



Lake Okeechobee News/Chris Felker

Members of the K.E. Cunningham/Canal Point Elementary School Band warm up near the festival grounds in preparation for their performance at the band shell at the annual Black Gold Jubilee festival in Belle Glade on Saturday. The festival name honors the "black gold" soil of the Everglades. For more photos online, go to LakeOkeechobeeNews.com.



5 Teen anglers fish Lake O



18 Fish camp here since 1921

Black Gold Jubilee draws crowd to the lake

By Chris Felker

Lake Okeechobee News

BELLE GLADE — The Black Gold Jubilee featured so many attractions this year that it kept people streaming onto Torry Island all day Saturday, April 6, even as twilight fell.

There seemed to be a hundred booths with civic organizations, contests, exhibitors,

games, raffles, even a green market and so many vendors with aromatic, enticing food and everything else under the sun for sale. At every one, they were happy to tell their stories to people wandering the festival grounds at the city's Torry Island Campground & Marina, where sits the Lomax Harrelle Pavilion along the Lake Okeechobee waterfront.

There were actually around 75 vendors,

according to city officials, with so much participation from the Glades area communities that they ran out of space for any more before the sign-up deadline and were turning them away.

Said Deputy City Manager Beverly Scott, "We are looking at how to expand it next year."

See JUBILEE— Page 28

SFWMD governing board to discuss EAA reservoir

By Katrina Elsken

Lake Okeechobee News

WEST PALM BEACH — The Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) reservoir is on the agenda for the April 11 meeting of the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

Once again, the inland counties will lack representation at the SFWMD April meeting. Gov. Ron DeSantis, who demanded that the entire SFWMD governing board appointed by Gov. Rick Scott resign in January, has yet to

appoint the governing board member to the position that represents Glades, Highlands, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola and Polk counties.

Charlotte Roman, who is listed as the "at-large from Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Highlands, Glades, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola and Polk counties," lives in Marco Island.

A review of the plans for the EAA reservoir is on the agenda under discussion items.

"The purpose of the presentation is to educate the board and the public on the status of the project and expectations and to gain

understanding of the lease provisions," states the agenda.

Also on the discussion agenda, the governing board will consider the future of the Water Analysis Resources Coalition. WRAC, a forum for discussion of water issues by stakeholders from throughout the district, has not met since November. In the past, WRAC meetings provided a lively discussion of water quality issues by invited guests representing a broad range of business, agricultural, environmental, tribal,

See EAA — Page 17

Lake Levels

11.78 feet

Last Year: 13.58 feet



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Source: South Florida Water Management District.

Depth given in feet above sea level

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

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Okeechobee, Florida

Free tax help available in-person and online

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

Whether a taxpayer has a simple straight-forward tax return or one that's a little more complex, the IRS can help. As the filing deadline quickly approaches, here's information about the different ways taxpayers can get free help with their federal taxes.

Free tax help is available at nearly 11,000 volunteer sites nationwide:

- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program** offers free tax help and tax return preparation to individuals who generally make \$55,000 or less, persons with disabili-

ties, the elderly and individuals with limited English proficiency.

- **Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program** offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those age 60 and older.

To find the nearest VITA or TCE site, taxpayers can use the VITA and TCE locator on IRS.gov, download the IRS2GO app or call 800-906-9887. Help is also available in Chinese, Cantonese, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese at select locations.

- **Armed Forces Tax Council** oversees military tax programs worldwide and

connects the IRS to military personnel and their families. Volunteers can help with military-specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits and the earned income tax credit. In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, each site will e-file returns for free.

Taxpayers who want to prepare and e-file their tax returns can use IRS Free File on IRS.gov. IRS Free File offers brand-name tax software for taxpayers who earned \$66,000 or less so they can prepare and file their federal tax returns for free. Taxpayers who earned more can use Free Fillable Forms,

the electronic version of IRS paper forms. IRS Free File also allows taxpayers to get an automatic extension of time to file, but taxpayers must generally pay taxes owed by the April tax-filing deadline to avoid penalties and interest. Special rules apply for military service members.

Taxpayers should remember that they can find answers anytime to questions on IRS.gov. They can also find forms and instructions and easy-to-use tools on the agency's web site. The best things about IRS.gov: no appointment required and no waiting on hold.

Lake Okeechobee Weather Forecast

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Wednesday: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Partly sunny, with a high near 83.

Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high

as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. West-northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm after midnight.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. Calm wind becoming east-southeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 87. Calm wind becoming south-southeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Friday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 68. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. East-southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. Southeast wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 88.

South-southeast wind around 10 mph.

Sunday night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. South-southeast wind around 5 mph.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. South-southwest wind around 5 mph.

Monday night: A 29% chance of thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. Winds from the south around 5 mph.

Tuesday: A 14% chance of thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high of 85. East-northeast wind around 8 mph, gusts 24 mph.

Tuesday night: Clear with a low of 62. East-northeast winds around 7 mph, gusts 17 mph.

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Pulse of the Community

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.

SFWMD

• “Does anyone else find it suspicious that the new governing board of the South Florida Water Management District has no one connected with agriculture, and no

one from the interior counties? The seat that should represent the counties around the lake is still vacant. All of the other seats are taken by people who live on the coasts. Why did the governor demand the whole board resign if he didn't have people in mind to replace them? We should all be writing and calling the governor's office to demand representation. We pay taxes to the SFWMD. Just look at your property tax bill. How can they tax us and refuse to allow us any representation?” — M. Jones

• “The SFWMD meeting on Thursday includes an item about the EAA reservoir. There is a rumor that the new board will try to delay the work on the reservoir to stop the project. The so-called environmentalist groups stopped it from being built in 2008 with a lawsuit. They didn't want it built then and they don't really want it now. If we solve the problem of the excess water, people won't keep donating to these groups. They need an environmental crisis to keep those donations coming in, and that money

pays their high dollar salaries. Watch and see what happens.” — Anonymous

• “The lake level keeps dropping, which is fine this year because we need a low level for about 60 days to let the grass grow. But now that the whole SFWMD board is made up of people connected to the Everglades Foundation, I am concerned they will follow the politics instead of the science. Trying to make the lake go down to 10.5 feet every year by June 1 would be a disaster.” — K Booker

IRS offers last-minute tax tips and resources

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

WASHINGTON — With just days remaining before the federal tax-filing deadline, the Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers they have a variety of options to get help preparing and filing their tax returns on IRS.gov. Taxpayers can also find answers to their tax questions and resolve tax issues on IRS.gov, the official IRS website.

As the tax deadline nears and the demand for IRS tax help by phone is higher, the IRS encourages taxpayers to make IRS.gov their first stop when questions arise, as the website offers answers to many of the most common taxpayer questions, like “Where's My Refund?,” how to make tax payments and how to get forms and instructions. IRS.gov offers online help for individual taxpayers as well as tax professionals and has more than 358 million page views this tax-filing season.

IRS.gov is also mobile friendly. The website will resize and adapt based on the type of device taxpayers use to access it. This allows a better experience and optimal viewing for those using smart phones or tablets.

Taxpayers have easy access to information through the File, Pay, Refunds, Credits & Deductions and Forms & Instructions

links at the top of every page. Additional links give taxpayers one-click access to the help page, news center, content in other languages, information for charities and nonprofits and resources for tax professionals.

The IRS.gov search tool gives taxpayers an easier way to explore the large variety of content on the site. Taxpayers can filter the search results by content type, taxpayer audience type and archived content.

Taxpayers can go to View Your Account Information to securely access information about their federal tax account. They can view the amount they owe, pay online or set up an online payment agreement; access their tax records online; review the past 18 months of payment history; and view key tax return information for the current year as filed. Visit IRS.gov/secureaccess to review the required identity authentication process.

Other self-service tools provide users with around the clock help. There are items for individuals, businesses and tax professionals. For example, the Withholding Calculator can help taxpayers determine if they're having enough taxes withheld from their paychecks.

Links to IRS YouTube videos are available on a variety of tax topics including

extensions, common errors and payment options. This month, the IRS celebrated the 10th anniversary of its YouTube channel launch. During the 10-year period, almost 16 million people viewed user-friendly information in English, Spanish and American Sign Language.

More than 70% of taxpayers qualify for free tax software through IRS Free File. This special service is available only on IRS.gov or through the IRS2Go mobile app. The app allows taxpayers to use a smartphone or tablet to prepare and file their tax returns taxpayers can also use IRS2go to check their refund status, make a payment or access other helpful tools.

Another good first stop is the IRS Services Guide, which provides an overview of the many IRS.gov tools available to taxpayers and tax professionals. For fast answers to general tax questions, taxpayers can search the Interactive Tax Assistant, Tax Topics, Frequently Asked Questions, Tax Trails and IRS Tax Map.

With major changes made by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the IRS encourages taxpayers seeking more information on tax reform to consult two online resources: Publication 5307, Tax Reform: Basics for Individuals and Families, and Publication 5318, Tax Reform: What's New for Your

Business. For other tips and resources, visit IRS.gov/taxreform or check out the Get Ready page on IRS.gov.

All IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers now operate by appointment. Customer service representatives are available by calling 844-545-5640, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., to schedule appointments. Before making an appointment, taxpayers should check the hours of operation and services offered at their nearest TAC.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE

B	F	L	A	T	M	I	N	O	R	Z	A	P	S
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Lake Okeechobee News

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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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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

MEMBER OF:



Teen Anglers host tournament

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE — The Big O Teen Anglers had their March 30 tournament on Lake Okeechobee out of Okee-Tantie. It was a beautiful day for fishing. Twelve out of 16 of the anglers caught fish this time around, with only one catching a limit.

The anglers had 16 anglers catch 19 bass with a total weight of 38.29 pounds. The largest bass caught was 3.97 lbs. and was caught by Tyler Scott of the 15-19 age group.

The next tournament will be held on April 27, out of Okee-Tantie.

11-14 age group

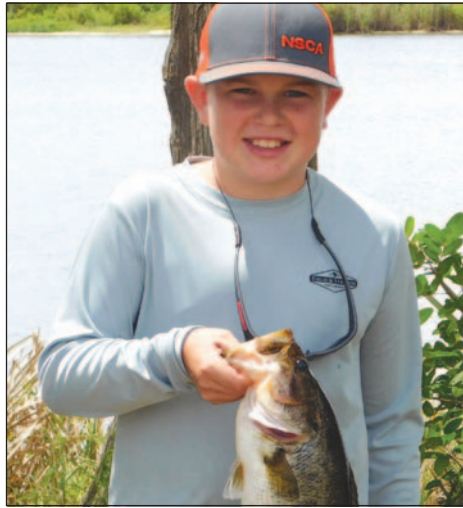
- 1st Brian Holtkamp 3.74 lbs. and Big Fish 3.74 lbs.
- 2nd Lane Davis 1.72 lbs.
- 3rd Tanner Seabolt 1.70 lbs.

15-19 age group

- 1st Tyler Scott 11.04 lbs. and Big Fish 3.97 lbs.
- 2nd David Miller 9.17 lbs.
- 3rd Alex Figueroa 3.04 lbs.

Every month the anglers have boat captains who volunteer their Saturday morning to take youth anglers fishing. The Big O Teen Anglers extend thanks to: Brian Casey, Buster McMillan, Mitch Mulholland, Jim Newell, Herman Parker, Dan Powell, Terry Seabolt and Larry Wise.

A thank you also to the Melette family for providing the after-tournament lunch.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Brian Holtkamp won first place in the 11-14 age group.



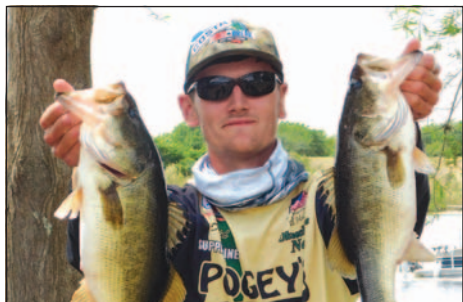
Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Lane Davis took second place in the 11-14 age group.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Tanner Seabolt took third place in the 11-14 age group.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Alex Figueroa placed third in the 15-19 age group.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
David Miller placed second in the 15-19 age group.

The Okeechobee Community Choir

*Under the Direction of Sandy Perry,
Will Present its 20th Annual Easter Cantata Concert,
Who is Jesus?*

and Easter Favorites, Concluding with Handel's Hallelujah Chorus,
During Which Audience Participation is Encouraged.
(Highlighted Music Provided)

Friday, April 12th
7pm

Saturday, April 13th
7pm

Sunday, April 14th
3pm



Okeechobee Presbyterian Church

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The **35 singers** comprising this season's choir, represent singers from **15** area churches

Soloists include Bobby & Debby Huntley, Joy Jarriel, Amber Marquette, Wesley Powell, John Sufficool and Mike Zierden, along with Special Guest Violinist Greg Durozel

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YOUR Government WATCH

WEEK OF APRIL 8

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

Okeechobee County Commission

Thursday, April 11, 9 a.m.
Historic Okeechobee County Courthouse
304 N.W. Second St., Room 270
Agenda and meeting live online at co.Okeechobee.fl.us

Palm Beach County SFWMD Governing Board

Thursday, April 11, 9 a.m.
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach
Online at sfwmd.gov

WEEK OF APRIL 15

Glades County

Moore Haven City Council
Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 299 Riverside Drive,
Moore Haven
Agenda online at moorehaven.org

Hendry County

Clewiston City Commission
Monday, April 15, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, 115 W. Ventura Ave.
Agenda online at clewiston-fl.gov

Palm Beach County

South Bay City Commission
Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m.
City Hall, 335 S.W. Second Ave.
Online at southbaycity.com

Irma recovery help offered

SOUTH BAY — Catholic Charities is available to help residents bounce back from the impact of Hurricane Irma. There will be a Disaster Preparation and Recovery program on Friday, **April 12**, at Tanner Park, 105 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attendees will receive hurricane preparation kits (while supplies last) and helpful information. All residents are welcome.

Help with addiction recovery

BELLE GLADE — Become certified in gambling addictions, newest innovation in gambling addiction and recovery, which is a strengths-based support for persons with gambling addictions or in recovery from gambling, or other addictive behaviors. Come to Crossing Bridges of the Palm Beaches, 1100 N. Main St., Suite B, on Friday, **April 12**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 904-373-8135 or 561-889-4815.

Register for adult ed

BELLE GLADE — Registration for Adult Education Classes will be held from Monday, **April 15**, through Friday, April 16. Call 561-829-4620.

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 lakeokeechee.com.

Grover C. Whitehead, 70

CLEWISTON — Grover C. Whitehead passed away April 3, 2019 in West Palm Beach Veterans Medical Center after a long illness.

Grover was born Feb. 13, 1949 in Covington, Ala., to Aubrey L and Foye Judy Ann (Carpenter) Whitehead. Mr. Whitehead married Julie Lachance on March 13, 1997. He proudly served his country during the Vietnam war in the United States Army Infantry from Aug. 1967 to Aug. 1969 being honorably discharged as a SGT. He worked as a truck driver and mechanic for many years. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend to everyone who knew and loved him.

He leaves to remember fondly his wife, Julie Whitehead; children, Timmy, Derek, Brian, Megan and Michelle; grandchildren, Drew, Trinity, Raelyn, Angelina, Christian, Adrianna and Jenna; sister, Joyce Williams; and brothers, Paul, Michael, Wayne, Robert, Kenneth, and Carl.

He was preceded in death by his brother and sisters, Margaret, James, Judy and Sandra.

Cremation arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home - Clewiston.



Tommy Lamar Sills, 78

OKEECHOBEE — Tommy Lamar Sills died April 2, 2019. He was born July 13, 1940 in Okeechobee to the late Harris and Lottie (Lowe) Sills. A lifetime resident of Okeechobee, he had been a commercial fisherman from 1959 to 1990. He enjoyed spending time with his friends at the VFW and Eagles.

Mr. Sills was preceded in death by his wife, Donna Faye Sills.

He is survived by his son, Tim Sills (Jewell); daughter, Crystal White (Donnie), all of Okeechobee; six grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; brothers, Jack and Leon; and sisters, Barbara Ann, Mabel, Shirley, and Wilma.

Visitation will be at Evergreen Cemetery from 10 a.m. until graveside services at 11 a.m. Friday, April 12, 2019.

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.

Edward Lee Burns, 69

OKEECHOBEE — Edward Lee Burns died April 7, 2019. He was born Sept. 16, 1949 in Beckwith, W.Va. He proudly served our country in the United States Marines. A resident of Okeechobee since Aug. 2018, he was a member of the Church of God of Prophecy. He enjoyed fishing with Jimmy and Diana on the boat, buying and selling vehicles, watching football, playing cards, and he loved spending time with his family and his dog.

Eddie is survived by his wife of 40 years, Diana Burns, of Okeechobee; daughters, Lisa Burns, of State College, Pa., and Ashley Burns (Brandon), of Okeechobee; son, Stephen Massey (Amy), of Huntington, W.Va.; two grandchildren, Tori and Marshal; brother, Raymond Burns (Grithel); sisters, Betty Martin, Mildred Martin (Benny), Dorothy Haines (Bobby), Becky Griffiths (Irvin), Mable Chernin (Joel), Barbara Gobble (John), and Cindy Jarrell (John); and dear friend, Dewey Adkins, of Beckley, W.Va.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, PO Box 1548, Okeechobee FL 34973.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until services at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 11, 2019 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home with Pastor Mike Bevis officiating.

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.

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

Sharon Sue Douglas, 68

OKEECHOBEE — Sharon Sue Douglas died April 6, 2019. She was born March 24, 1951 in Dayton, Ohio. A resident of Okeechobee for 40 years, she was a member of Westside Christian Church. She was a pianist and enjoyed crocheting. Her favorite television show was Barnwood Builders; she'd often enjoy her Diet Pepsi and chocolate covered pretzels while watching her show. She had co-owned ABBA Christian Bookstore with her husband, Wilbur. Sharon was truly "66 and holding," as she would often say.



Mrs. Douglas was preceded in death by her husband, Wilbur Lee Douglas; and brother, Jack Tatom.

She is survived by her children, Jason Allen Douglas (Stefanie) and Shawna Leigh McCullers (Billy), all of Okeechobee; eight grandchildren; brother, Kenneth "Duke" Tatom (Sue), of Palm Bay; best friend, Jackie Witt; and caregiver, Shannon Hernandez, both of Okeechobee.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. until services at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13, 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.

John Floyd Stevens, 65

OKEECHOBEE — John Floyd Stevens died April 7, 2019. He was born May 7, 1953 in Chicago, Ill. A resident of Okeechobee for 53 years, he was a member of Haven Ministries. He loved Elvis, singing, reading his Bible, and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Stevens was preceded in death by his brothers, Bobby Sippert and Eddie Sippert; mother, Helen Sippert; and stepfather, Clarence Sippert.

He is survived by his sons, John Stevens, Jr. and Matthew Stevens (Sheryl), all of Indiana; daughters, Melissa Joudi (John) and Tasha Stevens (Linda Fernandez), all of Okeechobee; seven grandchildren; brothers, Michael Sippert and Glenn Sippert (Patti), all of Okeechobee; and sisters, Joyce Sippert, of Okeechobee, and Dee Grimshaw (Garry), of Georgia.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

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.



Glades County pushes septic-to-sewer switch

By Chris Felker

Lake Okeechobee News

MOORE HAVEN — Glades County commissioners pushed forward on two fronts to further septic-to-sewer conversion efforts at their meeting Tuesday morning, April 9.

First they approved a request from the Lakeport Water Association Inc., or LWA — a private, nonprofit corporation that Glades County granted a franchise in 2010 to provide potable water to the community of Lakeport — to expand its services “to include the collection, treatment and distribution of wastewater services within the same territorial area.”

Then they bit the bullet and encumbered \$122,333 of their 1-cent sales tax fund to cover Glades County’s half of a nearly quarter-million-dollar overrun in the final contract cost of the \$1 million sewer project that is proceeding in Moore Haven proper with grants given to the City County Public Works Authority (CCWPA). The lowest bid on the project exceeded the state’s budget by nearly \$245,000, and the CCPWA board accepted it on March 31 and agreed to split the overage with the county.

The PRP Construction Group LLC bid \$994,420 on that project, when the Florida Department of Environmental Protection had only about \$750,000 in its construction budget. It includes sewer line installation on Avenues N, O and S and on Fourth Street in the city. The CCPWA board decided not to back off on road repairs afterward, which make up nearly half of the total cost.

About the Lakeport project, commissioners were less reluctant when they learned the particulars of the LWA’s plan.

“This is essentially the first step in what we hope to be a series of steps to remove septic tanks out of the Lakeport area and get into a central sewer district. There are different ways that we may go; the second step ... is to then conduct a feasibility study, and we’ve already retained engineers Craig A. Smith and Associates, who we expect to provide us with those services,” said LWA attorney Steve Ramunni.

He described a couple of different scenarios they might enact: establishing their own system or expanding under their joint agreement with the Seminole Tribe of Florida (from which they buy water) to include wastewater treatment.

“In fact we’ve already had meetings preliminarily with tribal members on the Brighton Reservation, and they’re very receptive to working out a scenario,” he said. “They happen to be also in the process of expanding their wastewater treatment plant for an expected expansion on the Brighton Reservation of perhaps a hotel and other amenities, so the timing is right. Obviously, also by way of timing, so to speak: As we know, this is a very ripe subject with regards to water quality issues.

“We believe that in the end, we’ll accomplish better water quality in terms of what is considered to be an issue with Lake Okeechobee,” Mr. Ramunni went on, adding that the timing is good “for my client to obtain the necessary funding.”

He said the LWA Inc. already applied for financing of the feasibility study, and said that for the future expansion to wastewater services, there “could be some sort of grant/loan package through the federal government or our state government.”

He stated that they are closely watching efforts in the Legislature this session to establish new ways in which Florida would help finance septic-to-sewer conversion projects statewide, but especially in South Florida due to the much-discussed coastal water-quality issues and the ongoing work on the Herbert Hoover Dike that recently brought President Trump, Florida’s newly elected governor and numerous U.S. representatives, including both senators, to Canal Point for a visit.

“This is completely in line with we’re doing elsewhere already,” said Commissioner John Ahern.

He then moved for the board to approve the LPA request, and Commissioner Donald Strenth, who represents the area, seconded. The vote was unanimously in favor, and County Attorney Richard Pringle told the board, “This is the first stop, and the ordinance will come back to you.”

LWA attorney Ramunni explained that “this gives us the ability to go forward with the feasibility study,” for which they’ve already closed on financing with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Chris Felker can be reached at cfelker@newszap.com.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

After Hours was a success

OKEECHOBEE — *Okeechobee the Magazine* hosted the March Chamber of Commerce After Hours event with magazine owner/publisher, David Jones, detailing his hopes and plans for the magazine now and in future years. These informative events, held for chamber members as well as the public, are a way to learn more about our local businesses. The chamber always provides a fun-time game which, this month, was the assembling of a picture puzzle cut out of a page from *Okeechobee the Magazine*, for which the winning team won a prize.

Children’s Ranch hosts sale

Real Life Children’s Ranch, 7777 U.S. 441 S.E., yard sale is open every week from Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. They have many bargains. If you like to read, fill a bag with books for \$1. Fill a bag of clothes for \$1. For information, call 863-763-4242.

Tax forms ready to pick up

OKEECHOBEE — Okeechobee Public Library, 206 S.W. 16th St., would like to announce it now has all tax documents and booklets available for the public. When you walk in you will be able to find them in a marked file cabinet on the right.

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Free tax service offered

OKEECHOBEE — AARP TAXAIDE volunteers are offering free tax preparation and e-filing now through Tuesday, April 16, at the American Legion, 501 S.E. Second St. on **Mondays** and **Tuesdays** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Doors will open at 8:45 a.m. and you must be signed in by 1:30 p.m. You must bring a photo I.D., Social Security cards for yourself and all dependents, last year’s tax return and all 2018 financial papers. No appointments necessary, it is first come first serve. Do not call the American Legion. For more information, please call Neile at 863-357-1694 or Sandy at 863-801-7281.



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Your COMMUNITY NEWS



Okeechobee County

Moose Lodge hosts events

OKEECHOBEE — The Moose Lodge will host the following events: On Wednesday, **April 10**, there will be five-card bingo from 5 to 7 p.m. On Thursday, **April 11**, legion bingo is canceled. On Saturday, **April 13**, there will be a dinner of chicken and yellow rice at 5 p.m. for \$7. There will be music by Double D from 6 to 9 p.m. On Sunday, **April 14**, there will be breakfast from 8 to 9:45 a.m. and three-card bingo from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Library hosts celebration

OKEECHOBEE — The public is invited to the 20th anniversary celebration of the Okeechobee County Public Library's current building, 206 S.W. 16th St., on Thursday, **April 11**, at 6 p.m. Event features live music, food, photo booth and more. For information, call 863-763-3536.

Funeral education event set

OKEECHOBEE — Seawinds Funeral Home, 3833 S.E. 18th Terrace, would like you to attend its free "Ducks in a Row" educational program on Friday, **April 12**, at noon. Lunch will be served and you will learn how to go about planning your final arrangements. For more information, call 863-357-7283.

Ride for Rights event set

OKEECHOBEE — The 19th Judicial Circuit, Victim's Rights Coalition presents its annual Ride for Rights on Saturday, **April 13**. Ride to benefit the victims of Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast. Riders from surrounding counties can choose to start from Okeechobee County or Martin County. Onsite registration for Okeechobee will be at the Okeechobee Sheriff's Office, 504 N.W. Fourth St., from 9 to 9:45 a.m. Kickstands up at 10 a.m. For those choosing to start in Martin County onsite registration will be at Indiantown Sheriff's Substation, 16550 S.W. Warfield Blvd., from 10 to 10:45 a.m. and kickstands up when all motorcycles arrive at the sub-station. You may download a registration form from www.19JCVRC.org. For more information, call 863-634-0727 or 863-634-0651. You can also email at JJohnson@okeesherrif.com or bstark@okeesherrif.com.

VFW hosts bingo

OKEECHOBEE — VFW Post 4423, 300 N.W. 34th St., will hold its Bingo Extravaganza on Saturday, **April 13**, at 2 p.m. For information, call 863-763-0818.

Princess tea party planned

OKEECHOBEE — Our Village Okeechobee is hosting a tea party on Saturday, **April 13**, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Okeechobee High School Cafeteria, 2800 U.S. 441. Wear your favorite princess dress and come have a good time before the play, "Beauty and the Beast." There will be games, food, and fun. Tickets are \$15 per princess and per adult or you can purchase a four-ticket family pack for \$50. Tickets admit you to the tea party and the play. For more information, call 863-697-8718.

Disney play at OHS

OKEECHOBEE — Okeechobee High School Thespian Troupe 7319 presents Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." It will take place at the high school, 2800 U.S. 441, in the Lecture Hall at 7:30 p.m. on **April 12 and 13**. Adult tickets are \$10 and students get in for \$5. For more information, call Miss Raulerson at 863-462-5025 ext. 8011.

D.A.R. meeting planned

OKEECHOBEE — The Okeechobee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution have a meeting on Saturday, **April 13**, at 10 a.m. at the Okeechobee Public Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. Light refreshments will begin at 9:30 a.m.

S.A.R. hosts monthly meeting

OKEECHOBEE — The Okeechobee Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will meet on Saturday, **April 13**, at Beef O'Brady's, 608 S. Parrott Ave., at 11:30 a.m. Earl Taylor, from the Okeechobee Family History Center, will be the guest speaker. The public is welcome and invited to attend. If you have any questions, call Register, Gary Howard at 863-801-9730 or President, Gary Miles at 863-801-9872.

Glades County

Shoot for cash

MOORE HAVEN — Come out and shoot for cash on Thursday, **April 11**, at 6 p.m. at the Tenth Street Softball field. Its \$10 per round with a cash prize each round. Final round will have double the winnings. A special Ladies' and Kids' Round will also take place, with final round double winnings. Shells for 12 gauge, 20 gauge, and 410 provided. Shotguns will also be provided or bring your own. There will be hotdogs, chips and soda available for \$5. Proceeds will benefit the Veterans Dinner and Moore Haven High School scholarship. For information, call 863-227-3381 or 863-885-1138.

Lions Club meeting set

MOORE HAVEN — The Moore Haven Lions Club will hold a meeting on Thursday, **April 18**, at 5:30 p.m. in the offices of the Sheriff's Department of Glades County, 1297 S.R. 78. Plans are to be finalized for the Easter Sunrise Sausage and Pancake Breakfast; there is no charge, donations only, for the benefit of the Ronald McDonald Homes. All Lions and all other interested persons are urged to attend. For information, Kirby Sullivan-863-946-2556.

Easter Breakfast to be held

MOORE HAVEN — The Moore Haven Lions Club will sponsor the annual Easter Sunrise Sausage and Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, **April 21**, at Moore Haven Elementary School lunch room, 401 Terrier Pride Dr. S.W., from 7:30 to 9 a.m. There is no charge but donations will be accepted for the benefit of Ronald McDonald Homes.

Hendry County

Citywide Revival to be held

CLEWISTON — Faith Life Outreach Christian Cathedral will host a Citywide Revival from Wednesday, **April 10**, through Friday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. nightly at New Hope Deliverance Christian Ministries Inc., 924 Georgia Ave.

Food truck event set

LaBELLE — Barron Park House Art Gallery, 471 N. Lee St., will host Chow Down Food Trucks on Thursday, **April 11**, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Art extravaganza to be held

CLEWISTON — Clewiston High School and Clewiston Public Library, will be presenting an Art Extravaganza. Meet the artists on Thursday, **April 11**, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Library, 120 W. Osceola Ave. Displays will stay in the library until April 21. Purchase a raffle ticket to win a desktop computer or make a donation. All proceeds will go to the Clewiston High School Art Department. For more information, call the library at 863-983-1493.

Kid's auditions being held

LaBELLE — Firehouse Community Theatre, 241 Bridge St., will hold auditions for the children's summer play, "Haphazardly Ever After: The Musical," on Saturday, **April 13**, at 10 a.m. Children auditioning must be between the ages of 11 to 17 and bring a monologue to read, as well as being prepared to sing a song of their choosing.

EES advisory meeting set

CLEWISTON — Eastside Elementary, 201 Arroyo Ave., will host a School Advisory Council meeting on Tuesday, **April 16**, at 6 p.m. in the media center. For information, call 863-983-1560.

Library learning event set

CLEWISTON — U.S. Sugar will be celebrating the month of science by hosting an event at Florida B. Thomas Library, 1010 J. Harlem Academy Ave., on Thursday, **April 18**, from 4 to 5 p.m. Learn about how sweet or sour water, lemon juice, OJ, soda, or sugarcane juice is. Science equipment and tools will be on display.

Palm Beach County

Go Glades info event is today

BELLE GLADE — Join The Glades Initiative, 141 S.E. Avenue C, and Palm Tran for an informational event highlighting Go Glades - Palm Tran's newest transportation service in the Glades (provided in English, with Haitian Creole and Spanish interpreters available). Come out on Wednesday, **April 10**, at 10 a.m.

Certification workshop set

BELLE GLADE — The Palm Beach County Office of Equal Opportunity will be hosting a "Get Read, Get Certified" workshop on Thursday, **April 11**, at 5:30 p.m. at the Belle Glade Library, 727 N.W. Fourth St. This workshop is designed to help the owners of small/minority/women-owned businesses become certified to do business with the county. For more information, email Angie Whitaker at awhitake@pbcgov.org or call 561-616-6840.

Public speaking workshop

BELLE GLADE — An Overcoming the Fear of Public Speaking workshop will be held on Thursday, **April 11**, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at The Glades Initiative, 141 S.E. Ave. C, for professional and community residents. RSVP is required and registration is free. For information, contact Shari J. Hanglan at 561-910-5069 or shanglan@nonprofitsfirst.org.

Meet and greet to be held

PAHOKEE — There will be a meet and greet to introduce Community Connections for Life, CMHC, and its Youth in Preparation Program. It will be held Saturday, **April 12**, at 401 Shirley Drive, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Three Hendry County teachers under investigation

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

CLEWISTON — Hendry County Sheriff's Office deputies are examining video surveillance recordings after some Hendry County School District employees were accused of engaging in inappropriate behavior with students.

Ravin Lee, a teacher at Clewiston High

School, was accused of sending inappropriate photos electronically to students in February, reported Deputy Superintendent Robert Egley. Lee is no longer employed by the district.

Laurinda Barraza, a secretary at Clewiston High School, recently resigned after having been accused of sending inappro-

priate photos to students through Snapchat. She had been put on paid administrative leave before she sent in her resignation.

Parents reported incidents involving both staff members.

Also, a Clewiston Middle School visitor reportedly saw substitute teacher Taylor Cathlett and a student kissing.

"It's unclear if she was being kissed or if she was doing the kissing," Mr. Egley was quoted.

Cathlett was taken off the substitute teacher list and is "no longer employed with the school district," he said.

"The district does not tolerate or condone this type of behavior," Egley added.

Deputy finds man lying in middle of highway

By Cathy Womble

Lake Okeechobee News

Early Sunday morning, April 7, OCSO Deputy Ryan Ammons was approached by a concerned citizen who told him of a man lying in the middle of State Road 70 East. At approximately 5 a.m., Deputy Ammons advised dispatch he was headed to check it out. When he arrived to the 2400 block of State Road 70 East, he found a 38-year-old Hispanic male lying in the roadway. He was not able to communicate properly because of the language barrier so Deputy Robert

Gonzalez responded to assist. Deputy Gonzalez was able to get the man's name and date of birth. He reportedly had a strong odor of alcohol coming from his body, and his words were slurred. In addition, Deputy Gonzalez noted small red bumps on his arms and asked if they hurt. When the man replied that they did, EMS was called to the scene, but the man refused treatment both at the scene and at the hospital.

He was transported to the Okeechobee County Jail and charged with disorderly intoxication. His bond was set at \$500.

Glades Criminal Justice Academy to be held in May

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

BELLE GLADE — Members of the public are invited to attend the fourth annual Glades Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy. Sessions will be held on four consecutive Mondays, with the exception of Memorial Day, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on May 6, 13, 20 and June 3, at the Belle Glade Library/Civic Center located at 725 N.W. Fourth St. Belle Glade. The classes are free, and dinner will be served. Anyone over the age of 14 is welcome, and up to 12 hours of community service credit can be earned.

The purpose of the Citizen's Criminal Justice Academy is to provide fundamental information to citizens of Palm Beach County regarding the criminal justice system and how decisions are made. Participants will see demonstrations, meet with decision makers and tour the jail. It is a valuable opportunity to learn about procedures, meet experts, ask questions and see

facilities in person. The Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and the Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization sponsor the academy. Additional sponsors include Healthier Belle Glade and Community Partners.

On May 13, a special session will address what to do if stopped by the police. On May 20, a community conversation will be held on race and criminal justice in Palm Beach County. Other topics include juvenile justice, cybercrime and mental health.

The first three years of the academy have been overwhelmingly successful with more than 65 participants graduating. Applications are required. For more information and to apply, visit the Criminal Justice Commission website (under Programs), www.pbcgov.org/criminaljustice, call 561-355-4943, fax 561-355-4941 or email at RMurray@pbcgov.org.

Crime Stoppers

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

PALM BEACH COUNTY — Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County needs your help in locating Keith Cobb aka KC, 26, black, male, 5 feet 8 inches tall, 150 pounds, black hair, and brown eyes.

His last known address was on Muck City Road in Pahokee.

Cobb is wanted on a warrant for possession of scheduled I substance.

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.



Keith Cobb

Man accused of snorting cocaine at Agri-Civic Center

By Cathy Womble

Lake Okeechobee News

While working a special detail at the Kaza Productions Mexican Rodeo on April 7 at the Okeechobee Agricultural Center, a member of the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force walked into the men's restroom and reportedly saw a Hispanic man standing inside a stall, facing the door of the stall and snorting what appeared to be cocaine powder.

The man, later identified as Silverio Baranda Chavez, 45, Clewiston, allegedly had a bag in his hand and white powder on both hands. As the officer watched to see what he was doing, a second man tried to warn him of the officer's presence by telling him to stop.

The officer reported he told Chavez to stop what he was doing, at which point he saw Chavez throw the bag in the toilet before opening the door. Chavez was then arrested and the bag was collected from the toilet and field-tested for cocaine. The powder tested positive for cocaine, and two more bags were found in Chavez' wallet. The first bag weighed 3.1 grams, and the other bags weighed 1.5 grams. All were turned in as evidence. Chavez was charged with possession of cocaine and tampering with evidence. His bond was set at \$10,000.



Silverio Chavez

Woman accused of indecent exposure

By Cathy Womble

Lake Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE — On Saturday, April 6, off-duty Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Stephen Pollock was attending a birthday party for a small child in a Southeast 44th Street home when he reportedly observed a woman walk out of her front door using a walker and turn left. He stated she then placed her butt against the wall of her residence, directly in front of the living room window of the home where the birthday party was being held. He said she raised her T-shirt and pulled her underwear down, and then pulled them to the side. Deputy Pollock said he could clearly see her private parts as she did this, and that it occurred in full view of several small children.

Deputy Pollock walked across the street

and identified himself, showing her his identification and badge because he was in civilian clothing. She reportedly began yelling profanity at him when he tried to take her arm. The woman, identified as 52-year-old Maryann Puglia, was arrested and charged with exposing sexual organs in public, disorderly conduct and resisting an officer with violence. Her bond was set at \$3,000.

The report notes that on April 2, Deputy Michael Cauley took a complaint about her urinating on her front lawn in front of neighbors, and on April 6, Cpl. Bryan Lowe took a complaint for the same thing. She was warned each time to stop doing this, and a warrant for her arrest was submitted to the state attorney's office because that incident did not occur in the presence of law enforcement.

Sexual Predator Advisory

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

BELLE GLADE — The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is advising the public about a declared Sexual Predator, Ian Tannenbaum, 40, who is now residing at 2600 W. Canal Street North, Apt. 101, Belle Glade, FL 33430.

Tannenbaum is 6 feet 2 inches tall, 255 pounds, white, male, brown hair, and brown eyes.

Florida legislature House Bill 3737 requires The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to notifying all licensed day care centers located within a 1-mile radius of the above address.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, contact the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office at 561-688-3600.



Ian Tannenbaum



2019 Harvest Queen and her royal court reigns over Black Gold Jubilee
Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/Cristina Hojara
On March 30, Landry Pitts (left) won first runner-up and Kaley Underwood (right) won second runner-up for the 2019 Harvest Queen Pageant.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/Cristina Hojara
BELLE GLADE — On March 30, Kennedy Des-Rochers was crowned the 2019 Harvest Queen at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/Cristina Hojara
Peyton Pelham was crowned the 2019 Junior Harvest Queen.

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However, for any day during that 12 month period that the daily account balance is less than the \$25,000 minimum, the Special Rate will not apply, and the interest rate will revert to the standard interest rate applicable to your Platinum Savings account. As of 02/15/2019, the standard interest rate and APY for a Platinum Savings account in AR, CT, DC, FL, GA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, SC, TX and VA with an account balance of \$0.01 and above is 0.05% (0.05% APY). Each tier shown reflects the current minimum daily collected balance required to obtain the applicable APY. Interest is compounded daily and paid monthly. The amount of interest earned is based on the daily collected balances in the account. Upon the expiration of the 12 month promotional period, standard interest rates apply. Minimum to open a Platinum Savings account is \$25. A monthly service fee of \$12 applies in any month the account falls below a \$3,500 minimum daily balance. Fees may reduce earnings. 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For bonus interest rates on time accounts, this change will occur upon renewal. If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the remaining unlinked Wells Fargo Portfolio Checking or Wells Fargo Prime Checking account will be converted to another checking product or closed.

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Things to do this week

Friday, April 12

• **Winery Comedy Tour**, Summer Crush Winery, 4200 Johnston Road, Fort Pierce. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner available until 7 p.m. Show starts at 7 p.m. For information, go online to summer-crushwine.com.

• Live music by **Jack Mosley**, The Shanty at Okeechobee, KOA, 4276 U.S. 441 S., Okeechobee, 6 to 10 p.m. The public is welcome.

• **Bear Tales and Other Grizzly Stories**, Indian River State College, Hallstrom Planetarium, Building N, 3209 Virginia Ave, Ft. Pierce, 6 to 7 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Grampa tells the family about the bears in the sky and how they got their long tails. For information visit irsc.edu/calendar.

• **Wind Ensemble/Instrumental Concert**: A tribute to Broadway, big band, and classical music, McAlpin Fine Arts Center, Building T, Indian River State College, 3209 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce, 7 p.m. For information visit irsc.edu/calendar.

Saturday, April 13

• **T.C. Carr & Bolts of Blue** concert, Highlands Hammock State Park, 5931 Hammock Road, Sebring, 7 to 9 p.m. For information, call 863-386-6094.

• **Live music by Jack Mosley**, The Shanty at Okeechobee, KOA, 4276 U.S. 441 S., Okeechobee, 6 to 10 p.m. The public is welcome.

• **Chris Bellamy**, Summer Crush Winery, 4200 Johnston Road, Fort Pierce, 1 to 5 p.m. For more information go online to summercrushwine.com.

• **Nature Adventures**, Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Kimbell Education Center, 16450 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Topics may include wildlife, insects, freshwater ecology, scavenger hunts, paddling, nature hikes and more for all ages. For information go to floridastateparks.org.

• **Walk with a Park Ranger**, Sebastian Inlet State Park, Sebastian Fishing Museum, 14257 North A1A, Vero Beach, 11 a.m. to noon. Learn about the local history, Sebastian Inlet, Indian River Lagoon and the plants and animals that inhabit the area. Meet at the Sebastian Fishing Museum. For information go to floridastateparks.org.

• **Nana's Naughty Knickers**, Highlands Little Theatre, 356 W. Center Ave,

Sebring, 7:30 p.m. Not suitable for children under 13. For information, go to highland-slittletheatre.org.

Sunday, April 14

• **Shepherd King: The Story of the Bible**, Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts, SFSC University Center Auditorium, 600 W. College Drive, Avon Park, 7 p.m. For more information, visit sfscarts.org.

• **Horsin' Around in the Vineyard Pony Car Roundup**, Summer Crush Winery, 4200 Johnston Road, Fort Pierce, noon to 4 p.m. Celebrate the Birthday of the Mustang, with models and generations from all over Florida gathering in the vineyard for this annual event. Free to spectators. Open to all classic and collectible Mustangs. Show car check in 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. For more information, go online to summer-crushwine.com.

• **Choir Concert**, Indian River State College, McAlpin Fine Arts Center, Building T, 3209 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce, 2 p.m. An Afternoon of contemporary American choral music. For information, visit irsc.edu/calendar.

• **Guided Hike at Hawk's Bluff Trail**, Savannas Preserve State Park Environmental Education Center, 2541 S.E. Walton Road, Port St. Lucie, 10 a.m. to noon. Reservations required, call 772-398-2779.

• **Walk with a Park Ranger**, Sebastian Inlet State Park, Sebastian Fishing Museum, 14257 North A1A, Vero Beach, 1 to 2 p.m. Enjoy a leisurely walk with a knowledgeable Park Ranger. Learn about Sebastian Inlet State Park and the plants and animals that call it home. For information, email edward.perry@dep.state.fl.us or go to floridastateparks.org.

Monday, April 15

• **Trapper Nelson Interpretive Tour**, Jonathan Dickinson State Park, 16450 SE Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The 60-passenger Loxahatchee Queen III takes visitors on a one-and-a-half-hour tour of the river, with a stop at the restored 1930s camp of Trapper Nelson, the "Wildman of the Loxahatchee." For more details about boat tours, call 561-746-1466. For information, call 772-546-2771 or 561-745-5551 or visit floridastateparks.org.



9th Annual Avon Park Rotary Bluegrass & Blueberry Festival

Saturday, April 27th
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

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- Live bluegrass entertainment by Highway 41 South 11 AM - 3 PM
- BBQ Chicken Dinners Available
- Fresh blueberries will be on sale as well as various blueberry products including blueberry lemonade & desserts
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Veterans News

Around the Lake

American Legion Post #64

OKEECHOBEE — The American Legion Post #64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host the following events: Fiesta Wednesday with margaritas and tacos will be held on Wednesday, **April 10**, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The grill will be open. Music by Jay from 3 to 6 p.m. Thirsty Thursday will be held Thursday, **April 11**, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Lunch and dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Karaoke and Fish Fry Friday night will be held on Friday, **April 12**, from 5 to 8 p.m. Choice of fish, shrimp or chicken in a basket or on a salad. Music by "Medicine Man" GW Poole from 6 to 9 p.m. The Sons of the American Legion will hold a spaghetti dinner and dance on Saturday, **April 13**, from 5 to 8 p.m. Homemade meat sauce and spaghetti, salad, dinner roll and dessert for a \$6 donation. Music by D & K Karaoke. NASCAR (Richmond) & College game day - tailgate with them! There will be \$9 buckets of domestic beer. Bingo

will be held on Sunday, **April 14**, at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Kitchen open from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Five Card Bingo will be held on Monday, **April 15**, from 1 to 3 p.m. with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. The Post will hold a S.A.L. meeting on Tuesday, **April 16**, at 6 p.m. Food will be available all day. For information, call 863-763-5309.

VFW to host events

OKEECHOBEE — VFW Post 4423, 300 N.W. Fourth St., will host the following events: On Wednesday, **April 10**, there will be an eight-ball Pool League Tournament at 7:30 p.m. and the grill opens at p.m. On Friday, **April 12**, there will be bingo at 2 p.m., the grill will open at 5 p.m. and then Karaoke Capt. TP from 7 to 10 p.m. On Saturday, **April 13**, there will be a bingo extravaganza at 1 p.m. On Sunday, **April 14**, there will be a dinner of meatloaf, mashed potatoes or rice with peas, from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, call 863-763-0818.

Florida Community Health Centers, Inc., Introduces...

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FCHC is proud to announce the addition of infectious disease clinician, Yanick P. Eugene - Dauphin, M.D., FACP, FIDSA, to our Pahokee Center.

Dr. Eugene-Dauphin is a Board Certified Clinician with over 20 years of experience. She received her medical degree from National University of Haiti School of Medicine and completed her residency at Albert Einstein School of Medicine and Bronx Lebanon Hospital. Dr. Eugene-Dauphin went on to complete her Infectious Disease Fellowship training at New York Medical College. As a licensed Infectious Disease Clinician, Dr. Eugene-Dauphin specializes in patient education, preventive healthcare and chronic condition management.

Dr. Eugene-Dauphin is looking forward to bringing her experience to the Pahokee Center and is committed to providing high-quality, comprehensive primary and preventive healthcare to all patients.

Dr. Eugene - Dauphin will be at the Pahokee Center Thursday & Friday.

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WEEKLY HAPPENINGS



TACO WEDNESDAY 11-6

MUSIC 3-6 JAY

Margarita
Special

4-10

THIRSTY THURSDAY Register for a \$20 bar tab

Food 11-6

4-11

FRIDAY: \$6 Bargain Basket Dinner 5-8PM

Choice of fish, shrimp, or chicken in a basket
or on a salad for \$7.

Music by "MEDICINE MAN" GW POOLE 5-8PM

4-12

SATURDAY: Spaghetti Dinner/Dance 5-8pm

Sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion

Homemade meat sauce, spaghetti, salad,
dinner roll and dessert for a \$6 donation.

Music by D & K Karaoke.

NASCAR (Richmond)
& College game day
Come tailgate with us!

Bucket of Beer
\$9

4-13

SUNDAY: Bingo ~Doors Open 5PM

\$1 Drafts
ALL DAY

Starts 6:30 PM Kitchen 5:30 - 7:30PM

4-14

MONDAY: 5 Card Bingo 1-3PM

LUNCH served at 12:30 PM

4-15

TUESDAY:

Meeting Day
S.A.L Meeting
6pm

Food Available
All Day

Bloody Marys
\$1.50

4-16

Feb. 11 - April 16
Mondays & Tuesdays
9AM - 2PM

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**COLLEGE
BASKETBALL**
Bracket
CONTEST

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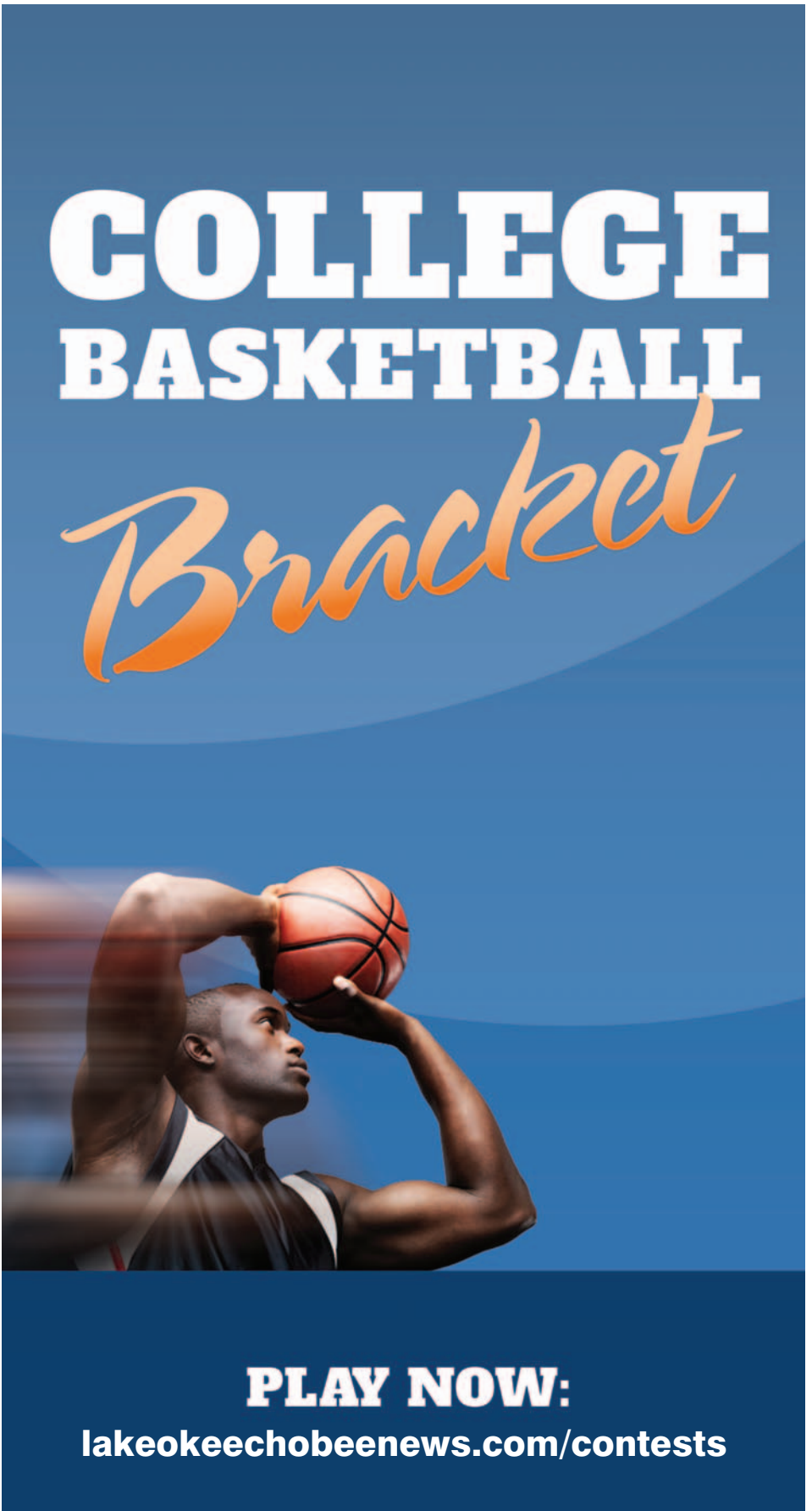


*Antique
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VFW 4423

Lake **Okeechobee
News**



**COLLEGE
BASKETBALL**
Bracket



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**Pull-Out
Bracket**

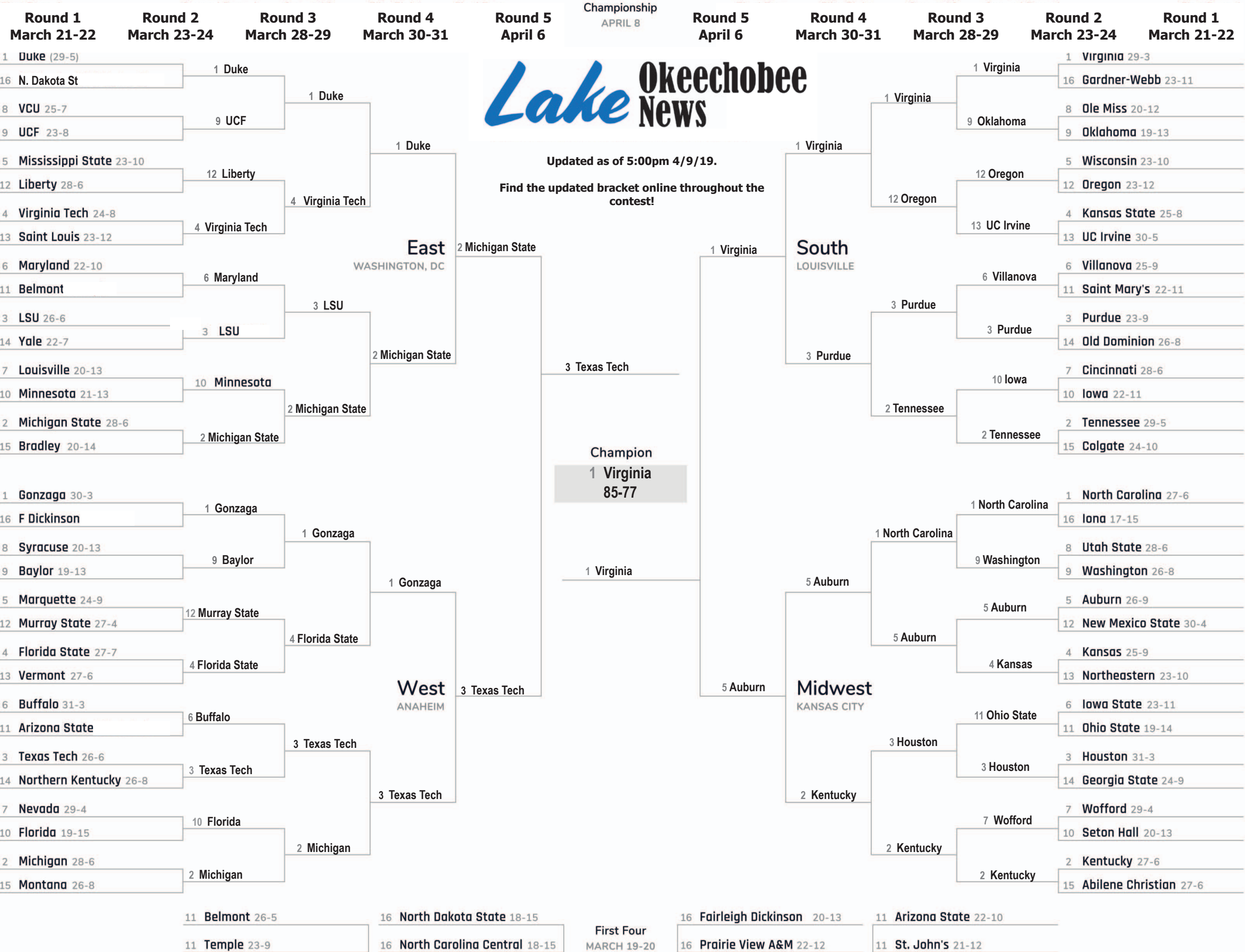


Lake Okeechobee News

Updated as of 5:00pm 4/9/19.

Find the updated bracket online throughout the contest!

Championship
APRIL 8



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Stephanie Larson
Lake Okeechobee News
Score: 196



Jeff Kennedy
Back to Butch's Bar
Score: 148



Jaime Limoges
Lake Okeechobee News
Score: 120



Rosanne Patsy
Prudential Advisors
Score: 118



Bill Martin
VFW Post 4423
Score: 110



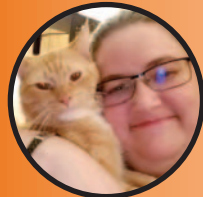
Richard Marion
Lake Okeechobee News
Score: 108



Jennifer Froman
Lake Okeechobee News
Score: 100



Mayor Dowling Watford
Score: 94



Kris Schwartz
Lake Okeechobee News
Score: 92



Kay Sheedy
Lake Okeechobee News
Score: 56



Dawn Huddleston
A Barber's Barber Shop & Salon
Score: 52



Tommy Shorter
Lake Okeechobee News
Score: 40



Dakota Marchiano
Tin Fish
Score: 16



Keli Trimnal
Lake Okeechobee News
Score: 16

Thank you to everyone who participated! Look for future contests on lakeokeecheobenews.com/contests/!

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Bracket CONTEST

Winners After All Rounds

Round 1

- 1st Place: Corey Wheeler** - Back to Butch's \$10 Gift Card, Ticket for 2 Meals at VFW 4423 North Post's 3rd Annual All Veterans Ride on April 6
- 2nd Place: Kelley Smiley** - \$10 Antique Treasures Gift Card, Ticket for 1 Meal at VFW 4423 North Post's 3rd Annual All Veterans Ride
- 3rd Place: Amanda Whidden** - Ticket for 1 Meal at VFW 4423 North Post's 3rd Annual All Veterans Ride

Round 2

- 1st Place: Cindy Miller** - \$10 Tin Fish Gift Certificate, Ticket for 2 Meals at VFW 4423 North Post's 3rd Annual All Veterans Ride
- 2nd Place: Marlin Jewel** - \$10 Antique Treasures Gift Card, Ticket for 1 Meal at VFW 4423 North Post's 3rd Annual All Veterans Ride
- 3rd Place: Kevin Ballew** - Ticket for 1 Meal at VFW 4423 North Post's 3rd Annual All Veterans Ride

Round 3

- 1st Place: Chris Bowen** - \$10 Tin Fish Gift Certificate, Ticket for 2 Meals at VFW 4423 North Post's 3rd Annual All Veterans Ride
- 2nd Place: Joey Willis** - \$10 Antique Treasures Gift Card & Grill Gift Pack
- 3rd Place: Bruce Ferrell** - \$10 A Barber's Barber Shop & Salon Gift Card

Round 4

- 1st Place: Timothy Billstrom** - \$10 Back to Butch's Gift Card, \$10 Antique Treasures Gift Card
- 2nd Place: Kyle Triplett** - \$10 Antique Treasures Gift Card & Grill Gift Pack
- 3rd Place: Joey Willis** - \$10 A Barber's Barber Shop & Salon Gift Card

Round 5

- 1st Place: Maurice Tomlinson** \$10 Tin Fish Gift Certificate, \$10 A Barber Shop & Salon gift card
- 2nd Place: Chris Bowen** \$10 Antique Treasures Gift Card & Grill Gift Pack
- 3rd Place: Greg Joyner** \$10 A Barber Shop & Salon gift card

Round 6

- 1st Place: Greg Joyner** \$10 Back to Butch's Gift Card \$10 A Barber Shop & Salon Gift Card
- 2nd Place Ed Van Etten** \$10 Antique Treasures Gift Card & Grill Gift Pack
- 3rd Place Steve Richey** \$10 A Barber Shop & Salon gift card

Overall Winner Full Bracket

- 1st Place Greg Joyner** Yeti Tumbler, Tin Fish \$20 Gift Certificate, \$20 Antique Treasures Gift Card, \$20 Back to Butch's Bar Gift Card, \$20 A Barber Shop & Salon Gift Card
- 2nd Place Joey Willis** Tin Fish \$10 Gift Certificate, \$10 Back to Butch's Gift Card

Overall 16 Team Bracket

- 1st Place: William Childers** Yeti Tumbler, Tin Fish \$10 Gift Certificate, \$10 Antique Treasures Gift Card, \$10 Back to Butch's Bar Gift Card, \$10 A Barber Shop & Salon gift card
- 2nd Place George George** Tin Fish \$10 Gift Certificate, \$10 Back to Butch's Gift Card

Overall 4 Team Bracket

- 1st place Gwen York** Yeti Tumbler, Tin Fish \$10 Gift Certificate, \$10 Back to Butch's Bar Gift Card, \$10 A Barber Shop & Salon gift card
- 2nd Place June Heil** Tin Fish \$10 Gift Certificate, \$10 Back to Butch's Gift Card

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Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

The level of Lake Okeechobee dropped to 11.78 feet on April 9. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hopes to lower the lake below 11 feet in order to allow the grass to regrow around the edges of the lake before the rainy season starts.

EAA

Continued From Page 1

governmental, recreational and public interests. Since the election, every meeting of the forum that was on the regular meeting calendar has been canceled.

Items on the April 11 agenda also include the cattle grazing lease on 10,804 acres of state-owned land within the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes project area in Osceola County. The district currently leases the land to Bronsons LLC for low-density cattle grazing. Low-density grazing is one animal per 27 acres. The lease expires on April 20. Staff recommends extending the lease for approximately 20 months.

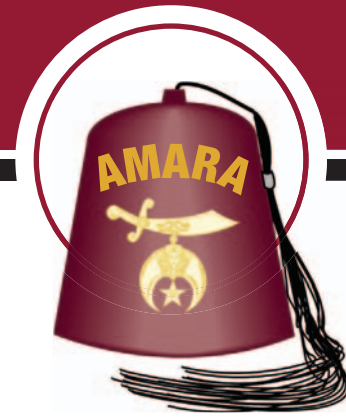
The governing board will also be asked to enter into a three-year, \$235,000 contract with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the purpose of evaluating largemouth bass movement, fish density, growth rates and management targets in the Kissimmee River. According to the staff report, the local sponsor for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project, the district is responsible for carrying out the baseline and post-construction ecological

studies and evaluations of the project. Comprehensive fish studies are required to assess progress toward restoration goals and provide data to inform future operations of the Kissimmee project.

Workshop meeting today

At their March meeting, the all-new South Florida Water Management District governing board voted to bring back workshop meetings. The first workshop meeting is set for April 10, at 1 p.m. at the SFWMD office in West Palm Beach. In addition to the governing board and SFWMD staff, the workshop will include a panel of invited guests who will be allowed to participate in the discussion, including: Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tom MacVicar of MacVicar Consulting, Tommy Stroud of the Lake Worth Drainage District and Tom VanLent of the Everglades Foundation.

SFWMD Executive Director Drew Bartlett will act as facilitator for the meeting, taking written questions from the public in attendance at the meeting. If the question is not addressed during the presentation, the members of the public may speak during a limited public comment period.



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J&S Fish Camp rides on the lake's health

By Chris Felker

Lake Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE — When a person talks about going to a certain place and “seeking my fortune,” he or she usually means just finding a good, comfortable living, not actually expecting to get rich. One can always hope, but for most folks, some level of financial security eventually suffices and they grow old while hoping to arrive at some happily fulfilled spot someday.

For others, they find their fortune in riches that go far beyond the pocketbook and much closer to their actual soul. Such is the story behind the contagious cheeriness of Terrie Birkett, who's been proprietor of J&S Fish Camp on central Lake Okeechobee for about four years. (Its mailing address is Okeechobee but, as in other locales around the lake, J&S is not even inside Okeechobee County. It's 2 miles south of the county line along U.S. 441 in Martin County.)

Says Ms. Birkett proudly: “J&S is THE oldest fish camp in the State of Florida. We're the oldest business and the coolest, too.” Officially dated back to 1921, it actually already was established as a Lake O outpost back then, when the dike was just a low mound of dirt partly covered with brush and trees. “So they know she's over 100 years old. And that's when I bought her in 2015. Now, the cabins out here — there's five cabins — they were built by the Corps of Engineers in 1929 when the ‘dike’ breached in 1928, so that's how far she goes.

“Most people came here just to fish. I'm sure there was bootlegging going on, but there was no actual bar. It was basically a place where you'd plop your ol' ass and go fishin'.”

That's what drew her. She sought her fortune on this particular lake, saying, “We are connected to Lake O because of fishing. This is the bass capital. So a lot of people come here just to go fishing.

“I bought this camp because I grew up going to fish camps all the way up and down the west coast. From St. Petersburg,



Lake Okeechobee News/Chris Felker
Eva Perry (left), Gator Hole Tavern owner Terrie Birkett's right-hand lady and a full-time barista at J&S Fish Camp, says customers love the tiki hut shelter behind the bar.



we went all the way up to Homosassa Springs, up almost to Suwanee. ... So I bought this to go back to my childhood. And it's a cool place. You know what the best part about it is? People know when you come here, you become part of this — this big, massive, lovin' mess. It's a wonderful family.”

“She” is the camp; Terrie speaks of her lovingly as though she's alive. Which she is, in a way. To all those who visit, especially the kids, certainly. And Terrie wants “her” to remain so. “She's historical, too, did you know that?” Ms. Birkett received the letter about 10 months ago, she said, recognizing J&S's placement on the National Register of Historic Places. “She was that old. But it's long overdue.” Eventually there will be a plaque on the premises and it'll be put on the official map.

Ms. Birkett previously lived in Annapolis, Md., for 30 years, working in real estate, for Mercedes-Benz and as a contractor and agent for The Washington Post. She's from St. Pete originally and declares “I'm a Florida child.”

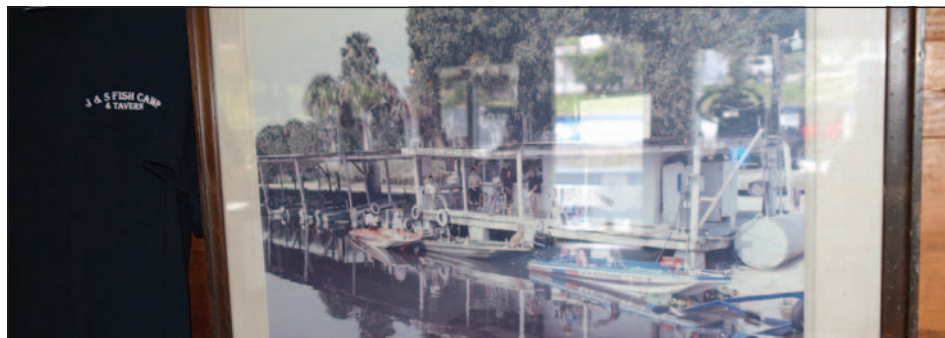
What would she be doing if she weren't here? “You know what? If I wasn't here I'd be lost. This place grounds you. This is like, I'm not kidding ... the air here is so electric, it's unbelieeeeeeivable. We just did a benefit. And all of a sudden, out of the blue — actually, I do the Dysfunctional Family Reunion; I have it every year, because if you feel normal, don't come; we know we're screwed up, and we're good. — there's this guy named Buddy Yates in town, he's got cancer, so I got a benefit (March 30-31). I pitched in to this benefit, so we did a dunk tank with all the bartenders. We got 10 girls out here to go into the dunk tank, and all the people started bidding on them, and we raised, just from the dunk tank, \$2,600. But because it's a community, they all pitch in.

“They come from Miami, Stuart, Jupiter; you name it, they come from all over. They come because they know that this is the place to be because it's different, and it gets you that. There's no pretense here ... we don't care. You can come in; as long as ‘something’ is covered, we're good. Kids are allowed here; dogs are allowed here.”

What, if anything, ever could drive her away? “Big industry coming here. I don't want it. We're literally five miles, maybe six, from any real people.” Although much of the land along Conners Highway (441) nearby is zoned for commerce, “without public water, they'll never bring it here. That's the only reason that won't happen.”

She's very dismayed about what politicians and “experts” have done to Lake O since the 1990s, heartbroken by the evident maleficent effects of human engineering on Mother Nature's water system and environment, especially the explosion of algae blooms in the past 20-some years.

To Terrie Birkett, coming here wasn't just a lifetime dream. “You know, this is my childhood. I'll be here all my life. I'm going to put her in trust, if I end up doing that (staying here). So she never disappears. So she's always here.”



Lake Okeechobee News/Chris Felker

A framed photograph of J&S Fish Camp from the 1970s is on one wall inside the bar.



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Honor Flight pays tribute to American veterans

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

STUART — Southeast Florida Honor Flight's first flight of 2019 will honor veterans from three different wars: WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The Stuart-based, 100% volunteer organization conducts four Honor Flights per year to transport local war veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at the memorials built to honor their service and sacrifices.

This April flight will be the second time the organization has dipped into their Vietnam War veteran list to honor those service members on the one-day trip to Washington, D.C. Veterans on the Southeast Florida Honor Flight waiting list are called in chronological order of wars in time and date of receipt of application, with top priority given to WWII and terminally ill veterans of any war. As of April 8, there were 81 total veterans scheduled to be honored on the April 13 Honor Flight — 13 from WWII, 60 from the Korean War and eight from the Vietnam War.

The day that many veterans say is one of the best days of their lives begins early with a 4:30 a.m. check-in of veterans, their guardians and Honor Flight crew at Palm Beach International Airport. The chartered American Airlines Airbus 321 flies into DCA where the group boards four, police-escorted motor coaches. The day's agenda includes visits to the Air Force Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery for the Changing of the Guard Ceremony, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial and



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

Pictured above are the veterans who were escorted to Washington D.C. on the Oct. 13, 2018 Honor Flight.

the Vietnam War Memorial. From beginning to end, the day is filled with thanks, appreciation and tribute to their service.

Many of these veterans never received a thank you or a welcome home when they returned home from the wars. Honor Flight changes all that with Operation Homecoming — a big, heart-warming, red, white and blue welcome home for the veterans when they return to Palm Beach International Airport. The public is invited and encouraged to come show their gratitude by welcoming the veterans home from Washington on the evening of Saturday, April 13. Operation Homecoming takes place on Level 2, Concourse A/B.

The Honor Flight is scheduled to arrive

at 8:20 p.m. from DCA. Please note the arrival time is one hour later than last year's flights. Early arrival is suggested.

Bring family and friends, flags, "Thank You" and "Welcome Home" signs and cheers. Shake hands with these heroes. This patriotic welcome home is the icing on the cake of a day that most veterans say ranks with the day they were married and the birth of their children. The Palm Beach County Firefighters Pipes & Drums will be leading our veterans to Operation Homecoming, creating quite the emotional presentation of the veterans. We are also fortunate to have the Generation Gap Band playing a few songs to celebrate our veterans, the crowd and our country. For more

information on Operation Homecoming, please call 1-855-FLYAVET (855-359-2838).

Southeast Florida Honor Flight, part of the National Honor Flight Network, is one of nine Honor Flight chapters in Florida, with another chapter just to the south called Honor Flight South Florida. Southeast Florida Honor Flight, based in Stuart, serves veterans in Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee and Palm Beach counties. Honor Flight South Florida serves veterans in Broward, Dade and Monroe counties.

If you are, or if you know of a WWII, Korean War or Vietnam War veteran who would like to take their Honor Flight, please either call 1-855-FLYAVET (855-359-2838).

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Submit application to: <https://jobs.myflorida.com/job/OKEECHOBEE-OPS-ADVANCED-PRACTICE-REGISTERED-NURSE-64911219-FL-34972/546411000/>
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Estimator needed for General Contractor in the Okeechobee area. Must be knowledgeable in Commercial and Residential Construction, must be able to work without supervision and submit proposals on time. Microsoft Word, excel and project schedule is required. Salary will be determined by experience. Please send resume by fax to 863-824-6728 or email: lynne.jconroyconst@yahoo.com

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Deadline is **Thur., Apr. 18, 2019, 4:30 PM**. See website for Job Description and Application packet, or in person at City Hall, City Clerk's Office, 55 SE 3rd Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34974, 863-763-3372 ext. 9814. Successful candidates are required to pass a background screening and a physical.
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Notice to Creditors

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL IN AND FOR HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF WILHELMENIA COBB Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of WILHELMENIA COBB, deceased, whose date of death was October 27, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Hendry County, Florida, Probate Division...

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES 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 first publication date of this notice is April 10th, 2019.

VIVIAN THOMAS Petitioner 936 Mississippi Ave. Clewiston, FL 33440

ROBERT DUNSON Petitioner P.O. Box 4002 Moore Haven, FL 33471

JAY M. HENDRY, III Attorney for Petitioner Florida Bar: 0106962 606 W. Sugarland Hwy P.O. Box 418 Clewiston, FL 33440

JAY M. HENDRY, III Attorney for Petitioner Florida Bar: 0106962 606 W. Sugarland Hwy P.O. Box 418 Clewiston, FL 33440

Notice to Creditors

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL IN AND FOR GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF DEBRA D. HUGHES Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of DEBRA D. HUGHES, deceased, whose date of death was August 10, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Glades County, Florida, Probate Division...

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES 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 first publication date of this notice is April 10th, 2019.

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 2, 4, 7, 9, 6, 1, 6, 5, 6, 4, 3, 3, 9, 2, 6, 3, 9, 5, 1, 2, 6, 4.

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve, the numbers 1-9 must fill each row, column and must appear only once. Use the provided numeric clues to determine the order of appearance for the numbers. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets!

ANSWER: 3 2 8 6 9 1 4 7 5, 4 9 1 2 7 5 3 6 8, 7 5 6 3 8 4 2 1 9, 2 8 7 1 6 3 5 9 4, 5 6 3 7 4 9 1 8 2, 9 1 4 5 2 8 7 3 6, 6 4 2 8 3 7 9 5 1, 8 4 2 6 3 8 7 9 5 1, 3 4 7 6 9 1 2 5 8.

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS 1 Barber's "Adagio for Strings" is in it, 11 Hits with a charge, 15 Kerry Washington's "Scandal" role, 16 Jukebox opening, 17 Sang, 18 Villa-studded Italian lake, 19 Salon boards, 20 One taking things literally?, 22 Angry, 23 Part of a football game-ending tradition, 24 Rear attachment, 25 Worked together, 26 Nailed, test-wise, 27 "Rabbit ears" antennae, e.g., 28 Pixie and flip, 29 Wheat whackers, 30 Poor, 33 Washington team, 34 Goat-man of myth, 35 Rocks below bridges?, 38 Cabinet member under Dubya, 39 See 43-Across, 40 "Clown Prince of Hip-hop" Biz __, 41 Boards around the house, 42 Rocky Mountain rodents, 43 With 39-Across, "Listen up, lads", 44 Ones sniffing out trouble, 46 Reactor meltdown site, 47 Old cooking show with a Creole theme, 48 Outcomes, 49 "Gotta split!"

The answers to today's puzzle are located on Page 4

14x14 crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues.

By Ryan McCarty ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

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Big Lake Athletes of the Week: Justin Hevey and John Pearce

By Richard Marion

Lake Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE — Okeechobee High School's Justin Hevey and John Pearce are this week's Big Lake Athletes of the Week for their performance during the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation high school fishing tournament held near Tallahassee on March 31.

Justin and John brought in nearly 15 pounds of fish at the final weigh-in,



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS Bass Club

Justin Hevey holds the 6.9 pound whopper he brought in during the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation tournament on March 31.

including the biggest fish of the day which weighed in at a whopping 6.9 pounds.

The performance in that tournament earned the pair enough points to put them into the national tournament scheduled to be held on Kentucky Lake in July.

It's the duo's second time being awarded Athlete of the Week. Back in October 2018 the two were recognized for their performance in the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation Regional/National tournament held on Lake Okeechobee in which they took first place out of the 100 teams competing, bringing in a final bag of 25.90 pounds.

After that tournament, Pearce laid out the team's game plan for the rest of the year.

"I hope to keep placing and gaining more points and knock out as many tournaments as possible," said Pearce.

And that's exactly what they did.

Not to be outdone, two more teams from the OHS Bass Club were able to earn enough points to qualify for nationals during a tournament held on April 3 on Lake Okeechobee. Latt Durrance and Case Durrance and Wyatt Cannon and Trent Nelson were both able to punch their ticket to Lake Kentucky as well.

With the three teams competing in the national tournament this July, Okeechobee



Special to the Okeechobee News/OHS Bass Club
Justin Hevey (left) and John Pearce (right) with their haul from the tournament on March 31.

should be well represented on Kentucky Lake.

If you'd like to nominate a student or athlete for Big Lake Athlete of the

Week, email the name of your nominee along with what sport they play to Lake Okeechobee News sports reporter Richard Marion at rmarion@newszap.com.

Softball around the lake this week

By Richard Marion

Lake Okeechobee News

- The Moore Haven Lady Terriers softball team has the best record in the sport of the six schools around the lake. Three-quarters through their 2019 season the Lady Terriers have a 9-3 record, meaning they already have more wins than the whole of 2018 when the team went 8-8. The Lady Terriers started 2019 off by beating Glades Day 10-5 on Feb. 11, a team they lost twice to the previous year. With the final games of the regular season coming against Lake Placid and a rebuilding Okeechobee program, odds are the Lady Terriers finish strong. Moore Haven travels to Fort Myers to face Bishop Verot at 7 p.m. on April 15.

- The Glades Day Lady Gators were two games away from appearing in the state championship in 2018 and only one game away in 2017. The Lady Gators have been up and down throughout 2019, winning big at times but also getting blown out in other games. Glades Day swept Glades Central this year by double digits in both games. Up next the Lady Gators will make the trip to the top of the lake to face the Lady Brahmans in Okeechobee at 6:30 p.m. on April 16.

- The Okeechobee Lady Brahmans got off to a slow start in 2019, losing their first seven games. But they seemed to finally find their groove against South Fork on March 21, winning a blowout 10-1. That sparked a three-game inning streak

that saw Okeechobee go on to beat Jensen Beach and Suncoast. The Lady Brahmans are in something of a rebuilding mode after losing a talented senior class in 2018. But as the young team gains more experience they could be right back to the program's 2017 form when they won a district championship. Okeechobee will travel to Stuart to face Martin County at 6 p.m. on April 11.

- The Clewiston Lady Tigers have been able to beat up on some of the other lake area teams this, but have struggled at times to stay consistent. They came away with the win against Glades Central but have dropped their last five games since that victory. They'll get an opportunity to turn things around when they host Avon Park at 6:30 p.m. on April 10.

- The Glades Central Lady Raiders' struggles continued in 2019. They were swept by Glades Day and didn't put up much resistance when Clewiston came to town and ran away with a 22-7 victory. The Lady Raiders will host a 1-11-1 Lake Worth team which is going through struggles of their own at 6:30 p.m. on April 10.

- The Pahokee Lady Blue Devils share a lot of similarities with Glades Central. Both teams are known nationally for their dominance on the football field, and both teams have had trouble fielding competitive softball teams. They'll have their hands full when they travel to face Seminole Ridge at 6 p.m. on April 10.

Celebrate Florida's favorite tortoise

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

Today, April 10, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is encouraging communities, organizations and individuals to help conserve Florida's only native tortoise.

This year, five counties — Alachua, Hernando, Miami-Dade, Martin and Palm Beach — along with several local communities such as the city of Sanibel are adopting Florida Gopher Tortoise Day resolutions. But anyone can get involved in helping Florida's gopher tortoises.

These gentle, slow-moving reptiles become more active in spring. You're more likely to spot them this time of year as they leave their deep burrows to search for spring greenery and, often, for a mate. Look for tortoises and their half-moon shaped burrow entrances in yards, neighborhoods, along roadways and on many of the state's private and public lands.

"When you help spread the word about gopher tortoise conservation, you're also helping hundreds of other native species," said Deborah Burr, who heads the FWC's Gopher Tortoise Management Program. "Their burrows provide important shelter to many other animals such as the gopher frog and the federally threatened Eastern indigo snake."

Anyone can help biologists with gopher tortoise research by using the gopher tortoise app to report sightings and observations of the species.

Gopher tortoises are found in all 67 Florida counties, but need plenty of sandy, sunny habitats with an open tree canopy to thrive and survive. The FWC's wildlife management area system, along with other public lands like state forests and parks, provide habitat for gopher tortoises. State and local government, non-profit organizations and private landowners also work



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Gopher tortoises are found in all 67 Florida counties, but need plenty of sandy, sunny habitats with an open tree canopy to thrive and survive.

with the FWC to help conserve and restore gopher tortoise habitat.

If you see a gopher tortoise crossing a road, you may pick it up and place it in a safe location along the roadside in the direction it was heading, but only do so if it is safe. (It is advised to wear gloves when handling a tortoise.) Remember that gopher tortoises are a protected species. It is illegal to harm a gopher tortoise, its eggs or its burrow, to relocate without a permit, or to possess a tortoise, its eggs, or any parts of a tortoise.

Looking for ways to celebrate Gopher Tortoise Day and conserve the tortoise? Go to GopherTortoiseDayFL.com for information and activities for April 10 and all year long, including a resolution template for your community to adopt Gopher Tortoise Day, a guide to living with gopher tortoises, and ideas for kids' activities, such as fun gopher tortoise coloring pages and the Gopher Tortoise Field Trip Guide.

Okeechobee's Neil Nix flips reeds on the Big 0

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

CLEWISTON — Neil Nix of Okeechobee brought five bass to the scale March 30, weighing 21 pounds, 11 ounces, to win the T-H Marine FLW Bass Fishing League (BFL) Gator Division tournament on Lake Okeechobee. For his victory, Nix earned \$5,641.

"I fished the North Shore area of the lake around scattered reed clumps. It's a spawning area and during the spawn they get on those isolated clumps," says Nix, who earned his second career win in FLW competition. "I caught most of my good fish early before 8:30 [a.m.], and one good one — a 4-pounder — around 11."

Nix used a Texas-rigged, black and blue-colored Gambler Fat Ace with a 3/16-ounce weight to catch his fish.

"I ended up catching more than 20 keepers during the tournament," says Neil. "I also caught a couple flipping in Observation Shoals with a Texas-rigged [black and blue-colored Reaction Innovations] Sweet Beaver, but didn't end up weighing any of those fish."

The top 10 boaters were:

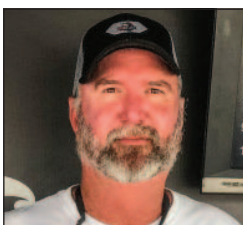
- 1st: Neil Nix, Okeechobee, five bass, 21-11, \$3,641 + \$2,000 Ranger Cup Bonus;
- 2nd: Santos Solis, Vero Beach, five bass, 21-3, \$1,820;
- 3rd: William Schmitt, West Palm Beach, five bass, 19-14, \$1,032;
- 3rd: Robert Crosnoe, Inverness, five bass, 19-14, \$1,032;
- 5th: Mikey Keyso Jr., North Port, five bass, 18-4, \$728;
- 6th: Jim Hurlock Jr., West Palm Beach, five bass, 17-9, \$668;
- 7th: Mike Davis, Alachua, five bass, 16-15, \$1,082;
- 8th: Jonathan Lecrone, Orlando, five bass, 16-5, \$546;
- 9th: Brett Cannon, Parkland, five bass, 15-8, \$455;
- 9th: Rick Mitchell, Naples, five bass, 15-8, \$455.

Davis caught a largemouth weighing 9 pounds even — the heaviest of the event in the Boater Division — and earned the day's Boater Big Bass award of \$475.

Jay Trudel of Boca Raton won the Co-angler Division and \$1,920 Saturday after catching five bass weighing 19 pounds, 13 ounces.

The top 10 co-anglers were:

- 1st: Jay Trudel, Boca Raton, five bass, 19-13, \$1,920
- 2nd: Robert Turcotte, Naples, five bass, 16-0, \$1,028
- 3rd: Moses Wilson, Clewiston, five bass, 15-9, \$607
- 4th: Bryce Goff, Haines City, five bass, 13-1, \$425
- 5th: Bryan Lefebvre, Pompano Beach, five bass, 12-5, \$364
- 6th: Jesse Forthun, Saint James City, four bass, 11-13, \$334



Neil Nix

- 7th: Dana Bass, Miami, five bass, 11-9, \$303
 - 8th: Michael Robel, Bradenton, four bass, 11-6, \$323
 - 9th: Kevin Thomas, Miramar, five bass, 11-3, \$243
 - 10th: Steve Smith, Jacksonville, five bass, 10-11, \$212
- Larry Branch of Kissimmee caught the largest bass in the Co-angler Division, a fish weighing in at 7 pounds, 5 ounces. The catch earned him the day's Co-angler Big Bass award of \$118.

The tournament was hosted by Roland & Mary Ann Martin's Marina & Resort.

The top 45 boaters and co-anglers in the region based on point standings, along with the five winners in each qualifying event, will be entered in the Oct. 10-12 BFL Regional Championship on Lake Seminole in Bainbridge, Ga. Boaters will compete for a top award of a Ranger Z518L with a 200-horsepower outboard and \$20,000, while co-anglers will fish for a new Ranger Z518L with a 200-horsepower outboard.

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For the *Health* of it!

The Stroke Association says not all strokes look alike

By **Cathy Womble**

Lake Okeechobee News

When most people think of the signs of a stroke, they think of things like face drooping, arm weakness, slurred speech, possibly dragging a foot on one side. Usually you hear about it affecting one side of the body, but there are times when the only sign of a stroke is confused speech, and if Tara Marshall had not recognized it for what it was, 43-year-old Rob Friend would likely not be alive today, said Mr. Friend's mother, Linda Friend. "She's a lovely, lovely girl and so very kind."

Last August, Ms. Marshall said Mr. Friend started acting strange one night. He was talking nonsense. The words he said were real words, but the things he was saying were crazy, and she knew something was wrong, but she couldn't convince him to let her take him to the hospital. He kept saying he thought she was going to take him to a mental hospital because she had told him he wasn't making sense, she said. She couldn't convince him she meant a regular hospital emergency room.

The next morning, she heard a thump

and found him on his hands and knees on the floor. That was it, she said. She knew she had to get him to the hospital no matter what he said. She said she just had a feeling it was a stroke even though he didn't have the usual signs. Mr. Friend is not a small man, she said. He is 6'1" and 220 pounds, but somehow she got him into the car and raced for the emergency room, and of course, she was stopped by law enforcement, but when she explained what was happening, they allowed her to go.

Mr. Friend was in the hospital for about five days before being released because he had no insurance, she said. They were told he had receptive and expressive aphasia. He is doing well, according to both Mrs. Friend and Ms. Marshall, but still has a long way to go. If it hadn't been for Ms. Marshall's persistence, he might not have survived, they said.

The Stroke Association says Wernicke's Aphasia (receptive) can cause you to say words that do not make sense or you might use the wrong word for something or put a group of words together in the semblance of a sentence but together, they have no

logical meaning. Broca's Aphasia (expressive) affects the way words are put together to form sentences.

According to the Stroke Association, "A stroke is a brain attack. It happens when the blood supply to part of the brain is cut off, killing brain cells. Damage to the brain can affect how the body works. It can also change how you think and feel." Approximately one in eight people die within 30 days of having a stroke, but the sooner you receive treatment, the better your chances of recovery.

The most common signs of a stroke are as follows:

- Face: Can the person smile? Is his face drooping on one side?
- Arms: Can the person raise both arms and keep them there?
- Speech problems: Can the person speak clearly and understand what you say? Is his speech slurred?
- Time: If you see any of these three signs, it's time to call 911.

Additional, less common, symptoms that may be seen in a stroke victim are sudden weakness or numbness on one side

of the body, including legs, hands or feet, difficulty finding words or speaking in clear sentences, sudden blurred vision or loss of sight in one or both eyes, sudden memory loss or confusion, and dizziness; or a sudden fall or a sudden, severe headache, says the Stroke Association.



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April Bloodmobile visits planned

OKEECHOBEE — If you are over the age of 17 and in good health, you can help save lives by donating blood. The bloodmobile will visit Okeechobee on the following dates. Donors will receive gifts.

- Monday, **April 15**, Walmart, 2101 S. Parrott Ave., 1:30 to 7 p.m., \$10 Walmart gift card, \$5 Golden Corral card, \$8 Lion Country Safari card.
- Saturday, **April 20**, Walmart, 2101 S. Parrott Ave., 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., \$10 Walmart gift card, \$5 Golden Corral card, \$8 Lion Country Safari card.
- Sunday, **April 21**, Walmart, 2101 S. Parrott Ave., 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., \$10 Walmart gift card, \$5 Golden Corral card, \$8 Lion Country Safari card.
- Monday, **April 22**, Okeechobee Correctional Institution, 3420 N.E. 168th St., 1:30 to 7 p.m., One Blood cap, \$5 Golden Corral card, \$8 Lion Country Safari card.
- Friday, **April 26**, Publix, 3551 U.S. 441, 1:30 to 7 p.m., \$10 Publix gift card, \$5 Golden Corral card, \$8 Lion Country Safari card.
- Tuesday, **April 30**, Raulerson Hospital, 1796 U.S. 441, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., One Blood cap, \$5 Golden Corral card, \$8 Lion Country Safari card.

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Health News

Diabetes workshop to be held

OKEECHOBEE — There will be a six-week Diabetes Self-Management Workshop for adults and seniors with Type 2 Diabetes at Our Village Okeechobee, 1703 S.W. Second Ave. The workshop will meet for 2.5 hours once a week for six weeks. Attend session-zero on Wednesday, **April 9**, to meet the co-leaders. The workshops will be on Wednesdays, April 16, 23, 30, and Wednesdays, May 7, 14, and 21, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Plan to attend at least four of the six meetings. To register, visit www.lorhn.org, or call 888-880-8242, or email info@lorhn.org.

Diabetes workshop to be held

CLEWISTON — There will be a Diabetes Self-Management Workshop at the Florida B. Thomas Library in Harlem, 1010 Harlem Academy Ave. The workshop will meet for 2.5 hours once a week on Wednesdays, **April 10**, 17, and Wednesdays, May 1, 8, and 15. Plan to attend at least four of the meetings. To register, visit www.lorhn.org, or call 888-880-8242, or email info@lorhn.org.

Literacy Workshop scheduled

OKEECHOBEE — Health Literacy is the ability a person has that helps them find, manage, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions. Workshops are three weekly sessions to be held on Mondays, **May 6**, 13, 20, and June 3, 10, 17, at the Okeechobee Library, 206 S.W. 16th St., from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Healthy snacks, giveaways and Certificates of Completion included. For information, call 561-844-4220 ext. 1500 or email info@lorhn.org.

Drug free Hendry meeting set

LABELLE — Join the Drug Free Hendry County/Hendry Tobacco Free Partnership for a meeting on Thursday, **April 11**, at 4 p.m. at Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church, 310 Campbell St., in the Fellowship Hall.

Rid cabinet of drugs

CLEWISTON — K&M Drugs, 340 E. Sugarland Highway, will host Operation Medicine Cabinet on Saturday, **May 11**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Blood pressure checks free

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.

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 group meets

OKEECHOBEE — Hospice of Okeechobee offers weekly Bereavement Support Group meetings each Tuesday and Thursday 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 information, 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.

Mental Health meetings set

OKEECHOBEE — The Okeechobee Children's Mental Health System of Care will hold Mental Wellness Support Group meetings for caregivers and youth every second and fourth Mondays of the month at the following locations:

- Adult and high school groups meet at the Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church located at 200 N.W. Third St.
- Middle school and elementary groups meet across the street at the First United Methodist Church located at 200 N.W. Second St.

For information, contact Jane Kaufman, System of Care family coordinator, by phone at 863-462-5125 ext. 135 or by email at jane.kaufman@okee.k12.fl.us.

Support group to meet

OKEECHOBEE — A support group for parents whose children have attempted suicide meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Church of God, 912 N.W. Park St. in Okeechobee.

Affordable health screenings coming to Okeechobee

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE — Residents living in and around the Okeechobee area can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Okeechobee Christian

Church will host this community event on April 22. The site is located at 3055 S.E. 18th Terrace in Okeechobee.

- Screenings can check for:
- The level of plaque build-up 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.

Packages start at \$149, but 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 which allows customers to get all the screenings they need now, but pay \$19.95 a month. Call 877-237-1287 or visit our website at lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.



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JUBILEE

Continued From Page 1

Stories from the jubilee

Connie Deaton was with her mom, Linda McMillan, selling T-shirts and other items at the booth for the Jimmy McMillan memorial fishing tournament, which will take place on Saturday, May 11, out of the Belle Glade marina.

The late Mr. McMillan owned a grocery store in Belle Glade and was robbed and murdered on Jan. 2, 2012.

"Fishing was his life, and so we started the tournament as a way of remembering him and bringing people together. We established a scholarship in his name at the high school that he graduated from, Glades Day School, so all the proceeds from this go directly to students there," she said.

"There's an essay that they write and we've given almost \$30,000 in scholarships over seven years. The fishing day is all about the fishermen. Two of Jimmy's three sons are also professional fishermen. They travel the circuit."

Breezy McMillan, who started the

Anglers for Lake O lobbying group with Martin Marina (Clewiston) General Manager Ramon Iglesias last fall, is her cousin, said Connie, and another generation is getting in the game already.

Glades Lives Matter

Jennifer Jean was at the Glades Lives Matter booth selling T-shirts and totes to benefit their scholarship fund.

"We (help with things) that you need to face in order to make a change locally, but how it takes place is in Tallahassee. We attend health fairs and events like this, just trying to raise awareness about the Glades area and why we want to make sure it stays intact."

Tom and Traci Rose of Port St. Lucie were there selling her homemade concoctions of herb-glazed, roasted nuts that she makes herself starting with raw materials. Many types were available and they were giving out free samples to everyone who approached, as well as selling bags and jars full.

They call their business T's Taste of Chicago Gourmet Glazed Nuts, named after a catering business she'd operated for years

in Michigan. She grew up in Warrenville, Ill., but the couple are originally from the Upper Peninsula.

Said Mrs. Rose: "In Michigan, I had a food vending business called T's Taste of Chicago, because I lived in the Chicago area and I enjoyed their food, so I wanted to sell it elsewhere." She grew up in Warrenville, near Naperville. They've been going to Black Gold for a couple of years.

"I order them in bulk and I get them from different places, but mostly from California and Texas. I buy them raw and then I coat them all. The recipes all come from me, from my mind. I just think of something, and then I concoct and I'll make it until I think it tastes good." Their gourmet glazed nuts were irresistible, of course (says the satisfied snacker who bought the Blueberry Glazed Pecans).

Belle Glade City Manager Lomax Harrelle and Deputy City Manager Beverly Scott were greeting people at the waterfront pavilion bearing his name as contest entries were trickling in, and later were seen tooling around the grounds and interacting with the crowds in a city golf cart. City staff members manned a booth elsewhere at the

festival, where they were having folks spin a wheel for swag prizes they were giving away.

Both officials said it had been a very successful day already so far, but it was still early, and stragglers from the Black Gold Jubilee Parade that had taken place downtown at 10 a.m. were just starting to converge en masse at the Torry Island Marina & Campground as the free entertainment began at the band shell. Two concerts at the Lakeside Amphitheater closed out the day's activities. At 5:30 p.m., Night Moves (The Ultimate Bob Seger Tribute Band) took the stage, and at 7:30 p.m., Kentucky-born country music crooner John Michael Montgomery followed.

Traffic and crowd control were being handled efficiently by deputies out of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office District 13/City of Belle Glade substation. Along the water's edge on the road leading to the park was Captain Steve and his crew from MasterGator Airboat Tours of Palm Beach County, offering rides for \$25 a person and doing a brisk business.

Chris Felker can be reached at cfelker@newszap.com.



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