muffler, and Robert Muniz.



Submitted photo/SES

Students of the Week

Students of the Week for the week ending March 26, were Cobi Hernandez, Breanne Yates, Kyli Terry, Jacob Hardy, Juan Gomez, Jonathan Rivera, Josie Carter, Danielle Geary, Erica Perera, Jesus DeNova, Sarah McNitt, Jaylen Boswell, Julissa Hernandez, Johanna Betancourt, Alex Carmen, Anthony Harper, Luis Leon, Haley Smith, Kaitlynn Jarrell, and Marisabel Gomez.



Submitted photo/Bobbi Poole

Eagle Scout award

Grand Master of Masons of Florida, Joe A. Fleites (far left) presented Boy Scout Lance Lazano (center left) with the award of Eagle Scout at a recent awards ceremony. His father, James Lazano (center right) and District Deputy Grand Master, Kip Gardner (far right) proudly stand with Lance as he accepts the award.



Submitted photo/YMS

Students of the week

Students of the week for Yearling Middle School were selected for the week ending April 3. In the bottom row is: Pedro Cervantes; middle row: Joanna Torres, Haley Burkhalter, and Jennie Busbin; top row: Demetria Vasquez and Isabella Alonso. Also with students is Mr. Tedders and Mr. Brewer. Not pictured due to absence is Shelby Muller.

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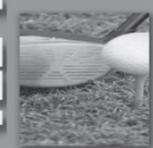
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Everglades Elementary

At Everglades Elementary School Mrs. Laskey's first grade is working hard to master the /er/, /ir/, and /ur/ sounds in reading. We are learning to count money in math and science is very exciting. We are learning all about plants. After Spring Break, we will study about bugs and insects. We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our caterpillars. We can't wait to watch them turn into beautiful butterflies, right before our eyes! Congratulations to this week's student of the week, Mary Beth Sullivan. Also, congratulations to Gabriela Carrillo and Shane Hubbard, they both have 600 steps in our 100 Book Challenge.

Mrs. Davis' fourth grade class has just finished a virtual ecosystem project that was the culmination of about three weeks work. Students first drew from a hat to choose the ecosystem they were to build. They then found their partner and began planning. They took a trip to the Media Center to find books on their ecosystem. Students were also introduced to the use of 'search engines.' Googling was demonstrated and then using the EETT laptops, students began their journey.

After research was completed, each group then discussed what they wanted to

see in their virtual ecosystem. Students were introduced to the website "Pics4learning" which supplies copyright free images for students and teachers to use. A teacher-led demonstration showed them how to make a new file in their 'My Pictures' file, naming it "Ecosystem Pictures," and how to save a picture to this file.



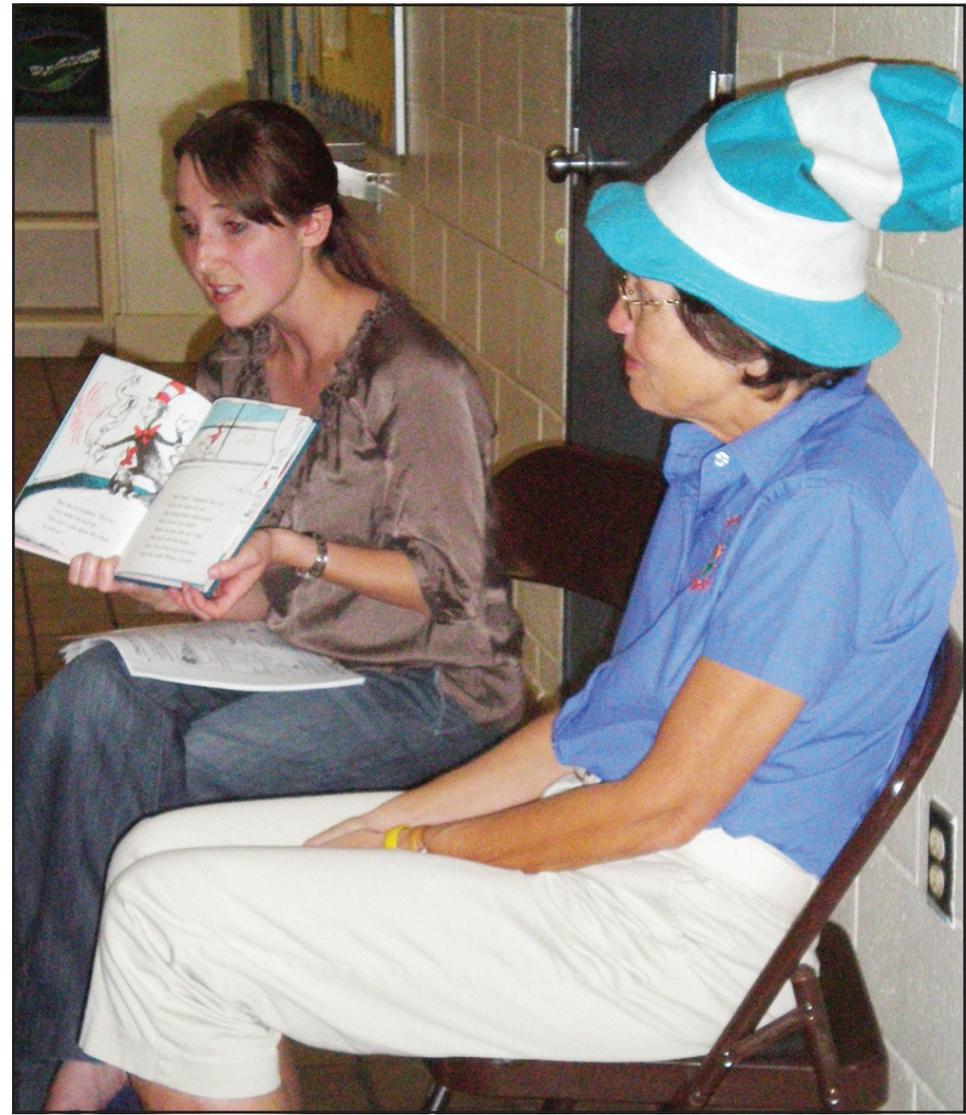
Using the program 'Pixie', students were instructed on how to import their saved images for use in the project. Some students used these images as background on some of their slides, adding clip art pictures to complete the slide. Some students ventured into graphic design, discovering how to change the pen size to achieve the thickness of a line which they then used to draw elements in their ecosystem.

These students learned and used skills that will carry them into learning in the 21st century. Because of this amazing opportunity, these students are coming one step closer to having and using the technology available today.



Submitted photo

Everglades Elementary School students who are achieving excellence in the classroom for the week of March 30-April 3 included: KG Brian Eshleman, Balin Webb, Garrett Frady, Kaylee Smith, Jose Gonzalez, Christopher Kinder; First grade Desiree Daniel, Marie Wood, Mary Beth Sullivan, Christian Henderson, Chelsea Burgos, Gage Lowery; second grade, Beau Rexroad, Douglas Hadding, Heriberto Gutierrez, Allan Portocarrero, Nayeli Urbina, Timmy Cox, Daniel Meza; third grade, Riveca Alvarez, Baylee Baker, Jennifer Chavez, Marissa Delacruz, Robert Futch, Annabella Ulysse, Stephanie Sippert; fourth grade, Toni Sposato, Alise Geary, Kasey Durand, Tyler Floyd, Haven Walters, Casandra Franco; fifth grade, Christian Seville, Trisha Digao, Moriah Gruber, Dylan Berry, Isaac Estrada.



Submitted photo/EES

Family Reading and Game Night

Students enjoy Mrs. Dodson and Mrs. Campbell reading Dr. Seuss books at Everglades' "Family Reading and Game Night," at Everglades Elementary School.

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Families raising chickens to help cut food bills

By Katrina Elsen
Okeechobee News

Spring is a busy time for Pat Coffey, Okeechobee's "chicken lady."

The Coffey family's incubator will hatch hundreds of baby chicks in time for Easter.

This year, she said, more people seem to be interested in egg production than how cute the chicks are.

With an eye on the economy, buyers want to start their own flocks of laying hens.

"About 90 percent of the chicken buyers I see are people who want backyard flocks to have their own eggs," she said. Along with the chickens, she dispenses advice on raising them. "Some people don't realize you don't need a rooster to have eggs," she explained.

Problems with the economy have marked an increase in the demand for laying hens, she said.

"Last weekend, I had a teacher come to buy some hens. She said she heard there would be layoffs and she wanted to keep chickens to provide eggs for her family.

"An older couple came to buy chickens and said they were concerned it was going to be like the Depression and they wanted to be more self sufficient," she added.

Eggs are a good source of protein, she said. They can be used for a main dish or added to side dishes. Hardboiled eggs make a nutritious snack.

Mrs. Coffey has been raising chickens about three and a half years.

"We got serious about all the different breeds a year and a half ago," she explained. "We wanted to get more options for the 4-H kids. We went through the catalogs for day-old chickens and got a variety of breeds."

She explained that the big hatcheries sell day-old chickens which are shipped by the U.S. Post office. Baby chicks don't eat for the first 72 hours. The hatcheries keep them for 24 hours and then pack them and take them to the post office. The chicks arrive at their destination post office the next day.

"The post office likes to have you pick them up by 9 a.m.," she said. It's important to get the chicks home and have feed ready for them when they do start to eat. The Post Office also likes to get the chickens out of their building as quickly as they can, she said, because the little chicks are pretty noisy.

"We got ten different breeds between the two hatcheries. We started raising them up and collecting their eggs," she said. "We got a big incubator so that we could hatch our own chicks.

"There's nothing like a day old chick," she said. "They are just so cute.

"It takes 21 days at 100 degrees to get a chick out of an egg," she continued. "I have more fun watching the incubator and watching for the next ones to come out."

She said her youngest daughter, Becky, is the chick expert. "She can look at the chicks and know which ones are which," she said.

Becky -- who will be 8 in May -- is very serious about her 4-H chickens project, and takes pride in being able to tell the breeds apart, even when the chicks are tiny.

Mrs. Coffey said some people are calling about getting chickens for Easter and there are plenty of chickens ready to hatch.

"The week before Easter, we will take about 200 chicks to Country Feed," she said.

Anyone who plans to give Easter chicks as a present should do a little homework.

"If someone is giving chickens for Easter, they should help the recipient be prepared. Having the proper housing, feed and water is important," she said. "Also don't get just one chick -- they do better in groups."

Mrs. Coffey said her chickens come in a variety of colors -- black, black and white, gray, yellow, gold and speckled.

"I never would have thought a couple years ago I would get so into this -- they've really grown on me," she added.

"I sell my chickens and eggs and then I go to the grocery and buy chicken," she said. "I eat the eggs but not the chickens." She added that she knows some people who buy chickens from her do eat them. One man has a standing order for the excess roosters.

She said after she got her first group of hens she figured out that including the price of the chickens, supplies and feed, the eggs cost about \$1.10 a dozen. That's a good savings over the grocery store prizes, she said,

especially since the eggs are fresh and produced without hormones or antibiotics.

"And the eggs are so much better," she said. "You know what has gone into them."

She said almost anyone can raise enough chickens to supply eggs for the family.

"Check with the city or county codes for your area, and make sure there aren't any deed restrictions," she advised. If you only keep hens, it cuts down on the noise. Most noise chicken-related complaints are about roosters crowing at daybreak. However, "a first time hen gets rather excited when she lays her first eggs," she added.

Chickens need a cage about 5 feet by 5 feet and about 5 feet high, she said. "If it's portable, that's better because you can get them to fresh grass," she continued. "I move mine once a week. It improves the yard. The chickens pick out the weed seeds and bugs and leave fertilizer behind."

Some people use a "chicken tractor" -- a chicken coop on wheels -- to prepare their garden, and move it every few hours down one row and then into the next row.



Submitted photo

Becky Coffey enjoys raising chickens as a 4-H project, and as pets.



Submitted photo

A "chicken tractor" is a movable pen. The chickens eat the bugs and the weed seeds, and leave the area fertilized.

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Central Elementary School hosts field day



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Outwit, outplay, outlast

Central Elementary school second grader Dylan Hodges takes part in field day activities at his school on Friday, April 3. He is taking part in a relay race where he scoops up a cup of water from a barrel and races back to a teammate lying on the ground holding a bottle. He then pours the water from his cup into the bottle. The object of the race is to be the first to fill a bottle with water. The theme of the field day was "Survivor." Participants were divided into "tribes" and wore their tribal colors. Instead of ribbons, dog tags were awarded that had the Survivor logo one side and the Central Elementary School logo on the other side.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Don't spill it!

Brenda Meajia, a second grader at Central Elementary School, carries a cup of water in a relay race during the school's field day on Friday, April 3. The theme of the field day was "Survivor." The students were divided into "tribes" and she is wearing the headband of her tribe. Instead of ribbons, participants were awarded dog tags with the Survivor logo on one side and the Central Elementary School logo on the other side.

"Survival" - Central Elementary School style

Central Elementary School held their field day on Friday, April 3. The theme of the event was based on the television program "Survivor." Participants were divided into "tribes." Here students and parents compete in a sack race.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Catch it gently!

As part of the field day at Central Elementary School on Friday, April 3 students and teachers took part in a water balloon toss. The theme of the day's activities was based on the television program "Survivor." Participants were divided into "tribes" and wore their tribe's colors. Instead of ribbons, dog tags were awarded with the Survivor logo on one side and the Central Elementary School on the other side.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Field day fun

Friday, April 3 was field day at Central Elementary School. Here students take part in relay race. While one team member lies on the ground and holds a bottle, other team members race to a barrel of water, fill a cup and race back to pour the contents of their cup into the bottle. The object of the game is to be the first team to fill a bottle with water. The theme of the day's activities was "Survivor," based on the television program. Students were divided into tribes and wore their tribe's colors. Instead of ribbons, dog tags were awarded with the Survivor logo on one side and the Central Elementary School logo on the other side.

Medical use of pot may be on '10 ballot

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

While movies such as Cheech and Chong's "Up in Smoke" view marijuana use lightheartedly, for Kim Russell it's a much more serious matter.

"Patients need a safe, affordable and effective medication. We hope Florida will lead the nation in marijuana research to further its uses as a medicine," stated the chairwoman of People United For Medical Marijuana (PUFMM). "We're talking about real cancer patients, not recreational users."

On March 26, the Florida Division of Elections gave the go-ahead for PUFMM to start gathering signatures on petitions that call for a constitutional amendment on the 2010 Florida ballot that would allow the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

The group will have to get 700,000 signatures by Feb. 1, 2010.

"Everyone I speak with is completely for this type of legislation -- we're on the right track," she said in an April 2 telephone interview. "There's overwhelming support -- it's just getting the word out."

She said the medical use of marijuana also has the support of state law enforcement officials because it will reduce the crime rate and will make the industry "a safer industry."

Ms. Russell went on to say the marijuana will be taxed and, based on a rate of 8 percent, could mean up to \$200,000 million to Florida in tax revenue.

Legalizing the use of marijuana for medical purposes could also reduce health care expenses, she indicated.

Marijuana is used by patients suffering from cancer, HIV-AIDS, glaucoma and other maladies that cause chronic pain.

Thirteen states have legalized pot for this purpose, with Michigan being the latest. The seriously ill and chronic pain sufferers of that state can begin using marijuana legally this month.

Other states are: Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

Nine other states are in the process of trying to make the medical use of marijuana

legal.

The use of marijuana for medical purposes dates back 5,000 years. Marijuana could be used legally until 1970 when the federal government enacted the Controlled Substance Act, said Ms. Russell.

Marijuana is currently a schedule 1 controlled substance in Florida.

For Okeechobee County's top law enforcement officer, Sheriff Paul May, he has no problem with marijuana being used to relieve a person's suffering. But, he does see the potential for problems.

"As far as people who honestly need it, it's just another medicine to me," he said Friday, April 3. "But, I can see problems. It will have to be strictly controlled. I think it should be administered in a controlled environment -- such as a hospital or clinic -- and people actually use it there."

Controlling the sale and use of marijuana is critical, added Sheriff May. He alluded to the prescribing of pain killers, such as oxycodone, and how the street sales of these medicines are impacting law enforcement and those who become addicted to them.

Ms. Russell agrees. She said pot must be treated like any other prescription and regulated by the state, regardless of whether it is in tobacco or pill form.

As for who can legally grow the marijuana, the amount that can be legally possessed and how it will be dispensed, these are concerns that will have to be addressed by the Florida Legislature.

In some states where the medical use of marijuana is legal, the user or a caregiver is issued a registration card. The user or caregiver can then grow a small number of plants in a room of their home that must remain locked.

These states then dictate the number of patients to whom caregivers can give marijuana.

Patients or caregivers can only have a small amount in their possession. That amount varies from state to state, but generally seems to be from 1 to 2 ounces.

Some states also prohibit: marijuana being used anywhere but in the patient's home; operating any type of motor vehicle or boat while under the influence; or, using it near a school.

In some states, such as California, marijuana is legally sold for medical use by licensed businesses. In other states, pot can only be sold by a prescribed non-profit group -- which is where the PUFMM group is leaning.

California recently had some problems in this regard when federal authorities enforced federal laws against the sale and use of marijuana. But, President Barack Obama stepped in and said each state has the right to "make up its own mind" on this issue.

"President Obama has taken the lead on that and it's really encouraging for the entire country," said Ms. Russell.

For more on this issue, or to download a petition, go to www.pufmm.org.

Planetarium puts on special show

Audiences will enjoy a retelling of the many beautiful Native American Indian stories about the sky and its stars in Daughter of the Stars at the Indian River State College Hallstrom Planetarium, Main Campus, 3209 Virginia Avenue, Ft. Pierce. History and folklore combine for a unique and entertaining storytelling event. According to Indian legend, Shenandoah, which means Daughter of the Stars, came from the sky country, a special place that could be visited by the strong, the brave, or the fortunate. Hear her story and more about the mystical sky coun-

try of the Native Americans.

Daughter of the Stars will be presented on April 24-25, May 15-16, and June 5-6. Planetarium show times are Friday evenings at 7 and 8 p.m. and Saturday afternoons at 1 and 2 p.m. Tickets are \$3 and may be purchased online at www.irsc.edu or at the IRSC Box Office, Main Campus, in Fort Pierce, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by phone with VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. Call the IRSC Box Office today 1-800-220-9915 to reserve your seats, as shows sell out quickly.

Bank sponsors CASTLE memory field

The CASTLE Memory Field of Flags, sponsored by Seacoast National Bank, was recently on display in one-week intervals throughout Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties over the past several weeks beginning Feb. 13, to help raise awareness for the prevention of child abuse.

The traveling exhibit of flags, culminated in a final dedication at CASTLE headquarters on Midway Road in Ft. Pierce on March 24. It will remain at the Ft. Pierce location throughout April, to commemorate Child Abuse Prevention Month. The purpose of the field is to memorialize each one of the 163 children, in the state of Florida, who died as a result of child abuse or neglect.

"Seacoast is committed to supporting the Memory Field of Flags with the confidence that by raising awareness of this issue, others will support CASTLE and their efforts to provide counsel to families that are in need of their services," explained Susan Bergstrom, Senior Vice President, Marketing Director for Seacoast National Bank and board member for CASTLE. "Building strong and

healthy bonds within families in our community will help to nurture the children who are our leaders of tomorrow."



Submitted photo/Seacoast Bank
Tom Wilkinson, Treasure Coast President of Seacoast National Bank; Theresa Garbarino-May, CASTLE Executive Director; and Event Emcee Shaun Plymale, CASTLE Foundation Board Member.

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Faith Farm restores hope, one life at a time

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Some people are familiar with the Faith Farm Thrift Store. However, there is much more to Faith Farm than the thrift store. The thrift store is just one means to help support the resident alcohol and drug rehabilitation ministry of Faith Farm. The thrift store serves a dual purpose of helping to pay for the rehabilitation program and providing job training.

"The spiritual connection to God" is what makes the program unique according to executive director Dean Webb.

"Spiritual connections, time and relationships are what make the ministry work," he said.

Assistant director Brian Miller said the program revolves around three "G"s -- get God, graduate and get on with your life.

"We tell people the success rate is 100 percent if they do what we tell them," said Mr. Miller.

The nine-month program provides spiritual and jobs training. Residents attend classes as well as learning a trade. Those who do not have a high school diploma are required to earn a GED. Toward the end of the nine months, residents are asked to write an exit plan detailing what they plan to do when they leave the ministry.

The Okeechobee campus, located on N.E. 128th Avenue, in one of three Faith Farm campuses. The other two much smaller campuses are at Fort Lauderdale and Boynton. The Okeechobee campus houses men only and has 1500 acres devoted to orange groves, cattle, horses, sod and raising flowering plants in hot houses.

Each of the campuses has a thrift store to help support its ministry. There is no cost

to the residents to attend the nine-month program. The \$3,000 a month per person it costs to operate comes from the thrift store income and private donations.

There is no pattern to addiction," Mr. Webb. Faith Farm residents range from the homeless to a \$900 an hour consultant. They once treated a CIA agent who was on drugs.

"Drugs and alcohol don't seem to have any social or economic range," said Mr. Webb.

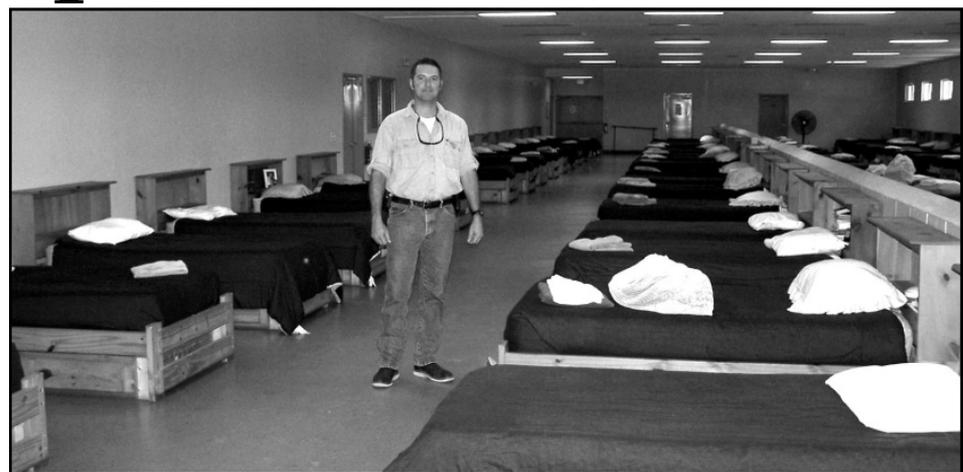
Unlike some rehabilitation programs, Faith Farm does not have a rigorous screening program. However, they do screen for felonies and sex offenses. Faith Farm operates under the policy "Whoever will may come." The ministry started out 58 years ago as the Fort Lauderdale Rescue Tabernacle under the direction of Rev. Garland Eastham. There a person got a meal, a sermon and a bed for one night. Now they stay for nine months. If a person voluntarily drops out of the program, they have to wait 30 days before they can be readmitted.

"We have a lot of stories where lives were totally turned around," said Mr. Webb.

"They give you God," said one of the residents. "With God in your life I believe you can do anything."

For many years Faith Farm operated a mattress factory, but it is no longer economically feasible for them to make mattresses. That space is now devoted to rehabilitating used donated appliances for sale in the thrift store. Consequently, the Okeechobee thrift store sells more used appliances than the other two thrift stores.

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



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Brian Miller, assistant director of Faith Farm, inspects the dormitory area at Faith Farm, a residential addiction recovery ministry.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

One of the ways Faith Farm, a residential addiction treatment center, supports itself and provides job training for its residents is to renovate donated used appliances for sale at their thrift store.

\$5M display makes stop at Brighton Casino

"We're hoping to help stimulate the economy by creating some new millionaires in Florida," said John James, chief operating

officer of Seminole Gaming.

This first-of-its-kind exhibit that consists of \$100 bills encased in a 1,300-pound,

custom-made \$90,000 bullet-resistant Lexan showcase is currently being submitted to Guinness World Records.

The display was manufactured in Las Vegas especially for this record-setting event; it will travel nearly 1,000 miles within the state over the course of about 40 days, allowing as many visitors as possible to experience the once-in-a-lifetime sight of \$5 million in cash.

The traveling display, which debuted at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on March 18, made a stop to help celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Seminole Casino - Immokalee from March 21-29. Seminole Casino Brighton will host the display from April 6 until April 8; Seminole Casino Coconut Creek is up next from April 14-19, Seminole Casino Hollywood - Classic - April 23-26, a return to Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on May 8 through 16 and Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa from May 18-25.

In addition to its two Seminole Hard Rock Hotels & Casinos, the Seminole Tribe owns and operates five more non-Hard Rock Florida casinos in Coconut Creek and Hollywood

on the Southeast coast, in Immokalee near Naples, on the Brighton Reservation north of Lake Okeechobee and on the Big Cypress Reservation south of Lake Okeechobee. The Seminole Tribe has long been recognized for innovation in its gaming and other businesses. It opened the first high-stakes bingo hall and casino in the United States in 1979. That facility was the forerunner of the Indian Gaming movement throughout North America.

Analysts believe the Seminole Tribe operates one of the most profitable gaming enterprises in the world. The Seminole Tribe of Florida acquired Hard Rock International, Inc. and other related entities from The Rank Group Plc in 2007 for approximately \$965 million. The purchase is the first of a major international corporation by a Native American Indian Tribe and marks a milestone in the growing economic power and prominence of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and other Indian tribes in today's business world.



Submitted photo

Have your picture taken in front of \$5 million. The money is displayed in a 1,300 pound display case.

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 Savior, 200 N.W. Third St.

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

Monday

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick Open Discussion at 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.

Okeechobee Model Airplane Club will meet at the Peace Lutheran Church, 750 N.W. 23rd Lane at 7 p.m. For information, contact Robert Rosada at 863-467-5440.

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

Artful Appliquers is a recently formed chapter in Okeechobee. This chapter meets at the Turtle Cove Clubhouse, 10 Linda Road, Okeechobee on Mondays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. 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 meetings set

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Gathering Church Overcomers Group meets at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall, 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. The public is invited.

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

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

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

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

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

The 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.

Freedom Ranch **Al-Alon** meets every Tuesday and is open to all who deal with someone with addictions. There is support with this epidemic. The meetings are Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Freedom Ranch, 11655 Hwy. 441 S.E. Contact Jay at 863-467-8683 for questions or concerns.

Wednesday

Just for Today Club of Okeechobee, 101

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

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

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

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

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

Double wide damaged by fire

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

A grease fire reportedly caused an estimated \$20,000 in damage to a residence at 2948 N.W. 128th Avenue Thursday night, a fire report from paramedic Ricky Jones said.

County Fire Rescue sent three units and six firemen to the Judy Choate residence just after 5:30 p.m. April 2 and put out the blaze.

The fire report stated the homeowner was cooking on the stove when the grease caught fire and damaged the kitchen area. The homeowner placed a wet towel over the pot and was able to stop the fire.

The report said \$10,000 in damage was done to the property and \$10,000 in damage was done to the contents of the home.

There were no injuries reported. Firemen were on the scene for under an hour.

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Submitted photo

Habitat home ready soon

Remarkable progress is being made on the fifth Habitat house built in Okeechobee. Supervising contractor Danny Creech brought his crew during the week to supplement the work being done by the volunteers each Saturday at 1367 N.W. 45th Terr. John Tyson and John Hunter of Quickframe, brought their crew to the home and in one day set all the trusses, put on the roofing plywood and "dried it in" with tarpaper. On March 14, 29 volunteers erected most inside walls and put up the exterior sheeting in their second week of work. The Methodist Men from First United Methodist Church provided last week's lunch. While awaiting inspection, this Saturday's primary work will be preparing the yard. If you can help Habitat, call 863-357-1371.



Submitted photo/Coldwell Banker Okeechobee Broker/Owner, Coldwell Banker, Philip Berger with residential real estate specialist, Jim Jones with an award naming him among the Top 10 Sales Associates for the Southern Region for 2008.

Realtor honored

Jim Jones, a specialist in residential real estate who has been affiliated with Coldwell Banker Real Estate for three years, has been named "2008 Regional Top 10 Sales Associate, Adjusted Gross Commission Income" for the Southern Region. The award was presented to Jim Jones by Jim Gillespie, President & CEO Coldwell Banker®.

"The strength of Coldwell Banker comes from top-producing sales associates, like Jim Jones, who give outstanding customer service and produce excellent results," said Broker/Owner Phil Berger of Coldwell Banker Berger Real Estate. "It is an honor to have him as part of our organization."

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CBS 3/2 home on canal with seawall, dock, attached 1 car carport and 12x8 storage building. Bring your boat and enjoy the outdoors. New Air-Conditioner as of Feb 2008 #93430 \$129,900

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3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 car garage Basswood home with large lot. Nice pantry in kitchen with plenty of room. #202466 \$132,000

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Lake Okeechobee Access, 2000 3/2 DWMH, split floor plan, eat in bar in kitchen and wood laminate floors. Covered patio and open deck. Property has a dock and seawall. #201540 \$99,500

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<p>MOTIVATED SELLER</p>	<p>2002-M: Taylor Creek waterfront DWMH w/attached carport. Completely furnished. Open front porch, city water & sewer. RV hookup. MLS# 202170</p>	<p>FORECLOSURE</p>	<p>4003-M: Buckhead Ridge 3/2 mobile home with appliances, open patio, fenced, large shed with electric, dock and paved driveway. MLS#202189</p>
<p>MOTIVATED SELLER</p>	<p>5003-H: Kissimmee River Est. like new 2/2 2005 DWMH, CBS garage, underground utilities. Sits on 6 corner lots. NOW \$120,000 MLS# 200629</p>	<p>FORECLOSURE</p>	<p>5023-H: Basswood Est. homes only area 3/2 CBS home. Call today for further info or to see this home now. Hurry, won't last long!</p>

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News Brief

Parks and Rec softball registration begins

Registration for the 2009 Spring Softball Season will begin Monday, March 30, at the Parks & Recreation office on 640 N.W. 27th Lane (Sports Complex parking lot). An organizational meeting for all interested players, managers, and officials will be held on Wednesday, April 15, at 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee Civic Center located at 1750 Hwy. 98 N.

Team fees are as follows: Men's League -- \$375 + (\$25 ISA fee); Women's League -- \$325; Co-Ed League -- \$325. To participate in these leagues, fees must be paid no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 24. All checks must be payable to "B.O.C.C." (Board of County Commissioners). Games are tentatively scheduled to begin the week of May 4. For additional information, please call the Recreation Department at 863-763-6950.

Sports Briefs

Cheerleading camp planned

The First Baptist Church Summer Impact Cheerleading Camp will be held from **June 15-19** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ages run from kindergarten through 10th grade. The cost is \$125 which includes lunch each day and snacks. Registration forms can be picked up at the ROC or the First Baptist Church office. Deadline to register is **May 15**. If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Arrants

Tennis teams sweep Fort Pierce

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee High School Brahman tennis coach Bryan Van Camp said he wanted his team to get back on track before the district tournament after two tough matches with Martin County and Treasure Coast.

He got his wish Thursday as the Brahmans swept past Fort Pierce 7-0. Due to time constraints the matches were condensed to pro sets and Okeechobee only lost as many as five games in any one match.

Corey White defeated Terrence Robinson 8-0 in the top seed match. Zach Fowler swept his opponent Kraig Glenton, 8-0. Alex Nielson was solid in an 8-2 win over Arthur Domingos. Max Norman had the toughest match of the afternoon as he defeated Derek Hurd 8-5. Kyle Lunt finished off the sweep with an 8-0 victory over Brian Mercer.

In doubles the team of White and Jonathan Hudoff defeated Robinson and Hurde

8-0. The team of Fowler and Nielson defeated Glenton and Domingos 8-2.

The boy's improved to 12-3 with the victory. The district tournament will take place on April 14 and 15, at South Fork High School.

The girl's had a tougher time as they hoped to break out of a short slump before districts. They slipped past the Lady Cobras 4-3. Kari Berger led the way with a tough 9-7 victory over Terrice Robinson in the top seed match. Shaina Ragamat had an easier time with an 8-4 win over Laquesha Kleckley. Alisha Wilcox fell to Kelsey Slaten of Fort Pierce, 8-4. Melissa Flores defeated Katie Walker 8-4 in the fourth seed match. Sashia Mendes defeated Jessica Luna 8-1 in the fifth seed match.

The Lady Brahmans had to win both doubles matches to pull out the match and they picked up their level of play to sweep the Cobras. The team of Berger and Ragamat defeated Kleckley and Slaten 8-5. The

team of Walker and Wilcox defeated Flores and Mendes in doubles 8-1.

The girl's team is now 10-5 on the year. They have next week off as they get prepared for the district tournament on April 14 and 15, at South Fork High School.

at the ROC office, at 467-7625.

Coast Guard Auxiliary to do vessel exams

Flotilla 57 - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary conducts vessel exams. They are free and they will come to you. Call 863-763-9570 to make and appointment to examine your boat and get it certified with a sticker.

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✓ Friday 11 a.m. Thurs. for Fri. publication

✓ Sunday 10 a.m. Fri. for Sun. publication

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- Price must be included in ad
- Private parties only
- 2 items per household per issue

Announcements

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

For more listings, go to
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Auctions

DeMott
Auction Co.

14th ANNUAL "SPRING" AUCTION
Saturday, APRIL 18th, 2009
Okeechobee, FL
Main office:
800-985-5699
Tractors, Trucks, Citrus & Farm Equipment and much more
Consignments Welcome
Don't miss this opportunity to turn your surplus into SOLD!
www.demottauction.com
Terry DeMott, Sr (M)
229-891-1832
terry@demottauction.com
Auctioneer: Terry DeMott, Sr. FL
#AU1833 - AB1285

Child Care

CHRISTIAN Fun loving mom looking to babysit in my home, excellent rates (863)484-2980. Lic #145014

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

Found

BELT, BOOTS & KNIFE - Found at Henry Creek. Call to ID. (863)763-5150

Garage/Yard Sales

BUCKHEADRIDGE-April 5th and 6th, 9 am until 3pm, #18 Fourth St. BHR, Yard Sale: Furniture, lin-

Garage/Yard Sales

Don't Miss

This One
OKEECHOBEE - Sat. & Sun., Apr. 4 & 5, 8am-?, 5800 S.E. Hwy. 441 - 1/4 ml. SE of Kings Bay Furniture, Household Items, Small Tools & Misc.

Employment

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

BUSY CHILD CARE CENTER looking for Pre-school TEACHER. Exp. a plus. Please call (863) 467-5588

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

Employment Medical

Controller

Financial/Acct. Dept. of Health Care facility. Prepare budgets, P&L, financial policies/reports/forecasts, conduct audits, provide tax advice to management. Apply at 406 NW 4th Street, Okeechobee.

Time to clean out the attic, basement and/or garage? Advertise your yard sale in the classifieds and make your clean up a breeze!

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST

MUST be experienced. Needed for Cardiologist Office. Mail resume to: PO Box 1268, Okeechobee, FL 34973

Employment Wanted

Caregiver/Companion - Seeks work, experience caring for the elderly, will assist with shopping, doctor visits, pets. FT or PT. (863)824-6148

Services

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Handyman Services

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

? NEED HELP? CALL GEORGE CARTER

Painting, Repairs, Carpentry
Power Washing

FREE CONSULTATION
(863)763-4775

Top Soil

JACK'S TOP SOIL
Fill Dirt/Shell Rock & Bob Cat work.
Call 863-467-4734

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Appliances

DOUBLE STACKED- Washer/Dryer \$400 OBO (863)801-5850

Guns/Supplies

SAVAGE - 7mm Rem Mag, bolt action mod #110, Bushnell High Contrast Scope \$450 (863)697-6095

Tools

CARPENTER TOOL'S - Extended bed saw, drill press, ladder's - 20' extension. Call after 5pm (863)946-1639

Wanted To Buy

FLORIDA ART - A.E. Backus, H. Newton, A. Hair, G. Buckner, Highwaymen Big \$\$ (772)562-5567

FOR RENT Rentals

For more listings, go to
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Apartments

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

OKEECHOBEE ESTATES 2

BR, 1 BA Duplex Apt. Newly remodeled. Tile floors throughout. Stove, Fridge. Nice, quiet area. \$625 mo. + last mo. & sec. No pets. Avail able immediately (863)467-0627

Condos/Townhouses Rent

TAYLOR CREEK CONDOS - 1BR, 1BA, Furnished. \$650 mo. + \$350 sec. dep. (863)763-6576

Houses - Rent

CANAL FRONT Furnished 2BR, 1BA, screen porch, boat dock & lift, hardwood floors through out, DW, W&D. Includes Lawn Care, water & satellite TV \$850 1st & sec. (863)467-7528

FT DRUM

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

FURNISHED DUPLEX

- 2BR, 1BA, 1 car garage, W&D, DW, Ceiling fans in every room, front & rear porch, tile floors through out. Located in Kings Bay. Includes lawn care & garbage. - \$775 first & sec. (863)467-528

KINGS BAY, Furnished 1BR,

1BA duplex, 1 car garage, W&D, tile floors through out, ceiling fans in every room. Includes, lawn care & garbage. \$675 1st & sec. (863) 467-7528

Houses - Rent

PINERIDGE PARK Area - 2BR, 2BA w/Lg. FL Rm., 1 car gar. \$750 mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec. (863)634-4581

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

SINGLE FAMILY: 3/2/1, Split plan, patio, master suite, tile, D/W. Avail. nov. \$1100 mo. (561)307-2502

Roommate

ROOMMATE WANTED - Community pool, club house. Private rm w/ bath, non smoker 863-801-1558

Waterfront Rentals

HOUSE w/Lake Okee Access, picture perfect 2/2 w/2 car carport, boat house/2 slips, dock, well landscaped, incl lawn svc \$950 mo (863)610-1276

One man's trash is another man's treasure.

Turn your trash to treasure with an ad in the classifieds.

Real Estate

For more listings, go to
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Lots - Sale

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

Mobile Homes

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Lots

DOUBLE MOBILE HOME LOT w/Electric & Water on property. Larke Lakes Area. \$26,000 (863)467-2156

Mobile Home Rent

BUCKHEAD RIDGE - Dbl. Wide 2 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$500 mo. 3 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$600 mo. No pets. (863)763-4031

OKEECHOBEE - 2br, 1ba with large back porch & front porch on large scenic, wooded, fenced lot. \$800 mo. Also a 1 br, 1ba \$500 mo. Call 863-634-3451

TAYLOR CREEK ISLES - 2/2 furnished on water w/dock. Electric/Water/Cable Included. No pets. Adults only. \$1000 mo. + \$500 sec. dep. Call 954-260-1933

TREASURE ISLAND - 3br, 2ba, waterfront, lake access, 2007 model, \$850 (954)610-5345

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

Mobile Home Sale

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

Older 5th wheel - 2/3 BR w/lg addition, on Taylor Creek. 55+ Riverbend Park. GREAT DEAL \$7000 (828)208-0980

Automobiles

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Recreation

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Campers/RVs

JOURNEY MOTORHOME '87 - 30 ft. Affordable living, drive it or park it. \$6000 cash (863)763-9377

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Motorcycles

HD Electra Glider Alta Classic fuel ejected, 2001 - green with slamming Eagle custom paint, gar, under 22K miles, \$11,500. (863)467-5823

HONDA SHADOW 750 - Very Low miles, Great condition \$4000 (863)634-4765

Automotive

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Automobiles

For more listings, go to
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Automobiles

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LAKE MOTORS INC

147 Hwy 441 SE • Okeechobee 863-467-5243

Best Prices in the Lake Area

'96 Cadillac Concours only \$2995
Leather, loaded, low miles #7895
'98 Honda Accord . . . only \$3995
V6, 2 Dr. Leather, moon roof #1793
'97 Ford Explorer XLT . . \$3695
Loaded #13744
03 Ford Crown Vic . . . \$4295
loaded, one owner #12131
'98 Chrysler Sebring only \$3295
Conv. loaded #19738
01 Ford Mustang. . . . \$4995
V6, AT. #11933
02 Ford E150 Cargo Van \$3995
A/C, AT #19148
02 F150, 4x4, LB . . Only \$4995
auto, A/C, bedliner, V8 #1598
98 Ford Expedition XLT \$4995
4x4 #15552
98 Toyota Corolla . . . \$3995
auto, a/c, low miles, one owner #18247
00 VW Jetta Only \$3995
5 spd, A/C, loaded #19990
00 Chevy Malibu. . . . \$3795
V-6, loaded, low miles #12156
03 Ford Taurus SE . . . \$4695
Loaded #8310
02 Mazda 626 \$4695
AT, AC #18705

* plus tag, title, tax plus \$199. dealer fee se habla español

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Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE ADMINISTRATION ANNEX BUILDING, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE, SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM, 458 HIGHWAY 98 N., OKEECHOBEE, FL. A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE UNDERSIGNED. IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING; THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, IS MADE. ANY PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING MUST HAVE THEIR NAME AND TOPIC PLACED ON THE AGENDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING. ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S OFFICES BY CALLING (863)763-4601 AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING. NOTICE: COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT HAS AN ONGOING AQUATIC SPRAYING PROGRAM, DISTRICT WIDE.

WILLARD M. BYARS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 17429 NW 242ND STREET
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972
(863)763-4601 OR (863)634-3166
316262 ON 4/5/09

Automobiles

BUICK PARK AVENUE
1998 - One owner,
28000 miles, excellent
condition, \$8200/ neg.
(863)763-8132

CHEVY LUMINA - 1997,
LOADED, NEW TIRES,
135K MILES \$1600
(863)801-5678

FORD WINDSTAR - 1999,
Needs work, \$1200 or best
offer (863)634-3200

LINCOLN MARK VII, 1990,
96k miles, 1 owner, good
cond. \$4000 firm. call from
4-8pm (407)436-1266

Four Wheel Drive

F250 EXT. CAB -1988, 7.3
litre diesel, 1 ton, rear &
gooseneck ball \$2200
(863)634-2379

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

Golf Carts

EZ GO - W/4"lift, stereo,
over sized tires, enclosed,
head lights. \$1500 or trade
for pontoon tri
(954)707-2274

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

GOLF CART - Club Car,
2000, electric, low hours,
Excellent cond. \$1450 or
best offer (863)467-2824

GOLF CART - Club Car,
2000, electric, low hours,
Excellent cond. \$1450 or
best offer (863)467-2824

Pickup Trucks

CHEVROLET SILVERADO
2002 - One owner,
47500 miles, V-8
\$ 1 1 5 0 0 / n e g .
(863)763-8132

FORD F150 - 1999, Auto,
a/c, long bed, v6, good
cond. \$1,950
(812)989-3022



Public Notices
For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO.: 2009-CP-70

IN RE: ESTATE OF **TONYA E. PENA**, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of **TONYA E. PENA**, deceased, whose date of death was November 20, 2008 is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representatives and the personal representatives' attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate upon a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is April 5th, 2009.

Attorney for Personal Representatives:
GLENN J. SNEIDER, ESQ.
Florida Bar No. 280461
Glenn J. Snieder, LC
200 SW 9th Street
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 467-6570

Personal Representatives:
THOMAS R. PENA
3458 NW 24th Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
316749 ON 4/5,12/09



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

No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

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

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Old ski lift
- 3 Ballet pose
- 4 Outgrowth
- 5 Powerful boss
- 9 Interpretive dances
- 14 Old stories
- 15 '80s-'90s Serbian import
- 16 Missouri feeder
- 17 Seraglio chambers
- 18 Disturbed condition
- 19 Medicinal plant
- 20 Life's work of an old goat?
- 23 Speedy Amtrak train
- 25 Coffee hour aid
- 26 Sautéing sound
- 27 Reason for missing a gimme?
- 32 Lawyer's letters
- 33 "I Lost Everything in the Post-Natal Depression" author Bombeck
- 34 Lofty lair
- 38 "... three men in "
- 40 Day star
- 43 Spar
- 44 Holds to be "Skedaddle!"
- 46 Govt. research org. based in Bethesda
- 49 Drought-ending blowout?
- 53 Campground org.
- 56 Comedian Margaret
- 57 Bring up the rear
- 58 Penthouse activity at Caesars Palace?
- 63 Beneficial
- 64 Big do
- 65 Old oath
- 68 Belief
- 69 Joint woe
- 70 Professional leader?
- 71 Beats by a little
- 72 Cakesters brand
- 73 Badlands Natl. Park site

- 2 Physique
- 3 Ballet pose
- 4 Outgrowth
- 5 Dermatologist's concern
- 6 New Mexico native
- 7 Not fer
- 8 Bad booze
- 9 "Jesus Christ Superstar" song
- 10 Mouse slider
- 11 Driving areas
- 12 Patron saint of chastity
- 13 Catalog biggie
- 21 Digs of "Rent" and "Cake"
- 22 Dernier —
- 23 On top
- 24 Social group
- 28 Lesson giver
- 29 Duster at home, sometimes
- 30 Low bones
- 31 It has facets
- 35 Exhausted
- 36 Last Supper question
- 37 Antiknock fluid
- 39 Munich-based automaker
- 41 Philip of "Daughter of Shanghai"

- 42 Take all of
- 43 "... edged tools
- 44 [to] be kept from children and from fools": Dryden
- 47 ___-Free: contact lens solution
- 50 Old possessive
- 51 West Indies island
- 52 Actor who played the Thing in "The Thing"
- 53 Sutherland title role
- 54 Exposed, in a way
- 55 Firing
- 59 Movie beekeeper
- 60 ___ effort
- 61 Proven
- 62 Kansas yapper
- 66 Org. for GPs
- 67 Cartoonist Browne

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
				15					16				
14				18					19				
17				20		21			22				
23	24						25		26				
27				28	29	30			31				
32				33				34		35	36	37	
38		39		40			41	42		43			
44				45			46		47		48		
			49		50	51				52			
53	54	55		56					57				
58				59				60	61	62			
63						64				65		66	67
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

By Jack McInturf
(c)2008 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TCBC holds monthly tournament

By Teresa Mataushek
Okeechobee News

The Taylor Creek Bass Club (TCBC) held their monthly tournament on Lake Weohyakapka, on March 14.

Jack Harrison took top honors at the tournament. He brought a total of 19.78 lbs. to the scales for a great win, with a three fish limit in place.

The team of Jack Harrison and Chan Garrett also won the "Calcutta" with a total weight of 22.26 lbs.

Coming in second place was Les Tory with a total weight of 15.02 lbs. with Larry Wise followed in third place with 14.42 lbs. finishing in fourth place was Jim Smith with a total of 12.54 lbs.

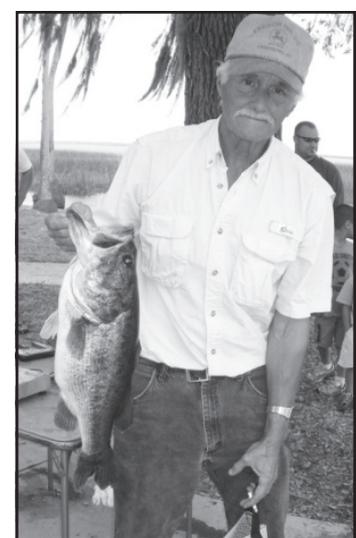
Mr. Harrison also took the Big Fish award and Lunker award with his 8.81 lb. catch.

The Taylor Creek Bass Club meets at the Buck Head Ridge VFW Post 9528 on the second Thursday of each month. Tournaments are held the following weekend. New boaters and (especially) non-boaters are welcome. For information call Dave Stout at 863-467-2255. The club also sponsors and presents the annual Lee Mcallister Memorial Kid's Fishing Festival.

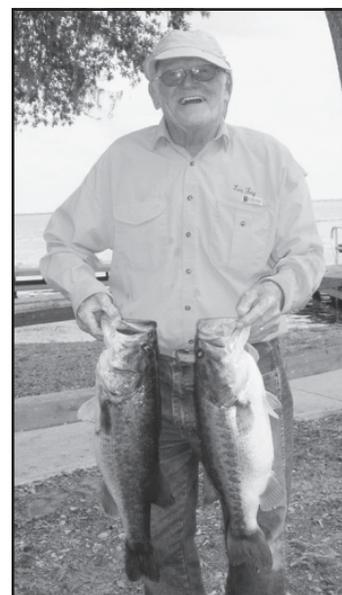
Post your opinions online at www.newszap.com. Teresa Mataushek can be reached at tmataushek@newszap.com.



Submitted photos
Jack Harrison.



Jim Smith.



Les Tory.



Larry Wise.

Water

Continued From Page 1

press release on March 31. "More than 13 inches of rain fell in the far western panhandle counties, while central and south Florida received little rain."

Over the 16 counties served by South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), there is an 8.43 inch deficit in rainfall between the beginning of the dry season,

Nov. 2, 2008, and March 31, 2009.

Because of the deficit in rainfall, violators of water restrictions may soon be facing fines. A spokesperson for SFWMD said that in the near future the organization will have workshop meetings with local law and code enforcement officials on enforcing water restrictions.

In Okeechobee County, landscape irrigation, FROM ALL SOURCES OF WATER, is limited to two days a week. Properties with odd numbered street addresses can water on Wednesday and Saturday. Properties with even numbered addresses and systems

such as multifamily units and homeowners associations that irrigate both odd and even numbered addresses can irrigate on Thursday and Sunday.

The hours for irrigating yards for both even and odd numbered addresses are either 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. or 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Exceptions are made for new landscaping. New landscaping can be watered the day it is installed, regardless of address. From two to 30 days, the newly installed landscaping can be watered any day except Friday. Between 31 and 60 days it can be watered

on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Stressed plants may be watered 10 minutes per day on any day using a single hose with automatic shut off nozzle. Vehicle washings, pressure washing, decorative fountains and all other outdoor water uses are allowed anytime, however, voluntary conservation is encouraged. For more information call 800-432-2045.

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

Scientists study red tides

Red tide experts with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) have contributed to the most comprehensive assessment of Florida red tide published to date. This month's special issue of the scientific journal "Harmful Algae" summarizes current red tide research.

In 2006, FWRI, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Mote Marine Laboratory sponsored the "State of the Research on Red Tide in the Gulf of Mexico" scientific workshop. Nine articles resulting from this workshop appear in this special issue of "Harmful Algae," including three landmark articles by FWRI scientists.

Having studied Florida's red tide for more than 40 years, Dr. Karen Steidinger provides historical perspective on red tide research in the Gulf of Mexico. Drs. Jan Landsberg and Leanne Flewelling review recent research on how red tide toxins affect marine life, including manatees and birds, both during and after a red tide event. Drs. Cindy Heil and Steidinger address how the state monitors and manages red tide to

protect human and environmental health.

The articles in "Harmful Algae," which also summarize Florida red tide biology, research and technology, will help FWRI scientists and their partners continue their efforts to predict, monitor and manage red tide's environmental impacts and will provide a benchmark for future research.

A Florida red tide is a dense concentration of a microscopic, single-celled, plant-like organism called *Karenia brevis*. This organism produces toxins that can kill fish, birds, manatees and other marine animals, affecting endangered species and important fisheries. Red tide toxins in the air can irritate the human respiratory system, and eating shellfish exposed to red tide toxins can cause food poisoning. To ensure public safety, FWRI works with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to monitor Florida's shellfish beds for red tide toxins.

To learn more about FWRI's red tide research programs, visit <http://research.MyFWC.com/redtide>.

Bats driving you batty?

Bats are beautiful because, most of the time, they make life for humans much easier. They are the most important controller of night-flying insects. Experts with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) report that a single bat can eat up to 3,000 insects a night. But if they've taken up residence in your home, this is the time of year to get them out.

Most bats roost in the natural environment in places like tree cavities, foliage, Spanish moss or caves. As areas of natural habitat are lost, bats may move into structures such as buildings and bridges. Despite their helpful role combating beetles, moths (whose caterpillars destroy all kinds of crops) and mosquitoes, bats usually aren't welcome in people's homes, offices or bellies. However, the window of opportunity for getting them out of the house is open only at certain times of the year, said FWC bat expert and wildlife biologist Jeff Gore.

Killing bats is illegal because of their environmental value and declining numbers. The FWC lists three species as endangered. In February 2008, the agency clarified nuisance wildlife regulations pertaining to taking bats to better protect all species of the flying mammals. The regulations now specify how and when it is legal to remove bats from structures.

When bats take up residence in a structure where they are not wanted, there is only one safe, legal and effective technique for getting rid of them. The process is known as "exclusion." Excluding bats from their roost sites involves the use of a one-way device that allows them to exit the structure but prevents them from returning.

"That is often just a piece of screen or plastic hung over the hole or crack they used to enter the premises," Gore said.

The regulation requires "a minimum of four consecutive days/nights for which the low temperature is forecasted by the U.S. National Weather Service to remain above 50 degrees before owners can permanently seal off their structures." That's because

bats won't venture out when it's too cold. Four warm nights is adequate to get most bats moving and to activate enough bugs for the bats to eat. Flying depletes a bat's energy quickly.

Then there is maternity season – from April 16, to Aug. 14 – when adult bats gather at roosting sites to have and raise young. During this time, the newborns are dependent on the adults for food. If they are separated, the young bats will die. On the rare occasion that bats do become your "summer guests," the legal, safe and responsible solution is to exclude them between now and April 16, or after Aug. 14, when both adults and young can fly away safely. But don't worry, wildlife biologist Gore said. "I've never seen a place that couldn't be cleaned up of bats."

You also can help the excluded bats. Building bat houses is a good idea before exclusion, biologist and the FWC's Birding Trail coordinator Mark Kiser said.

"About 90 percent of the time, evicted/excluded bats will move into the bat houses," he said. It gives them a readily available place to live, instead of forcing them to seek another way back into your home or your neighbor's home.

Trapping bats isn't allowed, because they tend to return without exclusion devices, because avoiding contact between humans and bats is the safest approach for both parties, and because they're fragile.

"The membrane forming their wings is very, very fragile," said Breanne Strepina, another FWC wildlife biologist. "Actually, people should avoid handling all wildlife."

For photographs and more information about the only mammal that can truly fly, the 13 resident bat species in Florida, how their echolocation allows them to rid the air of detrimental bugs and how to build a bat house, go to MyFWC.com/WILDLIFEHABITATS/SpeciesInfo_Bats.htm. There you will find links to information on excluding them from your structure and on building homes for them.

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers after 2pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 90. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. South southwest wind around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. Windy, with a southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Monday Night: A slight chance of showers before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 70. West northwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 45. West northwest wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 73. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Friday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 1-6-1; **Play 4:** 4-2-7-8; **Fantasy 5:** 21-22-23-31-33; **Mega Money:** 1-21-23-32 MB 3; **Florida Lotto:** 5-16-18-19-20-37; **Powerball:** 2-9-33-41-54 PB14 x3. Numbers drawn Saturday, **Cash 3:** 8-3-0; **Play 4:** 3-5-3-0.

Brahmans win another district game

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Boys Baseball Team won for the seventh time in eight games and set up a first place showdown with Jensen Beach with a 5-1 victory over Lincoln Park Thursday night in Fort Pierce.

The arm of Cameron Tewksbury and the bat of his twin brother, Adam Tewksbury, fueled the Brahmans to their ninth district win in 11 decisions.

Tewksbury pitched a complete game, allowed eight hits, and struck out five. He also got a great defensive effort from RF Dustin Stokes. The Brahman senior made a big play in the third inning as he robbed Lincoln Park of a hit on a sinking line drive. He then threw to third base and doubled off a runner for a key double play.

"We feel like we got some home cooking on the road, Dustin laid out and you didn't know if he actually caught the ball," Brahman Coach Mark Ward stated, "We felt the runner left early and the umpire agreed with us. That was a huge play for us."

Tewksbury continued to impress with his command on the mound. He has an excellent walk to strikeout ratio and has beaten Lincoln Park three consecutive times.

At the plate Adam Tewksbury went 2 for 2, scored a run and drove in a run. Mike Minondo went 2 for 3.

"The biggest thing right now for us has been pitching and defense. We haven't given up more than three runs in any one game lately. The kids have definitely worked hard to improve those parts of the game," Ward said.

On offense Okeechobee continues to employ the bunt play. Ward said all of the kids have embraced bunting as a way to get the offense untracked. He noted they are putting pressure on the opposing defense to make plays.

"It's a good sign of our maturity. Guys like to hit homeruns obviously, but nobody is going to remember tomorrow how you got a hit, whether it was a bunt or you knocked one off the wall. The kids are excited because we are getting wins at the end of the day," Ward noted.

Tim Frawley went 2 for 4 and Morgan Miller had two hits for Lincoln Park, (8-6, 6-4). The win secured at least second place in the District for Okeechobee, (11-7, 9-2).



Cameron Tewksbury



Dustin Stokes



Adam Tewksbury

Community Events

OCEA holds membership meeting

The Okeechobee County Education Association (OCEA) will have its final General Membership meeting of the 2008-09 school year on Thursday, **April 16**, from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. in the Media Center at Osceola Middle School, 825 S.W. 28th St. A memorandum of understanding recently signed by the President of OCEA and the Superintendent of schools concerning recent "ethics in education" Board policies needs to be voted on. Voting will occur from 4:30 to 6 p.m. All bargaining unit employees are eligible and encouraged to vote whether a member of OCEA or not. OCEA members will hear re-

ports on health insurance bids and recent legislation affecting education. We'll have a discussion on possible school cutbacks and what to expect next year. Refreshments will be served with door prizes at the conclusion. If you are not a member of OCEA, after voting, stay and join. For information call 863-467-1564.

Fun shoot date set

Okeechobee Main Street will hold their Third Annual Fun Shoot at Quail Creek Plantation on Saturday **April 18**. Check in will begin at 8 a.m. Call Main Street's Executive Director, Toni Doyle at 863-357-6246 if you are interested in shooting or sponsorship.

Okeechobee will host Jensen Beach on Wednesday, April 15, to decide who the top seed for the district tournament is. The game will be a 'free night' as no admission will be charged to anyone who attends the game.

Ward said he hopes to have a huge partisan crowd on hand to support the boys.

Okeechobee played John Carroll on Saturday.

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Okeechobee County
Clock Restaurant
1111 S. Parrot Avenue
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April 14 - 2 PM

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