



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 154

Sunday, December 25, 2011

75¢ Plus tax



Happy holidays!

Snow in Florida?
...Page 11

**Bass
tourney
is a
success**



...
Page 8

Lake Levels

13.74 feet

Last Year: 12.54 feet



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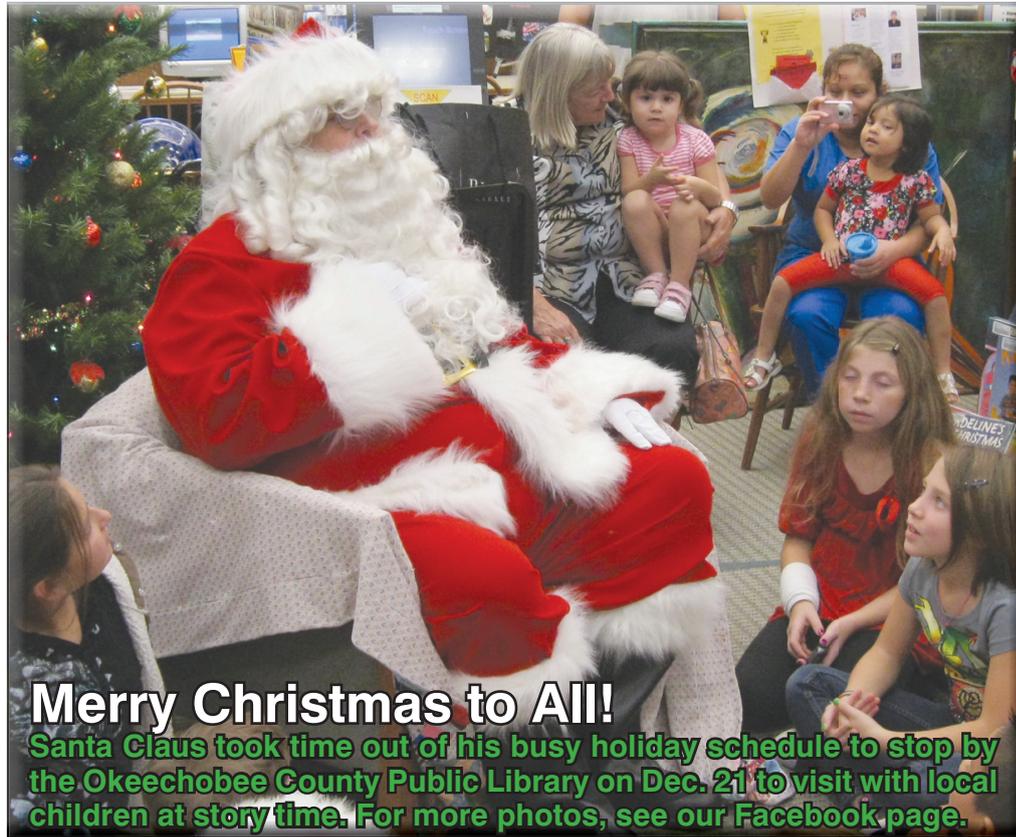
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Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level



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Merry Christmas to All!

Santa Claus took time out of his busy holiday schedule to stop by the Okeechobee County Public Library on Dec. 21 to visit with local children at story time. For more photos, see our Facebook page.

Corps releasing water from lake

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District announced Friday that it will make a series of two water releases from Lake Okeechobee to send additional fresh water into the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

The Corps will make these releases in a pulse-like manner to mimic rainfall events. The releases started on Friday Dec. 23, with another release to begin on Dec. 30. The target flow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary for each release is an average of 450 cubic feet per second (cfs) over each seven-day period, as measured at W.P. Franklin Lock and Dam (S-79) east of Fort Myers.

Minimum freshwater releases to the Caloosahatchee River are critical in maintaining health in the estuary, according to a Corps spokesperson. These low volume releases are expected to prolong the benefits of lowered salinities, reducing impacts and degradation of

the freshwater tapegrass and other submerged aquatic vegetation.

"Improvement of salinity conditions was shown from the last pulse release," said Anthony Rodino, Hydraulic Engineer with the Jacksonville District's Water Management Section, "but due to dry conditions, a continuation of fresh water releases is desirable for the overall benefit of the estuary."

On Friday, the lake stage was 13.74 feet. The lake is currently within the Operational Band of the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (2008 LORS). At current levels, the Corps may make releases up to 450 cfs to the Caloosahatchee Estuary and 200 cfs to the St Lucie.

"We have seen no negative effects on lake stages from the previous pulse release," Mr. Rodino said.

See LAKE — Page 12

Sheriffs oppose additional gambling in Florida

TALLAHASSEE—The Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA) has announced its opposition to the expansion of all forms of gambling in the state.

The FSA release stated that Florida sheriffs in particular oppose an increase in casino-style gambling due to the proven likelihood of increased criminal activity, higher demands on law enforcement resources and detrimental impacts on society.

Okeechobee County Sheriff Paul May said he agrees with views of his fellow sheriffs.

"I fully support the sheriff's association's stand on that," he said.

According to the FSA press release, national studies have demonstrated that casino-style gambling creates additional crime. The increase in crime is often attributed to the influx of tourists and the common practice of promoting free alcohol or drink specials to gamblers.

In addition, the high wages and winnings at stake attract criminals committing burglary, larceny and auto thefts—all of which generally are higher around casino areas, continued the release.

In some cases these crimes are being committed by compulsive gamblers who need to feed their addiction. Criminals prey on tourists and other individuals who have won large amounts of cash.

"The Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA) stands behind Attorney General Pam Bondi in her opposition to the expansion of gam-

See CASINOS — Page 12



Welcome to Brahman Country

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Grand Oaks

Doll house raises money for charity

The residents and staff and Grand Oaks ALF worked together to build a doll house that was raffled off on Dec. 16. The proceeds were donated to charity. Jennifer Dodd, Activities Director at Grand Oaks ALF, presented raffle winner Janelle Thomas with the doll house made by residents and staff.



Okeechobee News/Diana Whitehall

FFA member visits Kiwanis

The Kiwanis meeting for the week was held at The Lodge at the Lake Family Restaurant. In the photo left to right are Clayton Williams who introduced his speaker, James Sharpe, State Vice President of the Florida FFA Association. James has been involved in the FFA organization since the sixth grade and his motto is faith, family and the FFA. He is very knowledgeable about the organization and he presented the Kiwanis members an enlightening speech about the importance of agriculture, especially in Okeechobee.

Local Forecast

Weather forecast for Okeechobee County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast

Christmas Day: Partly sunny, with a high near 82. Calm wind becoming southeast between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. South southeast wind around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. South wind around 5 mph becoming east.

Monday night: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

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Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 83. South southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tuesday night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. West northwest wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. North wind around 5 mph.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Toy drive successful

Ultimate Gamer's Christmas Toy Drive was a huge success collecting over 100 toys for the local Toys for Tots program. Thanks go to our local businesses Ultimate Gamer, Stitch N Post, Radio Shack, Jersey Mikes, Chambers Trucking, Higgins Garage Doors, TD Bank, One Stop Party Shop, and Crech Construction.

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*Winners will be announced in the Okeechobee News. Call for additional details.

Army veteran receives belated awards

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Sometimes earned recognition is a long time coming. That was certainly the case with Army veteran Adam Martin. On Thursday, Dec. 22, he was presented two awards earned for heroism in combat in Iraq several years ago.

He served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 2001 to 2007, achieving the rank of sergeant. From May of 2003 to Aug. of 2004 Sgt. Martin was with the 810th Military Police Company deployed to Kuwait and Iraq. Because of service above and beyond the call of duty he earned the Combat Action Badge and the Iraqi Campaign Medal with Two Service Stars. However, for some reason, he never received those awards while on active duty. They were presented to him by Congressman Tom Rooney in a ceremony at V.F.W. Post 10539 in Okeechobee.

"He works hard for the military," VFW Post Commander Russ Pappy said in introducing Congressman Rooney, who is also an Army veteran.

"Adam Martin's served his country with honor and distinction," stated Congressman Rooney, "and I'm honored to present him

with these awards."

The Congressman recounted the details of Sgt. Martin's heroic action following the explosion of an IED (improvised explosive device) that impacted the vehicle in which he was riding.

On July 4, 2004, as a Military Police Team Leader on a mission escorting a supply convey in Iraq, Sgt. Martin's unit encountered a vehicle born improvised explosive device. After the vehicle exploded, sending shrapnel, fire, smoke and debris everywhere, Sgt. Martin led the convoy to rally a mile east, where they could fully assess injuries and damage.

"Thank you for your service and God bless," Congressman Rooney said.

Sgt. Martin thanked the congressman and said he had waited seven years for the awards. He said Congressman Rooney had worked for a year and half to clear up records so the awards could be presented.

"We live in the greatest nation on earth," Sgt. Martin said, adding that he was proud to have served in the military forces of that nation.

The other military decorations Sgt. Martin earned include the Army Commenda-

tion Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Currently Sgt. Martin is a criminal justice training coordinator at South Florida Community College. Before being called to active duty he was a police officer in Sebring. He discovered he enjoyed training and when he was released from active duty the instructor position at the college was available. The regular schedule and holidays appealed to him. However Sgt. Martin is still a part time police officer in Sebring.

Sgt. Martin comes from a military family. His father is an Army veteran and several other close relatives have served in different branches of the armed services.

While it was definitely Sgt. Martin's day, Congressman Rooney also received recognition. Bobby Schultz, District 11 V. F. W. Commander, presented him with a Distinguished Service Award for his service to the V. F. W. and to veterans in general. The congressman said he couldn't wait to have the award hanging in his office in Washington.

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



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
Sgt. Adam Martin, center, is surrounded by his family. They are, left to right, daughter, Kylee, wife, Amy, daughter Sydney, Sgt. Martin, father, Charles and mother Betty.

Blood donors needed

The need for blood does not take a holiday and an appeal is being issued for all O negative blood donors to please take time to give the gift of life this holiday season.

Many businesses and schools that typically host blood drives are closed this week - making the need for blood donors even greater as we approach the holiday.

O negative is the universal blood type, meaning any patient can receive O negative blood regardless of the recipients blood type. O negative is especially critical for trauma patients, premature babies and emergency surgeries.

Every blood donation is important and has a profound impact on someone's life. In most cases the blood donated today will be transfused into a patient within 48 to 72 hours.

Blood donors can donate at any Florida's Blood Centers branch location or on

any Big Red Bus. Call toll free 1-888-9-DONATE for more information or to make an appointment. If you don't know your blood type, the best way to find out is to donate blood.

Okeechobee upcoming blood drives

The Big Red Bus will be in Okeechobee County for blood drives on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Dec. 27 - Cowboy's 1-6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 28 - Publix, 2-7 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 29 - Blockbuster Video, 1-6 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 31 - Wal Mart, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 6 - Blockbuster Video 2-6 p.m.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda
On Thursday, Dec. 22, Sgt. Adam Martin, left, was presented the Combat Action Badge and Iraqi Campaign Medal with Two Service Stars by Congressman Tom Rooney, right, at a ceremony at V. F. W. Post 10539. The sergeant earned the awards while serving in Iraq in 2003 and 2004 but, for some reason, they were not presented to him at that time.

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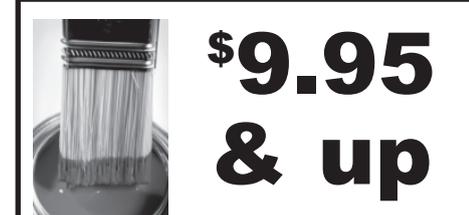
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THEATRE III: "ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS"
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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Coach

- I just heard that Myron Jackson, current football coach for OHS, was asked to resign. I was totally confused. My question: What is our goal for our high school kids? I would think the school administrators, parents and community, in general, would be thrilled that we have a young man that is willing to teach our young people values and skills that will make them a worthy adult. It seems to me, by the actions taken, that our goals for our school is to win football games. I also wonder if the fact that our team has had to be rebuilt from the bottom up could be the reason that not all games are won... I have always respected our school and have been proud to be part of our Okeechobee community but this decision is a hard one to understand.

- I hope the kids get a coach that can give them a successful season. They deserve it.
- Okeechobee has everything it needs to be a powerhouse in its class. First we have a system that brings these kids up from age 7 in OCRA and Pop Warner.

Second we have the talent. Once these kids get to 9th grade they need to be brought along and taught right. The high school coaches need to go down and work some with the OCRA and Pop Warner and see to it that the kids are brought along right! Third, the kids and the parents need to be dedicated to having a winning team!

- Okeechobee once had powerhouse teams. They had some terrific players who went on to play professional football. According to one of those players who has watched this community's football program for years, it started to decline when the middle schools switched to soccer from football. If Pop Warner and OCRA are to fill the gap, then they need to make some changes. Currently most kids who come out of Pop Warner or OCRA can't handle the hard work and challenges of high school football. If the new football coach were willing to work with OCRA and/or Pop Warner to bring one or both of those programs up to where they need to be in order to be a feeder for the high school, maybe that would help.

- Why raise kids for a career in football? Further, soccer really is the game of the new world order. Be that as it may, our society, and culture, will be far better served with well-groomed engineers, medical professionals, scientists, mathematicians; and of course military leaders.

- Wouldn't it be great if our society valued intelligence over athletic ability? If crowds came out to cheer for the Quiz Bowl and the National Honor Society? Football is dangerous. Kids get seriously hurt and sometimes those injuries are permanent. Maybe football's time is over. Maybe we should move on to something else.

Shop With a Cop

- I Love how everyone is helping families in need. Merry Christmas to the Okeechobee County Sheriff's department.

Christmas

- I think people in this town need to read "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" and remember that Christmas is not about the presents or the food or the decorations. Christmas is about the love in your heart. If you have that, you are indeed blessed.

- The boy who donated his toys to the toy drive has the Christmas spirit. Christmas is not about getting, it's about giving to others. And congratulations to his parents, for raising such a fine young man.

- "Christmas is about sacrificing for the good of others and about showing love to all mankind." Hard to do, easy to say. In fact, we as a country have not done that. Pilgrims, remember them? Everyone is taught that they had the best of intentions. The country we call America would not exist, though, if early Americans showed love to all mankind. Even the area around Plymouth Rock would be no more than a small colony, and Texas would still be part of Mexico.

Bank statements

- This is a warning to all bank customers: Open your bank statements and carefully review them as soon as you receive them. I hadn't opened mine and because of that it was weeks before I discovered that I had someone else's statement and some stranger had my statement with all of my banking information on it. The bank discovered the mistake and called me, three weeks after it happened. Imagine what the wrong person could do with your financial information for three weeks. The bank would not tell me how many people this happened to, but one bank employee said it happened to "a lot" of people. Now I have to go through the hassle of having my bank account numbers changed.

Reflections from the pulpit

By Bruce Simpson, pastor

First Methodist Church

When I was a child, Christmas morning began the same every year. We would line up in the hallway that led to the great room, the youngest to the oldest. Brad, Blake, Brent, Charlene, Suzanne, Bryan, me, and Sandra would wait for my dad to put a log on the hot coals in the fire place. Suddenly, the hallway door would open and I would hear the shouts of joy as my brothers and sisters saw their gifts. Christmas was always a joyous time!

Issac Watts wrote the words to the great hymn: "Joy to the World." The first verse is the following:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing. The United Methodist Hymnal Pages 246-247.

This great hymn expresses the mood of Christmas. Joy unspeakable!

The prophet Isaiah would declare the following:

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:2-7 NRSV

Matthew would echo this truth in his writings. In Matthew 1:23 the following words are recorded, "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." KJV Christ came to bring joy into a world filled with darkness. This joy comes from allowing the Savior of the world to enter our everyday lives; as stated above, as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Charles Wesley explains the purpose of Jesus' birth in his hymn, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus."

Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set they people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne. The United Methodist Hymnal Page 196.

This Christmas day receive the gift of love. Make room in your heart for the Savior of the World, Jesus Christ!

Letters to the editor

Hospital care

I want to share a recent opportunity I had which occurred at our local hospital. I had a pacemaker implanted by Dr. Riaz and Dr. M. Garcia. Dr. I. Ahmed was my primary physician and the procedure was done right here in Okeechobee at Raulerson Hospital. I had been encouraged by friends to go to the "east coast" but I chose to stay here and found that decision to be the right one. The surgery was successful and trouble free. My time in the hospital was made almost enjoyable by the friendly and professional care I received which surely assisted my quick recovery, and remaining here in Okeechobee made the whole process easier for our family too.

I was surprised by how many of the nurses I knew. Some of them I taught years ago in First Baptist Church Sunday School where I served for thirty-nine years. It is reassuring for me to know that we have an excellent facility here to answer this critical need and I have added it to my list of things to be thankful for.

May this be a Merry Christmas for you all. It is my wish that all who celebrate this blessed season remember the reason we celebrate: That there was an unmatched gift given over two thousand years ago still bringing peace and joy each year during this season to the millions across the whole world who believe. God is good.

Betty Chandler Williamson

KEECHOBEE NEWS

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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
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- 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.
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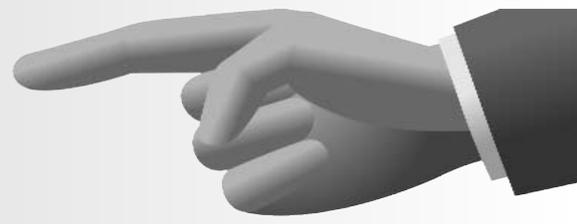
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Community Events

Eagles host Bingo night

On Dec. 27, the Eagles North Aerie, 9985 Hwy. 441 North, will have Bingo starting at 1 p.m. Okeechobee. Proceeds go to F.O.E.4137 community benefit fund.

2012 Miss Rodeo Okeechobee Pageant planned

Applications are being accepted for the 2012 Miss Rodeo Okeechobee Pageant. Queens will be chosen in four age categories: Miss, Miss Teen, Princess and Sweetheart. For an application, stop by Eli's Western Wear or Southern Style for pageant. For more information, email Audrey@missrodeo-okeechobee.org, call 863-801-5258, or visit www.missrodeookeechobee.org. Deadline is Dec. 30.

Call for Past Okeechobee Rodeo Queens

The Okeechobee County Cattlewomen's Association is looking for past rodeo queens and their pageant photos for their website. Please call Audrey 863-801-5258 or email: Audrey@missrodeookeechobee.org with your name, title, year and photo.

Diversity Day celebrated by Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) held its annual Diversity Day at the Okeechobee County Civic Center on Nov. 3. Each year personnel from within NRCS attend a Diversity Day event where diversity and differences are celebrated. Staff from the Okeechobee Field Office hosted the event this year.

Guest speakers at the event included Sonny and Betty Williamson. Mr. and Mrs. Williamson gave an informative and interesting presentation about the history of Okeechobee. Mrs. Williamson spoke about the hardships that people faced when Okeechobee was a fledgling community. She also spoke

Moose Lodge to host New Year's Eve party

The Okeechobee Moose Lodge will be serving a Prime Rib dinner along with a variety show and music by Lisa to help bring in the new year. Tickets are \$25 for a couple and \$15 for single. Tickets may be purchased at the lodge, 1589 NW 36th Street. Tickets are available to the public. Come join us, if not, Happy New Year to everyone! Proceeds will benefit Moose Charities.

Faith Farm to hold New Year's Eve praise and worship

Faith Farm Ministries of Okeechobee, invites all who would come, to a time of praise/prayer/worship on New Year's Eve, **Dec. 31**, at 7 p.m. The facility is located at 7595 N.E. 128th Ave. All area ministers are welcome to come pray for our county and country as 2012 begins. Refreshments will be served. Dress is casual. For info: 863-763-6987 or 863-763-4224.

about the pioneer spirit that it took to forge a town out of an uninhabited wilderness. Mr. Williamson focused on the agricultural community and the different challenges that it has faced. They also showed a video, available for purchase from the Okeechobee Historical Society, detailing the history of Okeechobee, especially its roots in agriculture.

The local NRCS would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Williamson for helping to make the event a success and recommends that anyone who is interested in learning more about Okeechobee's history contact the Okeechobee Historical Society at 863-763-4344.

Eagles North plans New Years Eve Dance

Dec. 31, Eagles North is having a New Years Eve Dance and Music by Our own Cabbage Patch Boys. Food throughout the evening, all you can eat, and a Midnight breakfast for a \$5 donation per person, No take outs on the food. Proceeds from the food go to the Ladies Auxiliary Community Benefit Fund.

Free memory screening

The Alzheimer's Association will hold free memory screenings on Monday, **Jan. 9**, by appointment. Time: 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Visiting Nurse Association, 208 S.E. Park Street. If you are any age, and concerned about memory loss, call 1-800-861-7826, Ext. 501 and make an appointment.

Churches plan Christmas Day services

Christmas Day services will be held at **Victory Baptist Church**, 500 SW 9th St. There will be special music and message for this very special day. Service times are: Sunday morning, 10:45 a.m. and evening at 7 p.m. For more information, call 863-763-0669.

Okeechobee Christian Church, at 3055 S.E. 18th Terrace, will have Christmas Day service at 10:30 a.m.

Okeechobee Presbyterian Church offers Christmas Morning Worship at 10 a.m., with interactive prayers, songs and Scripture—a great chance to worship Christ on Christmas Day, and instruct the family in the meaning of the season! All are welcome. Address: 312 N. Parrott Ave.

Obituaries

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

Marion Beverly Frank, 71

OKEECHOBEE — Marion Beverly Frank, 71, of Buckhead Ridge, passed away Dec. 21, 2011, at the Hamrick Home.

She was born Dec. 3, 1940, in West Palm Beach and came to Buckhead Ridge in 1999. She was a loving wife and mother, homemaker and great cook.

Mrs. Frank was preceded in death by her sister, Pat Wichterman.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Dean Frank of Buckhead Ridge; two daughters, Alvada Creech (Steve) of West Palm Beach and Marjorie Mcadoo (Sam) of Crossville, Tenn.; son, Rudy Frank (Jean) of England; brother, Paul Copeland of Palm Coast; sister, Phyllis Pardue (Michael) of Jupiter; ten grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Friends may sign the guest book at www.BasoOkeechobeeFH.com

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 205 NE 2nd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972.



Sign guestbooks at
<http://www.legacy.com>



Special to the Okeechobee News

Guest speakers at the event were Sonny and Betty Williamson, who gave an informative and interesting presentation about the history of Okeechobee.

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Okeechobee News/D. Hamilton

Dogs for Dogs

On Friday, Dec. 23, Okeechobee purveyor of hot dogs, George Dupont gathered all of the donations from loyal customers and turned them over to Okeechobee Pet Rescue Director of Operations, Belinda Forlifer. Mr. Dupont, whose hot dog stand is outside of Mid-Florida Hardware held his, "Dogs for Dogs" benefit for the third year in a row, amassing four shopping carts overloaded with blankets, toys, towels, food and other pet items along with over \$135 in cash donations.

Looking for a home

Holly has learned to be the perfect companion dog. She is just fantastic! Quite the clown at times, this dog has completed the SPIN prison training program. To read more about the program go www.animal-rescueokeechobee.org. Holly has been obedience trained. She was too energetic for her former working family. She is NOT a couch potato dog! She loves to play and does well with other dogs. Adoption fee is \$175, this includes, spay, vaccinations. She is available for adoption at Okeechobee Humane Society/Pet Rescue on Highway 98, next door to the Livestock Market. For more information, contact Humane Society Pet Rescue Florida, at 863-357-1104. To see more available animals, go to petfinder.com. Homes are also needed to "foster" animals who are waiting for a permanent adoptive home.



"Memory is a loving thing. It lasts the longest day, it can never be spent, never be lent, never be taken away."

Dearest Gordon:

We are thinking of you and miss you. We remember the motto you lived by: Feed a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach him to fish and he eats for a lifetime.

With much love from all your family and Jaimie, Angie, Jeff, Michael, Josh & Neli

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

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CLEWISTON GOLF COURSE

Calendar of Events:

- Dec. 22 - Junior Golf Clinic, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Day: Closed
- Dec. 27 - Ladies First: Until the Ladies Tee Off, Men Off on The Back (Mornings)
- Dec. 28 - Buy Two Sleeves of Titliest - Free Cart for Members, after 2 p.m.
- Dec. 29 - Jr. Golf Clinic, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Pre-High School Ages) | Golf Tournament 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (High School Ages)
- Jan. 1 - City Holiday (Open)
- Jan. 2 - Play All Day for \$25
- Jan. 3 - Ladies First Golf 8:30 a.m. (Ladies Golf Assn.)
- Jan. 5 - Members Play for \$9, Twilight Thu. 4 p.m.
- Jan. 7 - Purchase \$100 or more in Pro Shop get FREE cart
- Jan. 8 - Purchase \$100 or more in Pro Shop get FREE cart
- Jan. 9 - Play All Day for \$25
- Jan. 10 - Ladies First Golf 8:30 a.m. (Ladies Golf Assn.)
- Jan. 12 - Members Play for \$9, CROOKED HOOK 8:30 a.m., Twilight Thu. 4 p.m.

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www.clewiston-fl.gov

Taylor Creek Bass Club hosts final tourney for 2011

The Taylor Creek Bass Club held their classic tournament on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10-11, fishing on our own Lake Okeechobee. Despite the wind and rain, local fishermen took to the lake for the club's final event of the year.

Ernie John took top honors bringing to the scales a two-day total of 30.47 lbs., in second place was Chris Hall with a two-day total of 26.42 lbs., taking third was Vicky Brackin with 23.17 lbs in forth was Darrell Brackin with 23.14 lbs, Geary Adams with 22.96 lbs and Danny Norton with 21.42 lbs.

The event sported a big fish weigh-in for each day. One Saturday, a 5.46 lbs. black bass was brought to the scales to take this honor by Fred Harrison and Carroll Head brought a 7.14 lb lunger to take day-two honors.

The Taylor Creek Bass Club meets at the Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528 on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

Tournaments are held the follow Saturday. New boaters and non-boaters are welcome. For information, please call Dave Stout at 863-478-2255.

The club also sponsors and presents the annual Lee McAllister Memorial Kids Fishing Festival in Okeechobee County.



Special to the Okeechobee News/TCBC
Second place winner Chris Hall with 26.42 lbs



Tying for a fourth place spot was Danny Norton - with 21.42 lbs in two days.



Fourth place winner, Darrell Brackin came in just shy of third place with 23.14 lbs.



Angler Ernie John took the top spot in the two-day event with 30.47 lbs.



Geary Adams finished in the top six with 22.96 lbs. just behind fourth place winner, Darrell Bracklin.



Taking the third place spot was Vicky Brackin bringing in 23.17 lbs at the end of the two-day event.



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Okeechobee Xplosion All Stars sweep competition in Ft. Pierce

Congratulations to Okeechobee's competitive All-Star cheerleading team! Okeechobee Xplosion All-Stars represented Okeechobee county to the highest level on Dec. 10, at Diamond Cheer and Dance, Diamond Show Down in Ft. Pierce.

Three Xplosion All-Star teams competed in the Diamond Showdown. Both the Tiny Sparklers (ages 4-5) and Junior Dynamite level II (ages 14 and under) brought home a first place trophy.

The Mini Flames (ages 5-9) brought home a first place in their division as well as a Level I grand championship.

Xplosion All-star athletes train year round at Okeechobee Xplosion Cheer and Tumbling located at 911 SW Park Street. Look for big things from these athletes as they have just

started their season and will be representing Okeechobee all over the state of Florida from now until April. Follow their season on www.xplosionallstars.weebly.com



Courtesy photo/Okeechobee X-Plosion
The Tiny Sparklers group made up of 4 and 5 year olds are first place winners at this year's Show Down event.



Courtesy photo/Okeechobee X-Plosion
The Mini-Flames, 5-9 year olds were on fire at this year's Diamond Showdown event winning a Level I Grand Championship as well as a first place trophy.



Courtesy photo/Okeechobee X-Plosion
Junior Dynamite Level II brought home a first place trophy at the recent Diamond Cheer and Dance, Show Down in Ft. Pierce.

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1. Limit one loan per household. To qualify for the holiday loan, you must open a new checking account of any kind except Freedom. A 10-month holiday/seasonal loan of \$1,000 with an Annual Percentage Rate of 12.25% would have payments of \$105.69. Other rates and terms available. To qualify for the pre-approved \$1,000 Holiday Loan and the advertised APR, you must provide a pay stub that shows 12 months of continuous employment and a minimum annual income of \$24,000. You must also sign up for direct deposit and establish a payment allocation at the time of application. If you elect not to have direct deposit and the payment allocation, a higher rate will apply. Existing checking account holders or applicants wishing to borrow more than \$1,000 will follow normal credit underwriting guidelines. 2. Credit approval is required. To qualify for the \$77 incentive, you must open a new checking account of any type except Freedom. Opening balances vary by type of checking account opened. Anyone who has held a checking account with MIDFLORIDA in the past will not qualify for the \$77 incentive. To get the \$77 incentive you must sign up for direct deposit (minimum \$500) which must post to an account within 30 days of account opening. \$77 will be deposited to account following first direct deposit transaction. A minimum of 5 debit card transactions must be performed within 30 days of account opening for RT41 accounts to qualify for the incentive. 3. Free photo debit card is available on all checking accounts except Freedom Banking. Limit one free photo debit card per member. Additional photo debit cards will incur a fee. Debit card has no monthly or per-use fee. See fee schedule for details.

*A \$5 minimum savings account is required for membership. Offer valid as of December 3, 2011. Limited time offer that may be cancelled without notice.

Raulerson Hospital to host educational lectures and classes

Raulerson Hospital has been caring for the health needs of Okeechobee for more than 30 years. In addition to the facility's 24/7 patient care, Raulerson Hospital offers free informational classes and lectures about health-related issues for the community's benefit. Some of the free upcoming classes include:

Smoking Cessation Support

Raulerson Hospital Respiratory Therapists will conduct The American Lung Association's, 9-week program Freedom From Smoking® group clinic. The American Lung Association's Freedom From Smoking® (FFS) program is for adults who are ready to quit smoking. Because most people know that smoking is dangerous to their health, the program focuses almost exclusively on how to quit, not why to quit. The meetings held for a 9-week period on Wednesday from 5-6:30 p.m., at the Raulerson Hospital In-Service classroom, features a step-by-step plan for quitting smoking. Each session is designed to help smokers gain control over

their behavior. The clinic format encourages participants to work on the process and problems of quitting both individually and as part of a group. There is no cost to participate in the program and the program works up to the 'quit day' in week four, rather than an instant approach. To register for the Freedom from Smoking support classes call Raulerson Hospital at 863-824-2702.

Better Breathers Support

Raulerson Hospital's Better Breather's Support Classes is new class offering an informal method for sufferers of COPD and other respiratory issues to learn skills to cope with their conditions, options for paying for medicine and treatments, and answers to other questions they may have regarding their respiratory health. The group, lead by Raulerson Hospital Respiratory Therapists, will meet from 6:45-7:45 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, beginning Feb. 1, in the Inservice Classroom at Raulerson Hospital. There is no fee for participating in these support classes. To register for the Better Breathers Support classes call Raulerson Hospital at 824-2702.

Health and Safety Expo planned

The Fifth Annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo is looking for vendors. Vendors can choose booth space inside the Agri Civic Center or set-up outside to share their health and/or safety related service with the community. The Expo will be held Saturday, Jan. 28, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. For information call 763-462-5000 ext. 257.

Shared Services Network meets

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. 13, 2012, in the board room of the Okeechobee County School Board office.

Dine with the Doctor

This medical lecture series is a free opportunity for the public to learn about health-related topics. Dinner is available at 4:30 p.m. for \$5 per person. The speaker and topic vary each month. The lecture begins at 5 p.m. and the physician usually entertains questions, following his/her talk. Dine with the Doctor is held on the last Tuesday of the month. Primary Care Physician Dr. Jose Villarreal will speak at the next Doctor on Jan. 31, 2012. To RSVP: contact Raulerson Hospital's Consult-A-Nurse Service at 1-800-449-8642.

For more information about Raulerson Hospital visit their website at RaulersonHospital.com or call 863-763-2151.

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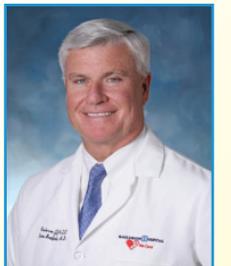
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There's snow in Florida! Flowery groundcover resembles snow

By Dan Culbert

Extension Horticulture Agent

Many long-time residents of our area have never seen snow. It's that white, cold stuff that blankets the ground, making for those old-time holiday postcards typical of northern winter festivities.

Recently, I have received several calls about what some people think looks like a dusting of snow over our local Florida Yards. But on closer inspection, they see it is a creeping, low growing weed that blooms with lots of small light colored flowers. Today's column is about this spreading weed that some are now calling "Florida Snow."

There are several common names for this plant, which, as normal, cause confusion. I've only recently heard this called Florida snow, but feel that it is an inappropriate name. There are some references that disagree, but the ones I trust the most call it Largeflower Pusley, which is almost as difficult to remember as its botanical name, *Richardia grandiflora*. Since the experts believe it to be a native of South America, another name—Rough Mexican Clover—is also deceiving: it is not from Mexico, nor is it a clover relative.

This plant is closely related to a number of pan-tropical plants such as *Gardenia*, *Ixora*, *Penta Firebush* and *Wild Coffee*. This family includes three very common, look-alike weeds with differences in the size of the flowers and the coarseness of the foliage. All of these plants are named *Richardia* for English botanist Richard Richardson (1663-1741).

- Largeflower Pusley/ Largeflower Mexican Clover (*R. grandiflora*) has the largest, showiest flowers of these three plants. The leaves are narrow, tapering sharply to points at both ends, and have a distinct leaf stalk (petiole) The flowers are almost an inch (2cm) long, clustered at tips of stems, and can be white, pink, blue or violet. On cloudy days, the flowers remain unopened.

- Florida Pusley is the only native of the group. It is a common annual weed in lawns,



Courtesy photos/UF/IFAS
"Florida Snow" as it is called is actually related to the *Gardenia* family.

- Tropical Mexican Clover (*R. brasiliensis*) is similar but has much smaller all white flowers and hairy seed capsules—the fruits. The edge of the leaf is smooth, and the thickened roots break easily when pulled. This is a perennial plant with a large distribution range. It is not as commonly a problem weed.

Now that you can distinguish Largeflower Pusley from these other weeds, note that its creeping low growth habit allows it to escape the blades of the mower. Largeflower pusley tolerates temperatures as low as 10°F, and if it does not freeze, it will live on from year to year, slowly spreading and rooting at the nodes. The many flowers also mean it reproduces by seeds as well. Flowering is heaviest from September into January. Small pieces of fleshy taproots left in the ground will resprout, helping single plants form three-foot wide mats.

Collier County Agent Doug Caldwell reports that in time of drought, Largeflower Pusley will not be wilted when all other grass around it is dry and crisp. Is this newest rage in drought-tolerant groundcover? The flowers can also attract butterflies and bees: one enthusiastic butterfly gardener calls this plant Fairy Cups as a result of its attraction as a nectaring plant. And there are even some reports that it is an edible weed,

gardens and pastures. *R. scabra* is Latin for "rough," referring to the stems of the plant. The number of flowers in the cluster is fewer and smaller than these other weeds. It has all white flowers and hairy seed capsules

but I've not found reliable conformation of that idea.

A lawn or pasture can have thousand of flowers capable of dispersing tens of thousands of seeds. Controlling the spread when so many seeds are produced can be difficult. Homeowners may be tempted to hand weed small patches, but since the seed are quite small, even with care many will fall to the ground and come back again in open patches in the turfgrass.

Stopping the spreading snowbank

In a 2007 report, a University of Florida researcher found that none of the herbicides tested had a strong or lasting effect on Largeflower Pusley. Lee County Extension Director Stephen Brown reports that repeated applications of Atrazine are said to provide good control. The effect of Atrazine will not be seen for at least a couple of weeks. In cooler months, homeowners are largely confined to the use of Atrazine or Image plus Atrazine on their St. Augustine lawns.

Atrazine can be found in liquid or granular forms. The liquid formulation gives much better control of largeflower pusley and other weeds than the granular form. Liquids should have a 4.0% concentration. The granular forms are usually blended with fertilizer and sold as Weed & Feed. Granular Atrazine concentrations are usually less than 1%, that are not sufficiently concentrated to manage largeflower pusley. Several applications, several weeks apart would be necessary for no-

ticeable control. Do not use Atrazine when temperature rises above 88°F.

Another herbicide, Mansion [e.g. Metsulfuron methyl] is recommended for, among other things, large-flower pusley control only in St. Augustine grass lawns. (It is currently available at John Deere Landscape stores.) The main problem with using Mansion is the small amount required per application. Mansion should be applied by commercial landscapers that have the equipment and expertise to do this. Read and follow label directions for all herbicides used.

In pastures and in vegetable fields, there is research on which commonly used pasture herbicides worked well on Florida pusley. Such information may be of use in forming weed management plans directed towards largeflower pusley. Preventing seed production is the key management strategy. This weed emerges year round, and this steady emergence can be used to lower the populations in the fallow season between crops. Use labeled site-specific preemergent products during the growing season, as any escapes can be difficult to control. If a post-emergent application is necessary, make the application when the weed is actively growing to **maximize** control.

I've placed more information on our Okeechobee web page, <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu>. If you need additional information on these spreading weeds, please email me at okeechobee@ufl.edu or call 863-763-6469. Local residents can stop by our office at 458 Hwy. 98 North in Okeechobee. Go Gators and Happy Holly Days!

The Okeechobee News will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, 2012



HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Display Advertising

Friday, December 30 @ 3 pm for Wednesday, January 4

The Staff Of The Okeechobee News
Wishes Everyone A Safe
& Happy New Year

Roadwatch

The Department of Transportation advises drivers to drive with caution in areas where road work is underway. Work planned this week includes the following.

US 441 N: From Cemetery Road to Osceola County Line: Maintenance permit project --- Utility crews will be installing fiber optic cable from NE 168th Street to 325 Trail. No lane closures are expected, but motorist should be aware of construction traffic in the area.

US 98: At N.E. 20th Trail: Maintenance project--- Crews will be cleaning ditches along the roadway. No lane closures are anticipated, however motorists should still

drive with caution in this area.

US 98/US 441: From NW 36th Street to NW 9th Street: Maintenance project--- Crews will be edging and sweeping along the sidewalks and curbs in the area. No lane closures are expected however motorists should drive with caution.

SR 70: Over the Kissimmee River: Bridge maintenance project--- This project consists of routine bridge maintenance. Work is expected to be complete in July 2012 and motorists are advised to expect lane closures and possible delays while crews are working.



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March of Dimes holds kick-off for March For Babies 2012

March for Babies 2012 will be held on March 10, 2012.

The March of Dimes held its kick-off for March for Babies 2012 in October. The kick-off lunch was sponsored by Cowboy's BBQ and Steak Company.

Russ Brown, the Chair for March for Babies 2012, was introduced. Mr. Brown is the son of the late Dr. Fred Brown. Mr. Brown has been involved in education in Okeechobee County for many years and now serves as the Provost for the Dixon-Hendry Campus of Indian River State College.

Mr. Brown spoke about his personal reasons for becoming associated with the March of Dimes, saying: "My upbringing has a lot to do with my desire to be in this position. As you know my father spent his life focused on the children of Okeechobee. He touched many lives with his care, compassion, knowledge, and gave his all to cure illness and prevent the onset of medical problems. With these traits instilled in me ... I feel it is extremely important ... to spread the mission and educate as many people as I possibly can regarding the benefits [the March of Dimes] brings about."

Brown concluded by inviting those in at-

tendance: "Join me in giving your best effort to make a difference."

Also at the kick-off, the committee for March for Babies 2012 was announced: Briseida Ayala of Seacoast National Bank, Jennifer Busbin of Okeechobee County, Magi Cable, Karen Cassels of Everglades Elementary, Teresa Chandler of Waste Management, Dr. Patricia Cooper, Kristy Crawford of Center State Bank, Steve Lafferty of Publix Supermarkets, Teresa Lara of Seacoast National Bank, Laura McCall of the Law Office of Cassels & McCall, Pat O'Connor, Sharon Vinson of the Shared Services Network, Betty Williams, and Cheryl Zrioka of Seacoast National Bank.

The kick-off was attended by representatives of many veteran teams, such as Gilbert Chevrolet, Bank of America, Law Office of Cassels & McCall, North Elementary School, Publix Super Markets, Seacoast National Bank, and South Elementary, but there were also new teams represented, such as Farm Bureau of Okeechobee, Florida Community Health Centers, Children's Services Council, and Okeechobee Feed.

Money raised through the event will help fund lifesaving research and educational

programs aimed at helping moms have healthy babies.

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. This mission is achieved through

programs of community service, education, research, and advocacy that save babies. Anyone interested in getting information about sponsorship or team opportunities should call 863-763-3131.

AAA urges seniors to drive safely

The first wave of America's baby boomers turned 65 this year and according to the U.S. Census Bureau, this segment of the population will increase by 75 percent over the next two decades. Research has shown that people now live an average of 7-10 years beyond their safe driving ability. To aid aging drivers and their families, AAA promotes Older Driver Safety Awareness Week to help get the safety conversation started.

"In less than 10 years, one in four licensed drivers will be age 65 and older," said Michele Harris, director, AAA Traffic Safety Culture, The Auto Club Group. "This means that now is the time for seniors to equip themselves with the tools necessary to stay driving as long as safely possible if they choose to do so and for families to have open, honest communication with their aging parent about signs/symptoms that indicate when driving may no longer be an option.

"Most families don't know where to turn for help so by partnering with the American Occupational Therapists Association (AOTA) during Older Driver Safety Awareness Week, AAA hopes to raise visibility of resources and tools that will help families address real and

perceived challenges associated with driving and aging." Conversations about safe driving can evoke strong emotional reactions as concerns about personal independence and managing other day-to-day activities may come into question. AAA encourages seniors to approach these sensitive conversations as opportunities for constructive communication and problem solving.

To help manage the effects of aging on driving ability, AAA, through its Traffic Safety Foundation, recommends the following resources for older drivers:

- AAA Roadwise Review is a computer-based self-screening tool designed to assess a driver's functional abilities important to safe driving.

- CarFit and AAA's Smart Features for Mature Drivers helps to enhance seniors' comfort and safety while driving.

- Senior Defensive Driving courses in the classroom and online provide driver training to help address the changes caused by aging and teach what actions can be taken to be a safer driver.

CASINOS

Continued From Page 1

bling in our state," said FSA president and Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson. "Study after study has confirmed the link between casino gambling and increased crime. While casinos may spur short-term economic gain, the spin-off societal costs from increased criminal victimization and gambling addiction are just too high a price to pay. Expanding casino gambling is a bad deal for Florida, and we applaud our Attorney General for taking a strong stand against any further proliferation of gambling in Florida."

Not only do national studies confirm that gambling brings in additional crime, but the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) reports that 35 percent of callers to their toll-free anonymous HelpLine 1-888-ADMIT-IT said they committed an illegal act to support their habit, continued the release.

Moreover, in casinos where large sums of cash are exchanged frequently organized crime often takes root to use casinos to engage in money laundering, loan sharking, robberies and prostitution.

These situations, stated the release, demand the increased presence of law enforcement. While there are state-level law enforcement agencies and departments, the majority of responses to criminal activity will fall to local law enforcement agencies.

The FSA release goes on to state that sheriffs, who are local constitutional officers funded through county budgets, are not guaranteed to receive any additional resources to cover the necessary increase in service. The ratio of law enforcement officers to constituents will decrease as more tourists visit the area to participate in casino gambling. Sheriffs' deputies will be pulled from routine community patrol to respond to criminal activity brought in by any new casino-style gaming establishment, the release pointed out.

For some, gambling is merely a form of entertainment, but for others it is a true addiction. Gambling addicts struggle to provide for themselves and their families and often will turn to crime to support their habit.

Society will then be left to pick up the pieces of their broken lives, the release stated.

LAKE

Continued From Page 1

The Corps and partner agencies will continue to closely monitor and assess system conditions, and may decrease releases if local basin runoff contributes to flows. For more information on water level and flows data for Lake Okeechobee, visit the Corps' water management page at the following website: <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Divisions/Operations/Branches/MultiProject/WaterMgt/index.htm>.



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State orange crop estimate increases

LAKELAND—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) raised its orange crop forecast for the 2011-2012 season 2 percent Dec. 7, estimating Florida will now produce 150 million boxes. The USDA's initial October estimate pegged the orange crop at 147 million boxes.

"So far, this season has progressed as we expected," said Michael W. Sparks, executive VP/CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual. "This increase wasn't altogether unexpected and we are still comfortable with the USDA's production estimates and the size of the crop."

"Grower returns are firming up and at the current levels they are helping offset the high

production costs we are experiencing due to pest and disease."

Visit www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_state/Florida/Publications/Citrus/cfp/htm for the complete USDA estimate. The USDA makes its initial forecast in October and then revises it monthly until the end of the season in July. The increase came due to a 2 million box increase in the Valencia crop from 73 million to 75 million. Early and mid-season varieties jumped one million to 75 million. For Florida specialty fruit, the USDA predicts 1.1 million boxes of tangelos and 4.5 million boxes of tangerines, down from 4.7 million in October.

The yield from concentrate orange juice (FCOJ) held steady at 1.60 gallons per 90-pound box.

The USDA predicts Florida will harvest 19.4 million boxes of grapefruit in '11-'12, down from the 20.1 million boxes estimated in October. The Florida citrus industry creates a \$9 billion annual economic impact, employing nearly 76,000 people, and covering about 550,000 acres. Founded in 1948 and currently representing nearly 8,000 grower members, Florida Citrus Mutual is the state's largest citrus grower organization.

For more information, visit www/fl-citrusmutual.com.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Alan Jay

FFA delegation bound for China

Michael Witham and Wayne Phillips of the Alan Jay Automotive Network review upcoming travel plans with Charlie Brown, State President of the Florida FFA Association. Charlie, along with many other state FFA officers from all over the U.S., will be embarking soon on a two-week International Leadership Seminar in China. The Alan Jay Automotive Network is proud to be a sponsor of Highlands County's first-ever FFA State President for the upcoming trip.

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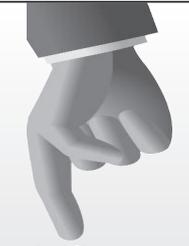
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Gilbert Chevrolet supports OHS Brahman Band

Thanks to Gilbert Chevrolet, Okeechobee High School Brahman Band is one step closer to their fundraising goal. Dec. 10, Gilbert Chevrolet donated \$1,500 to the Brahman Band. They are the only group of High School musicians in Florida selected to play in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. on May 28, 2012. Congressman Tom Rooney nominated the students after seeing their stellar performance at the Inaugural Parade in January of this year. "We are all very proud of the Brahman Band's achievement," said Christa Luna, owner of Gilbert Chevrolet.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Gilbert Chevrolet
 Photo from left to right: Christa Luna, Okeechobee High School Band members, Mr. Laflam-Band Director, Gil Culbreth.

Okeechobee basketball star playing in Kansas

By Charles M. Murphy
 Okeechobee News

Duelle Gore has enjoyed a solid basketball career ever since he became a factor on the Brahman hoops team as an Okeechobee High School junior three years ago.

Since then Gore has improved his game and became one of the better big men on the Treasure Coast during his senior year in 2009-2010.

Today Gore plays for Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. As a freshman, Gore became a starter and finished the year averaging 6.9 points, seven rebounds, 1.2 blocks and 1.1 assists per game. He had a career high 20 points against Southwestern Christian of Oklahoma.

Haskell finished the year at (8-22). This year the Indians are (6-5). They play in the NAIA Midlands Collegiate Athletic Complex.

Haskell has a rich history having been one of the better college football teams in the nation back in the depression years. Members of federally recognized Native American Tribes can attend the college. Close to 140 tribes and Alaska natives attend the college, which has an enrollment of close to 1,000 students per semester. The College is funded by the Bureau of Indian Education.

Gore said the biggest change between college and high school basketball is the talent level. He said he has enjoyed the experience of playing with talented players.

"We are doing pretty well this season. I've worked to extend my outside shooting range and have played a lot of minutes," he told the Okeechobee News.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy
OHS basketball, Duelle Gore is enjoying his college basketball career playing in Kansas.

Gore majors in business education. His younger brother Trewiston Pearce is an up and coming player for the Brahman varsity. Gore said Trewiston has worked very hard to improve his game. "It was good to see him at Thanksgiving and I see a lot of young talent coming out for the Brahmans. He has improved his shot so it is good to see him shoot better," he added.
 His advice to younger players is to keep shooting and keep working.

Merry Christmas



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