

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 44

Sunday, April 12, 2009

75¢ Plus tax

FWC stocking lake with bass ... Page 2



New football coach starts at OHS ... Page 15

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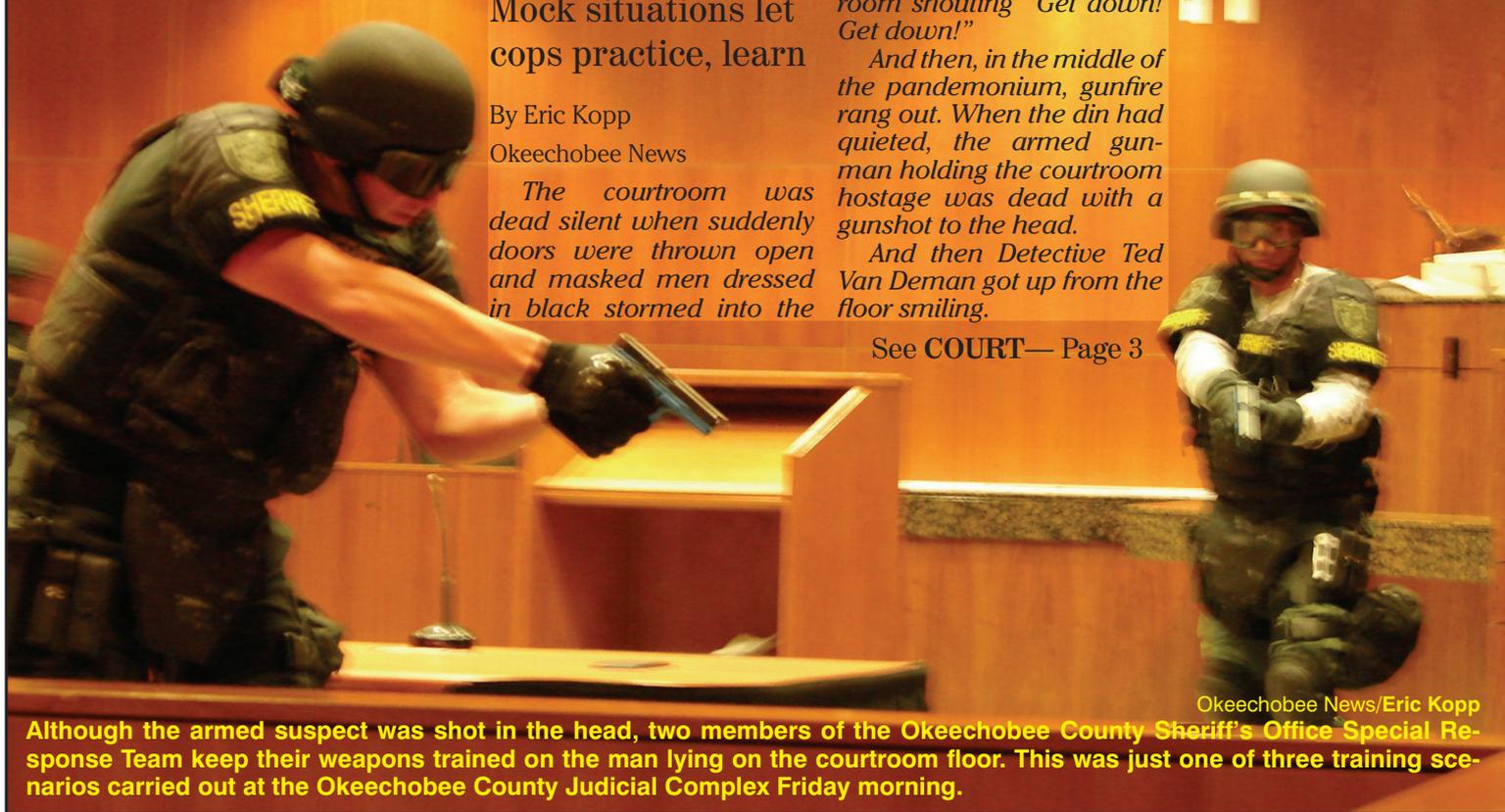
Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level

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

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Courthouse security put to the test



Mock situations let cops practice, learn

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The courtroom was dead silent when suddenly doors were thrown open and masked men dressed in black stormed into the

room shouting "Get down! Get down!"

And then, in the middle of the pandemonium, gunfire rang out. When the din had quieted, the armed gunman holding the courtroom hostage was dead with a gunshot to the head.

And then Detective Ted Van Deman got up from the floor smiling.

See COURT— Page 3

Although the armed suspect was shot in the head, two members of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team keep their weapons trained on the man lying on the courtroom floor. This was just one of three training scenarios carried out at the Okeechobee County Judicial Complex Friday morning.

Schools may cut more jobs

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

More than 100 jobs may be cut for the 2009-2010 school year.

The Okeechobee County School Board will meet Tuesday to consider the proposed allocations for the 2009-10 school year. The board will consider eliminating 51 instructional positions and 66.5 non-instructional positions, compared to the 2008-09 school year allocations. The changes are due to the projected budget constraints. There are also two less positions allocated for the district office.

The meeting will be held in the district office, 700 S.W. Second Ave, on Tuesday, April 14, at 6 p.m.

While some these positions are not currently filled, it will mean some current employees will not be rehired for the fall. The possi-

If you go ...
 What: School Board meeting
 When: Tuesday, April 14, 6 p.m.
 Where: School district office, 700 S.W. 2nd Ave.

bility of fewer job openings for the coming school year is definitely a shock to a small community where the school district is the largest single employer.

Allocations are based on enrollment projections. The district matches the number of employees with the allocations. In the event there are vacancies, the position will be advertised.

The following are the disbursement of the reduction of positions by school site:

- Okeechobee High School-instructional 9.5, non-instructional 2;
- Okeechobee Freshman Campus-instructional 4, non-instructional .50;
- Osceola Middle School-instructional 5, non-instructional 2;
- Yearling Middle School-instructional 5, non-instructional 1.5;
- New Endeavor High School-instructional same, non-instructional 1.5;
- Central Elementary School-instructional 6, non-instructional same;
- Everglades Elementary School-instructional 4, non-instructional 2;
- North Elementary School-instructional 4, non-instructional 1;
- Seminole Elementary School-instructional 4, non-instructional

• Okeechobee High School-

See **SCHOOLS** — Page 3



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Easter display

The most significant holiday in the Christian world, Easter, was commemorated by this cross seen in a yard in Palm Village Ranch.

FWC releases more bass into lake

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

The largemouth bass population in Lake Okeechobee just went up.

Another 52,000 bass fry were released in the First Point area Wednesday, April 8, by biologists from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) in Okeechobee. Just a few weeks ago, 22,000 to 25,000 bass were released in the Cody's Cove to First Point area.

"We put a few more back in the marsh," said FWC biologist Don Fox of Wednesday's stocking. "We're spreading them out more."

He said the goal is to bump up the bass population in this area by releasing as many as 200,000 fry.

"We will do some more next Friday (April 17)," said Mr. Fox.

Once biologists have finished releasing fish, they will begin an electro-shocking program in the area to monitor the growth, health and movement of the newly-released bass.

When these small fish are shocked up, a small clip will be taken from their pectoral fin. This piece of fin will be sent to the Florida Wildlife Institute lab in St. Petersburg where geneticists will be able to identify the bass as either wild or stocked through their DNA.

These fry were spawned at the Florida Bass Conservation Center in Richloam. Seventy-eight brood fish were taken from the Rim Canal near Lakeport and transported to the center and placed in the care of Rick Stout, the center's director.

"We got them acclimated here for a couple of weeks and once they got settled in we took a fin clip from the pectoral fin," he said. "We sent those to a genetics lab in St. Petersburg and they checked each one to be sure they were pure Florida bass."

Armed with this information, these geneticists will be able to extract DNA from the released fry and match it to the samples taken from the brood fish. This information will tell biologists from which pond the fry were taken and which female spawned them.

The brood fish were put into 100-foot x 300-foot brooding ponds. Mr. Stout said the ponds are stocked at a rate of 20 to 25 pair of brood fish per acre.

When the fry reach 7 to 8 millimeters



Submitted photo/Don Fox, FWC
Rick Stout (on truck), from the Florida Bass Conservation Center in Richloam, helps transfer 52,000 fry largemouth bass from tanks on his trailer to a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) boat Wednesday, April 8. FWC biologists Brent Bachelder (left) and Corey Lee (center) then released the fry in the First Point area of Lake Okeechobee.

in length they are removed from the brood ponds.

"The male will keep them schooled up and when they rise up we go in with a fine net seine and transport the fry to a fertilized pond. They will be kept there about three to four weeks," explained Mr. Stout.

According to Mr. Fox, the Cody's Cove to First Point area was chosen because there is an exceptional forage base for the bass. He said there is also good habitat that consists of eel grass with some peppergrass and hydrilla mixed with it.

Another reason for placing the fry here is because the area is somewhat confined which will make it easier for biologists to monitor them.

Mr. Fox said the fry should reach a length of about 5 inches by fall and will likely begin to spawn when they get to about 10 inches.

He also said the stocking is only aimed at bumping up the population in an area. Mr. Fox said it cannot be done to increase the to-

tal bass population simply because the lake is too big. But, if this initial stocking program is successful it will be repeated in different areas of the lake to increase those populations.

It is planned to stock the Moonshine Bay area next year.

Besides the largemouth, Mr. Fox said an additional 50,000 sunshine bass were stocked in the Caloosahatchee River below the Moore Haven lock Wednesday. Sunshine bass are a striped-white bass hybrid.

He said stocking these fish in the lake area is nothing new.

"We've been doing this for years," he said. "We've got some fish up to 6 to 7 pounds."

Mr. Fox said these fish were put in the river because they are a "more flow-oriented fish."

Sunshine bass are hatchery-raised fish and do not reproduce on their own. They are produced by crossing a female white bass with a male striped bass.

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COURT

Continued From Page 1

"They shot me in the head," he said, while rubbing the right side of his head.

Personnel from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) and security officers at the Okeechobee County Judicial Complex went through three mock situations Friday, April 10. The scenarios not only tested the facility's security, but how to handle a hostage situation in the courtroom without injury to the innocent.

"It went well," said OCSO Lieutenant Gary Bell, the leader of the OCSO Special Response Team (SRT). "In the tactical world, there is no one right way to do things."

After each scenario, Lt. Bell and those involved discussed what went wrong, what went right and methods of handling the situation that could keep everyone safe.

In Friday's first scenario, Detective Van Deman tried to enter the judicial center with a lit cigarette but security denied him entrance and told him to go outside.

As he stood outside the glass doors smoking his cigarette, Detective Susan Morrison, Corrections Officer Brian Tatum and OCSO Auxiliary Deputy Bryan Holden walked up to the security checkpoint.

As the metal detector sounded, the three began to argue at the way they were being

treated. The arguing escalated to the point that there was shoving and the three had to be separated and subdued by officers.

After a few minutes, the trio calmed somewhat because they had carried out their plan.

During the confrontation Detective Van Deman, armed with a handgun, entered the other side of the building unseen. He quietly walked to the elevators and made his way to a third floor courtroom.

Security had been breached. "The first scenario was distraction, and it worked rather well," Lt. Bell told security personnel when the scenario was over.

To compound matters, by creating confusion Officer Tatum was able to enter the interior of the facility armed with a large folding knife. He then took that knife onto an elevator where he 'killed' a deputy.

When security officer Curtis Baxter started searching Officer Tatum his 'wife,' Detective Morrison, stepped in and created even more distraction which allowed her 'husband' to get past security with the knife.

"Don't feel bad about going back and searching someone a second time," Officer Tatum offered at the end of the scenario.

The second scenario saw Officer Tatum, armed with his simulated automatic handgun, step from the courtroom audience and start shooting rounds filled with paint in an attempt to free the defendant.

Officer Tatum's ascent to the defense

table was made possible because Detective Van Deman created a diversion in the back of the courtroom and was then escorted out by security officer Randy Parker.

"You did a great job of getting the guy out the back," said Lt. Bell to Officer Parker at the end of the scenario. "That's one less person in the equation."

In the morning's final scenario, Detective Van Deman played an armed suspect that was mad with the system and a particular defense attorney, played by Detective Morrison. After taking the entire courtroom hostage he shot and killed a deputy "because he tried to stand up to me."

In a few minutes, an OCSO hostage negotiator called and tried to learn his identity, why he was holding the courtroom hostage and what he wanted.

"I want cold drinks brought up to the courtroom for everyone," he told the negotiator, OCSO Deputy Arlene Durbin. "You bring me the Cokes, and I'll give you the dead body."

After several minutes went by, he became more forceful in his demands.

"This is Okeechobee. There are 150 convenience stores here. What's taking so long? Get my Cokes up here!" he yelled into the speaker phone.

Tiring of the conversation with the negotiator, and that he still did not have his soft drinks, the suspect shot the defense attorney in the foot. Still, Deputy Durbin calmly

pressed on -- trying to learn the man's identity and why he was there.

Finally, Detective Van Deman asked the negotiator: "Do you know what revenge sounds like?" He then shot and killed the defense attorney.

Within seconds, SRT members armed with automatic weapons burst into the courtroom from the front and back. And as quickly as it had begun, the situation was over and the suspect was dead.

When the third scenario was over, Lt. Bell said he was pleased with how the practice situations went and that it was good to use a building like the judicial center because of its size, the large number of doors and passageways and because there are innocent people involved.

OCSO Detective Sergeant T.J. Brock, who heads up the negotiating team, said all the teams involved need these practice sessions and the chance to go back over what happened and correct any mistakes that were made.

He said since Deputy Durbin is the newest member of his team, it was also good to give her some practice.

"This (the scenario) gives me the chance to assess the hostage negotiator," said Sgt. Brock. "I think these (practice sessions) accomplish a great deal."

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 87. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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

Extended Forecast

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 87. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 88. South southwest wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Thursday: **Cash 3:** 4-7-4; **Play 4:** 3-8-2-9; **Fantasy 5:** 1-7-22-29-33. Numbers drawn Friday, **Cash 3:** 4-1-2; **Play 4:** 7-6-2-7.

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SCHOOLS

Continued From Page 1

same;

- South Elementary School-instructional 6, non-instructional same;
- Exceptional Student Education-instructional 1.5, non-instructional 2; and,
- Maintenance/Transportation/Food Service-down 1 Maintenance Specialist II position.

In other business the school board will hear a mid-year review of group health insurance which will be a key item of the up-

coming school board workshop on Tuesday, May 5, at 6 p.m. in the district board room. During this workshop they will also discuss the budget with the further cuts by the legislature and the possibility of stimulus funds.

The school board will also consider:

- several recommendations for expulsion;
- bids for the Energy Management System upgrades for Osceola Middle School and the district office;
- two utility easements for the Okeechobee Utility Authority.

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

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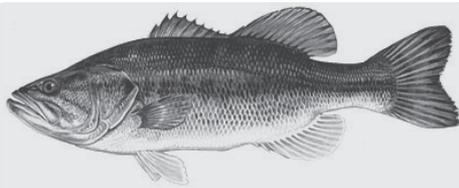
Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions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

Teachers losing their jobs

- With the economy like it is, it is inevitable that it would affect the school system. They are trying to cope like the rest of the organizations and businesses. They have a budget like everyone else, and they have to figure out what to do with the money they have. Something has got to give when you just don't have the money to operate like you have been in the past. If there hadn't been a pay raise last year, maybe they wouldn't lose positions. Maybe they should all take a pay cut. That might save positions. Do you think the union would go for a pay cut if it meant saving the jobs of people?

- The district has been crying they have no money for years now, even when the economy was good. In the last couple of years when they've "had no money" it turns out they've had plenty -- they just like to hang on to too much of it. Case in point--last year's fund balance was 16 percent and the year before that was 14 percent. Just to put this into perspective -- a healthy fund balance is 5 percent and the average by county for the whole state last year was 8 percent. Why is Okeechobee hanging onto 16 percent and letting teachers go?

- Even at the beginning of this serious recession, many in every walk of life were still hollering about pay raises. People can't understand there is a middle road between no income(loss of job), and high income. They stand by, quaking in their boots about who will be let go, hoping it's not their own self, while they could accept lower income and keep many more employed.



Man arrested for hitting boater in the head with fish

- A Fort Pierce man was arrested last week, accused of hurling a fish from a bridge and allegedly hitting a boater on the head. The man was fishing on the North Bridge late Saturday and, along with several others on the bridge, asked a man to move his boat. The boater told the people on the bridge he was not going to move his boat. So the man on the bridge threw a fish that hit the boater on the head. Boaters -- beware!

- Guess if the guy in the boat was not a jerk, he would not have a fish head tossed at him.

- Looks like boaters should have a little more consideration for those who cannot afford boats and are limited to where they can fish. The boater can go find another spot. The people on the bridge can't.

- This is a common problem between bridge/pier fisher people and boaters. Most boaters will go find a productive area and give them space. Others get whacked in the head by a mullet.

Investment

- I loaned some money to a local business man in Okeechobee. The money was from my husband's retirement. This person said the money was an investment for two weeks. He has not paid it back and now he will not return my phone calls nor my emails. I would like to let the people know to beware of those who will ask them to invest in projects. They will take your money like they did to me.

A suggestion

- Members of Congress should be compelled to wear uniforms, just like NASCAR drivers. That way, we can identify their corporate sponsors.

Elementary school children

arrested for felonies

- Three children ages 9, 10 and 11 were arrested on Monday, April 6, for breaking into a home and stealing some belongings and causing damage to the house. These kids unscrewed the dead bolt on the home and broke a window to gain entry. Where were the parents? What is this world coming to? Children of this age causing mayhem in our county and city is unacceptable in my book. These are the ones that need to be turned over your knee and paddled. When growing up, we were either whipped with a belt, paddle or a switch. Forget about going to the movies or to the skating rink. And no phone calls and no friends over. Aren't these parents aware of who their children are hanging out with?

- Children ages 9, 10 and 11 certainly should be supervised. There is no excuse for letting these kids run around causing damage to other people's property. I read in the paper that the homeowner was in the hospital. What a shame they can't even trust their neighbors to keep their kids from breaking into their home. By age 9, a kid should have been taught right from wrong.

- I know one of the boys. I have talked with him about this. He is a good kid that you would never think capable of something like this, and made a bad choice. He was away from his home for an hour, that he was allowed to go over to his friend's house to play. His parents are very good people, and are shocked that their son was a part of this. They are, and believe me he is very remorseful. The boy has lost all his games, TV, is grounded for life. His parents are taking this very, very seriously. The parents have contacted the care taker of the house to make arrangements to fix, clean up, and do any other chores that might need to be done around the house. The kids did not realize how wrong what they were doing was.

- Don't think it can't happen to you. Kids need adult supervision.

County finances

- I agree with the person who said the county commissioners should donate part of their salary back to the county. And all of the top administration should have to take a pay cut before they reduce any of the lower level staffers' pay. The top administration folks should take a pay cut before they start laying the lower level staffers off. Same with the schools. The school board members and the top administrators should be the first to take the pay cuts.

Yard sale sign stolen

- I want to thank the person who took my yard sale sign on Friday, March 27, at 18th Terrace and S.E. 32nd Streets. I guess they didn't want competition.

Water management

- I see where the Water Management District is having a photo contest and plans to print a nice color calendar with the winning photos. What a waste of time and money. If the water management employees have time to work on nonsense like that, we could fire a few of them and save some tax dollars. Same with the calendar. Why in the world are we spending tax money on a calendar? We have enough calendars that the businesses give out for free. We don't need to be wasting tax dollars on more calendars.

Happy Easter

- I just want to wish everyone a Happy Easter. The economy may be in trouble, but we still have a lot to be thankful for.



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Okeechobee News

USPS 406-160

Published Sunday, Wednesday and Friday by Independent Newspapers, Inc.

107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D • Okeechobee, FL 34974
Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Okeechobee News
Circulation Administration

PO Box 7011 • Dover, DE 19903

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- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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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 7 p.m. The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

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

VFW #10539 Ladies Auxiliary lunch and bingo will start at noon at the Post, 3912 U.S. 441 S.E. Auxiliary members and their guests are invited. Please R.S.V.P. to 863-763-2308.

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

The Genealogical Society of Okeechobee will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Public Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. The meeting is open to anyone interested in tracing his or her ancestry. The annual membership is \$10 per person, and \$12 for a family. For information, call Eve at 863-467-2674; or, visit their web site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgso>.

Artful Appliers is a recently formed chapter in Okeechobee. This chapter meets at the Turtle Cove Clubhouse, 10 Linda Road, Okeechobee on Mondays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Karen Graves, Chapter leader would like to extend a warm welcome to any interested persons to come by and see what they are about. For information call 863-763-6952.

Flottilla 57 - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Station located at the entrance to Okeetantie on Road 78 on the second Monday of each month. Everyone is welcome to come as a guest and inquire about membership. Watch the paper we are planning a one day boat safety program in January 2009. Do get your safe boating certification. Call to enroll for course or to inquire about membership 863-763-0165.

Tuesday

Civil Air Patrol set to meet

The Civil Air Patrol meets each Tuesday evening at the Okeechobee Airport T-Hanger

#1, meetings start at 7:30 p.m. For information please call Capt. Joe Papasso 561-252-0916 or Lt. Greg Gernat 863-697-9915

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Family History Center meets from 1

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

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 at 1735 S.W. 24th Ave. This is a men's only meeting. For information, call Earl at 863-763-0139.

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

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

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

The Lighthouse Refuge support group

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

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

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

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

Engaged? Just married?
Golden anniversary? New baby?
Share your news in print and online

Celebrations

www.newszap.com/celebrations

WEDDINGS
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. ILLUSTRATION
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Illustration were married on Jan. 1, 2009, in the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. The bride is the daughter of Joseph and Jane Illustration. The groom is the son of Tom and Betty Perera. The ceremony was officiated by Pastor David G. Smith. The couple will be celebrating their first anniversary on Jan. 1, 2010. The bride is the daughter of Joseph and Jane Illustration. The groom is the son of Tom and Betty Perera. The ceremony was officiated by Pastor David G. Smith. The couple will be celebrating their first anniversary on Jan. 1, 2010.

BIRTHS
SUSAN A. EXAMPLE
Susan A. Example was born at 2:08 p.m. on Jan. 1, 2009, in Newby Hospital. She weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. Her mother is the daughter of Joseph and Jane Illustration. Her father is the son of Tom and Betty Perera. The birth was attended by Dr. Michael J. Smith. The baby is the daughter of Susan and Michael Smith. The baby is the daughter of Susan and Michael Smith. The baby is the daughter of Susan and Michael Smith.

ANNIVERSARY
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. EXAMPLE
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Example celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends on October 15, 2008. The Example's were married on October 15, 1958 at Lakeside Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The bride was the daughter of Joseph and Jane Example. The groom was the son of Joseph and Jane Example. The celebration was held at the Lakeside Church. The celebration was held at the Lakeside Church. The celebration was held at the Lakeside Church.

ENGAGEMENT
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. EXAMPLE
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Example announced their engagement on Jan. 1, 2009. The bride is the daughter of Joseph and Jane Example. The groom is the son of Tom and Betty Perera. The couple will be celebrating their first anniversary on Jan. 1, 2010. The bride is the daughter of Joseph and Jane Example. The groom is the son of Tom and Betty Perera. The couple will be celebrating their first anniversary on Jan. 1, 2010.

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- Gift registry page
- Profile page

Submit your good news today at www.newszap.com/celebrations

Community Events

Kiwanis to host 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.

Nutrition class set for Monday

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.

Babysitter's Training Class set for Monday

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will be holding a Babysitter's Training class on Monday, **April 13**. Time: 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., at the American Red Cross, Okeechobee Service Center, 323 N. Parrott Ave. Cost: \$40. Prerequisite: Youth Ages 11 through 14 yrs. of age. For more information please call 863-763-248. Lunch will be provided and participants will receive their Red Cross certification card the day of the training as well as the Babysitter's Training package.

Annual Speech contest open

The Annual Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District Speaking Contest will be held at 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, **April 14**, at the Okeechobee USDA Service Center at 452 Hwy 98 North, Okeechobee. The contest is open to any Okeechobee County student enrolled in grades 6 through 12. Speeches will be 5 to 8 minutes long and cover the topic "What is one of the many land uses in Florida?" Three independent judges will score contestants on content, composition and delivery. Prizes for the District Contest are \$250 for First Place, \$175 for second place and \$75 for Third Place. There will be a participation prize of \$30 to all contestants. Any student interested in participating may contact Audrey Driggers at the Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District at 863-763-3619 or stop by the USDA Service Center for complete contest rules and entry form.

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.

Prom Dress Rescue ready for fittings

Now in our third year, we stand ready to start the "gathering of the gowns." All gowns can be dropped off at the high school gatehouse, for your convenience anytime during school hours. The fitting of the gowns will be **April 15, 16, and 17**, in the media center at the high school, during school hours. For more information call Pam Chesley at 863-946-2736 or 863-634-7158.

Preschool holds open house

Parents of youngsters, who will be eligible for kindergarten during the 2009-10 school year are invited to a kindergarten open house at Peace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten. Parents may examine the curriculum, view the classroom, and meet the teacher from 3:30 until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, **April 15**. Peace Lutheran is located at 750 N.W. 23rd Lane. Appointments may be made on individual basis for those who cannot attend by calling the school office at 863-763-7566. Refreshments will be served.

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.

Mary Ann Vance, 36

OKEECHOBEE — Mary Ann Vance, died Saturday, April 4, 2009, in her home. She was 36. Born June 11, 1972 in Wilmington, Del., she had been a resident of Okeechobee for the last three years and was a member of the More 2 Life Church. She enjoyed and collected butterflies. She was preceded in death by her father, Richard Vance. She is survived by her mother, Judith Brantmyer of Tampa; brother, Rob Goelz of Auburndale; sisters, Tammy Gonzalez of Palm Harbor, and Sunday Gilliam of Ocala; and best friends, Greg and Peggy.

There are no planned visitation or services. Condolences may be sent to www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 N.E. 5th Street, Okeechobee.

Last days for tax help!

Monday, **April 13** and Tuesday, **April 14**, will be the last two days for free tax help by AARP Taxaide at The American Legion from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Enter on the east side of the building. No appointment is necessary. Bring photo ID, all 2008 tax documents and 2007 tax return. For more information, (do not call American Legion Hall) call 863-357-1694.

IRSC to host 'Credit repair' seminar

The Entrepreneur Development & Corporate & Community Training Institutes @ IRSC, Small Business Development Center @ IRSC, the Economic Council of Okeechobee and the SBDC @ Florida Gulf Coast University cordially invite you to a FREE seminar, "**Restoring your credit**," on **Thursday, April 16, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the** Williamson Conference and Educational Center, IRSC - Dixon Hendry Campus, Okeechobee. Everyone is invited to attend the FREE "Learn @ Lunch" seminars. Please feel free to bring your own lunch. Seating is limited. You must RSVP to attend. To register go to the CCTI website @ www.irsc.edu/ccti.

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.

IRSC presents 'Around the World' program

Around the World in Eighty Minutes," **April 16-18, at 8 p.m. and April 18, at 2 p.m.** McAlpin Fine Arts Center, IRSC Main Campus, 3209 Virginia Avenue in Fort Pierce. The IRSC Wind Ensemble features the richness and beauty of music around the world. Tickets are \$12. Call the IRSC Box Office at 1-800-220-9915.

Healthy Start Board of Directors meet

The Board of Directors of the Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition will meet on Wednesday, **April 15** at 11:30 a.m., in their office, located at 575 S.W. 28th Street, within the New Endeavors School Building. This meeting is open to the public. For more information please contact Executive Director, Kay Begin at 863-462-5877.

Okeechobee Library book sale

Friends of the Okeechobee Library will hold their spring fund-raiser book sale on Thursday, **April 16**, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, **April 17**, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday, **April 18**, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Hardcover books-\$2; Paperbacks-\$1; Audio-visuals-\$1; Library discards-half price. On Saturday a bag of books is \$2; a box is \$5. For more information please call the library at 863-763-3536.

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Husband charged with threatening spouse

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man has been booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a \$100,000 bond after he allegedly threatened to shoot his wife.

Dana Edward Salser, 57, S.E. 55th Lane, was arrested Thursday, April 9, on a charge of aggravated assault with a firearm (domestic).

An arrest report by Deputy Joseph Hall, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), states Salser pointed a .357 caliber handgun at his wife and told her "if she left him he would kill her."

Salser then pointed the gun at his temple and threatened to kill himself, the report continued.

The deputy's report stated that Salser had

apparently been drinking and that around 3:48 p.m. he and his wife got into an argument. Deputy Hall went on to state that the victim had unloaded her husband's gun without his knowledge and hid the bullets.



Dana Edward Salser

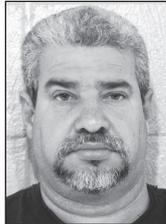
Okeechobee's Most Wanted

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



Samuel Knight



Donna Birdsall



Ford Bhirdo

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

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

Samuel Knight, 7/6/1965, 3 Cts Worthless Check.

Donna Birdsall, 5/29/1969, VOP - Forgery, Dealing In Stolen Property, False Info To Pawn Broker.

Ford Bhirdo, 4/7/1985, Burglar.

Okeechobee Arrest Report

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

- Ramiro Reyna, 18, N.W. 46th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested April 9 by Deputy Sarah Green on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with felony criminal mischief. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- John Paul Pietro, 54, S.W. 10th Drive, Okeechobee, was arrested April 9 by Officer Danny Green on a Highlands County warrant charging him with driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Raymond Sears, 18, Ixoria Ave. Fort Pierce, was arrested April 9 by Deputy G. Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with escape. His bond was set at \$30,000.

This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges

against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.

Ricardo J. Quintero-Herencia, MD



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OKEECHOBEE NEWS
Community Service
Through Journalism

Cover Florida to provide insurance options

By Chauna Aguilar
Okeechobee News

Floridians may have more insurance options in the future.

On April 8, Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce members heard from MetLife

representatives Tom Walsh and Charlie Parker on Wednesday, April, 8, about the changes in health insurance for Florida residents.

The Cover Florida plans, presented by UnitedHealthcare, were spurred by the governor. The program is used as a model for

the nation for those who do not qualify for other forms of insurance or do not have a job which offers insurance. The programs are for individuals ages 19 to 64 who have not had insurance for at least six months; have participated in the COBRA insurance option; or have just lost their job.

Cover Florida will help fill a void for those who are waiting to see what happens on a national level with health care.

Through this plan with Cover Florida, UnitedHealthcare provides individual as well as group plans for businesses. The policies are guaranteed, whether the individual is insurable or not based on health conditions.

The main focus of these plans is preventable care and screenings. Cover Florida

benefit plans include: office visits; outpatient and inpatient surgery; prescription drugs; durable medical equipment; and diabetic supplies.

There are two levels to the program, a standard and standard plus program. Both plans are guaranteed issue insurance with rates based on age and gender; portable within Florida; and generic only pharmacy coverage. Other pharmacy coverage is done with a larger co-pay.

For more information about this program contact MetLife Financial Services at 561-207-2311.

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

Chesser is GAL Volunteer of the Year

The 19th Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program, the voice for Florida's Abused and Neglected Children is proud to announce the Volunteer of the Year, Robin Chesser.

Ms. Chesser, an Okeechobee volunteer, received her certification on Jan. 24, 2008. She has just celebrated her first year with the GALP.

Ms. Chesser has been assigned to as many as 25 children in the past, and is currently assigned to 18. She has obtained two hundred thirty-six hours of in-service credit. She files, enters data, scanning, copying, takes notes in court, does follow up calls and conducts courtesy visits for other volunteers and GALP staff; in addition too, representing the eighteen children she is appointed to in Dependency Court.

Ms. Chesser makes herself very accessible to the children she represents. She is Okeechobee's GAL Volunteer Mentor. She is extremely knowledgeable; dedicated to the children she represents and is a Strong Child Advocate. Her dedication to abused, abandoned and neglected children in our district is outstanding, and she does it all with a smile, and a "yes ma'am"!



Submitted photo
Volunteer Gal of the year, Robin Chesser, 19th Judicial Galp Circuit Director, Elizabeth Mackenzie And Assistant Program Director, Pattra Dodd.

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Seminole Elementary School News

The Seminole Reads Challenge is a challenge to help more children read well and independently. This challenge is an opportunity for families, schools, libraries, and community groups to become part of a national effort to improve the reading and writing of American's children.

Parents can, at home, help their children meet this challenge. By becoming your child's learning partner, you can help

engage your child in educational activities.

As a learning partner, you can begin by reading to or with your child for thirty minutes a night. Pick a place that is comfortable and quiet. You can read at home or in the public library. Make sure to get a library card.

Third grade

Congratulations to our students of the week. Representing Mrs. Coldiron's

room we have Deloma Davis and Bethany Shirey. Amy Holden and Denise Garcia were selected from Mrs. Johnson's class. Mrs. Padgett's students of the week were Eric Cardenas and Clarissa Gomez. Alexis Pinon and Daniel Mederos were chosen from Mrs. Reed's class. From Mrs. McCranie's class Carlos Garcia and Saul Estrada were students of the week.

Representing third grade in school Spelling Bell Friday, April 3, we have Carissa Tripp, Eli Artola, Sandy Leon, Lisa Brown, Percent Wiggins, Amy Holden, Ashley Cheney, Eduardo Plascencia, Justin Rogers, Chantel Pacheco, Arianna Colon, Porta Rowe, Anayeli Montoya, and Clayton Harris.



Submitted photos/SEM

(Clockwise from upper right) Ms. Duke, from OFC, helped the students at Seminole Elementary School in Ms. Shook's class plant flower seeds in a glove. (lower right) Yarisa in Ms. Buelry's class and Hasley in Ms. Shook's class are ready to cook in the restaurant at the Children's Museum in Sebring. (center) Daniel Estrada and his mother are ready to enjoy a meal in the restaurant at the Children's Museum in Sebring. (lower left) Sarah Vickers, in Ms. Buehly's class at shows the seeds she planted in a glove. (Upper left) Yesenia Matias, Jaqueline Mandujano, and Laura Chavero-Montoya, from Seminole Elementary School, enjoy the restaurant at the Children's Museum in Sebring.

RAPE

Talk About It

If you or someone you know has been raped or sexually assaulted, we are here to help. Contact us:

Sexual Assault Assistance Program of the Treasure Coast

24 Hour Confidential Hotline
1.866.828.7273 (RAPE)

We are here to listen and to provide information and referrals to sexual assault victims so they will be able to make informed choices regarding their health, safety and rights

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

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Big Lake Juniors Volleyball continue winning ways

Big Lake Juniors Volleyball continues their winning way in the month of March. They travelled to Tampa on March 14-15 to participate in a major tournament, the Molten Pre-Qualifier, at the Tampa Convention Center. This tournament is sanctioned by USA Volleyball, the organization that chooses and supports the United States Olympic indoor and beach volleyball teams. It was the first USAV tournament of the year for the girls, so they entered the tournament virtually unranked. It didn't take long for them to get noticed.

In pool play on Saturday, Big Lake 14s lost one close match in three sets to the North Florida Volleyball Academy 14 Elite team from Tallahassee. After winning their other two matches, they advanced to the Gold Bracket division on Sunday. With great defense and timely offense, the girls seemed to play better with each match. Three straight

wins Sunday put them in the championship match against the same North Florida team that beat them on Saturday. Big Lake showed no signs of weariness or intimidation as they quickly defeated their opponent in two straight sets to win the gold division 14 and under Club championship over 23 other teams.

For the tournament, Big Lake won 6 matches and lost 1. Darby Jones had 30 kills and 6 aces; Kyla Hargraves had 12 kills and 15 aces; Sarah Davis had 23 kills and 14 aces; Maci Thomas had 19 kills and 12 aces.

After a weekend off, Big Lake 14s travelled to Orlando on March 28 for a one day AAU tournament sponsored by the Orlando Volleyball Academy. They competed in the 16 and under division and were able to win the silver division championship, beating a team from Eustiss in the title match. As the youngest team playing in the division, the

Big Lake girls received many compliments about their skill level and being able to compete with the older girls who also play on their high school teams.

For the tournament, Big Lake won 3 matches and lost 2. Setters Aubrey Robertson and Sarah Davis were able to help Darby Jones get a team leading 28 kills, with Kyla Hargraves hitting 15 and Maci Thomas hitting 13. Sarah Davis led with 12 service aces, followed by Aubrey Robertson with 7 aces. Defensive specialist Krista Ward was able to dig and pass many hard hit balls. Other team members are Taylor Williams, Katie Ward, Samantha Rivero and Taelor Logan. The girls are coached by Todd and Rachel Jones.

The Big Lake Juniors 14 team has a season match record of 18 wins and 4 losses while playing in a limited number of tournaments. They will be competing next in the Palm Beach Classic on April 18-19. As representatives of our county, these girls practice and play hard but always show good sportsmanship. Everyone with the Big Lake Juniors organization wishes to thank the Okeechobee community for their support as these young ladies continue to play the game that they love.



Sarah Davis.



Aubrey Roberston.

Submitted photos



Maci Thomas.

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Aluminum contractor fined

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Frank Fowler, owner of Alliance Aluminum Concrete Corporation was fined by the Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board for several violations and ordered to pay restitution to a homeowner.

At their meeting on Tuesday afternoon, April 7 the board determined that Mr. Fowler had been operating with an expired license and had put a skirting around a mobile home without obtaining a building permit.

Building official Tim English stated the charges against Mr. Fowler, who did not deny them.

"I will not dispute anything," Mr. Fowler said. "I apologize. I'm here to clear it up."

He said he did not realize his license has expired and he was not planning to do any more aluminum work in the county.

Mr. Fowler was fined \$500 and ordered to pay \$39 in restitution to the homeowner who had to pay that amount for the building permit.

The board also discussed requirements for the aluminum specialty and storm structure licenses.



Submitted photo/Teresa Chandler

Space for the kids

The Okeechobee Shrine Club has kindly donated space for future teen dances! Teen Dance Coordinator, Teresa Chandler, met with members of the Shrine Club, Mac Simpson, Shrine President, Bill Thornton, Shrine 1st Vice, Jeff Yates, Shrine 2nd Vice, Elma Yates, manager, to explain the importance of this activity for teens and the Shrine agreed to host the dances. A big thank you also goes to the American Legion and Matt Buxton, Buxton Funeral Home for also offering space for the dances. The next teen dance will be held on April 25, from 7-10 p.m. The cost of admission is \$7 and includes dinner, music played by our local DJ, Billy Dean and games with prizes and table activities. All proceeds from the dance will go to the American Red Cross. For more information, please call Teresa Chandler 863-697-6819.

Kathy Godwin
Lic. RE Broker

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<p>"LIVING THE LIFE"</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Reduced!</p>	<p>2 Story canal front/Lake access home. 3/2 with family rm and FLm. Two sheds, carport. Easy to see. Call Barbara McClellan 863-634-7547 #201979 \$185,000</p>	<p>"1/2 ACRE WATERFRONT"</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Lake Access!</p>	<p>2/2 w/access to Lake Okeechobee!! Dock, fish cleaning station and boat ramp! Updated flooring and a newer shingle roof. Lots of trees! Call Marcia Barber 863-634-1229 #202334 \$84,500</p>
<p>"LOOK HOW AFFORDABLE"</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Newly Reduced!</p>	<p>1981 SWMH, located on nice fenced lot in Treasure Island, new appliances, washer/dryer, beautiful FL m w/newly updated windows, 2 carports, furnished home, priced to sell. #202112 \$48,900</p>	<p>"GREAT HOMESTEAD"</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Corner Lot!</p>	<p>4/2 CBS home w/new roof in 2004. Fresh paint inside and out, tile flooring. Shed & utility rm. Very well maintained home. Call Max Ayala 561-722-0518 #201840 \$119,500</p>
<p>"WATERFRONT DELIGHT"</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">A Must See!</p>	<p>CBS 3/2 with 1 car carport and nice screened porch to enjoy the water view! Home also has a waterfront buildable lot beside it that comes with the home. This is a great deal. #202500 \$135,000</p>	<p>"QUAINT AND COZY"</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Nice Area!</p>	<p>1996 Park Model w/additions, covered front patio in Blue Cypress Golf & RV Resort. Bring your clubs for a round of golf. Lots of community amenities. #201413 \$79,900</p>

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	<p>CBS HOME ON WATERFRONT CORNER LOT. Fenced in area on side yard. Wall mural. Great starter home. Needs a little TLC. Vacant lot included in sale. MLS #201596, \$120,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.</p>
	<p>LARGE WATERFRONT HOME. Lot has canal on two sides. Mature oaks and a nice boat dock. Well maintained home and ready to move in. MLS #201606, \$150,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; transform: rotate(-45deg);">REDUCED</p>	<p>WATERFRONT Well-maintained SWMH. Ceramic tile throughout. Family room with a bathroom built on. A boat house with an electric hoist and concrete area. MLS #201706, \$99,000. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; transform: rotate(-45deg);">REDUCED</p>	<p>Fisherman's Dream: SWMH w/workshop. Boat House w/electric boat lift, close to BHR locks, FL rm, Carport w/concrete drive. Included is a 16' TriHull Larsen, 60hp Johnson. Lg lot w/trees. MLS #201939, \$94,500. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.</p>
	<p>GREAT OPPORTUNITY to own waterfront at an affordable price. Boat ramp. Nice concrete slab w/ lighted roof over. Fenced in lot. Small, clean SWMH PRICED TO SELL!! MLS #202115, \$72,900. Call Vicki at 863-634-4106.</p>
	<p>VERY NICE SWMH. FL m, two screened porches, two sheds, boat dock, fenced in yard. Painted white with drywall and vertical blinds. Aluminum Hurricane Shutters. MLS #202416, \$59,900. Call Vicki 863-634-4106.</p>

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<p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; background-color: black; padding: 2px;">NEW LISTING</p>	<p>3000-M: Fully furnished 3/2 DWMH in Treasure Island. Waterfront property with Lake access. MLS# 202482</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; background-color: black; padding: 2px;">PRICED TO SELL!</p>	<p>1007-M: Pine Ridge Park 1992 14 X 56 singlewide mobile home with screen porch addition. 2 sheds and fenced. \$68,000 MLS# 202123</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; background-color: black; padding: 2px;">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 style="font-weight: bold; color: white; background-color: black; padding: 2px;">REDUCED!</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 style="font-weight: bold; color: white; background-color: black; padding: 2px;">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 style="font-weight: bold; color: white; background-color: black; padding: 2px;">REDUCED!</p>	<p>1002-H: 3 bdrm CBS home with family and utility room, picket wood fencing. Close to everything in town. Could be re-zoned commercial. \$88,000 MLS# 201649</p>

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New mulch plant processes logs from Lykes Forest

PALMDALE — 7L Brands, LLC, a division of Lykes Bros. Inc., recently opened a new manufacturing facility in Palmdale. The plant, constructed during the summer of 2008, and fully operational on Oct. 16, 2008, processes eucalyptus and pine logs into environmentally friendly mulch products and related horticultural goods. The 35-acre facility provides for log storage, mulch processing and finished packaged storage.

The new plant employs three managers along with 10 production and skilled equipment operators. Located on Highway 27, the plant is positioned in the center of the Lykes forest with 16,000 acres of plantation eucalyptus to the north, and 50,000 acres of plantation pine to the west and south. A strong north-to-south footprint allows freight traffic to move on and off the property quickly and efficiently. 7L Brands implemented a sequence of equipment that reduces the logs through a 1200 hp electric grinder and an electric conveyor system and is sized to a specific shredded mulch texture through an electric oscillating screener.

"The grinding operation was developed to increase yield on raw material and return savings associated with intensive freight costs," noted Alan Shaffer, vice president of sales and marketing.

A 14,000-square-foot packaging facility was constructed with the help of Lykes Bros.' engineering team, and houses a state-of-the-art automated packaging line. Three primary stations within the packaging line are managed by two technicians and three large computer and electronic panels that



Submitted photos
7L Brands, LLC, a division of Lykes Bros. Inc., recently opened a new facility in Palmdale. The plant processes eucalyptus and pine logs into environmentally friendly mulch products and related horticultural goods.

monitor the status of the bagging process. Each station communicates with the next throughout the bagging, palletizing and stretch-wrapping process. One bag line is currently operating with plans for a second line.

"Our goal was to design the property and facility for planned expansion," said Mr. Shaffer. "We advanced our goal and provided the means to implement an entirely electric powered manufacturing process."

7L Brands will be manufacturing and promoting a line of truly sustainable eucalyptus mulch as the perfect environmentally



Submitted photos
A radical stacker is part of the state-of-the-art production line at the new mulch plant near Palmdale.

friendly alternative to cypress mulch. Eucalyptus regenerates from the stump, matures quickly, and can be harvested four times over 25-30 years. All mulch produced at the plant is 100 percent pure virgin wood, free of any construction, demolition, pallet or other waste-wood materials. And recently, an aged heartwood eucalyptus was introduced.

"Our heartwood eucalyptus mulch has an all natural, rich, earthy red tone without a chemical color additive," added Mr. Shaffer. "That's exciting!"

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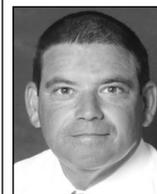
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Submitted photo/Everglades Elementary

Word games

Students and parents enjoy playing the word game, "Hang Man" while Ms. Hollis Hunt reads, "Horton Hears A Who," at Family Reading and Game Night."



Submitted photo

Delivering the goods

The Okeechobee Yatchette Club delivers canned goods to the Meals on Wheels program each month. This delivery was on Monday, April 6. All club members also donate Christmas gifts every year to be delivered to Meals on Wheels recipients.

Community Event

Church holds sunrise service

The Okeechobee Christian Church, located at the corner of Charles Harvey Highway and S.E. 18th Terrace, invites you to come meet and hear their new minister on Sunday, April 12 at 7 a.m. for their Sunrise Service.

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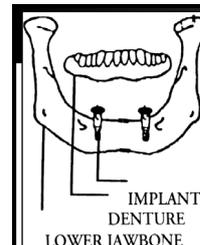
Okeechobee Livestock Market

April 7, 2009			200-250	125-130	106-115
Cows			250-300	120-140	100-104
Breaking	\$49.00	\$55.50	300-350	124-132	98-104
Cutter	\$45.00	\$54.00	350-400	118-128	90-101
Canner	\$39.00	\$45.00	400-450	111-123	88-100
			450-500	105-118	88-95
			550-600	100-113	85-92
			600-650	99-100	87-88
Bulls					
1000-1500	\$55.50	\$59.50			
1500-2000	\$59.00	\$65.50			
			Med #2	Steers	Hfirs
			150-200	97-120	85-107
Monday	Tuesday		200-250	100-125	79-102
Calves	968		250-300	100-122	80-100
Cows	303		300-350	100-117	79-93
Str	11		350-400	97-115	75-92
Hfirs	28		400-450	90-115	74-91
Bulls	18				
Yrlngs	58		Small #1	Steers	Hfirs
Mix	74		220-235	0-0	95-100
Total	1460		250-300	105-120	99-107
			300-350	105-120	91-99
Med #1	Steers	Hfirs			
150-200	0-0	0-0			

Prices to continue to be good - cows and

bulls were steady to \$2 higher. Feeder steers and heifers were up to \$5 higher. Barbara Harvey topped the calf market with a high of \$1.75 bought by Thomas Cattle Co. Adams Ranch topped the cow this week with a high of \$.58 bought by Central Packing. We still have some Angus Bulls for sale.

See ya next week,
Todd



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Shop here first!
The classified ads

Health/Disability Services Coordinator - Seasonal Position (6 to 9 months)

ECMHSP is now accepting applications for Health/Disability Services Coordinator in a Migrant Head Start Program. Responsible for ensuring that children and families have a source of continuous and accessible health care. Assumes lead role in the implementation of Health, Disability, Mental Health and Dental Services at the center in collaboration with Family Services Coordinators. Assumes primary responsibility for services for children with disabilities at center. Preferred: License Practical Nurse, Certified Medical Assistant, or Associates degree in health related field and one year experience working with young children, including children with disabilities, and families. Experience in community services. Supervisory experience. Bilingual (Sp/Eng or Creole/ Eng). Accepted: High School Diploma/GED and approved formal Health Credential or 45 contact hours of formal training in a health related field. Experience working with young children, including children with disabilities. Experience in community services. Supervisory experience preferred. Starting salary \$466.40 to \$490.00 weekly. Personal Leave and employer-matched retirement plan.

Closing date: 4/13/09
Send resume/letter of interest or apply at:
1003 NW 2nd Street
Okeechobee, FL 34972
Fax: (863) 467-1822
EOE, ADA, License # C190K0014

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DeMott
Auction Co.

**14th ANNUAL
"SPRING"
AUCTION
Saturday, APRIL
18th, 2009**

Okeechobee, FL
Main office:
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Tractors, Trucks, Citrus
& Farm Equipment
and much more
Consignments Welcome
Don't miss this
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www.demottauction.com
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229-891-1832
terry@demottauction.com
Auctioneer: Terry
DeMott, Sr. FL
#AU1833 - AB1285

Employment Medical

Lost

JAPANESE CHIN Small, Blk & White w/pink harness. Vic. of NE 80th St., Cedar Cove. 763-7549 Reward

Employment

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

Facilitator, pt. for Strong Fathers/Strong Families in Okeee. County. BA required with exp. in human services, psychology, or related field for educational parenting group.

EOE/DFWP
Fax resume to CASTLE
(772) 465-6013
By 04/15/2009

Employment Medical

CNA, LPN or RN
Experienced only need apply. For nights, weekends & some weekdays (6pm-6am). Smoke free environment. Must be CPR Certified & able to pass drug & TB tests. Background check also req'd. Fax resume to (863)763-9302 or call (863)634-5765

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.

ORTHODONTIC PRACTICE Seeks upbeat team player for a career position as an Orthodontic Assistant. Excellent communication skills essential. Experience a plus, but will train. Fax resume to: (863)467-2347

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

PART TIME MEDICAL ASSISTANT - Mon, Wed, Fri. Fax resume to (863)467-1612



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

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CALL GEORGE CARTER**
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Power Washing

FREE CONSULTATION
(863)763-4775

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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

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Agriculture

For more listings,
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www.newszap.com

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MISSOURI FOX TROTTER - Beautiful Gelding. For more info. call 863-634-5406

Lawn & Garden

LAWN CARE SERVICE - Free estimates, mowing, weed eating, edging, sod installation and more! Call Cody (863)447-0797



Rentals

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Apartments

IN TOWN - 2/2 very clean, w/d, lawn maint included, \$800 + \$300 sec. Call (863) 634-3572

Condos/Townhouses Rent

OKEECHOBEE - 2 br, 2 ba, privacy fence. All appls, new tile & carpet. (863)447-0925 or (863)763-2416

OKEECHOBEE TRI-PLEX clean, 2 BR, 2 BA, W/D hook-up, patio, privacy fence, no pets \$690 mo., 1st last + \$500 sec. dep., free garbage and lawn maint. (417)848-3424 or (417)848-6360

TAYLOR CREEK CONDO 1BR/1BA, 1st floor, furnished, pool & tennis, boat dock, rec room, very nice. Reasonable 561-324-4902 or 561-582-8693.

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

CBS HOME - 3BR, 1 1/2BA, medal roof, new appliances & tile. \$750/mo. + \$400 dep. Call 863-697-2124

Lawn & Garden

LOOKING FOR 20 -30 ACRES TO RENT - with well, (863)532-1753

Houses - Rent

FOR RENT - 3/2 great neighborhood in SW section. \$1175 mo + sec (863)467-4971

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)467-7528

IN TOWN - Clean 2.5 BR, 1BA, w/W&D hook up, lawn serv. Non-smk. env., Small pet ok. \$750 mo. + \$500 sec. 941-504-3954 or 941-366-6617

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

LEAVE THE CITY - Live in the country! 3/2 Share 20 acres. Horses welcome! Call Buzz (772)201-8230

LOG CABIN - 2BR, 1BA, Rim Canal. Pool & Dock. Furnished w/Bedding, Linens & Cookware. (561)234-0277

OKEE - 2/1, clean furnished, carpeting, new a/c, enclosed porch, W/D. Shed, \$800/mo inclds water. Call (786)201-0306

Houses - Rent

OKEECHOBEE - 4br, 2ba, great neighborhood, tile throughout, \$1195/mo, 1st & sec month in (561)248-3888 or (863)599-0156

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

Rental Needed

COUPLE NEEDS HOME FOR RENT - 3/2/2, with pool, 1 pet, in Okeechobee We have ref's (863)484-2492

LOOKING FOR 20 -30 ACRES TO RENT - with well, (863)532-1753



Real Estate

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

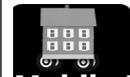
Lots - Sale

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

Warehouse Space

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

*40' X 80' or up to 120' X 80'
Call for information
(863)634-7988



Mobile Homes

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Rent

A 55+, 2BR/2BA Mobile Home in Indianwood, 2 front porch on large scenic, wooded, fenced lot. \$800 mo. Also a 1 br, 1ba \$500 mo. Call 863-634-3451

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

Mobile Home Rent

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

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

CABIN - 1/1,\$525. MO + Sec & elec , also 1/1 RV, BHR \$400 mo. + Sec & elec. 55+ Comm (863)763-7164

DWMH - 2BR/2Bath on east side of town. \$850 mo. 1st, last & Sec. (863)697-8836

FT. DRUM - 1st time rental, beautiful D/W on 5ac. Ft Drum creek/pond in back \$1000 dep. \$750 mo. (772)464-9226

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

Mobile Home Sale

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MOVE TO YOUR LAND
Mobile Home Angels
561-721-2230

PARK MODEL -35' Trailer, Come see, Make offer: F-ian RV Park, 6500 Hwy 441, Seiot 20. Okee. (304)690-6112



Recreation

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Motorcycles

HONDA SHADOW 750 - 2005 Very Low miles, Great condition \$4000 (863)763-8847

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



Automotive
For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Automobiles

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

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

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

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 dear? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifieds.

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 successful people!

GOLF CART CLUB CAR - 1 elec \$1350, 1 Gas \$1850, both excellent condition, (863)467-2824

Pickup Trucks

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

It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.

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

Vans

CHRYSLER VOYAGER 2003 - 60,000 miles, Used not abused. Well maintained. 7 passenger. Air bags, anti-lock brakes, p/w, V-6, a/c, auto. P/I \$6000/neg. (239)633-9246 (863)675-3390

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

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

Automobiles

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 #2895

'02 F150, 4x4, LB . Only \$1995
auto, A/C, bedliner, V8 #U5988

'98 Honda Accord .only \$3995
V6, 2 Dr., Leather, moon roof #U793

'98 Ford Expedition XLT \$4995
4x4 #U5552

'95 Ford T-bird \$2895
V8, A/C, loaded, new paint & tires. Great condition #15701

'98 Toyota Corolla \$3995
auto, a/c . low miles, one owner #18247

'00 VW Jetta Only \$3995
5 spd, A/C, loaded #U9990

'00 Chevy Malibu, \$3795
V-6, loaded, low miles #U2156

'03 Ford Taurus SE ... \$4695
Loaded #6310

'02 Mazda 626 \$4695
AT, AC #U8705

* plus tag, title, tax plus \$199, dealer fee

se habla español

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

Public Notice

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 on whom 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 733.02 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

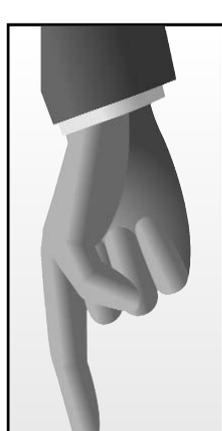
Personal Representatives:
THOMAS R. PENA
3458 NW 24th Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
316749 ON 4/5, 12/09

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www.newszip.com
click on classifieds

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



ADVERTISE and Get Results

www.newszip.com
click on classifieds

Sudoku

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

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

ANSWER:

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Like a comfy pillow
 - 5 Writable storage media, briefly
 - 9 Surfer's hangout
 - 14 Quite a ways away
 - 15 Auto racer Luyendyk
 - 16 Actress Winona
 - 17 Eight bits
 - 18 Christmas tree dropping
 - 20 Another name for crayfish
 - 22 Expunge
 - 23 Raspberries at the ballpark
 - 24 Bit of kindling
 - 28 Tennis match unit
 - 29 N.J. neighbor
 - 31 Angry outburst
 - 33 Most adorable
 - 36 Pertaining to birth
 - 37 Gain on stock you still own
 - 39 Grower in a pot
 - 41 Capital of the Northern Mariana Islands
 - 42 Passion
 - 44 Ink or oink site
 - 45 Absorb, with "up"
 - 48 Juanita's house
 - 49 Short haircuts
 - 52 1,000 kilograms
 - 54 Wrestling play
 - 57 Like yours and mine, grammatically
 - 60 Yummy
 - 61 Annoyed
 - 62 Fingered, as a perp
 - 63 Milky white gem
 - 64 Group of lions
 - 65 Architect Saarinen
 - 66 Small unit of force
- DOWN**
- 1 Buffalo hockey team
 - 2 Days __: olden times
 - 3 Influential moneybags
 - 4 Long hikes
 - 5 Mob head
 - 6 Hoopsters, often
 - 7 Aptly named laundry soap
 - 8 Take care of
 - 9 Uncle Remus appellation
 - 10 Candlelight reader's malady
 - 11 Calculate sums
 - 12 Animation frame
 - 13 Charlemagne's reign: Abbr.
 - 19 Home in a tree
 - 21 Prepared the way for
 - 25 Light bulb unit
 - 26 Rhoda's mom
 - 27 Mousse cousin
 - 30 Hot time in Paris
 - 32 Babies
 - 33 Polled
 - 34 Place for sweating
 - 35 Stumbles on, literally
 - 37 Links goals
 - 38 Uncover, in verse
 - 39 U.S. Army E-3
 - 40 Pasture
 - 43 Score-producing stats
 - 45 Red Baron pursuer of comics
 - 46 Out of the library
 - 47 Sell one's wares
 - 50 Davis of "Dr. Dolittle"
 - 51 Throwaway song on a 45, usually
 - 53 George Burns film
 - 55 Hand over
 - 56 Make over
 - 57 Lulu
 - 58 Three-time NHL MVP
 - 59 Go downhill fast?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
20				21								
22				23				24	25	26	27	
28				29	30			31	32			
				33				34	35		36	
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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		

By Edgar Fontaine
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New football coach starts

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

"I was hoping to leave the cold weather back in Ohio. A little cold sneaked into my trunk," Brahman Football Coach Jeremy Beckham was quoted as saying as he came to Okeechobee last week to start the work of building the Brahman football program.

"We're going to be ready to go. We're excited and the coaches are excited. Our players are getting excited, once they learn the program and how it's handled, the excitement will continue. We're looking forward to a great season."

Beckham said he is enthused about the work of his assistant coaches, and the off season conditioning program. He said there is more activity in the weight room and new kids are showing an interest in football. "I think it comes down to the enthusiasm of our coaches, and the newness of the program. People are excited. Whenever there is a change, people are excited. It'll be an exciting brand of football, and multiple players will get the ball."

Beckham said he has about 95 percent of his staff hired what he called the core of staff. He said he'll introduce them to the public in May. He said the number one thing he looked for in his staff was people who are relationship builders, especially with players and their families.

"I want guys who get into their homes, high character men who could help mentor our young men in their daily lives. That was paramount for me. I really feel like we have coaches that follow the way I feel about mentoring players, getting into their homes. We want a family atmosphere, and we're putting it all together."

Beckham has kept in touch with some of the local men he's selected to be assistant coaches. He's also talked to parents and players in the past two months. He also talks to anyone who visits the website he's built, okeechobeefootball.com. He said he is anxious to answer any question that comes in.

"Any transition will take time. You have to be prepared and organized. I have a plan and will do things that have been successful for me in the past," he noted.

One question he is certain to field will be the tough schedule the Brahman have for the 2009 season. On the schedule are perennial powers like Vero Beach, Hardee, William T. Dwyer, and Bartow. There are no easy games on the schedule. Beckham said that is the way he likes it.

Beckham will get a feel for top teams during the spring game on May 29. Okeechobee will host Palm Bay, a top team in Class 5A and 6A over the years. The annual Purple White Brahman football scrimmage will be played on Thursday, May 21 at the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation. Beckham said playing a spring game is important because it is a dress rehearsal for his staff and the players. They will treat the game as a regular season game as they'll have scouting reports done, will trade film with Palm Bay. He said that should bring dividends when the real games begin in the fall.

Bald eagles thriving in Florida

By Katrina Elsen
Okeechobee News

Bald eagles could be living near your neighborhood.

The majestic birds are increasing in population. According to the FWC "Eagles in Florida" web page, more than 25 bald eagle nests have been documented in Okeechobee County.

While the increase in their population means the bald eagle was removed from the endangered species list, the birds are still protected by state and federal law. A Florida regulation to protect eagles (F.A.C. 68A-16.002) went into effect in May 2008. It is illegal to disturb or take an eagle.

According to the FWC, the current nesting population of the bald eagle in the lower 48 states is 9,789 pairs; Florida has 1,133 pairs. Florida is home to more nesting pairs than any other state other than Alaska and Minnesota.

According to the FWC, the Florida bald eagle population and their nests have been protected through science-based land management, regulation, public education and law enforcement. Since the ban of the pes-

ticide Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane (DDT) in 1972, Florida's eagle population has increased more than 300 percent.

The FWC will monitor and document the nesting population of bald eagles for the next 24 years to determine if the population is stable.

The FWC welcomes the public's help in documenting eagle's nests.

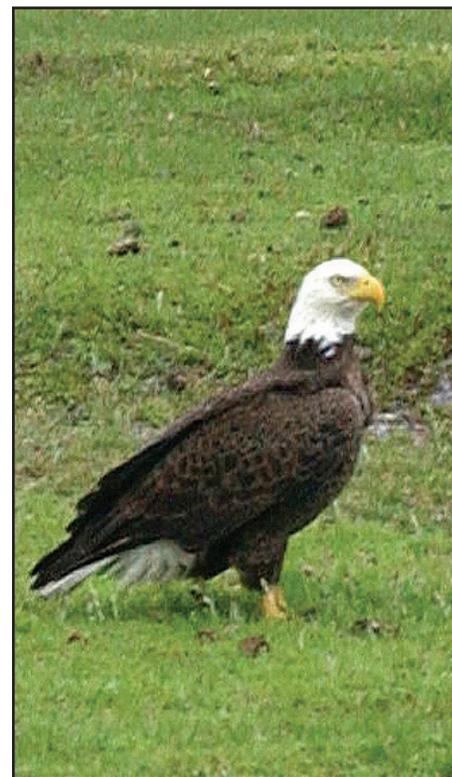
If a new nest has been discovered, make sure it is an undocumented nest using the eagle nest locator on the FWC Web site and then follow the directions on the Web site to report a new nest. If you have checked the Web site and still aren't sure, e-mail baldeagle@myfwc.com with the following information: The county the nest is located in, the global positioning system (GPS) location or nearest address, direction, and distance to the nest and your complete contact information.

For more information online go to: http://myfwc.com/WildlifeHabitats/Eagle_Index.htm.



INI Florida/Katrina Elsen

Bald eagles are on the increase in South Florida. More than 25 eagle nests have been found in Okeechobee County.



INI Florida/Katrina Elsen

A bald eagle stops to rest in a pasture in the Lazy 7 area .

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CAC014022
Offer expires 6/12/2009.

*Rebate offer is valid only with the purchase of qualifying Lennox products.

**Offer is subject to credit approval by GE Money Bank with purchase of qualifying Lennox product. No finance charge will be assessed and no minimum monthly payments will be required on your promotional purchase balance if you pay the promotion purchase balance in full by the end of the 90-day promotion period. If you do not, finance charges will be assessed on the promotional purchase balance from the date of purchase and minimum monthly payments will be required on the remaining promotional purchase balance. Standard account terms apply to non-promotional purchases and, after promotion ends, to your promotional purchase. Variable APR is 18.40% as of 2/2/09. Variable delinquency APR of 26.99% as of 2/2/09 may apply if you fail to pay your minimum payment by your due date for two consecutive billing periods. Minimum finance charge \$1.50. Offer void where prohibited by law.

***Additional \$300 is on qualifying systems and available through April 17, 2009.

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