



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 31

Sunday, March 11, 2012

75¢ Plus tax

Region could face water shortage

... Page 5

New Parks & Rec director ... Page 8

Hospital hosts 'Dine with the doctor' ... Page 10

Civil Air Patrol learns new technology ... Page 15

Lake Levels

12.84 feet

Last Year: 11.94 feet

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



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Another Pine Ridge Park home burns

By Katrina Elsen
Okeechobee News

"We're afraid to leave. We're afraid to stay," said a Pine Ridge Park resident.

Early Friday morning, a home in their quiet neighborhood burned to the ground—the third such fire in less than two weeks.

The first fire on Feb. 26, was an unoccupied home. The owner lives in another county. The second fire, the following night, destroyed the home of a resident who was away for the weekend. Just a day later, another fire was set to a container next to the outside of a home in that same area, but the residents were home and managed to extinguish the blaze before their home caught fire. Just a few blocks from the structure fires, there were also several suspicious brush fires, according to the Florida Forest Service.

Friday morning's fire on Northeast 30th Terrace destroyed the home next door to one of the earlier fires. The resident, a grandmother who lives alone, said she had not been staying in her home at night since the previous week's fires. Thursday night, she had worked up the courage to sleep in her own home again, but she changed her mind because she was asked to babysit her grandchild at her daughter's home. Around 1:30 a.m. she received a call from a neighbor that her home was on fire.

Friday morning, she surveyed the wreckage of her home with misty eyes.

"So many things lost, so many memories," she sighed. "Thank goodness my insurance papers are at the bank."

See FIRE — Page 12



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

This home on Northeast 30th Terrace was destroyed by fire in the early morning hours of Friday, March 9. The fire came less than two weeks after the home next door burned.



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

It's festival weekend!

The Speckled Perch Festival Parade was held in downtown Okeechobee on Saturday. The festival continues Sunday in Flagler Park. The rodeo is Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. Spectator entrance is off SR 710.



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

Okeechobee area Girl Scouts celebrated 100 Years of Girl Scouting with their entry in the Speckled Perch Festival Parade on Saturday. For more photos, see page 3 and also see the Okeechobee News page on Facebook.



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Okeechobee News/D. Hamilton

Donation presentation

Members of the Pet Rescue Board of Directors including, Rich Young, Director Belinda Forlifer (left center), Jane Dowling and Carey McMullen (right) gathered on Thursday for a check presentation from (right center) Ted Miller of J&S Fish Camp of Okeechobee. Debbie Graves of J&S Fish camp gathered auction items including some from Budweiser for the Feb. 26 fundraiser to benefit the Okeechobee Pet Rescue. The "Dysfunctional Family Reunion" fundraiser event raised \$750 to benefit the homeless pets.

Okeechobee Forecast



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Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. East wind around 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. East wind around 10 mph.
Monday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. East northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Tuesday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. East northeast wind around 5 mph.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Wednesday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

Festival fun

A group of United States Submarine Veterans were among those in the Speckled Perch Festival Parade on Saturday in downtown Okeechobee. The parade, which started at 11 a.m., lasted about 30 minutes. Below, children enjoyed painting flower pots at the Home Depot booth at the festival. The festival continues today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Flagler Park. For more photos online, see the Okeechobee News page on Facebook.



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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!

Coyotes

- The coyotes are not native to Florida. It is believed they are here because fox hunters brought them in for hunts and some of the coyotes were smarter than the hunters. The coyotes have taken the spot in the food chain that was previously occupied by other native predators. They have been a problem for the cattlemen for years. Many people now keep a donkey or a mule with their herds of cattle, goats or miniature horses, because donkeys will fight the coyotes. One thing to remember, if you do get a donkey or mule for this purpose, it should be a female or a gelded male. A jack donkey may be aggressive toward new babies in the herd. I know one person who put a jack donkey with her goats to protect them from coyotes and dogs and the donkey killed the baby goats right after they were born.

Cursive writing

- I was wondering why the schools in Okeechobee do not teach cursive writing. I learned this in second grade. One of my children attends an elementary school and one is at the middle school and neither one has learned to "write."

- They only teach the FCAT test.
- I'm 57 years old, educated up north, and learned 'cursive' in second grade. But I don't use it. I later studied to be a draftsman and learned to 'print' as part of that. I never went back to cursive, and can't say that it has impacted my ability to make a living or publish something I have written. KEYBOARDING has taken the place of cursive writing, and in my opinion is more important than cursive. If you can run a keyboard, you don't NEED to learn cursive. Everything is digital. Very little is even written anymore. Soon it will become where handwriting things is the locale of artists and memo's only. Typing reduces paper waste, saves companies money and time, and also makes getting in touch with someone almost instant.

- Makes me wonder in the case of legal documents where it wants your printed name and signature both, does one print in both places? I can see merit in both points of view because often you can't understand a person's signature at all. If everything can be filled in digitally, what would stop any person from filling in what they wanted to in relation to someone else's business?

- So now when you "sign" legal documents etc. you can just make your mark as in the old days?

Attention parents!

- Your child does deserve a "good" education. If you are unhappy with things at your child's school get involved. Don't let the bureaucrats, who are influenced by private education lobbyists, legislate what is good for your child's education. Know your child's teachers, show up for PTA meetings, join the school advisory committee for your child's school and go to a school board meeting. Ask yourself, how do you think your child will do in front of a computer (aka virtual schools) without a teacher to assist when they have questions. Yes, this kind of education can work for an advanced high school student and certainly college but for the rest this will be a disaster. Be an involved parent as it is the single most important factor in a child's successful education.

School lunch

- My son is in fourth grade at Central Elementary. EVERY TIME he goes into the lunch room, they NEVER have what he wants. I see there is a new menu. How is it fair that my fourth grader never gets what is on the menu? They should have to have enough food for all the kids. This whole week I have had a problem with it. It's a shame they don't know how to make enough food for the whole school. One day, they only had two choices for him. But the bad thing was, one of them was not in eye sight. So when he went though, he had to get the one choice.

- Pack his lunch.
- I would not let my kids eat at school. The school lunches are full of fat and carbohydrates. Pack those sack lunches at home and you will know what your kid is eating.

- I remember back when I was in school that they would run out of certain things, so most of us always packed a lunch (just in case). The school has very tight budgets!! I for one would much rather have my child be limited in his choice of lunch then for them to say cater to whatever he feels like eating on any given day and run short on money needed for textbooks or updating school equipment.

Reflections from the pulpit

By Cesar Marin

Special to the Okeechobee News

In my devotional, one morning the Lord took me to Psalms 33 where I pondered on verse 5 for a while, "He loves whatever is just and good; the unfailing love of the Lord fills the earth." I thought of how beautiful and simple that statement is and why for so many years I fought against it just like many other people do.

Then I made it down to verse 8 "Let the whole world fear the LORD, and let everyone stand in awe of him." Then it all made sense... We really don't want to be standing in awe of God, I mean we say we do but we really don't. Does that mean that I must surrender ALL to Him and be responsible to only Him? YES! Jesus Himself said it. And so there is the problem, many don't even want to be responsible for themselves.

Our society is full of people who do anything and everything that they wish without giving a second thought to consequences as it is. Believe me I came from that world view just 8 short years ago. The out of control numbers of teen pregnancy's, child abuse, disrespectful kids in our school systems and at home, the number of DUI related accidents leading to the deaths of many young adults, divorces, over crowded jails, and the prescription drug epidemic in our community are just the beginning and the evidence that we as people love being in charge of our lives, and failing at it miserably. What I say next may shock some!

I'm speaking to the Church.

We can't blame the people who don't understand the Grace of God anymore than we could blame a blind man for stepping on your shoe. We should know! God calls us

to know. I'll begin with what I believe is the most urgent of all the pressing issues in our blessed Okeechobee.

The division of the churches in this town is an abomination to God, I pray that every Pastor gets the opportunity to read this and feels a deep yearning from God to right the wrongs within themselves about what little they have done to unite the Body of Christ in Okeechobee. Secondly, I didn't grow up in church as a child, I came to know Christ later in my 30s, and I'm surprised to hear so many believers say that they are losing hope because of the direction that our Nation is heading in causing such a rapid moral decline. Let me encourage all of you to read the infallible Word of God, passages like Romans 1:21-32, Matt 24 5-28, Psalm 37, 1 Tim 4:1, 2 Tim 3 & 2 Thes. 2:3 "Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction." Do not be surprised!

Finally a challenge to all of my brothers and sisters in Christ, instead of bickering among one another about the minor details which God Himself is in charge of; let us focus on the central core truths of the Gospel of Christ. I believe unity must come first and then and only then will we see the power of God to salvation pour out like rain in Okeechobee as it is written in Romans 1:16 & 17. I'll end with Psalms 33 verses 20 - 22 "We put our hope in the LORD. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD, for our hope is in you alone".

Urgent need for O negative blood: Donations needed immediately

The need for blood donations, especially O negative, is extremely high. The supply of O Negative blood has reached critically low levels. In order to keep up with the high amount of blood transfusions needed at local hospitals, donations are needed immediately. All O Negative donors are urged to contact Florida's Blood Centers as soon as possible to donate.

While all blood types are currently needed, O Negative blood is the universal blood type - meaning any patient can receive O Negative blood regardless of the recipient's blood type. O Negative is critical for trauma patients, premature babies and emergency surgeries.

O Negative donors can donate at any Florida's Blood Centers location or on any Big Red Bus. Call toll free 1-888-9DONATE for more information or to make an appointment. To find donation locations click [HERE](#).

If you don't know your blood type, the best way to find out is to donate blood!

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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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.

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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
- 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 OF:



February rainfall provides a mix of dry and supply

Water conservation will help sustain the public water supply

Following a record dry January, much of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) from Orlando southwest to Naples continued to experience below-average rainfall in February. Water supplies in the lower east coast, however, received a boost during the month from significant rainfall in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

“While many areas of the District remain below average, water levels are higher than a year ago, when the majority of the region was in drought conditions. Along with recent rainfall, this has helped slow down the normal dry season recession of the regional aquifers,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “We are still concerned about the overall deficit of rainfall and continue to cautiously manage the water in the system because the driest months of the dry season are on the way.”

For February, a total of 1.75 inches of rain fell across the District, representing 74 percent of the average for this time of year, or a deficit of 0.60 inches. Areas along the

southwest coast received only 58 percent of the average rainfall for the month. Eastern Miami-Dade County received 2.04 inches above its normal, or 193 percent of its average.

In an interesting quirk of the calendar according to District meteorologists, a gauge at Palm Beach International Airport recorded 0.87 inches of rain on February 29, setting a record as the wettest Leap Day at that location since at least 1896. The previous record Leap Day at the airport was 0.68 inches of rain in 1976.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 12.98 feet NGVD last week, which is 1.54 feet below its historical average for this time of year but nearly a foot higher than a year ago. The 730-square-mile lake, which serves as a backup water supply for South Florida, received a major boost from October rains and remains above its water shortage management zone.

Looking forward, March contains a short period from about the 15th to the 25th that has historically proved to be the wettest time of the South Florida dry season, according to a District analysis of 30 years of rainfall records. This does not always happen, and below-average rainfall is forecast for the remainder of this year’s dry season. Longer days, more sunlight and higher evapotranspiration also mean that water levels can fall

rapidly in April and May.

As a result, a water shortage warning remains in place across the entire 16-county District. Residents are reminded to conserve water and follow the Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule.

Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule

Adopted by the SFWMD Governing Board in November 2009, the Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule established a permanent two-day-a-week landscape watering schedule throughout the region, with a three-day-a-week provision for some counties.

Utilizing the rule’s flexibility, some city and county governments have adopted alternative landscape irrigation ordinances or emergency actions based on local water demands or system limitations. For many areas, landscape watering schedules remain the same under year-round conservation measures as they were under water shortage restrictions.

Details on landscape irrigation limits are available by contacting your local government or by visiting www.sfwmd.gov/2days.

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Community Service Through Journalism

National Nutrition Month: “get your plate in shape”

By Katie Sebris, Nutrition Educator

Special to the Okeechobee News

March is national nutrition month and this year’s theme is “Get Your Plate in Shape” by eating from all of the food groups everyday, by taking your time to eat meals and snacks, by eating less solid fats, added sugars and sodium and by being physically active. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the standard for nutrition, has some helpful tips to “Get Your Plate in Shape.” The Okeechobee County Health Department will be observing this important health awareness initiative by striving to increase knowledge about healthy eating.

Here are some easy tips to help you in your effort to eat all the food groups everyday; first make half your plate fruits and

vegetables. Second make at least half your grains, whole grains. Third, switch to fat-free or low-fat milk with the same amount of calcium and other nutrients but with less fat. Fourth, vary your protein choices; the protein group consists of a variety of foods like beans, seafood, nuts, lean meats, eggs and poultry.

Some additional tips to have healthy eating habits are to cut back on sodium and empty calories from solid fats and added sugars. An easy way to cut back on sodium and empty calories is to drink more water and eat fewer foods that are high in saturated fats, added sugars and sodium; cooking foods in oils is a healthier alternative than cooking foods in solid fats. Also, take the time to eat your meals and snacks by preparing more meals at home and by choosing

low calorie menu options at restaurants.

Another tip is to be physically active. The recommended amount of physical activity for children and teens is at least 60 minutes per day and the recommended amount for adults is 30 minutes five days per week.

March is the month to “Get Your Plate in Shape” by eating all the food groups’ everyday; by cutting back on solid fats, added sugars and sodium and by being physically active. Take time this month to evaluate your eating habits and make changes towards a healthier lifestyle. The time that it takes to make changes toward healthy eating is nothing compared to the way you will feel by having a healthy lifestyle.

* Information from article was taken from education materials on eatright.org

Waterfest FUN Festival planned for March 24-25

The Okeechobee County Tourist Development Council, the Bassmasters Elite Series and the “O.L. Raulerson, Jr.” BBQ have joined to create the “Waterfest F.U.N. Festival.” This event is to be held at the Scott Driver Pavilion, located at 10101 State Road 78 West Okeechobee.

The dates of the festival are Saturday, **March 24**, and Sunday, March 25. Festival opens at 10 a.m., and the weigh-in is at 3 p.m. each day. The festival will have educational activities, entertainment, Florida storytellers, Historical displays, outdoor sports demonstrations and a Barbecue Competition.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Just say no

This anti-smoking message was seen on a fence at Okeechobee High School.

Community Events

Cypress Hut Eagles to hold fried chicken dinner

On Sunday, **March 11**, the Cypress Hut Eagles, at 4701 S.E. Hwy. 441., will hold a fried chicken dinner from 1-5 p.m., for \$6 per dinner. The public is welcome. Proceeds will go to the Community Charity fund.

Lodge to hold

Sunday breakfast

On Sunday, **March 11**, the Masonic Lodge, at 107 N.W. 5th St., will hold a full-menu breakfast from 8-11 a.m., for a \$6 donation (kids 12 and under \$3). The public is welcome, and carryouts are available. Proceeds go to Okeechobee Youth Programs.

Moose 1753 to hold

Sunday breakfast

On Sunday, **March 11**, the Moose 1753, at 159 N.W. 36th St., will hold a full-menu breakfast from 8-11 a.m. for a \$5 donation. Proceeds will benefit the Loom Charity fund. Call Lee, 863-824-0911, for information.

Freedom Outreach to host fishing tournament

The Freedom Outreach fishing tournaments will be held on Sunday, **March 11**, April 15, May 13, June 10, July 15, Aug. 12 and the championship on Sept. 9 (\$120). The \$80 (cash only) entry fee includes the big fish pot and championship fund. Must fish at least four tournaments to be in the championship event! All tournaments will be held at Okee-Tantie Marina Boat Ramp from safe light until 2 p.m. Food and drinks free at weigh in. Please call 561-719-5989 or 863-634-8127 to register or with questions.

VFW North hosts dinner night

North VFW Post #4423, 300 NW 34th St will host a Pot Roast Dinner prepared by Lori on Sunday 2-4 p.m. for a donation of \$6.50. There will also be karaoke hosted by Lisa 6-9 p.m. Donations go towards Veteran Assistance Programs.

Library to host Rural

Routes to Employment

Come to the Okeechobee County Public Library, 206 S.W. 16th Street, Okeechobee, for the Rural Routes to Employment Project, funded by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, operated by The Center for Social Capital. The Okeechobee Employment Initiative on Tuesday, **March 13 and 14**, 9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m., starts off with a two-day program including an overview on day one and another workshop on Labor Market vs. Customizing Job Development and more on day two. To register contact Jessie Vasquez at jvasquez@hpsfl.org or 863-801-9204.

Shrine Club to host Spaghetti dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, S.R. 78 W., members will host their Tuesday evening **March 13**, Spaghetti dinner from 4 until 7 p.m. A no-smoking atmosphere with music starting at 5 until 8 p.m. Donation is just \$6 per person. For information call the club at 863-763-3378 or Mac Simpson at 863-484-0427 or Kip Gardner at 863-610-6659.

Cypress Eagles to hold dinner

On Tuesday, **March 13**, the Cypress Hut Eagles Women's Auxiliary at 4701 S.E. Hwy. 441, will hold a dinner starting at 5 p.m. All proceeds go to the Community Charity Fund.

Amateur Radio Club plans meeting

The Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club will hold its next meeting on Monday, **March 13**, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the regular place, the Classroom of the Red Cross building on North Parrott Ave. All club members, any local ham operators with interest in the club and anyone in the Okeechobee area with an interest in ham radio are urged to attend. For more information about the club or meeting, please contact Tom Timmons, Club President at 863-467-5435 and leave a message.

Free Diabetes education program

A seminar - Living with Diabetes will be presented by Wanda Haas, RN CDE at Grand Oaks Assisted Living Community, 203 SE Second Street, located in the Activities Room at 1:30 p.m. on **March 14**. The seminar is offered by the Visiting Nurses Association.

ODEC meeting announced

The Okeechobee Democratic Executive Committee will be having its monthly meeting on Thursday, **March 15**, in the Beef O'Brady's meeting room beginning at 6 p.m. Any interested Democrats are invited to attend. Any Democrat who is interested in being a delegate to the 2012 State Convention and the 2012 National Convention needs to attend this meeting in order to submit their filing form to be considered for becoming a delegate.

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B.R.A.T. Club plans dance

The Okeechobee B.R.A.T. (Building Relationships Among Teens) Club will host a Teen Dance Pajama Party at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus on Friday, **March 16**, from 7 to 10 p.m. for ages 12 to 16. Cost is \$5 per person, which includes pizza, soda and chips. For more information, call Teresa Chandler at 863-801-4996.

CenterState plans grand opening event

CenterState's Okeechobee branch will host a grand opening event on Friday, **March 16** from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. The event will feature True Country 100.9 DJs, free barbecue and beverages and an opportunity to enter the "Life's a Breeze Contest for a chance to win a 2012 Mustang convertible. Attendees will be able to find out more about the bank's services. For more information, please call Tabitha Trent at 863-763-5573.

YF&R to host annual Scholarship BBQ

The Okeechobee County Farm Bureau will hold their 30th Annual YF&R Scholarship BBQ on Saturday, **March 17**, at the Agri - Civic Center. The BBQ will run from 4 to 7 p.m. All proceeds will go toward the YF&R Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased at the Farm Bureau Office. Tickets can also be purchased at the 4-H concession stand March 13-18 and on the day of the BBQ. For more information call 863-763-3101.

Stroke and Osteoporosis screenings offered

Residents living in and around the Lake Okeechobee region can be screened to reduce the risk of stroke or bone fracture. Okeechobee Christian Church, 3055 S.E. 18th Terrace, will host Life Line Screening on Monday, **March 19**. For more information or to schedule a screening, please call 1-877-237-1287.

Obituaries

Submit obituaries to the Okeechobee News by emailing obits@newszap.com. Customers may also request photos and links to online guest books. A link to the obituaries is available at www.newszap.com

Mary Hannah Fitzgerald Kinsey

OKEECHOBEE — Mrs. Kinsey, 64, of Okeechobee, passed away March 4, 2012, in Orlando Regional Medical Center.

She was retired from hospital accounting and the Fort Myers News Press.

Born on Oct. 10, 1947, in Watertown, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Thomas P. Fitzgerald and the late Helen Knapp Fitzgerald, and step-daughter of the late Phyllis Fitzgerald. She married Robert E. Kinsey on Feb. 20, 2000, in Okeechobee where she enjoyed boating, friends, and retirement.

Mary is survived by her husband, Bob; son, Todd Robert Fitzgerald of Cape Coral, Fla.; a brother, Timothy Fitzgerald of Albany, N.Y.; sisters, Sarah Fitzgerald Collins of Watertown, N.Y., and Maureen Gaylor of Ft. Myers, Fla.; a step-brother, Richard Schneider of Dexter, N.Y.; one beautiful granddaughter, Brooke Fitzgerald; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a brother, Thomas P. Fitzgerald III; and a sister, Candace N. Spink. Her beloved dog JR also passed on March 4th to travel this journey with her.

Mary loved NASCAR, football and all animals. She was an avid reader and had such a quick wit.

A summer burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown, N.Y., is planned, so she may rest with her mother, brother, and sister.

Rena Plants, 96

OKEECHOBEE — Rena Plants, age 96, of Okeechobee, and formerly of Grand Rapids, Mich., passed away Sunday, Feb. 26, 2012, after a brief illness.

She passed away peacefully at her residence under Hospice Care.

She is survived by her children; Forrest and Judy Plants of Okeechobee, FL, Karl and Pearl Fohlbrook of Lowell, Mich., Vernon and Sue Plants of LaBelle, Fla., 12 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Cremation has taken place and private services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, P.O. Box 1548, Okeechobee, Florida 34973.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, Florida. Online condolences may be made at www.buxton-funeralhome.com.

Annual Coed Softball Tournament

All proceeds will go towards the **Devon Venables Memorial Scholarship.**

Donations can be made directly to the **Okeechobee Education Foundation** with a notation in the "memo" of your check

"Devon Venables Memorial Scholarship"

For more information please contact
Kim Hilliard
863-634-3620 or
Jill Rogers
863-634-0870



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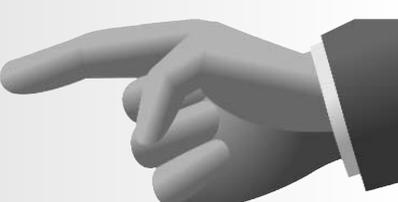
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New parks and rec director really enjoys his job

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

"This is a great profession" said Albie Scoggins, the county's newly hired director of parks and recreation. "We do good things for people." He is looking forward to moving to Okeechobee and becoming part of the community.

Mr. Scoggins refers to himself as a "recovering baseball player." He played baseball in high school and at Indian River State College and the University of Florida. He had plans to play professional baseball, but illness and injury prevented that from happening. So he became the next best thing, a recreation manager, where he says he has tried to pass along to young people what he has learned.

Mr. Scoggins spent 14 years with the St.



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Albie Scoggins recently took over as head of the Okeechobee County Parks and Recreation Department.

Lucie County Department of Leisure Services. His duties included managing Thomas J. White Stadium, the spring training home of the New York Mets. After that he served as parks and recreation director for the City of Stuart for 10 years. The budget cuts of 2010 forced Stuart to downsize their parks and recreation program. So for the 21 months prior to coming to Okeechobee County Mr. Scoggins worked as a certified personal trainer.

Mr. Scoggins has hit the ground running, getting here just in time to work on the budget. He says that when a

new person takes over a position it is a good time to look at how things are being done and to look at the fees and the possible addition or deletion of programs. He spoke highly of his predecessor, Darrell Einfinger,

the county's first director of parks and recreation.

"I have a staff that is top notch," Mr. Scoggins said. He hopes to learn from them and keep making improvements. In addition to parks and recreation Mr. Scoggins is respon-

sible for the agri-civic center, Okee Tantie Campground and Marina and the Tourist Development Council.

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

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Year of the Girl

At their meeting on Tuesday, March 6, the Okeechobee City Council proclaimed 2012 to be the "Year of the Girl" in honor of the one hundredth anniversary of the Girl Scouts. Members of Girl Scout Troop 60599 and Daisy Troop 60011 present for the ceremony were, left to right, leader Laurie Pharr, Raylee Coleman, Lindsay Lipscomb, Maliah Wright, Lilly Maxwell, Candace McGlammory, Mamie McCoy, Amber Hull, Brittany McCoy, Alysa Osterman and former Girl Scout, Betty Williamson.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/YMS

Students of the Week

Yearling Middle School is pleased to announce the names of students of the week for the first week in March including: (front left sitting Mary McGehee, Alix Blankenship; left flag pole standing, Javier Hernandez; right Flag Pole standing, James Cunningham; Front right sitting Josey Pearce and Jacie Harvey.

Okeechobee Rotary plans Annual L.O.S.T. Ride

Anyone interested in cycling or walking is invited to ninth annual L.O.S.T. Ride on **March 31**, at 8 a.m. The L.O.S.T. (Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail) is a great trek for people of all ages, skills and abilities. With rides of 12, 20, 40 and 54 miles as well as a 5K walk there is something for everyone. The L.O.S.T. trail itself is world-renowned for its stunning vistas and numerous forms of wildlife. It has become a world-wide destination for bird-watching and world class fishing. This great fundraising event promises to be fun for all. All entrants are provided a goody-bag with a commemorative t-shirt and much more. Also, there is a BBQ meal provided afterwards for all entrants as well as a 50/50 and a raffle with a of ton of great prizes. All proceeds benefit the charities of the Rotary Club of Okeechobee. For more information visit www.okeechobeerotary.org or email OkeechobeeRotary@live.com or call 928-4-ROTARY.



Special to the Okeechobee News/OMS

Students of the Week

Osceola Students of the Week for March 8, jumped in the back of Mr. Downing's truck, and look what they found- a statue? a bird bath? a former student of the week? We don't know, but we are proud of the students who made this week's list. Congratulations to Audra Meara, Shamir Ali Memon, Dania Juarez, Aleene Romero, Jose Martinez, Crisslin Wooley, Robert Bigford, Alexa Delgado and Matteo Hernandez.



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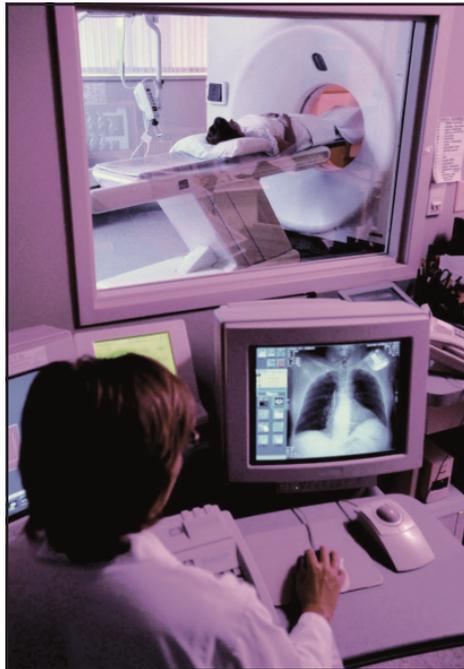
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Raulerson Radiologist to explain diagnostic imaging

At some point in their lives many Americans will utilize Radiology equipment to assist with their medical needs. While X-rays, MRIs, Ultrasounds and other imaging devices are now common words in our society's vocabulary, it is fascinating to reflect on just what insight about our bodies this amazing equipment provides. Diagnostic imaging is performed on patients everyday to help physicians treat patients. The results of these imaging studies can be life-changing for patients.

This month Raulerson Hospital is hosting a very special Dine with the Doctor event on Tuesday, March 27. The guest speaker will be Raulerson Hospital's Radiologist Dr. Alex Vennos. Dr. Vennos will discuss the 5 imaging modalities offered at Raulerson Hospital; MRI, CT Scan, Ultrasound, Digital Mammography and Nuclear Medicine. Raulerson Hospital is accredited in all five of these modalities by the American College of Radiology. Accompanying Dr. Vennos will be Raulerson Hospital's Director of Radiology and the Chief Technologist. The Raulerson Radiology team will answer questions from the audience and even offer a brief tour of the imaging equipment. Make plans to join Raulerson Hospital for March's Dine with the Doctor Community lecture and find out everything you've wanted to know about how Radiology works. The dinner costs \$5



Special to the Okeechobee News
The March 27 'Dine with the Doctor' topic will be diagnostic imaging.

per person and begins at 4:30 p.m. The lecture is free and begins at 5 p.m. Attendees must RSVP. To RSVP, contact 863-763-9228 and select "register for a hospital sponsored class or event."



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

Officer of the Year

At the Tuesday, March 6, meeting of the Okeechobee City Council, Police Chief Denny Davis, left, named Ryan Holroyd, right, the Officer of the Year.

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OFFICIAL NOTICE of the Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc. ANNUAL MEETING

March 24, 2011

Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s 2012 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at Osceola Middle School in Okeechobee, Florida. The purpose of the meeting being to elect trustees, vote on proposed By-law changes, and hear annual officers' reports. Registration, Entertainment and Voting will begin at 8:00 a.m. The Business Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

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FIRE

Continued From Page 1

While insurance may help replace her home and furnishings, so many things consumed by the fire simply cannot be replaced, she said. A lifetime of mementoes went up in flames.

The woman, who has been a full-time resident of Pine Ridge Park for 14 years, said until the recent fires, she always felt safe in her neighborhood. She said she has many friends in the area and they never had any trouble before.

As she surveyed the smoldering remains, Fire Marshals carefully examined the home, removing fire safes and a gun that had belonged to her late husband. "I never touched the gun," she said. "I was afraid to touch it. It wasn't even loaded."

All of her clothes are gone, even a special dress she planned to wear to a wedding.

She said the Red Cross helped her with emergency funds so she could buy clothes and she is staying at her daughter's house.

She does not understand why anyone would destroy her home.

"What is someone doing this?" she asked. "Everybody is scared."

The neighbors, many of whom are winter residents, are on edge.

"I woke up and looked out the window and saw a great ball of fire," said a man who lives nearby. He suspects the arsonist might live in the area. "Somebody had to know she wasn't home," he observed.

Most of the residents only winter in Okeechobee, he continued. Soon it will be

time for them to head back north. If they leave, they wonder what they will return to.

"We don't know what we are going to do," he said.

State Fire Marshal Travis Denson said arson is suspected in the Pine Ridge Park fires. He said the investigation could take weeks or months. He advised residents to leave their porch lights and outside lights on at night, and to stay vigilant.

"You know who belongs here and who doesn't," he said. "Watch out for anything suspicious."

Signs posted near the burned homes state: "Officials suspect this fire was a result of ARSON. Cash rewards. Rewards of up to \$5,000 and more are being offered from a fund by the Florida Advisory Committee on Arson Prevention for information leading to the identification of persons responsible for this fire. Call: Arson Control 1-877-662-7766 toll free, or 863-763-3117 or 561-640-6204 or e-mail: facap.org."

Another fire in Okeechobee County is also under investigation by the State Fire Marshal's Office. On March 7 at 11 a.m., Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue responded to a travel trailer fire on Northeast Sixth Street. The fire was first reported as a brush fire. En route, fire/rescue was advised that a travel trailer had already burned and was completely destroyed. Upon arrival, they found several trees on fire and the fire was impinging on a semi trailer. They also found a travel trailer completely burned, tires on fire, an airboat, three wheeler and trailer, another boat, several LP tanks and other items they could not identify on fire. Approximately 3,500 gallons of water was used to extinguish the fire. Estimated value of the burned

items is \$20,000.

The American Red Cross Okeechobee Chapter has assisted the victims of the recent fires. Red Cross volunteers who respond to the scene of area fires are members of the Chapter's Disaster Action Team, a group of specially trained volunteers who respond to the scene of a local disaster when called

upon at any time of the day or night.

To make a financial donation to your local Red Cross to help people affected by house fires and other disasters here in the United States and around the world, people can click, call or text - visit www.pbtcrcdross.org, call 800-833-0599, or text the word RED-CROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.



Special to the Okeechobee News

A reader shared this photo of the structure fire in Pine Ridge Park that lit up the night sky early Friday morning.



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WEDNESDAYS/THURSDAYS

2:15PM • OKEECHOBEE
HAMPTON INN
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Casino Departure 7:30pm

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*55+ and must be a Player's Club member. Items subject to change, available while supplies last.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/OAA

Signs of the times

Okeechobee Achievement Academy Student Council Members (pictured from left to right - top photo) Ashley Robbins, Dustin Jandro, Marc Tijerina, and Wade Micco show school pride in the new banners on display in the OAA Cafe! These beautiful banners contain inspirational quotes that were selected by the OAA student body as the sayings they chose to motivate them toward their goals for success in the real world!



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Auto, V8, A/C, Leather.

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Man avoids scam by ignoring text message

By Eric Kopp
Okeechobee News

A local man wisely avoided becoming the victim of a telephone scam by simply not returning the call. Two other people, however, didn't and are now out several hundred dollars each.

The man, who asked that his identity not be revealed, said he received several of the calls during the early morning hours on Monday and Tuesday, March 6 and 7.

"There was an in-box message on my phone that said 'your card is blocked. Call this number to open your card.' I never called," he said.

He said two things tipped him off that this was a scam: he received the calls between 2 and 4 a.m.; and, he doesn't do business with the bank he was instructed to call.

But two other area citizens returned the call and when they entered their banking information their accounts were automatically debited \$489.27 each.

The gentleman said he also received another notification that his account was frozen, but this time it purportedly came from an Okeechobee bank where he does business. His next call was to his bank, which is exactly what he should have done.

"We contacted our bank and they told us this was a scam," he said.

His bank also told him if something is wrong, they will send him a letter and he can then come to the bank to take care of the matter.

Detective Bill Saum, of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), said the scammers are targeting cell phones and the calls are actually text messages. The messages tell the potential victim that their bank account has been frozen, then gives them a number to call to activate their account.

Detective Saum said when the messages were traced they led to a company in Girona, Spain. The investigator said the name of the company is Cajamar Caja.

He then went on to offer a simple suggestion on how to handle these calls: "Ask who you're talking to, then hang up and look up your bank's phone number in the phone book. Then, call the bank and ask to speak to that person. Better yet, get in your car and go to the bank and ask to speak to that person."

Another way to handle suspicious phone calls, he continued, is if you don't recognize the phone number then don't answer it and let the call go to your voice mail.

"Remember," he urged, "never give out your Social Security number, your bank account numbers, your debit or credit card numbers or any information that can identify you."

But, if you do run into a problem, don't hesitate to call the police department at 863-763-5521.

Which is just what the gentleman did who refused to fall for the scam.

"I learned a long time ago not to call them," he said.

Friends of the Library seek new members

The Friends of the Library for the Okeechobee County Library are looking for new and returning members. The friends assist the public library by sponsoring the Florida Humanities Programs in the winter, funding children's programs, donating to the teen room and purchasing books and DVDs for the library. They raise funds by holding twice annual used book sales, selling book bags and membership fees. The membership donations are as little as \$5 a year and application cards may be picked up at the library front desk. Members receive a 10 percent discount on books purchased at our book sales. The next book sale is scheduled for **March 28 to March 31**.

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Okeechobee COUNTY FAIR
It's A Family Fair
Tue March 13th -
Sun March 18th
2012

Tuesday March 13th
Fair Opens 5 PM
\$1 Night with Fireworks
(\$1 Rides, \$1 Admission, & \$1 Select Food Items ALL Night)
Dairy Show - 5 PM
Fireworks Show - 7:30 PM

Wednesday March 14th
Fair Opens 5 PM
Student Night - \$2 Gate Admission for Students
Swine Showmanship - 5 PM
Okeechobee Idol Prelims Contest - 7 PM
- Sign up at the entertainment tent the day of the event.

Thursday March 15th
Fair Opens 5 PM
Food Drive Night
(Bring 3 cans of food - \$2 Gate Admission)
Swine Show - 5 PM
Talent Show - 7 PM
- Sign up at the entertainment tent the day of the event.

Friday March 16th
Fair Opens 5 PM
TGIF Night
\$5 Gate Admission
Steer Show - 3 PM
Beef Breeding Show - 1 Hour After Steer Show Ends
Equine Exhibitions - 5 PM
Jackpot Barrel Races - 6:30 PM
Okeechobee Idol Finals - 7 PM

Heroes / Livestock Sale Day
\$5 Gate Admission
Armbands \$25 - Good All Day
Beef Fitting & Grooming Show - 9 AM
Horse Exhibitions - 10:30 AM
1-D, 2-D, 3-D, & 4-D Barrel Racing - 1 PM
Youth Livestock Sale - 2 PM
(Sale Order: Dairy, Steers, Beef Breeding, Swine, Lambs, Goats)
Jackie Steil Concert - 3 PM & 6 PM
Heroes (Cops vs Firemen) Competition - 7 PM

Saturday March 17th
Fair Opens 12 Noon
Family Day at the Races
\$5 Gate Admission
(1 Free Child Admission Per Paying Adult)

Sunday March 18th
Fair Opens 12 Noon

Daily Entertainment
Lucky Bob Extreme Juggling & Magic - Time Posted
DJ Ken Keller of WOKC - DJ at Large
Exotic Animal Show - Times posted
Pig Talent Show as featured on Jay Leno - Times posted
"Motors at the Midway" Displays Each Day
Monster Truck Races (additional fee applies)

Dates, times, & prices subject to change without notice.
www.okeechobeeountyfair.com

MIDWAY PROMOTIONAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday - March 13th
Fair Opens 5 PM
Armbands \$20 Good All Night

Wednesday - March 14th
Fair Opens 5 PM
Armbands \$25 Good All Night

Thurs - March 15th
Fair Opens 5 PM
Armbands \$25 Good All Night

Friday - March 16th
Fair Opens 5 PM
Armbands \$25 Good All Night

Saturday - March 17th
Fair Opens 12 Noon
Armbands \$25 Good All Day

Sunday - March 18th
Fair Opens 12 Noon
Armbands \$25 Good All Day

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Civil Air Patrol learns new technology

The Okeechobee Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol has entered the electronic age. While technology, radio communication and computers have always been a part of the Cadet Program at the Okeechobee Squadron, this past month, the Cadets have been introduced to radio electronics as part of the Squadrons "STEM" Program. Last month each Cadet was supplied with the parts to build their very own Crystal Radio, a very simple AM receiver which gets its power directly from the Radio Waves. Imagine that, no batteries required!



Special to the Okeechobee News/CAP C/MS William Holiday soldering with C/A Trevor Berry and C. Dillon Berry looking on (recent Picture).

Under the expert instruction of Lt. Greg Gernat the Squadron Communication Office and Lt. Allen Gray one of the Squadron's Mission Radio Operators, the Cadets were guided through the hands-on construction of their very own Crystal Radios. Upon successful completion of the Crystal Radio Project (all of which worked) this past week, the Cadets were introduced to State of Art, Integrated Circuit Technology with a group building project of a Short Wave Radio kit. This project was a lot more complicated and required following written instructions, identifying electrical components. They took turns selecting and soldering the correct component in the correct location on the printed circuit board, so the radio worked flawlessly.

Captain Papasso, Squadron Commander explains the success of these projects and in general the Cadets in the Okeechobee Composite Squadron is a direct result of the Squadrons effort and respect for both the Cadet Program and the individual Cadets. While the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program is based upon Air Force Lessons and Protocols in Leadership, Self-Discipline, Safety and Aerospace Education, the program also allows each unit the flexibility to tailor itself to the needs of the Cadets. In recent years, the Okeechobee Squadron Leaders realized many of the Cadets were eager to reach outside normal learning circles and willing to embrace science and technology if it were presented in a fun, hands-on manner. The result was the Squadron discovering that "STEM" (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills could easily be

incorporated and taught within the CAP Aerospace Education and Communications fields by taking it from text book teaching to hands on applications. The results have been amazing and the electronics program is the final step in fully integrating STEM into the Okeechobee Cadet Program.

Last year thanks to the support and a successful partnership with the Okeechobee Model Airplane Club, the Okeechobee Squadron developed a CAP Model Airplane Program which received national recognition and was recently adopted by Florida Wing as part of their Aerospace Program. It was also the first introduction of a STEM-based program in the Squadron as well as the first of many fantastic learning adventures for the Okeechobee Cadets through the building and flying of Model Aircraft. Lt. Joe Ragon, the Squadron Deputy Commander explains that thanks to the high standards set by the Air Force for Cadets and the emphasis of STEM skills at the Okeechobee Squadron Level, our Cadets here in Okeechobee are light years ahead of others in self confidence and now also regularly self-engage in STEM areas which will allow them to achieving their life's goals.

If you are interested in the Civil Air Patrol Program or the Model Airplane Club, please visit our joint booth in the main tent at the Okeechobee County Fair. Both organizations will be there to answer questions; some of these projects will be on display as well as lots of aircraft to see. If you are an educator or part of a youth organization, please ask

about our out-reach programs. Also please ask about our joint efforts to secure a public Radio Control Park in Okeechobee County where families, educators and youth groups can gather, learn and enjoy the Radio Controlled Hobbies together.



Special to the Okeechobee News/CAP CAP Model Aviation Graduating class (file picture).

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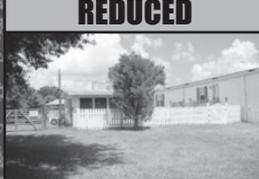
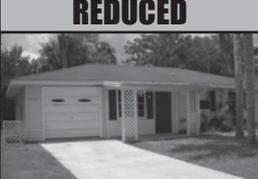
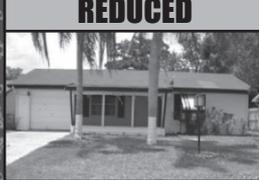
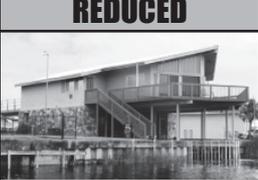


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	REDUCED 5011-M: Four Seasons 2006, 2br/2ba MH on 1/2 acre. Great location for east coast commuters! Fenced yard with 4 sheds, wooden front porch. Motivated seller, make an offer! \$78,000 NOW \$65,000 MLS #204129		REDUCED 3003-H: King's Bay - 2 Bd 2 bath, screened porch, concrete driveway. Easy to show. HOA includes pool, clubhouse, tennis court, and lawn. \$54,000 NOW \$47,900 MLS #205169
	REDUCED 3004-H: King's Bay - 2 Bedroom 2 bath, enclosed back porch and screened front porch, garage, appliance stay. HOA. Easy to show. \$54,000 NOW \$47,900 MLS #205168		REDUCED 4002-H: Buckhead Ridge Lake Access two story 3 bd/2 ba. Upstairs & downstairs kitchen, lg storage bldg, hurricane shutters, seawall, RV Prkg. 2,560 sq. ft. of living. Way too much to list! \$399,000 NOW \$349,000 MLS #204356

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Special to the Okeechobee News/Humane Society Pet Rescue

Cool bath

Okeechobee Humane Society Pet Rescue newcomer, Chase, gets a cool bath given by new friends, (left to right) Josie, Stephanie and Lisa, all volunteers at the shelter. If you would like to meet Chase or become a volunteer, call the shelter at 863-357-1104.

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Special to the Okeechobee News Andy Taylor, Sales Manager, S. FL division of Mitsubishi Cooling & Heating presenting Owner, Bud Neese (left) and lead service technician, Francisco Guerrero (right) of Quality A/C & Htg., their HVAC Diamond Dealer certificates of completion awards.

Heating. Owner, Bud Neese and lead service technician, Francisco Guerrero traveled to Suwanee, Ga. on Feb. 1, to train at Mitsubishi Electric's state of the art training center. This program specialized in development of personalized, hands-on expertise in the sales, installation and service of Mitsubishi Heating & Cooling mini-split/ductless air conditioning system products.

MARCH 5 & 6, 2012

MONDAY SALE AT 12:00PM...TUESDAY SALE AT 11:00AM

COWS:		MED #1	STEERS	HEIFERS
BREAKING	78.00 - 92.00	150-200	- - -	- - -
CUTTER	70.00 - 79.00	200-250	255 - 285	225 - 250
CANNER		250-300	230 - 260	215 - 240
		300-350	215 - 240	190 - 220
		350-400	200 - 230	178 - 198
		400-450	190 - 225	160 - 187
BULLS		450-500	185 - 207	158 - 175
1000-1500	94.00 - 103.00	550-600	165 - 185	145 - 148
1500-2000	94.00 - 106.00	600-650	156 - 165	138 - 145
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	MED #2	
CLFS	411	565	150-200	-
COWS	221	290	200-250	220 - 240
STRS	6	29	250-300	200 - 220
HFRS	1	13	300-350	185 - 210
BULLS	33	23	350-400	180 - 195
YRLNGS	25	4	400-450	160 - 180
MIX	0	22		
TOTAL	697	946		

Calf prices still strong this week. Most all feeders were steady. Slaughter cows & bulls were off \$3-\$5 on top-end cattle, but strong & steady on mid & low-end cattle. This may remain the norm on slaughter cattle for a short while...They got too high! Actually, all prices are crazy high, but we need it!

Corrigan Ranch, Vero Beach, topped the calf market with a high of \$2.85, bought by Foy Reynolds. Gro Cattle, Miami, topped the cow market with a high of \$97, bought by Dairymens.

Jeff

PAID CONTENT

BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

March 15-17, 2012

1st Annual Okeesimnee Bluegrass Festival sponsored in party by the Okeechobee County Tourism Development Council. Local, Regional and National bands will be performing over a 3 day period at the Okee-Tantie Campground & Marina - 10430 State Road 78 West, Okeechobee, 34974. Festival kicks off Thursday 3/15/12 @ 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Friday and Saturday 1:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Bands performing - Nothin Fancy, Cody Shuler & Pine Mountain Railroad, The Travelers, Hagar's Mountain Boys, The Links, Hwy 441 South, Palmetto Ramblers and Keith Bass & the Florida Bluegrass Express. For additional information go to www.okeesimneebluegrass.com or call Keith Bass at 863-781-2376 or Darlene Bass at 863-634-5815.



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Monday at 12 p.m.

Tuesday at 11 a.m.

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Employment

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Employment Full Time

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY NOTICE MECHANIC

The City of Okeechobee is now accepting applications for a Mechanic. A complete job description and application packet is available on the City's web site www.cityofokeechobee.com or pick up at City Hall, Office of the City Clerk, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974, 863-763-3372 ext. 215. Applications will be accepted until Friday, March 23, 2012, 4:30 p.m. Successful candidates are required to pass a pre-employment substance screening/physical. Drug Free Workplace. EEO/AAP. Lane Gamioitea, City Clerk/Personnel Administrator

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From 9am to 5pm at the store located at:
1210 Hwy 70 East,
Okeechobee, FL
Hiring for all positions
Cooks we will meet or beat your current pay bring in your pay stub.

Drivers - CDL Class A
Yard Holster Exp. \$14 an HR. Clean 5 yr Motor Vehicle Record. Call 888-312-4206

Waste Management
Now hiring Equipment Operator for Glades Landfill Transfer Station. Please apply online at www.wm.com

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

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

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

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

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

Employment Full Time

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

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

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

Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."

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

Employment Full Time

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state, covering 16 counties from Orlando to the Florida Keys and serving a population of 7.5 million residents. We currently have an opening at our Clewiston Field Station location:

OMC PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISOR

This position will assist with managing the physical, fiscal, and human resources of the Trades Support Mechanical/Hydraulic unit of the Clewiston Field Station. Supervise water resource operations and maintenance program efforts including coordination, implementation, tracking and communication of comprehensive program and project objectives, milestones and schedules. Supervises Diesel Engine Specialist, Millwright, Electronics I/C and Industrial Electrician personnel. Incumbent works with both the superintendent and assistant superintendent to ensure staff's readiness to respond and support the field station's emergency management operations. This includes addressing all regional issues/concerns specific to a field station location. Provides direct input to the emergency management operations procedures used by all field stations. Conduct interviews, train, motivate, assign and evaluate work. Provide technical and programmatic coordination and interaction with other District units, government agencies, and the public.

Bachelor's Degree in Engineering or related field is preferred and six (6) plus years experience in the operation and maintenance of water management works or related field including at least two (2) years supervisory experience. Certifications in Mechanical and/or Hydraulic field(s) preferred. Valid State of Florida Driver's License is required.

Due to the District's response role and in the total scope of emergency management, this position may at times, be required to provide support before, during and after major storm events and emergency situations, such as hurricanes or other declared emergencies, depending on assigned emergency response role.

To Apply/Learn More About **The South Florida Water Management District** Please visit our website at www.sfwmd.gov. Click on careers. Scroll to Find Search and Apply and click on Search Openings. In the keyword search window insert job # **753BR**.

The South Florida Water Management District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Employment Full Time

CENTER MANAGER for Community Health Ctr. in Pahokee. Must have 5 yrs exp in business or Health Care Mgmt, organizational & supervisory skills, cultural sensitivity & team approach. BA/BS pref. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Fax resume to (561) 844-1013 e-mail hr@fchcinc.org EOE/DFWP.

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

Employment Part Time

GRAND OAKS Assisted Living Community
Part-time weekend Maintenance Person needed and Part-time Cook. Experienced Required. Apply in person Mon-Fri 203 SE 2nd Street

Employment Wanted

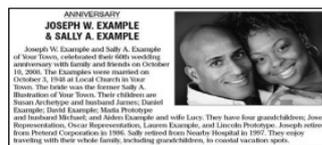
HANDYMAN NEEDED
For misc. repairs at local rental properties. E-mail qualifications to: fromson1@yahoo.com

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

Celebrating an anniversary? Share your news in print and online

Celebrations

fl.newszap.com/celebrations



ANNIVERSARY JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & SALLY A. EXAMPLE Joseph W. Example and Sally A. Example of Year Town, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends on October 14, 2011. The Example was married on October 3, 1961 at Local Church in Year Town. The bride was the former Sally A. (Bridalmaid of Year Town). Their children are: Brian (Nurse) and Michael (Farmer). Grandchildren: David Example, Matty Protoger and Michael (Farmer) and Adam Example and wife Lary. They have four grandchildren, one great-grandchild, Lauren Example, and Lisa-Ann Protoger. Joseph retired from Federal Corporation in 1986. Sally retired from Beebe Hospital in 1997. They enjoy traveling with their whole family, including grandchildren, to coastal vacation spots.

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>

Employment Medical

Employment Medical



I am Raulerson

your hospital

Immediate Openings:

- **PCA: PRN**
- **Housekeeper: PRN**
- **RNs: F/T, P/T, PRN**
- **Pharmacist: PRN**
- **Ultrasound Tech: F/T, PRN**
- **Occupational Therapist: PRN**
- **Occupational Therapy Assistant: PRN**
- **PBX Operator-PRN**

We offer competitive wages & excellent benefits

To complete an online application, please visit www.raulersonhospital.com

or you may come to **Human Resources, Raulerson Hospital, 96 Hwy. 441 N, Okeechobee, FL**

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

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

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

Shop here first! The classified ads

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

Services

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Property Management

Headed home for the season? Don't leave your property unattended. We are a full service company that will ensure the services you're paying for get completed. We can collect rent and make deposits, make sure your lawn is being maintained, make repairs for your renters, and make physical weekly inspections. We offer peace of mind. Licensed and insured. (561)202-7213

Your new home could be in today's paper. Have you looked for it?

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

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

Merchandise

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Antiques

Vast selection of PRIMITIVES FURNITURE, SEWING MACHINES, KITCHEN/MISC. Located behind Dairy Queen at 1214 SW 2nd Avenue, Open 10-4 Tuesday through Friday. **CO-OP ANTIQUES** 1214 SW 2nd Avenue Beth and Judy (Okeechobee Pickers) 863-634-1552 or 863-532-9138

Miscellaneous

SAFE "GREEN" HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS - Looking for customers who want a healthier home and family. Cleaning supplies with NO harsh chemicals, plus personal care, heart health, vitamins, first aid, digestive care, and much more! All 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. Call for more info. (863)532-9453

Pets/Supplies

AKC Boxer Pups 9 weeks, Fawn \$550.00 Call 863-634-6386

Wanted To Buy

Need Cash??? We Buy Cars We Pay Top Dollar \$\$ Okeechobee Dodge 4224 Highway 441 S. Contact: Rick Proverb 863-357-0500

Agriculture

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Farm Miscellaneous

COW HAY ROUND BALES FOR SALE \$40 Each. 863-634-9111

Rentals

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Apartments

For Rent \$450 moves you in 2 bdrm 1bath Duplex located by County Tag office. Includes lawn & garbage. 863-634-8331

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

Apartments

KINGS BAY Nice Twnhs. 2 br/1ba, Tiled floors. Incls Water. \$675/mo. + dep. Pool & Tennis Court. 863-697-6428 or 561-358-8128

Condos/Townhouses Rent

TAYLOR CREEK - 2br, 1ba, fully furnished, incls water & power. Ground floor, pool and dock, tile, W/D, Avail April 1st. \$850/mo, (863)634-0663

Villa For Rent 2bd/2ba 1 Story \$600 per month, \$600 dep. and 1st months rent to move in. Call for Appointment 304-277-0427

Houses - Rent

AFFORDABLE - New Houses. 3/1/1 for \$900, 3/2 for \$1000. Large yards. Bring pets. Call 561-723-2226.

OKEE - On Water, fully furnished, laundry, Fenced yard, utilities & Dish TV. WI FI & local phone service. \$600 month + security (863) 467-1950.

OKEE 3/1 Updated Home, central a/c, wood flooring, Tiled Bathroom, w/d, Well Water. \$725 mo. plus security Located by 15-B. Call 786-201-0306

Real Estate

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Houses - Sale

Two Story CBS house on Canal, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, living room w/fire place. 2 frigs, washer/dryer, 40 ft Car port, Very Clean. \$125,000 Call 863-610-0329

Houses - Sale

Custom Built 3br/2ba CBS in Lakeport, end lot on rim canal with side canal, direct lake access. Split floor plan with two 8 ft. glass doors opening onto a 28 ft. screen porch. Country oak décor, large closets, ceramic tile/carpet flooring, custom window coverings. Attached garage holds airboat and bass boat. Covered boat house with electric lift, fish cleaning room with water/elec, sea wall, boat ramp. On private concrete road with other custom homes. All appliances and some furniture included. \$275K, make offer. No lease option/rent. 863-946-2774.

Lots - Sale

2 WATERFRONT vacant lots in Taylor Creek Isles. Both on canal with sea walls. Each \$35,000 OBO. Call (239) 898-7084.

FOR SALE - RESIDENTIAL BUILDING LOT CLOSE TO BLUE HERON IN BRENT WOOD ESTATES. LOT SIZE IS 0.65 ACRES HAS HOUSE PAD IN PLACE TO ACCOMADATE A 3500 SQ. FT. HOME WATER DEPOSIT PAID READY TO BUILD ON. \$45,000 OR O.B.O. CALL CARL @ 863-634-8617

Recently Foreclosed, Special Financing Available, Any Credit, Any Income, Vacant Land, located at 20 NE 363rd Ct., Okeechobee, \$49,900. Visit www.roselandco.com/82H Drive by then call 866-249-0680.

RV Lot in Sportsman Village, Moore Haven. 55+, Clubhouse, Pool, Lots of Activities. Beautiful Large Lot. \$29,995 Call 239-218-6079

Mobile Homes

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Mobile Home Lots

LOT FOR RENT: Big "O" RV PARK: Yearly only. Avail. April 1st \$225 mo. (863)357-3830

Mobile Home Rent

3/2 Mobile/Add On \$750 mo., 1st and Last Plus \$500 Security Located Downtown Call 863-763-4537

5 Acres with a 4bd/2ba Mobile Home completely furnished, with pole barn. Call for more information 863-697-1648

BUCKHEAD RIDGE - Dbl. Wide 2BR, 2BA, C/Air. \$495 mo. Large 3BR, 2BA, C/Air. \$550 mo. No pets. Yearly lease, plus sec. (863)763-4031

PINE RIDGE PARK 2 bdrm/2ba, \$600 mo, \$300 sec, No Pets or No Smoking 863- 467-2156/634-7126

TREASURE ISLAND - 3BR, 2BA New carpet. Large yard. Lawn service included. \$700 mo. 1st month FREE w/security deposit. No pets. Call (863)634-0663

Your new car could be in today's paper. Have you looked for it?

Mobile Home Sale

1986 RV w/2 Fl. Rooms and more, 41gal. hot w. heater, completely remodeled. In Summer Breeze #47. \$5,000 OBO Must see to appreciate. 863-623-4090 or 863-610-0857

Ancient Oaks Park Model 2/2 on water, carport, screen room, \$80,000 Call for appointment 863-634-7226

BANK REPO'S Starting at \$15,000 Mobile Home Angels 561-721-2230

PALM HARBOR HOMES New 2012 Models \$15K Off All Homes 800-622-2832 ext 210

TREASURE Island - Nice 2005 Doublewide with lot. Lrg. 3br. / 2ba. with fireplace & fenced back yard. \$89,900. Will lease \$850 month. **Nice 2006** Singlewide with lot. 3br / 2ba. \$69,900. Call: 863-634-9119.

Very Nice 52' x 14' wide 2br/ 1 bath Mobile Home. Lane carport, 10x12 steel shed, furnished. Call 231-942-1824 in 55 or over park \$14,000.

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

Recreation

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Boats

2006 Bennington Pontoon Boat. Fully loaded for fishing. Call for more info. Located at Port St. Lucie 931-206-3675

RV Space Rent

RV Lot in Sportsman Village, Moore Haven. 55+, Clubhouse, Pool, Lots of Activities. Beautiful Large Lot \$250 mo. Plus Electricity Call 239-218-6079

Fifth Wheels

35' 5th Wheel 2000 Spinnaker by Forest River, 3 slides, ready to travel or live in located in Okeechobee area call 772-532-0041

Marine Accessories

6 Diving Tanks, 40lb. weight belt. No regulator make offer 863-824-0886

Find it faster. Sell it sooner in the classifieds

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

Automotive

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Commercial Trucks

FORD F700 1996 Dump Truck with 1998/763 Bobcat & Trailer. Garage kept. Total price \$16,500. Call (561)833-9346.

Vans

97 Ply. Van, 56,000 mi., New tires & Battery. With handicap scooter lift asking \$2,295.00 Call 863-801-3320

Public Notices

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
UNION NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012,
BETWEEN THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL 2918.
NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 304 NW 2ND STREET, SECOND FLOOR, ROOM 201, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA BEGINNING AT 1:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M. 412165 ON 3/11/2012

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

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



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy

Student athletes of the month

James Jackson of Okeechobee Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, honors Taylor Fulford (girls soccer) and John Kemp (wrestling) as Athletes of the Month for OHS in January.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Parks and Rec

Parks & Rec league champs

The Lakeshore Marine Pistons came out on top of a fairly evenly matched basketball league. The Pistons finished 6-2 in the 12 & under division. In the back from left to right: Robert Futch, Luzana Venzor, Kobe Crews, Coach Tar-rance Pryor, Jayla Newton and Marcel Richardson. In the front from left to right: Silas Madrigal, Kysell Richardson, Jacob Hickman, Mark Youmans and Simiya Washington.

Upcoming Okeechobee Blood Drives

- Upcoming Okeechobee Blood Drives will be held on the following dates:
- Sunday, March 10 -- Speckled Perch Festival in the Park, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Saturday, March 9 -- Seminole Cove, 7 a.m.-noon
- Wednesday, March 14 -- KOA, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 15 -- Heritage Village, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Friday, March 16 -- Walgreen's, 2-6 p.m.
- Sunday, March 18 -- Golden Corral, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Thursday, March 22 -- Ancient Oaks, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Friday, March 23 -- Seacoast (South), 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

There's Better Banking On Your Horizon

Need a steady hand on your financial tiller? That's exactly what you'll find at Harbor Community Bank – knowledge of the local area, great leadership, and a crew that's on board with your needs.

Certificates of Deposit

- 25-month term: **1.00% APY***
- 13-month term: **.75% APY***

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 3/1/12 and assumes that interest and principal will remain on deposit until maturity. \$1,000 minimum to open, other terms and rates are available. Penalties for early withdrawal may apply. These rates may change at any time without prior notice.



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NO DEALER FEE!

\$1,000 PRICE GUARANTEE!

3 DAY EXCHANGE POLICY!

LIFETIME POWERTRAIN WARRANTY!

2012 TOYOTA TUN-DRA DOUBLE CAB



0% for up to 60

-OR-

Lease for \$1,999 Down*
\$309/mo for 39 months

2012 TOYOTA TACOMA DOUBLE CAB SR5



0% for 36 mos • 1.9% for 48 months • 2.9% for 60 months

-OR-

Lease for \$1,999 Down*
\$279/mo for 39 months

2012 TOYOTA SIENNA LE



0% for 36 mos • .9% for 48 months • 1.9% for 60 months

-OR-

Lease for \$1,999 Down*
\$319/mo for 39 months

2012 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 4CYL



0% for 36 mos • .9% for 48 months • 1.9% for 60 months

-OR-

Lease for \$1,999 Down*
\$269/mo for 39 months

2012 TOYOTA RAV4



0% for 36 mos • 1.9% for 48 months • 2.9% for 60 months

-OR-

Lease for \$1,999 Down*
\$239/mo for 39 months

2012 TOYOTA COROLLA LE



0% for 36 mos • .9% for 48 months • 1.9% for 60 months

-OR-

Lease for \$1,999 Down*
\$169/mo for 39 months

2012 TOYOTA CAMRY SE



0% for 36 and 48 months
1.9% for 63 months

-OR-

Lease for \$1,999 Down*
\$199/mo for 39 months

2012 TOYOTA PRIUS II



0% for 36 mos • 1.9% for 48 months • 2.9% for 60 months

-OR-

Lease for \$1,999 Down*
\$239/mo for 39 months



TOYOTA

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

- 2007 TOYOTA YARIS**.....\$9,990
Auto, P/W, A/C, P/L, Great on gas!
#511060A
- 2009 CHEV AVEO**.....\$9,999
Auto, CD, A/C, Loaded
#112083A
- 2010 TOYOTA AVALON**.....\$10,990
Auto, CD, Loaded, Low Miles, Leather
#110816A
- 2010 TOYOTA YARIS**.....\$12,990
Auto, A/C, CD, Loaded, Great on Gas!
#111269A
- 05-10 TOYOTA RAV-4**Call For Price
Auto, AC, CD, Cruise, Loaded, 4 to choose

- 2011 TOYOTA PRIUS** Please Call
Auto, A/C, Loaded, 3 to choose, Great on Gas!, Very Clean
- 2005 TOYOTA RAV4**.....\$13,990
Auto, CD, A/C, Loaded
#120388A
- 2010-11 TOYOTA COROLLA**
7 to choose from.
Starting as low as \$14,990
- 2005 TOYOTA PRIUS**\$15,884
Auto, AC, CD, Loaded, Low Miles, 60mpg,
#110979A

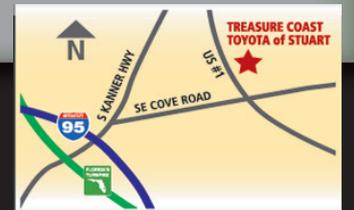
- 2005 HONDA ODYSSEY**.....\$16,990
Auto, Sunroof, Loaded, Low Miles, Leather,
#120197A
- 2011 SCION XB**.....\$17,490
Auto, CD, AC, Full Pwr, Like New #120361A
- 2009 TOYOTA CAMRY LE**.....\$17,599
Auto, Alloys, Low Miles, Clean, #120287A
- 2011 HONDA CRV EXL**..... Please Call
Auto, Alloys, Loaded, Leather, 1 Owner, Very Clean, 4wd, #120295A

- 2010 TOYOTA CAMRY LE**.....\$17,984
Auto, CD, Cruise, AC, Loaded, Great on Gas, Full Pwr, Like New, #120000a
- 2011 SCION XB**.....\$17,990
Auto, C/D, Cruise, AC, Loaded,
#512036A
- 2010 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S** \$18,990
Auto, Loaded, Leather, Sunroof, Sporty!, must see!, #P0085B
- 2009 TOYOTA PRIUS**.....\$18,990
Loaded, Leather, Great on Gas, Navi,
#111225A

- 2009 HONDA CIVIC HYBRID** \$19,990
Auto, Loaded, Low Miles, 1 Owner, Only 15k Miles, Like New, #111326A
- 2007 TOYOTA AVALON**\$19,990
Auto, Loaded, Low Miles, Spotless!, 2 to choose ~ Starting @ \$19,990
- 2008 TOYOTA FJ CRUISER**\$22,990
Auto, AC, CD Loaded, Very Clean, Like New, #512045A

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SERVICE 888-224-0624



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SALES: Mon-Fri 8:30am - 8:00pm • Sat 8:30 - 7:00pm • Sun 10:30am - 5:00pm
SERVICE Mon-Fri 7:00am - 6:00pm • Sat 7:00am - 4:00pm • Sun CLOSED

PRICE OF VEHICLES EXCLUDES TAX, TAG, REGISTRATION AND TITLE. DEALER DOES NOT CHARGE DEALER FEES! 0% FINANCING FROM TOYOTA FINANCIAL BASED ON APPROVED CREDIT. ALL CUSTOMER CASH OFFERS MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH QUALIFIED APR APPROVAL. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS. *WITH APPROVED CREDIT, PLUS TAX, 12K MPY, AND \$1,695 INCEPTIONS. INCLUDES ALL FACTORY REBATES AND INCENTIVES. OFFERS WITH APPROVED CREDIT. OFFER VALID THRU DAY OF PUBLICATION. PHOTO FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSE ONLY. ADVERTISER NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS.