

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 100 No. 141

Wednesday, November 25, 2009

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Happy Thanksgiving!

Index

Classifieds..... 17-19
 Community Events..... 6
 Crossword..... 18
 Obituaries..... 6
 Opinion..... 4
 Speak Out..... 4
 Sports..... 14-16,20
 Weather..... 2

Lake Levels

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Stimulus funds to help unemployed

By Pete Gawda
 Okeechobee News

Help is now locally available for those who have lost their jobs and are facing eviction. Under the American Recovery Act, Lamb of God, a residential addiction recovery center, has received funds for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP). The process started several months ago when Lamb of God signed a contract. Workers had to be trained and finally, on Monday, Nov. 23 Lamb of God starting talking telephone calls for appointments.

“This is not an easy, free hand-out,” warned Lyle Fried, who is administering the program. “We are not here to give handouts. We need documentation. There is a lot of paperwork involved.”

The program has limited funds with tight restrictions for their use. No mortgage payments are provided under HPRP. The program only provides rental assistance. However, if someone has had their home repossessed, the program can help with rental housing. Qualified applicants can also receive assistance with utility payments.

To receive help, an applicant must be at or below 50 percent of the area median income. That means that a family of four can have a combined income of no more than \$23,350. A two person household cannot have an annual income over \$18,300. If the applicant is not homeless or in imminent risk of being homeless, they will be referred to another program.

This program is not for the chronically homeless. Each applicant will be considered on a case-by-case basis. They must develop a recovery plan that

involves some type of education, job training or working with Workforce Solutions.

“We are not here to give handouts,” Mr. Fried stressed.

He is expecting more people to qualify than funds are available. So they will employ a rating system to set priorities and assess needs. Mr. Fried added that everything must be documented. The applicants will be required to furnish such things as lease agreements, check stubs, bank statements, and eviction notices.

“We look at it as a ministry to

See Stimulus — Page 2



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Church prepares Thanksgiving bags

Members of Peace Lutheran Church were busy over the weekend before Thanksgiving putting together 101 Thanksgiving bags to be given to needy families. Some of the people who worked on the project posed with some of their bags on Monday morning, Nov. 23. The families receiving the baskets were to pick them up that afternoon. Pictured are left to right, first row, Vanessa Bowman, Bradley Williams, Christen Frank, Michael Frank, Katherine Ragamat, Leanna Cotton, back row, Drew Achung, youth and family minister, Leah Suarez, Cortney Crews, Juan Lugo, Karen Cotton and Joey Barletto. The baskets were packed according to the size of a particular family. In addition to a turkey, each bag contained potatoes, corn muffin mix, yams, gravy, stuffing, tea, green beans, cranberry sauce and brownie or cake mix. The bags were furnished by Home Depot. Community sponsors provided the names of the families to receive the bags. Those community sponsors were: Florida Community Health Center, Inc, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Peace Lutheran Church & Preschool, Big Lake Missions, Suncoast Mental Health Center, Innovative Treatment Services, G4S and Dr. Guerrero and staff.



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FWC to meet in Clewiston Dec. 9 and 10

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will meet in Clewiston Dec. 9 and 10 to vote on and discuss numerous inland and marine issues. The Wednesday and Thursday sessions at the John Boy Auditorium, 1200 South W.C. Owen Ave., will begin at 8:30 a.m. both days and are open to the public.

The Dec. 9 meeting focuses on inland issues. The Commission will consider the final rule that would allow use of peregrine falcons for falconry in Florida, consistent with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Commissioners will discuss draft rules that would change deer hunting seasons and zone boundaries. The purpose of these changes is to align season dates with the rut

Okeechobee Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a high near 80 and showers and possible thunderstorms likely with a 60 percent chance. Winds will be calm becoming east northeast around 5 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a low around 64 and a 40 percent chance of showers. Winds will be calm becoming south southwest around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday - Thanksgiving Day: Mostly cloudy with a high near 79 and a 30 percent chance of showers mainly before 1 p.m. Winds will be from the west around 5 mph.

Thursday night: Mostly cloudy with a low around 55 and winds from the northwest around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny with a high near 70. Winds will be from the northwest around 10 mph.

Lotteries

Florida Lottery — Here are the numbers selected Monday in the Florida Lottery: **Cash 3:** 3-3-9; **Play 4:** 2-7-7-9; **Fantasy 5:** 7-8-15-21-34; **Mega Money:** 24-25-30-41 MB 7; **Florida Lotto:** 11-12-15-29-36-42 X 2; **Powerball:** 7-26-36-49-58 PB4 x5. Numbers drawn Tuesday, **Cash 3:** 3-0-0; **Play 4:** 0-3-6-1.

(a time of peak white-tailed deer activity), and thus increase hunter satisfaction.

Commissioners also will consider draft rule proposals pertaining to hunting on about 150 wildlife management areas, wildlife and environmental areas, mitigation parks and miscellaneous areas.

The first day's full agenda also includes a discussion of a draft rule change for taking or removing nuisance wildlife, adding the possibility of allowing off-site relocation under specific conditions, rather than euthanizing the wildlife, and requiring trap and snare inspection at least once every 24 hours.

Other proposed rules would require a permit to import nonnative wildlife on the conditional list, including the Northern largemouth bass. Another proposed rule would prohibit importation of quagga mussels.

Commissioners will consider draft rules revising Florida's listed-species process. The proposed changes would create one Florida list for imperiled species that includes any species listed at the federal level as well as Florida-designated listed species. The new draft rules concentrate on sound management strategies to ensure no species goes extinct in Florida.

Stimulus

Continued From Page 1

help the community," said Mr. Fried. From his standpoint, the amount of paperwork required makes the program very difficult. However, he added: "The idea is to help our economy rebound."

There is no service for walk-ins. Initial applications are only taken by telephone. There are only four people handling the program and one telephone line, so Mr. Fried urges patience. If a person is interested they should call 863-467-2677 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"We ask everybody be patient with us," he stressed. If the telephone rings with no answer, that means the line is in use. It could take multiple attempts to get through.

When the funds are gone, they are gone. When the limited amount of money allotted to the program is spent, the program will be over.

Commissioners will hear a request to continue consideration of changes to manatee zones in Sarasota County and discuss potential changes to the permits available to commercial fishers and professional fishing guides for higher speed operation in some manatee zones statewide. Land acquisition and management issues will also be discussed. Commissioners will wrap up the first day with election of a new chairman and vice chairman for 2010.

Presentations during the second day of the meeting include a report on options for future action for reptiles of concern, including the Burmese python. Also on Dec. 10, the Commission will hold a final public hearing on proposed federal consistency rules to address overfishing of grouper in the Atlantic Ocean off Florida. These rules would decrease the aggregate daily recreational bag limit for all grouper in Atlantic and Monroe County state waters from five fish to three fish per person, prohibit the captain and crew of for-hire vessels from retaining any species in the aggregate grouper bag limit, and decrease the aggregate recreational bag limit for gag and black grouper from two fish combined to one fish in Atlantic and Monroe County state waters.

The proposed federal consistency rules also would prohibit all recreational and commercial harvest of shallow-water groupers (including gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper and tiger grouper) from Jan. 1 through April 30 in Atlantic and Monroe County state waters.

In addition, a final public hearing will take place on a proposed federal consistency rule that would require dehooking tools to be aboard commercial and recreational vessels and used as needed when fishing for reef fish in Atlantic state waters.

Another final public hearing will take place on proposed new rules that would be compatible with an Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission management plan for Atlantic coastal sharks and enhance current FWC protective measures for sharks that inhabit Florida waters. These rules would prohibit harvest of sandbar, silky and Caribbean sharpnose sharks from state waters; establish a 54-inch fork-length minimum size limit for all sharks, except Atlantic sharp-

nose, blacknose, bonnethead, finetooth and blacktip sharks and smooth dogfish; prohibit removal of shark heads and tails at sea; allow only hook and line gear to harvest sharks; and make other technical shark rule changes.

A final public hearing will also revolve around proposed rule amendments that would automatically allow use of new designs of bycatch reduction and turtle exclusion devices in shrimp trawls in state waters when new designs are certified for use in adjacent federal waters; restrict the use of the Florida fisheye to inshore and nearshore Florida waters, where trawls are limited to 500 square feet; and delete a provision that allows use of the extended funnel in state waters. Technical changes to turtle-excluder device rules are also proposed.

In other marine fisheries action, the Commission will receive reports on permit and bonefish management issues; consider draft rules that would prohibit harvest of lemon sharks from Florida waters and extend the expiration date of the moratorium on new spiny lobster commercial dive permits from July 1, 2010, until July 1, 2015; review and discuss various federal fishery management issues; and receive reports on goliath grouper and the Marine Recreational Information Program.

Before adjourning the two-day session, Commissioners will also examine draft rules updating boating-restricted areas along the Florida Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway portion in Palm Beach County.

Its consent agenda for that day includes approval of division work plans for FWC divisions of Law Enforcement and Marine Fisheries Management.

Anyone requiring special accommodations to participate in the meeting because of a disability should notify the FWC at least five days in advance by calling 850-488-6411. Hearing- or speech-impaired people can arrange assistance by calling 800-955-8711 (hearing impaired) or 800-955-8770 (voice impaired).

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'Houdini' sentenced to 50 years in prison

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

On Feb. 6, 2009, Alejandro Perez escaped from the Okeechobee County Jail and left a message to law enforcement written down the left side of his cell door that read: "The last laugh is the one that counts."

But Perez had no semblance of a smile on his gaunt face Tuesday, Nov. 24, as Circuit Court Judge Lawrence Mirman sentenced him to a total of 50 years in state prison.

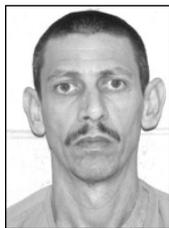
Prior to his sentencing, Perez stood shackled and surrounded by deputies in front of the judge and threw himself on the mercy of the court as he entered a plea of guilty to all charges against him.

"My future is in your hands," the Miami native told Judge Mirman.

The judge then pronounced the self-proclaimed Houdini guilty of escape and sentenced him to 15 years, which is the maximum. Perez did receive credit for 193 days served in the county jail.

In the next case, Judge Mirman found Perez guilty of possession of contraband in a county detention facility and sentenced him to the maximum of 5 years. That sentence, declared the judge, will run consecutively with the first sentence.

This conviction stemmed from Perez being arrested after detention deputies found a homemade shank under a mattress in Perez's cell.



Alejandro Perez

"This looks like a potential murder weapon," said Judge Mirman of the piece of chain link fence that had been sharpened to a point. In the third case against Perez—in which he was charged with attempted escape and criminal mischief—he was again found guilty and sentenced to a maximum of 15 years on the attempted escape charge and five years on the criminal mischief charge. While those two charges will run concurrently with each other, the 15-year sentence will run consecutively with the two other convictions.

Perez, 46, will receive credit for 311 days spent in the county jail.

And in the final case—in which Perez was charged with burglary of a dwelling, grand theft, possession of burglary tools and loitering and prowling—he received the maximum of 15 years on the burglary charge. He was also sentenced to five years each on the grand theft and possession of

burglary tools, with those sentences to run concurrently with the burglary conviction.

As for the misdemeanor loitering and prowling charge, Perez was sentenced to 60 days in the county jail. However, that term was declared fulfilled when Perez was credited with 326 days for time already served.

Like the other cases, the 15-year sentence on the burglary charge will run consecutively with the other sentences.

Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright told the judge that the state was seeking a maximum penalty of 65 years, while Public Defender Stanley Glenn told Judge Mirman that he felt like a total of 15 years "would be fair."

Perez was first arrested in Okeechobee County on Dec. 16, 2008, after a brazen daylight burglary of a home on Eagle Bay Drive. He then tried to escape from the county jail on Jan. 1, 2009, by breaking out a window.

At 2:21 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6, 2009, Perez escaped from the county jail while in the facility's outdoor recreation yard. Later, detention deputies found a message from Perez scrawled above his cell door. It read: "Your job is to keep me here. My job is to find a way out of here."

It was signed "Houdini."

Perez was captured in Palm Beach County on Feb. 24 by the United States Marshal's

Service - Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force. He was taken into custody as he crawled out the bathroom window of a home in a rural part of that county.

When arrested, Perez was found to be in possession of 2 grams of cocaine and was then charged with possession of cocaine. On April 30, Perez entered a plea of guilty to that charge. He was then credited with the 61 days he had served in the Palm Beach County Jail and returned to Okeechobee County.

Perez has a long criminal history that includes convictions on such charges as armed burglary, trafficking in marijuana over 10,000 pounds, driving under the influence and two separate convictions on cocaine possession charges.

"The only thing mitigating here is your behavior in court," said Judge Mirman to the thin man garbed in his orange county jail jumpsuit. "Cause there is a stark contrast between that and everything else in your case."

And with that, Judge Mirman took away Houdini's freedom.

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).

- Efrain Jesus Tyson, 19, U.S. 441 N., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 20 by Trooper T.D. Burk on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with the felonies of burglary of a dwelling, grand theft (two counts) and giving false information to a pawnbroker. His total bond on these charges was set at \$15,000. Tyson was later arrested by Deputy Yamil Astacio on a Highlands County warrant charging him with dealing in stolen property and giving false information to a pawnbroker. His bond on these charges was set at \$6,000.

- Tracy Allen Hill, 26, S.R. 70 E., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 20 by Deputy Arlene Durbin on a charge of child abuse. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Freddie L. Jones, 15, N.W. Ninth St., Lauderdale Lakes, was arrested Nov. 20 by Deputy Corporal Chris Hans on a charge of battery on detention staff. After being booked into

the Okeechobee County Jail, Jones was taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

- Brandon L. Wells, 19, Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 20 by Officer Kelley Margerum on a charge of burglary of an occupied dwelling. His bond was set at \$30,000.

- Daniel Morvant, 22, N.E. 290th Trail, Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 20 by Deputy Greg Popovich on a St. Lucie County warrant charging him with aggravated battery. His bond was set at \$20,000.

- Armando De Jesus Silva, 30, N.W. 16th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 21 by Deputy Yamil Astacio on charges of driving under the influence and no valid driver's license. His bond was set at \$1,000.

- Karen Wilkes Treece, 42, N.W. 84th Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Nov. 21 by Deputy Yamil Astacio on a charge of driving under the influence. Her bond was set at \$500.

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

Teen accused of attacking mom with crowbar

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A girl was arrested and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail after she allegedly tried to hit her mother with a crow bar and threatened to kill her.

Layla Huff, 16, N.W. 35th Ave., was arrested Monday, Nov. 23, on a felony charge of aggravated assault. After being booked into the county jail, Huff was taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

According to an arrest report by Deputy Tammy Serafini, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), Huff "woke up in a bad mood and began cursing and yelling" at her mother. At some point the mother slapped her daughter in the face, at which point Huff then slapped her mother.

After the girl had picked up a kitchen

chair and thrown it, her stepdad removed her from the house, the report continues.

Huff then began to bang on a window so her mother and stepdad went outside. Once outside, Huff armed herself with a crowbar and tried to hit her mother, stated the report. Another man grabbed the tool and jerked it away from Huff. This motion caused the crowbar to hit Huff on the side of the head and leave a scrape behind her right ear.

Deputy Serafini stated that at this point Huff spit in her stepdad's face and threatened to kill her mother "when she got back from wherever she was going."

Huff was taken to Raulerson Hospital where the scrape behind her ear was treated and she was released, stated the deputy's report.

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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!

Electricity

- Is anyone else's power fluctuating wildly?
- We have been having almost daily power issues. I come home and all of the clocks are blinking and the satellite boxes are re-set from power failure.
- I think the power outages are part of life in Florida. We solved the problem by getting battery back-up surge protectors for the computers, television, clocks, stereo, etc. If the power flickers, the battery keeps the power steady for up to 30 minutes. Most of the outages are just a few seconds but that flicker is enough to make electrical appliances turn on and off.

H1N1

- I am very disappointed that the county did not give people very much notice about the H1N1 flu shots. Many people wanted their older children to have the shot but did not find out in time. I hope they offer the shots again soon. I worry that Okeechobee County is not getting the vaccine the way the places on the coast are. We always seem to be the red-headed step child.

EOC

- I know the county is taking a lot of criticism about the plans for the new emergency operations center. But people don't seem to understand that the current EOC is in the old hospital building, which has asbestos in the ceilings. During one of the hurricanes in 2004 or 2005, part of the building was damaged by the storm. We were very lucky that we did not have any bad storms this year, but we have to be prepared for emergencies.

What are you thankful for?

- I am thankful for my own family and for my church family. It is rare these days to find a church that acts like a family—loving you no matter what, taking care of each other, being there when someone needs help.

• This Thanksgiving, I am thankful for our military service men and women who risk their own lives to protect this country. We need to remember them in our prayers and by writing letters and supporting programs that send care packages to the troops.

Flu shots

• The following information is related to the Seasonal Flu vaccination. The Okeechobee County Health Department will have additional H1N1 flu vaccination clinics as soon as vaccine becomes available. There is no charge for H1N1 vaccine administered by the Health Department. The Okeechobee County Health Department has concluded its flu shot clinics for this year, those who have still not taken the shot should contact their physician. Some vaccine remains at the health department and will be available by appointment while it lasts for a \$25.00 fee. Medicare is accepted for the flu shot. Flu season runs from October through March, often peaking in February. Each year, between 5 percent and 20 percent of the U.S. population will come down with the flu, leading to 36,000 flu-related deaths and 200,000 flu-related hospitalizations. If more Americans get their flu shots, those numbers can go down. High-risk patients are encouraged to get their flu shots early for the greatest amount of protection. That group includes, but is not limited to: People 65 years and older; People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities that house those with long-term illnesses; Adults with chronic heart or lung conditions, including asthma; Adults who needed regular medical care or were in a hospital during the previous year because of a metabolic disease (like diabetes), chronic kidney disease, or weakened immune system (including immune system problems caused by medicines or by infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV/AIDS); Women who will be pregnant during the influenza season; People with any condition that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions (that is, a condition that makes it hard to breathe or swallow, such as brain injury or disease, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other nerve or muscle disorders.) For More Information Please Contact the Okeechobee County Health Department at; 863-462-5819.



Letters to the editor

Higher taxes, Stop spending!

All we see that our taxes are going up every time we turn around, one must ask when it will stop. The answer is when, We The People say no more with our vote. The question is who can we trust when we do vote? The simple answer to me is not one in a hundred of those in office. If only we could find such individuals to run we could support.

By now those of us, some 19,000 accounts in Okeechobee County who have received our property tax bills, have you figured out what kind of increase we received? First the county has reduced their budget some 10 million for this year. Yet my county only tax bill went up 10.46 percent; my local tax and non-ad valorem bill went up 19.83 percent. In this, my garbage went up 48 percent, this may be the only real value/service I can see receiving every week. (This is not based on City tax structures, only county).

Okeechobee County Commissioners need to take a position, a tax responsible position, no new spending. Stop building government and start reducing cost. No, we do not need an EOC facility for \$3 million plus any more than we needed the \$8 million Agri-Civic Center. No, we do not need to pay administration and department heads salaries of \$75,000 to \$150,000 a year when the average salary in the county is \$30,000 a year or less.

It is way past time for We The People to keep our incomes to purchase goods and services from business in our community to create jobs. A job freeze and spending cut backs are needed by all aspects of government. 2010 will be a big election year for all of us. I will not support any party only the individuals who run and most of whom are in office I will not vote for due to their records. You need to decide and talk with your family and friends about this issue or just keep paying.

Tom Murphy, Tax payer

Thanks for being a veteran

Dear Grandpa,

I just wanted to take a moment to appreciate you as a veteran. So often we get busy with our lives and forget about the people that helped us to make our everyday activities so great. On any given day I am free to come and go from place to place without fear because of the men and women like you that dedicated yourselves to our country.

When I look at my everyday life, I think the freedom I appreciate the most is the freedom of religion. I appreciate that the most because I can express it every day. For example, I can bring my Bible to school. Also, I can read it without getting it taken away and I thank you for that. So again, I appreciate that you fought for our country.

Love,

Justin Helms

Music to their ears

Okeechobee was truly blessed with a wealth of outstanding music Saturday night at the Church of Our Savior. The evening began in the courtyard with the wonderful sounds of the Chobee Steelers, Okeechobee's own steel drum band, under the direction of Shirlean Graham and Maggie Sandoval. This was followed by the Cuvier Trio from FAU playing a concert of baroque music featuring a guitar, recorder, flute and organ. The finale was a terrific arrangement of the Pachelbel Canon played by the very talented teaching staff of Okeechobee Music, Inc. Okeechobee is very fortunate to have concerts of such high quality. Thank you to Kevin Kinnaird, Music Director of Church of Our Savior and all the talented musicians. We'll hope for many more such concerts.

Jan Fehrman

Hospice to host special yard sale

Hospice of Okeechobee (411 S.E. Fourth Street) will hold a Special Yard Sale on Monday, Nov. 30 and Tuesday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. They have new items galore offered at extremely reasonable prices! Shop at our "Christmas Flea Market" (outside under the Carport) where every item is

dirt cheap (prices start at only 10 cents per item). While you are there enjoy the Festival of Trees and shop the Christmas Country Store – there is no charge for admission. Funds raised will benefit patient care, including services at The Hamrick Home. For information call 863-467-2321.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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

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Fall ramblings: A season for everything wild

**By Rodney Baretto
Chairman**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission

Snowbirds migrating to Florida might be the most obvious signs of the onset of fall for some full-time residents of the state, but wildlife is also keenly reactive to the accompanying seasonal changes that include shorter days and cooler weather. We've written before about cold fronts and their effects on migratory birds, but almost all wildlife responds to fall seasonal changes, though sometimes in dissimilar fashion. So do people.

As for birds, Neotropical migrants are setting up shop locally for the winter or fueling up for a longer trip to the Caribbean or South America. Local bird feeders are being visited

by many species, and increased numbers of ducks, other migratory waterfowl and wading birds dot our large lakes, rivers, beaches and freshwater ponds and tidal marshes.

As for birds of prey, northern harriers can be seen actively gliding over marsh areas, and Cooper's hawks will be on the prowl for the new feeding opportunities brought on by the vast migration of smaller bird species into Florida. Eagles are engaged in spectacular aerial courtships, while their osprey cousins rebuild nests, high on a wide variety of naked perches close to their fishing sites.

Not surprisingly, people react to these fall migrations too, by putting out backyard feeders to attract birds. But don't be surprised if your backyard bird feeder creates an ambush point for birds of prey like Cooper's hawks. That's Mother Nature -- sort of.

Bird feeders also can create health problems for migrating birds, so don't forget to clean your bird feeders regularly with a 10-percent solution of chlorine bleach to help prevent the spread of disease. We owe it to these tiny migrating birds, some having survived a grueling 2,000-mile journey punctuated by bad weather and other life-threatening issues, not to let them to become victims of reckless human kindness by feeding them in unsanitary conditions.

To top off the aerobic bird festival, majestic sandhill cranes and white pelicans add to the variety of air show performers taking up winter residence.

Remember, there are good reasons not to feed either of these species, neither of which benefit from the practice. Deliberately feeding pelicans at fish-cleaning stations is illegal. Feeding sandhill cranes anywhere is illegal.

As for reptiles, including native snakes, alligators, turtles and a variety of other cold-blooded animals, the season for high activity is winding down. Just don't forget that though the metabolic rates of cold-blooded animals decrease with temperature, alligators are still capable of acting as apex predators, and all cautions in the FWC's "Living With Alligators" brochure, need to be observed with due respect.

On the other hand, mammals are quite active during the fall, and that includes the Florida black bear. Although black bears

don't hibernate in Florida, they prepare for it by entering a period of activity in the fall, called hyperphagia. Hyperphagia is a behavior in all black bears that causes them to feed at twice the normal daily rate they need to maintain themselves. This behavior is likely the result of a gene that causes bears to put on weight in preparation for a hibernation period that in Florida, never comes. Here, the caution to residents living in bear country is to secure all trash and pet food in places and in ways that cannot attract a bear. Appreciating wildlife from a distance beats appreciating it from inside your lanai or garage, especially if it's a bear.

Deer, hogs and squirrels are feeding actively, and of course, that signals the onset of hunting season. Hunters were the first conservationists, and like all conservationists, hunters have a vested interest in seeing that all wildlife, whether it is hunted or not, continues to proliferate. Obeying the letter and the intent of the law, and insisting your hunting partners do the same, is a great starting place from which to build an appreciation of all wildlife.

Be you a snowbird, bird watcher, hunter, all around nature lover, pet owner or just somebody who appreciates living in the Sunshine State, fall is a time of thanksgiving and of wildlife. Enjoy!

Festival of Trees set to open

Hospice of Okeechobee (411 SE Fourth Street) will be hosting the annual Festival of Trees starting Friday, Nov. 27 through Sunday, Dec. 6. Open daily with no charge for admission. Hours are noon - 4 p.m. Friday, Nov 27, followed by noon-4 p.m. on the weekends and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on week-

days. While you are there enjoying all the many gloriously decorated Christmas trees, do not forget to shop the Christmas Country Store. Funds raised will benefit patient care, including services at The Hamrick Home. For information call 863-467-2321.

Safe food handling important during holidays

The Florida Department of Health emphasizes the importance of safe food preparation as well as safe food storage this holiday season. Proper food handling and proper cooking can reduce the risks of food-borne illnesses.

"The Department of Health promotes the importance of safe food preparation and storage techniques year-round, but we encourage Floridians to refresh their knowledge of food safety during the holiday season," said State Surgeon General Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H. "For health and safety reasons, foods should be cooked thoroughly and leftovers should be stored properly."

Reduce the risk of contracting food-borne illnesses by following these tips:

- Avoid improper food storage, which can be a result of inadequate refrigeration temperature or hot holding temperature. Safe refrigeration temperature is less than

41 degrees Fahrenheit and safe hot holding temperature is greater than 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Keep uncooked meats away from other foods to avoid cross contamination.

- Cook food thoroughly. For example, a whole turkey should be cooked at an oven temperature of 325 degrees Fahrenheit until every part reaches an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit as identified by a meat thermometer.

- Wash your hands and fingernails completely and thoroughly.

- Clean and sanitize all cutting utensils, countertops and serving areas.

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) promotes, protects and improves the health of all people in Florida. For more information about food safety, please visit the following website: www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/community/food/.

Community Calendar

Wednesday

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 8 until 9 p.m. at Sacred

Heart Catholic Church, 701 S.W. Sixth St. It will be a closed discussion.

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

Bingo at the Buckhead Ridge Moose Lodge. Food will be served at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m. Public is welcome.

Thursday

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Community Events

Hamfest in the Woods

Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club will host a Hamfest in the Woods on Saturday, **Nov. 28** at Freedom Ranch, 11655 U.S. 441 SE. Enjoy a \$6 breakfast of eggs, sausage, gravy, biscuits and coffee. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. a cracker cowboy meal of roast beef, mashed potatoes, beans, slaw, dessert and drink will be served for \$10. In addition to the hamfest, at 10 am. Gordie Peer, former western movie stuntman, will be entertaining with whip and rope tricks. There will also be bluegrass music. RV parking is \$30 for Friday night. Please RSVP as space is limited. RVers wishing to experience Church-in-the-Woods may stay over Saturday night at no charge. Sunday lunch is free. Tent campers are \$15. All proceeds from entry fees go to the Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club. Proceeds from campers and food sale go to Alpha Ministries. For more information email w4qjp@sstowers.com or call 863-763-9800. For more information on Alpha Ministries visit www.alphaministries.org.

December safety classes

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

- * Tuesday, Dec. 1 - First Aid Basics at 6 p.m.
- * Wednesday, Dec. 9 - Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m.
- * Monday, Dec. 14 - Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.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.

Okeechobee County Legislative Delegation Public Meeting

The Okeechobee County Legislative Delegation will hold a public meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, **Dec. 2** at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Ave. The delegation will be entertaining concerns and ideas for potential legislation. Members of the community, as well as local and county government may address the delegation at this time. You may address the delegation by signing in when you arrive and you will be heard on a first come first serve basis at the end of the meeting if time allows.

Friends of the Library hold book sale

Friends of the Okeechobee Library Book Sale will be held on Thursday, **Dec. 3**, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the library. This year books and videos will be sold for a dollar a pound except on Saturday when they will be sold for \$2 a bag or \$5 a box. This is a major fund-raiser for the Friends of the Okeechobee Library. These funds are used to help the library. For more information please call at the library at 863-763-3636.

Fishing Tournament

The monthly Christian Team Trails Fishing Tournament will take place on Saturday, **Dec. 5** at Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina. Fishermen can register at Oakview Baptist Church, 677 SW 32nd St., Monday through Thursday. The cost is \$75 per person.

ReStore needs volunteers

Habitat for Humanity is in need of volunteers for their ReStore that is open on Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. If you can help call Shirley at 863-467-6484 or 863-801-5077.

Local pet rescue needs help

The Humane Society Pet Rescue of Okeechobee needs help to keep our shelter a great place for adoptable pets to stay. We are also in need of donations to help with food, vet and other operating expenses. Anyone interested in helping is asked to contact Belinda at the shelter at 863-357-1104.

Senior employment opportunities available

AARP/Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) have some openings in the scsep program. Applicants must be 55 or older and be within the income guidelines of the program. Please call 772-336-3330.

Low cost spay/neuter available

Low cost spay/neuter vouchers for dogs and cats. Participating veterinarians in Vero Beach. For information, call United Humanitarians Port St. Lucie volunteer: 772-335-3786. Email: Petscry1@bellsouth.net. Okeechobee veterinarians are invited to participate in this low cost spay/neuter program.

Raulerson Hospital announces Ambassadors Club

Raulerson Hospital is inviting Okeechobee Residents to join the Raulerson Hospital Ambassadors Club. Raulerson Hospital is your community hospital and we welcome individual volunteers who would like to participate in regularly scheduled meetings where your unbiased feedback will help us provide excellent patient care during your stay or a loved one's stay. We are looking for dedicated individuals, who have either been a patient or a visitor at Raulerson Hospital. If you would like to participate in this progressive community program, please contact Marnie Lauter at 863-824-2702 or by e-mailing Marnie Lauter at: (marnie.lauter@hcahealthcare.com) for more information.

Red Hat Ladies invites new members

Join the Red Hat Ladies social group. Ladies interested in have fun meeting new Red Hat Ladies are invited to come tour Red Hat meeting and find out what it's all about. Call Marilyn for more information at 863-357-1944 or Mari at 863-763-5836.

Big Brothers support reading mentor program

Big Brothers Big Sisters, along with Americorp volunteers, will serve all five Okeechobee elementary schools for the 2009-2010 school year! The program provides reading mentors to referred children in grades K-3. BBBS is hosting a Clay Shoot at Quail Creek Plantation on Saturday, Oct. 24. I hope you can support this program and the children in Okeechobee by sponsoring, donating a drawing item or shoot-

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.

Courtland Palmer Satterley

OKEECHOBEE — Courtland "Pete" Palmer Satterley, age 72, of Okeechobee, died Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009, in Raulerson Hospital.

Born Aug. 5, 1937, in Brooklyn, N.Y., he had been a resident for the last 35 years. He was a member of the Ogdensburg-Acadian Masonic Lodge #128 in Ogdensburg, New York. Pete was the nursing supervisor at Raulerson Hospital for over 15 years. In addition he and his wife, Irene owned and operated the Buckhead Ridge Nursing Services until their retirement. He was a licensed Boat Captain and was known around Okeechobee as Santa.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Irene Satterley.

He is survived by his daughter, Pamela Morley and her husband Timothy of Ogdensburg, N.Y.; sons, Steven Seeley of Ft. Lauderdale, and Thomas Seeley and his wife Marlene of Hamburg, N.J.; grandchildren, Matthew Morley, Marc Morley, Brooke Morley, Aaron Seeley, Leeah Satterley; great-grandchildren, Jack Morley, Jordan Morley; sisters, Cathy Taylor of Long Island, N.Y., and Lynn Young of Tennessee.

There will be no public visitation or service. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Big Lake Hospice, 3543 Highway 441S, Okeechobee, FL 34974.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee. On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

Cynthia Davidson, 44

OKEECHOBEE — Cynthia Davidson, age 44, of Okeechobee, died Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, in the Hamrick Home. She was Sept. 8, 1965, in Trenton, Mich.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Billy and Martha Dodd.

She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer Davidson; sons, Michael William Suggs, Clayton Thomas Davison; aunt, Belva Boyd; companion, Ray Davis; and two grandchildren, all of Okeechobee.

There will be a memorial service at a later date.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, FL. On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

ing at this event. Contact Sharon Vinson at Shared Services at 863-462-5000 ext 257.

Habitat needs resale items

Habitat for Humanity of Okeechobee County is getting ready to open a "Restore" and is in need of resellable items. No clothing! Anything else for the home, to include household items, furniture, building materials, electrical, plumbing and cabinets. For more information call 863-467-6484 or leave a message at the Habitat office 863-467-6484.

Ethel Mae Surles

OKEECHOBEE — Ethel Mae Surles, of Okeechobee and Waltham, Maine, died peacefully surrounded by family, Friday, Nov. 20, 2009.

Born Oct. 27, 1930, in Waltham, Maine, she had been a resident of Okeechobee for the past 15 years.

Ethel was a beloved mother and Nana, and devoted her life to nursing. After graduating from nursing school in Boston, she started her career at Hurley Hospital in Ellsworth and worked several years at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital in Ellsworth, before relocating to Okeechobee where she worked at Okeechobee Health Care Facility until she retired.

She was predeceased by her husbands, Raymond Grindle, and John Surles; son, Ross Grindle; daughter, Celeste Cote; sisters, Beulah Herbest, and Mary Wilbur; and brother, Newell Hardison Jr.

She is survived by her son, Raymond Grindle of Aurora; daughters, Cheryle Dyer of Trenton, Candyce Wilbur and husband Allen of Eastbrook, Cathye Folsom of Okeechobee; grandchildren, John Hart Jr. and wife Joni, Kimberly Spratt, Karessa Folsom, Mackenzie Ray and companion Chris Leland, Jerimy Grindle, Misty Cornwell and husband Shane, Tara Hart and companion Timothy Mason, Danielle Flaig and husband Scott, Paul Cote, Scott Cote, Christie Grindle and Jamie Grindle; 15 great-grandchildren; a brother, Richard Hardison and wife Evelyn of Waltham; a sister, Lucille Jordan of Waltham; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends. A gathering will be held from 4 to 8 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 29, at Brahma Bull Restaurant, Okeechobee. A service will be held at a later date.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th St., Okeechobee. Online condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

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Motorcycle group hits the road to help kids

Led by a retired Army combat veteran, a group of motorcycle riders has taken to the road to recruit volunteers to serve as advocates for neglected and abused children in Treasure Coast courtrooms.

The group was started a few months ago when Pattra Farthing-Dodd, Volunteer Recruiter/Trainer for the Guardian ad Litem Program (GALP) in the 19th Judicial Circuit, learned that a number of the program's volunteers were riders. She thought it might be a good way for them to socialize and share common interests, and she approached volunteer Michael Desouza, owner of a 2008 Vulcan with the idea.

Mr. Desouza, who retired from the United States Army as a Military Command Sergeant Major after 22 years of service, including tours of duty in Vietnam, Grenada and Panama, had

just recently become a Volunteer Guardian ad Litem, but he didn't hesitate. Within a week, the group was formed and ready to roll. Mr. Desouza said, "During my travels I realized the plight of abused children, regardless of country or culture. Children always seem to be suffering quietly, either in war or peace. My decision to be a GAL Volunteer was never an option; if I can help one child during my tenure it is worthwhile to me."

Known as the "Guardian Riders," the group now has eight members, and rides at least once a month, usually on a Saturday or a Sunday. Destinations are predetermined via email by the team, which meets up at the Flying J Truck stop in Fort Pierce and heads out from there for places like Archie's Seabreeze in South Beach or Lake Okeechobee. Along the way, they hand out brochures and spread the word about the program.

"Wherever we go, we meet people who care about kids, just like we do," said Mr. Desouza, "and the more people we can talk to about Guardian ad Litem, the more kids we can help."

In between rides, they meet monthly at other locations, also selected by consensus, but the agenda always includes a tasty meal. For example, their last meeting was at Norris's Famous Place for Ribs in Port Saint Lucie.

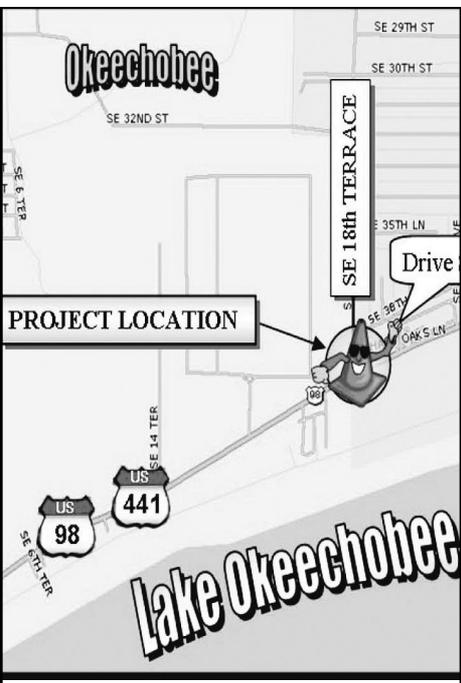
While their immediate objective is to promote awareness of the Guardian ad Litem Program, the "Guardian Riders" also have

other goals. Future plans include weekly meet-ups at Starbuck's on U.S. 1 at Britt Road and helping with fund-raising efforts—and the group is developing a special badge for their jackets.

Florida's Guardian ad Litem Program is a network of professional staff and community volunteers who serve as advocates for neglected and abused children in the court system.

There are local Guardian ad Litem programs in all 20 of Florida's judicial circuits. Guardian ad Litem volunteers, and the attorneys working with them, make sure victims of child abuse and neglect are protected and have a safe place to live and the necessary services to overcome their circumstances. For additional information, contact Pattra Farthing-Dodd at 772-871-7225, or visit our website www.GuardianadLitem.org.

DOT plans roadway project



The Florida Department of Transportation is planning an intersection project for U.S. Highway 441 S.E. at S.E. 18th Terrace. Construction will begin Nov. 30. Drivers are urged to use caution during this project, which is anticipated to be complete by the end of December.

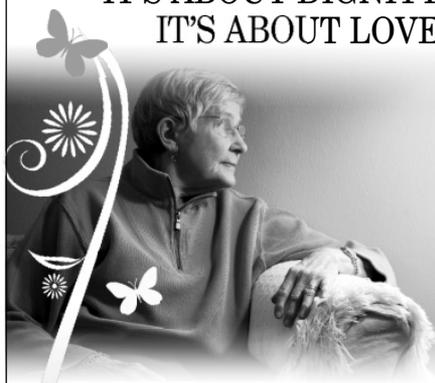
This project will improve the safety and operation of this roadway. Improvements include: Additional turn lanes, milling and resurfacing of the roadway and drainage improvements.

For more information, contact DOT representative Cindy Clemmons at 863-519-2362 or email cindy.clemmons@dot.state.fl.us; or, FDOT Project Administrator Susan Hindman at 863-386-6112 or email susan.hindman@dot.state.fl.us.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Michael Desouza leads the group of motorcycle riders who serve as advocates for neglected and abused children in Treasure Coast courtrooms.

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In the military ...

Local reservist comes home

Army Reserve Maj. Tamara R. Kurey has returned to the U.S. after being deployed overseas at a forward operating base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is the official name given to military operations involving members of the U.S. armed forces and coalition forces participating in efforts to free

and secure Iraq. Mission objectives focus on force protection, peacekeeping, stabilization, security and counter-insurgency operations as the Iraqi transitional governing bodies assume full sovereign powers to govern the peoples of Iraq.

Members from all branches of the U.S. military and multinational forces are also assisting in rebuilding Iraq's economic and governmental infrastructure, and training

and preparing Iraqi military and security forces to assume full authority and responsibility in defending and preserving Iraq's sovereignty and independence as a democracy.

Kurey, an all source intelligence officer, is normally assigned to the 338th Military Intelligence Battalion, San Antonio, Texas. She has 19 years of military service.

She is the daughter of Andrew G. Kurey of Decatur, Tenn., and Lela D. Arvant of Okeechobee.

The major graduated in 1989 from Colonial High School, Orlando and received a bachelor's degree in 1998 from the University of Arizona, Tucson.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Recognizing our veterans

North Elementary School honored veterans on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Pictured left to right are Pat McCoy, Principal; Dan Fennell, American Legion Post 64; Ron Price, VFW Post 4423 and Denise Carrier, formerly in the U.S. Navy.

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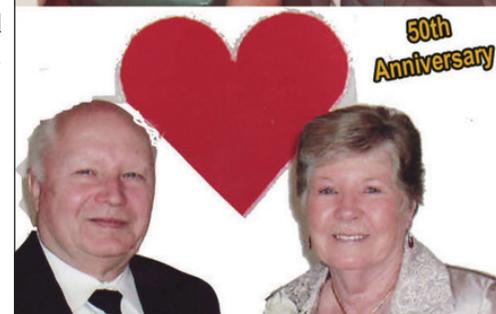
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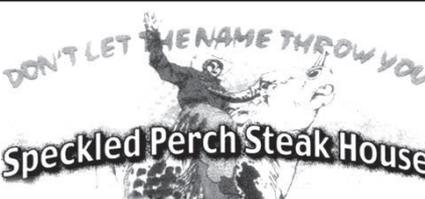
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Tantie Schoolhouse centennial observed

The Okeechobee Historical Society is celebrating the one hundredth birthday of the Tantie schoolhouse, Thursday, Dec. 3, at the Historical Museum. The museum is located at 1850 Highway 98 North (across from the Civic Center)

Fourth grade students from Seminole Elementary School will tour the site in the morning and the public is invited from 1:00 P.M. until 3:00 P.M. Coffee mugs with a depiction of the Tantie school on them will be available for \$5.00.

The Tantie Schoolhouse was constructed in 1909 in what is now Okeechobee. Prior to the building of this wooden structure, classes were held in a thatched roof shack with split log benches for seats. Beginning in 1898, this served the few pupils until this one room schoolhouse was built in 1909. The settlement itself was first called "The Bend" (this was apparently a descriptive name for the area because of the curve of the land border formed

by the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee and Taylor Creek). The third teacher to teach the students in this area was Tantie Huckaby and the little village and its post office, autho-

rized in 1902, carried the name "Tantie" for a time. Tantie was renamed to Okeechobee in 1911 which seemed to more acceptable to the local residents.



Special to the Okeechobee News/www.lamartin.com

The Tantie Schoolhouse was constructed in 1909. Prior to the building of this wooden structure, classes were held in a thatched roof shack with split log benches for seats.

OHS finishes fifth at state finals

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee boys cross country team equaled their best finish ever at the FHSAA Florida Finals Cross Country Championships on Saturday at Little Everglades Ranch in Dade City.

Eddie Guerrero finished 15th overall in the race with a solid time of 16:22.74. Matt Mizereck of Leon High School in Tallahassee won the race with a blistering pace of 15:21.64

Adrian Leon finished in 48th place with a time of 16:52. Mauro Dominguez finished 53rd with a time of 16:56. Augustin Leon finished 73rd with a time of 17:18. Lionel Jones finished off the team with a 79th place finish and a time of 17:22.

Shawn Horvath and Adrian Tagle finished well back in the field.

Leon of Tallahassee won the State Title with an average time of 16:05. Belen Jesuit of Miami was second. Okeechobee's average time was 16:58, six seconds better than Wiregrass Ranch of Wesley Chapel in Pasco County, who finished in sixth place.

Coach Julie Bohannon said Okeechobee runners did a great job this year when

you consider they had a coaching change in the middle of the season, "We were ranked about 10th in the state and the guys had a real good showing. They didn't run their fastest times of the season but they still ran strong."

Bohannon said there were three false starts to the race where several runners fell. One Okeechobee runner also fell in one of the false starts.

She noted she felt the guys could have done better but that the false starts took a lot out of some of the runners, "I'm excited and proud of their accomplishments. They just have so much talent. They did very well."

Bohannon said Lionel Jones did an excellent job in the final race of his career. She said he stepped up to the plate and recorded his fastest time of the year, "He was out to prove a point. He said many people didn't think he could hold his own. He pulled it off thanks to drive and determination."

Guerrero and Adrian Leon could both be offered a scholarship to run cross country. Both will have to choose between cross country and soccer.



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Ministerial Association hosts 'Fifth Sunday' event

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee Ministerial Association will host Fifth Sunday Community Service on Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. at The Gathering, 1735 SW 24th Ave. Rev. Mike Brown, pastor of The Gathering, will preach. The Okeechobee Community Choir will sign a hymn medley and three old fashioned Southern Gospel, shape note songs. The Presbyterian Gospel Quartet will sing "Peace in the Valley." Other

members of the Okeechobee Ministerial Association will also participate in this unique community service. You are invited to come and worship with your friends and neighbors.

The men of **First United Methodist Church**, 200 NW Second St., will sponsor a smoked chicken dinner on Friday, **Dec. 4** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Take out only. Delivery will be available for 10 or more dinners. They will also serve from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. that same day with dine in or take out service. The

menu consists of one quarter chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, roll and dessert for a \$6 donation. Tickets are available at the church office or orders may be faxed to 863-763-2481 by 10:30 a.m. Thursday. Include contact name, phone number and address to deliver dinners.

Buckhead Ridge Christian Church, 1167 Linda Drive, will hold their Annual



Places of Worship

Christmas Craft Bazaar and Book Fair on Saturday, **Dec. 5** from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. There will be homemade crafts and baked good. Lunch will be available. If you have any questions please call Suelynn Richardson at 863-357-6500.

Oakview Baptist Church, 677 SW 32nd St., will present a Christmas music celebration "The Meaning of Christmas" on Sunday **Dec. 13** at 3 p.m. and again at 6 p.m.

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



Submitted photos

(above) Mike Shellen was pleased to donate the Okeechobee Blood Round-up second-place prize of a half-day guided fishing trip which was won by Maureen Thomas who plans to take her grandson with her on the trip.

(at right) Denise Dominguez was the winner of the Okeechobee Blood Roundup grand prize, a washing machine donated by Carlos Bohamon owner of Okeechobee Sears. A recent resident from West Virginia, she did not have a washer and was delighted with her prize.



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Board of Realtors hosts golf tourney

The Okeechobee County Board of Realtors® held their 16th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club.

The first place team was the team of Richard Donahue, Michael Watson, Tim McGras, and Tyler Platt sponsored by Exit Realty Neighbors. Michael Watson had a hole in one on the Par 4 12th hole. In follow up with Terry, the Club Pro, his ace was the first reported at the country club on that hole. The four young men on this team are members of the Okeechobee High School Golf Team.

Second place team was the team of Josh Brewer, Kyle Lanier, Doug McDonald and Mitchell Briner; A.K.A., the No Names.

The next to last place team was the "Muth" team comprised of Tammy, Chris, Amy and Joey.

The Longest Drive Winner was Jonathan Crawford.

The Okeechobee County Board of Realtors® would like to thank the following businesses for their continued support: Preferred Properties of Okeechobee – Hole in One Co-Sponsor, United Country Mid-Florida Realty – Hole in One Co-Sponsor, Gilbert Chevrolet; Team Sponsors: Pine Creek, Exit Realty Neighbors, Southern Styles; Hole Sponsors: Exit Realty Neighbors, Preferred Properties, Seminole Design-Build, Tires Plus Total Car Care, Coldwell Banker Berger Real Estate, Elbert Batton, Home Inspection, Vicki Anderson, Realtor®, Pristine Properties International, Century 21 Hazellief and Prevatt, Platinum Performance Realty, Taylor Creek Real Estate, Safeguard Insurance, Pier II, Jim Fowler, Realtor®, Lake Okeechobee Title, Cleartitle and Legal Services, Silver Spurs Signs, Lakeshore Title & Escrow, Custom Graphics and Signs, Daniel Taddeo Real Estate School, 4C Cattle Company, Tucker Group, LLC, Absolute Alarm Solu-

tions, CMS Builders; Door Prizes: Okeechobee Steak House, West Palm Beach-Holiday Inn Express, Best Western Hotel, The Clock Restaurant, Chloe's Closet, Eli's Western Wear, Maximum Tanning, Seacoast National Bank, Badcock Furniture, Raulerson Hospital, Pueblo Viejo, Brady Ranch, Okeechobee Store N Lock.

We would like to thank all the golfers who took the time to come out and join us in making this event a success. In addition to the golfers, the great folks at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club who provided a wonderful lunch for us and made our event an enjoyable experience.

No event would be complete without the dedication of the volunteers who made this happen. A huge thank you to: Kathy Godwin, Preferred Properties of Okeechobee, Velva Cannon, Exit Realty Neighbors, Jayla Townes, Preferred Properties of Okeechobee, Steve Jara, Pristine Properties International, Betsy Sheffield, Preferred Properties of Okeechobee, Shelly Doyle, Okeechobee County Board of Realtors, John Woloski, Exit Realty Neighbors, Jim Fowler, Gil Gulbrith Real Estate, Savannah Yates, Exit Realty Neighbors, Barbara Yates, Exit Realty Neighbors, Cindi Fairtrace, Tucker Group, MaryAnn Windridge, Prudential Realty, Wendy Bostwick, Preferred Properties of Okeechobee and Linda Woloski, Exit Realty Neighbors.

All monies raised will go toward awarding scholarships to our high school seniors.

Next year's tournament is set for Nov. 6, 2010.

For more information about Exit Realty Neighbors, please call 863-484-2596. Exit Realty Neighbors is located at 4253 U.S. 441 S.



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Swim team heads in right direction

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Sarah Annis and Celena Letcher shared the MVP for girls and Kenny Murphy won the MVP for the boys swim team at their annual banquet held Thursday at Okeechobee High School.

Annis, a transfer student from Kansas, had an immediate impact on the Brahman girls, as eight swimmers qualified for the regional this year.

The team also set new record times in several events.

Chelsie Houston and Ben Kielbasa won the Brahman awards. Derek Borroto won the boys most improved swimmer award. Adrianna Mitchell won the girl's award.

Letcher said it felt great to win the MVP, "I'm very thankful for it. I do try my hardest. Sarah deserved it to. She came to a brand new team, and I'm really happy she succeeded and excelled."

Letcher said she is excited about the future. Four returning swimmers were juniors this year. She said all of the girls relay teams made the regional meet. She was also pleased that a lot of people from Okeechobee came to the regional meet to support the team.

Annis, a transfer from Junction City, Kansas, said she enjoyed her short time in Okeechobee. She will return to Kansas soon. She said she was very excited to win the award, and said she would keep in touch with her teammates.

"I'll encourage them and keep in touch. I know they will do great," she said.

Murphy set a school record in the 500 race at the district tournament. He said his goal was to set a record and he felt gratified that he met his goal, "It's been a real great season. It was by far the best I've had. We had a great team with a lot of great people."

"It was a great bunch of kids," Swim Coach Brian Turner said, "They are what is right with society. They give us hope for the future."

Turner said he was mostly pleased that his program continued to show improvement. He noted many of the swimmers were determined this year.

Scholar athletes this year included Sarah Annis, Jason Rucks, Tessa Delcampo, Jaiden Barnhart, Ben Kielbasa, Celena Letcher, Chelsie Houston, and Kenny Murphy.

The relay team of Annis, Letcher, Barnhart, and Savannah Asmussen also received an award for setting a new school record this year.

Celena Letcher and Kenny Murphy also received awards for setting new school records.

Coach Turner said records of the swim program have been sketchy. He has appealed to the community if they have knowledge of previous swim records.

He has secured a record board for the swim team which will be placed somewhere at school.

Coach Turner predicted big things for the swim team in the future years, "The girls are growing and the boys too. We just didn't have enough time to keep developing this year. I'm real excited for next year. I wish the season started tomorrow."



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Chelsie Houston (right) won the Brahman award for girls swimming this year. Also in picture is Brian Turner swim coach with assistant swim coach Nikki Unbaugh.



Ben Kielbasa (left) took home the Brahman award for boys swimming this year. He is honored by swim coach Brian Turner and assistant swim coach Nikki Unbaugh.



Sarah Annis (right) and Celena Letcher (left) shared the MVP award for girls swim this year with assistant swim coach Nikki Unbaugh and swim coach Brian Turner.



Kenny Murphy won MVP for the boys swim team this year. Also in picture is Brian Turner swim coach with assistant swim coach Nikki Unbaugh.

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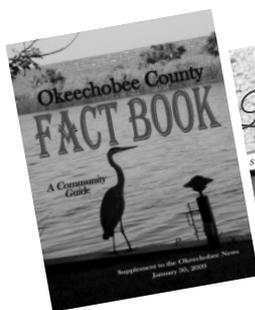
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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Boys basketball team wins at preseason classic

By Charles M. Murphy

Okeechobee News

Duelle Gore got his senior year off to a great start as he scored 30 points and pulled down 13 rebounds as Okeechobee High School's boys basketball team blasted Berean Christian 83-60 at the Beef O'Brady's Preseason Tip off classic at Okeechobee High School on Friday night.

Gore said he wanted to thank the coaches and his teammates for having confidence in him. "I want to thank the other players because they were giving me the ball when they saw I was open. They trusted me all night," he said.

The game was back and forth in the first half as the Bulldogs' John Lantz poured in



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Duelle Gore drives past three Bulldog defenders for two of his 30 points in Fridays game.

FWC announce public hog hunt

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission announces a notice of intent to issue permits for the purpose of controlling the feral hog population and protecting the ecological values on the Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area, West of US 27.

Permits will be issued for two hog control hunts, time periods; Dec. 18-20, and Dec. 25-27. Twenty-five permits will be issued for each hog control period. Permits will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis to individuals 16 years of age or older. Permits will only be distributed at the Fisheating Creek WMA check-station at the FEC Campground located on US Highway 27 in Palmdale, on Saturday, Dec. 12, beginning at 10 am. Permitees will be allowed to take wild hogs with no size or bag limit. The use of dogs for capturing or taking hogs is prohibited. Firearms will be limited to a shotgun with #1 Buckshot or larger.

For additional information you may contact the Fisheating Creek WMA office at 863-946-1194.

15 of his 17 points, many of them from beyond the arc. His shooting helped put the Bulldogs in front 18-13 after one quarter.

Ricky Nieto scored two baskets early in the second and Okeechobee continued to get the ball inside to Gore, who dominated the glass and had several offensive rebounds. Okeechobee led 41-36 at the half.

Brahman Coach Bryan Van Camp said he wasn't surprised with how competitive the first half was, "They are a disciplined, smart team. I knew it would be a battle. The first half was an indication of how I thought the game would go."

Okeechobee started to get out on the fast break more in the third quarter and Gore continued to wear down Berean Christian inside. Okeechobee led 59-47 after three quarters.

Austin Willard had 17 points, Ricky Nieto nine points, and Matt Skipper eight points in the game. Okeechobee continued to dominate in the fourth quarter as they outscored the Bulldogs 24-13.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Austin Willard (right) battles for position underneath the basket during Fridays victory.

Engaged? Just married?
Golden anniversary? New baby?
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Celebrations

www.newszap.com/celebrations



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- A print announcement in the newspaper of your choice.
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- Online guestbook for friends and family to sign and view.
- Online photo gallery for up to 10 photos.
- Gift registry page
- Profile page

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

WEDDING
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. ILLUSTRATION
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Illustration were married on Jan. 1, 2009 in Local Church. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Example of Your Town. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Illustration of Your Town. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Example. The bride and groom were accompanied by their parents and siblings. The reception was held at the Example Hotel. The bride and groom are expecting a baby in late 2010.

BIRTH
SUSAN A. EXAMPLE
Susan A. Example was born at 3:00 p.m. on Nov. 20, 2009 in Noble Hospital. She weighs 7 pounds, 10 ounces and is 19 inches long. Her mother is Mrs. Example of Your Town. Her father is Mr. Example of Your Town. Her maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Example of Your Town. Her paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Example of Your Town. Her great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Example of Your Town and Mr. and Mrs. Example of Your Town.

ANNIVERSARY
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. EXAMPLE
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Example celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary with family and friends on October 12, 2009. The Example were married on October 2, 1999 at Local Church in Your Town. The bride was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Example of Your Town. The groom was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Illustration of Your Town. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Example. The bride and groom were accompanied by their parents and siblings. The reception was held at the Example Hotel. The bride and groom are expecting a baby in late 2010.

OBITUARY
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. EXAMPLE
Joe and Judy Illustration of Your Town announce the marriage of their daughter Jane A. Example to Joseph W. Example, son of Mr. and Mrs. Example of Your Town. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Example of Your Town. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Illustration of Your Town. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Example. The bride and groom were accompanied by their parents and siblings. The reception was held at the Example Hotel. The bride and groom are expecting a baby in late 2010.

Your paper, not ours.



We pledge to operate our newspaper as a public trust.

We believe journalists are nothing more than guardians of every citizen's right to a free press. We have no authority to compromise, bargain away or dishonor the principles underlying the First Amendment.

We don't play loose with the facts. We give notice to your opinions, not ours. We encourage vigorous discussion of public issues, but try to keep everybody's comments within the bounds of fair play.

How are we doing?

Let us know by emailing feedback@newszap.com or calling your editor.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Post your ads in any of these newspapers for only \$8 each:

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Absolutely
FREE!

Online for 2 weeks - 4 Lines + 8 Photos

Absolutely FREE!

Add 4 more lines & more photos for \$4 each

Post your ads in our papers for only \$8 each

Employment

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

MANAGER

Wanted for condo/rv park with 324 sites. Must have managerial and computer skills. A CAM license is required for the position. Send cover letter and resume to Board of Directors at the following address.

Big O
Board of Directors
7950 Highway 78 West
Okeechobee, FL 34974

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

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

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

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

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

Employment Full Time

Lead Cook/Kitchen Manager

Seeking Creative Individual to Lead Kitchen at a New Restaurant in Okeechobee

- Knowledge of local market
- Demonstrate ability to deal with food vendors and food/supplies ordering
- Ability to schedule staff and control labor
- Ability to train all kitchen positions
- Emphasis on quality food, freshness and presentation
- Emphasis on kitchen security and safety
- Above all: the ability to maintain a clean and orderly kitchen with emphasis on Public Health
- Salary: DOE

Email resumes to earrieta@sdbteam.com or fax to 863-467-0610 • EOE

Employment Part Time



EDISON STATE COLLEGE

ADJUNCT JOB FAIR - HENDRY/GLADES
December 3, 2009, 3:00 to 6:00pm
1092 E Cowboy Way
LaBelle, FL 33935

Edison is looking for qualified individuals to teach part-time at our Hendry Glades Center in a variety of course disciplines to include **Chemistry, Sciences, Remedial Math, Philosophy, History, Business, Finance, Marketing.** Minimum requirements: Doctoral or Master's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education in the teaching discipline. Please bring transcript copies to determine eligibility. Please join us at the job fair or to schedule an interview please call Brooke Bruhn at (863) 674-0408. <https://jobs.edison.edu> EA/EO

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.

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

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

Employment Full Time

Financial

For more listings,
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www.newszap.com

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

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

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

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

Services

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Bookkeeping

Bookkeeping/Secretarial Services by Linda Seder Okee area. (772)801-9687

Excavation

CLEARING & HAULING
Dump Truck, Back Hoe & Bobcat Services...
by Jason Summerford
(863)634-7771

Top Soil

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



Agriculture

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Lawn & Garden

Hybrid Palms. You pick and I'll Plant. Call Jerry.
863-801-5440



Rentals

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Apartments

Basswood - 2/1, \$650/mo, \$650 sec. Small pets allowed. Call (863)697-1623

FURN EFFICENCY - TCI, On Lake with dock, util/cable included. No pets, \$600/mo \$300 sec. (863)697-3351

NW OKEE: 2br, quiet St. Pets ok, \$650/\$750, 1st, last & \$500 sec. 561-346-1642

TAYLOR CREEK Condos 1br/1ba, Furnished. \$650 mo. + 1st & sec. dep. 561-352-4243

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

Condos/Townhouses Rent

New, In Town - CBS Townhouse, 2/1, \$695 + util., FL&S, lease. 863-801-3081

Houses - Rent

3BR/2BA, house with garage, Kids and pets welcome. 863-634-9330 or 863-467-2541

BEAUTIFUL, Spacious 4BR 2BA 2 Car Garage. On golf course. \$1700 mo. (863)763-7552

OAK PARK - 1601 SW 34th Terrace, 3br, all appls, \$850/mo. \$600 sec. No pets, (863)610-0001

OKEECHOBEE - 4br, 2ba, great neighborhood, tile throughout, \$975 & up/mo, 1st & sec move in (561)248-3888 or (863)599-0156

TREASURE ISLAND - 2/2, CBS, waterfront, lake access, tiled floors, screened patio, all appls, \$850/mo No deposit. (954)610-5345

Vacation Rentals

SEASONAL Taylor Creek Condo, 1 BR, 1 BA, Lake access. Pool. \$1200 mo. (863)634-0663



Real Estate

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

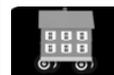
Condos/Townhouses Sale

Taylor Creek Condo 1 bedroom, fully furnished 2nd floor \$58,000 863-467-2301

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.

Houses - Sale

OKEE. - \$89,900, 3/2, exc. cond., dbl lot, great neighborhood. Call (863) 801-1739



Mobile Homes

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Rent

BHR - 3 BR, 1 BA, W&D Hookup. New carpet. Screened porch. On canal. \$450 mo. + util. Call (863)467-9436 or (863)763-8786

BHR - RVs for Rent, starting \$300-\$500 & 1BR/1BA Cabin, 55+ park, seasonal or yearly. 1st month's rent free! (863)763-7164

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

Treasure Island - 2BR SW on water, lg. lot, \$550 mo., 1st last & sec. 423-237-8948

Mobile Home Sale

DW MH - renovated, 4BR/2.5BA, 1800 sq. ft., fenced 1/2 acre lot, screened porch, shed, Pioneer Estate area, \$89,000. Bank finance avail. (863)610-1600

DWMH 3/2 Central air, appliances included, quiet cul-de-sac street, on leased land, not a MH park. 3 carports, large shed \$17,000. 863-357-6185.

For Sale: Park Model w/Fla. Room in Blue Cypress. With lots of extras. Asking \$69,900 or obo. Call 863-532-9222 or 860-610-0218.

Mobile Home Sale

PARK MODEL - 34X12 w/FL room, w/direct lake okee access (no locks) 618-558-0274



Public Notices

For more listings,
go to
www.newszap.com

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 2009-CP-220

In re: Estate of MARTHA CRAVEN YORK a/k/a MARTHA SUTTON YORK, a/k/a MARTHA S. YORK, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Ancillary Summary Administration)

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that an Order of Ancillary Summary Administration has been entered in the Estate of MARTHA CRAVEN YORK, a/k/a MARTHA SUTTON YORK, a/k/a MARTHA S. YORK, Deceased, File Number 2009-CP-220, by the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite - 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; that the decedent's date of death was June 4, 2009; that the total value of the estate is \$59,810.00; that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are: W. MIKE YORK, 129 Vaughn York Road, Staley, North Carolina 27355

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims within this court WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW.

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The first publication of this notice is November 25, 2009.

Person Giving Notice:
Jane York Embree
185 Vaughn York Road
Staley, North Carolina C

CONELY & CONELY, P.A.
Post Office Drawer 1367
Okeechobee, Florida 34973-1367
(863) 763-3825
By: Tom Conely III
Florida Bar #096482
Attorney for Personal Representative
340049 ON 11/25/12/02/09

Public Notice

Public Notice

CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on **Tuesday, December 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**, immediately following the Annual Lighting Ceremony, 6 p.m., at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website www.cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance.

By: James E. Kirk, Mayor
Lane Gamliote, CMC, City Clerk
340042 ON 11/25/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO: 2007-CA-153

CITIMORTGAGE, INC., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO PRINCIPAL RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE, INC.
PLAINTIFF

VS.

H. MICHAEL PIERCE A/K/A HARRY M. PIERCE; TERM L. PIERCE; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS, 2ND FLOOR, AT OKEECHOBEE JUDICIAL CENTER OF THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 312 NW 3RD STREET, Okeechobee, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 16th day of Dec., 2009 the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

RE - NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Granting the Motion to Re-set Foreclosure Sale dated 10/28/2009 entered in Civil Case No 2007-CA-153 of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for OKEECHOBEE County, Okeechobee, Florida, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, AT OKEECHOBEE JUDICIAL CENTER OF THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 312 NW 3RD STREET, Okeechobee, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 16th day of Dec., 2009 the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

PARCEL # 1-36-34-33-0A00-00005-0000
THE EAST 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTH 34 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF TRACT 5, SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

PARCEL # 1-36-34-33-0A00-0005-D000
THE WEST 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF TRACTS, SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

PARCEL # 1-36-34-33-0A00-00006-A000
THE EAST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF TRACT 6, SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

PARCEL # 1-36-34-33-0A00-00006-B000
THE WEST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF TRACT 6, SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens, must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 29th day of Oct., 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Linda F. Young
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986 or call 1-772-8074370 within two working days of your receipt of this Summons/Notice to Appear. If you are hearing impaired call 1-800-955-8771. If you are voice impaired call 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.

LAW OFFICES OF DAVID J. STERN, P.A.,
900 SOUTH PINE ISLAND ROAD, SUITE 400,
PLANTATION, FL 33324-3920
(954) 233-8000
07-81803(CMD)(FNM)
338440 ON 11/18,25/09

LEGAL NOTICE

A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. Lot at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on Friday the 11th day of December, 2009 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows:

Trophy USC 1 BOAT
USCD43FFD595

Terms of sale are cash, and no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Said automobiles will be sold in "AS IS" with no guarantees.

340054 ON 11/25/09

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE BY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, SHARON ROBERTSON, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida, will on the 16th day of December, 2009, at 11:00 A.M., at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 Northwest 3rd Street, Jury Assembly Room, Second Floor, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, in the City of Okeechobee, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situated in Okeechobee County, Florida, to-wit:

PAGE 5, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

pursuant to the final decree of foreclosure as to Count II entered in a case pending in said Court, the style of which is:

SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK,
Plaintiff
vs.
SAMUEL K. HAZELLIEF and
XIAO QIONG HAZELLIEF,
Defendants.

and the docket number of which is: 2008-CA-475.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of said Court, this 4th day of November, 2009.

SHARON ROBERTSON, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida

By: Linda F. Young
DEPUTY CLERK
Law Office of Cassels & McCall
John D. Cassels, Jr., Esquire
Post Office Box 968
Okeechobee, Florida 34973
338304 ON 11/18,25/09

Shop here first!
The classified ads

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO.2009-CP-6

IN RE: ESTATE OF
TOMAS OLIVERA-SALINAS,
Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of TOMAS OLIVERA SALINAS, deceased, whose date of death was February 9,2007, and whose social security number is (none), is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW Third Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set for the 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 733.702 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 November 25, 2009

Personal Representative:
MARTIN OLIVERA SALINAS
305 NW Tenth Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34972

Attorney for Personal Representative:
LINDA CARGILL SMITH P.A.
Florida Bar No. 306241
1320 S. Federal Hwy, #215
Stuart, FL 34994
772-219-9157
339992 ON 11/25 & 12/2/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO. 09-CP-68

IN RE: ESTATE OF
SAVION JONES,
Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of SAVION JONES, deceased, whose date of death was February 8,2009, and whose social security number is 769-44-4478, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW Third Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set for the 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 733.702 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 November 25, 2009

Personal Representative:
ANGELA YATES
1807 S. Parrott Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Attorney for Personal Representative:
LINDA CARGILL SMITH P.A.
Florida Bar No. 306241
1320 S. Federal Hwy, #215
Stuart, FL 34994
772-219-9157
339987 ON 11/25 & 12/2/09

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO. 08-CP-117

IN RE: ESTATE OF
BRANDON HUMPHREY,
Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of BRANDON HUMPHREY, deceased, whose date of death was July 11, 2007, and whose social security number is 492-98-0057, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW Third Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set for the 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 733.702 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 November 25, 2009

Personal Representative:
JONATHAN HUMPHREY
3009 SE 23rd Street
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Attorney for Personal Representative:
LINDA CARGILL SMITH P.A.
Florida Bar No. 306241
1320 S. Federal Hwy, #215
Stuart, FL 34994
772-219-9157
339983 ON 11/25 & 12/2/09

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 2009-CP-217

In re: Estate of
RICHARD GERARD BURKE,
a/k/a RICHARD G. BURKE
Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of RICHARD GERARD BURKE, a/k/a RICHARD G. BURKE, deceased, date of death October 9, 2009, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The personal representative's and the personal representative's attorney names 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 ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The first publication of this notice is November 25, 2009.

Jane G. Burke
Personal Representative
21102 Poolside Lane
Huntington Beach, California 92648
CONELY & CONELY, P.A.
Post Office Drawer 1367
Okeechobee, Florida 34973-1367
(863) 763-3825
By: Tom Conely III
Florida Bar #096482
Attorney for Personal Representative
340046 ON 11/25;12/02/09

Crossword Puzzle

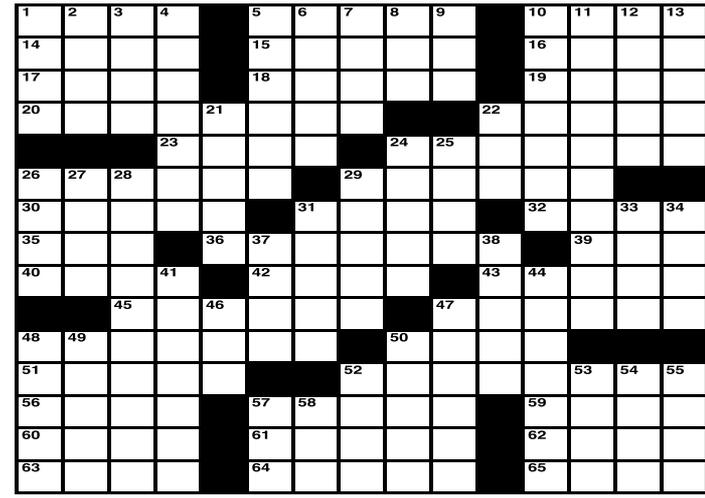
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN | 28 *Precariously situated | 48 Stir the fire |
| 1 Narrow-necked pear | 1 Cry loudly | 29 More azure | 49 Paparazzi target |
| 5 James who robbed trains | 2 On-the-job protection org. | 31 Cheerleading unit | 50 ___ and kicking |
| 10 Wine glass part | 3 Pillow covering | 33 "Let's leave ___ that" | 52 It can be chronic or shooting |
| 14 Pasty-faced | 4 Drummer's crashers | 34 Mediocre | 53 Bear among the stars |
| 15 Laud, as virtues | 5 Rockers ___ Tull | 37 Pilate's "Behold!" | 54 ___ Hari |
| 16 Drive-___ window | 6 Many a security guard | 38 Late | 55 "We're not serving liquor," briefly |
| 17 "Pow!" relative | 7 One of AA's twelve | 41 Trounces | 57 Bk. introduction |
| 18 Immune system agent | 8 Sun, in Spain | 44 Annoying people | 58 Make, as a wager |
| 19 Litter's littlest | 9 Building addition | 46 James Bond, e.g. | |
| 20 *Shari Lewis puppet | 10 Layer | 47 Piercing looks | |
| 22 '50s first lady | 11 *Duster's find at a crime scene | | |
| 23 50-and-over org. | 12 Tennessee-born country singer | | |
| 24 Open-bodied truck | Ford | | |
| 26 Moon mission name | 13 Like a subdued trumpet | | |
| 29 Photo enlargement | 21 Biblical spy | | |
| 30 No-goodnik | 22 Paw's mate? | | |
| 31 Really punch | 24 Transmission stuff | | |
| 32 Hosp. scanners | 25 Opera box | | |
| 35 Extinguish, with "out" | 26 Mont Blanc's range | | |
| 36 "Shhl" (and a hint to the feature shared by the answers to starred clues) | 27 Protruded-lip expression | | |
| 39 Legal Lance | | | |
| 40 ___ away: hide on a ship | | | |
| 42 Hit, in billiards | | | |
| 43 Paquin and Nicole Smith | | | |
| 45 Jeff Gordon was its 1993 Rookie of the Year | | | |
| 47 Cavern | | | |
| 48 Sold for a big profit, as tickets | | | |
| 50 Gucci of fashion | | | |
| 51 Brit's boob tube | | | |
| 52 *Act all innocent | | | |
| 56 Miscellany | | | |
| 57 Soft-tipped pen brand | | | |
| 59 Civil War color | | | |
| 60 Dole's 1996 running mate | | | |
| 61 Give up | | | |
| 62 This, in Tegucigalpa | | | |
| 63 Draws away from shore | | | |
| 64 Force units | | | |
| 65 Swedish auto | | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com



By Elizabeth A. Long
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Special to the Okeechobee News/Jeannie Bramlett

Tuckahoe Motorcycle Club

Tuckahoe Motorcycle Club recently held their Tenth Annual Open house event. Partial proceeds from this year's event were donated to The ARC of Okeechobee/Okeechobee Rehabilitation Facility, Inc. Tuckahoe President, Johnny Estes and club Treasurer/Secretary, Paul Bramlett, presented a check for \$750 to Nancy Zeigler Executive Director of The ARC. Ms. Zeigler thanked Mr. Estes and Mr. Bramlett for the donation and said it will be used for this year's fall celebrations. Pictured in photo are (left to right) Tom Gorney, Jeannie Bramlett, Board Liaison, Judy Carter, James Kennedy, Brenda Byrd; Support Service Coordinator, Nancy Zeigler, Paul Bramlett, and Johnny Estes.

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Boys soccer team loses to Suncoast

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Growing pains continue to affect the Okeechobee High School Brahman boys soccer team in the early part of their schedule.

Okeechobee got some reinforcement from cross country for Monday's match at Suncoast, but it wasn't enough as Suncoast walked away with a 3-1 victory in the District 14-4A opener for both teams.

Brahmans Coach Lonnie Sears said Eddie Guerrero and Adrian Leon played considerable minutes in Monday's match, and Leon even scored Okeechobee's only goal, but it wasn't enough.

Both had excellent seasons for cross country, which reached the state finals.

"We have everybody back now. We'll get to start doing some real work in practice. We missed the cross country guys but they were rusty and they're not ready to play their usual soccer just yet," he noted.

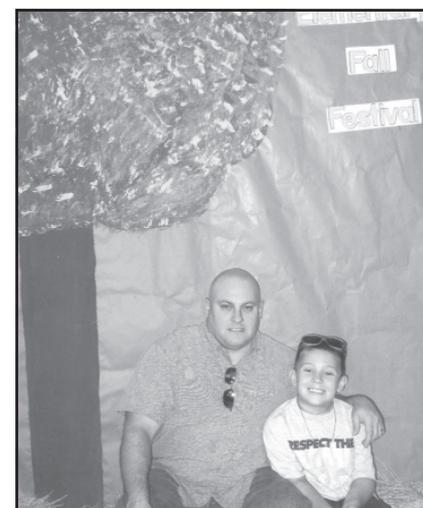
Okeechobee also struggled a bit on defense as they allowed some soft goals. The Brahmans also were without their starting goalkeeper. Gustavo Garcia filled in and made a few mistakes in net.

"He's young and he's not used to playing the position. He'll get better," Sears added.

Ronald Garcia had two goals and Jarnell Joseph scored one goal for Suncoast (3-1-1). Agustín Leon had an assist for Okeechobee. Garcia had two saves in net for the Brahmans (1-2).

Coach Sears said he expects Suncoast to be one of the top teams in the district this year. "They are pretty good this year. We just quit possessing the ball and our forwards mis-played the ball a lot at midfield tonight. We were not real smart with the ball."

Sears said the soccer team would practice a few times this week to try and get the problems resolved.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Fall Festival

Alex Armstrong and his dad, Jesse O'Neill enjoyed the North Elementary School Fall Festival, Friday, November 13.

Boys hoops blast Lake Placid

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Defense was the word of the day as Okeechobee High School blasted the Green Dragons of Lake Placid, 73-46 in boy's basketball action Saturday night.

Okeechobee took control early and was never really threatened by the Dragons, who trailed 24-9 after the first quarter, and 40-15 at the break.

Brahmans Coach Bryan Van Camp said his team kept up the intensity on both ends of the floor. "There are some things we need to improve on. Anytime you win a game 73-46 you did something right."

Van Camp said his team kept working hard on the defensive end even with a big lead. "We have no intention of embarrassing anyone. There is no excuse for not playing defense, no matter what the score is. Your responsibility is to lock your man down."

He was also pleased with the balanced scoring. T.J. Allen had 18 points off the bench in less than nine minutes of action. Ricky Nieto added 13. Austin Willard had 11 and Duelle Gore had 10 points.

Nieto said the team has been motivated in practice this year and really wants to have a good season. He said the goal for Lake Placid was to improve the defense, "We just came in and focused on defense. We wanted to have high intensity and play good defense. We try



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
Ryan Osceola lunges for a loose ball during the first quarter of Saturdays basketball game at Okeechobee High school.

to keep intensity throughout and try to get better."

Okeechobee led 54-34 after three quarters and substituted liberally in the second half.

There next home game is Friday, Dec. 8, against Suncoast.

Sports Network Web site launches

Youth, adult recreation leagues, and sports teams in the Okeechobee area now have an exciting online sports page and resource they can call their own.

A new web site, Okeechobee Sports Network, is now launched and already being used by the local sports community. The web address is: <http://fl.newszip.com/OkeechobeeSportsNetwork>.

The site is a partnership between the Okeechobee News and Community Sports Desk, a national sports software company.

Okeechobee Sports Network is designed to allow the people who know their league best—the rec center directors, coaches, even

the players themselves—to deliver information to the people who care about it most.

Team representatives can post their schedules, game stories, statistics, standings and photos on dedicated web pages on the site. Each league or team will be provided a username and password so they can update anytime, from anywhere they have internet access.

Interested teams and leagues can contact Renee Hawley by e-mail at rhawley@communitysportsdesk.com. Or call her toll free at 888-853-7904 for a demonstration or to get started right away. To advertise on the site, contact Judy Kasten at 863-763-3134 or by email at jkasten@strato.net.



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Holiday Traditions



Inside:

- Recipes
- Craft Ideas
- Local Holiday Stories
- Gift Ideas from Local Advertisers

*And Much,
Much More!*

Money-saving tips for memorable holidays

The holidays are a time for family and friends to gather and share the joys of the season. While many families are faced with the need to scale back their holiday celebrations and expectations, it's good to know that memorable holidays can be both frugal and festive. By doing a little extra planning and reclaiming some of the traditions of simpler times, it's possible to discover that less really can be more. Make your holiday season both merry and memorable with the following money-saving tips:

◆ **Make a plan.** Create a plan for holiday spending and gift giving. List possible gifts, how much you expect to pay, what you can afford to pay, and alternatives. Once you determine how much you can afford to spend on each gift, stick to your plan. Always look for sales and pay in cash or with debit cards whenever possible. Compare prices online. Check the shipping charges. For kids, consider buying one nice gift rather than a lot of smaller ones.

◆ **Timing is everything.** While the best deals on greeting cards can be found after the holidays, some do go on sale in December. It's also worth remembering that postcards are less expensive and also cost less to mail. And if you're handy with scissors, you can trans-

form last year's greeting cards into this year's festive holiday postcards. In addition, it pays to mail packages early. The longer you wait, the more it will cost to make sure that your gifts arrive on time.

◆ **It's a wrap.** Wrapping paper, like most other seasonal items, is deeply discounted after the holidays. If you didn't catch last year's after-Christmas sales, consider using the comics from your local newspaper as wrapping paper. A roll of white butcher paper and assorted sizes of paper bags can be transformed into works of art that double as gift packaging. And last year's holiday cards can be cut into wonderful gift tags.

◆ **Nurture nature.** Homemade decorations and ornaments add an old-fashioned touch to the holiday season. You can bring nature indoors with cornstalks, pinecones, dried flowers and pumpkins. Trees can be decked with strings of popcorn and cranberries as well as holiday cookie cutters, ribbons and bows. If you're willing to wait, bargains on Christmas trees can be found in the days leading up to December 25th. You might also consider investing in a high-quality artificial tree, which can save you big bucks in the long run.

◆ **Delicious deals.** Some grocery stores offer great deals during the holidays. Check your newspaper and store fliers for deals on items you need. Use store brands when making casseroles and side dishes. In the spirit of sharing, a potluck-style holiday dinner could be a tradition worth considering. It also relieves the host of the entire burden of paying for and preparing the meal. Visit www.GrocerySavingTips.com for additional coupons and hundreds of money-saving suggestions.

◆ **Simple pleasures.** Holiday entertainment can be



as simple as a drive around town to see the lights. And don't forget to bring along some blankets and hot chocolate for the ride. Pull out the board games you haven't played in years. Learn three new card games and two new holiday songs. Bake and decorate cookies. Make lasting memories. GG09B740

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Homemade ornaments a treat for the holidays

Once the perfect tree has been selected and placed in the home, the next task is to take out all of the ornaments collected over the years and hang them on the tree. Part of what makes decorating the tree so memorable is the ornaments that have been collected over time - many of them handmade treasures. Looking through them is a trip down memory lane, bringing to mind the happy times these ornaments recall. Today in a hurried society, it may seem easier to simply head to the store and purchase a box full of ornaments for the tree. But spending time creating your own can be a family event that's a fun way to spend time together. Here are a few ideas.

Tie-Dyed Balls

Create ornaments that have the impression of being tie-dyed. Simply buy a box of clear glass ornaments from a craft store. Pop off the metal top and squirt one or two different colors of acrylic paint into the center of the ball. Replace the top and twirl the ball around until the paint coats the inside in a marbled pattern. Place on a surface where the balls won't roll, such as an empty egg carton, and let dry.



Wire Ornaments

Purchase thin craft wire and small beads of various colors. Bend the wire into holiday shapes, such as candy canes and stars.

This can be achieved by wrapping the wire around cookie cutters as templates. Thread the beads onto the wire shape until it is completely covered with beads. Use a needle-nose pliers to twist together the two open ends to seal the ornament shut.

Popsicle Stick Treasures

Craft sticks, popsicle sticks, whatever you call them, these wooden items can be glued and painted to create a number of ornaments for the tree. Fashion them into a triangular shape and paint green for a Christmas tree. Glue a handful together and paint white for a snowflake. Dust these ornaments with glitter for even more sparkle on the tree.



Craft Foam Creations

Pop into any craft store or even toy store and you will likely find packages or loose sheets of thin colored foam that can be cut and designed into everything from sun visors to doorknob signs to fun ornaments for the tree. SP08A232

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Season's Greetings

Embrace the spirit of Italy this holiday season

Rich in history and culture, Italy influences many aspects of living today. This boot-shaped peninsula that stretches out into the Mediterranean Sea has provided the inspiration for food, music, entertainment, and fashion for hundreds of years. It's often the backdrop for major motion pictures, and Italy often personifies magic, glamour and moments to remember. For those looking to reconnect with Italian heritage or just experience the enchantment of the rolling hills, beautiful coastline, and warm and welcoming people, here are some ideas for surrounding yourself in the spirit of Italy during this special time of year.



a peek at the cookbooks they offer, or tune to the Food Network or PBS for syndicated cooking shows.

Entertaining and Socializing

Gathering with family and friends is an integral part of Italian culture. Music, conversation and delicious cocktails are often part of the picture. Including a beverage that personifies Italy when socializing is another way to connect with Italian culture.

In 1945, Angelo Molinari, already a well-respected blender of wines and spirits, created what was to become one of Italy's most celebrated masterpieces – a smooth, rich, full-bodied liqueur he proudly named Molinari Sambuca. Today, Molinari Sambuca Extra is the primary choice of S a m b u c a lovers everywhere and is, by far, Italy's favorite.

The uncompromising quality of its ingredients and super-premium quality and smoothness contribute to that appeal. Molinari is also dedicated to tradition and has not strayed from the original recipe.

Sambuca can be enjoyed as an after-dinner digestive. It's also the perfect companion to coffee, particularly espresso and it is often enjoyed chilled ice cold, or as part of delicious desserts and other recipes. It can be especially versatile for holiday entertaining when mixed with seasonal ingredients to create innovative drinks. Here's a recipe to get you started.

Beluga

- 1/3 Molinari Sambuca
- 1/3 Heavy Cream
- 1/3 White Creme de Menthe

Shake well with abundant ice. Serve in a martini glass. Sprinkle coffee powder on top. Visit www.molinari.it for more recipes and information on Molinari Sambuca. For other inquiries, contact Shaw-Ross International Importers at 954-430-5020.

Culinary Delights

Italian cuisine is some of the most coveted worldwide. Italians view cooking as an art not a task, and put a bit of their heart into the recipe. Dining to Italians is also an experience not to take lightly. It's a family affair, with conversation and long hours basking at the dinner table, especially during the holidays

Dabbling in Italian cooking is an easy way to impart the flavor of that culture into your everyday living. Choose from pasta dishes to decadent pastries to seafood specialties. In fact, for many Southern Italians, Christmas eve is the time to enjoy vigilia di magro, or The Feast of the Seven Fishes, where the holiday is celebrated with a bounty of seafood.

If you're looking for inspiration, there are a number of chefs who offer cookbooks full of scores of delicious recipes. Some of the more familiar chefs in this country who have gained celebrity recognition in recent years include Giada De Laurentiis, Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, and Mario Batali. Visit your local or online bookseller for

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Make the holidays harmonious for pets, too

Celebrants all over may look forward to the holidays for the hustle and bustle they bring, but the same sentiments may not be expressed by pets ... if they could talk, that is. Pets that aren't used to a lot of foot traffic in a home or loud events could become anxious when holiday guests arrive and the fun ensues. Further stress could be added by lack of attention on the part of pet owners and the changes of the home environment through the addition of decorations and a Christmas tree.

Christmas and New Years also present a host of hazards to pets. It's important to be aware of these dangers to keep pets safe. Keep these pointers in mind:

- ◆ Don't use poisonous plants in your holiday decor. Holly, ivy, mistletoe, and poinsettias can be deadly if consumed by most animals. Go with faux plants instead if you desire the look.
- ◆ Keep your pets on a steady diet and resist the urge to feed them leftovers from holiday dinner. Abrupt changes in your dog or cat's diet can cause stomach distress, vomiting and diarrhea.
- ◆ Set aside a quiet space your pets can retreat to when there's just too much commotion in another area of the house. However, putting a dog in the backyard if it is extremely cold is simply off limits. A dark bedroom away from the activity is best.

◆ Cats love to climb and may take to your Christmas tree. Safeguard against the tree tipping over by secur-



ing it with a piece of fishing line or anchored into the ceiling or a wall. Also,

don't put lit candles or breakables on areas where cats like to pounce.

◆ Involve pets in the festivities by buying a special treat that they can enjoy for good behavior during the holidays. A new chew or chase toy is a nice idea.

◆ If you will be traveling during the holidays, make sure your pets are adequately secured in the car and not allowed to roam freely. Use a travel crate or a special seat belt to keep the animals in place. With some planning and care, you can ensure your pets will be comfortable and content during



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Bake up a Treat for Holiday Meals

Entertaining is a large part of the holiday season. No matter what religious or cultural holiday is celebrated, gathering, reminiscing ... and eating are often part of the festivities.

With the influx of people dropping by and meals to be served this time of year, the wise host or hostess should collect recipes to have on hand that will help feed the crowds or just make an intimate meal together more memorable.

As an alternative to store-made breads or canned rolls and biscuits, why not try your hand at a tasty and relatively easy to make homemade bread? This herbed loaf will complement a wide range of meals and there probably won't be a crumb left over.

Italian Herbed Bread

(Serves 6 to 8)

2 1/2 cups bread flour
 1 cup hot tap water
 3 tablespoons olive oil
 1/2 teaspoon white sugar
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 package fast-acting dry yeast* (see note below about yeast)
 Dried Italian seasonings, to taste
 Dried rosemary, to taste
 1 teaspoon olive oil reserved for after baking

Sprinkle of Kosher salt reserved for after baking

In a mixing bowl, combine fast-acting yeast and hot water. Let yeast and water sit for 5 minutes. Add sugar, salt, olive oil, herbs and flour. Mix until ingredients are well incorporated.

(For those with bread machines, follow the directions for the machine for mixing the dough). Then turn out onto a floured board. With hands dusted in flour, knead bread for 5 minutes until dough is soft and no longer very tacky. *If using fast-acting yeast, follow the instructions for rising.

Many brands require the dough to simply sit aside for 10 minutes, which will replace the first rise with traditional yeast recipes. If using traditional yeast, follow the instructions on the packet for rising and punching down dough.

When dough has sat or undergone the first rise, transfer it to a loaf pan that has been lightly oiled. Set the pan in a warm spot of the home. Let the dough rise in the loaf pan until doubled in size, roughly 2 to 3 hours.

Bake risen dough in an oven preheated to 400 F for 20 minutes, or until golden brown. Remove bread and use a pastry brush to brush olive oil on top and then sprinkle with Kosher salt. Serve warm. SP08A220



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Be safe and sound when stringing holiday lights

Few holiday traditions are as aesthetically appealing as lighting a house and Christmas tree. Neighborhood passersby often delight in a well-lit holiday home, and some neighborhoods even have contests among residents as to who can create the most festive holiday lighting display.

But as fun as stringing up and designing a holiday lighting scheme can be, it can be equally dangerous as well.

Film fans are well aware of Clark Griswold's hysterical efforts to string up holiday lights in the comedy classic "Christmas Vacation." But as odd-ball and over-the-top as those efforts were, they've also hit home for many who have had accidents stringing up holiday lights in years past.

Consider the fact that Christmas trees account for roughly 200 fires annually – mostly from electrical lights or open flames from candles – causing more than \$6 million in property damage, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. In addition, each year plays witness to thousands

of visits to local emergency rooms resulting from falls that happen when stringing up holiday lights.

But for every person who visits the emergency room after a fall, there are thousands more who make it through the season safe and sound. To do just that, consider the following holiday lighting safety tips, courtesy

of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

◆ Check that outdoor lights – and extension cords – are designed for outdoor use, and be sure to look for the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label on the lights. The label indicates that the product has been tested for safety hazards.

◆ Inspect lights for

any damages, such as frayed strings, exposed wires, loose connections, or any

broken or cracked sockets.

Damaged sets are a fire and safety hazard, so replace any sets with any of the aforementioned problems.

◆ Minimize extension cord use, plugging lights directly into the electrical sockets whenever possible. Check the fuse box to determine how many amps your circuit can handle safely.

◆ Routinely feel electrical cords around the house and unplug any that feel too warm.



See LIGHTS — Page 8



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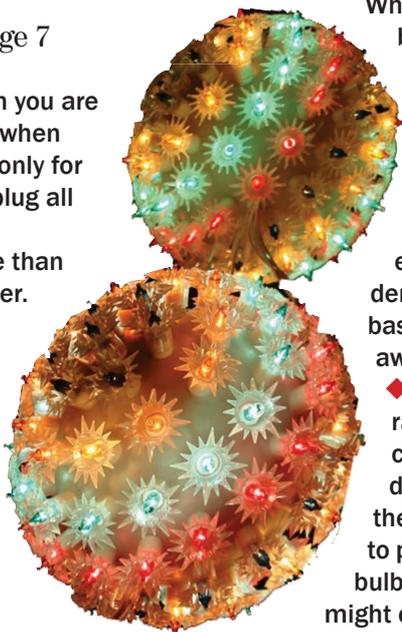


Stringing holiday lights

lights

Continued From Page 7

- ◆ Turn off lights when you are away from home and when you're asleep. Even if only for a midday cat nap, unplug all lights just to be safe.
- ◆ Do not strand more than three light sets together.
- ◆ Do not use electric lights with a metallic tree. Touch alone can lead to a deadly electrical shock.
- ◆ Prevent wind damage to bulbs by securely attaching all outdoor lights to the house, walls or other firm objects..
- ◆ Do not conceal cords under floor mats or rugs. This can lead to trips and falls.
- ◆ When hanging lights, always emphasize safety and have a helper on hand. The ladder should be sitting level, and when hanging lights, stand



- centered on the rails of the ladder.
- When placing the ladder, both the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the CPSC recommend extending it at least three feet beyond the roofline. In addition, for every four feet the ladder extends up, space the base of the ladder one foot away from the wall.
- ◆ Keep all lighting decorations out of reach of children and pets. Children may be intrigued by the lights and be tempted to play with the wires or the bulbs, while the family pet might chew or pull on cords.
 - ◆ Be especially careful with candles. Candles are an obvious fire hazard, so avoid placing them near trees, decorations and wrapping paper and do not put them in a place where they can be knocked down or blown over. HL09C855

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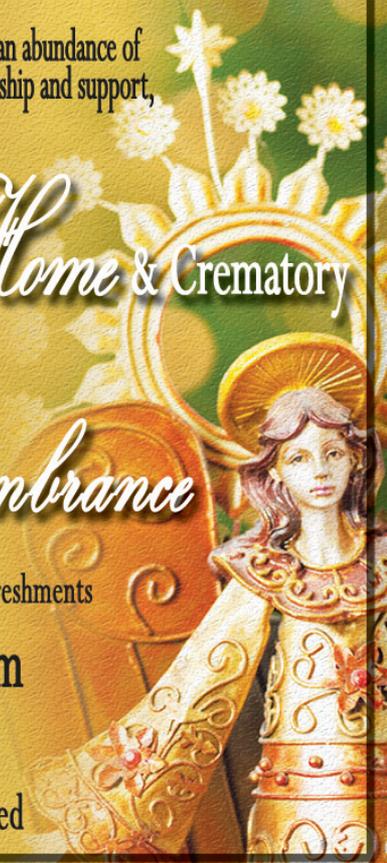
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Don't get unravelled over wrapping gifts

The countdown to Christmas has begun and in the race to get every gift bought, and every detail right for the ensuing holiday, we often forget one crucial step: wrapping the presents.

While some people may shutter at the idea of spending hours in crowded stores picking out presents, many others cringe at the idea of having to wrap all of their holiday finds. That's why it becomes easy to forget about those sacks of unwrapped gifts hiding in attic eaves or lying low in the trunk of the car. But being present procrastinators won't get the task done. Wrapping gifts may take some time, but that doesn't mean it can't be fun.

◆ **Find your niche:** Not everyone is a master gift-wraper. But maybe there's a unique flair you place on your gifts that sets them apart from others ... a hallmark. It could be a certain type of paper, or an interesting gift tag. Discover your niche and embrace it. For example, professional gift wrapper Connie Rheas says that in her experience, "there are certain techniques that you must follow for a great gift but in the end, it's all about the bow." So maybe your niche can be creating fabulous bows to adorn the gifts you wrap.

◆ **There's fun in numbers:** What's just about everyone you know doing this time of year? Shopping for and wrapping presents and attending parties. Why not marry the activities for a spectacular evening? Host a gift-wrapping party. Everyone volunteers to bring a specific set of supplies and one person hosts the venue. Have snacks catered or simply order out for pizza. With the chatting and working going on simultaneously, you'll get through that mountain of gifts in no time.

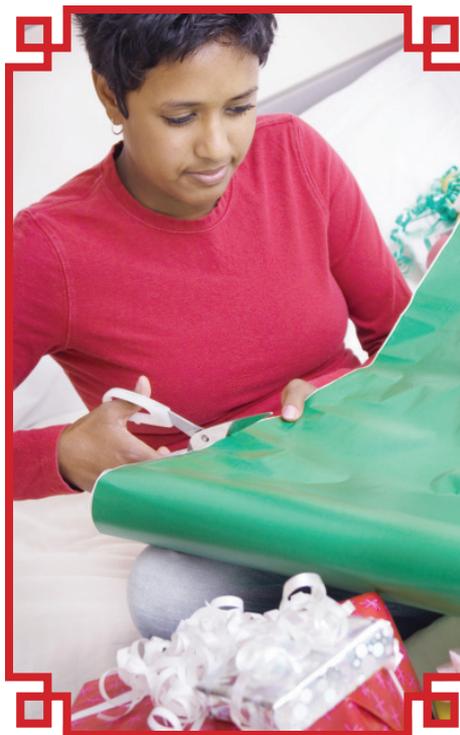
◆ **Skip the paper and go for the bag:** Gift bags can be the time-crunched gift-wraper's saving grace. These bags come in all sizes and require just about a minute's time of packing to make gifts look great. What's more, gift bags can be reused over and over. To further expand the recycling power of gift bags, choose solid-color or holiday-neutral bags so that their reuse won't be restricted to Christmas.

◆ **Delegate:** There is a quote by an unknown author that says, "Some par-

ents could do more for their children by not doing so much for them." This may be a good time to put this line of thinking to the test by enlisting the help of your children in wrapping presents. Naturally they shouldn't be given their own to wrap, but they can help out with other family members' gifts. It can be an enjoyable job for them, and it will lighten your burden.

◆ **Set up a wrapping station:** Sometimes the anxiety over wrapping gifts stems from the level of disorganization with which some people start the task. Take a few minutes to clear a space for wrapping. A table or another solid surface that doesn't require you to hunch over will be most comfortable. Lay out your supplies, such as tags, pens, bows, ribbons, paper, scissors, gift receipts, etc. so that they are within easy reach. Gather together the gifts that are going to each specific person and wrap them in order. Later separate the wrapped presents according to whether they'll be placed under the tree or put in the car to travel to a friend or relative's house.

◆ **When all else fails ... :** For a small donation, many stores offer complimentary gift-wrapping. Take advantage of this service. Shopping on off-hours will ensure the lines at the wrapping



Employing a few strategies can make wrapping presents easier and less stressful. GG08B527

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Christmas Gifts of Yesteryear

Today's kids have scores of technological games and gadgets from which to choose for their holiday wish list. How much do they differ from the toys children requested just 10 to 20 years ago?

Here's a look at some of the popular toys of the 1980s and 1990s.

1980s

If you were a kid growing up during the age of excess you were a part of the mass hysteria explosion for new toys. Most memorable during the '80s was the shortage of Cabbage Patch Dolls that coincided with Christmas shopping season.

This led to fights at area stores and bidding wars over the dolls.

Boys in the '80s were enthralled by the action figure craze sparked by favorite cartoon characters. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, He-Man and Transformers were just some of the action figures played with primarily by boys. However, girls enjoyed spin-off series, such as She-Ra and the co-ed Thundercats and subsequent action figures.

In terms of dolls, apart from Cabbage Patch Dolls, kids could choose among Rainbow Brite and other cohorts, Popples, Care Bears and many others.

For those looking for video game action, the introduction of Nintendo in the late '80s created mass appeal and totally eclipsed earlier efforts by Atari.

1990s

Advancing technology in the '90s and improved marketing campaigns turned every toy into that "must-have toy." There are a few toys that stand



out from this decade that kids were eager to own.

Rollerblades were one of the big trends of the era. It was no longer cool to roller skate on four wheels. Rollerblades took over, enticing children and adults alike. Today in-line skating continues in popularity.

Younger children had to have Tickle Me Elmo, which sold out in stores almost as fast as Cabbage Patch Dolls from a decade earlier. Children today still enjoy other animated Elmo reincarnations.

Another toy craze that hit the 1990s were Beanie Babies. These bean-filled collector's items soon became very expensive and their appeal died off.

Furby was a computerized creature that actually "learned." It would acquire words and phrases if you bestowed attention on the toy. Furbys required a lot of attention, feeding and sleep – just like a person. This could be why their appeal quickly wore off after the first few years.

In terms of outdoor action, summertime fun was forever changed by the Super Soaker, which was more powerful than any water gun before it. GG08B539



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Holiday gifting across the globe

Perhaps no one is a more familiar with gifting trends across the globe than the jolly man who lives at the North Pole. While you might not be able to fire up the sleigh and sail through the clouds this Christmas Eve, there are ways to mimic the gifting trends of countries far and wide.



Chinese New Year, people exchange red envelopes filled with money.

Israel

Every December, Jews around the world celebrate Chanukah, the festival of lights or celebration of the Maccabees' victory over the Greeks, who wanted the Jews to give up their culture and faith in favor of a Hellenistic life in 166 B.C. After the Maccabees won the war, they needed to rededicate their temple but only had enough oil for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted eight days. As a result, Jews today light candles on the menorah for each of Hanukkah's eight nights and often they exchange gifts. Originally, Jews gave monetary presents to teach children about sharing and in Israel that sentiment remains. Parents often give their children "gelt," which are coin-shaped chocolates wrapped in gold foil. Potato latkes and jelly doughnuts are the holiday's signature foods should you be invited to a Hanukkah celebration. The goal of the giver should be to provide a sweet thought as opposed to a fancy or expensive gift.

Portugal

In Portugal, and in other parts of Europe, handmade gifts are often seen as the most sincere. Although Christmas is the most popular time of year to exchange gifts, most people bring homemade baked goods or knitted tablecloths, shawls or blankets whenever visiting someone's home, says Portuguese American Helder Gil, 26, of Washington, D.C. Even celebrities have taken up Portuguese habits like knitting, proof that even old-fashioned hobbies can be chic. HL09C869

China

Using red wrapping paper and envelopes will delight those in China, who think the color brings good fortune and wards off evil. Traditionally, on the

Netherlands

Sending postcards, via snail mail, for special occasions may not be common in this e-mail centric world. But it is still common in the Netherlands. If putting it in writing is not your style, you can always offer a floral bouquet. Flowers are the typical offering when you are invited to someone's home in the Netherlands, not surprising for a country famous for its tulips. The Dutch also exchange gifts on Sinterklaas, or Santa Claus Day, on December 5, which celebrates the actual feast day of Saint Nicholas for whom Santa Claus was named. On this day, people indulge in traditional Dutch cookies and candies, adults often make little presents or write poems for one another, and children receive a piece of chocolate in the shape of their first initial.

South Korea

During the fall harvest (which arrives in mid-August, depending on the lunar calendar), families gather to share a meal. At this celebration, adult children give money to their parents and, at day's end, parents pack up the harvested crops for their children. Pretty presentation is another lesson to be learned from South Koreans. Everything in Korea is gift-wrapped and the packaging is important, so get out the bows and streamers, even if you decide to give Mom and Dad cash this year.

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Cookies and Christmas: A Match Made in Holiday Heaven

There's a good reason fitness club memberships tend to spike come January. After a holiday season spent party-hopping and letting their diets fall by the wayside, many people look to the gym as the means to helping shed those inevitable holiday pounds.

Perhaps no food is more popular around the holidays than cookies. Cookies are as much a part of the holiday season as Christmas trees, long lines at the mall and kids searching the house for presents. For those with guests to entertain this holiday season, the following recipe for "Kitchen-Sink Chocolate Chip Cookies" from Elinor Klivans' "The Essential Chocolate Chip Cookbook" (Chronicle Books) is sure to please.

Kitchen-Sink Chocolate Chip Cookies

Makes About 36 Cookies

- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons unbleached all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 6 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

- 3 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup pecan halves
- 1 cup walnut halves or large pieces
- 1 cup blanched whole almonds, toasted and chopped roughly in half

Position a rack in the middle of the oven. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line two or three baking sheets with parchment paper.

Sift the flour, baking soda, and salt into a medium bowl and set aside.

In a large bowl, using an electric mixer on medium speed, beat the butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar until smoothly blended, about 1 minute. Stop the mixer and scrape the sides of the bowl as needed during mixing. Add the egg and vanilla and mix until blended, about 1 minute. The mixture may look slightly curdled. On low speed, add the flour mixture, mixing just until it is incorporated. Mix in the chocolate chips, pecans, walnuts, and almonds until evenly distributed.

Use a tablespoon to drop well-rounded tablespoonfuls of dough (about 2 tablespoons each) onto the prepared baking sheets, spacing the cookies 2 inches apart.

Bake the cookies one sheet at a time until the edges are lightly browned and the centers are slightly colored, about 14 minutes. Cool the cookies on the baking sheets for 10 minutes, then use a wide metal



spatula to transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.

The cookies can be stored in a tightly covered container at room temperature for up to four days.

Choices: You can add 1 cup of raisins, dried cranberries, or chopped dried apricots to the dough with the chips and nuts. White, bittersweet, or milk chocolate chips, or a combination, can be substituted for the semisweet chips. SP08A228

This Holiday Season...

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Christmas trees come in all shapes and sizes

Choosing the perfect Christmas tree is in many ways like choosing a favorite music group or a favorite movie. Opinions vary greatly, and no choice is every truly better or worse than another. Some like a tree that pleases the eye, while others go strictly for the aroma a given tree can provide. Families often let kids do the choosing, which can throw all previous standards of judgement out the window.

Those with a deeper interest in Christmas trees may be interested in learning there are actually a few different species to choose from.

Fraser Fir

One of the most popular Christmas trees, Fraser fir is a uniformly pyramid-shaped tree. Strong branches are turned slightly upward and needles are dark green, flattened and feature a groove on the upper side and two broad silvery-white bands on the lower surface.

Scotch Pine

The Scotch pine is well-suited to handle heavy ornaments thanks to its stiff branches. With excellent needle retention, the Scotch pine holds up well throughout harvest, shipping and display.

Balsam Fir

As a Christmas tree, Balsam fir has several desirable properties: a dark-green appearance, long-lasting needles and attractive form. It also retains its pleasant fragrance. Balsams are so fragrant that their needles were once used for stuffing "pine pillows" to act as a natural deodorant.

Douglas Fir

Since the 1920's, the Douglas fir has been the primary Christmas tree used in the Pacific Northwest. The needles are dark green or blue-green, are soft to the touch and radiate out in all directions from the branch. They have a sweet fragrance when crushed.

Blue Spruce

Blue Spruce, or Colorado Blue Spruce, is an attractive tree often used for Christmas trees or ornamentals. It has a narrow, pyramidal shape and cone-shaped crown. As trees become older, they often take on a more

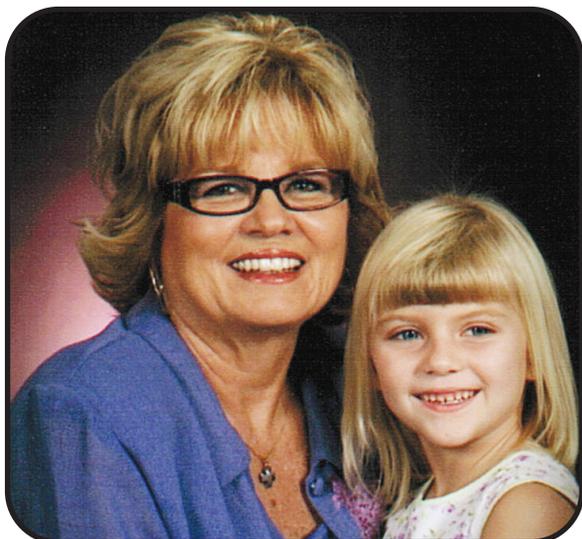
irregular appearance. The tree is very popular thanks to its symmetrical form and attractive blue foliage. Blue spruces are often used as living Christmas trees (bought with root ball intact and planted afterward). SP09A628



Christmas trees come in many shapes and sizes, and the species of tree can vary greatly

*Faith, hope, love abide,
but the greatest is love.*

1 Corinthians 13-13(RVS)



*Happy Holidays from
Preferred Properties*



Caring for that special tree

Perhaps due to the the Christmas season essentially starting the day after Thanksgiving, more and more families now purchase their Christmas trees earlier than ever before. That means trees take increased effort to care for to ensure they make it to the big day. To be certain your tree holds up through the long Christmas season, consider the following tree care tips.

◆ Trees, even healthy ones, will have their share of needle loss. However, if the tree is faded, if the bark on branches is wrinkled, or exterior needles fall off at even the most gentle touch, the tree is excessively dry. Be sure to keep the tree watered to avoid excessive dryness.

◆ Cut trees will absorb water more readily from their stand if they are given a fresh cut prior to submerging the trunk. A tree that has not been freshly cut will still absorb water, but at a slower rate. A thick, crusty sap forms on the end of the trunk and can hamper water absorption.

◆ According to the National Christ-

mas Tree Association, it is not necessary to add anything to the water of Christmas trees, like aspirin, bleach or fertilizer. Plain tap water will extend the life of a tree for weeks. Other additives can actually hamper water absorption and tree moisture levels.

◆ Look for large tree stands that can accommodate at least a gallon of water. A tree drinks at least one quart of water per inch of trunk diameter per day. A larger stand ensures the water will last longer between refills. Also, check water levels regularly. There are products on the market that will automatically add water to tree stands in case you forget.

Many people avoid real Christmas trees because they feel they are "killing" a tree and harming the environment. In fact, Christmas trees are raised on farms and harvested for this specific purpose. For every tree harvested, at least three are planted in its place. Each year there are more trees available than the last. Cut trees can be recycled after the season and impact the environment far less than artificial trees made of non-biodegradable metal and plastic.



NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

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Exciting holiday classics

Don't let guests fear the ghost of holiday meals past; instead ensure perfection with these holiday classics that warm the heart and please the pocket book.

Did you know one ham can provide an easy-to-prepare holiday meal with plenty of delicious options for leftovers? For meal planning and preparation tips, be sure to watch HamTV to get the most out of your holiday ham. <http://www.cooksham.com/hamTV>

Main Course:

Honey-Glazed Ham with Cranberry-Pecan Relish

The holiday dinner table never looked so beautiful with this easy-to-prepare Cook's Bone-in Spiral Sliced Ham with tangy cranberry-pecan relish. The perfect blend of tradition and fresh culinary flavors, this recipe is sure to satisfy all generations gathered at your table.

1 Cook's Bone-in Spiral Sliced Ham

Honey-Glaze

- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 1/2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice

Cranberry-Pecan Relish

- 1 large Granny Smith apple, peeled, finely chopped
- 1 cup cranberry juice cocktail
- 6 ounces sweetened dried cranberries
- 2 tablespoons orange marmalade
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans

1. Remove glaze packet from ham and save for another use. Begin preparing ham according to package directions. While baking, prepare Honey Glaze by mixing honey, mustard and lemon juice until blended. Set aside.

2. Combine apples and juice cocktail in medium saucepan. Bring to a boil, then let simmer 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

3. Add cranberries; simmer 5 minutes, or until fruit is tender, stirring occasionally.

4. Remove from heat and stir in marmalade and pecans. Set aside until ready to eat. Can be made in advance and refrigerated until ready to use.

5. Brush ham with Honey Glaze for last 30 minutes of baking. Let stand 10 minutes. Carve and serve with Cranberry Relish.



See Holiday Classics — Page 16



Season's Greetings...



From our family to yours



104 S.W. 7th Ave.
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More holiday classics...

Luncheon:

Holiday Ham and Winter Fruit Salad with Maple Vinaigrette

Delight guests with this remix on a traditional holiday green salad. Perfect for a luncheon or as a starter, each bite blends warm Cook's Ham with holiday fruits and nuts, and the sweet taste of maple.

Vinaigrette

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup canola oil

Salad

- 1/3 cup pecan halves
- 8 cups mixed salad greens
- 3 medium pears, cut into wedges
- 1/3 cup sweetened dried cranberries
- 1 cup diced Cook's Ham, warmed

1. Mix all vinaigrette ingredients except oil with wire whisk. Beat in oil until blended.

2. Arrange pear wedges on greens
3. Sprinkle with diced ham, pecans and cranberries
4. Drizzle vinaigrette over salads

Party Pleaser:

Holiday Ham Wrap Tree

Who can resist this festive table centerpiece that's delicious too? Perfect for an office or school party, these Cook's Ham wraps stack up to an impressive holiday meal.

- 1 pound slices from Cook's Bone-in Spiral Sliced Ham
- 6 ounces cream cheese, whipped
- 1 cup sliced sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup red bell pepper, sliced into thin strips
- 6 6-inch spinach flour tortillas

1. Slice ham into 1/2-inch wide strips
2. Spread thin layer of cream cheese over surface of tortilla
3. Place two strips of ham side by side along lower third of tortilla, extend from one end
4. Add two strips of red pepper, and one slice of

- cheese each
- 5. Fold tortilla edge over contents and roll tightly
- 6. Cut into 1-inch pinwheels
- 7. Stack pinwheels in rings one on top of another, decreasing size of each ring until reaching top of tree
- 8. Garnish with cranberries, or star-shaped cut-outs of pepper





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Happy
Holidays!

Film classics to rev up holiday spirit

Families often have their own unique traditions when it comes to the holidays. Lately, families have begun to include films in many of those traditions. That's thanks largely to the array of classic holiday films that have consistently put people in the holiday mood. Families reuniting for the holidays this year have a host of films from which to choose to enjoy a night in and a bucket of popcorn. When heading to visit family and friends, consider bringing one of the following as a gift to make a memorable night with loved ones.

◆ "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989) – Led by an all-star cast including Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo, the Griswold family Christmas should be merry, but naturally turns into a hilarious disaster. Look for appearances by "Seinfeld" veteran Julia Louis-Dreyfus and legendary comedienne Doris Roberts in supporting roles.

◆ "A Christmas Story" (1983) – Growing up in 1940s America, young Ralphie has his heart set on a Red Rider BB gun for Christmas, but it seems like Mom, teacher and even Santa are certain he'll "shoot his eye out"

with such a gift. Will Ralphie find his heart's desire under the tree? Watch to find out.

* "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946) – When distraught George Baily (Jimmy Stewart) meets a compassionate angel, he learns what life would have been like if he'd never existed. Holiday magic wins out in the end.

◆ "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947) – Another classic that can't be missed! When a man claiming to be Santa Claus is deemed insane, a young lawyer and a headstrong young girl come to his rescue.

◆ "A Christmas Carol" (1951) – Yet another movie that has spawned a series of more recent remakes. This one stars Alastair Sim as Mr. Scrooge, a bitter, miserly man who doesn't give a bah humbug about the holiday season. But will a haunting by three ghosts change his mind and ill will?

◆ "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (1965) – Charlie Brown is depressed and can't find the Christmas spirit. When he is put in charge of the school's holiday pageant and comes in with a meager Christmas tree, the schoolkids ultimately learn about the true meaning of Christmas. HL09C772



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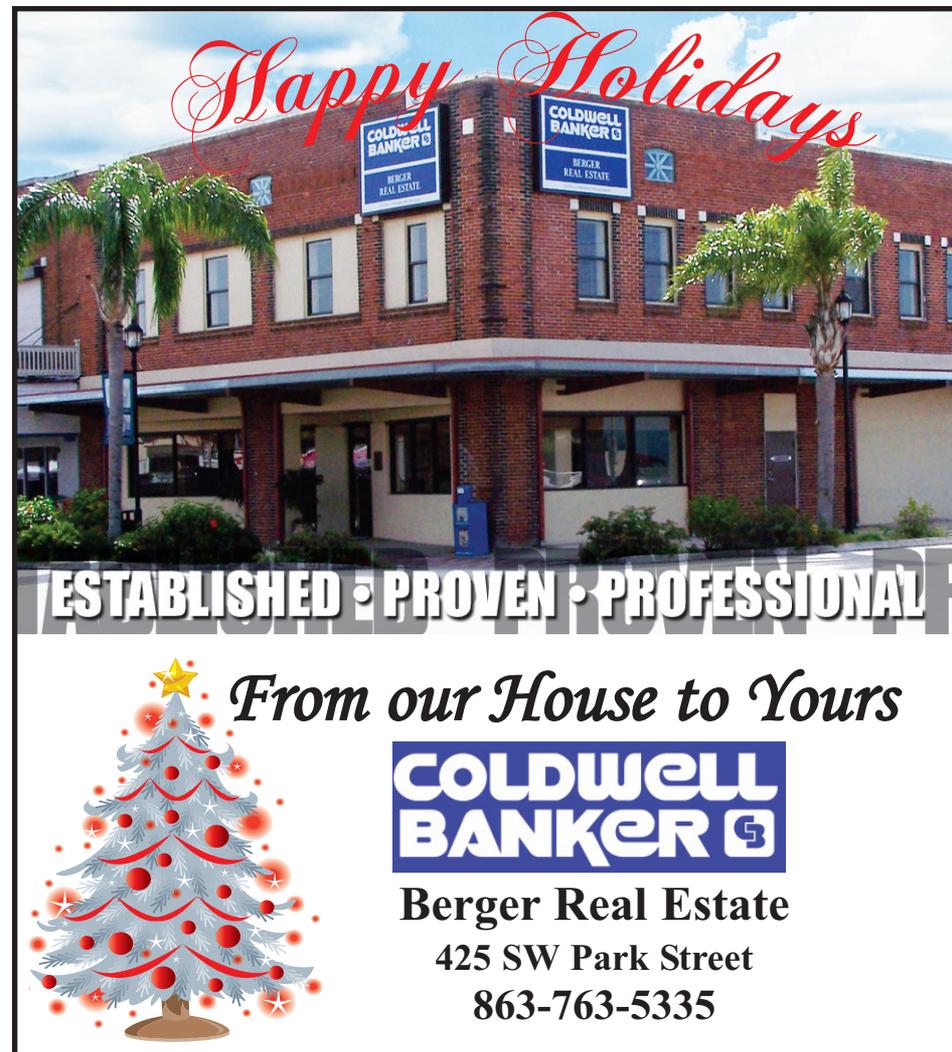


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A holiday party menu should include some traditional family favorites to please the guests.

Tips for hosting painless holiday parties

Whether you're preparing for a casual family gathering, a fancy four-course dinner party or a high-spirited hoe down for 100, planning a party – particularly during the holiday season – is a big job. Here are 10 tried-and-true tips for planning memorable holiday gatherings that will let you minimize the stress and maximize the fun.

◆ **Plan early and plan often.** There's nothing more frustrating than finding out that your intended party guests have other plans. December weekends tend to get booked up early, so it's a good idea to send or e-mail invitations as early as possible. Another possibility is to schedule your gathering for a time when people tend to be less busy, such as during the week between Christmas and New Year's, the last night of Hanukkah or even New Year's Day.

◆ **Design a realistic menu.** If you plan on enjoying your own party, it pays to have a menu that includes a number of items that can be made ahead of time and then heated or plated just before your guests arrive. While it's always fun to try out new recipes when entertaining, it's best to experiment with only a few items on your menu – and to leave enough time for substitutes if you're disappointed with the results.

◆ **Embrace tradition.** During the holiday season, many people warm to the idea of time-honored traditions, so don't be afraid to serve up your favorite Christmas Pudding or Aunt Lydia's legendary potato latkes.

* **Serve up festive beverages.** Make sure that there is a merry mix of beverages for those guests who don't drink or those who have had enough. A non-alcoholic punch or a pot of hot-spiced cider is always popular and can be served with rum on the side for guests who want a little something extra.

◆ **Set the scene.** While some hosts like to go all out in the decorating department, others prefer a more low-key approach. Either way, make an effort to create a pleasing ambiance that appeals to the senses. Put out an assortment of candles. Put up a pot of simmering water flavored with cinnamon, cloves and allspice to fill your house with a heartwarming aroma. Put in your favorite holiday tunes. Bask in the glow of your guests' delight.

◆ **Keep kids happy.** When planning a gathering for guests of all ages, it's helpful to have activities on hand for the younger crowd. Set aside a space for kids and set out a variety of toys and games that will keep them occupied and engaged.

◆ **Get help.** When hosting a large party with guests who may not know each other, it's important to be on hand to make introductions and keep the conversation flowing. If you're planning on joining the party once your guests arrive, consider hiring one or more helpers to serve and clean up.

◆ **End on a positive note.** Your responsibilities as a host don't end when your guests say good night. Make sure it's a good night for all by arranging for designated drivers who can see that your friends in need get home safely.

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Turkey Time: Entertaining the little ones

- 1 tube (4.25 ounces) Betty Crocker white decorating icing
 - 1 tube (0.68 ounces) Betty Crocker brown decorating gel
 - Candy corn
 - Chocolate candy sprinkles
1. Heat oven to 350 °F (325 °F for dark or nonstick pans). Make and cool cake as directed on box for 24 cupcakes.
 2. Frost cupcakes with frosting. Place remaining frosting in corner of resealable freezer plastic bag. Snip off small corner of bag.
 3. To decorate each cupcake, pipe 1-inch mound of frosting on 1 side of cupcake to look like head of turkey. Make eyes with white decorating icing and brown decorating gel; add candy corn for beak. To make feathers, pipe frosting on opposite side to hold candy corn; place candy corn upright on frosting to look like feathers. Sprinkle chocolate candy sprinkles near head and at base of feathers. If desired, add candy corn at base of cupcake for feet. Store loosely covered.

Sometimes, it's the little turkeys that can be tough to manage during Thanksgiving. By giving your younger guests something to do while the main course is being prepared, they will stay busy and feel like they have a role in the big day. Capture their attention with these Turkey Cupcakes.

Turkey Cupcakes

Prep Time: 30 min.
 Total Time: 1 hour 45 min.
 Makes: 24 cupcakes
 1 box Betty Crocker SuperMoist Devil's Food cake mix
 Water, vegetable oil and eggs called for on cake mix box
 2 containers (1 pound each) Betty Crocker Rich & Creamy milk chocolate frosting

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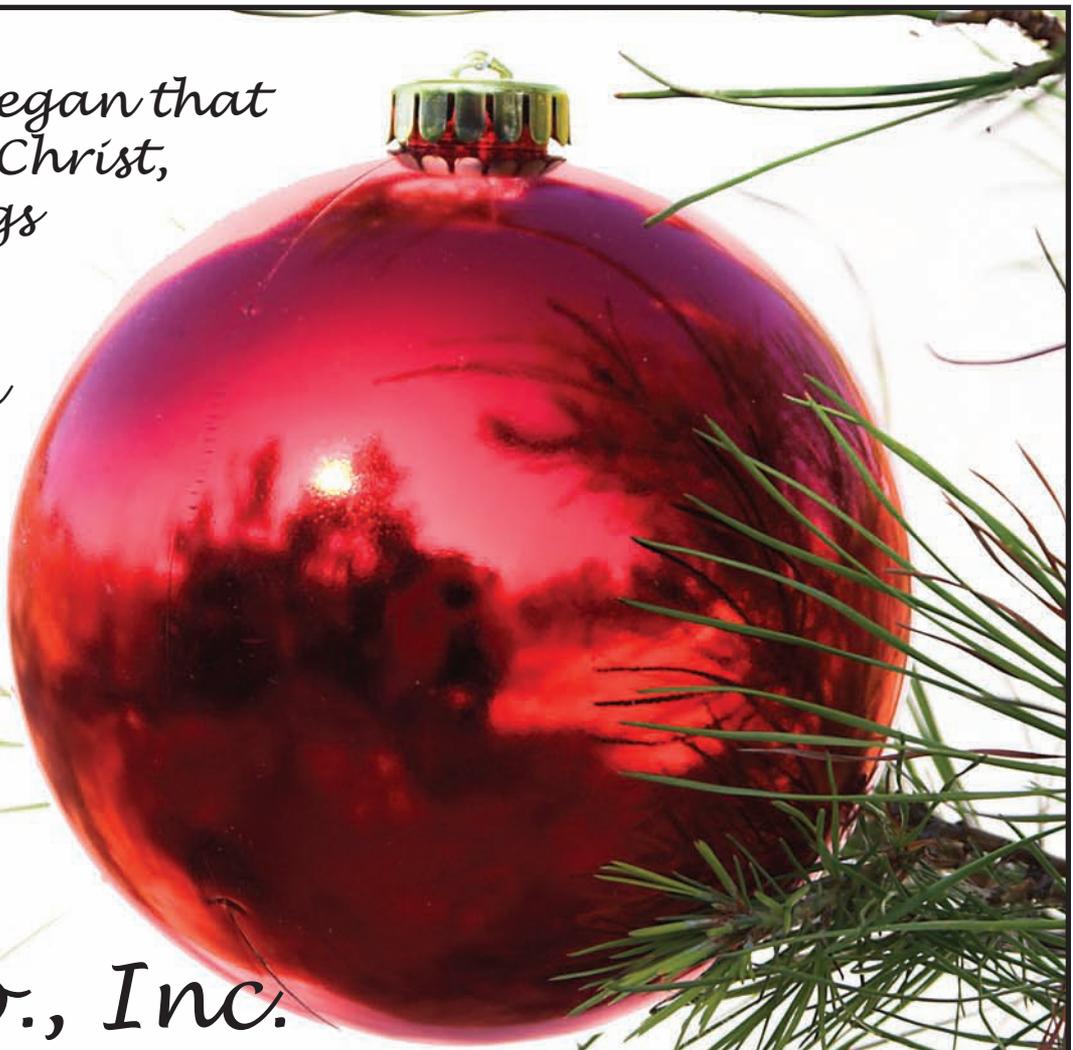
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Should pets be given as gifts?

Few gifts can light up a child's eyes around the holidays like the sight of a new family pet. When kids awake on Christmas morning, the sight of a new puppy or kitten under the tree is one they'll remember for the rest of their lives.

While pets are valuable additions to a household, that doesn't mean that doggy in the window will automatically be a great fit with every family. Before adding a four-legged friend to your family this holiday season, ask yourself the following questions.

◆ Can it wait? The holidays are often a hectic time of year for families. Travel plans, holiday parties, school pageants, etc. can take up time and increase stress levels as well. That makes the holiday season a less than ideal time to add a pet, particularly a puppy or kitten, to a household.

Puppies and kittens need special attention, more so than older pets that are already housebroken.

Consider waiting until af-

ter the holidays to adopt a pet. This doesn't have to take away from the excitement of giving a child a pet on Christmas

morning. Rather, give a child a gift certificate to an animal shelter and promise to take them to a nearby shelter once the stress of the season dies down.

◆ Can you, the adult, handle the extra responsibility? As much as Mom and Dad might emphasize to their kids that the new member of the family is the kids' responsibility, realistically, most of the duties will end up falling to Mom and Dad. Far too often, busy parents adopt pets around the holidays only to eventually return them to a shelter down the road. The excitement of a new pet can wear off under the weight of the responsibility pets present. If the family schedule is

already too much to handle, the new pet will be the one who suffers most. Pets – while a valuable addition to most families – aren't for everyone. To avoid adopting a pet you don't have enough time to care for, determine if you truly have the time to devote to a new addition.

◆ Can your kids handle it? Age should not necessarily determine whether or not your child can handle the responsibility of a pet. Some toddlers might be able to help care for a pet, while some teenagers might struggle with the responsibility. A good way of determining if kids can handle caring for a pet is to consider how they've handled responsibility in the past. A child who has never had any responsibilities, such as taking out the trash or cleaning their

room, is probably not ready to be the primary caregiver for a pet. However, a child who has handled chores and demonstrated an ability to adequately handle such re-

sponsibilities over time, is probably ready for the responsibility of caring for a pet.

◆ Can you handle the financial respon-

sibility of a pet? More than ever before, pets are as much a financial commitment as an emotional one. Visits to the veterinarian can be expensive. And as veterinary medicine has advanced, the costs of caring for pets have risen. Many veterinarians are inclined to place pets on diets that make for healthier and happier animals, even though such diets can be expensive. It's also important to note that pampering pets has become the norm, so kids might want to provide a certain level of care for their pets that can get expensive. Consider these costs, and whether or not you're willing to pay them, before adding a pet to the family. GG08B488



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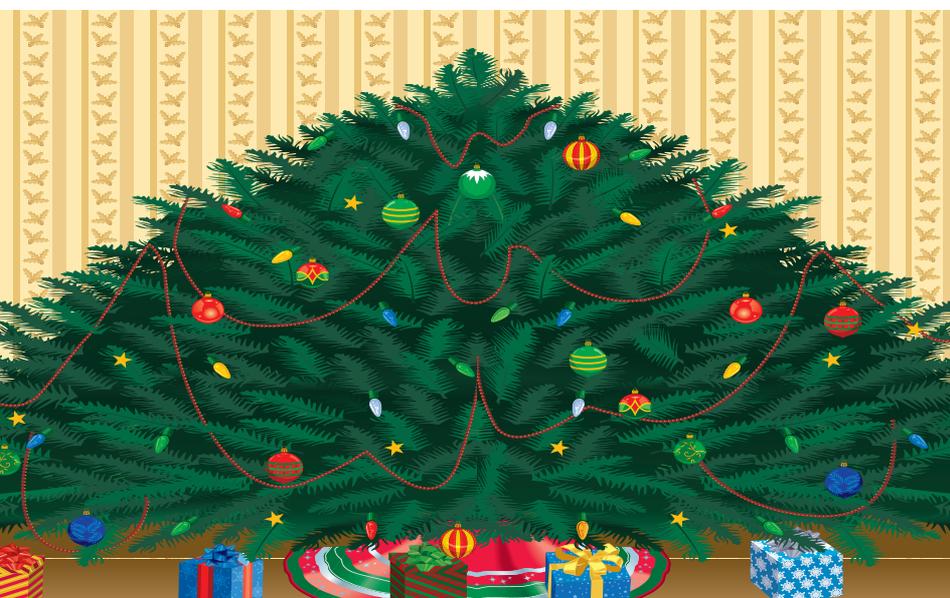
(Makes 16 servings)

- 16 (2 1/2-inch) foil baking cups
- wNonstick cooking spray
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 large egg whites
- 1 can (15 ounces) Libby's(r) 100% Pure Pumpkin
- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé? Carnation? Evaporated Fat Free Milk
- 1 cup fat free whipped topping
- 12 small gingersnap cookies, broken into 1/4-inch pieces

PREHEAT oven to 350° F. Place baking cups on baking sheet with sides. Spray each cup with cooking spray.

COMBINE sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, ginger and salt in small bowl. Beat egg whites in large bowl. Stir in pumpkin and sugar mixture. Gradually stir in evaporated milk. Spoon 1/4 to 1/3 cup of mixture into each prepared cup.

BAKE for 25 to 28 minutes or until knife inserted near centers comes out clean. Cool on baking sheet for 20 minutes. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Top each with whipped topping and gingersnap crumbs.



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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

December 1, beginning at 5:30 p.m. City Hall Park
Okeechobee County Schools ' Chorus Group will be participating in this years event. Santa will also be attending!

Santa in the Park

Dec. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 14 and 15 from 6 to 8 pm
Stop by for a picture with Santa

Okeechobee Main Street 4th Annual Christmas Window Decorating Contest

Businesses will need to have windows decorated before Dec. 10.
Judging will be on December 12. Winner will receive a plaque. For information please contact Okeechobee Main Street 863-357-MAIN.

Chamber of Commerce Lighted Christmas Parade

December 12th 5:30 pm - Craft show in Flagler Parks # 2 and #3

Kiwanis Santa - Park #4

December 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Santa on the Fire Truck

Dec. 17 - NW & NE Section - Dec. 18- SW Section of City
Dec.19- SE Section of City

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'Tis the season for everything gingerbread

Gingerbread is synonymous with the holidays. Who can resist the sweet-spicy aroma of gingerbread baking, and the absolute fun of decorating gingerbread creations such as a welcoming gingerbread house, or cookies for dessert, gift giving and, of course, for Santa.

No time to bake, assemble and decorate a house? No problem! Start with a kit—all of the components needed to assemble the house are baked and ready to use. And the kit is complete with easy-to-follow instructions, icing mix, candies, decorating bag and tip, plus several ideas for completing the house. For a more customized house, like "Welcome to Candy Lane" pictured here, check out the complete instructions in the new book, "Wilton Cookie Exchange."

This classic Gingerbread Cookie recipe, redolent with ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves, is perfect for cutting into holiday shapes, including the favorite gingerbread man...which can be enjoyed plain, simply outlined in white icing, or more elaborately decorated. This versatile recipe could also be the basis for a homemade gingerbread house, or tree ornaments. For ornaments, don't forget to make a hole in the cookie (using a thin drinking straw) immediately after removing from the oven.

Visit www.wilton.com to order "Cookie Exchange," or a Gingerbread House Kit and to find additional holiday gingerbread treats...plus many more ideas

for holiday celebrations.

Gingerbread Cookies

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 cup solid vegetable shortening
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup molasses*
- 1 egg, beaten

Preheat oven to 375°F.

In large bowl, combine flour, baking soda, salt and spices. In large saucepan, melt shortening; cool slightly. Stir in sugar, molasses and egg; mix well. Add 2 cups flour mixture; mix well.

Turn mixture onto lightly floured surface. Knead in remaining flour mixture by hand. Add additional flour, if necessary, to make firm dough. Roll out on a lightly floured surface, 1/8- to 1/4-inch thick. Cut out cookies with holiday cutters in a variety of shapes.



Bake on ungreased cookie sheet until lightly browned on edges, about 10-15 minutes for large sized cookies, 6-10 minutes for small to medium sized cookies. Cool on cookie sheet placed on cooling grid 3 minutes; remove from cookie sheet and cool completely. Decorate as desired.

Makes about 2 dozen cookies.

*Substitute 3/4 cup light corn syrup for molasses to make Blonde Gingerbread.

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