

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 101 No. 2

Sunday, January 3, 2010

75¢ Plus tax

Support unbiased local journalism.
This is Okeechobee's own newspaper -- Now compact, newsier and more colorful

Riot breaks out at Vision Quest ...Page 3

Index

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Classifieds..... | 16-18 |
| Community Events..... | 6 |
| Crossword..... | 17 |
| Obituaries..... | 6 |
| Opinion..... | 5 |
| Speak Out..... | 4 |
| Sports..... | 15, 19 |
| Weather..... | |

Lake Levels

13.58 feet
Last Year: 14.1 feet

Sponsored By:

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

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

See page 4 for information about how to contact this newspaper.

newszap.com
 Free Speech Free Ads



Four suspected of making meth

By Eric Kopp
 Okeechobee News

Four people were arrested by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force after items commonly used to make methamphetamine were allegedly found in their vehicle.



Kenneth Dallas Pinder

Arrested Tuesday, Dec. 29 were: Kenneth Dallas Pinder, 58, N.E. 76th Drive, Okeechobee; John Everett McClenithan Sr., 43,

N. 10th Ave., Wauchula; Brian Anthony Guzowski, 47, Bell St., Wauchula; and Cathy Elise Gordon, 44, Pennington Court, Royal Palm Beach.

Pinder, McClenithan and Gordon were all charged with the felonies of possession of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of listed chemicals, as well as the misdemeanor of possession of drug paraphernalia.



John Everett McClenithan Jr.



Brian Anthony Guzowski

In addition to those same charges, Guzowski was charged with the misdemeanors of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence and driving while license suspended with knowledge. He was also arrested on a Polk County warrant charging him with failure to appear - false imprisonment, as well as a Highlands County warrant charging him with failure to

appear - attempt to manufacture methamphetamine.

All four were booked into the Okeechobee County Jail with Pinder and McClenithan being held without bond. Bond for Gordon and Guzowski had not been set as of newspaper deadline. However, Guzowski is being held without bond on the warrant arrests.



Cathy Elise Gordon

See METH — Page 10

American bald eagles respond to help

By Wendy B. Dial
 FWC

Stretch your arms straight out for an instant idea of the bald eagle's wingspan. Then add a couple of feet.

The U.S. Congress was impressed enough by the large, fiercely majestic-looking bird of prey to make it the national emblem in 1782. More than two centuries later, the eagle still is the symbol of U.S. government, freedom and democracy.

It is also the symbol of one of America's best environmental success stories. Due to outstanding conservation measures, the federal government removed the bald eagle from its endangered species list in 2007. Florida took the bird off its imperiled species list the following year.

"Just because it has been delisted does not mean that it's no longer protected," said Ulgonda Kirkpatrick, eagle plan coordina-



A 3-year-old and an adult bald eagle take off.



Two bald eagles perch in a tree. Observers are warned to keep their distance for the safety of the eagles and of the public.

tor for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). "No; you can't take down the tree with the bald eagle nest in it. Bald eagles are certainly still protected."

You might think a strong, high-

flying bird with fearsome talons, a sharp beak and even sharper vision could fend for itself. "Haliaeetus leucocephalus" can see for a mile and a half.

The second-largest North American bird of prey isn't a fussy

eater, either. It scavenges for fish carcasses and carrion of other animals, swipes food from other animals and hunts live prey when needed.

See EAGLES — Page 10

Visit Beltone for the most advanced technology and finest service in hearing care.

With every passing year we've listened more, discovered more, and helped more people hear better, feel better, live better.

Come in for a FREE Hearing Screening
 3268 US Hwy. 441 S., Okeechobee • (863) 623-3070
 (Inside Winn Dixie Plaza)

Hearing Aids Blowout **50% off MSRP**
 Beltone's M-Class Digital Hearing System
Valid on M-Class Systems Only. Not applicable to prior purchases. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 1/31/10.

We're 70 years young, & just getting started

70 Beltone
70 Years of Hearing Excellence

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Anticipation High as Ohio Valley Gold and Silver Refinery Opens for Business Tuesday in Okeechobee!

By **CHRISTINA BUTLER**
STAFF WRITER

Been following the gold and silver market lately? Well if you have a jewelry box or lock box full of gold or a coffee can full of old coins you should be according to Ohio Valley Refinery spokesperson John Miller. "The gold and silver markets have not been this strong for over 30 years" said Miller. Typically when the U.S. dollar is weak and the economy is flat gold and silver markets soar. "That's good news if you are setting on a few gold necklaces or an old class ring" says Miller.

Starting Tuesday at 9am and every day this week through Saturday the Ohio Valley Refinery is setting up a satellite refinery right here in **Okeechobee** at the **Holiday Inn Express**. During their 5 day stay anyone can bring gold, silver or platinum items and turn them in for immediate payment, explains John Miller. "Just about everybody has some amount of gold or silver just lying around collecting dust and this week anybody can sell theirs direct to our refinery. Typically selling direct to a refinery is reserved for larger wholesale customers like jewelry stores, pawn shops, and laboratories" says Miller. "We are changing how business is done" he explains "we want to do business with everybody so we took our business to the streets". "Our teams visits various cities around the country hosting 5 day events allowing the general public to take advantage of our services. The turnout has been overwhelming" says Miller. "Usually each day is busier than the previous day. It seems once people come to us and sell something they are so amazed what an old ring or gold coin is worth they go home and start digging around for more and telling relatives, friends and neighbors. It's like a feeding frenzy by the third day. People line up with everything from gold jewelry to sterling silver flatware sets to old coins. I think during this bad economy everybody can use extra money but most people say they are taking advantage of selling direct to our refinery because of the higher prices we pay".

During this special event



Above: Refinery representatives will be on hand starting Tuesday through Saturday to purchase all gold, silver and platinum items, as well as coins. Public welcome!

anyone is welcome to bring all types of gold, silver and platinum to the refinery and turn it in for instant payment. The types of items they will accept include all gold jewelry, gold coins, gold ounces, dental gold, old coins made before 1965 including Silver Dollars, halves, quarters and dimes, anything marked "sterling" including flat ware sets, tea pots, silver bars, silver ounces and all industrial precious metals.

What should you expect if you go to the event to sell your gold and/or silver? Just gather up all gold silver and platinum in any form. If you are not sure if its gold or silver bring it in and they will test it for free. When you arrive at the event you will be asked to fill out a simple registration card and will be issued a number. Seating will be available. When your number is called you will be escorted to a table where your items will be examined, tested and sorted. This only takes a few minutes using their expertise and specialized equipment. Items will be counted and/or weighed. The value of the items will be determined based on up to the minute market prices. Live feeds will be available at the event displaying current market prices of all precious metals. If you choose to sell your items they will be bagged and tagged and you will be escorted to the cashier to collect your payment. Waiting time to sell

your items may range from just a few minutes to 1 hour so bring something to read.

If you are the owner of a jewelry store, pawn shop, dentist office or a dealer you are encouraged to call ahead to make an appointment with the smelt master to discuss their special dealer programs. They can be reached at **(863) 357-3529**.

Ohio Valley Refinery will open for business Tuesday from 9am-6pm. The event continues everyday through Saturday. No appointment is needed.

If you go:

WHO: Ohio Valley Refinery
Reclamation Drive

WHAT: Open to public to sell
gold and silver.

WHEN: January 5th-9th

WHERE: Holiday Inn Express
3101 Hwy 441 South
Okeechobee, FL 34974

TIMES: TUESDAY-FRIDAY
9:00am - 6:00pm
SATURDAY
9:00am - 4:00pm

Items of Interest:

Vintage Guitars:

Martin, Gibson, Fender, National, Rickenbacker, Gretsch, Mandolins, Banjos and others.

Pocket Watches:

Hamilton, Illinois, Waltham, Patek Phillipe, Ball, Howard, South Bend, Elgin and others
Wrist watches: Omega, Accutron, Longines, Hamilton, Breitling and many more.

Old paper money: United States, Confederate States, Blanket Bills, \$1000.00 bills and more.

Antique Toys: Trains, Tin wind-ups, Mechanical Banks, Robots, Pressed Steel trucks, and many more.

War Memorabilia: Swords, Bayonets, Helmets, German, Confederate, Union, USA, and others.

Local records reveal to our research department that recent vintage guitar sold for \$2400.00 and another for \$12,000.00 to a collector that will be tied into the event this week via live database feed.

12 inmates arrested in Vision Quest riot

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Twelve female inmates at the Vision Quest Juvenile Detention Facility were arrested after a riot broke out at the facility, during which at least one staff member was injured.

An arrest report by Deputy Michael Hazellief, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), states that when he arrived at the facility shortly after 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 30, inmates were "... running

about, out of control, disobeying staff members."

Deputy Anthony Kibler, continued the report, was forced to use pepper spray on one juvenile inmate that would not comply.

According to Deputy Hazellief's report, staff members initially broke up a large riot in the middle of the complex and separated the girls. However, a group of girls that were involved in that initial fight kicked open an exit door at one of the cottages, then started another fight.

The deputy's report stated one staff mem-

ber was struck in the left eye and it was nearly swollen shut. Several other staff members were struck during the riot.

All of the girls arrested were booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Facility in Fort Pierce.

Arrested on a felony charge of riot in a detention facility were: Jasmine Tobler, 18; Nyashia Napre Robinson, 14; Tiera M. Mcrae, 16; Amber Shinice Dozier, 16; Geneva Yvonne Rowls, 17; Tiera L. Pugh, 16; Kadra West, 15; Shaleece Coffy, 16; Evange-

line Pierre, 17; and Venette Valmeus, 15.

In addition to a felony charge of riot in a detention facility, Yasmine Sloane, 17, was also charged with the misdemeanor of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence.

Tiehsha Vincent was also arrested on a felony charge of riot in a detention facility but no additional information on her was available as of newspaper deadline.

Vision Quest is located at 42660 U.S. 441 N.

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).

- Anthony David Hunt, 16, Riverside Drive, Coral Springs, was arrested Dec. 29 by Deputy Yamil Astacio on a felony charge of battery on detention staff. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail then taken to the Department of Juvenile Justice Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

- Kristen N. Risinger, 20, S.E. 80th Trail, Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 30 by Detective John Zeigler on charges of dealing in stolen property, giving false information to a pawnbroker and grand theft. Her bond had not been set as of newspaper deadline.

- Jessica Escobedo Flores, 18, S.W. 15th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 30 by

Deputy Paul Jackson on an Okeechobee County warrant charging her with burglary of a dwelling with assault or battery. Her bond was set at \$40,000.

- Harley Futch Jr., 25, N.E. 31st Way, Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 30 by Deputy Eliberto Carmona on a warrant charging him with violation of probation - aggravated assault - intent. He is being held without bond.

- Enrique Urbina, 27, N.W. First St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 30 by Deputy Marcus Collier on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with resisting a law enforcement officer with violence and assault on a law enforcement officer. His bond was set at \$25,000.

- Harvey Ford, 23, N.W. 35th St., Okeecho-

bee, was arrested Dec. 30 by Deputy Greg Popovich on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - grand theft. He is being held without bond.

- Kyle Thomas Parramore, 19, S.E. 27th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 31 by Deputy Corporal Randy Thomas on a charge of driving under the influence. His 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.

ATV accident claims life

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

An Alabama man died as a result of injuries he received when the All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) he was operating overturned on Christmas Day.

According to Lieutenant Tim Frith, of the Florida Highway Patrol, Joshua Wade Fetterolf, 18, was driving his ATV east on N.W. 113th Drive at 5:56 p.m. when he made an abrupt right turn and the vehicle overturned.

Both Joshua and a passenger, Justin Fetterolf, 14, were thrown from the ATV.

Lt. Frith said Joshua was transported to Lawnwood Regional Medical Center in Fort Pierce, while Justin was transported by ambulance to Raulerson Hospital in Okeechobee. Justin's injuries were non-life threatening, said Lt. Frith.

Identification documents indicated a Boaz, Ala., address for Joshua and Justin, Lt. Frith added.

No other vehicles were involved.

Okeechobee's Most Wanted

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

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

David Thomas Arnold III, DOB 11/21/1984, VOP - Burglary Structure, Grand Theft, No



Marcel Bates

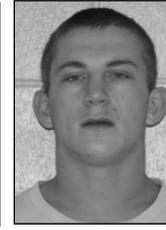
Bond.

Marcel Bates, DOB 10/13/1976, Failure of Sexual Offender To Report To DHSMV, Bond \$10,000.

Lisamarie Lorenz, DOB 2/9/1987, VOP - Resisting Arrest with Violence, No Bond.



Lisamarie Lorenz



David Thomas Arnold III

The New
Blue Heron Golf Club

Weekdays \$20
Weekends \$25

Before 8 am
After 2 pm
\$5 OFF

Replay *10

It's More Fun Here!

Sign Up NOW for Fishing/Golf Tournament

SE 9th Ave. Okeechobee
863-467-1651

CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Brian H. Mallonee

Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer



Now Accepting
Felony Cases
in Okeechobee
County

(772) 464-1991

Main office Ft. Pierce

www.stluciecriminallaw.com



GOLF

Buy One Get One Free

SUGARCANE
GOLF CLUB
Belle Glade

561-996-6605

2619 W. Canal St. North

Good Thru December 31, 2009

Grand Re-Opening Sale!

Saturday, January 9th

~ Meet the new owners ~

Storewide Sale 10% off

Join us for **FREE Lunch**
11 am to 2 pm

• **Door Prizes** •

863-763-2248

OKEECHOBEE FISHING HEADQUARTERS
Okeechobee, Florida

5286 SW 16th Ave.

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!

Turn off the cell phone

• Most times, I wish they had never invented cell phones! You know how many conversations I have heard that I wish I had not? There really should be a hands free law.

• All employees spending personal time on the phone during working hours should be fired on the spot for repeated use. "But we have rights!" No you don't, you have a job. Do it! "Nope, I gotta text now..."

• I have heard way too many personal conversations that I REALLY did not want to hear! It's like these people don't realize that everyone else in the store can hear them chatting about their very personal business!

• I watched a woman blatantly run a red light in the center of town while on a cell phone with kids in the car. She either wasn't aware the light had changed or didn't care. I agree with banning cell phone use while driving!

• Why is it that we are so very out of control? Do a self test. When you get into your car, turn off your cell phone. When you get where your going turn it back on. DID ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE HAD YOUR PHONE OFF? What do you know, you did not pass out. The world did not come to an end. You actually drove safer with more of your attention on what you were doing. Please drive safe. Please protect yourself first so you can protect the ones you love.

• I actually saw a woman driving yesterday, talking on a cell phone with one hand and smoking a cigarette with the other. Unbelievable! And one other thing worth mentioning -- does anyone actually work in this town? I had to take off for various errands. Traffic, traffic everywhere with some people driving back and forth on the same road constantly. It just blew my mind.

• The world does not need to know where we are 24/7. Folks say, "I need my phone for emergencies." What emergencies? "Where are the tomatoes in this store?" or something equally stupid? Pay attention to your child, talk to them as they sit in the cart waiting for your attention, or along side you in the car. Chances are they really wish you would hang up.

• It really bothers me when I am having a face-to-face conversation with someone and they answer their cell phone, and proceed to chat away about something that is not an emergency. The message is that I obviously I am not as important as whoever is on the phone. Sometimes I wish cell phones had not been invented. We lived our lives just fine without them.

• I have never seen such rudeness until the cell phones came along. If someone answers the phone while we are chatting, I walk off. Good riddance to the rudeness.

• As usual, it appears that a perfectly innocent little device is blamed for being rude, an invasion of our privacy, an unnecessary and "never should have been invented" device. It is people who are rude. Giving them a little slack. They may not understand cell phone etiquette. Perhaps we need a course in cell phone etiquette. My daughter will answer hers and say 'Mom, I'll call you right back,' and then she does when she has finished dealing with the situation at hand. And the caller has to be understanding and give it up quickly. Cell phones are absolutely wonderful, as far as I am concerned, but people are not.

• Dad or Mom will have the cell phone and a pack of cigarettes in their hands as their child is running free all over the store. They would rather hang on to the addictions than the baby. Or the parents will have the cell phone antenna in their mouth like a pacifier. Good grief! What is wrong with us?

Is Okeechobee County missing a cash cow?

• This might be a way to put money into the county budget. I have been reading the articles in the Palm Beach Post about red light cameras and the speed control van in Juno Beach. I am on the roads in this county a lot and at all times of the day. I cannot believe the blatant and often dangerous disregard for the laws of the road. I know that the use of the van is being challenged

in court. The county should pay attention to the outcome of this case. The van does not cost anything to have, it is provided by an outside company for a percentage of the fines.

Juno Beach has put over \$500,000.00 in the bank in a few months.

I know that Okeechobee county is not as populated as the coast, but any income should be welcomed. This also would free up road patrols for other duties. Unless you are a speeder or red light runner, nobody should object to this as an invasion of freedom. It would make our roads safer for everyone.

• If the devices hold up in court, I think Okeechobee County should check it out. In particular, they need one on State Road 710 near County Road 15A and one at the light near Everglades Elementary School. That is a very dangerous road and people are always speeding and running the red light. State Road 70 just past 67th Drive would also be a good place for a speed camera. The cars absolutely fly through there in the mornings. Eventually, people would know where the cameras were and slow down, but that would be a plus. The point of writing tickets is to get people to slow down and drive more safely.

• The blatant disregard for traffic laws and speed limits is terrible and seemingly getting worse. The suggestion for one of these machines on 70 west is a great one. Yesterday, while heading west out of town I had an SUV pass me who had to be going well over 80. Everglades Boulevard is another problem area with many individuals routinely passing other cars going double the posted speed limit.

• Law enforcement personnel could also do with a refresher on the traffic laws. Just today I watched a city patrol car run a red light. He was moving along with traffic, no lights no siren, when the light changed and he just kept rolling right through the intersection. Keep an eye out on how many cops do not use their blinkers to signal they are turning. Many also fail to turn their lights on when driving in rain.



Sheriff's Web site

• I'm sure you guys know that the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office has a new format at <http://www.okeesherriff.org/corrections/inmate-search.html>. You can now put a person's name in and it will bring up their charges, along with their photo. I love this new format but was curious if there could be an option where you could put the date in, and it would bring up the arrests for that day. Similar to how Monroe County Sheriff's Office maintains their web site.

Pregnant woman working

• The kind of work I do is very physical. My issue is a girl that works with me is pregnant 6-8 weeks. She has already put a restriction on her limits, and we are covering for her in areas she can't work. Am I a bad person for not wanting to cover for her—you do your job or get out. I feel bad, but in the same thought I feel that if she cannot do what our job description calls for, she should go.

• Have you talked to her about this? Has your boss? She shouldn't have any work restrictions this early, but that doesn't mean she doesn't. Every pregnancy is different, and without talking to her, we can't find out if she has had problem pregnancies in the past. It is possible she hasn't even been to the doctor just yet to find out what her restrictions are. My advice would be to talk to her, or have your boss talk to her and find out what the situation is.

• If the woman is not doing her job, I think it would be appropriate to complain to the supervisor and the supervisor or employer needs to determine the course of action. If the woman has medical restrictions then she might need to be temporarily reassigned to other duties or else be put on medical leave. It does not seem right for her to just stand around and expect someone else to do the work and she still gets the paycheck. Every company should have written policies to cover these situations, so I think it would be appropriate for the other workers to bring it to the attention of the supervisor or employer.



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Website: www.newszap.com

To Submit News

The Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

E-Mail: okeenews@newszap.com

To Place A Display Ad

Phone: 863-763-3134
E-Mail: okeeadsales@newszap.com

To Place A Classified Ad

Call 877-353-2424 to place a classified advertisement from home.

Fax: 877-354-2424

E-Mail: classads@newszap.com

Billing Department

E-Mail: billteam@newszap.com

To Start or Stop A Paper

Phone: (800) 282-8586
E-mail: readerservices@newszap.com
The Okeechobee News is available three times a week via home delivery and is on sale at rack and store locations throughout Okeechobee County. Call the office to find out if your home is within our present home-distribution boundaries.

Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.

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

Okeechobee News

USPS 406-160

Published 3 times a week: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday by Independent Newspapers, Inc.
107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D • Okeechobee, FL 34974
Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Okeechobee News
Circulation Administration
PO Box 7011 • Dover, DE 19903

Staff

Advertising Director: Judy Kasten
Editor: Katrina Elskan
Circulation Manager: Janet Madray
Publisher: Tom Byrd

Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.

- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

MEMBER



Reflections from the Pulpit

Rev. Lois Moranville

Okeechobee Church of the Nazarene

A New Year...A New Decade

New Year's resolutions have been a tradition for many people. This year would be a great year to make that New Year's Resolution. However, if you make a resolution remember that by the time the end of January and at least by February most resolutions have been forgotten, dismissed, or completely ignored.

I think about the promises God made in the Bible and I am reminded that He has not forgotten one of them. He has not dismissed them nor has he ignored them.

One of the promises He gave us is that he would give us the strength to do His will. (Philippians 4:13) With that promise in mind I would like to propose one promise we can make to ourselves and to God that we CAN keep: I will make changes in my life that will make a better me and a better community.

To help us do that, let me suggest two ways in which we can make a change for the better.

First, **DEVELOP A POSITIVE OUTLOOK TOWARD LIFE.** Take a look at your life over the past decade or even the past year. How do you feel about your life? Is it worthwhile? Or, let's change the question. What would it take for you to feel

that your life is worthwhile? What would have to happen to make you feel really positive about your life? Would you need to win the lottery? If your marriage was perfect, would that do it? If your kids began to make you proud, or if you got a promotion, would that do it? What would it take for you to really feel positive about your life?

If that's the way you're thinking then you'll probably never feel really positive about life because all the little pieces that must come together to make you positive about life will probably never be there.

Paul is in prison, chained to a Roman guard, under horrible conditions. Yet despite that, he writes these wonderfully positive words, in Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" The Apostle Paul reminds us with these words he wrote while in deplorable circumstances that we choose to REJOICE! So let 2010 be a year of an attitude of rejoicing!

Paul goes on in this same chapter of Philippians 4 to tell the reader that 'the Lord is near - so we do not have to be anxious about anything' Keep your positive outlook toward life all year long by remaining joyful and taking your anxiety, cares, and concerns to God in prayer.

Second, **DISPLAY A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHERS.** Robert Schuller wrote, "It would amaze us how many people we could influence for Christ if we would just treat people nicely." I think he is right. This is a hard world, a world that

doesn't always exercise courtesy. Sometimes it's a dog-eat-dog world. People are jockeying for positions on the road and in their places of employment. The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8-9, "Finally, brother, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

If everyone who reads this article puts those two verses into practice with one another think about what the city and county of Okeechobee might be like! People all over the world are looking for this positive attitude so why not let it start here in Okeechobee and flow out to the rest of the world.

I'm going to be positive as I look at my life. I'm going to be positive as I look at the congregation I pastor. And I'm going to be positive as I look at others in the community. I would like to suggest that if you will do the same in every aspect of your life, that this year will be one of the best years you have ever had.

If you are reading this article and are not sure how to get started in a life like this, I would encourage you to find a church that teaches God's Word as truth and ask how you can start living with joy in your life and toward others.

Letter to the Editor

Unexpected gift

We, as a family have been given a special "gift" from an unexpected source.

Let me start by laying a little groundwork. We are caregivers for my 97-year-old mother.

The month of November was not a good month for her. She developed an intestinal infection, became dehydrated and had zero urine output. Our doctor told us to have her transported to Raulerson Hospital, where she stayed for three days and was then transferred home. She was in quite a bit of leg pain, as she has post-polio syndrome. The edema was also bad. Pain pills not really doing their job, and Mom was quite agitated.

I mentioned this to one of my neighbors, Sunita Dhillon, of White Swan Hypnosis. She asked me if I would like her to work with Mom. I asked Mom and she said yes. After Sunita seeing her only one time, the edema in Mom's arms and legs left along with most of the pain. After a second visit, just this evening, Mom is very relaxed and calm. She is a very "happy camper" which makes it so much easier for my husband and I as her caregivers. Sunita Dhillon has given of herself and has helped Mom so much we just want to say a public "Thank You" to her and to wish her all the success possible with her practice.

Jack and Carol Stiteler
Okeechobee

Community Calendar

SUNDAY

A.A. meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. It will be an open step meeting.

A.A. open 12 step meeting from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Savior, 200 N.W. Third St.

MONDAY

Senior citizen seminars. The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office will be conducting a series of Senior citizen educational seminars at the Golden Corral restaurant located at 700 South Parrott Ave. These sessions will be held at 2:00PM the first Monday of each month and will last approximately 1 hour.

The topics will include avoiding identity Theft, Frauds and Scams, Telemarketing scams and many other topics of crimes geared at seniors. Several incidents of these crimes have surfaced in Okeechobee and these sessions should help in keeping those seniors in our community from becoming a victim of these types of crimes.

The session will be geared based on the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office C.A.S.E. (Communities against senior exploitation) program. The program is intended to be an educational series used by the Crime Prevention unit to educate the older members of the community to keep them from becoming victims.

Golden Corral and the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office would like to invite our community seniors to join us for these educational sessions. Any community organizations wishing to provide these same lessons for their group are encouraged to call the Okeechobee County Sheriff's office crime prevention unit at 863-763-6064.

Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of each month, at 7 p.m. at 323 North Parrott Ave. at the Red Cross Office. For information contact Harold Hilliard at 863-763-5337.

A.A. Grapevine open meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. every Monday at Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Ave.

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

New Beginnings **Narcotics Anonymous** has moved to 103 S.W. Second Ave. at 7 p.m. For information, call Monika at 863-801-3244 or Rocy at 863-610-0975.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Okeechobee Lions Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Ave. Anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome. For information, contact Elder Sumner at 863-763-6076.

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

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

Community Gospel Sing will be held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Seventh Day Christian Church, next door to Douglas Chiropractic and Fitness Center. The public is invited to participate.

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

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

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

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

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



ACCIDENT LAW OFFICES OF
Philip DeBerard

*Accident Victims...
Call Us First!*

- Tractor Trailer Crashes
- Auto Crashes
- Motorcycle Crashes
- Wrongful Death

FREE Consultation
Se Habla Español

**Phones answered
24 Hours, 7 days-a-week!**

**114 N. Parrott Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34972**

467-7100

www.crashinjuries.com

Bar employees arrested by AB&T agents

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

Two employees of a local bar have been arrested by state agents conducting a probe into illegal gambling activities at the business.

Lucy Claire Donaldson and Evamarie Mary Kinner were both arrested Wednesday, Dec. 30, by agents from the Department of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (AB&T). Donaldson was arrested on a felony charge of agent/employee of a gambling house and a misdemeanor charge of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence. Kinner was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of obstruction.

Both women were booked into the Okeechobee County Jail but their bonds had not been set as of newspaper deadline.

According to an arrest affidavit AB&T agents entered Admiral Dale's, 3201 S.E. 33rd Terrace, and found seven coin-operated video gambling machines. None of the machines had a state Department of Revenue (DOR) tax identification sticker, the report continued.

The agents then asked Donaldson for the bar's records in regard to those seven machines, as well as the bar's

alcohol and tobacco invoices. While surveying those records, the agents allegedly found receipts "... that showed a machine number, amount paid, who paid to and date."

The report goes on to state that Donaldson told the agents she did not pay cash to winners on the machines. However, the agents' report states they found a letter with the receipts with "... instructions on how to pay out from machines."

Donaldson, who has worked at the bar for two years, allegedly told the agents that

Admiral Dale's owners instructed employees to pay out but not pay anyone who "looked suspicious."

The report went on to indicate that while the agents were with Donaldson the bar's owner called her. Donaldson allegedly told the owner to stay away so they would not be arrested, continued the report. The affidavit does not give the owner's name.

Kinner, stated the report, was arrested because she tried to hinder their investigation by lying to them.

While the arrest report indicates that Kinner is a bartender at Admiral Dale's, it does not list Donaldson's position other than to say she is an employee.



Lucy Claire Donaldson



Evamarie Mary Kinner

Community Events

Cypress Hut holds Snowball Queen fundraiser

On **Jan. 5**, from 5 until 8:30 p.m., bring your unwanted gold, silver and platinum jewelry metals, sterling flatware and get paid top dollar for a donation of 10 percent for the charity fund raiser for Pam and Tommy our 2010 Snowball King and Queen.

Finger foods for sharing are welcomed. For questions or concerns, please call Billy or Diane at 863-467-1154.

Red Cross announces Health and Safety classes

The Okeechobee Service Center of the American Red Cross will be holding the following Health & Safety classes in January: Wednesday, **Jan. 6** - Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 18 - Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 21 - First Aid Basics 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.

Church to host services

New Life Holiness Church of Basinger with Rev. Cecil Bryant from Niceville will host services on Sunday, Jan. 3, at 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday will be good gospel singing and a service at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Directions to church: take 700 A to 190th St. turn right, church is on the left. For more information, please call 863-484-0714 or 863-763-6989.

Senior Awareness seminar

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office is sponsoring a Senior Awareness Seminar from 2 to 3 p.m. on Monday, **Jan. 4**, at the Golden Corral, 700 S. Parrott Ave. Seniors are invited to come and learn about illegal activities that are targeted against them.

Shared services network

The Executive Roundtable of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee County will conduct its bi-monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, **Jan. 8**, in the board room of the Okeechobee County School Board Office. This forum provides a mechanism for dialogue and problem solving in our community through the collaborative efforts of our local decision makers. The public is invited to attend. For more information, please call Sharon Vinson 863-462-5000, Ext. 257.

Benefit for Lisa Burkhardt

Lisa Burkhardt is battling cancer for the second time. She is a breast cancer survivor who is now battling brain and lung cancer. A benefit for her will be held at the VFW Post 10539, 3912 Highway 441 S.E., on **Jan. 10**, starting at 1 p.m. There will be food, music, giveaways and more. For information, call 863-697-2930.

Early Learning Coalition

Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee Counties, Inc. - Okeechobee County Provider Meeting on Wednesday, **Jan. 13**, at noon at the American Red Cross, 323 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee.

Main Street plans mixer

Okeechobee Main Street's first mixer for 2010 will be held on Thursday, **Jan. 21**, from 5-7 p.m. The January Mixer will be hosted by Real Life Children's Ranch located at 7777 Hwy. 441 SE. Main Street Mixers are a great networking opportunity for the businesses and residents of our area. Whether you have a new or old business or you are new to Okeechobee, come enjoy networking, refreshments, door prizes and a brand new Mega 50-50. If you would like to donate a door prize for this month's mixer please call me at 863-357-6246, I will be happy to pick it up.

Top of the Lake BBQ

Okeechobee Main Street's Top of the Lake BBQ Affair will be held on **Jan. 22** and 23 at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. Cooks from all over will compete for prize monies and trophies in categories such as the "Homeboy" to Grand and Reserve Champions. Go to www.mainstreetokeechobee.com for registration forms and information.

Tax aide volunteers sought

AARP seeks computer literate volunteers to help with the income tax filing assistance program for the 2010 tax season. Complete training will be provided, using AARP software and training materials. For information, call Neile at 863-357-1694.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Holiday decorations contest

The second place winner of Okeechobee Main Street's Window Decorating Contest was the Golden Corral located on South Parrott Ave. Pictured are Deborah Hall, Front of House Manager, Maureen Burroughs, President OKMS and Corral's owner Charlie Hukriede. The windows on the entire building were handpainted by high school students, supervised by teacher Ashley Taxacher. They are: Cheryl Bloom, Maria Baltazar, Ivone Alonso, Omar Ayala, Nichole Vhapa, Elizabeth DeHass, Maria Hernandez, Amanda Franklin, Kayla Raulerson, Timothy Beardon, Megan Kasik, Maria Ruiz, Jernice McDonald, Amanda Jansen, Sarah Hawthorne, Anastasiya Medvedeva, Katherine Peterman, Andrea Yanez and Isabella Penido.

Celebrate *A Life*

with *an* Online Guestbook

All Obituaries now include *Online Guestbooks* where family and friends can share reflections, remembrances and condolences.

Visit:

www.newszap.com

For a complete list of Obituary Notices, click on your community, then click on "Obituaries".

newszap.com

OCI prisoners reunite with families

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Thirty children from Miami Dade County visited Okeechobee Correctional Institution a few days before Christmas to visit their fathers, many of whom have been locked up for years.

The visit was arranged by the Service Network for Children of Inmates of Miami Dade County.

Shellie Solomon, CEO of Justice and Security Strategies, one of the groups involved with helping kids rebuilt relationships with their parents, said the Okeechobee prison recently joined the effort. A group of families have visited the prison twice and a new group joined in December. They hope to make four visits per year to the prison. For many families this is the first contact they've had with their fathers in years. Many couldn't afford the trip to visit without the program's help.

The children sat in visiting rooms on Dec. 21 with their Dads and played games and talked. They ate lunch together, decorated a Christmas tree and posed for pictures in the prison yard.

Ms. Solomon agreed it was a big day for both the children and their dads.

"Emotional? Absolutely. When we went there to tell the inmates that their families were coming through, they sat there pretty tense. They were pretty anxious and nervous too," she added.

Prisons were visited for Christmas in Oca-

la, Broward and Miami Dade Counties.

Ms. Solomon said there are a growing number of children, not only in Miami Dade, but across the state who have parents incarcerated in jails and prisons. She said the children who see their parents on a regular basis have seen a number of positive impacts. "What we're seeing is the children are starting to do better in terms of behavior. A lot of these children suffer from mental health problems. Because they are bonding with their parents and getting questions answered from their parents, it has helped them to live their lives in a more productive manner," she explained.

After the visits, Ms. Solomon and others debrief the inmate and sometimes get valuable information they can use to help the kids that they might not receive otherwise. They provide mental health counselors and other services to the children.

The effort began with a group of grass roots faith based leaders. Ms. Solomon is a criminal justice researcher and she helped write a planning grant and then an operational grant in 2007. The program continues to grow. There are 15,000 children in Miami Dade with a parent in prison or jail. They have gotten referrals for 1,500 kids and have served about 1,000 kids so far. Ms. Solomon said this isn't just a Miami Dade issue but a state issue. She said she hopes to get more prisons involved in the program. She also hopes to work with other Children Services Councils to get other programs going.

The population of inmates this year in Florida exceeded 100,000. When you put that in context, a lot of them have children. It certainly is something in our state that needs to be addressed," she noted.

Habitat needs resale items

Habitat for Humanity of Okeechobee County has opened 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.

Red Hat Ladies invites new members

Join the Red Hat Ladies social group. Interested ladies are invited to come tour a 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.



H You get a health
checkup every year—
how about a health
insurance checkup?
Free review and no obligation quote.

We write with CIGNA,
Blue Cross/Blue Shield,
Aetna, and United Healthcare.

BERGER INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.
800 South Parrott Avenue • Okeechobee
www.BergerInsurance.com
(863) 763-6411



Brahman Theatre **MOVIE LISTINGS**

Jan. 1st - Jan. 7th
For Info, Call 763-7202

THEATRE I: "SHERLOCK HOLMES"
Fri., Sat., Sun., Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 &
9:15. Mon. @ 3:00 & 7:00 Tues. &
Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00 **PG-13**

THEATRE II: "PRINCESS & FROG"
Fri., Sat., Sun., Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 &
9:00. Mon. @ 3:00 & 7:00 Tues. & Thurs.
7:00 & 9:00 **G**

THEATRE III: "ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS"
Fri., Sat., Sun., Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 &
9:00. Mon. @ 3:00 & 7:00 Tues. &
Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00 **PG**

Tickets: Adults - \$6.50 • Children 12 & under - \$5.00
Senior Citizens - \$5.00 all movies • Matinees - \$4.50

**Medicare Recipients Can
Earn An Extra \$1,156* A Year**
www.qualityhealthplans.com

Okeechobee County

Clock Restaurant
1111 S. Parrot Ave.
Okeechobee, FL
January 13th @ 2pm
January 20th @ 10am
January 27th @ 2pm

**Let Quality Health Plans Put Cash
in Your Pocket!**

Call Today: 1-866-747-2700
TTY/TDD: 1-866-455-6011
8 AM - 8 PM 7 Days a Week

Quality Health Plans is an HMO with a Medicare contract available to anyone enrolled in Part B and entitled to Part A of Medicare through age or disability. Members must use network providers except for emergency, urgently needed, or out-of-area dialysis services. *96.40 per month is returned in your Social Security check. A Sales Representative will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings call 1-866-747-2700, 8:30AM to 5:00PM, Monday - Friday. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1, 2011. Please contact Quality Health Plans for details.
H5402_QHP1286 FU (10/09)

Man convicted of 1967 murder tied to second homicide

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

A killer, who was sentenced to life in prison by an Okeechobee court, has been implicated through DNA evidence to a second murder in West Cocoa, Brevard County Sheriff's Agent Robert Vitaliano said, ending a more than 20 year police investigation into the death.

Robert Stephen Yokel was 24 when he killed a dairy worker James Gibbs, 47, in Basinger back in 1967. Yokel died while incarcerated at Holmes Correctional Institution in Bonifay on June 30, 2000 of liver cirrhosis at the age of 54, and can't be charged officially in the death of Natalie Bradbury, a 24-year old from South Florida.

Agent Vitaliano said a relatively new automatic documenting system called Laser Fiche has helped them document DNA evidence for unsolved homicide cases. The DNA evidence in the Bradbury case was compared to a national data base of criminals in July and came back with a match with Yokel.

Vitaliano said evidence shows Yokel killed Bradbury and sexually assaulted her on Sept. 3, 1987, and dumped her body in a drainage canal. He speculates that Bradbury was hitch hiking, was picked up by Yokel, and murdered. She was last seen near a gas station in Cocoa and her body was found 11 hours later.

Vitaliano put hundreds of hours into the investigation in his quest to bring closure to her family. He also spent hours investigating the past of Robert Yokel.

He found that Yokel and another man, Warren Gibbs, 23 at the time, met by chance in Miami in early April, 1967. The two stole a car in Miami from Gibbs' brother and drove to Okeechobee with the intent to get some money from Gibbs uncle. Gibbs maintained his uncle would have \$125 in his wallet because his car payment was due. At first they intended to rob the man and steal the money, leaving him tied up, but alive, Yokel later told investigators.

Yokel reportedly shot the man in the head with a .32 caliber Rossi revolver, and stole what cash the victim had, \$21, a 22 caliber rifle and some clothing. The pair also stole the victims 1966 Ford Fairlane and headed west. The victim didn't die right away and was left on the floor of the trailer, records show. Agent Vitaliano said the pair put a dead bolt lock on the outside of the trailer so the victim could not get the help he needed.

From there the pair drove to Yuma, Arizona where they robbed a gas station on April 8, 1967. They were caught near the crime scene, but were able to escape the Arizona jail only hours later.



Robert Yokel

The men were eventually arrested in California and returned to Okeechobee for trial.

The Nov. 30, 1967 edition of the Okeechobee News said the criminal trial for the two men was historic because it was the first time women were used on the jury in an Okeechobee criminal case. A panel of nine men and three women convicted both Gibbs and Yokel of first degree murder. Both were sentenced to life in prison. The jury did recommend mercy.

Retired Judge Bill Hendry was one of Yokel's attorneys. In a post sentence investigation report, Judge Hendry said Yokel was the worst of the two men, and should not be considered for early release and never to Okeechobee County.

Judge Hendry remembered the case vividly when interviewed recently. He recalled the dairy was located north west of Basinger. The owner of the dairy, Clyde Palmer found Gibbs the next day, April 6, 1967, when he didn't show up for work. Several residents of the dairy, which included James William Thomas, Dean Anderson, and Vonda Buckson had seen Gibbs' nephew and had even eaten lunch with him in the trailer on the day of the homicide. That information put authorities on his trail.

Deputy Clifton Lightsey and Mr. Palmer discovered the victim's body in the locked trailer after they forced the lock on the door.

"They more or less tormented the man," Hendry said, "He was shot point blank in the head. They thought he'd have money. He was left alive for awhile."

Circuit Judge Wallace Sample stated he felt the verdict was adequate for the crime and the circumstances and felt the defendants should remain in prison so long as there was any question about their mental state.

Yokel escaped prison in 1977 but was captured one day later.

Yokel was released from prison in 1985 after he served roughly 18 years. Agent Vitaliano said the early release from prison left him with a lot of questions. "From what I see in his records it is not like he had any

attorneys to help him out," he said. "It was just the process back then. Life in prison meant you had the opportunity to get out someday on parole. I'm glad that isn't the case today."

The Florida Parole Commission paroled Yokel on August, 27, 1985. He lived in Brevard County.

Police believe his murder of Bradbury was a random crime and that he had never met her before that night.

Vitaliano said he can't rule out the possibility that Yokel might have been involved in other homicides. He noted Yokel was arrested in New York State after his release for battery and later DUI. There was also another allegation of sexual battery but no charges

were ever filed in that case.

"The incident in Suffolk County, New York, where he was arrested for battery, the victim had similar injuries to the victim here in Florida. At some point authorities did collect his DNA," he noted. "Everyone I talked to said Yokel was a very, very violent individual. He'd be calm one minute and then completely violent the next minute."

Vitaliano said the national data base of DNA is available for all law enforcement agencies as they develop cold case homicides. He said these DNA comparisons are usually done on a yearly basis and noted if Yokel committed other murders, officials should eventually find out.

Available 24/7



Fact Book: <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=65039&pagenum=1>

Medical Directory: <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=59786&pagenum=1>

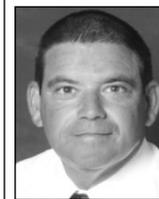
Meet Your Local Merchants: <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=56360&pagenum=1>

School Information Guide: <http://specialsections.newszap.com/SS/Page.aspx?&secid=68371&pagenum=1>

Okeechobee Cancer Center

Board Certified Radiation Oncologists

Alan S. Krimsley, M.D.



Dr. Krimsley graduated from Yale University and trained at New York University Medical Center.

Ronald H. Woody, M.D.



Dr. Woody graduated from the University of Florida and trained at University Hospital in Seattle and at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

CyberKnife™ Robotic Radiation Surgery Now Available!

Our State-of-the-Art Treatments Include:

- Ultrasound and CT Based Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT)
- Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
- Mammosite Breast Cancer Therapy • High Dose Rate Brachytherapy (HDR)
- 3-D Image Guided Therapy • CT/MRI Fusion Technology

We offer Courtesy Transportation, Mileage Reimbursement, FREE Second Opinions and FREE Prostate Cancer Screenings.

New Patients Welcome
Serving Treasure Coast & Okeechobee

Lawnwood
Cancer Center
1231 N. Lawnwood Circle
Ft. Pierce, FL
(772) 464-8121

Mid-Florida
Cancer Center
604 W. Midway Road
White City, FL
(772) 468-3222

Okeechobee
Cancer Center
301 NE 19th Drive
Okeechobee, FL
(863) 357-0039

Pt. St. Lucie
Cancer Center
1780 SE Hillmoor Dr.
Port St. Lucie, FL
(772) 335-2115

CARING PROFESSIONALS • STATE-OF-THE-ART TREATMENT • FIGHTING CANCER

The Law Office Of Gerald Lefebvre

Personal Injury Trial Attorney



• Voted a "Super Lawyer" by his peers in 2007, according to the Florida Super Lawyers Magazine

• Awarded an "AV" Peer Review Rating by Martindale-Hubbell (highest rating)

State and Nationally Board Certified
Civil Trial Lawyer Certified
Circuit Civil Mediator

www.accidentattorneyoffice.com

863-763-3333
Hablamos Español



Sales:
Monday at 12 p.m.
Tuesday at 11 a.m.

**Okeechobee
Livestock Market**
U.S. 98 North, Okeechobee
(863) 763-3127



Special to the Okeechobee News

Fort Drum Service Plaza work planned

This is an artist's rendition of the new Fort Drum Service Plaza on the Florida Turnpike. The current service plaza will be completely demolished. Construction and opening of new facilities will be in phases so that all current services (fueling, restaurant, restrooms, truck parking) can be maintained through the construction process. The plans are currently in design with construction scheduled to begin in the fall of 2010 with completion expected by Dec. 2012. The new restaurant building will be 40,000 feet, compared with the existing 18,500 square foot building. The new fuel station/convenience store will be 3,500 square feet. Plans call for new car and truck parking and a new water/wastewater treatment facility and new off site wastewater treatment ponds. Total estimated cost of the project is \$49 million.

City Council meets Tuesday

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Miscellaneous business items will occupy the Okeechobee City Council on their first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, Jan. 5, at 6 p.m., in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 55 S.E. Third Ave.

The council will consider a maintenance agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for economic stimulus projects and an easement agreement with NASSA Management Group, LLC. They will

also consider a request from the chamber of commerce to sublet a portion of the chamber building, an interlocal agreement with the county regarding a 2008 Disaster Recovery Community Development Block Grant application and a temporary street closing for the YMCA Family Fun Day in the Park.

Turning to other business, Mayor Jim Kirk is scheduled to present a ten-year service award to Brian Padgett and city administrator Brian Whitehall is scheduled to discuss impact fees and the assessed value and proposed selling price of commerce park lots.

NEW YEAR'S BLOWOUT!!

BET WE CAN GUESS WHAT YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS??

**GINA LOST
104 LBS AND
7 PANTS SIZES!**

AND WE CAN HELP!!
COME IN FOR YOUR FREE
CONSULT JAN 4TH - 8TH AND
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR
BIGGEST SAVINGS EVER
OFFERED!!

1/2 PRICE MEDICAL
&
FREE B-12!!!

PLUS...20% OFF YOUR FIRST WEEK
OF PRODUCTS!

**MARGARET LOST
112 LBS AND
8 PANTS SIZES!**

WE OFFER IN-HOUSE
FINANCING WITH NO
INTEREST!

*LOSE UP TO 5 POUNDS A WEEK
*DOCTOR SUPERVISED PROGRAM
*NO DIET PILLS!
*FAST AND EFFECTIVE WEIGHT LOSS

IT'S A NEW YEAR...
LET'S MAKE
A NEW YOU!

414 S PARROTT AVE, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

863-357-9967

CALL TODAY!!

BRIGHTON

It's Your Thing!

It's a Wonderland of Winning Things!

Over \$100,000
in Cash & Free Play

January heats up at
Seminole Casino Brighton!

Sundays

Win your share of \$20,000 in Cash & Free Play

Mondays

Jan. 4, 11 & 25 – Earn Triple Points for Your Play

Wednesdays

\$20,000 in Cash Drawings

Saturdays

\$50,000 in Progressive Cash Drawings

Bus Transportation & Group Packages Available

17735 Reservation Road
Okeechobee, FL 34974
1.866.2.CASINO
www.seminolebrightoncasino.com

Highway 721 west of Lake Okeechobee on the
Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation

Details at Seminole Player's Club. Management reserves the right to change or cancel promotion at any time.
If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1.888.ADMIT.IT.

METH

Continued From Page 1

According to an arrest affidavit by a task force detective, a plastic bag containing a suspicious substance was found in the front seat of a 1992 green Ford pickup truck being driven by Guzowski. When field tested, the substance reportedly indicated a positive result for the presence of methamphetamine.

The bag, which was found in the cab of the truck where Gordon was sitting, weighed 1.4 grams, the report added.

K-9 Rex, from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), was brought to the scene to conduct a free air sniff around the exterior of the truck. Rex reportedly showed a positive alert to the driver's side door handle.

The detective then searched the interior of the truck and allegedly found: seven syringes; several packs of cold tablets containing pseudoephedrine, which is used to make meth; a gallon can of Coleman fuel, which is also used in the meth manufacturing process; 2 feet of plastic tubing with a white residue on each end that, when field tested, indicated a positive result for the presence of meth; and a spoon with a white residue on it that, when field tested, indicated the presence of meth.

The affidavit also states that receipts for the cold tablets and fuel were found, and were all dated Dec. 29. The receipts were apparently from different stores in Okeechobee and indicated that the items were purchased from 6:45 through 7:08 p.m. on Tuesday.

According to the report, the suspects were going back to Pinder's home to manufacture meth.

Also, the detective stated that Gordon "... has purchased cold pills containing pseudoephedrine on a monthly basis from multiple pharmacies, on the same days, throughout Okeechobee County."

The task force detective stated in his affidavit that the items were found following a traffic stop for a stop bar violation and a tag light violation. The affidavit does not indicate if any citations were issued for the alleged traffic violations.

EAGLES

Continued From Page 1



Submitted photo/FWC

Bald Eagles do respond when people try to keep their environment clean and keep them safe.

The problem; the fix

Nevertheless, it was no match for habitat loss; being shot, trapped or poisoned; and the ravages of the pesticide DDT on the birds' eggshells. What mankind wrought, mankind had to fix. In 1972, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned DDT. Congress passed the Endangered Species Act in 1973 and added the bald eagle to its protective umbrella in 1978.

These changes made a difference. Florida's population of bald eagle nesting territories went from 200 in the 1970s to 1,340 in 2009.

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says Florida is showing the rest of the nation how to protect and manage the species - by leaps and bounds," Kirkpatrick said. The state has more bald eagles than any state other than Alaska and Minnesota.

Even when the numbers were low, Florida was better off than other states because of its aquatic habitats and rich supply of fish - eagles' favorite food. An FWC scientist coordinated a project to help Georgia, Alabama and Oklahoma jumpstart their eagle populations a quarter-century ago. Scientists gathered 18 bald eagle eggs and rushed them to Oklahoma to hatch. The hatchlings were fed by eagle puppets, so the chicks

wouldn't imprint with humans. When the birds were strong enough, scientists took them to roosts in the three states.

Parents are daredevils

The courtship ritual looks like warfare. Bald eagles are daredevils. They literally fall head-over-heels for each other. They "fly to great altitude, lock talons, and tumble/cart-wheel back toward earth," breaking off at the last minute to avoid crashing, according to "The Birds of North America Online."

They're basically monogamous for life and good parents. Eagles walk carefully around the nest with clenched feet, apparently to prevent their talons from piercing the one to three eggs in a typical clutch. Breeding adults may be very territorial, but bald eagles are social at their communal roosts, chattering away the hours.

One quirk belies the eagle's mighty image. The big bird sometimes has a weak voice. "The Birds of North America" describes it as a rapid choking sound: "Ki-ki-ki-ki-ki-ker."

Recognition

This nation's emblem is actually a bald eagle that is 5 or more years old. Young eagles start out completely dark brown and gradually become the easily recognizable dark brown bird with white head, neck and tail. In between, juvenile birds are a mottled brown and white.

Before leaving home, fledglings practice flying from one side of the nest rim to the other, then to nearby branches. Half of the



FWC/Dominick Martino

The fish in this eagle's talon is supper.

first "flights" are unsuccessful, according to "The Birds of North America." Those that fall to earth may have to stay there a week or so to regain strength. In the meantime, if the parents can get to the young eagle, they'll feed it while it is on the ground.

Once on wing, juveniles in Florida tend to disperse north.

The bald eagle flies by slow, deep wingbeats. It holds its wide wings at a right angle to its body on a flat plane. Its golden eyes watch intently over the wild landscapes of America.

Scientists, government agencies and citizens are watching the bald eagle too, this time to protect it. To learn more, go to MyFWC.com/Wildlife.

Kathy Godwin Lic. RE Broker **Of Okeechobee Realty Inc.**

Preferred Properties

Everything We Touch Turns To "Sold" **NO TRANSACTION FEES!**

We are registered to sell "Hud Owned Homes"
Call one of our Agents for info.

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>"ADULT LIVING"</p> <p><i>New Listing</i></p> | <p>What a great buy! 2/2 DWMH on small lake in Seminole Cove, lawn care, free storage, cable, pool, club house. MLS#203551 \$84,900 Call Marcia Barber 863-634-1229</p> | <p>"BREATHTAKING VIEWS"</p> <p><i>Lake Access</i></p> | <p>2 Story canal front home. 3/2 with family rm and FL rm. Two sheds, carport. Easy to see. #94541 \$294,000 Call Barbara McClellan 863-634-7547 or Sheryl Byrd 863-634-3572</p> |
| <p>"A LITTLE SLICE OF COUNTRY"</p> | <p>12BR/2BA DWMH on fenced, manicured acre+, detached garage/workshop, new kitchen flooring and like new furniture and window treatments. MLS #202068 \$79,900 Call Kathy Godwin 863-634-7547</p> | <p>"DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH"</p> | <p>"Wow" This 3 Bdm/1 Bath home sits on a beautiful acre+ lot in the SW section, close to schools and shopping. Needs a little TLC. MLS #203402 \$99,000 Call Sheryl Byrd 863-634-3572</p> |
| <p>"PERFECT LITTLE GETAWAY"</p> | <p>2/2 DWMH on Captive lake Taylor Creek Isles. Would make great first time home or second home. MLS #203466 \$52,000 Call Ann Hancock 863-447-2254</p> | <p>"PRICED RIGHT"</p> | <p>This 2BA/2BA SWMH with additions on four lots has beautiful cedar trees that line one side of property and some fruit trees. MLS #203345 \$50,000 Call Wendy Bostwick 863-697-6716</p> |

863-763-8222 • 3126 Hwy 441 S. Okeechobee • Se Habla Español

Listings Updated Daily

www.Tucker-Group.com



Local:

(863)763.4010

Toll Free:

(888) 874.2945

Lic. RE Broker

104 N.W. 7th Ave. Okeechobee

Riverside helps Real Life Children's Ranch

Riverside Bank believes a solid family atmosphere is the foundation to building hope and shaping character in today's youth. In support of such an important lifelong vision Riverside Bank donated \$500 to the Real Life Children's Ranch of Okeechobee. Real Life Children's Ranch exists to provide Christian residential group homes that care for boys and girls who have been abused, abandoned and/or neglected. Real Life Children's Ranch is a tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization approved by the State of Florida. The goal of Real Life Children's Ranch is to give children the best possible care in a secure family atmosphere and to guide them into fulfilling and productive futures.

Real Life Children's Ranch is not merely a fa-

cility to house abused and abandoned children, but it is a loving, caring environment where the children learn the richness of a well-rounded life. The homes located on the Ranch campus are beautifully constructed, each housing up to six foster children, the staff and their children. Each home has a set of full time professional parents which creates the basis for a consistent level of care proven successful because it so closely emulates family life. Each home operates as a family doing things like grocery shopping, homework, meals, attending church and community activities together.

Furthermore, Real Life Children's Ranch is one of the few places in the state designed to care for sibling groups. When siblings are placed in foster care they often have to be

separated, which further contributes to the disruption and trauma they have already experienced. Real Life Children's Ranch strives to keep siblings together, therefore a large percentage of the children at the Ranch are sibling groups.

At Real Life Children's Ranch, one of our most important missions is to build hope and character in children. In finding hope a child becomes able to look past the tragedies in their background and find motivation in a bright future. As a child's character develops, he/she is able to make right choices regardless of their environment and/or circumstances. Real Life Children's Ranch is committed to providing a stable, loving and learning environment for the children.



Riverside Bank recently donated \$500 to Real Life Children's Ranch. From left to right are Mark Mayers, RLCR Executive Director; Tabitha Trent, Branch Manager; and John Williams, Bank CEO.

Special to the Okeechobee News

goolsby REALTY CO. Patricia Louise Goolsby, Licensed Real Estate Broker
634-5588
 FULL SERVICE REALTOR patgoolsby@embarqmail.com

FOR THESE LISTINGS, CALL VICKI ANDERSON 863-634-4106.

REDUCED TO SELL!
GREAT LOCATION IN TOWN
 This is a unique house loaded with history. Hurricane Hide Room in middle of house. MLS #203080, \$89,900.

WELL KEPT MH. Corner lot with plenty of curb appeal. 2 huge screen porches. Spacious workshop with sink and bathroom. Doggy Door. Concrete foundation with tie downs. Office/Den area. MLS #203135, \$69,900.

PRICE REDUCED!!!
3/2 DWMH ON CORNER LOT. Spacious and open. Utility room with space to laundry, ironing, etc. Boat slip. Waterfront deck. Fenced in yard. 1 car carport. TURN KEY - FURNISHED!!! MLS #203273, \$89,900.

BARELY LIVED IN 3/2 DWMH. On a captured lake, a large lot. Private sprinkler system needs updating with pump house on lake. Furnished. RV Parking with dumping, electric, water. MLS #203348, \$89,900.

3/2 DWMH WITH OPEN CONCEPT. New in 2008: AC/Heat, stove, dishwasher, refrigerator, new Berber carpet, range hood. NEW in 2009: Microwave, Bladder tank for water system. MLS #203369, \$79,900.

2/1 Frame with Stucco. Has shed that has been made into a Studio and fully furnished with electric and A/C. Huge workshop with Refrigerator. Swing in backyard slays. MLS #203409, \$99,900.

863-763-5588 • 21442 E. SR 78, BHR
 Across Kissimmee River next to Fire Station & Glades County Building.

ALWAYS SAVING BUYERS MONEY!
BUYER BROKERAGE CO. OF OKEECHOBEE
BILL F. STEGKEMPER, CRS, GRI, APPRAISER
 (863) 763-2334 • (863) 801-9497 CELL
 P.O. Box 1074, Okeechobee FL, 34973
 1039 S.E. Everglades Blvd • Okeechobee

\$1,500 TAX CREDIT
+\$1,000 UTILITY REBATE
+\$1,000 LENNOX REBATE
\$3,500 TOTAL

BETWEEN THE TAX BREAKS AND THE REBATES, YOU'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER JAR.

EMORY WALKER Co., Inc.
 208 S.W. 5TH AVENUE
 863-763-6742
 CACO42747

LENNOX DEALER SINCE 1975

LENNOX
 INDOOR COMFORT SYSTEMS
 Innovation never felt so good.™

David Hazellief • 863-610-1553 Betty Hazellief • 863-610-0144
 Sharon Prevatt • 863-634-7069 Dee Reeder • 863-610-2485
Century 21
Hazellief & Prevatt Realty, Inc. Se Habla Español
(863) 763-2104

CALL FOR A LIST OF FORECLOSURES

| | |
|--|--|
| 3001-H: Lake Access Treasure Island home needs some tender, loving care on .31 Lot. \$65,000 MLS #203529 | 3003-M: Treasure Island 2 bedroom 1 bath MH (SE 23rd CT). Easy to see on lockbox. Call today. \$45,000 MLS #203269 |
| 3004-H: 3/2 home in Treasure Island. Attached garage, pave driveway, large porch. Needs some work. \$70,000 MLS #203368 | 5000-H: Two Story 6 Bedrooms, 2 Bath home located on a little over 1/2 acre. \$104,900 MLS #203524 |
| 5003-H: Conners Gables Two Story 3/2 1/2 home, Dining room, Family room off the Kitchen area, screened porch, 2 Car Garage. \$128,700 MLS #203530 | 8000-A: Oak Water Estates 2 acres of waterfront property on 441 S. On the Rim Canal. NO wetland restrictions. Vacant land MLS #203429 |

www.century21okeechobee.com • Email: century21okeechobee@earthlink.net
1200 S. Parrott Ave.

Basic training grad

Air Force Airman Kathryn A. Ferrell graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. She is the daughter of Jeffrey Ferrell of West Palm Beach and granddaughter of Dolores Pierre of Okeechobee. Ferrell is a 2009 graduate of Royal Palm Beach High School.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Basic grad

Air Force Airman Brandon T. Raona graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Raona is the son of Karey McCann of Okeechobee. He is a 2003 graduate of Lake Orian High School, Mich.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Antique Air Aficionados Fly-in set for take-off

The first commercial airline carried passengers from St. Pete to Tampa in 1914, only 11 years after the Wright Brothers first flew! And, in 1923, the Ta-Miami Air Line started operations between Tampa and Miami, in the same year that construction of the road was begun across the Glades. Air history goes on. In 1930s Opa-Locka was opened as a Naval air base; Eastern and Pan Am were founded. Newspapers were flown to Sanibel by seaplane in the 1939 "Dawn Patrol." World War II training bases sprang up in Southwest Florida's clement climate at Fort Myers, Buckingham, Clewiston, and Naples. Bring back the old warriors and dare-devils! That's exactly what the Antique Air Aficionados are trying to do on Saturday, Jan. 23, when Everglades City Airpark hosts a Fly-In for

old aircraft from 10 a.m. to noon. There is no charge. Just arrive at Airfield X-01 on the edge of the Glades where fuel is available. You will be welcomed with a free pancake breakfast, courtesy of Wings 10,000 Island Tours, and a chance to win 10 lbs. of stone crab claws, the local delicacy generously donated by Triad Seafood Market & Cafe in Everglades City. The highlight of the monthly breakfast is watching intrepid airman John Apte scoop up the banner before he circles to advertise its message. Everyone is invited. Drop in by air, road, or sea and share your memories of vintage flying. The event is being promoted by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation. For more information, see their website: www.evergladeshistorical.org or phone Mike at 239-695-2244.

TUESDAYS ONLY!

99¢

2 Pcs Leg & Thigh

POPEYES

822 E. North Park St • Okeechobee
(863) 467-8891

AFFORDABLE DENTAL IMPLANTS & LUMINEERS

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>NEW PATIENT OFFER Lower Denture 2 Implants & Ball Attachments Included \$1999 NEW PATIENTS ONLY (D6010, D5860) EXP. 8-15-09</p> | <p>NEW PATIENT OFFER FREE Digital X-Ray & Exam Dental Implants from \$499 each NEW PATIENTS ONLY (D6010, D0150, D0330) EXP. 8-15-09</p> | | <p>Starting At</p> |
| | | | <p>CROWN \$595.00</p> |
| | | | <p>ABUTMENT \$595.00 IMPLANT \$499.00</p> |
| <p>Total \$1689</p> | | | |

APPEARANCE IMPLANTS & LASER

DENTISTRY OF JUPITER

(561)741-7142
1-888-FL-IMPLANTS
6390 W. Indiantown Rd, Jupiter
Chasewood Plaza
New Surgery Suite Location
443 School House Rd, Abacoa
Military Trail at Donald Ross Road
Open Evenings & Sat by Appointment

www.harrouff.com

Michael Paesani, DMD - TA Aliapoulos, DDS - Wade B. Harrouff, DDS - Matthew Fien, DDS - Salvatore V. Melita, DDS

"Our Dentists have over 130 years combined dental experience in Palm Beach County. 20 years implant experience and over 13,000 crowns/implants insertions, and are dedicated to providing you with top quality dental care".

www.freeimplantreport.com

IMPLANTOLOGY IS NOT A RECOGNIZED SPECIALTY BY THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION AND FLORIDA BOARD OF DENTISTRY. NEW TREATMENT PROGRAM ONLY. THE PATIENT AND ANY OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO PAY, CANCEL PAYMENT, OR BE REIMBURSED FOR PAYMENT FOR ANY OTHER SERVICE, EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT WHICH IS PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RESPONDING TO THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FREE, DISCOUNTED OR REDUCED FEE SERVICE, EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT.

SYFRETT FEED CO.

"It's Performance That Counts."

We Deliver 10-23 tons!
All Feeds Are Available At Our Feed Mill!

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | |
| Beef Feed | Whole Corn | Layer Pellets |
| | | |
| Cracked Corn | All Purpose Pellets | Chicken Starter/Grower |

(863) 763-5586
3079 NW 8th Street, Okeechobee FL, 34972
www.syfretfeed.com

Lamb of God rehabilitation program challenged in court

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

A local prison rehabilitation program is involved in a court case that could have far reaching implications.

The Council for Secular Humanism filed a lawsuit May 17, 2007 in Leon County Circuit Court alleging that the Department of Corrections' (DOC) contracts with Lamb of God and Jacksonville-based Prisoners of Christ violate the state constitution by using state revenues to aid a religious organization.

Lamb of God has faith based resident substance abuse rehabilitation programs in Okeechobee and Pompano Beach for people being released from prison. Between the two facilities they have around 40 clients. The clients come from prisons all over the state. Mike Lewandowski, executive director of Lamb of God, said that most people being released from prison want to go back to their hometown. In the past most clients were from Okeechobee. However, because of the current economy, there are no jobs available in Okeechobee so he is now sending all clients to Pompano Beach. The Lamb of God program consists of classes at night, a job during the day and high accountability. The average stay is six months, however, some clients do stay longer.

"We force nothing on anyone," said Mr. Lewandowski, "We don't force anybody to go to services. No way would we push our religious beliefs on anyone."

In a decision dated Aug. 29, 2008 Leon County Circuit Court ruled in favor of Lamb of God and the other respondents. Circuit Judge John C. Cooper stated "under the contracts, program staff and volunteers must be prevented from disparag(ing) the personal religious beliefs of program partici-

pants or coerc(ing) program participants to change their religious beliefs or preferences or attempt(ing) to convert them to any particular religious faith."

The Council for Secular Humanism appealed the decision of the circuit court. Upon review, on Dec. 15, 2009 the district court of appeal sent the case back to circuit court for further action.

Mr. Lewandowski, who claims a 73 percent success rate last year, said DOC pays Lamb of God \$20 a day to provide post-release transitional housing to persons who have left prison. This includes room and board and everything necessary to help the person become self sufficient.

"We do it out of our hearts," he said. "It's not for money."

When asked why Lamb of God was singled out, Mr. Lewandowski replied that the Council on Secular Humanism was looking for someone to challenge the law so that no faith based groups could get state funding. He said that if the lawsuit was successful, then all religious services and Bible studies would have to be taken out of the state prison system.

"This is a faith based nation," Mr. Lewandowski asserted. He said if the suit is successful, it would lead to discrimination against people of faith.

Several attempts by the Okeechobee News to contact a representative of the Council for Secular Humanism for comment were unsuccessful.

The outcome of this case could possibly have a bearing on other state contracts to faith based organizations.

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

Big Brothers, Big Sisters support 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. Contact Sharon Vinson at Shared Services at 863-462-5000 ext 257 for more information.

Tax aide volunteers sought

AARP seeks computer literate volunteers to help with the income tax filing assistance program for the 2010 tax season. Complete training will be provided, using AARP software and training materials. For information, call Neile at 863-357-1694.

Coming to Okeechobee on Saturday, January 9, 2010



Weight & Wellness Center

TRANSFORM Your Life

Holly W. Hadley, MD & Madeline Sabatello, CPT

Take control of your **holiday**

weight gain with a **PERSONALIZED, MEDICALLY MANAGED WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM**

We will be in Okeechobee one Saturday each month



Holly W. Hadley, MD

Come see us at the offices of Ms. Cheryl Kirton, PT
Located at 332 W. 32nd Street, Okeechobee 561 586 3646



BEARSHOP EXCHANGE
Featuring Teddy Bears and Plush Animals
from World Class Manufacturers such as:

Steiff • Gund • R. John Wright • Raikes

Mixed throughout the store is a large variety of Antiques and Collectibles including:

China • Knives • Pocket Watches • Hess Trucks Figurines • Quilts • Linens and Much More.

**863
467.1217**

Antiques & Collectibles

116 SW 4th Ave, Okeechobee

ringmaster@bearshopexchange.com

**OPEN
TUES - SAT
10AM -5PM**

Aldo Lombardo, M.D., FACS

Board Certified Plastic Surgeon



Okeechobee Specials

Breast Augmentation \$3,950

Good Thru 1/31/10

Tummy Tuck \$6,250

(Some Restrictions Apply)

Call us to schedule your consultation in Jupiter!

(561) 747-1232 or (888) 9-ALLURE

www.allureplasticsurgery.com

Engaged? Just married? Golden anniversary?

Birthday? Holiday? New baby?

Share your news in print and online



Celebrations

fl.newszap.com/celebrations



For a modest charge, each package includes:

- A print announcement in the newspaper of your choice.
- An online listing at fl.newszap.com/celebrations.
- 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 <http://fl.newszap.com/celebrations>

Into the woods: 'That coon dog will hunt!'

By **Tony Young**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Some of my huntin' buddies and I really live for being out in a wet patch of woods in the middle of a cool night and hearing the not-so-distant sounds of our coon hounds when they open up on a hot trail. There's just something about those hounds' voices that sounds both pleasing and eerie at the same time.

We like to brag about whose dog actually struck the trail first and whose got to the right tree first. And boy, you can sure tell the difference when the dogs are just trailing a coon versus when they've got one treed. Their barking goes from longer, less frequent howls to just downright 'choppin' it down, baying as loud as they can, as quick as they can, with every breath that's in 'em. You can really sense the urgency that's in their voices when they're sittin' to the tree.

That's when it's time to turn on the flashlights and start making your way through the swamps toward that pleasant, oh too familiar sound in the darkness.

If you'd like to try coon huntin', besides having a good coon dog, you'll need a Florida hunting license. Residents pay just \$17 for the year. Nonresidents have the choice of paying \$46.50 for a 10-day license or \$151.50



Tony Young

for 12 months.

If you're thinking about hunting on one of Florida's many wildlife management areas (WMAs), you also must purchase a management area permit for \$26.50. But find out which WMAs allow coon huntin' by reading the brochure on each area you're thinking about trying. These WMA brochures are at your local tax collector's office or online at MyFWC.com/Hunting.

All licenses and permits are available at county tax collectors' offices, any retail outlet that sells hunting and fishing supplies, online at www.wildlifelicense.com/fl or by calling toll-free, 888-HUNT-FLORIDA.

Coon huntin' with dogs at night, while using a flashlight or headlamp, is allowed. On private property, when in possession of written landowner permission, you may hunt raccoons year-round, but most of us prefer to hunt 'em during the colder months so as not to get our dogs snakebit or attacked by gators.

You're only allowed to harvest raccoons and opossums using .22-caliber firearms (other than .22-magnums) or single-shot .410-gauge shotguns with shot no larger than No. 6. During the hunt, all firearms must remain unloaded except immediately prior to shooting treed or bayed raccoons or opossums.

There are no daily or seasonal bag limits on how many raccoons or opossums you may harvest, and hides and skins of these furbearers may be possessed in any number, at any time.

All dogs used in pursuing raccoons or opossums are required to wear collars or tags which identify dog owners and their addresses. Hunting either furbearer by "shining" or using lights from moving vehicles, boats or animals is against the law. It's also illegal to transport wild-trapped live raccoons within, into or from Florida.

Individuals with a trapping license (\$26.50) also may take raccoons and opossums by means of live-trapping or the use of snares, but these traps must be checked at least every 24 hours. Using steel or leg-hold traps is prohibited.

Only those persons with a trapping license are authorized to sell the hides and meat of these furbearers. In order to buy and sell this meat for commercial purposes, you're required to possess a dealer's license, which you can get from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Food Safety by calling 850-488-0295.

So, if you're looking for a new and exciting huntin' opportunity, get a hold of a good coon dog, grab your .22, a flashlight and a pair of hip waders and take to the swamps!

Here's wishing you a happy New Year and good huntin'. If you can, introduce someone new to a different kind of hunting – pass the tradition down. As always, have fun, hunt safely and ethically, and we'll see you in the woods!

Your time is precious.



People have so much to do and so little time to do it.

To help you deal with your time constraints, we pack this little newspaper with lots of relevant and useful information.

We want you to learn what you need to know quickly, so you can experience and enjoy your community fully.

How are we doing?

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

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Community Service Through Journalism

Children's Services Council seek summer projects

Children's Services Council will once again offer creative groups an opportunity to have a quality summer program for children and youth of Okeechobee. Any agency/group who has a great idea for a summer activity, can apply to the Council for a Special Summer Project. The major goal is to provide a summer program for a maximum of nine weeks for children/youth ages 4-18. Not for one-day events, the project must detail who, where, and the activities it will be providing for Okeechobee County children and cannot discriminate due to race or religion. You can enhance your existing program if you already receive a Children's Services Council grant. The project application is currently available. Call Cathleen Blair or Cheryl Sutton at 863-462-5000, Ext.255. Completed application must be submitted by Jan. 25.

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.

Coaches - Players - Sports Fans

Get Noticed!



Share your News!

From Baseball to Basketball, Football to Hockey, Soccer to Swimming, Cheerleading to Taekwondo – if **you** offer or participate in a youth or recreational sport/activity contact us today to join the Okeechobee Sports Network

OKEECHOBEE SPORTSNETWORK

*It's Easy
It's Fun
IT'S YOUR TURN!*

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

HOME

77

YOUR SCORES...
YOUR STANDINGS...
YOUR HIGHLIGHTS...
WITHIN YOUR

OKEECHOBEE SPORTSNETWORK COMMUNITY.

AWAY

55

Connect with your teammates, fans and the *entire* community

service provided and powered by:

OKEECHOBEE NEWS newszap.com
CommunitySportsDesk
 Catch your community at play

To get started contact:
 Renee Hawley
 Phone: 888-853-7904 x 323
 E-Mail: rhawley@communitysportsdesk.com

Boys basketball team falls in consolation game

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

A holiday tournament that started so optimistically with an Okeechobee High School upset win over powerful Lakeland, ended in disappointment for the OHS boys basketball team Wednesday as they lost a tight battle with Coral Gables, 75-74.

Okeechobee had their chances to win, but missed a free throw with one second left that would have sent the game into overtime.

"Coral Gables was a real disciplined team. They were very smart and made few turnovers. They also hit 18-20 free throws. They definitely didn't beat themselves," Brahmans Coach Bryan Van Camp said.

It was a fast paced game as both teams got a number of easy buckets. Van Camp said

his team definitely didn't have the defensive intensity they had in the first two games of the tournament.

"It was a pretty much up and down game in the first half. They went on a 10-0 run in the first half, and we trailed by as many as 14 points in the second half," Van Camp noted.

"They moved the ball well and we didn't rotate as well as I would have liked on defense," he added.

Okeechobee was able to rebound from the deficits as they started to work the ball inside. Troy Harper had 23 points and Duelle Gore added 13 points for Okeechobee. Most of their points came inside. Matt Skipper added 12 points for Okeechobee.

Okeechobee made a run late in the third quarter to cut the deficit to 59-56 after three

periods. Coral Gables got the lead back up to 10 points in the fourth quarter but Okeechobee once again rallied to make it a nip and tuck affair in the final minutes.

The final 12 seconds seemed like an eternity for both teams. Okeechobee had a chance to take the lead but turned the ball over thanks to a nice defense play by Coral Gables. Coral Gables came down and scored with six seconds left. Okeechobee got the ball up the court quickly and Harper was fouled with about a second left. He calmly made the first free throw, but the second banged off the

rim and fell away. Coral Gables grabbed the rebound and celebrated the win.

"It was a very good tournament for us. We would have liked to have won two of three but we played some really good teams with different styles. I think that will help us prepare for anyone in our district," Van Camp said.

Okeechobee took fourth place in the tournament.

The Brahmans hold their first home game in over a month Tuesday night when they host Fort Pierce Westwood in a key district game.

Online Sports Network features Okeechobee teams

The Okeechobee News invites you to check out the innovative new Okeechobee Sports Network on the internet.

Youth, adult recreation leagues, and school sports teams now have an online sports page and resource they can call their own.

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

Team representatives can post their schedules, game stories, statistics, standings and photos on dedicated web pages on the site. This is an invaluable and professional tool the community now has to positively highlight local sports. There is absolutely no charge for teams and leagues to participate in Okeechobee Sports Network. The site will be supported by sponsored web advertising featuring an innovative revenue sharing model, with 20 percent of web advertising

sales on the site going back to the participating teams and leagues. Local businesses interested in finding out how to become a sponsor can contact their local Okeechobee News advertising representative or call Judy Kasten at 863-763-3134 or by email at jkastent@strato.net.

Interested teams and leagues can contact Renee Hawley by e-mail at rhawley@communitysportsdesk.com. To participate and find out how your team can win a free pizza party! Okeechobee Sports Network will also be giving away a \$25 gift certificate from the Ultimate Gamer for the best local sports photo posted on the site by January 31st. Call Renee toll free at 888-853-7904 for a demonstration or to get started right away.

To visit the Okeechobee Sports Network online, go to newszap.com, click on the Okeechobee homepage, then click on the Sports tab at the top right side of the page.

Boating safety requirements change

Boating-safety education requirements changed in Florida beginning Jan. 1, 2009. Boat operators who were born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, must pass an approved boating-safety course and possess photographic identification and a boating-safety education identification card issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to legally operate a boat with a motor of 10 horsepower or more.

"We want to encourage everyone, regardless of when they were born, to take an approved boating-safety education course, because all of us can learn something new, even if we have been boating all our lives," said Capt. Carol Keyser of FWC's boating and waterways section. "For some, it is now required to take the course."

There are a few exceptions. For instance, a person born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, who operates a boat within 90 days after purchasing it, does not need a boating-safety education identification card if a bill of sale, which meets the requirements of Florida law, is onboard. After the 90-day period ends, the boat operator needs to meet the educational requirements. Those who possess a current United States Coast Guard license also are exempt.

For course information and educational requirements, visit MyFWC.com and click "boating," then click "boating safety." For inquiries, contact FWC's Division of Law Enforcement at 850-488-5600, or e-mail questions to the FWC at bobbercard@my-fwc.com.

Ricardo J. Quintero-Herencia, MD



Green Day
"A Place for Hope"

**Green Day
Medical
Oncology &**

Hematology of Okeechobee

Serving the Treasure Coast

- Specializing in evidence based medicine for the treatment of cancer and blood disorders
- Combined Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy treatment
- Medicare/Medicaid assignment accepted
- Consulting and Free Second Opinions Regarding Cancer
- All insurance plans accepted and filed
- Courtesy transportation provided

New Patients Welcome

Se Habla Español

**1231 N. Lawnwood Circle
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
(772) 460-5501**

**1006 N. Parrott Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 357-4138**



TREASURE COAST DERMATOLOGY

Specializing in the Treatment of Skin Cancer

BOARD CERTIFIED BY THE
AMERICAN BOARD OF DERMATOLOGY



FELLOW OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MOHS SURGERY

**Okeechobee
863-467-9555**

**Vero Beach
772-778-7782**

www.tcdermatology.com



Jonathan Sanders, M.D., J.D.

Online Classifieds

Free
Speech

Free
Ads

newszap.com

Create Your Own Ads Online! Two weeks FREE ... It's Easy!

Submit Your Free Online Classified Ad Today at WWW.NEWSZAP.COM - Click on Classifieds

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

Okeechobee News • Caloosa Belle • Clewiston News • Glades County Democrat • Immokalee Bulletin • The Sun

FREE!
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

Announcements

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

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

**READING A
NEWSPAPER
HELPS YOU
UNDERSTAND
THE WORLD
AROUND YOU.**



ESTATE AUCTION

Thursday
January 7th • 11 a.m.

FLORIDA PALMS MOBILE HOME PARK

2 1/2 ACRES - 33 UNITS
OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA

Intersection of SR 70 & 10th Ave
100 SE 10th Ave
Okeechobee, Florida



- Parcel I.D. 2-22-37-35-0A00-00011-0000
- Zoned MHP - Mobile Home Park; surrounded by Heavy Commercial
 - 2.565 acres - 365 feet fronting State Road 70 - 315 feet on 10th Avenue
 - Traffic signal at property
 - Public sewer lift station
 - Public water and sewer service
 - Traffic Data: 23,000 vehicles per day
Source: 1998 Florida DOT Report
 - Rentals currently on month to month basis, with no leases.
 - Typical rental income \$225 per unit
 - State of Florida Licensed Park - 33 unit authority

NO MINIMUM! • Selling REGARDLESS OF PRICE!
10% Buyer's Premium • Cash to bid

OWNER: Roy M. Johnson Trust & LODOC II, LLC
Seller's Attorneys: Abel A. Putnam, Esq.
Daniel J. Probst, Esq.

Conducted by:

**Karlin Daniel
& Associates, Inc.**
Lic R.E. Broker • AB878AU1207

Call for More Info
800-329-0036 Ext 103
www.karlindaniel.com



Employment

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

QUALITY CONTROL
Earn up to \$100 per day. Evaluate retail stores, training provided, No experience required. Call 888-615-5249

Employment Full Time

ACCOUNTANT
Seeking highly motivated mid level Accountant for busy agricultural dealership in Belle Glade, Florida. Accounting degree required. Resumes will be evaluated on a qualitative basis and interviews will be scheduled with our organization. Please fax resume to 561-996-8367, Attn: Comptroller

**READING A
NEWSPAPER
HELPS YOU
GET INVOLVED
IN THE
COMMUNITY.**



No wonder newspaper readers have more fun!

Employment Full Time

Your next job could be in today's classifieds. Did you look for it?

Job Fair in Okeechobee

New Restaurant opening late
January 2010

Seeking all positions - Lunch & Dinner

- Servers/Supervisors
- Cooks: Shift Lead - Line Prep - Pantry
- Bartenders
- Kitchen Utility
- Dining Utility (Busser)
- Host - Hostess
- EOE

• Must have experience!

Attend Fair on January 6, 2010

@ 5:30pm or January 9th @ 2:00pm

Location: 202 NE 7th Ave., (located next to the Azteca 3)

If unable to attend, please submit your resumé to earrieta@sdbteam.com or Pick up an application at our office located at 701 NE 3rd St.

SPRINT/NEXTEL

Full Time (Sat A Must)

Customer Service/Sales

Energetic
Self Motivated
Professional Appearance
Bi-Lingual
a PLUS

Send Resumé to 1418 S Parrott Ave

Immediate Opening at Okeechobee Juvenile.
Institutional cooking/ hands-on exp. preferred. Competitive wages and benefits. Must pass background check and drug screen. Contact Brad at 1-863-357-9922 ext. 2280 or email resume to: dept1@ablmanagement.com
EOE

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



Services

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Bookkeeping

Bookeeping/
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

Miscellaneous

Solar Electricity, Inc.
For Your Home or Business. For more information call Jacob Nisson.
863-697-2171

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



Merchandise

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Pets/Supplies

AMERICAN BULLDOG - 6 mos., fem., NKC reg., white rednose, \$250.
(863)801-6144

LAB PUPS - blacks, yellows, \$450 each neg.
(863)674-0156 or
(239)574-4408

Wanted To Buy

Want to buy Air conditioner with heat, window unit 863-862-7292



Agriculture

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Horses

HORSE PASTURE for rent. 14 acres with horse stalls. Call 863-763-3762



Rentals

For more listings, go to
www.newszap.com

Apartments

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

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

Commercial Property

FOR SALE OR LEASE
1574 Sq. Ft. office bldg.
@ 210 NE 3rd Ave.
Call 863-763-0295

Non-Profit Organization
Need to expand/relocate?
Sale-Lease-Share 2000 sf
863-634-1144 Michele

Condos/Townhouses Rent

OKEE TRI-PLEX - Clean 2/2, W/D hookup, patio, privacy fence, no pets. \$690 mo. + \$690 sec. dep. Free trash & lawn service. (417)848-3424 or (417)848-6360

TAYLOR CREEK CONDO
1 BR, 1 BA, Furnished. Pool, W&D Facilities. \$700 mo. Call Jerry or Brenda (863)467-0067 or (863)610-1281

Houses - Rent

EAGLE BAY DR. - 3/2, new paint & fenced yrd. \$1100/mo. 1st, last & sec. 863-447-0092

FURNISHED 2 bedroom
1 bath Duplex in Kings Bay. One car garage, screen porch, washer & dryer, dishwasher, central heat and air, tile floors throughout. Long or Short term. (863) 467-7528

Houses - Rent

King's Bay 2/2/1 CBS Home W/D \$950 p/mo. Plus security. 863-801-9163.

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

SEASONAL OR YEARLY - BHR, 2/2 Waterfront, plus 1 person Apt. Fully furn, utilities, cable, No pets, Non smoking envi-ron. (863)763-6086

Land - Rent

R.V. LOTS FOR RENT Free Wifi! Weekly \$150 or mo. \$375 incl. elec. Call 863-763-0295

Office Space Rent

SUN PLAZA: Approx. 1100 sq. ft. rental spaces, avail. now @ 909 S. Parrot Ave. Great for Office or Retail. For more info. Call Jerry or Brenda (863)467-0067 or (863)610-1281

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



For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Houses - Sale

BASSWOOD HOUSE FOR SALE: New ICF Construction, 3BR, 2 BA, Oversized garage, fenced, metal roof, impact windows, tank less water heater, owner financing. Call for apt. (863)357-1124 or cell (863)447-1556

EXCELLENT move-in cond., furn., 2BR, 2BA, garage, screen porch, in stable neighborhood. \$110,000 by owner. Call 352-895-8376

OKEE. - Huge 1 Bdrm. Apt. Tile throughout. Screen porch. \$435 mo. + utilities. 1st, last & \$200 sec. dep. No dogs. 863-801-1739

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

Lots - Sale

SACRIFICE this \$325K 9.35 acre horse ranch lot w/underground util. \$69,900 561-932-9627

Mobile Homes
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Rent

2 bd 1 bath Good neighborhood, fenced back yard, lease with option; \$650 p/mo 863-634-3451

BHR - RVs for Rent, starting \$300-\$500 & 55+ park, seasonal or yearly. 1st month's rent free! 863-763-3134

BUCKHEAD RIDGE - Dbl. Wide 2 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$600 mo. 3 BR, 2 BA, C/Air. \$700 mo. No pets. \$300 sec. dep. (863)763-4031

FOR RENT: 2/1 apt. Newly remodeled. 12 miles north of Okeechobee on beautiful ranch. Water, trash & lawn maintenance included. NO PETS! M-F \$499/mo. Also avail. newly remodeled 2/3. Call (863)467-2982

RV with added on living room. Utilities incl. \$450/month + deposit. Call 863-763-3762

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

Treasure Island - 2BR SW on water, lg. lot, \$550 mo., 1st last & sec. 863-226-3436

Mobile Home Sale

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

OKEECHOBEE- 1981 dbl wide on water, porch, lg edition, boathouse, \$100,000 (863)763-0474

PROWLER TRAILER - 32', with 10x30 FL room, A/C, fully furnished, on canal, near locks, free boat slip, \$3900. 863-467-1881

Recreation
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Campers/RVs

PARK MODEL - 35' 10x30 rm, carport, 113 Hickory Crt, Whisper Creek, 863-675-4475

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

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

Utility Trailers

RV/MOBILE HOME TRAILER '79 - 33"L x 12"W all appls \$500 firm. (863)484-2436

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

Public Notice

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE ADMINISTRATION ANNEX BUILDING, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE, SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM, 458 HIGHWAY 98 N., OKEECHOBEE, FL. A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE UNDERSIGNED. IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING; THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, IS MADE. ANY PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING MUST HAVE THEIR NAME AND TOPIC PLACED ON THE AGENDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING. ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S OFFICES BY CALLING (863)763-4601 AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING.
NOTICE: COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT HAS AN ONGOING AQUATIC SPRAYING PROGRAM, DISTRICT WIDE.
WILLARD M. BYARS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
17429 NW 242ND STREET
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972
(863)763-4601 OR (863)634-3166
342583 ON 1/3/10

Improvements planned at Okee-Tantie

'Site B' campsites not a priority

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Okee-Tantie Campground and Marina is emerging as a showplace for the county despite extensive hurricane damage in 2004 and a budget cut.

Improvements are being made to Site A, which is on the Kissimmee River on the west side of the park while Site B on the east side is unusable with 133 hurricane damaged campsites.

The county recently approved spending \$200,000 in grant money for a bandstand and other amenities at Site A. Deputy county administrator Jim Threewitts was asked if that grant could have been applied toward refurbishing Site B. He said that the scoring system for

this particular grant does not favor projects which generate revenue.

However, the number of rentable campsites in Site A has recently increased. Mr. Threewitts said the priority for improvements is on Site A since that area is on the water.

"I'm really proud of what the staff has accomplished," County Administrator Lyndon Bonner said concerning work done on Site A.

He said that this season Site A has 22 more rentable sites because of relatively cheap and simple work done inhouse by county maintenance crews.

Site A now has 140 camping sites (with water and electric) and 34 primitive camping sites.

As for Site B, Mr. Bonner does not know how much it would cost to repair the hurricane damage.

"I don't have a good feel for all that's wrong," Mr. Bonner said of the damage to Site B. He said that some campsites could possibly be fixed simply and cheaply, or there could be extensive damage. He doesn't know the full extent of the damage to the electrical, water and sewer system.

"I don't have the money, neither does the board," Mr. Bonner said of repairing Site B.

For some reason in 2004 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) refused the county's claim for damages at Site B, possibly because FEMA would not repair underground utilities. Mr. Bonner was not county administrator at that time. He said he is gathering documentation and plans to re-submit to see if FEMA will reconsider.

So, while Site B is unusable and dependant on FEMA funding to be made operable, improvements are being made to Site B using grant money and county staff.

Statistics show that income for the campground has gone down with the loss of the 133 spaces in site B.

Because of financial constraints the budget for Okee Tantie for the current fiscal year was cut \$200,000, partly from elimination of one vacant full time and one vacant part time position. However, park manager Susie Baker is confident she can provide the accepted level of service with two full time and eight part time employees.

On the positive side, there is the possibility of Florida Department of Transportation funds to improve the portion of the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST) which passes through Okee Tantie.

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

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Aquanaut's workplace
 - 7 Arabic for "son of"
 - 10 Software prototype
 - 14 "1984" author
 - 15 Teachers' org.
 - 16 Campground arrival, briefly
 - 17 Pleasure dome site of verget
 - 18 Most energetic
 - 20 Cornucopia
 - 22 Baba of fiction
 - 25 Via
 - 26 Hermit
 - 29 Poivre partner
 - 30 Let go
 - 34 Supplement that some claim eases arthritis
 - 38 "Bali ____"
 - 39 Italian cheese
 - 40 Tender poultry
 - 42 Stereotypical pirate leg
 - 43 Texas governor before George W. Bush
 - 47 Ont. or Que.
 - 49 Feedbag morsel
 - 50 Former big name on "The View"
 - 51 Snob
 - 55 Mag. employees
 - 56 1973 Erica Jong novel
 - 61 Crooner Julio
 - 62 What pupils do in the dark
 - 66 Action hero's garb, and what each first word in this puzzle's four longest answers is
 - 67 Lunes, por ejemplo
 - 68 Squirrel's stash
 - 69 Prolific auth.?
 - 70 Morsel
 - 71 Grand Prix site
- DOWN**
- 1 White ____
 - 2 Pitching stat
 - 3 Barley bristle
 - 4 Sister of Rachel
 - 5 Actor ____ Ray of "Battle Cry"
 - 6 Book jacket promo
 - 7 Running the country
 - 8 Hybrid meat
 - 9 Dover diaper
 - 10 Boxers' alternatives
 - 11 Like 2 or 4, e.g.
 - 12 Sample
 - 13 Pseudo-sophisticated
 - 19 Gp. once headed by Arafat
 - 21 Org. at 11 Wall St.
 - 22 Daisy Mae's creator
 - 23 Not as tight
 - 24 Spectrum color
 - 27 She, in Lisbon
 - 28 Latvian capital
 - 31 First words of the "Mr. Ed" theme
 - 32 "____ Camera"
 - 33 Bite-sized Hershey products
 - 35 From, in German names
 - 36 Former transp. regulator
 - 37 Cowardly Lion portrayer
 - 41 Kung ____ chicken
 - 44 "You cheated!"
 - 45 Lays into
 - 46 ____-bitsy
 - 48 "Pippin" Tony winner Ben
 - 52 ____ Angeles
 - 53 "Don't mind ____"
 - 54 Kind of wave or pool
 - 56 Pay stub abbr.
 - 57 Alaska's first governor
 - 58 Brand for Fido
 - 59 Pleasant
 - 60 Get hold of, with "onto"
 - 63 Altar in the sky
 - 64 Former Opry network
 - 65 Alpine curve

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com

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

By Mike Peluso
(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NOTICE OF INTENT TO GRANT VARIANCE**

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice of its intent to grant a variance under Section 403.201, F.S., from the provisions of Rule 62-4.244(5)(c), F.A.C. to Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC, 5444 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas 77056, (File No. 43-0293015-002) to allow for turbidity up to 1,000 NTU's above natural background for a period of more than 12 consecutive hours in any day, and turbidity shall not exceed 3,000 NTU's above natural background for a period of more than 3 consecutive hours in any day (Groups 1 and 2), no more than 1,500 NTU's entering Jurisdictional Waters of the State (Group 3 wetlands) within the counties of Bay, Calhoun, Citrus, Dade, Desoto, Escambia, Gadsden, Highlands, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Manatee, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Pasco, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Walton, and Washington.

The location of property for which the variance is sought is depicted in the map(s) included with this publication. This variance is sought in conjunction with the activities necessary to construct the project as described in Environmental Resource Permit application No. 43-0293015-001 for construction of a statewide natural gas pipeline system and with a request for water quality variance application No. 43-0293015-003, which shall allow for temporary mixing zones. Of 147 surface water and wetland crossings, 35 surface waters and 3 ditch systems are classified as Group 1 crossings, 81 streams, 1 ditch system, 2 ponds, and 18 wetlands are classified as Group 2 crossings, and 7 wetlands are classified as Group 3 crossings. Group 1 crossings generally consist of waterbodies with open water widths greater than 35-feet and where stream flows are too great to cross by flume or dam and pump construction method, Group 2 crossings generally consist of waterbodies containing sand, silt, clay and/or other organic substrates with open water widths between 10-feet and 35-feet, or wetlands with undefined channels and flowing water, and Group 3 crossings generally consisting of large saturated wetland systems. The Department issues the Notice of Intent to grant the variance, based upon the following findings: (a) It is not financially feasible or technically possible to directionally drill under all open water and wetland crossings; (b) Performance-based best management practices (BMPs) to avoid or minimize turbidity problems in all surface water and wetland crossings shall be utilized; (c) BMPs are not expected to adequately control turbidity in 147 surface waters and wetland systems within the allowable 150-meter mixing zone of the 1,302 surface water and wetland proposed to be crossed in the Environmental Resource Permit application No. 43-0293015-001; and (d) The elevated turbidity levels at the end of the expanded mixing zones will be temporary in nature and are not expected to cause long-term adverse affects to biological resources in the project area. Upon issuance of the final order, the variance shall be subject to but not limited to the following conditions: (a) This variance is valid only if an ERP (File No. 43-0293015-001) is issued for this project, and is subject to any and all conditions of the permit, and the granting of this variance does not guarantee the issuance of the permit; (b) Given good cause by either party, the Secretary or designee may alter the terms and conditions of the variance; (c) This variance applies to the activities conducted within the approved 147 surface water and wetland crossings in File No. 43-0293015-002; (d) As authorized in the water quality variance application No. 43-0293015-003, which shall allow for temporary mixing zones, turbidity levels at the end of the 800-meter mixing zones shall not exceed 3,000 NTU's above natural background levels for more than 3 consecutive hours after construction and no more than 1,000 NTU's above natural background levels for more than 12 consecutive hours after construction in the above referenced waterbodies and wetland crossings; (e) Appropriate performance-based BMPs shall be utilized to minimize increases in turbidity and control erosion when crossing the above referenced surface waters and wetlands; and (f) This variance shall be subject to all monitoring conditions required by Environmental Resource Permit No. 43-0293015-001 and Variance No. 43-0293015-003, and daily logs for the variance surface waters and wetlands shall be presented as a separate section in the monthly reports submitted to the Department.

The Department's file on this matter is available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Department of Environmental Protection, Attention Benny Luedike, 400 North Congress Avenue, Suite 200, West Palm Beach, FL 33401, Telephone: 561-681-6646. Additionally, maps that were submitted in the variance application are available for review at the Department's website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/southeast/erp/erpmain.htm>. The maps will be available on the Department's website for a minimum period of ninety days after the date of this notice.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes. The petition must contain the information set forth below and must be filed (received by the clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000.

Mediation under Section 120.573 of the F. S., is not available.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to redetermine final agency action on the application, the filing of a petition for an administrative hearing may result in a modification of the agency action or even a denial of the application. If a sufficient petition for an administrative hearing or request for an extension of time to file a petition is timely filed, this agency action automatically becomes only proposed agency action on the application, subject to the result of the administrative review process. Accordingly, the applicant is advised not to commence construction or other activities in accordance with this variance until the deadlines noted below for filing a petition for an administrative hearing, or request for an extension of time has expired.

Under Rules 28-106.111(3) and 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel

of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, before the applicable deadline. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon. If a request is filed late, the Department may still grant it upon a motion by the requesting party showing that the failure to file a request for an extension of time before the deadline was the result of excusable neglect.

In the event that a timely and sufficient petition for an administrative hearing is filed, other persons whose substantial interests will be affected by the outcome of the administrative process have the right to petition to intervene in the proceeding. Any intervention will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

In accordance with Rules 28-106.111(2) and 62-110.106(3)(a)(4), F.A.C., petitions for an administrative hearing by the applicant must be filed within 14 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 14 days of publication of the notice or within 14 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first.

Under Section 120.60(3), F.S., however, any person who has asked the Department for notice of agency action may file a petition within 14 days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication.

The petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing. The failure of any person to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S.

A petition that disputes the material facts on which the Department's action is based must contain the following information: (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known; (b) The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests are or will be affected by the agency determination; (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision; (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate; (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action; and (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

A petition that does not dispute the material facts on which the Department's action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise shall contain the same information as set forth above, as required by Rule 28-106.301. Under sections 120.569(2)(c) and (d), F.S., a petition for administrative hearing must be dismissed by the agency if the petition does not substantially comply with the above requirements or is untimely filed.

This action is final and effective on the date filed with the Clerk of the Department unless a petition is filed in accordance with the above. Upon the timely filing of a petition this order will not be effective until further order of the Department.

This variance constitutes an order of the Department. The applicant has the right to seek judicial review of the order under Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, by the filing of a notice of appeal under Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, with the Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399 3000; and by filing a copy of the notice of appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate district court of appeal. The notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date when the final order is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NOTICE OF INTENT TO GRANT VARIANCE**

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NOTICE OF INTENT TO GRANT VARIANCE**

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice of its intent to grant a variance under Section 403.201, F.S., from the provisions of Rule 62-4.244(5)(c), F.A.C. to Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC, 5444 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas 77056, (File No. 43-0293015-003) to allow a temporary mixing zone greater than 150-meters. The variance shall allow temporary mixing zones of 800-meters (2,625-feet) at a total of 140 surface water and wetland crossings within the counties of Bay, Calhoun, Citrus, Desoto, Gadsden, Highlands, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Manatee, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Pasco, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Walton, and Washington. The location of property for which the variance is sought is depicted in the map(s) included with this publication. This variance is sought in conjunction with the activities necessary to construct the project as described in Environmental Resource Permit application No. 43-0293015-001 for construction of a statewide natural gas pipeline system and with a request for water quality variance application No. 43-0293015-002, which shall allow for a higher turbidity standard. Of 140 surface water and wetland crossings, 35 surface waters and 3 ditch systems are classified as Group 1 crossings, and 81 streams, 1 ditch system, 2 ponds, and 18 wetlands are classified as Group 2 crossings. Group 1 crossings generally consist of waterbodies with open water widths greater than 35-feet and where stream flows are too great to cross by flume or dam and pump construction method and Group 2 crossings generally consist of waterbodies containing sand, silt, clay and/or other organic substrates with open water widths between 10-feet and 35-feet, or wetlands with undefined channels and flowing water. The Department issues the Notice of Intent to grant the variance, based upon the following findings: (a) It is not financially feasible or technically possible to directionally drill under all open water and wetland crossings; (b) Performance-based best management practices (BMPs) to avoid or minimize turbidity problems in all surface water and wetland crossings shall be utilized; (c) BMPs are not expected to adequately control turbidity in 140 surface waters and wetland systems within the allowable 150-meter mixing zone of the 1,302 surface water and wetland proposed to be crossed in the Environmental Resource Permit application No. 43-0293015-001; and (d) The elevated turbidity levels at the end of the expanded mixing zones will be temporary in nature and are not expected to cause long-term adverse affects to biological resources in the project area. Upon issuance of the final order, the variance shall be subject to but not limited to the following conditions: (a) This variance is valid only if an ERP (File No. 43-0293015-001) is issued for this project, and is subject to any and all conditions of the permit, and the granting of this variance does not guarantee the issuance of the permit; (b) Given good cause by either party, the Secretary or designee may alter the terms and conditions of the variance; (c) This variance only applies to the activities conducted within the approved 140 surface water and wetland crossings in File No. 43-0293015-003; (d) As authorized in the water quality variance application No. 43-0293015-002, which shall allow for a higher turbidity standard, turbidity levels at the end of the 800-meter mixing zones shall not exceed 3,000 NTU's above natural background levels for more than 3 consecutive hours after construction and no more than 1,000 NTU's above natural background levels for more than 12 consecutive hours after construction in the affected waterbodies and wetland crossings; (e) Appropriate performance-based BMPs shall be utilized to minimize increases in turbidity and control erosion when crossing the above referenced surface waters and wetlands; and (f) This variance shall be subject to all monitoring conditions required by Environmental Resource Permit No. 43-0293015-001 and Variance No. 43-0293015-002, and daily logs for the variance surface waters and wetlands shall be presented as a separate section in the monthly reports submitted to the Department.

The Department's file on this matter is available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Department of Environmental Protection, Attention Benny Luedike, 400 North Congress Avenue, Suite 200, West Palm Beach, FL 33401, Telephone: 561-681-6646. Additionally, maps that were submitted in the variance application are available for review at the Department's website at

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/southeast/erp/erpmain.htm>. The maps will be available on the Department's website for a minimum period of ninety days after the date of this notice.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes. The petition must contain the information set forth below and must be filed (received by the clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000.

Mediation under Section 120.573 of the F. S., is not available.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to redetermine final agency action on the application, the filing of a petition for an administrative hearing may result in a modification of the agency action or even a denial of the application. If a sufficient petition for an administrative hearing or request for an extension of time to file a petition is timely filed, this agency action automatically becomes only proposed agency action on the application, subject to the result of the administrative review process. Accordingly, the applicant is advised not to commence construction or other activities in accordance with this variance until the deadlines noted below for filing a petition for an administrative hearing, or request for an extension of time has expired.

Under Rules 28-106.111(3) and 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, before the applicable deadline. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon. If a request is filed late, the Department may still grant it upon a motion by the requesting party showing that the failure to file a request for an extension of time before the deadline was the result of excusable neglect.

In the event that a timely and sufficient petition for an administrative hearing is filed, other persons whose substantial interests will be affected by the outcome of the administrative process have the right to petition to intervene in the proceeding. Any intervention will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

In accordance with Rules 28-106.111(2) and 62-110.106(3)(a)(4), F.A.C., petitions for an administrative hearing by the applicant must be filed within 14 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 14 days of publication of the notice or within 14 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first.

Under Section 120.60(3), F.S., however, any person who has asked the Department for notice of agency action may file a petition within 14 days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication.

The petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing. The failure of any person to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S.

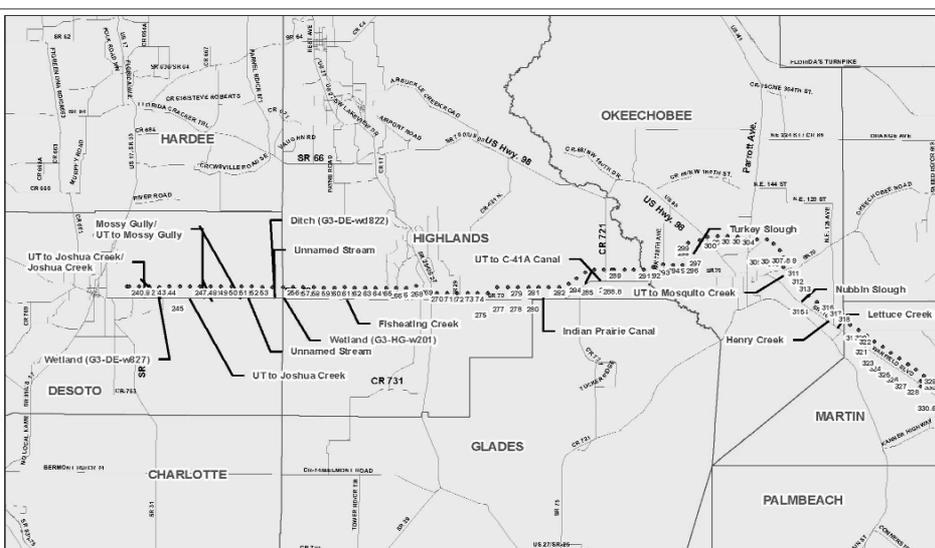
A petition that disputes the material facts on which the Department's action is based must contain the following information: (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known; (b) The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests are or will be affected by the agency determination; (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision; (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate; (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action; and (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

A petition that does not dispute the material facts on which the Department's action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise shall contain the same information as set forth above, as required by Rule 28-106.301. Under sections 120.569(2)(c) and (d), F.S., a petition for administrative hearing must be dismissed by the agency if the petition does not substantially comply with the above requirements or is untimely filed.

This action is final and effective on the date filed with the Clerk of the Department unless a petition is filed in accordance with the above. Upon the timely filing of a petition this order will not be effective until further order of the Department.

This variance constitutes an order of the Department. The applicant has the right to seek judicial review of the order under Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, by the filing of a notice of appeal under Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, with the Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399 3000; and by filing a copy of the notice of appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate district court of appeal. The notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date when the final order is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

PUBLISH: 1/3/10 Okeechobee News





Submitted photo

Winning team

After ending the regular soccer season in a tie between Kassella Construction and Okeechobee Soccer League, both having won 9 and lost 2 and tied 1, Okeechobee Parks and Rec Youth Soccer League (12 and under) held a final play off on Tuesday, Dec. 15. Kassella Construction came out the victor with a score of 8-4. Members of the winning team are: Tyler Selph, Tyler Chouinard, Braydon Kassella, Mackenzie Delacruz, Brian Chapman, Jr., Aaron Rodriguez, Alicia Rodriguez, Gabriel Hernandez, Edwin Garcia, Kayla Martinez, Michael Hawthorne, Osiel Brito, Tony Serrano, Baldemar Medrano. Coach for the team is Bryan Chapman, Asst. Coach is Chris Selph and Team Sponsor is Andy Kassella. Congratulations team!

OCRA signups announced

OCRA will be holding registration for T-Ball, baseball and softball at the sports complex each Saturday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. beginning Jan. 9 through 30. Fees for the spring season will be \$75 for baseball and softball and \$60 for T-ball. All youth ages 5-14 are encouraged to play. For questions, please call 863-634-1437.

Coast Guard Auxiliary to do vessel exams

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

Clock Family Restaurants

863-467-2224 1111 S. Parrott Ave, Okeechobee

Breakfast Specials

Monday - Friday

1. Country Fried Steak, 2 Eggs, Potato & Toast \$5.99
2. Waffle Combo, 2 Eggs, 2 Links & 2 Bacon \$5.89
3. French Toast Combo, 2 Eggs, 2 Links & 2 Bacon \$4.89
4. Touchdown 2 Eggs, 2 Bacon, 2 Links & 2 Pancakes \$4.89
5. Sausage, Gravy and Biscuit \$4.89
6. Breakfast Croissant with Potato \$4.89

Lunch Specials

Turkey Reuben Sandwich with fries • Patty Melt with fries
 1/2 Soup & Sandwich with fries • Grilled Chicken Breast Sandwich with fries • Clock Super Salad

Monday - Friday • \$5.99 Buy your beverage for 99 cents

Specials Served 7 Days 6 AM - 11 PM

2 Dinners - Your Choice \$18.59

1. N.Y. Strip Steak
2. Grilled Tilapia or Salmon
3. Chicken Tenders
4. Grilled Pork Chops
5. Shrimp Scampi Over Pasta
6. Roast Turkey Breast

Served with 2 sides, soup or salad & Pudding or ice cream

Free Automotive Classified Ads!

4 Lines + 8 Photos Online for 2 Weeks Absolutely FREE!

Example: Jeep Liberty 2004, Excellent Condition Sunroof, Automatic, CD, \$0,000 (863) 000-0000

Plus 8 Photos

Place your **FREE AD** online: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at...

www.newszap.com

click on Classifieds

Out with the OLD and Let's start NEW

Basic Viper alarm w/door locks installed \$199 + tax (vehicles vary, please call)

Alpine 6.5" Type R Speakers starting at \$149.00 Not Installed

Tint Special starting at \$170.00 (vehicles vary, please call)

Monday- Friday 8-6

EXTREME TRUCK & TRAILER PERFORMANCE

4443 SW Martin Hwy., Palm City, FL 34990
 877-221-1599 • 772-221-1510
 www.extreme-performance.biz
 http://www.myspace.com/extremeperformance07



RED TAG

EVENT

STILL TIME TO CHECK OFF ANOTHER WISH ON YOUR LIST.

NOW GET 0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS ON MOST '09 VEHICLES¹

2010 CHEVY MALIBU LS

EPA EST. 30 MPG HWY.

LOW-MILEAGE LEASE
FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES

\$229

PER MONTH²
FOR 39 MOS.

\$2,264

DUE AT LEASE SIGNING

INCLUDES SECURITY DEPOSIT, TAX, TITLE,
LICENSE, AND DEALER FEES EXTRA. MILEAGE
CHARGE OF \$.20 PER MILE OVER 39,000 MILES.
AT PARTICIPATING DEALERS ONLY.



2009 CHEVY SILVERADO

HALF-TON CREW AND EXT. CAB

FROM THE FAMILY OF THE MOST DEPENDABLE,
LONGEST-LASTING FULL-SIZE PICKUPS ON THE ROAD³



0% FOR **72** MO

APR FINANCING FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS¹

OR

\$5,500

TOTAL CASH BACK⁴

ON SELECT SILVERADO VEHICLES IN STOCK
THE LONGEST



ONSTAR⁵ - STANDARD FIRST YEAR

- AUTOMATIC CRASH RESPONSE
- STOLEN VEHICLE ASSISTANCE
- VEHICLE DIAGNOSTICS
- REMOTE DOOR UNLOCK

THE BEST COVERAGE IN AMERICA

5-YEAR/100,000 MILE

- TRANSFERABLE POWERTRAIN LIMITED WARRANTY
- COURTESY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
- ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Whichever comes first. See dealer for details.



CHEVYDEALER.COM

¹ Monthly payment is \$13.89 for every \$1,000 financed. Average example down payment: 11%. Some customers will not qualify. Not available with other offers. Take delivery by 1/4/10. ² Example based on survey. Each dealer sets its own price. Your payments may vary. Payments are for a 2010 Malibu LS with an MSRP of \$22,545. 39 monthly payments total \$8,931. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. GMAC must approve lease. Take delivery by 1/4/09. Mileage charge is \$.20/mile over 39,000 miles. Lessee pays for excess wear. Not available with other offers. Residency restrictions apply. ³ Dependability based on longevity: 1981-July 2009 full-size pickup registrations. ⁴ Only on 20% of vehicles available to dealers at program start. Not available with some other offers. See participating dealer for details. Take delivery by 1/4/10. ⁵ Visit onstar.com for coverage map, details, and system limitations. Services vary by model and conditions. ©2009 OnStar. All rights reserved. ©2009 General Motors.