

Lake Okeechobee News

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"Around the Lake" Edition

Formerly Okeechobee
News, Clewiston News,
Glades County Democrat,
& The Sun

Vol. 110 No. 13

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

50¢ plus tax



Victoria Bronson and her children Alza and Claudie enjoy the 'Fun Slide' at the 63rd annual American Legion free fair in Okeechobee on Jan. 28. The fair runs from Jan. 25 through Feb. 3 and is located at 501 S.E. Second street in Okeechobee. On Jan. 30, the fair will offer free rides from 10 until 11:30 a.m. as well as \$15 armbands for unlimited rides from 5 p.m. until closing.

Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

Lake area festival season is underway

By Katrina Elsken
Lake Okeechobee News

A Ferris wheel lights up the Okeechobee skyline with the return of the **American Legion Free Fair**, under way now through Sunday, Feb. 3, on the American Legion Hall

grounds, 501 S.E. Second St., Okeechobee. The fair (which has no admission fee but does charge for ride armbands), is in its 63rd year. Weeknights, the fair opens at 5 p.m. On weekends, it opens at 1 p.m. For more information, call 863-763-2950.

The Legion fair is just one of the many

festivals planned in the Lake Okeechobee area in coming weeks.

On Saturday, Feb. 2, the **Ortona Cane Grinding Festival** will take place at Ortona Indian Mound Park, on Chihaha Lane off State

See FAIR — Page 18



3 Students share life in
'the Glades'



16 Families enjoy
health fair

Lake Levels

12.59 feet

Last Year: 15.31 feet



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Okeechobee, Florida

Green Paradise Eco Farm grows sustainable crops

By Danika J. Hopper

Lake Okeechobee News

CLEWISTON — Surrounded by wild passion fruits, juicy mandarin oranges, tear-drop-shaped tomatoes, bright yellow sweet peppers and leafy greens in every hue you can imagine, is a lovely permaculture farm in Hendry County.

Paradise Eco Farm, in the Pioneer Plantation community of Clewiston, is run by the farm's manager, Roselyn Romaguera, and her family. She is also the mother of an infant and a toddler.

This attentive, busy mama spends hours taking care of her children while planning crops, ordering and starting seeds, and managing the rest of the family and staff. She also assists with the harvest each week. Working tirelessly, this local family is on a mission to grow a variety of healthy, organic, and sustainable fruits and vegetables.

Running a permaculture farm, such as Green Paradise Eco Farm, means that every method of food production is symbiotic with the surrounding natural resources. This requires both planning and flexibility as the weather is unpredictable and the seasons change drastically. Implementing both old-school, traditional permaculture methods for growing produce, as well as seeking out newer inventive methods, gives high yields with a low energy input. They also use

quite a few innovative tools on their farm, from a small drill-powered harvesting tool that cuts the tops of the greens to a large bubble bath that cleans the produce before it's packed up and sold to local restaurants and farmers markets. Even their method of growing tomatoes, with an intricate system of hanging and dropping the plants with pulleys and cables, is ingenious.

While visiting the farm, I was able to sample some of their freshly harvested fruits and veggies. I sampled a green papaya kimchi that was delightfully tart and slightly spicy. The savory papaya salad had me going for seconds and even thirds. Everything was so juicy and flavor-packed, it was all absolutely wonderful.

They do currently offer a limited supply of CSA boxes (community supported agriculture) for \$25 each week, that contain

a variety of the current harvest. Their beautiful leafy greens and other vegetables are also served at the Quart House, an awesome eatery in LaBelle.

To support these local farmers, or to find out more about what Green Paradise Eco Farm is growing, you can visit them on Facebook or their website GPEcofarm.com.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/Paradise Eco Farm
Roselyn Romaguera and her two daughters make their way in from checking the microgreens in the greenhouse.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/Paradise Eco Farm
Various types of leafy greens and tomatoes are the two most popular crops grown on the farm.

Lake Okeechobee Weather Forecast

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Wednesday: More clouds than sun.

High 63F. Winds N at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20%



Wednesday night:

Cloudy skies early will become partly cloudy later at night. Low 47F. Winds N at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 20%

Thursday: Cloudy

skies. High 67F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph. 20% chance of precipitation.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy skies.

Low 54F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 10%.

Friday: A few showers in the morning then thundershowers in the afternoon. High 73F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

Friday night: Rain early...then remaining cloudy with showers late. Low 58F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 80%. Rainfall near a quarter of an inch.

Saturday: Showers in the morning, then partly cloudy in the afternoon. High around 75F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Saturday night: A few clouds from

time to time. Low 57F. Winds light and variable.

Sunday: Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 76F. Winds light and variable.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy. Low 57F. Winds light and variable.

Monday: Partly cloudy. High 77F. Winds light and variable.

Monday night: Clear to partly cloudy. Low 58F. Winds from the East Northeast at 1 mph.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy. High 75F. Winds from the southeast at 4mph

Tuesday night: Clear. Low 59F. Winds light from the east southeast.

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Essays explain ‘what the Glades means to me’

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
CLEWISTON — High school students in ‘the Glades were invited by Glades Lives Matter to compete for scholarships by writing essays with the theme: “I am the Glades, and what the Glades means to me.” The contest was open to students at Glades Central High School, Pahokee High School and Clewiston High School.

Fifty-five essays were submitted. The winning essay was written by Morgan Sherman. Second place went to Jonathan Fuentes, and third place to Jordan Sweet.

The Glades

The Glades is the sweet southern farm land that I have called my home all my life. When I think of her — I see the beautiful sunsets painted across the afternoon sky... I smell my abuela’s homemade cooking... I hear the sound of the Friday night football games. When thinking of The Glades I often look back on all the memories I have made here and all the people that shaped me into the person I am today.

The Glades brings everyone together because every person is connected one way or another. Together, we share the bond of being from an area that is fairly unknown to everyone else. She raised us like her own, hard work matters, say your please and thank yous, strive to do well in school, embrace diversity, treat everyone with love and kindness. In The Glades we come together during times of need, and care for each other like family. When the storm passes and the rubble settles, the Glades might be in ruins, but the family is still there.. It is then our task to bring The Glades we all know and love back to her former beauty.

The Glades does not discriminate, she welcomes all with open arms, no matter the skin color or cultural background. Diverse cultures seep through her walls, saturating the environment. Diversity is expressed in the food, music, and traditions that can be found in The Glades.

She’s home to the finest sugar in all of Florida and some of the most famous fishers in the nation.

Tourist from all over visit The Glades to see what she is most famous for, Lake Okeechobee. Not only do we share her with other people, but also with the exotic



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Glades Lives Matter spokeswoman Janet B. Taylor proudly presented scholarships to essay contest winners Jordan Sweet, third place; Morgan Sherman, first place; and Jonathan Fuentes, second place. GLM issues scholarships annually to students at Glades Central, Pahokee and Clewiston high schools. The contest theme was “I am the Glades, and what the Glades means to me.” GLM scholarship winners are pictured with Janet Taylor, Clewiston High School Principal Roberto Sanchez and sponsor Dr. Harriet Rice.

creature that inhabit Lake O.

The Glades have an important place in each of our hearts, so that when we leave her warm embrace we will always remember her as home.

Morgan Sherman

I Am The Glades

“I am the Glades,” a phrase so many individuals and families in the surrounding areas might say, but what does it actually mean? The translation may differ between people, counties, and towns but for me it’s a prideful feeling of where I come from. Although the Glades are made up of Lake ‘O’, alligators, fish, and other wildlife, the surrounding areas such as Belle Glade, South Bay, LaBelle, Okeechobee, Lake Port, and my home town of Clewiston also make up the Glades.

The Glades is home to thousands of acres of lettuce, radishes, corn, and most populous, sugarcane. Clewiston is home to U.S. Sugar, which is the largest sugarcane producer in the United States, producing over 700,000 tons per year. Not only does U.S. Sugar provide jobs to much of Clewiston’s population, it also provides a way

of life for many families and individuals. If not for U.S. Sugar, my family would not be lucky enough to have all that we do. The Glades for me is a sense of home and belonging.

My favorite part about Clewiston is its small town atmosphere, where everybody knows everybody. Small town people are the kind of people that drop what they’re doing if someone else is in need. From catching five pound bass or seeing thirteen foot alligators, to seeing lily pads and flowers on Lake Okeechobee, the Glades is home to an abundant amount of wildlife and plantlife. Largemouth bass, sunfish, and Mayan cichlid are a few of the 60 species of fish that populate the waters of Lake ‘O’. One of my favorite ways to spend my weekends is going out on the boat with my family. We can spend all day fishing and get the worst sunburn and it wouldn’t matter, as long as we’re spending time together.

When I hear “The Glades,” the thought of family instantly comes to mind. I am extremely lucky to live in such a close knit community where I know if I am in need, there will be people to help. One example of that small town people generosity is our town coming together to collect needed

supplies to send to Hurricane Michael victims in their time of need. Hundreds of houses were destroyed during the hurricane and many are still trying to recover and get their lives back on track. The people of Clewiston, and many other towns, are working as hard as they can to help them as much as possible. So, what does “I am the Glades” mean to me? The Glades is family. The Glades is home.

Jordan Sweet

I am the Glades

I close my eyes and let mother nature guide me. My surroundings are truly peaceful. I can hear the wind whispering sweet nothings in my ear. I can also feel the leaves stroking my skin. And the cold water covering my feet like a blanket that covers my body in the winter. I feel the heat, a warm kiss from the sun. The grass dances to the rhythm of the air, swinging from left to right. The waves of Lake Okeechobee move forward. At this very moment I feel free. Opening my arms in such a tropical paradise makes any worry that I might have go away.

I envision myself as a Great Blue Heron who flies through the sky and slowly observes the liquid land of sawgrass. Spotting Lake “O,” I go down and rest by the serene shore. But instantly, I must arise, startled by a terrifying alligator. So, I must make my way to the city. From above, I scan for any type of sanctuary. I observe a variety of nationalities living closely in a single suburban area. It is fascinating to me how they coexist and help one another. I see how they work together at the sugar cane farms. I glance behind me and become aware of the pink and orange tones of the sunset. So I decide to return to where I was originally standing by the lake. I return from my reverie.

I open my eyes as I gaze upon the horizon, and I come to realize what this place, the Everglades means to me. It is a state of ethnicity, full of harmonies. The Glades is a big family formed by different communities, both human and animals. That is the moment I truly know that I am part of the Glades. I am its wind, its earth, and its spirit. I am its flora and fauna. I am the Glades.

Jonathan Fuentes

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Pulse of the Community

Letters to the Editor

Voting records

The Glades County Supervisor of Elections Office has mailed out address confirmation requests, as required by law in non-election years. If you receive a notice in the mail, please complete it, sign and return to my office. If you receive a notice for someone who no longer resides at that address, please return as undeliverable so we can continue the process of cleaning the voter records.

Aletris Farnam

Glades County supervisor of elections

YOUR Government WATCH

These upcoming meetings of local elected officials, scheduled during the next week, are open to the public.

Glades County

Moore Haven City Council
Tuesday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 299 Riverside Drive
Agenda online at moorehaven.org

Hendry County

Clewiston City Commission
Monday, Feb. 4, 4:30 p.m.
workshop, 5:30 p.m. meeting
City Hall, 115 W. Ventura Ave.
Online at clewiston-fl.gov

Palm Beach County

Palm Beach County Commissioners
Tuesday, Feb. 5, 9:30 a.m. meeting;
public hearings and matters by the
public
Governmental Center, 301 N. Olive
Ave., West Palm Beach
TV Channel 20, online at pbcgov.
com

South Bay City Commission
Tuesday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 110 Dr. Martin Luther King
Jr. Blvd. W.
Online at southbaycity.com

Ciklin Lubitz, Attorneys at law, delivered school supplies

With our school year under way, My Aunt's House received a huge supply of two inch, three inch, and four inch binders from Ciklin Lubitz of West Palm Beach. What a bonus for our school children. The larger size binders are much needed in the upper grades, but something difficult for My Aunt's House financially.

Our contact person is Shelley Watts, Litigation Paralegal with this prestigious firm. Shelley knew our need and went forward. We received over 100 large binders. What a special treat for our school kids! We have passed out many and still have a few in our school supply inventory. Thank you to Shelley and this giving firm of Ciklin Lubitz of West Palm Beach. Kids, the next time you open your binder, remember Ciklin Lubitz.

My Aunt's House is a nonprofit 501C organization. We provide clothing, shoes, linens, school supplies and so much more for our disadvantaged children and their family at no charge. If you would like more information, please call me at 863-634-2306.

Judy Watts

My Aunt's House

Speak Out

Speak Out is a reader response column. Comments may be posted on the newspaper's website or Facebook pages, emailed to okeeneews@newszap.com or mailed to the newspaper office, 107 S.W. 17th St., Suite D, Okeechobee, FL 34974.

Aquatic spraying

News that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will temporarily halt spraying herbicides on aquatic vegetation and hold hearings about the effects of the spraying program brought these comments.

- "It's a long-awaited victory for everyone, stopping them from poisoning one of Florida's greatest resources!" — Steve King
- "I grew up in Okeechobee, so I keep up from afar. What I see is that too many people who I know and love have cancer, have had cancer or are already gone from cancer. The incidence of cancer seems awfully high. I worry about my remaining family and friends still there." — Darlene Owens Cirinna
- "I hope it will stop for good." — Mike Spyker
- "Hopefully we get a drought and they can clean up some of the mud they created from years of spraying." — Hayden Watt

- "I always said that the aquatic crews were appreciated in the canals when the exotic vegetation choked up the canals and the boats could not get put, but not by guys on the lakes where you had open water to run around in. FYI, when you have no open water and the lock tenders have to flush the crap out and you have to wait to lock through, your motor runs hot." — Michelle Harper
- "This spraying should never start up. It is devastating the lake. It's criminal. Somebody needs to be held accountable." — Robert Stossell Jr.
- "Nutrient pollution and the introduction of exotic plants are the problems." — Jess Van Dyke
- "It's not just a Central Florida problem. It's happening all over the state, including the St. Johns River! It's ALL lakes and rivers in this state that they are pouring toxic chemicals in and ruining. The other big problem is they have killed all the plants that the manatees feed on. So maybe when they start dying off it will really open some eyes and put the spotlight on this and get it stopped forever!" — Eric Roberts
- "'Stop the State-Sanctioned Poisoning of Our Lakes and Rivers,' and permanently

end the aquatic herbicide spraying program." — Jan Fennessy

- "I went to Three Forks WMA today and it looked like Big O did 15 years ago. The water was clean and all types of aquatic plants were in there doing their job, naturally filtering the water! There is still hope if we act now!" — John Robertson
- "Why not try construction equipment that has grabbers on the front and pull them out! Like weeding your garden only bigger." — Patricia O'Connor

PUZZLE ANSWERS

R	O	G	E	T		C	H	E	F		T	O	P	O
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Lake Okeechobee News

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To Submit News

The Lake Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinion, calendar items, story ideas, and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed or emailed.
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Staff

Publisher/Editor: Katrina Elsen
Circulation Manager: Cynthia Eckert
Advertising Manager: Jaime Limoges

Our Purpose...

The Okeechobee News is published by Independent NewsMedia Inc, USA. 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 the newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues

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

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New transportation service brings jobs to the Glades

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

Palm Tran is launching a transportation service in the Glades that is not only improving travel mobility; it is also adding jobs to the economy. The service, "Go Glades," is a pilot program launched by Palm Tran. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is a funding partner, and MV Transportation will operate the service on Palm Tran's behalf. The service intends to make public transportation more flexible and convenient for residents of Belle Glade, South Bay and Pahokee. In total, the Go Glades service has hired more than 20 drivers, and all drivers are from the Glades region.

"The most exciting part about Go Glades is that the service is adding jobs in the Glades community in addition to making public transportation more accessible," said Palm Tran Executive Director Clinton B. Forbes. "I am thrilled we were able to hire locally. That exemplifies part of Palm Tran's mission to provide access to opportunity for everyone."

Go Glades supplements Palm Tran's bus system overhaul, which took place in September. As part of the bus network redesign, the Belle Glade/Pahokee bus Route 47 merged with Route 48 serving Canal Point and South Bay. Service hours were extended and the frequency of the buses was improved.

Go Glades allows people in the Glades area to call for a ride on a small vehicle. It also allows them to request that a circulator vehicle make a slight detour from its regular route to pick them up.

"What we are able to do for the community and what the community is doing for us with enthusiasm and acceptance and wanting this transportation is tremendous," said General Manager of MV Transportation Jeanie Chrisman.

South Bay resident Samantha Smith is one of the trainees hired for the Go Glades program. Ms. Smith has always had a passion for working in the transportation industry. When she saw the opportunity arise to become a driver for Go Glades, she jumped at the chance to apply.

"[With] transportation, you have to have a desire, you have to do it from the heart — my heart is here," she said. "I want to advance. I want to get to know all I can to become a better person ... that go-to person in the community."

Ms. Smith described the training as "great," and feels she is learning from the best. "I mean, you can't ask for better training or trainers," she said.

To become a driver, candidates must pass an extensive background check and receive 120 hours of training. The recruitment was done primarily with the company CareerSource, in addition to advertising via radio station Sugar 900 and the Lake

Okeechobee News.

Jeanie Chrisman said one of the challenges of training the new Go Glades drivers was differentiating between Go Glades and Palm Tran's fixed-route and paratransit service.

"I ran a deviated fixed-route (system) in Indiana years ago, so I have experience with it, but one of our challenges is teaching the drivers, the managers, and everyone really what a deviated fixed-route is and how it will work and the big advantages for passengers," she said.

Because of this, MV Transportation HR Manager Tara Jones said it was important to hire locally to ensure drivers had a familiarity with the Glades region.

"You have to know the area, how to get through neighborhoods. If there happens to be a technical difficulty, you have to be able to whip your books out and get from point A to point B in a timely manner," Ms. Jones said.

"The turnout has been very surprising for us. We know that this is a small area, but if you were to see the turnout, you would be shocked," she added.

Furthermore, Go Glades has provided an opportunity for residents of the Glades to climb the corporate ladder in the transportation sector.

"We are able to provide a job that will allow them to get paid more money than they have been in decades," Ms. Jones

said. "When I looked at the statistics, they are not getting paid that much to be in the fields and work in agriculture, so to be able to be a part of the transportation world, that provides such a service and they are able to bring more income to their families."

MV Transportation Manager of Operations Shirley Fordham added that as a Belle Glade native, she is most excited to help the elderly in the community.

"I love helping the elderly. They are the most important people," Ms. Fordham said. "I love coming to work. I just love my community."

Palm Tran's Go Glades service launched Dec. 21, 2018. For more information on Go Glades and Palm Tran, visit palmtran.org. A free trial period took place through Jan. 4, with regular fares applying afterward.

Obituaries

Lewis Albert 'Al'

Raulerson, PhD

MONROE TWP., N.J. — Lewis Albert "Al" Raulerson, PhD, of Monroe Twp., NJ, passed away on Jan. 23, after a brief illness.

Born in Okeechobee, Fla. Dr. Raulerson lived in Glyn Ellyn, Ill. and Statesboro, Ga. before moving to the Monroe Village community in Monroe Twp. in 2014.

Al was a psychologist and counselor for more than 40 years, primarily at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, where he care for college students and members of the community.

He attended Florida State University for his PhD degree, where he met the love of his life, Alberta "Bert." They married in 1960 and were inseparable since.

Al served in the Air Force during the Korean War.

He was a warm and funny man. It is no exaggeration to say that everyone who knew Al liked and enjoyed him. He was interested in everyone's story and would listen for hours, especially to his grandchildren.

He liked dogs, cats, oranges, military history, books, long walks, music, singing in the chorus and Georgia Southern football, but he hated bananas.

We are sure that in the part of Heaven where Papa is now, his is surrounded by lots of love and music and no bananas.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Alberta L. Raulerson; his daughters, Annie E. Raulerson (Eric Blumenfeld) and Sara R. Jones (Jeff Jones); and his three grandchildren, Anna M. Jones, Matthews L. Jones and Jonah R. Blumenfeld.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday Feb. 2, 2019 at Monroe Village, Monroe Twp., N.J.

A reception will be held afterwards and all are welcome to attend.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Lester Memorial Home 16 W. Church St., Jamesburg, N.J.

To send condolences to the family visit www.LesterMemorialHome.com

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Lake Okeechobee News by emailing obits@newszap.com. Customers may also request photos and links to online guestbooks. A link to the obituaries is available at lakeokeechobeenews.com.

Louis Martin Osmundsen, 64

OKEECHOBEE — Louis Martin Osmundsen died Jan. 27, 2019. He was born March 13, 1954 in Paulsboro, N.J. to Martin and Evelyn (Kautsch) Osmundsen. A resident of Okeechobee for 40 years, he enjoyed spending time with his family listening to music, and bowling.



Mr. Osmundsen was preceded in death by his wife, Lois Osmundsen.

He is survived by his daughter, Mandy Martz (Michael), of Sebring; sister, Nancy Jolicoeur (Jerry), of Okeechobee; grandchildren, Jennifer and Bobby; great grandchildren, Nevaeh and Remo; niece, Collen Jolicoeur; and nephews, Jay and Lee Jolicoeur.

No services will be held.

Those wishing to leave a message of condolence may sign the register book at, www.OkeechobeeFuneralHome.com

All arrangements are entrusted to the direction and care of the Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 400 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972.

Agnes Cauley, 83

CLEWISTON — Agnes Cauley passed away surrounded by love and prayers, accompanied by family on Jan. 28, 2019.

She was born Oct. 3, 1935 in Evalua, Ga., to the late Jessie and Ella (Horne) Chambers. With her late husband Everett Cauley, together they began a family through love of each other and faith found at the Church of God. Through her selfless devotion and love shared to everyone she met, Sister Cauley influenced and cared for those she met.

Sister Cauley is survived by sons, John A. Cauley, Cad Cauley and Charles Cauley; daughters, Virginia Cornett, Helen Whitehurst and Carol E. Berry; brother, Mack Chambers; sister, Ruby Watson; 28 grandchildren, 58 great grandchildren, ten great-great grandchildren and seven great-great-great grandchildren continue the warmth and love of Sister Cauley.

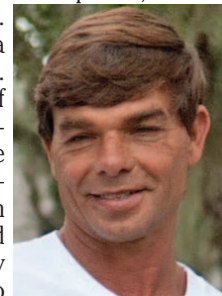
She was preceded in death by brothers, Johnny Hugh Chambers, Barney Chambers, William Chambers and RH Chambers; and sisters, Aunt Ellie Mae and Aunt Sister.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. preceded by visitation one hour before at the Church of God of Clewiston, with Rev. Josh Caraway officiating. The funeral service in Georgia will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019 at 3 pm preceded by visitation one hour before at Sammons Funeral Home. Interment will be in Chambers Family Cemetery, Soperton, Ga.

Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home - Clewiston.

Timothy Wood, 55

OKEECHOBEE — Timothy Wood died Jan. 25, 2019. He was born April 10, 1963 in Elizabethtown, N.C. to Hanible and Rosa Mae (Sweat) Wood. A lifetime resident of Okeechobee, he enjoyed spending time with his family, fishing, and working with his hands. Mr. Wood could work on nearly anything, from cars to heavy equipment. He was known to many as a big hearted, hardworking man.



Mr. Wood was preceded in death by his children, Janel Wood and Brandon Wood.

He is survived by his wife, Nadine Wood; sons, Mikel Wood, Randall Wood (Esther Cortez), and Justin Timbo Wood (Stephanie Jenkins); daughter, Janine Wood, all of Okeechobee; brothers, James Wood (Laura), of Stuart, Henry Wood (Micky), of White Oak, N.C., and Paul Wood, of Hollywood, Fla.; sisters, Dicky Wood and Christine Harper (Larry), all of Orlando; grandchildren, Colton, Raidyn, Brently, Christian, and Lana.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. until services at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

Those wishing to leave a message of condolence may sign the register book at, www.OkeechobeeFuneralHome.com

All arrangements are entrusted to the direction and care of the Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 400 North Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972.

Dailey sentenced to 20 years in death of man

By Cathy Womble
Lake Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE — Brandie Dailey — who was 18 in April 2017 when 60-year-old Robert Curtis Joiner was brutally murdered — accepted a plea deal on Friday, Jan. 25. She pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 20 years. She also pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence and received five years. The terms are to be served concurrently, and she will get credit for the two years she has already served.

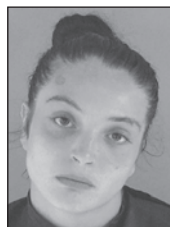
According to Assistant State Attorney Don Richardson, Mr. Joiner was strangled to death with a belt in his Okeechobee home.

Mr. Richardson said Mr. Joiner, who was a small man and only weighed about 120 pounds, was sitting in his recliner when Dailey reportedly sneaked up behind him and started strangling him with a belt.

At some point, Mr. Joiner got out of the recliner and onto the floor, where reports indicate Dailey got on his back and continued to strangle him until he died, according to the report.

Mr. Joiner was a lifelong resident of Okeechobee, suffered from cerebral palsy and, according to Mr. Richardson, his health was failing. Dailey and her boyfriend, Michael Raulerson, lived in his home in exchange for housekeeping and cooking for about a year before the murder occurred.

According to the Okeechobee Police Department report, in April 2017, Mr. Joiner's sister called police because she was concerned when the family had not heard from her brother in several days. Detective Bill Saum responded to the call by going to Mr. Joiner's Southeast Fourth Street home,



Brandie Dailey

where he was reportedly invited in by Dailey who also gave him and the officers with him permission to search the property.

The report continues, a short time later a call came in about a body found a short distance away on Southeast 32nd Avenue. "I and others at that scene recognized the deceased as Robert 'Bobby' Joiner.

Mr. Joiner was tied up, hands behind his back and feet tied together. He was wrapped in a blanket," the report states. At that time, Dailey was arrested and charged with first-degree murder with a weapon and tampering with evidence.

Michael James Raulerson, 21, and Michael Wayne Jacobs, 35, were also arrested in connection with the murder and were charged with accessory to first-degree murder and tampering with evidence. The report states Michael Raulerson is believed to have been in the house at the time of the murder but is not believed to have assisted in the murder. Both men are believed to have helped dispose of the body. Neither has been tried yet.

According to Mr. Richardson, the reason Dailey was offered a plea was because the defense had filed several motions to suppress her statements, including her confessions, and unfortunately, those motions would likely have been granted due to some mistakes made during the investigation. Rather than take a chance on letting her escape with no punishment at all, he decided to take 20 years so some justice would be served.

Crime Stoppers

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

PALM BEACH COUNTY — Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County needs your help in locating Gregorio Zamora, 35, white, male, 5 feet 5 inches tall, 160 pounds, black hair, and brown eyes.

His last known address was on North Main Street in Belle Glade.

Zamora is wanted on a warrant for violation of probation for charges of sale of cocaine. He also has a charge of failure to appear to answer to a charge of driving under the influence.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers at 800-458-TIPS (8477), or remain anonymous by downloading the new app "Connect & Protect," "See Something Say Something" for any Apple or Android smartphone.



Gregorio Zamora

Cancer support offered

OKEECHOBEE — The Christ Fellowship Church, 701 S. Parrott Ave., will hold a Cancer Support Group on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Group sessions will be a resource for education and support. For information, call 863-532-1721 or email CancerSupportCF@gmail.com.

Crossword Puzzle

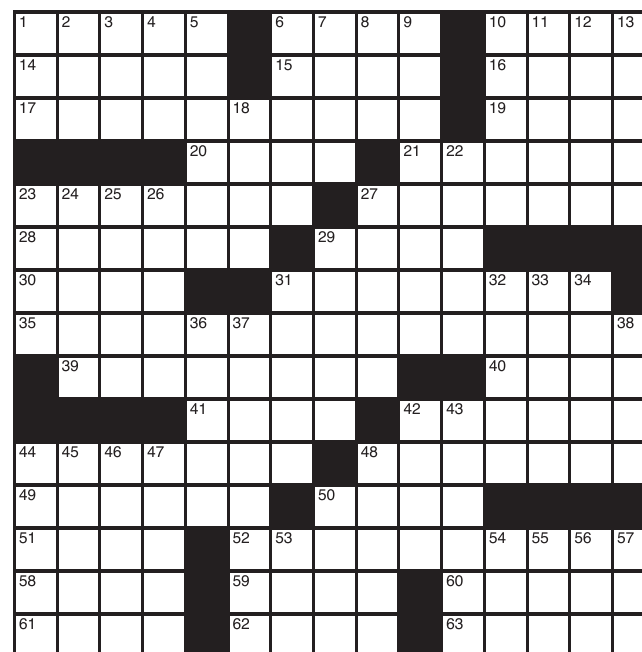
ACROSS

- 1 Man of many words
- 6 Course designer
- 10 Hiker's map, briefly
- 14 Words spoken on a star?
- 15 Vima of "How to Murder Your Wife"
- 16 Organic compound
- 17 '60s executive order creation
- 19 Combine
- 20 Locks in a zoo
- 21 Human Be-In attendee
- 23 1988 Cabinet resignee
- 27 Apostle known as "the Zealot"
- 28 Facetious tributes
- 29 Steady
- 30 Comfort and others
- 31 Avid surfers
- 35 Societal change begun in Quebec during the '60s
- 39 Money-saving refuge
- 40 Subway purchase
- 41 Blue dye
- 42 Hints
- 44 Renders harmless
- 48 Greasy spoon
- 49 It's not widely understood
- 50 Small flaw
- 51 Cozy spot
- 52 '60s aviation nickname
- 58 Quattro competitor
- 59 Quattro, e.g.
- 60 2013 One Direction hit
- 61 Victor's "Samson and Delilah" co-star
- 62 Line holder for a cast
- 63 Lustrous synthetic

DOWN

- 1 Swindle, with "off"
- 2 Run a tab, say
- 3 1998 Angelina Jolie biopic
- 4 F1 neighbor
- 5 It's across from Alice Tully Hall
- 6 One of many in "Orphan Black"
- 7 Engage
- 8 Sixth of five?
- 9 Skid
- 10 Largo and presto
- 11 Matinee hr.
- 12 March of Dimes' original crusade
- 13 Ancient
- 18 Mama in music
- 22 Trooper's outfit?
- 23 La Salle of "ER"
- 24 Fried treat
- 25 Obsession
- 26 Thomas Cromwell's earldom
- 27 Determined about
- 29 Oblique cut
- 31 Half a Caribbean federation
- 32 Tom's "Mission: Impossible" role
- 33 Reunion attendee
- 34 More put out
- 36 "___ heaven"
- 37 American West conflict
- 38 Overly curious
- 42 Former Blue Devil rival, briefly
- 43 Not suitable for kids
- 44 Shore show of the '70s
- 45 Modern message
- 46 Alaskan cruise sight
- 47 Jim-dandy
- 48 Pizza sauce herb
- 50 Off-target
- 53 Color distinction
- 54 46-Down kin
- 55 Magpie relative
- 56 "Microsoft sound" composer
- 57 Brown shade

Answers
on Page 4



By Roland Hugot
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6:00pm

American Legion Everglades Post 20
101 SE Avenue D, Belle Glade, FL 33430

Saturday, February 9

1:30pm

Clewiston Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
301 South Gloria Street, Clewiston, FL 33440

5:00 pm

American Legion Post 130
699 W. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, FL 33975

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News**

Your COMMUNITY NEWS



Glades County

Thrift Store holds sale

MOORE HAVEN — A Bountiful Barn Thrift Store, 442 U.S. 27 (next door to Cafe 27), has a sale on items through the end of January. The store is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. For information, email bountifulbarnthrift@gmail.com or call 863-990-2112. The Glades County Pastoral Association (GCPA) will use the proceeds from sales to help those in need during disasters, with a food and clothing pantry.

Cane festival scheduled

ORTONA — The Cane Grinding Festival will be Saturday, Feb. 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Larry Lucky Ortona Indian Mound Park; entrance is west of the Ortona Cemetery on State Road 78 West. Event features bluegrass music, cloggers, arts and crafts, cane grinding and syrup making. Chicken or pork dinners will be available. Bring a chair. For information, call 863-673-0530. Adults \$9 donation and Children \$4 at the gate. Reduced tickets can be purchased at the Glades County Extension Office, Whisper Creek RV Park, and the Ortona Volunteer Fire Fighters.

Church to hold giveaway

LAKEPORT — Maple Grove Baptist Church, 12777 SR 78, will hold a Community Clothing and Shoes Giveaway on Saturday, Feb. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon. For information, call 678-761-2876.

Food trucks return

MOORE HAVEN — Chow Down Food Trucks will return to the Tom Perry Memorial Park, 200 Riverside Drive S.W., on Thursday, Feb. 7, at 5 p.m. This event includes live music and a kids area.

Brighton Festival set

BRIGHTON RESERVATION — The Brighton Field Day Festival & Rodeo will take place at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, 17400 Sports Complex Road N.E. on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation, from Friday, Feb. 15 through Sunday, Feb. 17, gates open at 9 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m., respectively. Activities begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, 9 a.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. on Sunday. For information or tickets visit brightonfieldday.com or call 863-467-6039.

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Hendry County

Gospel concert scheduled

CLEWISTON — The Simple Faith will be in concert at the Red Barn, located on the left after the State Road 80 bridge between Moore Haven and Clewiston, on Friday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. Listen to good old gospel music. For information, call Judy Swindle at 863-228-0090.

GTGC hosts tea party

CLEWISTON — Green Thumb Garden Club (GTGC) of Clewiston will host its annual Valentine Tea Party on Saturday, Feb. 9, in the Life Enrichment Center at the First United Methodist Church, 331 W. Osceola Ave., from 2 to 4 p.m. Various flavors of tea, tea sandwiches and desserts will be served. There will be a silent auction, entertainment, door prizes, and a slideshow of GTGC activities. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children under 12. For information, call Janet Way at 863-677-1002 to reserve your limited tickets now.

Masons serve breakfast

CLEWISTON — Sugarland Masonic Lodge 3281, 520 E. Sugarland Highway, will serve breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. The menu will consist of pancakes, sausage, biscuits, and gravy. All veterans and active military eat free; just show your military ID. Public is welcome and can eat for a \$6 donation. For information, call 863-234-5565 or send an email to sugarlandlodge281@gmail.com.

Church serves fish dinners

CLEWISTON — St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 207 North W.C. Owen Ave., will serve catfish or mullet dinners on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for a donation of \$10 per plate. Menu includes coleslaw, beans, grits, hush puppies, and tea or coffee. Take out or eat in. For information, call 863-983-7960.

Couples retreat set March 1

CLEWISTON — Faith Lutheran Church, 810 Cedar St., will sponsor a couples and soon-to-be couples retreat to be held on Friday through Sunday, March 1-3. Deadline to register is Feb. 15. The cost is \$20 and includes a manual, meals, and childcare. For more information, call Carlisa Lawson at 863-677-1390 or Carol Meier at 404-719-1965.

Okeechobee County

Hospice to hold yard sale

OKEECHOBEE — Hospice of Okeechobee, 411 S.E. Fourth St., will hold a yard sale on Wednesday, Jan. 30, from 8 am to noon. Gently used donation items will be accepted during the sale.

Church hosts gospel concert

OKEECHOBEE — First Baptist Church, 401 S.W. Fourth St., will host The Nelons, a Grammy-nominated gospel group, on Thursday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m.

GFWC meeting scheduled

OKEECHOBEE — Okeechobee Junior Womans Club will meet Friday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. at Mira Realty, 104 S.W. Third Ave.

Seminole Cove yard sale set

OKEECHOBEE — The Seminole Cove annual community yard sale will be Saturday, Feb. 2, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. off 32nd Street and 16th Avenue. Breakfast and lunch will be available. There will be over 29 resident vendors, white elephant tables and a baked goods table.

Moose Lodge hosts events

OKEECHOBEE — The Moose Lodge 1753, 159 N.W. 36 St., will host the following events: Wednesday, Jan. 30, there will be 5-card bingo. On Thursday, Jan. 31, there will be Legion bingo from noon to 4 p.m. Hamburger or shrimp dinners will be served Friday, Feb. 1, beginning at 5 p.m. Taco salad will be served Saturday, Feb. 2, at 5 p.m. Music by Lisa Riley from 6 to 9 p.m. Breakfast will be served Sunday, Feb. 3, from 8 to 9:45 a.m. Three-card bingo will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. For information, call 863-763-4954.

Big O Car Show planned

The Big O Car Show will be held Sunday, Feb. 3, at the Big O Flea Market, 3600 U.S. 441 S., Okeechobee, 9 a.m.

Palm Beach County

GTAC to meet Jan. 31

PAHOKEE — The Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC) will meet on Thursday, Jan. 31, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Pahokee Marina, 190 N. Lake Ave. For

information call Houston L. Tate at 561-233-5303 or Audley G. Reid, at 561-233-5567 or areid@pbcgov.org.

Country group to perform

BELLE GLADE — Farewell Angelina, an all-female country group named after a Bob Dylan song, will be playing at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center, 1977 College Drive, on Friday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. For tickets, call the box office at 561-993-1160 or visit dollyhand.org.

Senior Center hosts pep rally

BELLE GLADE — The West County Senior Center, 2916 State Road 15, will host a community-wide Pre Super Bowl Pep Rally Friday, Feb. 1, from noon to 3 p.m. Representatives from the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee will attend the rally. Find out how you can join the volunteer team.

Super Bowl event set

BELLE GLADE — On Sunday, Feb. 3, at 4 p.m. there will be a free event for adults 55 and over to watch the Super Bowl. Light refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages will be served and you must provide transportation. Preregistration is required. Completed applications must be delivered to the West County Senior Center, 2916 SR 15, which is where the event will be held. For more information, call 561-996-4808.

Story nights to be held

BELLE GLADE — Palm Beach County Library Belle Glade Branch, 725 N.W. Fourth St., will host Black History Month Story Nights on Tuesday, Feb. 5 and Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 6 p.m. Selected story books featuring black characters will be read aloud. Guest readers include, Mary Ross Wilkerson and City of Belle Glade vice mayor. All ages welcome.

Couples retreat scheduled

BELLE GLADE — St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 125 E. Canal St N., will sponsor a couples and soon-to-be couples retreat to be held from Friday through Sunday, March 1-3. Deadline to register is Feb. 15. The cost is \$20 and includes a manual, meals, and childcare. For more information, call Carlisa Lawson at 863-677-1390 or Carol Meier at 404-719-1965.

VITA scheduled Jan. 30

BELLE GLADE — Free tax preparation service will be available to the Glades VITA Site at the Belle Glade Community Action Center, 607 S. Main St., Suite 102, on Wednesday, Jan. 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. For information, call 561-996-0660.

Glades County considers fire/rescue tax

By Chris Felker

Lake Okeechobee News

MOORE HAVEN — Deputy County Manager for Public Safety Bob Jones presented a report to the Glades County commissioners Jan. 28, that put some numbers to a proposed full-time fire/rescue department. And after another hour or so of talking over the ideas, commissioners agreed they'll need the guidance of some outside experts or consultants on their best courses of action.

Several residents related scary stories and put faces to the dread of dialing 911 and getting either no assistance or help that comes too late. All spoke in general support of an additional, non-property tax for fire protection.

Mr. Jones laid out three alternatives that detailed potential budgets for: five fire-rescue stations with 30 full-time firefighter/emergency medical technician positions (FF/EMTs), three shift officers and (optionally) 15 paramedics; four stations with 24 FF/EMTs, three shift officers and a dozen optional paramedics; and three stations with 18 FF/EMTs, three shift officers and nine optional paramedics. He listed all the ancillary costs and totaled them, including for the paramedic positions, then figured out what a fire-rescue assessment per year would be for a Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) setup. He also had to consider what the county already budgets, including \$100,000 per year for Okeechobee Coun-

ty's mutual aid protection of central and northern Glades County, including Buckhead Ridge and Lakeport, and income from ambulance calls.

He broke down the three potential budgets' costs in this way:

- 5-station: total cost, \$2,288,090 per year; MSBU tax, about \$448/year per residence.
- 4-station: total cost, \$1,880,442; MSBU tax, about \$368.
- 3-station: total cost, \$1,484,290; MSBU tax, about \$290.

He cautioned them that it would be a complex undertaking, but Mr. Jones still began with a note of optimism. "This will be a very ambitious endeavor to accomplish that will consist of several projects to come together, but I feel sure with the ability and talent of our staff, it is by no means beyond our ability."

He said that of the options he detailed, the best for all of Glades County now would be the middle-of-the-road plan calling for stations in Buckhead Ridge, Lakeport, Moore Haven and "one on the west end of the county." If the maximum plan were selected, "the fifth station, we discussed putting on the south side" of the Caloosahatchee River, Mr. Jones said.

He included in his report a note that the county would seek a couple of different types of grants — the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response) Grants and the AFG (Assistance to Firefight-

ers Grants) Program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Mr. Jones' assessment stated, on the five-station plan: "If able to attain the SAFER Grant, which will cover 75 percent of staff cost to include benefits for two years with a county match of only 25 percent ... would create a reserve amount of \$1,573,657 per year for two years, (a total of) \$3,147,314. Year three is covered at 35 percent, \$734,331; (for a grand) total, \$3,881,645." It added, though, "unsure if grant will cover all 30 positions."

For the four-station plan, the SAFER Grant would create a reserve of \$3,157,842 over the three years; or, for the three-station plan, it would provide a \$2,505,436 cushion. He also explained to the commissioners: "None of this eliminates volunteers; there's not enough manpower. Mutual aid arrangements would play into it." But, he noted, if the county board wanted to proceed in that direction, staff would need documentation as soon as possible.

Mr. Murphy told commissioners that in checking with the Center for Public Safety Management, "they said they'd be willing to come up and talk to the board about how to proceed ... and how to determine what would be an appropriate staffing, equipment and manpower level, at minimal cost."

He added that they would be able to visit and meet with officials in February, "and

essentially lay out somewhat of a road map that, if we want to pursue this, things that we need to check off as we progress ... so that we don't overlook anything that may surprise us. I think they can give us some good advice going forward."

Commissioner Weston Pryor said he thought "much of the community cannot afford this, whether it's \$100 or \$400 a year. We have to do something for the low-income folks."

Commissioner Donna Storter Long, for whose constituents in the western part of Glades County this has been a big issue, said certain exemptions could be allowed, but she wanted to press forward.

Commissioner John Ahern said he thought it would be a good idea to get consultants' help.

"We don't need to reinvent the wheel," he said, suggesting they could get ideas from what Hendry County, the cities of Clewiston and LaBelle and officials in other counties such as Lee and Highlands are doing.

Commissioner Donald Strenth pointed out that the top cost of \$448 per year still was "chicken feed," at roughly \$1.22 per day. Mr. Pryor said, "But there's no way we can make everyone happy unless we have like eight stations."

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CVA's 11u team won first place in the Silver bracket, placing fifth out of eight teams attending. Pictured: Adleigh Schwier, Yani Smith, Alyssa Madrigal, Delaney Fuchswanz, Jenessa Arana, Lindy Harwas, Miley Jimmie, Savannah McCoy, Kashya Urbina and Taitiana Flores.

We are looking for 39 individuals who are eligible for this special program!

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- We can provide you with vocational training.
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Who is eligible?

- Seasonal or migrant farm workers.
- U.S. citizen or legal resident of U.S.
- Low income or family receiving public assistance
- 50% of income from farm work or 50% of work time in farm work
- Have done some farm work, a minimum of 25 days in the past 24 months

If you are not eligible, but know someone who is, or was a farmworker, working in a packing house or a nursery: Please let that person know that he/she may be eligible for our program.

Call (561) 992-7405 today to complete your pre-application and evaluate your eligibility.



Palm Beach County Farmworker Career Development Program

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SFWMD may close some locks



WEST PALM BEACH — For boaters navigating to and from Lake Okeechobee, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) soon will close several navigation locks on the north shore for safety reasons. The closures are a result of persistent drier-than-average conditions that have reduced water levels in Lake Okeechobee. Injury and lock damage could occur when boats pass through these structures at water levels below any of the designated safety limits.

On Jan. 25, the water level in Lake Okeechobee was 12.32 feet. If the lake falls below 12 feet, these locks along the north shore will be closed:

- Martin County: S-135 structure, J&S Fish Camp.
- Okeechobee County: G-36 structure, Henry Creek.
- Glades County: S-127 structure, Buckhead Ridge.
- Glades County: S-131 structure, Lakeport.

Also on the north shore, if the lake falls below 12 feet, the operating hours for the S-193 lock at Taylor Creek in Okeechobee County will be reduced to Saturdays and Sundays between 5:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. The S-193 lock will close if lake levels fall below 11 feet.

Changing conditions on site may warrant SFWMD closing these locks before the lake drops to these levels.

On the south shore, the S-310 lock at Clewiston in Hendry County will remain open even as low lake levels continue. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the locks leading from the lake to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers.

To get the latest information on Lake Okeechobee's water volume, including daily levels, visit SFWMD's website at www.sfwmd.gov/science-data/levels.

To get the latest information on navigation through SFWMD structures and waterways, visit www.sfwmd.gov/navigation.

Veterans News

Legion to host events

OKEECHOBEE — American Legion Post #64, 501 S.E. Second St., will hold the following events:

Wonderful Wednesday will be held on **Jan. 30**, with margaritas and tacos from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The grill will be open. Music by Jay and Patty from 3 to 6 p.m. Thirsty Thursday will be held **Jan. 31**. Lunch and dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. A fish fry will be held on Friday, **Feb. 1**, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Menu includes your choice of fish, shrimp or chicken in a basket or on a salad. Music by D&K Karaoke from 6 to 9 p.m. A meatloaf dinner and dance will be held on Saturday, **Feb. 2**, from 5-8 p.m.

Menu includes mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, dinner roll, and dessert for a \$6 donation.

Music by D&K Karaoke. Five card bingo will be held on Monday, **Feb. 4**, from 1 to 3 p.m. with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. A meeting will be held on Tuesday, **Feb. 5**. For information, call 863-763-5309.

VFW to host bingo

OKEECHOBEE — VFW Post 4423, 300 N.W. 34th St., will host dobber bingo on Friday, **Feb. 1**, and Saturday, **Feb. 2**, at 1 p.m.

American Legion #299 meets

MOORE HAVEN — Moore Haven American Legion Post No. 299, 600 River Road, will hold a meeting on Friday, **Feb. 1**, at 6 p.m. A complimentary dinner will be provided. Veterans and other interested persons are invited to attend, no reservations needed. For information, call Kirby Sullivan at 863-946-2556.

BHR Amvets host meals

OKEECHOBEE — At VFW Post 9528, 29012 State Road 78 E., the AMVETS will serve liver and onions on Wednesday, **Jan. 30**, at 5 p.m. On Friday, **Feb. 1**, there will be a dinner of grilled boneless rib eye steak, grilled pork tenderloin, fried fish and shrimp and more from 5:30 to 7 p.m. On Saturday, **Feb. 2**, the VFW Riders will serve a full breakfast from 8:30 to 11 a.m. and reubens and wings at 4 p.m.



WEEKLY HAPPENINGS



TACO WEDNESDAY 11-6

**MUSIC 3-6
JAY & PATTY**

Margarita Special

THIRSTY THURSDAY

Food 11-6

Register for a \$20 bar tab
Miss American Legion Pageant
Grades 9-12 at 7pm

FRIDAY

\$6 Bargain Basket Dinner 5-8PM
Choice of fish, shrimp, or chicken in a basket
or on a salad for \$7.
Music by D & K 6-9pm

SATURDAY

S.A.L. Meatloaf Dinner \$6
Baking Contest 2pm
White Russians \$3

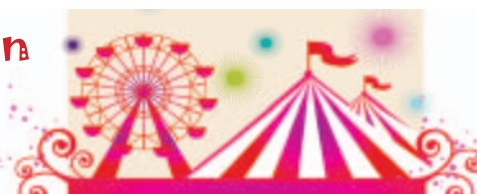
SUNDAY NO Bingo

MONDAY 5 Card Bingo 1-3PM
LUNCH served at 12:30 PM

TUESDAY ~ Meeting Day
Bloody Marys \$1.50

American Legion
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January 25 - Feb. 3





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GOLFER'S GUIDE

THE BELLE GLADE MUNICIPAL GOLF CLUB

is open to the public and offers a variety of membership packages which include annual, corporate and seasonal. The daily rate for 18 holes of golf is \$30, and 9 holes of golf is \$20. Please call the golf club at 561.914.6435 for other special offers.

The rich history of the Belle Glade Municipal Golf Club is notably marked by golf visionaries who were instrumental in the design and development of the golf course throughout the years. Beginning in 1935, a private individual first purchased property adjacent to the Herbert Hoover Dike from the State of Florida. Seven years later, Belle Glade citizens A.E. Kirchman and L.C. Betzner obtained deeds to the property for a proposed 9-hole golf course and country club, which they named the "Country Club of the Everglades," now known as the Front Nine. The newly established golf course was deeded to the City of Belle Glade in 1950. Later in 1984, a prominent Belle Glade resident, County Commissioner Bill Bailey, convinced the County Commission of the need for an additional 9 holes.

Palm Beach County agreed to construct a nine-hole golf course, pro shop, driving range, and cart facilities to be known as "Bill Bailey's Back Nice." The Back Nine was designed by professional golfer Gary Player and golf course architect Karl Litten.



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The eatery will serve homestyle comfort food, burgers,

sandwiches, salads and housemade signature sides and dishes. Lunch and dinner will be served daily with breakfast service on Sundays. The Outpost Bar & Grille at Indianwood is the only establishment with a full bar in Indiantown.



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Lake Okeechobee News

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For the *Health* of it!



Lake Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsen

Agri-Civic Center hosts Health and Safety Fair

OKEECHOBEE — The 12th Annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo promoted health and safety to the residents of Okeechobee through the display of first responder vehicles, demonstrations, health screenings, fun activities, vendor booths, entertainment and giveaways. The expo was held Jan. 16 at the Okeechobee AGri-Civic Center. In the top left photo, the mascot for the Baby Otter swim program was on hand to remind parents how important it is for children to learn how to swim.

In the bottom left photo, the Okeechobee County Health Department adopted a pirate theme for its booths at the annual Health and Safety Expo. Juana Martinez manned a booth to promote the health benefits of breastfeeding.

Below, the Okeechobee High School SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) club manned a booth at the Okeechobee Health and Safety Expo to explain the dangerous of tobacco use.



Health News in Brief

Healthy Start meeting set

OKEECHOBEE — Okeechobee County Healthy Start Coalition Board of Directors will meet Wednesday, **Jan. 30**, at noon, at The White House Plaza, 1132 S. Parrot Ave. Open to the public. The coalition is made up of citizens interested in promoting healthy pregnancies and healthy birth outcomes for Okeechobee County Residents. For information, call Kay Begin at 863-462-5877.



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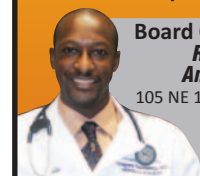


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For the *Health* of it!

‘Fetal heartbeat’ bill to be considered

By **Cathy Womble**

Lake Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — State Rep. Mike Hill presented a “fetal heartbeat” bill (HB 235) on Jan. 10, which will be considered during the legislative session in the spring. This bill would require an ultrasound to be performed before all abortions and if a heartbeat were detected, it would make the abortion a third-degree felony if it were performed, except in cases of domestic violence, incest, rape, human trafficking or

the severe risks to the health and life of the mother.

The bill also would change the terminology in the state’s abortion laws. Rather than using the term “fetus,” the term would be replaced with “unborn human being.” The bill would also require that the ultrasound be done within the 24-hour period prior to the abortion and that the results be discussed with the woman. If she chooses not to discuss the results, she would have to put it in writing to ensure she did so of

her own free will.

At this time, the state of Florida allows abortions up to 24 weeks’ pregnancy.

Pro-choice advocates are not happy with the bill, with Rep. Anna Eskamani calling it “an extreme anti-reproductive health care bill.”

Pro-life activists are ecstatic, and because Gov. Ron DeSantis pledged to sign fetal heartbeat legislation during his campaign, they believe this legislation has a good chance of passing.

Health News in Brief

Free diabetes workshop set

PAHOKEE — Attend a free Diabetes Self-Management Workshop at Pahokee Housing - Padgett Island, 899 Padgett Circle, on Thursday, Jan. 31, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, call 561-844-4220 ext 2600 or 1500.

Mental Health First Aid

BELLE GLADE — Youth Mental Health First Aid eight-hour training will be held on Thursday, Jan. 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bridges of Belle Glade, 33 West Ave. A. For information, contact Nancy Reese@palmbeachschools.org.

Bloodmobile visits planned

OKEECHOBEE — If you are over the age of 17 and in good health, you can donate blood. The bloodmobile will visit Okeechobee on Thursday, Jan. 31, at Ancient Oaks, 6407 U.S. 441, from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Donors will receive \$5 Golden Corral gift cards and t-shirts.

Health fair planned

CLEWISTON — Hendry Regional Medical Center, 524 W. Sagamore Ave., will hold its Health Fair on Saturday, **Feb. 2**, from 10

a.m. to 2 p.m. Available services will include diabetes testing, diabetes cooking classes, HIV screenings, dental and vision screenings, blood pressure screenings, anemia testing, cardiovascular screenings, tobacco cessation help and more. There will be free food as well as free bounce houses and activities for children. For more information, call 863-983-1123.

Fire/Rescue checks pressure

OKEECHOBEE — Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue offers free blood pressure checks from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at:

- Fire Station #1, 504 N.W. Sixth St.,
- Fire Station #2, 3511 S.E. 38th Ave., and,
- Fire Station #4, 1199 N.E. 168th St.

Please understand that if you stop by a station and there is no staff there, they are out on an emergency call. Please stop back later.

Bereavement Support Group

OKEECHOBEE — Hospice of Okeechobee offers Bereavement Support Group meetings each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Volunteer Building, 317 S.E. Third Ave., Door #1. Meetings are free and you do not have to have Hospice services.

Hospice counseling is available to anyone in Okeechobee County. For more infor-

mation, contact Hospice of Okeechobee at 863-467-2321.

Cancer Support Group meets

OKEECHOBEE — The Christ Fellowship Church, 701 S. Parrott Ave., will hold a Cancer Support Group on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Group sessions will be a resource for encouragement, education and support. For information, call Judy at 863-532-1721 or email CancerSupportCF@gmail.com.



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The MACG Band brings night of gospel to Dolly Hand

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

BELLE GLADE — The Musical Arts Consortium of the Glades (MACG) is set to perform The Gospel According to the MACG on Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center at 7 p.m.

The MACG Band includes keyboards,

drums, bass, lead guitar, and vocalists who are all Glades and Lake Okeechobee residents. The band exists to promote musical excellence and provide our area with a professional ensemble that can play and perform any genre of music.

“The Musical Arts Consortium of the Glades is about rebuilding a musical culture in many ways,” said its president, Anthony Jackson. “If we can start rebuilding a culture in our local communities, we will be able to make an impact just like other organizations.”

The Musical Arts Consortium of the Glades (MACG) Band was a dream that be-

came a reality in 2017, after seeing a need to bring together some of the Glades’ best musicians. Not only bring these musicians together, but to bring a cultural and musical renaissance to Glades. The number of gifts and talent that the MACG Band poses is unparalleled and a breath of fresh air to the Glades.

The Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center is located on Palm Beach State College’s Belle Glade Campus at 1977 College Drive in Belle Glade. For more information, call the box office at 561-993-1160 or visit dolly-hand.org.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
The MACG Band exists to promote musical excellence and provide our area with a professional ensemble that can play and perform any genre of music.

FESTIVAL

Continued From Page 1

Road 78, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Festivities include bluegrass music, clogging, arts and crafts booths and cane grinding.

The **Top of the Lake Art Festival** is planned for Saturday, Feb. 9, in Flagler Park, 55 S.E. Third Ave., Okeechobee, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artists interested in competing should contact the Okeechobee Main Street office at 863-357-6246 for an application. To learn more or apply, go online to okeechobeemainstreet.org.

The **Hendry County Fair and Livestock Show** starts Tuesday, Feb. 12, and runs through Feb. 17 at the Clewiston fairgrounds, 710 S. Francisco St., Clewiston. The fair will be open daily from 6:30 to 11 p.m. weeknights and 5 to 11 p.m. on weekends. For more information, call 863-983-9282 or go online to hendrycountyfair.com.

Brighton Seminole Field Day and Festival is planned for Feb. 15-17, opening daily at 10 a.m. at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, 500 Harney Pond Road off State Road 721 in Glades County. Entertainment includes alligator wrestling, a reptile show, Native American dancers, music, a rodeo, arts and crafts and more. For information, go online to rezrodeo.com.

The last full weekend in February brings the **Swamp Cabbage Festival** in LaBelle, Feb. 22-24. The festival celebrates the state’s official tree, the sabal palm. Festival booths will be open in Barron Park, 1559 De Soto Ave. LaBelle, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival parade is Saturday at 10 a.m. in downtown LaBelle. For more information, visit labelleswampcabbagefestival.org.

The **Battle of Okeechobee Re-enactment** will be held at the Okeechobee Battlefield State Park off U.S. 441 S.E. in Okeechobee on Feb. 23 and 24. The Okeechobee Battlefield Friends Inc. host the annual re-enactment to heighten public awareness for this historic battle. Federal and Seminole artifacts will be on hand for display. Gates will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days and battle re-enactments will be held at 2 p.m. both days. Bleacher seating is limited; it is recommended to bring your own chair.

The **Chalo Nitka Festival**, Rodeo & Dance take place Saturday, March 2, in Moore Haven. The festival parade is set for 10 a.m. starting the Moore Haven City Hall. The festival grounds are located in Chalo Nitka Park, the end of the parade route on 10th Street. For more information, visit the website at chalonitka.com or call 863-946-0300.



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Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
The Okeechobee High School varsity wrestling team poses with their second-place trophy earned during a dual at Centennial High School on Jan. 23.

Brahman wrestlers take second in duals tournament

By Richard Marion

Lake Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE — The Okeechobee High School Brahman wrestling team is capping off a busy week that saw them compete in 12 duals in a matter of seven days.

The team got things started on Jan. 16 with a regional dual at Jensen Beach High School. The Okeechobee wrestlers were defeated by Palm Bay and Merritt Island in the dual. Palm Bay eventually went on to defeat Jensen Beach to earn a ticket to the state dual in Kissimmee.

Three days later on Jan. 19, the Brahmans traveled to Satellite Beach to compete in another dual tournament. In that tournament the Brahmans came away with a 2-3 record, defeating Space Coast and Satellite Beach. The three Brahman losses came from Palm Harbor, Merritt Island and in a heartbreaker to Atlantic (Daytona Beach) in criteria, which means the match came down to a tie breaker. Still, Brahman wrestling coach Bruce Jahner brought his team back into the practice room to recap the last few tournaments and work on a few things. "I kept telling the kids we weren't changing anything, we just needed to tweak a few things," said Jahner.

That set the stage for another duals tournament on Jan. 23 at Centennial High School. In the first match the Brahmans came out with a 58-21 win over Orlando Jones. In the second round Okeechobee faced Martin

County and defeated them 64-15. And in the third match of the night the Brahmans got another victory when they defeated Treasure Coast 49-30.

"That was a tough match-up," Jahner said of Treasure Coast. "They have a very solid team. The biggest difference from our previous matches was our third period. We were finally putting six minutes on the mat." Okeechobee followed up the close win over Treasure Coast by blasting host school Centennial 72-9. In the finals the Brahmans were matched up against Heritage. Heritage had a very strong mid-weight class this year and showed their power in the first few matches.

Okeechobee was able to rally back and keep the score close until the end, but they were ultimately defeated 42-30.

The Brahmans wrestlers are currently 14-7 in dual meets.

Okeechobee had three wrestlers go undefeated on in the dual at Centennial, Felix Brege, Travis McKenna and Gordon Trimble.

"We will continue preparing for the districts tournament with three weigh ins," said Jahner of the next steps for the Brahman wrestlers. "We start the week off with a home match against Sebastian River at 6 p.m. in the OHS gym. Thursday we travel to Sebring to take part in a tri-match with Sebring, Avon Park and Lake Placid. Finally on Saturday the JV wrestlers will head to South Fork for a individual tournament.



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Please email a current resume' to office@okeechobeechristianacademy.org or applications may be acquired in the Okeechobee Christian Academy office, located at 701 S Parrott Ave, Okeechobee, FL 34974.

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Employment - Full Time

Hendry County BOCC is seeking applications for an as-needed **Passenger Van Driver**. Applications will be received at the Human Resources Department, 640 South Main Street, LaBelle, FL 33935. A complete job posting and application forms are available on the Hendry County website at www.hendry-fla.net.

Hendry County is a VP, EEO/AA, DFWP employer and participates in E-Verify. Individuals needing assistance in the application process should contact the County Human Resources department at 863-675-5352 .

COMPANY DRIVERS NEEDED

Class A/B CDL with Tanker and/or Hazmat endorsement.
Benefits include- Health Insurance, 401K, Vacation.
Apply within
Diamond R Fertilizer
710 N.E. 5th Ave.



www.LakeOkeechobeeRealEstateMagazine.com

Lake Okeechobee Real Estate Magazine

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Realtors, to place your advertisement in our magazine, contact one of our sales representatives
863.763.3134



Financial

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.

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

Merchandise

Pets/Supplies

Beautiful 4 week Pot
Belly Pigs, perfect for any loving home. Mom is small 100% healthy veterinarian owned \$25.00 each PETS ONLY
863 801 5575

Seasonal

Del Valle Fresh, Inc. 25 Temporary workers needed in Enoree, Roebuck and Woodruff, South Carolina from March 12, 2019 through November 30, 2019. The person seeking employment as an agricultural worker must be available for the entire period requested by the employer and have 3 months of experience in the manual harvesting of agricultural products. Applicants must be 18 years or older. The employer may conduct a criminal background check. All tools, equipment and supplies are provided at no cost to the worker. The agricultural job includes the duties associated with sowing, growing, harvesting and packaging tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and squash; the maintenance of the farm, the field and the sanitation and the cleaning after the harvest, as well as the duties related to the deployment and the maintenance of the irrigation in the field and the protection against the frosts. This work may require standing, walking, bending, and lifting for long periods of time outdoors in all weather conditions. It also includes making important decisions based on size, color and maturity in accordance with prescribed standards. This work requires adherence to important standard operating procedures of food safety and quality and the ability to work quickly and consistently. Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Peppers and Squash: Workers are assigned a row or series of rows and are required to select and choose products according to criteria described and demonstrated by managers, such as size, color and maturity. Maintenance: The workers will be responsible for the general maintenance of the garden. Allergies to ragweed, goldenrod, insecticide, related chemical products, etc. they can affect the ability of workers to do the job with or without reasonable accommodations. Due to possible changes in the need date, the worker must purchase travel insurance if it is available. We will reimburse the worker for transportation costs (including travel insurance) and subsistence to the employer's job site from the place of hire upon completion of 50 percent of the contract period. Payment of transportation will not be less (and is not required to be more) than the cheapest and most reasonable common carrier transport charges for the distances involved. A copy of the employment contract or a copy of ETA 790 will be provided in lieu of an employment contract, and any modification, to the worker the day the work commences or as soon as possible. If the employee is unable or unfit to perform the duties listed after the 14 day pretrial, the employee will receive warnings, hours may be reduced to the minimum allowed in the certified petition or terminated. Workers will be paid \$11.13 per hour, three fourth's guarantee, 35 hours per week, housing, equipment and transportation provided at no cost to workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence at the end of each work day. Employer may participate in the E-Verify program and workers must have valid identification for I-9 preparation when they report to begin work. Complete job description can be found at your local SWA/Job Enter. Apply for this job at the State Workforce/Job Center office in your area, please call for the nearest office in your area SC 800-737-2400, GA 912-285-6105, TN 901-636-7971 FL 863-385-3672, using job order #828820.

FOR RENT

Rentals

Apartments

LAKEPORT APARTMENT,
1ST FLOOR, FURNISHED
2BD/1BA, SCREENED IN
FRONT PORCH, YARD.
\$800.00 MONTHLY, 1ST
& SECURITY. CALL 863-
532-5073

OKEECHOBEE
Updated 2BD/1BA
\$690.00/MO. 1ST
Month, Last Month &
Security Deposit.
Very Clean and well
maintained. 12 min.
outside of town off
Hwy 70 East. Great
setting, lawn service,
on-site management,
pest control included,
w/d hook-up.
*Ask about the avail-
ability of a 3bd/2ba.
Sorry, NO PETS.
Credit, background
check & refer-
ences.
Call M-S 9am-6pm
813-956-5150

Houses - Rent

CBS HOME 3BD/2BA
TREASURE ISLAND ON
WATER, \$1,250.00/MO.
1ST, LAST AND SECURI-
TY. CALL 863-610-2193

Seasonal

Houses - Rent

**RENOVATED 2BD/
2BA**, small pet OK.
NONSMOKING RESI-
DENCE, \$950/mo. 1st,
last & \$500 sec. dep.
Call 941-504-3954.

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

Real Estate

Houses - Sale

HOUSES FOR SALE -
NEW CANAL-FRONT
2/2 MODULAR HOME
OWN 75'X100' LAND,
NO RESTRICTIONS.
NEVER LIVED IN! NEW
APPLIANCES, A/C,
CONCRETE SEAWALL,
LAKE ACCESS, GREAT
FISHING. \$95,000.00
863-261-5191

PALM CREEK ESTATES
WATERFRONT HOME
FOR SALE 2BR/2BA
1800SQ. FT. BOAT-
HOUSE, SEAWALL, CBS
CONSTRUCTION, NEW
ROOF, \$185,500.00
CALL 276-646-5071
FOR INFO OR APPT.
TO SEE.

Seasonal

Land - Sale

ALMOST 8 ACRES IN
LAKE PLACID
Leisure Lakes area.
Near Lake June.
\$ 58,800.
Jean Deuth - Lake & Land
Realty of Highlands, Inc.
(863) 414 - 5326
(863) 414 - JEAN

MOORE HAVEN
Frontage
- on Rt. US #27,
DEVELOPMENT
SITE 2 ACRES
ENTIRE
CITY BLOCK
Zoned commercial.
Adjacent to court
house, high
school, etc.
APARTMENT SITE
(8 units) Near river.
Walk to school.
Townhouses or
Rental Apartments.
Call owner
for details
863-673-5071

Lots - Sale

BUILDABLE LOTS
1.25+ ACRE
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY,
AG/RES.
GREAT INVESTMENT!
OWNER FINANCING
\$125 MONTH
NO CREDIT CHECK
866-820-6523
VIKING ESTATES

Lots - Sale

BHR WATER FRONT
LOT JUST OFF RIM CA-
NAL IN BHR QUIET 55+
ROSEBUD PARK W/
BOAT RAMP IDEAL FOR
HOME, REASONABLE
OFFERS CONSIDERED.
540-589-9577 OR 540-
589-2258

Mobile Homes

Mobile Homes - Rent

BHR 3BD/2BA- ON
LARGE PRIVATE LOT
WITH ENCLOSED 5FT
SCREEN ROOM, DRIVE-
WAY & CARPORT.
\$850.00/MO. INCLUDES
LAWN SERVICE. CALL
863-467-2784

Mobile Homes - Sale

BRINDABAN
FOREST
4601 SE 28TH ST.
3BR M/H 1.5BA,
LARGE FAMILY ROOM,
2 CAR CARPORT,
2 SHEDS, LARGE
LOT WITH TREES,
COMPLETELY FUR-
NISHED DOWN TO
YOUR FOOD AND
CLOTHING. TOO
MUCH TO LIST.
MUST SEE
ONLY \$69,900.
CALL JERRY
OBERLEY REALTY
863-484-0510

FOR SALE- 2BR/2BA
MOBILE HOME
\$24,900./O.B.O. 516 SE
4TH ST, LOT 3C CALL
812-350-5673 FOR
MORE INFORMATION



READING A NEWSPAPER...

saves you money by
providing information
about the best buys.

No wonder newspaper
readers earn more!

Automotive

Autos Wanted

AAA Auto Analysis- All
makes, all price ranges.
We buy cars, trucks,
and motorcycles.
Established 1981.
772-260-9707

Public Notice

BID No. EQ170119

Invitation to Bid

"Equipment Disposal"

The Pahokee Housing Authority is receiving sealed bids for sale of used equipment until 3:00 p.m., Friday, February 1, 2019, at which time bids will be opened publicly and read aloud. Equipment includes:

- 2002 Chevy Trail Blazer- VIN#1GND513S722483600
- 2000 Ford F150 Pick-up- VIN#1FTZF1724YNA57495

To inspect equipment and obtain further instructions for bid submission, contact Satyam Polineni, Executive Director at (561)924-5565.

It is the policy of the Pahokee Housing Authority to comply fully with all Federal, State, and local nondiscrimination laws and with the rules and regulation governing Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity housing. Pahokee Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer



314052 BGS 01/30/2019

CITY OF OKEECHOBEE

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Okeechobee will conduct a regular meeting on **Tues, Feb. 5, 2019, 6 PM**, or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, FL. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. The agenda may be obtained from cityofokeechobee.com or by calling the Office of the City Administrator, 863-763-3372 ext. 9812.

ANY PERSON DECIDING TO APPEAL any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceeding is made and the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any person with a disability as defined by the ADA, that needs special accommodation to participate in this proceeding, contact the City Clerk's Office no later than two business days prior to proceeding, 863-763-3372 ext. 9814.

BE ADVISED that should you intend to show any document, picture, video or items to the Council in support or opposition to any item on the agenda, a copy of the document, picture, video, or item **MUST** be provided to the City Clerk for the City's records.

By: Mayor Dowling R. Watford, Jr.
314087 ON 1/30/2019

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

SWFL PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS & PARAMEDICS, IAFF
LOCAL 1826 and HENDRY COUNTY EMS NEGOTIATIONS

Notice is hereby given that the Southwest Florida Professional Fire Fighters & Paramedics, IAFF Local 1826 and Hendry County EMS will hold a meeting on February 7th, 2019 at 11:00 am, at the Administration Office, 640 S. Main St., Labelle, Florida. The meeting is open to the public.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Please note that matters may be discussed at the meeting which are not on the prepared agenda for the meeting. Hendry County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you have a disability that will require special assistance or accommodation for your attendance at the meeting, please contact Hendry County Administration at (863) 675-5220; Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1; or e-mail tracy.nobles@hendryfla.net.

Si necesita la asistencia de un interprete que hable espanol para participar en esta reunion, por favor pongase en contacto con Myra Johnson al (863) 675-5220.

312231 CLEW 01/23, 30/2019

NOTICE OF MEETING

CENTRAL COUNTY WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

Please be advised that the Board of Supervisors of the Central County Water Control District ("the District"), Hendry County, Florida will hold a Workshop on FEBRUARY 27, 2019 AT 6:00 PM EST which will be followed by the regular monthly meeting and continuing from time-to-time at the District Office, 475 S. Cabbage Palm Street, Clewiston, Florida 33470 to consider the following:

WORKSHOP AT 6:00 PM MONTHLY MEETING TO FOLLOW

and other regular business of the District. This Notice further advises that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Supervisors of the District with respect to any matter considered during this meeting, you will need a record of the meeting, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which any such appeal is based.

Any interested party desiring to appear before the Board of Supervisors may do so on the date and place listed above.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE OR SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT (863) 983-5797 NO LESS THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS PRIOR TO THE ABOVE STATED MEETING.
314308 ON 01/30/2019

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LANDOWNERS OF

RITTA DRAINAGE DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to call of the Board of Supervisors of the Ritta Drainage District, and in accordance with Chapter 298 Florida Statutes 1941 and law amendatory thereto, the Annual Meeting of The Landowners of Ritta Drainage District for the year 2018

Will be held at United States Sugar Corporation, Molasses Sales Office, 1995 West Hwy 27, Clewiston, FL on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 11:30 AM For the purpose of:

1. Electing one (1) Supervisor for a term of three (3) years.
2. Receiving annual reports and taking such action with respect thereto as the landowners may determine.
3. Transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RITTA DRAINAGE DISTRICT

By: Steve Stiles, Chairman

314037 ON 1/30/2/6/2019

View obituaries from
the past month at
<http://www.legacy.com>

Public Notice

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Clewiston at City Hall, Attention: 2019 Overlay Paving Project, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440 until Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 2:15 p.m. The Bids will be opened immediately following the bid submittal deadline at City Hall.

The project is titled 2019 Overlay Paving Project. The work consists of installing approximately 26,362 square yards of one inch (1") AP-9.5 asphalt overlay, and other associated work. No work will be performed on March 15th, 16th, or 17th to avoid the Clewiston Sugar Festival.

All materials furnished and all work performed, shall be in accordance with the plans, specifications, and contract documents pertaining thereto, which may be examined at the office of Johnson-Prewitt & Associates, Inc., 850 West Ventura Avenue, Post Office Box 1029, Clewiston, Florida 33440. The documents, plans, and blank bid forms may be obtained from this office for a NON-REFUNDABLE fee of \$20.00 per set.

A certified check or cashier's check on a National or State Bank or a bid bond in a sum not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid, made payable to the City of Clewiston, shall accompany each bid as a guarantee that the bidder will not withdraw from the competition after opening of the bids, and in the event the contract is awarded to the bidder, he will enter into contract and furnish the required performance and payment bonds, failing which, he shall forfeit the bid deposit as liquidated damages. The performance and payment bonds shall be executed by a fully authorized surety, acceptable to the owner and licensed by the State of Florida.

The owner reserves the right to hold all bids for thirty (30) days and to reject any and all bids, with or without cause, to waive technical errors and informalities, or to accept the bid in its judgment that serves the owner.

Wendell Johnson, Interim City Manager
City of Clewiston, Florida

314062 CN 1/30/2019

City of Clewiston

Invitation to Bid

The City of Clewiston is currently accepting bids from qualified contractors for the paving of intersections and medians at select locations. **Bids can be mailed or hand delivered to City Hall, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440 and must be received no later than 2:00 p.m. local time on February 26, 2019, at which time bids will be opened and read out loud.** Each bid is to be placed in a sealed envelope clearly marked **"2019 Hot Spot Paving Project"**. No City official will be held responsible for the opening of a bid not properly marked before the designated time. Contractor must be licensed and insured to the minimum amount required by law.

All materials furnished and all work performed shall be in accordance with the plans, specifications, and/or contract documents pertaining thereto, which may be examined at and obtained from Clewiston City Hall, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440.

Any and all questions must be in writing and directed to the office of the City Clerk. All questions will be answered in writing. Any answers which may alter the scope of work will be answered in the form of addenda. The deadline for receiving questions is **Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.** Questions received after this date and time will not be considered. Questions may be submitted via e-mail to cityclerk@clewistonfl.gov or by mail to City of Clewiston, Attention: City Clerk, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440.

The City of Clewiston reserves the right to hold all bids for 60 days and to reject any and all bids, with or without cause, to waive technical errors and informalities, or to accept the bid that in its best judgment best serves the City.

Wendell Johnson, Interim City Manager
City of Clewiston, Florida

313648 CN 1/30/2019

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Clewiston at City Hall, Attention: 2019 Sidewalk Improvement Project, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440 until Wednesday February 26, 2019, 2:00 p.m. The Bids will be opened immediately following the bid submittal deadline at City Hall.

The project is titled 2019 Sidewalk Improvement Project. The work consists of installing approximately 349 linear feet of five-foot (5') wide, six-inch (6") thick concrete sidewalk replacement with aluminum guardrail, detectable warning surfaces and other associated work.

All materials furnished and all work performed, shall be in accordance with the plans, specifications, and contract documents pertaining thereto, which may be examined at the office of Johnson-Prewitt & Associates, Inc., 850 West Ventura Avenue, Post Office Box 1029, Clewiston, Florida 33440. The documents, plans, and blank bid forms may be obtained from this office for a NON-REFUNDABLE fee of \$20.00 per set.

A certified check or cashier's check on a National or State Bank or a bid bond in a sum not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid, made payable to the City of Clewiston, shall accompany each bid as a guarantee that the bidder will not withdraw from the competition after opening of the bids, and in the event the contract is awarded to the bidder, he will enter into contract and furnish the required performance and payment bonds, failing which, he shall forfeit the bid deposit as liquidated damages. The performance and payment bonds shall be executed by a fully authorized surety, acceptable to the owner and licensed by the State of Florida.

The owner reserves the right to hold all bids for thirty (30) days and to reject any and all bids, with or without cause, to waive technical errors and informalities, or to accept the bid in its judgment that serves the owner.

Wendell Johnson, Interim City Manager
City of Clewiston, Florida

314055 CN 1/30/2019

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE

COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR COQUINA WATER CONTROL DISTRICT WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019, AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 17429 NW 242 STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972. A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST FROM THE UNDERSIGNED. IF ANY PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING, THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES THAT PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED, IS MADE. ANY PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING MUST HAVE THEIR NAME AND TOPIC PLACED ON THE AGENDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING. ALL LANDOWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S OFFICE BY CALLING (863) 763-4601 AT LEAST TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING.

ROBERT STARK
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
17429 NW 242ND STREET
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972
(863) 763-4601

314133 ON 01/30/2019

Public Notice

Public Notice

INVITATION TO BID
CENTRAL COUNTY WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Central County Water Control District ("CCWCD") will receive bids for the resurfacing of the Hacienda Blvd. and Del Club Ave. roadways. Bids will be received by hand delivery at CCWCD Offices, 475 S. Cabbage Palm Ave, Clewiston, FL 33440 on or before **Feb. 20, 2019 at 4 PM EST.**

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: Work consists of furnishing, delivering, and installing all materials, equipment, and services, including labor, for asphalt resurfacing, and rehabilitation of Hacienda Blvd. and Del Club Ave roadways in Montura Ranch Estates, Hendry County. CCWCD reserves the right to adjust the scope and limits of construction at any time during bidding or execution of the work. Specifications are available for review at the CCWCD Offices or H. L. Bennett & Associates, Inc.

SUBMITTALS: To be considered, all contractors must request a copy of the bid package by contacting the office of: H. L. Bennett & Associates, Inc., 241 Yeomans Ave., Labelle, Florida 34975, (863) 675-8882; hlb@hlbennett.org or Rebecca Hernandez, 475 S. Cabbage Palm St., Clewiston, FL 33440, FL, assistantbidmanager@ccwcd.com, 863-983-5797. Please submit one (1) original, six (6) copies, and a flash drive containing a copy of the entire bid in one sealed package. Contractors shall bear all costs associated with preparation and submission of any bid. CCWCD reserves the right to reject all bids, to terminate the process at any time and recommence at a later time from the beginning, to waive any informalities or irregularities in any submittal, to award in whole or in part to one or more contractors or take any other actions that may be deemed in the best interest of CCWCD.

MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING: A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on **Feb. 4, 2019 at 2:30 pm EST** at CCWCD Offices, 475 Cabbage Palm Ave., Clewiston, FL 33440.

AWARD: Feb. 27, 2019 at CCWCD's regular monthly meeting.

For more information, contact H. L. Bennett & Associates, Inc. at (863) 675-8882 or Rebecca Hernandez at (863) 983-5797.
310741 CN 1/16,23,30/2019

HENDRY COUNTY LAND FOR SALE
INVITATION TO BID
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
BID NO. 2019-09

Opening Date and Time: February 28, 2019, 2:00 PM

Sealed bids will be received by the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners for the purchase of the County owned property located 4700 Pioneer 10th Street, Clewiston, Florida (Parcel I.D. No. 1-31-43-34-020-0008-009.0). In order to be considered, bids must be received by the Board of County Commissioners, c/o the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Attn: Barbara Butler, at the C.E. Hall Building, Room A-226, Hendry County Courthouse Complex, 25 E. Hick-pocsee Avenue, Labelle, Florida by February 28, 2019 at 2:00 p.m., at which time all responses to this request will be recorded in the presence of one or more witnesses.

A copy of the Instructions and Bid Documents can be obtained online at www.hendryfla.net, under the Public Information tab, Bids, 2018/2019, or from the Hendry County Purchasing Department, located at 640 S. Main Street, Labelle, Florida (for pick up), or by calling (863) 675-5220.

Questions are to be directed to Felicia Bee-Pequeno, at 863-675-5295 or fbce@hendryfla.net.

This solicitation does not commit Hendry County to award any contracts, or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this Bid. The County reserves the right to reject any or all bids received as a result of this solicitation, or to cancel in part or in its entirety this Bid, if it is in the best interest of the County to do so.

Hendry County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Si necesita la asistencia de un interprete que hable español para participar un esta reunion, por favor pongase en contacto con Myra Johnson al (863) 675-2540.
313318 CN 1/30;2/6 CB 1/31;2/7/2019

City of Clewiston
Invitation to Bid

The City of Clewiston is currently accepting bids from qualified contractors for the installation of a new roof on the Clewiston County Club located at 1201 South San Luis, Clewiston, FL 33440. **Bids can be mailed or hand delivered to City Hall, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440 and must be received no later than 2:00 p.m. local time on February 26, 2019, at which time time bids will be opened and read out loud.** Each bid is to be placed in a sealed envelope clearly marked "2019 Country Club Roof Project". No City official will be held responsible for the opening of a bid not properly marked before the designated time. Contractor must be licensed, insured to the minimum requirement of the law and hold a State Certified Roofing License. This building will remain open to the public daily during construction. The work site is to be properly secured daily. Movement of pedestrians and patrons shall be provided in a safe and accessible manner.

All materials furnished and all work performed shall be in accordance with the plans, specifications, and/or contract documents pertaining thereto, which may be examined at and obtained from Clewiston City Hall, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440.

Any and all questions must be in writing and directed to the office of the City Clerk. All questions will be answered in writing. Any answers which may alter the scope of work will be answered in the form of addenda. The deadline for receiving questions is **Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.** Questions received after this date and time will not be considered. Questions may be submitted via e-mail to cityclerk@clewistonfl.gov or by mail to City of Clewiston, Attention: City Clerk, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440.

The City of Clewiston reserves the right to hold all bids for 60 days and to reject any and all bids, with or without cause, to waive technical errors and informalities, or to accept the bid that in its best judgment best serves the City.

Wendell Johnson, Interim City Manager
City of Clewiston, Florida

313649 CN 1/30/2019

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LANDOWNERS OF
BOLLES DRAINAGE DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to call of the Board of Supervisors of Bolles Drainage District, and in accordance with Chapter 298 Florida Statutes 1941 and law amendatory thereto, the Annual Meeting of The Landowners of Bolles Drainage District for the year 2018 will be held at United States Sugar Corporation, Molasses Sales Office, 1995 West Hwy 27, Clewiston, FL on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 11:15 AM For the purpose of:

1. Electing one (1) Supervisor for a term of three (3) years.
2. Receiving annual reports and taking such action with respect thereto
3. Transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

As the landowners may determine.
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOLLES DRAINAGE DISTRICT
BY: Ruben Rifa, Chairman
314032 CN 1/30;2/6/2019

Public Notice

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL
JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO. 18000762CAAXMX

REVERSE MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS INC.,
Plaintiff,
vs.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF DOROTHY J. LEVYA, DECEASED.. et al.
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF DOROTHY J. LEVYA, DECEASED,
whose residence is unknown if he/she/they be living; and if he/she/they be dead, the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the Defendants, who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:

LOT 4 AND THE NORTH 60 FEET OF LOT 5, BLOCK E, GOLF VIEW, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 90, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 on or before 2-22-19 (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Hendry County, Florida, this 14th day of January, 2019.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: J. Bevis
DEPUTY CLERK

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, AND SCHNEID, P.L.
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100 Boca Raton, FL 33487
PRIMARY EMAIL: mail@rasflaw.com
311390 CN 1/23,30/2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 18-CP-57

IN RE: ESTATE OF
RONALD P. DESTEFANO
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Ronald P. DeStefano, deceased, whose date of death was September 7, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Glades County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Box 10, Moore Haven, FL 33471. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is January 23rd, 2019.

Personal Representative:
Laona DeStefano
1163 Live Oaks Lane
Moore Haven, FL 33471

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Jennifer J. Hammond
Florida Bar Number: 121531
Green Schoenfeld & Kyle LLP
1380 Royal Palm Square Boulevard Fort Myers, Florida 33919
Telephone: (239) 936-7200 Fax: (239) 936-7997
E-Mail: jenniferhammond@gskattorneys.com
Secondary E-Mail: staceyshaw@gskattorneys.com
311229 CN 1/30;2/6/2019

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

LEASE OF RESTAURANT SPACE
AT THE
LABELLE AIRPORT
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

Bid No. 2019-08

OPENING DATE AND TIME: FEBRUARY 20, 2019 at 2:00 P.M.

The Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida is seeking proposals to lease restaurant space at the Labelle Airport. In order to be considered, bids must be received by the Board of County Commissioners c/o the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Attn: Barbara Butler, at the C.E. Hall Building, Room A-226, Hendry County Courthouse Complex, 25 E. Hick-pocsee Avenue, Labelle, Florida by **February 20, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**, at which time all responses to this request will be recorded in the presence of one or more witnesses.

A copy of the Instructions and Bid Documents can be obtained from the Hendry County Engineering Department, by calling (863) 675-5222, or on the web-site located at www.hendryfla.net under the Public Information tab.

This solicitation does not commit Hendry County to award any contracts, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this Bid, or to contract for any services. The County reserves the right to reject any or all submittals received as a result of this solicitation for any or no reason, or to cancel in part or in its entirety this Bid, if it is in the best interests of the County to do so. The County may re-procure at the discretion of the Board.

If you have a disability that will require special assistance or accommodation, please contact: Hendry County Engineering Department at (863) 612-4727; Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1; or e-mail konan@hendryfla.net.

Hendry County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Si necesita la asistencia de un interprete que hable español para participar un esta reunion, por favor pongase en contacto con Veronica Gonzalez al (863) 675-5324.
312125 CN 1/23,30;2/6,13 CB 1/24,31;2/7,14/2019

Public Notice

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 22-2018-CA-000067

WELLS FARGO BANK, NA,
Plaintiff
vs.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST, REBEN JACOB A/K/A RUBEN JACOB, DECEASED, et al.,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 15, 2019, and entered in Case No. 22-2018-CA-000067 of the Circuit Court of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit in and for Glades County, Florida in which Wells Fargo Bank, NA, is the Plaintiff and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST, REBEN JACOB A/K/A RUBEN JACOB, DECEASED; ELIZET ARCELL CARDONA; GLORIA JACOB; ISLAND MOBILE NETWORK, INC., A DISSOLVED NEW YORK CORPORATION, BY AND THROUGH ALAN JACOBS, TRUSTEE; MAURICIO JACOB; RUBEN JACOB, JR.; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, are defendants, the Glades County Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on the front steps of the Glades County Courthouse, 500 Avenue J, Moore Haven, Florida 33471, Glades County, Florida at 11:00 AM on the 7th day of March, 2019, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

LOT 7, BLOCK 72, CITY OF MOORE HAVEN, AS PER PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 72, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF DESOTO COUNTY NOW GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA, TOGETHER WITH A MOBILE HOME LOCATED HEREON AS A PERMANENT FIXTURE AND APPURTENANCE THERETO, DESCRIBED AS A SINGLEWIDE 1984 MOBILE HOME, BEARING TITLE NUMBER: 40334663 AND VIN NUMBER FLJ1AD397004798.

A/K/A 784 AVENUE E, MOORE HAVEN, FL 33471

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

Dated: in Glades County, Florida this 15th day of January, 2019.

Sandra Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court
Glades County, Florida
BY: Tami Simmons

Albertelli Law Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 23028 Tampa, FL 33623 (813) 221-4743
(813) 221-9171 facsimile
eService: seveaslaw@albertelliaw.com

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Administrative Services Manager, whose office is located at Charlotte County Justice Center, 350 E. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda, FL 33950 and whose telephone number is (941) 637- 2281, within two (2) working days of receipt of this notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771. To file response please contact Glades County Clerk of Court, P.O. Box 10, Moorehaven, FL 33471. TheaboveisnotrepublishedintheGladesCountyDemocratNewspaper 820 West Sugarland Highway, Suite #5, Clewiston, FL 33440 311474 GCD 1/23,30/2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
CASE NO. 472018CA000102CAAXMX

WILMINGTON TRUST, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR MFRA TRUST 2014-2,
PLAINTIFF

vs.
JOSE A. FERNANDEZ, ET AL
DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 15, 2019, in the above action, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Okeechobee County, Florida, on February 27, 2019, at 11 :00 AM in the Jury Assembly Room, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, 2nd floor, Okeechobee, FL 34972 for the following described property:

West 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the North 1/2 of Tract 8, Section 24 as to the SOUTHERN COLONIZATION COMPANY PLAT of Township 34 South, Range 33 East, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, Pages 3-3E, inclusive, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

SUBJECT to a road and drainage easement across the South thirty feet (30') and the West sixty feet (60') of the aforementioned lot.

AND

East 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the North 1/2 of Tract 8, Section 24 as to the SOUTHERN COLONIZATION COMPANY PLAT of Township 34 South, Range 33 East, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, Pages 3- 3E, inclusive, Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

SUBJECT to a road and drainage easement across the South thirty feet (30') of the aforementioned lot.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale. The Court, in its discretion, may enlarge the time of the sale. Notice of the changed time of sale shall be published as provided herein.

SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court
BY: Sandra L. Crech
Deputy Clerk of the Court

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at 772- 807-4370 , 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
312325 CN 1/30;2/6/2019

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LANDOWNERS OF
DISSTON ISLAND CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to call of the Board of Supervisors of Diston Island Conservancy District, and in accordance with Chapter 298 Florida Statutes 1941 and law amendatory thereto, the Annual Meeting of The Landowners of Diston Island Conservancy District for the year 2018 will be held at United States Sugar Corporation, Molasses Sales Office, 1995 West Hwy 27, Clewiston, FL on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 11:00 AM For the purpose of:

1. Electing one (1) Supervisor for a term of three (3) years.
2. Receiving annual reports and taking such action with respect thereto
3. As the landowners may determine.

As the landowners may determine.
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DISSTON ISLAND CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BY: Sam Williams, Chairman
314033 CN 1/30;2/6/2019

Public Notice

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2018CA000295

QUICKEN LOANS INC.,
Plaintiff,
vs.
KARREN V. MIDDLETON, et al.,
Defendants.

CLERK'S NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on January 10, 2019 in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash on May 15th, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. at the Hendry County County Courthouse at 25 E. Hick-pocsee Ave., SR 80 corner SR 29, Labelle, FL 33935.

PARCEL Number 1:
LOT 33 OF CALOOSA ESTATES UNIT 3, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 46, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

PARCEL Number 2:
A TRACT OF LAND BEING IN PARTS OF GOVERNMENT LOT 2, 3, AND 6 IN SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 43 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF GOVERNMENT LOT 3 IN SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 43 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID GOVERNMENT LOT 3, A DISTANCE OF 1226.69 FEET TO THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF CALOOSA ESTATES DRIVE AND THE POINT-OF-BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 05 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 47 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, A DISTANCE OF 13.22 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 33 IN CALOOSA ESTATES UNIT NUMBER 3; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 09 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 33, A DISTANCE OF 173.77 FEET TO THE WEST BANK OF POLLYWOG CREEK; THENCE NORTHERLY, ALONG SAID WEST BANK OF POLLYWOG CREEK, TO A POINT THAT BEARS NORTH 05 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 47 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 66.22 FEET, AND SOUTH 89 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 165.00 FEET FROM THE POINT-OF-BEGINNING TO THE TRACT HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 14 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 165.00 FEET TO THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF CALOOSA ESTATES DRIVE; THENCE SOUTH 05 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 47 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, A DISTANCE OF 66.22 FEET TO THE POINT-OF-BEGINNING, LESS THE NORTH 25.00 FEET THEREOF FOR ROAD PURPOSES.

Property Address: 729 Caloosa Estates Drive, Labelle, FL 33935
ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
Dated: 1-11-19.

BARBARA S. BUTLER, CLERK
HENDRY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
By: J. Bevis
Deputy Clerk

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

If you are an individual with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding or other court service, program, or activity, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Requests for accommodations may be presented on this form, in another written format, or orally. Please complete the attached form and return it to deliver@ca.cjis20.org as far in advance as possible, but preferably at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance or other court activity. Upon request by a qualified individual with a disability, this document will be made available in an alternate format. If you need assistance in completing this form due to your disability, or to request this document in an alternate format, please contact Dawn Oliver, Court Operations Manager, phone (863) 675-5229, e-mail deliver@ca.cjis20.org
310625 CN 1/23,30/2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO. 18000082CAMXAX

QUICKEN LOANS INC.,
Plaintiff
vs.
GAIL W. HENDERSON; DARRELL HENDERSON, et al.
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 15th, 2019 and entered in 18000082CAMXAX of the Circuit Court of the TWENTIETH Judicial Circuit in and for GLADES County, Florida, wherein QUICKEN LOANS INC. is the Plaintiff and GAIL W. HENDERSON and DARRELL HENDERSON are the Defendant(s). Sandra Brown as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Front Steps, South Door 500 Avenue J, Moore Haven, FL 33471, at 11:00 AM, on March 7, 2019, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

THE NORTH 1/2 OF LOT 47, GLADES LITTLE RANCHES, AS PER PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 22, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property Address: 1163 RODEO RD MOORE HAVEN, FL 33471
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 15th day of January, 2019.

Sandra Brown
As Clerk of the Court
By: Tami Simmons
As Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are an individual with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding or other court service, program, or activity, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Requests for accommodations may be presented on this form, in another written format, or orally. Please complete the attached form (see website) and return it to deliver@ca.cjis20.org as far in advance as possible, but preferably at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance or other court activity. Upon request by a qualified individual with a disability, this document will be made available in an alternate format. If you need assistance in completing this form due to your disability, or to request this document in an alternate format, please contact Dawn Oliver, Court Operations Manager, phone (863) 675-5229, e-mail deliver@ca.cjis20.org
311431 GCD 1/23,30/2019

View obituaries from
the past month at
<http://www.legacy.com>

Public Notice

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 15000268CAAXMX

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
 Plaintiff,
 VS.
 JESSICA R. SLOVENSKI, et al
 Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of foreclosure dated December 18, 2018, and entered in Case No. 15000268CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the NINETEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, Florida, wherein PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, is Plaintiff, and JESSICA R. SLOVENSKI, et al are Defendants, the clerk, Sharon Robertson, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, beginning at 11:00 am at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Second Floor, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972, in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes, on the 20th day of February, 2019, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

Being a Parcel of land lying in Section 13, Township 37 South, Range 36 East, also being a portion of Lots 1, 3 and all of Lot 2, Block 56, of OKEECHOBEE GARDENS, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 30, of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Northwest corner of said Block 56; thence North 89 degrees 54 minutes 20 seconds East, along the North line of said Block 56, a distance of 330.95 feet, to a point that is 110.32 feet West of the West Right-of-Way line of NW 48th Avenue (formerly William road) (66 foot wide Right-of-Way) as measured along said North line of Block 56, and the Point of Beginning; thence continue North 89 degrees 54 minutes 20 seconds East, along said North line of Block 56, a distance of 110.32 to the intersection with said West Right-of-Way line of NW 48th Avenue; thence South 00 degrees 05 minutes 11 seconds East, along said West Right-of-Way line, a distance of 132.71 feet, to the intersection with the South line of said Lot 1, Block 56, thence South 89 degrees 54 minutes 20 seconds West, along the South line of said Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 56, a distance of 110.36 feet; thence North 00 degrees 04 minutes 05 seconds West, a distance of 132.71 feet, to the Point of Beginning.

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

Dated at Okeechobee, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, Florida, this 19th day of December, 2018.

Sharon Robertson
 Clerk of said Circuit Court
 By: Sandra L. Creech
 As Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptación para poder participar de este procedimiento o evento, usted tiene derecho, sin costo alguno a que se le provea cierta ayuda. Favor de comunicarse con Corrie Johnson, Coordinadora de A.D.A., 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 por lo menos 7 días antes de que tenga que comparecer en corte o inmediatamente después de haber recibido esta notificación si es que falta menos de 7 días para su comparecencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva o de habla, llame al 711.

KREYOL: Si ou se yon moun ki kokobe ki bezwen asistans ou aparye pou ou ka patisipe nan prosedu sa-a, ou gen dwa san ou pa bezwen peye anyen pou ou jwen on seri de ed. Tanpri kontakte Corrie Johnson, Co-ordinator ADA, 250 NW Country Club Drive, suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 Omwen 7 jou avan ke ou gen pou-ou parèt nan tribinal, ou imediatman ke ou resevwa avis sa-a ou si le ke ou gen pou-ou ale nan tribinal-la mwens ke 7 jou; Si ou pa ka tande ou pale byen, rele 711.

307707 ON 1/32/2019

REGULAR HENDRY COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2019

The Hendry County Board of County Commissioners' regular County Commission meetings for 2019 will be held on the following dates beginning at 5:00 p.m. and at the following locations:

CLEWISTON CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS
115 WEST VENTURA AVENUE
CLEWISTON, FLORIDA

January 8, 2019
 February 12, 2019
 March 12, 2019
 April 9, 2019
 May 14, 2019
 June 18, 2019
 August 13, 2019
 September 10, 2019
 October 8, 2019
 November 12, 2019

HENDRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE – COMMISSION CHAMBERS
25 EAST HICKPOCHEE AVENUE
LABELLE, FLORIDA

January 22, 2019
 February 26, 2019
 March 26, 2019
 April 23, 2019
 May 28, 2019
 July 23, 2019
 August 27, 2019
 September 24, 2019
 October 22, 2019
 December 10, 2019

Workshops, special meetings or commission meetings other than the above, as well as cancellations of regular meetings and meeting location changes, are posted on the County website and advertised in a local newspaper.

Meetings are open to the public. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Hendry County Commission with respect to any matter considered at such a meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Please note that matters may be discussed at a meeting which are not on the prepared agenda for the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding a County Commission meeting, please call the Office of the County Attorney at (863) 675-5295.

If you have a disability that will require special assistance or accommodation for your attendance at a meeting, please contact Hendry County Administration at (863) 675-5220; hearing impaired: Florida 314049 LO 1/30/CB 1/31/2019

Public Notice

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Public Safety Coordinating Council will hold their meeting on **Monday, February 04, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Historic Courthouse in conference room # 201 on the second floor at 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida. This meeting is open to the public.

Terry W. Burroughs, Chair
 Board of County Commissioners

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
 Board of County Commissioners
 /s/ Paula Poskon- Deputy Clerk
 302659 ON 1/30/2019

***NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**
Florida Department of Transportation Project

Bids will be received by the District One Office until 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, February 21, 2019 for the following Proposals:

E1530-R0 – Striping, Pavement Markings, & RPM's in Desoto, Glades, Hendry, Hardee, & Highlands
Budget Amount: \$500,000.00

Complete letting advertisement information for this project is available on our website at <https://www.fdot.gov/contracts/d1/>; or by calling (863) 519-2629. 311886 LO 1/30;2/6/2019

**Public Notices****Public Notice****LEGAL NOTICE**

A public auction will be held at TOTAL ROADSIDE SERVICES, located at 3176 Hwy 710 E, Okeechobee 34974 at 9:00 a.m. On the date listed below Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, make and model as follows:

2010 POI
4XAMH50A2AA025906

2000 MAZDA
JM3LW286G0148908
 313511 ON 1/30/2019

2005 CHRYSLER
1C3EL65R95N594870

1989 CHEVROLET
1GCHV33K1K118512

2001 GENERAL MOTORS
CORP
1GTCS19W518156686

2004 HONDA
1HFSC49D84A201096

1998 BUICK
2G4W552M8W1498703

2005 MAZDA
JM3LW28A750532915

2005 KIA
KNDJF723X57076858

Terms of sale are CASH ONLY, no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Said automobile will be sold "as is" with no guarantees.
Location: 3176 Hwy 710 E
863-357-8772

314327 ON 01/30/2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

A public auction will be held at BMD Towing, Inc. Located at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on FRIDAY THE 15TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2019 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & VINs as follows

2001 VW JETTA
3VWTTG69M51M183831

2003 CHEVROLET 2500
SILVERADO
1GCHK29U63E309462

2013 BUICK VERANO
1G4PT55V9D4164644

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

314066 ON 01/30/2019

Administration of Estates

Telephone: (863) 763-3825
 Primary E-Mail Address: tcconely@conelyandconely.com
 Secondary 1 E-Mail Address: slanier@conelyandconely.com
 Secondary 2 E-Mail Address: service@conelyandconely.com
 By Tom W. Conely, III
 Florida Bar No. 096482
 313803 ON 1/30;2/6/2019

Public Notice**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: CLEWISTON TOWING & AUTO SALVAGE gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and Intent to sell these vehicles on 02/11/2019 10:00 a.m. at 600 E. SUGARLAND HWY Clewiston, FL 33440-3213, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. CLEWISTON TOWING & AUTO SALVAGE reserves the right to accept

2010 POI
4XAMH50A2AA025906
2000 MAZDA
JM3LW286G0148908
 313511 ON 1/30/2019

Administration of Estates

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
CASE NO. 2018-CP-213

In re: Estate of
ELSIE M. HUGHEY,
 Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of **ELSIE M. HUGHEY**, deceased, whose date of death was October 16, 2018, and whose social security number is XXX-XX-1573, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with the court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOT WITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is January 30, 2019.

Personal Representative:
ROBERTA LEITNER
 4277 SE 22nd Court
 Okeechobee, FL 34974

CONELY & CONELY, P.A.
 P.O. Drawer 1367
 Okeechobee, Florida 34973

Fictitious Name**NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage business under the fictitious name of **BELLA BELLA BOUTIQUE** intends to register the said name with the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, FL and/or clerk of the Circuit Court of Palm Beach County, FL.

Bella Bella Boutique
 208 SW Avenue C
 Belle Glade, FL 33430
 314383 LO 1/30/2019

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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!

8	6	8	7	1	2	9	7	9
2	1	9	9	6	7	8	8	7
9	7	7	8	9	8	1	6	2
7	2	8	9	8	6	9	1	7
4	9	9	1	2	7	6	8	8
6	8	1	8	7	9	7	2	9
1	8	6	2	9	9	7	7	8
9	7	7	6	8	8	2	9	1
8	8	2	7	7	1	8	9	6

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CAC029420

ATTORNEYS

Rebecca Boldt Hamilton, P.A.

REBECCA H. BOLDT, Esq.
RICHARD W. SEYMOUR, Esq.
 Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer

863-467-1894

Rboldthamilton@aol.com 180 NW 3rd Ave. Suite C, Okeechobee FL

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Costa to sponsor high school fishing program

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's High School Fishing Program announces Costa Sunglasses as the premier sponsor of the program's conservation project initiative. The student angler participants must complete at least one conservation project in order to qualify for the funding associated with the program.

Costa is offering incentives for participants to complete multiple conservation initiatives through its Kick Plastic sponsorship. "The Costa Kick Plastic conservation project encourages student anglers to practice the conservation principles that the High School Fishing Program curriculum teaches," said Jon Fury, FWC's director of the Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management. "We are thrilled that Costa is partnering with us on this initiative to

encourage the next generation of conservationists."

FWC's High School Fishing Program welcomed 15 new and 15 existing student angling clubs in Florida to the program earlier this year, offering funding for the clubs that committed to complete the provided curriculum, as well as pre- and post-tests, and at least one conservation project. Program mentors, such as West Marine, partner local store staff with the clubs to provide support and hands-on training in knot-tying and fishing gear assembly, as well as assistance with the clubs' local events to increase the student anglers' confidence in the sport of fishing.

The Costa Kick Plastic conservation project awards points per club participation in a number of conservation-minded activities that aim to reduce the impacts of plastic pollution. The clubs are competing

in a three-tiered prize structure with a grand prize, as well as second and third place prizes that feature Costa sunglasses, backpacks, hats and other Costa products. The final date for club submission to be eligible to win the Costa prize packs is April 15. The winners will be announced in May.

"Costa is proud to sponsor programs that aim to educate a new generation about the importance of conservation," said T.J. McMeniman, vice president of marketing for Costa Sunglasses. "Our oceans, lakes and waterways are some of our greatest assets. It is our mission at Costa to help ensure clean, healthy waters for years to come, which is why we devote considerable time and resources to conservation efforts that raise awareness, protect fisheries and enrich water-based communities."

Costa has been manufacturing hand-

crafted, high-quality, performance sunglasses for outdoor enthusiasts since 1983. Costa recognized that Americans were making more trash than ever before and far too much of it was ending up in our waters. As manufacturers and anglers, they were in a unique position to do something about it. Costa committed to reducing their packaging where possible, using more recycled materials and continuing to explore more improvements in the future. Costa Kick Plastic aims to raise awareness of plastic ocean pollution and to inspire change to help reduce it. For more information, visit costadelmar.com.

Information about the 2019 High School Fishing Program will be announced in the summer of 2019. For more information about the program, email Amber Nabors at Amber.Nabors@MyFWC.com.



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Go Glades is a pilot program, and continued service will be based on actual use.
For more information call: (561) 649-9838 or visit: www.palmtran.org

South Bay hosts MLK parade and gospel celebration

By Willie L. Wisper III and Barbara King
Beginning Outreach Ministry and KTM Foundation Inc.

SOUTH BAY — The city’s first Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade and Gospel Celebration, put on by Beginning Outreach Ministry and the KTM Foundation Inc., was

a success. Celebrity singer and songwriter Shirley Murdock graced the audience with her songs of joy. Anquette Leverne opened the stage up for her; The GBoys danced and gospel rapped for everyone. The host, comedian Shangles, kept the laughs going around, and DJ Obadiah had all the sounds just right.

We give a special thank-you for the support and sponsorship to Christ Fellowship Belle Glade Church. Thank you to Ed Kerr and his Public Works team from South Bay, Healthier Glades, Bougie Closet, 1Booji Customs and Inafec Photos. The parade participants included: Rosenwald Drumline and Commissioner Taranza McKelvin, South Bay Jaguars

Youth Football, Healthier Glades, Muck City Tackle who donated fishing rods to the kids in attendance, Palm Beach County Rescue Unit 74 South Bay and the Palm Beach County Sheriff Office. We thank everyone who came out and supported this event and look forward to seeing you all next year.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Willie Wisper, Barbara King, Shanlges, Anquette, Pastor Danny and the Christ Fellowship Belle Glade Church family helped the community celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
South Bay Mayor Joe Kyles, Barbara King, Willie Wisper, Shirley Murdock (DaGroat) and Dale Anthony DaGroat participated in the MLK Day festivities.



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Glades County Property Appraiser News

Automatic Renewal

To ease the burden on property owners, we automatically renew property tax exemptions. This automatic renewal helps to ensure that you do not lose your exemption simply because you failed to renew.

If you had a property tax exemption or agricultural land classification in 2018, you should have received at least one of the four renewal cards listed below:

- The WHITE card is for Homestead Exemption and other exemptions like widow, widower, disability, veteran, and senior citizen.
 - The GREEN card is for Agricultural Land Classification.
 - The YELLOW card is for property that is being used for tax-exempt purposes.
 - The BLUE card is for Tangible Personal Property valued no more than \$25,000.
- As long as the Tangible Personal Property remains at \$25,000 or less, you are not required to file a Tangible Personal Property Return, form (DR405).

If your value exceeds \$25,000, you also received a Tangible Personal Property Tax Return that must be completed and returned. The form is also downloadable from our website at www.GladesFLPA.com.

If you are still eligible for the exemption or agricultural land classification, do not return the card.

Exemptions and agricultural land classifications are not transferable

- If you are a new property owner, you must submit a new application by March 1, 2019. (The Tangible Personal Property Tax Exemption deadline is April 1, 2019).

My staff and I hope that you all have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019!

Lorie Ward, C.F.A.

Glades County Property Appraiser
863-946-6025,
LorieWard@GladesFLPA.com
500 Ave. J, Room 202, 2nd Floor,
Courthouse



Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

Golfers help veterans

OKEECHOBEE — Joe Meehan drives a ball at the fifth annual charity golf tournament at the Okeechobee KOA on Jan. 23. The tournament raises money that goes directly to local veterans in Okeechobee. Over 150 golfers participated in this year's event. The tournament has raised more than \$25,000 over the past four years for military veterans in Okeechobee.

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Lake Okeechobee News

Featuring:

Coffee with a Scientist

Featured Speaker: Dr. Paul Gray - 10:30am

Program: "Lake Okeechobee: Liquid Heart of the Everglades"

Learn about the ecology and health of Lake Okeechobee and the issues that affect the lake's water quality and quantity.

Dr. Gray is Florida Audubon Society's science coordinator for the Lake Okeechobee watershed pro-gram, which means he essentially manages the wildlife sanctuaries on the lake and works to protect them. Originally from Missouri, he has worked with the bird conservation nonprofit for 21 years. Dr. Gray has a degree in wildlife biology, a master's in wetland ecology and a PhD in conservation biology.

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Sweet Life in Hendry County

January 30, 2019

Clewiston Youth Development students wash cars to show their appreciation



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/CYDA
The Clewiston Youth Development Academy (CYDA) had an appreciation car wash on Friday, Jan. 25, to help celebrate National School Choice Week. The free car wash was in appreciation to parents and invited school support staff. Students and adults received complimentary yellow National School Choice scarves. Pictured: Christian Perkins removes all the grime.



Alexander Morales-Rivera and Christian Perkins double-team an SUV.

County declines to tinker with solid waste contract

By Chris Felker

Lake Okeechobee News

CLEWISTON — Commissioners flinched when Public Works Director Shane Parker reported this month it'd cost almost \$1 million to get toters for all unincorporated Hendry County residents' garbage and recyclables. So they took no action Jan. 8 but agreed they'll have to before the end of their contract with hauler Waste Connections Inc. in a few years.

"How in the world are we going to spend a million dollars on garbage cans?" asked Commissioner Michael Swindle. His colleague Darrell Harris quickly said, "We're not!"

"Fine with me," replied Mr. Swindle.

Back in 2017, they'd asked Mr. Parker to negotiate an extension of the WCI contract, which was done for a seven-year term at a uniform countywide rate of \$235 per year, with collection staying at twice a week. Last November, they asked if they could modify the contract to get toters for all customers who did not have them. But the needed 4,067 95-gallon containers for solid waste

and 7,148 65-gallon containers for recyclables would cost a total of \$881,795, and the commissioners would have to raise the Municipal Services Benefit Unit assessment rate to provide them.

No assessment increase had been anticipated until at least 2023, but at that time the fund would be in the red. At present, Hendry County is spending just over \$200,000 per year of contingency funds from the Solid Waste MSBU budget, meaning, as Commissioner Karson Turner pointed out, that "our costs are exceeding our revenues in our solid waste fund today."

Mr. Parker told the board: "One option you may want to consider is in five years, your contract is going to be up with WCI. You put it out to rebid; you include the cost of containers in the bid. You might be surprised at what you get, because you're going to have a lot of people looking, and you can spread that cost over a longer-term contract, maybe 12 or 14 years."

Mr. Harris said he'd read the staff report, "and I just think we should keep everything the same right now."

Commissioner Swindle said, "It's incon-

veniencing some folks to have to buy cans — I'm one of them — but I'll keep buying them, I guess."

Gesturing toward Mr. Parker, Commissioner Harris said, "Then the only thing he's got to worry about is the contingency fund that he's been using. Just don't let it get too low, and to do it in a simple way, we could just go up \$10 a time to try to pay it back."

Mr. Parker suggested small increases every two years "so you don't have a big one and residents get mad."

Board Chairman Mitchell Wills noted that some are angry now "because part of the county has the toters and part doesn't. So you can see that they're paying the same amount of money as anyone else but not receiving the full service, so that's the complaint. And it's a genuine complaint ... and something that we need to look at going forward."

There was some discussion of possibly going to one-day-a-week pickup. Mr. Turner asked, "What would be outcry be, though, if you went to one? Is that going to set people on fire?" Mr. Parker replied that it wouldn't make much difference in the

yearly cost (only \$20 less or so) and that residents would be likely to complain. Mr. Harris said he didn't think that was correct.

But Mr. Parker said, "I'd pay the \$20, personally, just to have the trash picked up on (holidays). I'm not saying anything bad about MCI, but if you put it out to bid competitively, then pencils get real sharp because they're buying for the contract. And (if) you get it long-term, you'll be able to get those cans included for everyone in the county."

County Administrator Jennifer Davis pointed out that the contract could be modified by mutual agreement, but there was little enthusiasm for that because the county still does not know yet what the final total cost will be for Hurricane Irma debris removal — and that sure-to-be hefty price also must come out of the Solid Waste MSBU budget. The amount of federal reimbursement has not been determined.

South Lake O reporter/editor Chris Felker can be reached at cfelker@newszap.com.

Lake level drops due to natural evaporation

By Katrina Elsken
Lake Okeechobee News

“Why are they letting all the water out of the lake?”

A common complaint this time of year comes from newcomers and visitors who don’t seem to understand that it’s Mother Nature — not water managers — lowering the lake level, by sending water into the atmosphere through evaporation and evapotranspiration and into the Earth to recharge the aquifer through percolation.

Those who complain that the lake is low also don’t seem to understand that the natural ecosystem of Lake Okeechobee needs periods of lower lake levels, which allow the vegetation around the lake’s littoral zone to regrow. That vegetation provides critical spawning areas for fish, and cover for young fish. Anglers who understand the lake’s ecosystem welcome droughts as part of the natural process that keeps the fisheries healthy.

While much of the water that enters the lake is controlled by the South Florida Water Management District’s locks, culverts and other water control structures, there are no human controls on most of the water that leaves the lake.

“Ideally, Lake Okeechobee should never rise above 15.5 feet and should drop to about 12 feet most dry seasons,” states “Lake Okeechobee: A Synthesis of Information and Recommendations for its Restoration,” by P.N. Gray, C.J. Farrell, M.L. Kraus and A.H. Gromnicki. The study, published in 2005 by Audubon of Florida, was funded in part by the Batchelor Foundation and by the Everglades Foundation.

What’s the difference between evaporation and evapotranspiration? Webster’s Dictionary explains that evaporation is the movement of water to the air from sources such as the soil, canopy interception and water bodies. Evapotranspiration is the sum of evaporation and plant transpiration from the Earth’s land and ocean surface to the atmosphere.

Evaporation and evapotranspiration rates are difficult to measure. Scientists use different models. On average, they estimate Lake Okeechobee drops by between 4.3 feet and more than 5 feet each year due to the movement of water into the air.

A study conducted in Florida in 1995 by the United States Geological Survey found there are many factors in play, including the temperature of the air, temperature of the water, depth of the water, temperature of the soil under the water, and horizontal and vertical

wind speeds. Water evaporates more quickly in open water, less quickly in marshy areas. Soil composition and types of vegetation affect evapotranspiration rates. Evaporation rates in open water increase on a sunny, cloudless day.

“Evaporation Estimation for Lake Okeechobee in South Florida,” by Wossenu Abteu, published in the June 2001 edition of “Journal of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering,” analyzed meteorology data from 1993-1997 and estimated a loss of 132 centimeters per year (about 4.3 feet) from evaporation. “Evapotranspiration Estimate for South Florida” published in 2003 by Wossenu Abteu, Jayantha Obeysekera, Michelle Irizary-Ortiz, Danielle Lyons and Anna Reardon, found that average evaporation rates in the South Florida Water Management District range from 122 cm (about 4 feet) in the north part of the SFWMD to 137 cm (about 4.5 feet) in the south.

“Evaporation and evapotranspiration are functions of solar radiation, temperature, wind speed, vapor pressure deficit, atmospheric pressure, characteristics of the surrounding environment and type and condition of vegetation. South Florida is an area of high rainfall, high humidity and generally low wind speed. Air temperature is high with relatively warm winter months. Solar radiation is abundant with seasonal and daily variation,” the authors state. Annual lake evaporation in the continental United States ranges from 51 cm in the extreme northeast to 218 cm in Southern California, the authors note.

The 2005 Audubon study estimated water loss to evaporation at around 5 feet per year — usually higher during dry periods.

“In an average year, Lake Okeechobee receives enough rain and inflow to raise it about 7.5 feet (note: this discussion of the water budget uses rounded numbers for simplicity). This water does not come in at once, but is spread over the entire year, thus the lake does not actually rise 7.5 feet each year. Roughly 5 feet of this water will evaporate, leaving 2.5 feet of water in the lake. On average, irrigation and municipal demands use 1 to 2 feet of lake water per year, leaving an “excess” of about one foot of water that must be discharged,” the 2005 Audubon report explains.

During the dry season, when rainfall does not replace the water lost to evaporation, the lake level falls. During the wet season, when water comes in faster than it can go out, the lake level rises.

Health screenings coming to Hendry County

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
LABELLE – Residents living in and around the LaBelle, Florida can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church will host this community event on 2/27/2019. The site is located at 355 S. Bridge Street in LaBelle.

Screenings can check for:

- The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for heart disease, stroke and overall vascular health.
- HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels
- Diabetes risk

- Bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis
- Kidney and thyroid function, and more

Screenings are affordable, convenient and accessible for wheelchairs and those with trouble walking. Free parking is also available.

Consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Also ask about our Wellness Gold Membership Program with allows customers to get all the screenings they need now, but pay \$19.95 a month. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit the website at www.lifeline-screening.com. Pre-registration is required.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Local Planning Agency of Hendry County (LPA) will hold a public hearing on the following ordinance to rezone property on **February 13, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle, Florida. The LPA will determine if the petition is consistent with the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan and will review the petition for consistency with the Hendry County Land Development Code.

The recommendations of the LPA will be made to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for final consideration at a public hearing. This hearing will be held on **February 26, 2018, at 5:05 p.m.** at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle, Florida.

All interested parties are invited to appear and be heard at the public hearings with respect to the proposed ordinance. Oral and written comments will be accepted. A copy of the petition and the ordinance are available for inspection at the Hendry County Planning and Zoning Department, 640 S. Main St., LaBelle, FL between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners’ office, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, FL between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Any questions pertaining to this matter should be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department, by phone (863-675-5240), email (mjohnson@hendryfla.net), U. S. mail (P.O. Box 2340, LaBelle, FL 33975) or by fax (863- 674-4194).

If you have a disability that will require special assistance or accommodation for your attendance at the meeting, please contact Hendry County Planning and Zoning at (863) 675-5240; Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1; or e-mail mjohnson@hendryfla.net.

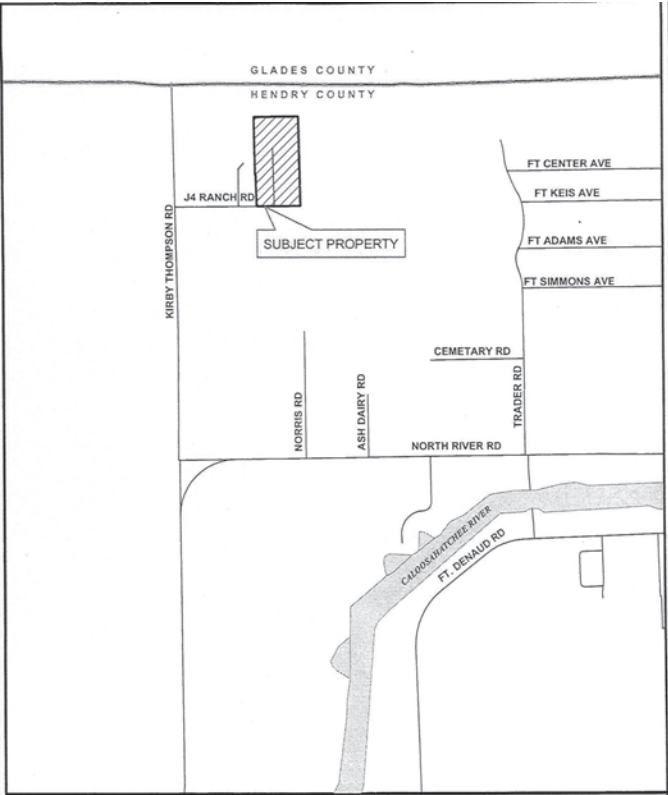
Hendry County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Si necesita la asistencia de un intérprete que hable español para participar un esta reunión, por favor póngase en contacto con Myra Johnson al (863) 675-5240.

Petition Number:	RZ19-0001
Applicant:	Carroll E. & Sheron T. Jones
Ordinance Title:	AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, REPEALING A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) ZONING ORDINANCE
ABILITY;	(2006-39) FOR MINING; APPROVING A REZONE FROM PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT TO GENERAL AGRICULTURE ON +/- 39.5 ACRES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS OF LAW; PROVIDING FOR SEVER-
Project size:	PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER’S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
Location:	+/- 39.5 acres
Request:	261 J4 Ranch Road, La Belle, FL 33935 (Parcel ID: 1-28-43-04-A00-0001.0000)
Request:	The applicant is requesting for a rezone from Planned Unit Development (PUD) to General Agriculture (A-2), repealing a previously approved ordinance for a Mining PUD.

Legal description of subject property:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 4, Township 43 South, Range 28 East, thence along the West line of said Section 4, S 00 Deg. 00M 01S E a distance of 2614.17 feet to the West ¼ corner of said Section 4; thence along the South line of the Northwest ¼ of said Section 4, S 89 Deg. 43M 23S E a distance of 1733.80 feet to the Point of Beginning of the hereon described parcel; thence N 00 Deg. 24M 19S W a distance of 660.04 feet; thence N 89 Deg. 43M 23S W a distance of 14.27 feet; thence N 00 Deg. 03M 27S W a distance of 1197.31 feet; thence N 89 Deg. 56M 49S E a distance of 956.84 feet to a point in the East line of the Northwest ¼ of said Section 4; thence along said East line, S 00 deg. 03’43” E a distance of 1862.82 feet to the Southeast corner of the Northwest ¼ of said Section 4; thence along the South line of the Northwest ¼ of said Section 4, N 89 deg. 43’23” W a distance of 938.75 feet to the Point of Beginning, Hendry County, Florida.



Clewiston FYI

News from City Clerk’s Office

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- Permitted two new single-family homes to be built in Orchard Park. Both are three bedroom/two bathrooms and average approximately 1,200 square feet. One home features a front and back porch totaling 240 sq. ft.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports:

The Golf Course’s second Ladies Golf Clinic on chipping is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 1. The Chip and Sip will start at 4 p.m. It’s free of charge and sign-up is in the ladies locker room. The annual Clewiston Men’s Senior Club Championship is scheduled for Feb. 5-6. Sign-up is in the golf shop. The golf course will be open for regular play both days. A no-charge Junior Golf Clinic is scheduled for Feb. 9, 2019 from 11 a.m. to noon. The life skill will be “Integrity.” We will be on the driving range doing full swing. Booklets are now available in the golf shop of all our tournaments and clinics from January through May 2019.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- New Youth Center visiting hours are Monday through Friday 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Calls are still being received and answered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you have any recreational needs or questions, please drop by City Hall from 8 to 2 p.m. or by the Youth Center from 2 to 5 p.m. Mosquito Control: No control activity at this time. Street Division: (1) We are working at the boat basin this week getting ready for upcoming fishing tournaments. Tasks include painting curbs and ramp lines, power washing the boat launch area concrete and wheel stops, placing new ramp markers and handicap signage, trimming palms and mulching. (2) We have started building the new “Over Flow Parking” sign for the boat basin parking lot. (3) The final pass on the handicap parking space refurbish was completed. (4) We will be out for bid next week for the 2019 “hot spot” paving project, the 2019 street paving project and the 2019 sidewalk project. Sports complex: (1) The girls’ and boys’ ball fields are scheduled to be sprayed for weeds and fertilized this week. It was rescheduled because of weather conditions. (2) Fence maintenance and repairs started on Tuesday and are expected to go four days to cover the complex.
- Facility Maintenance: NOTICE — The John Boy Auditorium will be closed Feb. 25-28 for maintenance. (1) A toilet had to be replaced in the Boat Basin bathroom. (2) We are going to bid for the new roof on the Country Club. Parks & Playgrounds: (1) Fence maintenance and “fall zone” inspections were done in the Sikes Park. (2) The Softball/Baseball Board met Tuesday evening in the Youth Center and went over the start of the season process. The meeting was well-attended, well-organized and well-run. Five hundred and twelve youth players signed up this year from tiny “T-ballers” to 15-year-olds. This is reported to be the biggest youth baseball program in the area.
- NOTE from Public Works: Clewiston

is not your local government community, it is everyone that lives and does business here. How we look and are seen by visitors is everyone’s responsibility. Look around you to see if there is something that you can do to make our community a better place to live. (Pull a few weeds, paint a wall, sign post or fire hydrant or even wash some playground equipment.) Volunteer to help with the Police, Utility, Public Works or Recreation departments. Retired and looking for something to do? I have some seasonal banners that still need to be refreshed with paint. If you have a talent and like to paint, call 983-1492 and talk to Joanna. It really is fun and you will contribute to making Clewiston more festive during the different seasons.

Utilities Director Danny Williams reports:

- Electric Activities: Replaced URD service in Harlem Gardens from 802 to 803. Cut down and removed old service on Eighth Court. Replaced street light head on Central Avenue. Ran three new services in Orchard Park for new houses. Installed two bird guards on power poles.

Water-sewer activities:

- The City of Clewiston will be temporarily changing the disinfection process for its drinking water supply. Water customers should be aware that they may also experience changes to their water quality during flushing, including cloudy or discolored water. While this water is safe to drink, customers are advised to flush any cloudy or discolored water that may enter their plumbing by running a faucet for several minutes.
- The first of three phases of the inflow infiltration program is continuing. Crews will be working in and around our manholes, and Phase 1 will be completed by March 1
- Restored power to Trinidad Avenue lift station.
- Changed out five water meters on the 700 block of Comercio.

Information Technology:

- It is coming up on tax season and with that comes a rise in tax scams. The IRS will not conduct business over email, text or social media.
- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom of the cCity’s website page clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the city offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website or call our office.

Dates to remember:

- Feb. 4: City Commission workshop and meeting;
- Feb. 7: Clewiston Library Advisory Board meeting;
- Feb. 18: City Commission meeting;
- Feb. 21: Golf Course Advisory Board meeting.

HENDRY COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON A SPECIAL EXCEPTION

Notice is hereby given that the Local Planning Agency of Hendry County (LPA) will hold a public hearing on the following petition on **February 13, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle, Florida. The LPA will determine if the petition is consistent with the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan.

The recommendations of the LPA will be made to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for final consideration at a public hearing. This hearing will be held on **February 26, 2019, at 5:05 p.m.**, at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hipcochee Ave., LaBelle, Florida.

All interested parties are invited to appear and be heard at the public hearings with respect to the petition. Oral and written comments will be accepted. A copy of the petition is available for inspection at the Hendry County Planning and Zoning Department, 640 S. Main St., LaBelle, FL between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners’ office, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, FL between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Any questions pertaining to this matter should be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department, by phone (863-675-5240), email (mjohnson@hendryfla.net), U. S. mail (P.O. Box 2340, LaBelle, FL 33975) or by fax (863- 674-4194).

If you have a disability that will require special assistance or accommodation for your attendance at either meeting, please contact Hendry County Planning and Zoning at (863) 675-5240; Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1; or e-mail mjohnson@hendryfla.net.

Hendry County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Si necesita la asistencia de un intérprete que hable español para participar en esta reunión, por favor póngase en contacto con Myra Johnson al (863) 675-5240.

Petition Number:	SE18-0002
Applicant:	Green Waste Solution, LLC, represented by represented by H.L. Bennett, P.E., P.L.S, H.L. Bennett & Associates, Inc.
Resolution Title:	A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, GRANTING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR THE PROCESSING OF HORTICULTURAL WASTE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF TOP SOIL ON +/- 133.5 ACRES IN A GENERAL AGRICULTURE (A-2) ZONING DISTRICT.
Project size:	+/- 133.5 acres
Location:	600 Heritage Road, Felda, FL 33930 (Parcel I.D.s # 1-29-45-29-A00-0007.0000)
Request:	The applicant is requesting a Special Exception for the processing of horticultural waste for the production of top soil.
Legal description of subject property:	A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 45 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTH ONE-QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 29, SAID POINT BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE N 87°04'28" W, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST ONE-QUARTER OF SECTION 29, A DISTANCE OF 1039.08 FEET; THENCE N 00°%D37'51" E, A DISTANCE OF 1,334.20 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 869, PAGE 1556, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE N 00°%D15'25" E, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID LANDS, A DISTANCE OF 1,073.62 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LANDS, BEING ON THE EAST-WEST ONE-QUARTER SECTION LINE OF SECTION 29; THENCE S 88°%D52'51" E, ALONG SAID EAST-WEST ONE-QUARTER SECTION LINE, A DISTANCE OF 1017.05 FEET TO THE CENTER OF SECTION 29; THENCE S 88°%d52'51" E, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST ONE-QUARTER OF SECTION 29, A DISTANCE OF 1651.23 FEET; THENCE S 00°37'41" E, PARALLEL TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD 29, AND ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF TOWNSEND (OR 768, PAGE 1090), A DISTANCE OF 1247.45 FEET; THENCE N 87°57'13" W, ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF BRADCO (OR 756, PAGE 300), A DISTANCE OF 454.65 FEET; THENCE S 03°54'00" E, ALONG THE WESTERLY LINES OF BRADCO, D AND K HARVESTING (OR 537, PAGE 301) AND BLOCKER PROPERTIES (OR 878, PAGE 1912), A DISTANCE OF 1206.66 FEET TO A POINT LYING 10 FEET NORTHERLY OF THE NORTH LINE OF THE HERITAGE ROAD EASEMENT, AS RECORDED AT OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 434, AT PAGE 930 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S 87°03'12" E, ALONG A LINE 10 FEET NORTH OF AND PARALLEL TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID HERITAGE ROAD EASEMENT, A DISTANCE OF 386.08 FEET; THENCE S 00°36'30" E, A DISTANCE OF 40.10 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SECTION 29; THENCE N 87°03'12" W, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 408.03 FEET; THENCE N 04°08'59" W, ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 863, PAGE 973, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, A DISTANCE OF 649.68 FEET; THENCE N 87°53'42" W, ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LANDS, A DISTANCE OF 418.27 FEET; THENCE S 04°08'59" E, ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LANDS, A DISTANCE OF 643.49 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SECTION 29; THENCE N 87°03'12" W, ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 852.13 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THE ABOVE DESCRIBED CONTAINS 133.5 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

C-43 Reservoir update projects completion by 2022

By Chris Felker

Lake Okeechobee News

LaBELLE — Hendry County commissioners learned at their regular meeting Jan. 22 where the huge project stands to build a Caloosahatchee River-cleansing reservoir, the C-43, in a presentation from South Florida Water Management District officials.

Libby Pigman, the SFWMD's Glades representative, told the board that "I'm fortunate tonight to have Thomas McKernan with me, who is the guy that knows everything about that project." He's the principal construction manager for the work, which is ramping up, and explained that originally it was planned in the early 2000s. Bids were sought for it as a single construction project, but the plan was shelved in 2008.

Mr. McKernan said its purpose after the C-43 project had been revived in 2015 was to capture Caloosahatchee River basin runoff as well as Lake Okeechobee releases. High nutrient levels from them recently have been blamed for the blue-green algae blooms on the river in 2018. It also is meant to improve the timing and quantity of freshwater that goes to the estuary, he said.

"So in the wintertime when irrigation demands are high, we'll release freshwater to keep those salinity levels where they need to be, and conversely during the summertime, we'll take those flows ... into the reservoir to try to control those salinity levels," he explained. The other major purpose is to "maintain allocated water supply to the adjacent landowners, farmers to the east and north of

us." SFWMD is responsible for that since the adjacent landowners where the reservoir will sit, on former citrus grove land, depend on district-permitted water allocations that are still in effect.

Situated about midway between Cape Coral and Moore Haven just south of the Caloosahatchee and State Road 80, sprawling 6 miles lengthwise east to west and 3 miles north to south, the C-43 Reservoir will hold between 15 and 25 feet of water over 10,500 acres, providing up to 170,000 acre-feet of water storage and holding more than 55 billion gallons.

It actually will consist of two reservoir cells with a central separator dam, surrounded by a roughly 19-mile-long perimeter dam. On the outside will be 15 miles of perimeter canal, and there will be 14 major water control structures, several pump stations, three bridges, improvements to the Townsend Canal on the western edge and, ultimately, a slew of new recreational facilities.

Mr. McKernan said the project was broken into parts to expedite the civil works portion, which is the last and biggest of four. Bids were sought beginning Nov. 16. Those bids are to be opened Jan. 30, with SFWMD Governing Board approval expected next month.

The first part, which was to take the old agricultural facilities off the site and improve drainage and irrigation for nearby landowners, was about an \$11 million contract, completed in August 2017. Pre-load mounds were built with dredged materials about 400 feet square, toe to toe, and 56 feet high from the existing grade. Mr. McKernan showed a picture of one mound with a full-size SUV on

top to give them an idea of the size, which is huge, and said there were four others to the west of that one.

Now under way is construction of irrigation pump station S-476 to replace existing structures that supply farmland. The \$13 million project is scheduled for final completion in April. That pump will move 195 cubic feet of water per second (cfs).

"Package three is the main inflow pump station, 470, to pull water off the Caloosahatchee down the Townsend and into the northwest portion of the reservoir," he explained. "It's a considerably larger than the previous one. This is 1,500-cfs pump; also, there will be a 300-foot microwave tower which will control the pump stations and all the other water control structures associated with this project.

"We'll be making some Townsend Canal improvements and State Road 80 bridge armoring." For this work, he said, the contract is close to \$60 million, and SFWMD issued notice to proceed back in March 2018. He said they were looking to have it all completed in May 2022.

The last portion, Mr. McKernan explained, is "the civil works project where we're actually constructing the dam itself and doing all the components associated with it." He said the engineer's estimate is \$669 million for that work; they'll find out what contractors' range



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/SFWMD
Construction will be finished up by April on pump station S-476 in Hendry County

is next week.

Commissioner Karson Turner remarked that he would bet the total will be more than \$800 million. He also had some effusive praise for Ms. Pigman, Mr. McKernan and SFWMD staff.

"You guys are doing an incredible job over there at the district. I serve on the Water Resources Advisory Commission, but I don't envy your position right now. You guys are the big, bad bear in a lot of conversations, and just keep your head up and keep grinding, bud. Because ... short of the Netherlands, I don't who deals with more water than what y'all do in your district. It's nothing short of amazing," Commissioner Turner said.

Mr. McKernan further noted that all of the water control structures will be driven by the elevation stages on the waterways in an automated system that will send telemetry simultaneously to SFWMD offices in West Palm Beach while controlling the structures.

Reservoir will lift many (economic) boats

By Chris Felker

Lake Okeechobee News

LaBELLE — There will be ample opportunity for construction firms locally and in all of South Florida to cash in on lucrative contracts with the SFWMD as it finalizes plans for the gigantic C-43 Reservoir.

Hendry County Commissioners Karson Turner and Michael Swindle were particularly pleased when Water Management District project chief Thomas McKernan mentioned the efforts the district has made to recruit and pre-qualify the most capable companies.

"Back in May, we had an 'Industry Day.' We wanted anybody interested in bidding this project to come out, see the site and the size and magnitude of this project," he said, "but we also wanted them to be introduced to some of the local guys who work out here that know the area. We met in West Palm Beach, gave a big presentation, and the following day we came out and drove the site, let these guys talk to each other, hand out cards and started dialogue between some of the local guys and some of the bigger firms," Mr. McKernan explained.

He went on to state that although the prime contractor will be a large company — "it has to be, to bond a job of this size — but there's also an SBE requirement that they'll be required to take on local, smaller firms as well. We also prequalified those contractors, ended up with six, on the four major features — the dam being the primary one, the soil/bentonite cutoff wall, the soil-cement lining and the structures. We didn't want these guys coming out, this being their first rodeo, so we made sure they were prequalified on jobs of this size and scope." The engineers' estimate

is nearly \$700 million.

Mr. Turner commended officials on making it a point to engage the local contractors and recognizing local expertise. He termed the South Florida Water Management District "an economic engine," adding, "That's a huge thing to a community like Hendry or Glades."

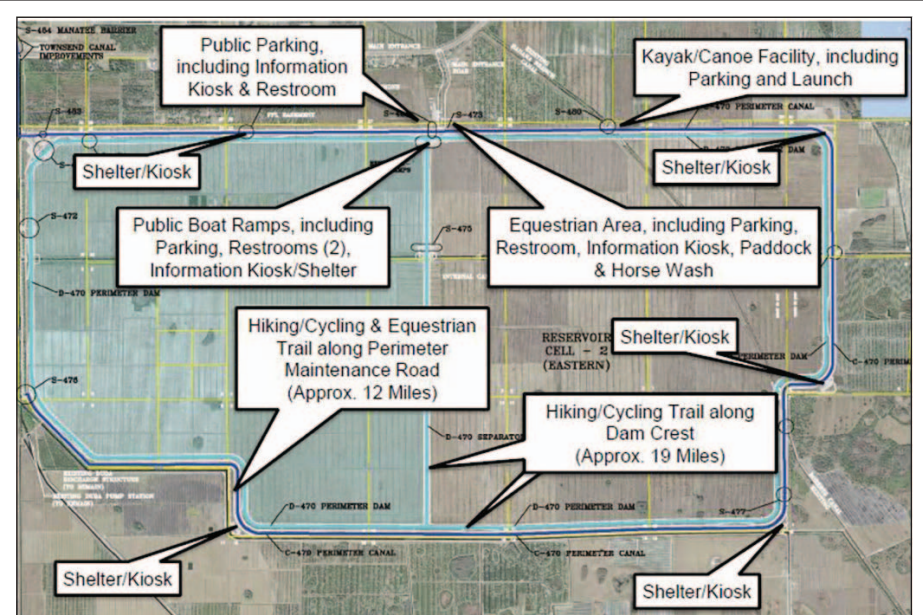
Commissioner Swindle asked whether any other reservoirs were being contemplated for along the Caloosahatchee.

Mr. McKernan asked Libby Pigman, SFWMD's Glades representative who was present, to answer, and she said that "the Boma Reservoir is as well, but those are the only two I know."

"Have you all put it into layman's terms," Mr. Swindle asked. Mr. McKernan said he'd have to defer to the "science guys," but he said "all I know is that we're putting in 170,000 acre-feet of water."

Ms. Pigman explained later that Boma is the name of a ranch, "and the district with the help of Lee County purchased that ranch, and there's a pilot project on that site. They're doing tests out there to see how much nitrogen they can remove from the water at that location. And they used it during some of the high water problems that we had for storage."

The short-listed firms that are prequalified for the C-43 construction are, according to the SFWMD website: Barnard Construction Co.; C-43 Water Management Builders (Salini Impregilo and Lane Construction); Granite Thalle Joint Venture (Granite Construction and Thalle Construction); P&J Morgan Joint Venture (Phillips & Jordan and Morgan Corp.); RJB Constructors Joint Venture (Rust Constructors and John Brothers Construction); and Kiewit Infrastructure South Co.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/SFWMD

Input to be sought on rec facilities

The South Florida Water Management District's Libby Pigman told Hendry County commissioners Jan. 22 that public input will be sought soon on the specific recreational features to be built for the C-43 Reservoir, which are shown in this preliminary drawing. "The recreation features on this project are going to develop as the project is built and after it's constructed, and that's something that we're going to look to the local community for input to, as to where do you guys see the most value, where do you see the community using the recreation features? So continue that dialogue, because this is going to be a huge project, as you know," she said to them.

Lower water levels create hazards for boaters

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reminds boaters to use safety precautions on the Lake Okeechobee Waterway and to be mindful of lower water levels due to the drought.

If you lock through Canaveral or the Okeechobee Waterway, please put the numbers for the corps locks into your phone. Remember to listen to any direction offered by the lock operator to ensure everyone’s safety as you lock through!

- W.P. Franklin Lock: 239-694-5451
- Ortona Lock: 863-675-0616
- Moore Haven Lock: 863-946-0414
- Port Mayaca Lock: 561-924-2858
- St. Lucie Lock: 772-287-2665
- Canaveral Lock: 321-783-5421

Safety:

- Vessels shall not pass under dam or spillway gates when they are out of the water and the river is flowing freely through the gate openings.
- Lockage of leaking, listing vessels or overloaded vessels may be refused. Leaking, listing vessels or overloaded vessels shall be moored in a location outside of the channel and outside of the arrival point so as not to interfere with passing navigation.
- All craft and tows approaching a lock, within a distance of 200 feet of the upper or lower lock gates, shall proceed at a speed not greater than 2 miles per hour (rate of a slow walk) during normal flow conditions.
- All tows entering the lock shall be properly aligned with the guide or lock wall.
- It is the responsibility of the vessel operator to provide adequate mooring lines. The lock operator may require mooring lines to be replaced with satisfactory lines before lockage is made if the lines appear to be of such quality, size, or condition that would make safe lockage questionable.
- All towboat crews, while locking or moving a tow into or out of a lock chamber, must station themselves to preclude the possibility of being injured by the parting of a cable or line under strain. Single part lines only will be used to check a moving

Corps adjusts lake flow to river

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District adjusted the amount of water flowing from Lake Okeechobee and the W.P. Franklin Lock (S-79) to the Caloosahatchee Estuary on Friday, Jan. 25.

The new release schedule began with a constant release of 700 cubic feet per second (cfs) as measured at W.P. Franklin Lock (S-79) near Fort Myers.

During the dry season, the Caloosahatchee River depends on freshwater flow from Lake Okeechobee to prevent salt-water intrusion. The South Florida Water Management District schedule guarantees the Caloosahatchee a minimum flow of 400 cfs during the dry season. Lee County officials have asked for a minimum of 700 cfs, and claim that 1,000 cfs would be ideal for the Caloosahatchee estuary.

The connection between the river and

tow. Working lines shall be kept dry and in good working condition to allow lines to be worked properly and to prevent injury to personnel.

- Towboat crewmembers shall not jump between moving tows and lock or guide walls while preparing for lockage, locking, or departing lock.
- All vessels, when in the locks, shall be moored and/or moved as directed by the lock operator.
- All cylinders or containers holding gases or liquids under pressure or any other chemical or substance shall be securely fastened to the hull of the vessel to prevent their rolling overboard into the lock chamber.
- All containers holding paint, gasoline, or other volatile materials shall be securely fastened with tight fitting covers.
- The sides of all vessels passing through the locks shall be free from projections that may damage lock structures or Manatee Protection System sensors. Suitable fenders shall be used with all commercial tows passing through the locks to prevent damage to the lock walls and structures. Fenders shall be cylindrical in shape and no less than 6 inches in diameter. The fenders shall be used on guide walls and lock chambers to protect the structures. The fenders shall be manufactured or fabricated for the purpose of fendering, using woven rope; laminated, molded reinforced, natural, or synthetic rubber, or other suitable material. Single, double, or triple strands of mooring line, with or without knots, and old tires will not be considered as suitable fenders. Lock operators may refuse lockage to all commercial and recreational vessels and/or tows not conforming to the above.

Recreational craft

- Commercial fishing craft and vessel delivery craft are included in the classification “recreational craft” when considering the precedent at the locks. Operators of recreational craft and their passengers are required to wear Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices during lockage. All vessels will be required to turn off engines during lockages to include bow thrusters.
- Personal watercraft of the “sit-down”

the lake is manmade. Before the channel was dug, water from the lake only flowed into the river during the wet season, when heavy rainfall would cause the lake to spill over into marshes, which connected with the Caloosahatchee River through a series of smaller lakes.

No water from Lake Okeechobee has been released to the St. Lucie Canal since the start of the dry season. The St. Lucie target will remain at zero cfs.

“We are coordinating closely with our partners at the South Florida Water Management District and estuary scientists to provide some flows to the Caloosahatchee Estuary in an effort to maintain a favorable salinity balance,” said Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds, deputy commander for South Florida.

variety (those you sit on and ride) will be accepted for lockage. The “stand-up” variety, (those that require the vessel to be moving for the operator to be out of the water), will not be accepted for lockage unless the craft is tied off to and locked through with an approved vessel, and the operator of the “stand-up” craft boards the approved vessel. Operators of personal watercraft and their passengers are required to wear Coast Guard-approved PFDs during lockage.

- Kayaks and canoes will be locked without other vessels in the chamber for safety reasons. Operators and their passengers are required to wear Coast Guard-approved PFDs during lockage.
- Paddleboards, sailboards and surfboards will not be locked.
- Lock operators may refuse lockage to all commercial and recreational vessels and/or tows not conforming to the above.

Storms

Notice is given that 72 hours prior to a tropical storm or hurricane making local landfall locks will be open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. supporting vessel safe harbor passage. Lock operations will stop 8 hours prior to land fall as railroad and drawbridges will be lowered or rotated and locked into a secure position. It’s important that all vessels are at their intended destination before bridges are secured and passage across the waterway suspended. No mooring will be allowed at any lock, approach walls or dolphins during a storm event.

For lock operator safety, the locks will:

1. Stop locking vessels or working outdoors if lightning is observed within 5 miles of the lock and operations will not resume until lightning has not been seen in the area for 30 minutes.
 2. Stop locking vessels when winds exceed 35 mph.
- After a storm it could be days or weeks before the waterway is reopened depending on damage to structures and how quickly debris creating navigation hazards can be removed.

Operations during high water and floods in designated vulnerable areas: Vessels operating on these waters during periods when water stages exceed the level of “ordinary high water,” as designated on Corps of Engineers’ navigation charts, shall exercise reasonable care to minimize the effects of their bow waves and propeller washes on river banks; submerged or partially submerged structures or habitations; terrestrial growth such as trees and bushes; and man-made amenities that may be present. Vessels shall operate carefully when passing close to levees and other flood control structures and shall observe minimum distances from banks which may be prescribed from time to time in Notices to Navigation Interests. Pilots should exercise particular care not to direct propeller wash at river banks, levees, revetments, structures or other appurtenances subject to damage from wave action.

Lock operators have no means of pulling tows from the chamber. An assist tow will be required of sufficient size to maintain safe control of the tow in any wind or current condition.

Lock hours are based on USACE Inland Marine Transportation System (IMTS) Standard Levels of Service.

Okeechobee Waterway:

- St. Lucie Lock - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily (Last lockage starting at 4:30 p.m.)
 - Port Mayaca Lock - 7: a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily (Last lockage starting at 4:30 p.m.)
 - Moore Haven Lock - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily (Last lockage starting at 4:30 p.m.)
 - Ortona Lock - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily (Last lockage starting at 4:30 p.m.)
 - WP Franklin Lock - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily (Last lockage starting at 4:30 p.m.)
- Lake Okeechobee water level can be viewed on the Corps of Engineers website at <http://w3.saj.usace.army.mil/h2o/currentLL.shtml/>
- Vessels larger than the maximum dimensions will be refused lockage. St. Lucie, Moore Haven and Ortona locks’ maximum vessel size is 45’ X 235’. Port Mayaca and W.P. Franklin locks’ maximum vessel size is 51’ X 385.’

Kiwanis seeks new members

LABELLE — The LaBelle Kiwanis Club is having a membership drive on Tuesday, **Jan. 29**, at Beef O’Brady’s, 21 S. Lee St. at 5:30 p.m. Appetizers will be served. If you’re interested in getting involved with programs that support local children and you want to do more for others, please join.

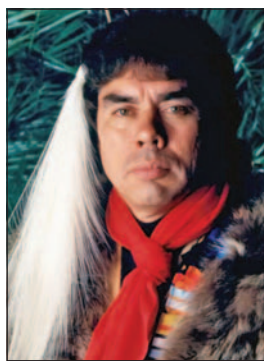


Secretary of State announces recipients of the 2019 FFH Awards

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — On Jan. 15, Secretary of State Michael Ertel announced the recipients of the 2019 Florida Folk Heritage Awards. The Folk Heritage Awards are given to outstanding folk artists and advocates who have made longstanding contributions to the folklife and cultural resources of Florida. In the category of Folklife Advocate, the award recipients are James Billie, former chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and Tina Bucuvalas, curator of arts and historical resources for the City of Tarpon Springs. In the category of Folk Artist, the award recipients are Jane Wells Scott, fiddler in Tallahassee, and Michael Usina, Minorcan cast net maker in St. Augustine. Awards will be presented to the recipients in a ceremony at the Word of South Festival in Tallahassee on April 13.

“Folk artists and advocates help keep important traditions alive so they can be passed down and shared from generation



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James Billie received a Folk Heritage Award for his advocacy.

to generation,” said Secretary Ertel. “The department is honored to recognize these four individuals for their commitment to fostering Florida’s folk arts and cultural heritage.”

Born of the Bird Clan in Dania, James Billie rose from humble beginnings to serve as chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida from 1979 to 2001 and from 2011 to 2016. In addition to championing tribal sovereignty, he established himself as a songwriter and promoted the preservation of Seminole

traditional culture and language.

For more than 30 years, folklorist Tina Bucuvalas has advocated on behalf of Florida’s folk and traditional arts and artists. She established the South Florida Folklife Center at HistoryMiami, served as state folklorist with the Florida Folklife Program and has continued to lead cultural and historic preservation efforts as curator of arts and historical resources for the city of Tarpon Springs.

As a musician, scholar and mentor of traditional old time and Irish fiddle, Jane Wells Scott has played a key role in the dynamic exchange of folk music traditions in North Florida, learning from masters, sharing techniques and preserving those skills for new generations. Regarded as an important fixture in the community, her work elegantly reflects the rich quality of Florida’s folk music legacy.

St. Augustine native Michael Usina celebrates his Minorcan heritage by crafting



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State Folklorist Tina Bucuvalas received a Folk Heritage Award.

hand-made cast nets using techniques passed down by his ancestors who settled St. Augustine in the 18th century. Driven by a desire to promote Minorcan folk arts, Usina has shared this tradition in one-on-one apprenticeships,

a documentary and at a variety of public events including the Florida Folk Festival.

For additional information including photos and full bios of each award recipient, visit the Florida Folklife Program’s Facebook page or website.

FWC suspends aquatic spraying; sportsmen cautiously happy

By Chris Felker

Lake Okeechobee News

A virtual celebration broke out last week in the internet forums of many different groups concerned about the chemical spraying of aquatic plants on lakes, rivers and canals. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission temporarily halted aquatic spraying on Jan. 28.

There was an especially joyous reaction in the lake region, with sportsmen and clean water advocates expressing relief at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s announcement Jan. 23. But there’s also a little skepticism mixed in, still.

Ramon Iglesias, co-founder of Anglers for Lake O and general manager at Roland and Mary Ann Martin’s Marina & Resort in Clewiston, was among the first to break the news on Facebook that beginning Monday, spraying for aquatic vegetation was halted temporarily by order of the FWC’s Division of Habitat and Species Conservation.

During that pause, announced the letter from divisional Director Kipp Frohlich, “staff

will work to set up meetings where we can collect public comment regarding aquatic plant management.”

Debbie Culp of the Florida Clean Water Network — a watchdog association of more than 300 groups and thousands of people who support and call for vigorous enforcement of the federal Clean Water Act — called it “great news, one big step in the right direction, and a long time coming.”

She posted thanks on the group’s Facebook page to several people in particular for their advocacy, “carrying the torch in enlightening FWC and increasing public awareness”: Pastor Scott Wilson of Wiliston; James R. Abernethy of North Palm Beach, a professional photographer and ocean/clean water activist who calls himself a “marine life saver”; Jim Watt of Jupiter, a self-described “wildlife guy” who argues that the state’s herbicide spraying program is violating Florida’s own environmental laws; Mr. Iglesias and Ms. Martin of Clewiston; and the 172,000 people who signed Mr. Abernethy’s petition on change.org titled

“Stop the State-Sanctioned Poisoning of Our Lakes and Rivers.”

Mr. Wilson posted: “Although I do appreciate the many thank-yous from around the state ... great people have been in this battle for decades.” He also shared reservations, saying that even mechanical harvesters had been ordered off all lakes. “Why would mechanical harvesting be stopped? These are the guys actually doing things right.”

He further claimed that “it has been suggested that this might be a public appeasement while more funding is secured.”

Mr. Watt, as well, cautioned those celebrating the FWC move: “Might be just a ruse to quiet us down. Don’t trust ‘em. They (spraying contractors) are not walking away from cash cow this easy.”

Mr. Iglesias, though, does not believe funding has dried up or that spraying is being halted because of fishing tournaments and publicity, or that it’s just a ruse.

“The reason I don’t think that’s the case is that I think we’ve done our due diligence and made our case. They (the FWC) realize

that there are problems. ... For them to say, ‘We’re not going to spray the entire state,’ tells me that they’re listening to our message,” realizing they have work to do.

Mr. Iglesias said he expected “they’re going to sit down and ... meet with us, and they’re going to reevaluate their program and possibly figure out there are ways for them to do it better.”

He explained: “We can’t stop spraying 100 percent, but if they can develop a program where they incorporate mechanical harvesting quite a bit more — yes, it’s going to be more expensive, but if we’re all fighting for clean water, that’s one place to start. Number two: spraying smart, meaning we don’t spray during the spawn times, we don’t spray around beds, and we do better selective target spraying.

“Understand, this is a process to try to make the program better, not to make it go away,” Mr. Iglesias finished.

FWC has not yet released the meeting schedule. Comments can also be sent to Invasiveplants@MyFWC.com.

A Walk in the Past: Clewiston emerges from the sea

By Butch Wilson

Clewiston Museum director

Large colonies of brightly colored coral clung tenaciously to limestone formations, forming reefs that meandered along the tropical sea floor. Currents from the deep cobalt depths carried microscopic plankton that mixed with the gin-clear surface water, which then cascaded across the coral reefs, bringing microscopic nutrients to the living coral. Over time, old coral died, forming new layers of calcium deposits known today as limestone sediments. This drama repeated itself for thousands of years, until the area we know as Clewiston emerged from the tropical sea.

Calcium deposits, from coral and other marine creatures, created limestone sediment deposits that were hundreds of

feet deep on the Florida Plateau. However, Florida emerged from the tropical sea, not because of limestone sediments, but because of climate change. The Earth started cooling and went into an Ice Age.

The Earth’s surface is approximately 66 percent ocean. Each day, large quantities of water evaporate on the oceans of the world. The moisture collects in the atmosphere and later precipitates (condenses as water) and falls to the Earth. The tropical rainstorms that occur each summer in Florida comes from rain that evaporated off the oceans, sometimes thousands of miles away. The rain that falls on South Florida eventually returns to the sea. This water cycle is worldwide.

The last Ice Age prevented this water cycle from completing. The water that fell on land was snow or sleet and remained in a

frozen state. As ice and snow continued to fall, ice sheets and glaciers started emerging. Ice sheets and glaciers grew larger as this process continued. Consequently, water wasn’t returning back to the oceans. The levels of the oceans gradually dropped, and land started emerging from the oceans.

The northern region of the Florida Plateau emerged first, followed by the central region and then the southern region. It is because of this time sequence that the limestone sediments are deeper in South Florida, since it emerged last from the sea.

Clewiston is 18 feet above sea level. Florida was 130 to 200 feet above sea level when the Ice Age was at its peak. Imagine Clewiston 200 feet above sea level! The east coast of Florida looked like England’s “White Cliffs of Dover,” while the west coast of Florida extended out 100 miles

farther than today. This is because the Florida Plateau’s western side gradually slopes westward.

The Ice Age ended approximately 12,000 years ago. Global warming started, and the ocean levels started rising. However, the ocean levels were still much lower than today. Florida was much drier, void of lakes, rivers and swamps. Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades regions consisted of prairies, scrubs and forest. Geologists believe Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades started later, approximately 6,000 years ago as the sea levels continued to rise.

Land mammals from North and South America migrated to Florida as it emerged from the sea; some were colossal in size. What kind of critters do you think migrated into Florida? This answer will be provided in the next edition of “A Walk in the Past.”

SFWMD python hunters nearing 2,000 snakes eliminated

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

WEST PALM BEACH — Hunters for the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Python Elimination Program are closing in on another significant milestone, with the 2,000th invasive snake expected to be eliminated soon.

SFWMD's python hunters have now eliminated 1,971 of the invasive snakes on district lands, stretching a combined length of almost 2.5 miles and collectively weighing more than 11.5 tons. Brian Hargrove, a Miami native, has dispatched the most snakes, with 279 eliminated. Kyle Penniston has the record for the longest snake at 17 feet, 5 inches.

Eliminating invasive species such as Burmese pythons is critical to preserving the rare Everglades ecosystem. Florida taxpayers have invested billions of dollars to restore the water quality and hydrology of the Everglades. Reducing the populations of invasive plants and animals is necessary to ensure this investment results in meeting the shared goals of the overall restoration plan.

SFWMD officials are now utilizing aerial drone technology to survey district lands from above to spot snakes and alert hunters where they have been seen to help find and eliminate them faster. SFWMD is also expanding GIS mapping technology to fur-

ther enhance existing databases that collect information on where snakes are being found — giving hunters and scientists better data on their whereabouts and behavior in South Florida.

About the District's Python Elimination Program

A team of professional python hunters was selected from more than 1,000 applicants and given access to district-owned lands in Miami-Dade County for the pilot phase and later in Palm Beach, Broward and Collier counties as the program expanded. These independent contractors are paid \$8.46 per hour, up to 10 hours daily, to hunt in the Everglades. Depending on the size of the snake presented, hunters can also receive additional payments of \$50 for pythons measuring up to 4 feet and an extra \$25 for each foot measured above 4 feet. An additional \$200 is given for each eliminated python nest with eggs.

Pythons hunters humanely euthanize each python they catch in the field (according to American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines) and then deposit them at designated drop-off locations. A similar, successful program, called the Python Removal Contractor Program, is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The invasive Burmese python, which



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
SFWMD python hunter Donna Kalil (left) and her assistant, Renee Yousefi, captured three Burmese pythons on Wednesday, Jan. 23.

breeds and multiplies quickly and has no natural predator in the Everglades ecosystem, has decimated native populations of wildlife. The more that can be eliminated, especially females and their eggs, the better chance future generations of native wildlife will have to thrive in the Everglades ecosystem that Floridians have invested billions of dollars to restore.

Elected officials and celebrities ranging

from U.S. Rep. Francis Rooney, R-Fla., to superstar chef Gordon Ramsey have taken part in the hunts, bringing international awareness to the issue of this invasive species and efforts to eradicate them. Python hunters were also featured in a Discovery Channel television special, highlighting the program.

Social Security Matters

By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty - Will my benefit be the same as my current SS statement says?

Dear Rusty: I recently retired after more than 40 years in the construction industry. I'm 60 years young and my wife and I recently moved south to enjoy retirement in a new and milder environment. At this point, we do not plan on receiving my SS benefit until I reach my full retirement age of 66 and 8 months. In my 2018 statement, the Estimated Benefits Section, it states "You have enough credits to qualify for benefits at your current earning rate. (If you continue working until your full retirement age of 66 years and 8 months your payment will be...)." Then it shows an amount for my full retirement age, age 70 and age 62. My question is, if I don't work from now to my full retirement age will that significantly reduce my SS benefit rate that is quoted on my statement? Signed: Retired early

Dear Retired: Congratulations on your retirement! The estimated benefits shown on the statement you received from Social Security are just that - estimates. But they make a critical assumption which will, indeed, make a difference in the actual amount of your benefit when you finally claim it.

Those estimates assume that you will continue working at your current income level until you reach your full retirement age (FRA). But since you retired from work at age 60 your actual benefit (assuming you continue without working) will be less than the current estimates you have from Social Security. Whether the reduction will

"significantly reduce" your benefit depends on your actual earnings in the 35 years used to compute your benefit when you claim. Your benefit is determined by adjusting for inflation all your lifetime earnings as reported to the IRS (but only up to the annual payroll tax cap for each year). They then select the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime, total them and divide by 420 (number of months in 35 years) to arrive at your "average indexed monthly earnings," or AIME. This is a number used to compute your actual benefit amount.

Since the highest earning years are usually the ones later in your working career, stopping work before you reach FRA will yield a lower benefit - if the estimated benefit computation used the predicted earnings between age 60 and your FRA to arrive at your benefit estimate. The key parameter used to determine your actual benefit amount is something called your "primary insurance amount" (PIA), which is computed from your AIME and is your benefit at your full retirement age.

If you claim before FRA, your benefits will be reduced according to the number of months before that you claim (reduced by about six-point-seven percent for each of the first three years early and then five percent more for any years more than three years prior to your FRA). Conversely, if you wait beyond FRA to claim, your benefit will grow at eight percent per year until you are 70, when it would be 26.7 percent more than it would be at your full retirement age.

Of course, you don't have to wait until age 70 to apply, because you'll earn delayed retirement credits (DRCs) of two-thirds of one percent per month of delay beyond your full retirement age. But the longer you

wait to claim, the more your benefit will be (up to age 70), thus possibly easing the impact of any benefits lost by not working until your FRA.

To summarize, if you don't work between now and your FRA, your benefits will probably be less than shown in your most recent estimate. If you work and have earnings for some years after age 60, and those earnings are more than any of the 35 used to compute your estimate, the higher

current earnings will be used to compute your final benefit amount. And if you delay beyond your FRA to claim benefits you may recover (thru DRCs) some of what was lost by not working between age 60 and your FRA. I realize this isn't a specific answer about how much less your benefit might be, but I hope this answers your basic question.



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Lifting up prayers for Lake Okeechobee



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/Courtesy of Michael Kennedy

Some of the participants in Betty Osceola's Healing Lake Okeechobee Prayer Walk stopped near Port Mayaca on Sunday afternoon to pick up supplies from supporters during a midday break in the rain. After a cold, wet night made sleeping impossible and raw, chilling cloudbursts induced shivers, the photographer met the group at the Port Mayaca Lock and decided to add his own "prayer" for sunnier skies — a Photoshop rainbow.

Florida B. Thomas Library

CLEWISTON — Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Comes to Life" on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 5 p.m. at the Florida B. Thomas Library, 1010 J Harlem Academy Ave. Ersula Knox-Odom, in costume and in character, portrays Dr. Bethune. Dr. Bethune was the founder of the Bethune-Cookman University, civil rights activist, "New Deal" government official, and served as president of the National Association of Colored Women. For information, call For information, call 863-902-3322.

SA Council meeting set

CLEWISTON — Eastside Elementary, 201 Arroyo Ave., will host a School Advisory Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 6 p.m. in the media center.

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Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/Courtesy of Jody Young
During the Lake Okeechobee Prayer Walk, Jody Young posted a picture of people "drumming in solidarity from Burlington, Kansas," amid a truly frozen landscape.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/Courtesy of Michael Kennedy
People from all over the country were watching and participating in the prayer walk by following the organizers' Facebook pages.

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