



Tribe vows to protect their land

By Katrina Elskan
Lake Okeechobee News

The Miccosukee Tribe's opposition to the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) reservoir could delay federal permitting of the massive water structure, which will cover more than 10,000 acres and be surrounded by a dike that rises 37 feet into the air. Even if nothing goes wrong, and the reservoir operates as planned, it will increase water flow to tribal lands south of the project, which are already flooded much of the year, according to tribal representatives.

And should something go wrong ... longtime residents remember the millions of dollars' worth of damage left by a breach in the dam surrounding the 6,700-acre FPL reservoir in 1979 in Martin County.

See **TRIBE** — Page 20

FWC hosts roundup of invasive fish

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

FORT MYERS — The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Southwest Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) invite the public to participate in the 2019 Invasive Fish Roundup event, targeting freshwater invasive fish species. This free event takes place from April 26 through 28, with the weigh-in occurring on Sunday, April 28, from noon until 3 p.m. at Bass Pro Shops, 10040 Gulf Center Drive, Fort Myers, Florida 33913.

See **FISH** — Page 22



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Andrew turns his horse shortly after mounting it for the first time in a Colt Starting Challenge event.

Colt Starting Challenge comes to Okeechobee

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE — Breaking a young horse to ride often is a weeklong process, but six horse trainers will accomplish that task in just a few hours using Natural Horsemanship, as spectators watch at the Okeechobee Colt Starting Challenge event.

Colt Starting Challenge USA will be showcased on two nights, Friday, April 26, from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 27, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Fred Smith covered arena in Okeechobee. Tickets are \$15 each night.

Cristy Beatty, who co-founded Colt Starting Challenge USA with her husband, Russell

Beatty, said they're excited to bring the event to Okeechobee for the third time. Six experienced horse trainers will work, starting in six round pens, as they compete to gentle, start and ride six unbroke horses.

"It's exciting to watch them get started from halter-broke to being ridden all over the place and how they can get that accomplished so quickly," she said. "It's not the average performance. This is real-life stuff happening right in front of you. Sometimes, these guys get bucked off."

See **COLT** — Page 22



5 Festival features corn eating contest



14 Airboaters, 4-H clean up lake

Lake Levels

11.48 feet

Last Year: 13.32 feet



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

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Okeechobee, Florida

Bertha Baity, 100, credits long life to the Lord



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Ms. Baity is surrounded by her grandchildren at her 100th birthday celebration.

Lake Okeechobee Weather Forecast

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Today: Sunny, with a high near 84. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph in the morning.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 59. East wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 85. Calm wind becoming south-southeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. East-southeast wind around 5 mph.

Friday: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 85. South wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Friday night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight, then

a slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. West-northwest wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Saturday: A 40% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 84. Calm wind becoming northeast around 5 mph.

Saturday night: A 30% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Sunday: A 20% chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 84. East northeast wind around 5 mph.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. East wind around 5 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. East northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

Monday night: A 55% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. Northeast winds around 5 mph with 18 mph gusts.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. East winds around 14 mph with 31 mph gusts.

Tuesday night: A 40% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. East winds around 10 mph with 23 mph gusts.

By Cathy Womble

Lake Okeechobee News

LAKE HARBOR – Bertha Baity celebrated her 100th birthday on Dec. 3, 2018, and said she feels very well, considering that she is 100. She credits her long life to the Lord. “The Lord let me live this long, and I’m the only one left of my family,” she said. Her mother, Matty Robertson, and father, John Pierce, had five children, four girls and one boy, but “I’m the only one left now,” she explained.

Ms. Baity was born in Marion, S.C. and always enjoyed playing and working outdoors. She said her favorite toys as a child were balls and marbles. She also remembers playing jacks, but they were called Jackstones back then.

She said that two of her sisters did some inside work, but she always worked outside. “I was a farmer,” she said. “I liked working in my garden.” She worked cane fields and celery, and before she moved from the Carolinas, she said she worked in the tobacco and cotton fields.

She did do some indoor things, though. She enjoyed knitting, and her daughter Autherine said she remembers her mom knitting little dresses for her girls to wear, and no one made a better pie than Ms. Bertha Baity! Ms. Baity said that’s one bad thing about getting older — she doesn’t get to spend much time outside anymore.

Ms. Baity married her first husband, Richard Stukes, in 1937, but he passed away, and she married



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Bertha Baity and her oldest daughter and her family.

Freddy Baity in 1941. They moved to Southshore, Fla., in 1941, she said. “We came down here on the train. It used to be like a small city.”

She has five children — Ferlece Major, Autherine Small, Alma Jean Jones, Zelma Baity and Jerry Taylor. She raised her family in Lake Harbor, a tiny community in far western Palm Beach County. She had 16 grandchildren, but one has passed away. She has 19 great-grand children and one on the way.

The family celebrated Ms. Baity’s 100th birthday at the Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, where she has been a member for over 25 years. Every year the family has a reunion attended by every relative who can possibly make it, and they always design a special T-shirt for the occasion. This year they did the same for the birthday celebration.

Happy belated birthday,
Ms. Baity!

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Pulse of the Community

Letters to the Editor

National Donate Life Month

Would you spare three minutes of your time to save lives? That's all it takes — and more than 113,000 people in the United States, including approximately 5,700 Floridians, are counting on you to do just that. How? Register your decision to become an organ and tissue donor.

April is Donate Life Month, and I encourage those who have not yet done so to visit Florida's organ, eye and tissue donor registry at www.DonateLifeFlorida.org, where you can find factual information about donation, and designate your donation wishes. You can also register as a donor when getting or renewing a driver license or ID card at your local tax collector's office.

One organ donor can save the lives of eight people, and improve more than 70 others through the gifts of tissue donation. All major religions support donation and there are no costs to the donor's family. To save lives as an organ and tissue donor, register today at www.DonateLifeFlorida.org, or simply say "yes" to saving lives through donation during a driver license renewal during your next driver license office/tax collector's office visit.

Betsy Edwards

Public affairs project manager
LifeLink Foundation Inc.

Hurricane damage

Recent reporting from news outlets throughout Florida have been focusing

upon the legislature's approximately \$90 billion proposed spending plan for next year's budget, which begins July 1, 2019.

Admirably, and certainly deserving within the House and Senate proposals, are significant restoration and debris clean-up funding for the counties in northwest Florida that suffered the devastation from Hurricane Michael. However, I am saddened and disappointed that in the rush to bring much-needed infrastructure relief to the Panhandle counties in the various spending proposals being offered in next year's budget, totally forgotten are the family farms that collectively, make up our state's peanut and cotton industry. For the rural counties in the Panhandle, agriculture is the lifeblood of the entire economy.

Not only were entire crops lost just days before what was to be a better than average harvest season, the loans given to the individual farmers from area financial institutions pledged against the harvest yields, are also in jeopardy of being lost. When farmers cannot pay the banks, which they have been unable to do since there was no harvest and crop to sell, their loans default making it virtually impossible to ever recover from that set back.

There has been a simple solution that was proposed following the same circumstances for the peanut and cotton farmers in Georgia. The State of Georgia immediately passed emergency legislation creating a \$50 million loan fund, which has allowed farmers to keep their bank loans alive for one more year while allowing them to get a new crop of peanut and cotton in the ground,

which must take place before June 1.

Discussing funding relief efforts in a budget that won't even take effect until July 1, 2019, does no good for these family farms that are desperately trying to repair sustained damage while also trying to get at least a minimal crop in the ground, which must take place in the next four weeks.

And while Sens. George Gainer and Ben Albritton have proposed a loan program similar to Georgia's emergency loan program, the House has no such proposal and the Senate proposal has been stalled.

Attempts to meet with the governor or his chief of staff have gone unanswered.

Speak Out

WRAC

• "It is obvious that the new SFWMD governing board is under the influence of the very biased, so-called environmental Everglades Foundation. The WRAC meetings gave everyone a chance to speak, including the farmers, the fishermen, the utility company representatives, the environmentalists, the duck hunters and the Native American tribes. The foundation does not want all of those voices to be heard. They want to dominate all discussion. If we don't fight back, they are going to force through a plan that provides water for even more development in Miami at the cost of destroying the lake and the Everglades." — S. Jones

• "This opportunity to discuss (and even sometimes argue through) issues is important for Florida. Two minutes of public speaking at a workshop without back-and-forth discussion doesn't do what this WRAC body can do." — Nyla Pipes

• "WRAC is vital to diverse stakeholder participation. This is probably one of the most informative meetings I follow each month and have for many years, working 'way back when' with then-Chairman Mike Collins to give south Dade County growers a voice on issues like the East Glade drawdown and flooding concerns due to

This is unfortunate, because at this eleventh hour, it is only the governor that can intervene by utilizing the resources and protocols that come with being Florida's executive officer.

Finding a source of funds from our current year's budget for an emergency loan program, at a minimum of \$50 million to be paid back in the coming harvest years, seems to be an easy task for a governor and legislature that is preoccupied with how to spend \$90 billion for next year's budget.

Bud Baggett

Baggett Farms
Marianna

increased flows into Everglades National Park. I truly hope WRAC continues. Everyone needs a seat at the table." — Katie Edwards-Walpole

Lake

• "Heard that the workers that spray the lake had been laid off, but, they are going back to work and back to spraying. What happened to no spraying for a while? Burn. Don't spray. We have to lower the lake so we can burn." — Sue

Answers to Today's Puzzle:

W	N	B	A	D	R	A	F	T		F	A	R	I	S
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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.

- 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.

Lake Okeechobee News

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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:



Sweet Corn Fiesta features eating contest

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

WEST PALM BEACH – The 19th annual South Florida Sweet Corn Fiesta, presented by the Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau, will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 28.

The Major League Eating's National Sweet Corn Eating Championship begins at 3 p.m. This event will take place at Yesterday Village, South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd. in West Palm Beach.

More than 4,000 visitors are expected to attend this annual event to eat some of the best locally grown sweet corn and enjoy other activities for both children and adults. Major League Eating's National Sweet Corn Eating Championship always attracts a crowd as contestants compete for a total prize purse of \$6,100.

The previous year's winner and world recordholder Carmen Cincotti returned to defend his title and, by just two ears, he was declared the champion. The 24-year-old winner from New Jersey consumed 58 ears in just 12 minutes. He set the record in 2017 consuming 61.75 ears in 12 minutes.

An amateur contest will precede the professional competition. To enter, participants must be at least 18 years old and sign up before 12:45 p.m. There also will be kids' shucking contests beginning around 1 p.m.

Additional activities include a Kid Zone with rides. Kids ride all day with a wristband. The Krystal River Band and Andrew Morris Band will provide live music throughout the day. And, of course, one of the best parts of the event is eating freshly cooked corn on the cob throughout the site!

The South Florida Sweet Corn Fiesta celebrates Palm Beach County's heritage as the "Sweet Corn Capital of the World." Palm Beach County grows more sweet corn than any other county in the United States. Local farmers cultivate more than 27,000 acres yearly. The Sweet Corn Fiesta is an outreach activity of the Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau and is made possible by volunteers and sponsors, who include Sunshine Sweet Corn Farmers of Florida, Florida Crystals and Palm Beach County. Proceeds go to agriculture educa-



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News **Major League Eating's National Sweet Corn Eating Championship always attracts a crowd as contestants compete for a total prize purse of \$6,100.**

tion and advocacy and to Glades area food banks. For more information, call 561-996-0343 or visit the website sweetcornfiesta.com.

Admission is: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free to kids 5 or younger. A \$5 unlimited-rides wristband is available for kids. Parking is free. No outside food or beverages are permitted. No pets are allowed except for service animals.

Bluegrass and Blueberries Festival in Avon Park

By Alice Oldham
Avon Park Rotary Club

AVON PARK — The ninth annual Avon Park Rotary Bluegrass and Blueberry Festival will fill Donaldson Park in downtown Avon Park on Saturday, April 27, with music, vendors, food and fun.

The entertainment is the rousing Bluegrass band, Hwy 41 South. They were so popular and fun to work with in the last two festivals that they are back by popular demand. And this year they have added a fifth member, Tammy White.

There will be the traditional BBQ chicken dinners prepared by the Avon Park Champions Club, the signature Blueberry Lemonade, and gourmet-variety, freshly picked blueberries from Hinton Farms outside of Frostproof. There is an ice cream truck to compliment the blueberry pies and other blueberry bakery goods, a wide variety of other food and drink vendors.

The blueberry bushes are brought in from a Gainesville nursery, and local caladiums are offered by Classic Caladiums, an Avon Park business with an impressive number of patented varieties of caladiums grown on their Zolfo Springs farms. Tips on the successful growing of these plants will be available at the Highlands County Master Gardeners booth.

There is a free Kids Zone, with a local foundation sponsor so there are no charges for the children's activities that include horse rides, face painting and games. The vendors sell only original arts and crafts, perfect for Mother's Day gifts, gifts to store away for future celebrations, and that one-of-a-kind art piece to take home.

Included are jewelry, leather goods, hand sewn gifts, special items for dogs and dolls, cottage industry jams, jellies and



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/Hwy 41 South

Mark Horn, Donnie Harvey, Tammy White, Clint Dockery and David Beaumont are looking forward to playing at the Avon Park Bluegrass and Blueberries festival.

pickles by Jane Klein of Zolfo Springs.

On display will be the 1950 Willy's Jeep, a domestic model painted and decorated in military style.

Raffle tickets will be sold to support the 2019 Honor Flight of veterans to the Washington, D.C., monuments. The winner will be drawn May 4 while the veterans are in D.C. Also a Tin Can Tourist vehicle will be exhibited to promote the 100th anniversary Florida tour of Tin Can Tourist trucks in November.

The festival has no admission nor parking fees, located on East Main Street, on Lake Verona, in downtown Avon Park.

Lynda Sue (Nix) Bass passed away April 15th

Come help us Celebrate Lynda's Life May 2nd at 10am

At 7th Day Christian Church across from Eli's Western Wear

Church offers counseling

BELLE GLADE — Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 1424 W. Canal St. S., is offering free counseling sessions - marriage, family, rehabilitation, etc. Please contact Pastor Burden at 352-214-7988 to schedule an appointment.

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FWC, others celebrate Florida's favorite tortoise

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — On April 10, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) encouraged communities, organizations and individuals to help conserve Florida's only native tortoise during the annual observance of Florida Gopher Tortoise Day.

This year, only five counties — Alachua, Hernando, Miami-Dade, Martin and Palm Beach — along with several local communities such as the city of Sanibel adopted 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 observa-

Florida panther rescued off SR 29

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

ST. PETERSBURG — Personnel from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service successfully herded a Florida panther from the roadside of the fence on State Road 29 back into the safety of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, the Defenders of Wildlife (DOW) reported Tuesday, April 23.

The panther had gotten onto the roadway through a breach in the fence, and fortunately, a road contractor reported the situation to FWC. An FWC law enforcement officer wearing a bodycam, along with the assistance of a helpful motorist driving a pickup truck, was able to help guide the panther back into the Florida Panther Refuge and record the rescue. The public can watch the video, titled "How to herd a cat," by going to the MyFWC page on Facebook. Agencies subsequently found and repaired the hole in the fence that the panther used to access the roadway.

"Bravo to all involved in saving this panther!" said a news release from the DOW.

Remember, always watch out for wildlife while driving, and please report an injured or dead panther, manatee, other protected wildlife or any wildlife violation to FWC at the wildlife alert hotline: 888-404-3922, or #FWC or *FWC by cellphone. Text to: TIP@myfwc.com.

tions 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, nonprofit organizations and private landowners also work 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. 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.

More information on gopher tortoises is at MyFWC.com/GopherTortoise.

Obituaries

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

Frank J. Brady, 86

OKEECHOBEE — Frank J. Brady died April 20, 2019. He was born March 6, 1933. A resident of the Okeechobee area most of his life, he was a member of Freedom Ranch and the Elks Lodge. He owned and operated Brady Ranch since the early 1970s, loved spending time with his family, and enjoyed cooking and helping people.

Mr. Brady was preceded in death by his son, Frank Brady, Jr.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Marilyn H. Brady, of Okeechobee; son, Robbie Brady (Angela), of Palm City; daughters, Pam Tucker (Bobby), of Palm City, Cindy Mills (Randy), of Loxahatchee, and Rhonda Brady, of Okeechobee; stepchildren, Jim Harvey (Celeste), of Okeechobee, and Josh Harvey (Ashley), of Texas, Jacqueline Smith (Tommy), of Palm City, and Taffy Roberts (Kevin), of Okeechobee; twenty grandchildren; and numerous great grandchildren.

Memorial services will be 11 a.m., Friday, April 26, 2019 at Freedom Ranch with Pastor John Glenn officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

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.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/FWC

Motorists should keep an eye out for gopher tortoises, which frequently creep slowly across rural highways in the Lake Okeechobee area; they are a protected species.

Gloria Jane Busscher, 82

OKEECHOBEE — Gloria Jane Busscher died April 19, 2019. She was born Nov. 14, 1936 in Chicago, Ill. In 1954 she graduated from Grant High School in Fox Lake, Ill. She retired from Publix in 2005. She coached little league baseball for four years, enjoyed playing softball, bowling, fishing, going to the beach, and gardening. She attended More2Life Ministries.



She was preceded in death by her parents, Andrew and Lilian Peterson; brother, Andrew; sisters, Linda Riggle and Nancy Bernota; husband of 18 years, Donald Busscher; sons, Paul and Billy; daughter, Cynthia Dunson-Baker; granddaughters, Diedra Dunson, Rachal Busscher, Kimberly Busscher, and Tiffany Busscher; sons-in-law, Butch Dunson and Rusty Baker.

She is survived by her children, Donald (Gaby) Busscher, of Hungary, Brenda (Todd) Bennett, of Okeechobee, Andrew (Tammy) Busscher, of Loxahatchee; fourteen grandchildren; twenty-three great grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Visitation will be 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Funeral services will 11 a.m. Thursday, April 25, 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.

Search obituaries nationally at
<http://www.legacy.com>

Harry Lester Rosencrans, 83

OKEECHOBEE — Harry L. Rosencrans died April 18, 2019. He was born April 15, 1936 in Wyoming, Pa. to the late Fred L. Rosencrans and Alma (Faux) Rosencrans. He was a resident of Okeechobee for over 44 years after raising a family of four children in Lauderhill, Fla.

An electrical engineering degree enabled Harry to become operations manager of Airpax Electronics in Plantation, Fla. for over 20 years. Harry and his wife, Pat, owned and operated Pat's Place Restaurant in Plantation for many years. The memories from that experience were priceless.

Mr. Rosencrans, a Korean Veteran, was a long-time member and trustee of the Florida Elks, life member of Disabled American Veterans, Florida American Legion, and life member of the National Rifle Association. The years he spent hunting on the Kissimmee river and fishing

Lake Okeechobee and its surrounding creeks and lakes led Harry to his nickname "Riverboater." Swamp boats, airboats, ocean boats, and pontoon boats were all normal necessities for Harry.

Mr. Rosencrans was preceded in death by his wife of over 48 years, Patricia Joan (Coskey) Rosencrans.

He is survived by his children, Patricia Anne Thompson, of West Palm Beach, Fla., Michelle Marie Ruf, of Loxahatchee, Fla., Beth Joanne Donley, of Pigsah Forest, N.C. and Steven Christopher Rosencrans, of Tallahassee, Fla.; seven grandsons; and three great grandchildren. A special lady, Rosie Akerstrom, was with Harry for the last years of his life, sharing life and its surprises, problems, and good times.

No services will be held.

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

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

Your COMMUNITY NEWS



Okeechobee County

Main Street to meet

OKEECHOBEE — Okeechobee Main Street will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, **April 24**, at Brown Cow Sweetery, 101 S.W. Park St., at noon. It will be presenting its year-end-review and voting on new board members.

School fundraiser Thursday

OKEECHOBEE — South Elementary School, 2468 S.W. Seventh Ave., has partnered with Gilbert Ford for “Drive 4 UR School.” South Elementary could earn up to \$8000 for the school and its students. Come out to the school on Thursday, **April 25**, from 7 to 6 p.m. and take a spin in a new Ford vehicle. For every test drive taken, Ford Motor Company will donate money to the school. A little drive could go a long way.

Chamber After Hours set

OKEECHOBEE — Chamber After Hours will be held Thursday, **April 25**, at the Trading Post Flea & Farmers Market, 3100 U.S. 441 S., across from Home Depot. There will be a brief tour of the facility. Several of their businesses will be open for your shopping pleasure so that you can shop while listening to some great music by a live band and snacking on some light refreshments.

Wrestling team serves BBQ

OKEECHOBEE — The Okeechobee Wrestling team will hold the third annual BBQ Fundraiser on Friday, **April 26**, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brahman Theatre, 1500 S. Parrott Ave. Menu includes pulled pork, baked beans, potato salad, roll and cookie for a \$10 donation. Delivery is available for orders of three or more dinners. Tickets old at Serenity Coffee Shop. For information or tickets, call 863-824-2287.

Yard sale ends

OKEECHOBEE — Friday, **April 26**, will be the last day of the The Real Life Children’s Ranch yard sale for the summer.

School reunion to be held

OKEECHOBEE — The 34th Annual Basinger School Reunion will be held Sunday, **April 28**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Basinger Community Center, 20350 U.S. 98 N. All students who attended Basinger School and their family members are invited. Please bring a covered dish. For information, call Debbie Strenth at 863-634-1775.

Fish and bluegrass set

OKEECHOBEE — Okeechobee Shrine Club, 1855 S.W. 53rd St., will serve catfish dinners on Saturday, **May 18**, from 6 to 7 p.m. Bluegrass music will be played from 5 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 8:30 p.m. Dinners are \$12.

County boards to meet

OKEECHOBEE — The county commissioners from Hendry, Glades, Martin, Okeechobee and Palm Beach counties will meet at 6 p.m. on **May 7** in the Okeechobee High School Lecture Hall, 2800 U.S. 441 N., to discuss Lake Okeechobee and other matters of mutual interest. The meeting will be open to the public.

Help feed families May 11

OKEECHOBEE — Fill a bag to help feed families on Saturday, **May 11**. Bag healthy nonperishable food items and place by your mailbox for your letter carrier to pick up and deliver to food banks and pantries in your community. Donate items such as pasta, cereal, oatmeal, canola oil, peanut butter and canned goods including beans, fruit, vegetables, soup, tuna in water, meat and sauce. Avoid glass containers.

Glades County

Potluck dinner to be served

BUCKHEAD RIDGE — The Buckhead Ridge Community Association will be holding its monthly meeting on Thursday, **April 25**. A potluck dinner will precede the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the community building behind the fire house, 30076 S.R. 78. For more information, call 863-634-4106.

Waste cleanup available

MOORE HAVEN — You may help protect the environment by gathering up household wastes and participate in the Glades Country Hazardous Waste Clean-Up on Saturday, **April 27**, from 8 a.m. to noon. Bring up to 60 pounds of waste to the Glades County Doyle Conner Building, 900 U.S. 27.

Legion meeting to be held

MOORE HAVEN — American Legion Post 299, 600 River Road, will hold its regular meeting on Friday, **May 3**, at 6 p.m. There will be a complimentary dinner courtesy of members Joe and Susan Mansfield. All veterans and other interested person are urged to attend.

Tuesday Night Bingo

MOORE HAVEN — The Fraternal Order of Eagles, 101 Ave. J in Moore Haven, holds bingo on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. For information, call 863-946-1523.

Hendry County

Florida B. Thomas Library

CLEWISTON — Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking will hold a free community presentation on human trafficking on Wednesday, **April 24**, from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., at the Florida B. Thomas Library, 1010J Harlem Academy Ave. For information, call 941-623-3558.

Fisheating Creek meeting set

LaBELLE — Fisheating Creek Trail Association will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, **April 25**, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 310 Campbell Ave. Learn about the April and May hikes, bicycle trip and camping. FEC/FTA T-shirts available to purchase while supplies last.

Spring party to be held

LaBELLE — Swing into Spring on Saturday, April 27, at RiverBend Motorcoach Resort, 5800 W. S.R. 80, from 5 to 8 p.m. There will be music, games, great food, a live auction and a silent auction.

Golf tournament scheduled

LAKEPORT — The Lakeport Garden Club will host their 10th annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, **May 4**, at the Clewiston Golf Course, 1200 San Luiz Ave., at 8:30 a.m. BBQ pork sandwiches will be available for \$5. For information, call 863-227-1144.

CERT training begins

LaBELLE — Are you ready to help your family and neighborhood in a disaster? CERT Basic Training Series will be held on Saturdays **May 4**, and **June 8**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hendry County Emergency Operations Center, 4425 West S.R. 80. The Saturday, June 8 class is only required if you want to become a disaster service worker. For information or to register for class, e-mail: Robert or Margaret at robert.pastula@hendryfla.net and hccertv@gmail.com, or call 863-674-5400.

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.

Palm Beach County

Summer camp starts soon

BELLE GLADE — Registration for Community Connections For Life, CMHC, Y-Prep (Youth in Preparation Program) summer camp begins soon. Its free for Medicaid participants. Registrations starts Thursday, **April 25**, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 555 S.W. 16th St. Space is limited and children must be registered by May 25. For more information, call 561-983-8870 or visit www.CCFLINC.com.

GTAC meeting scheduled

PAHOKEE — The Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC) public meeting will be held on Thursday, **April 25**, 9:30 a.m. at the Pahokee Marina, 190 N. Lake Ave. The meeting will focus on providing Glades area seniors with vital information and advice on hurricane preparedness for the 2019 season. Mary Blakeney, senior manager from Palm Beach County Emergency Management, will be the featured presenter and answer questions. For information, please contact Houston Tate at 561-233-5303 or via email at htate@pbcgov.org.

HHA graduation to be held

BELLE GLADE — Please join West Technical Education Center as it celebrates the inaugural Home Health Aide (HHA) graduation. The graduation will be held on Friday, **April 26**, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at West Tech, 2625 N.W. 16th St., in the atrium of building 2.

Designer Bags and Bingo set

BELLE GLADE — The public is invited to play bingo and have a chance to win designer bags and accessories from Michael Kors, Coach, Steve Madden, Nine West, and more on Saturday, **April 27**, from 5 to 8 p.m. at A Touch of Class Event Hall, 816 W. Canal St. S. Tickets are \$30 in advance. Proceeds will benefit scholarships for Glades Area students and service projects for residents of the Glades. For information, call 561-281-5532 or email at boldincommunityimpact@gmail.com. The Cash App tag is \$boldincommimpact.

Food Festival scheduled

An International Food Festival will be held at St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church, 710 S. Main St., on Sunday, **April 28**, at 10 a.m. Event features family fun, food, music, games and more. For information, call 561-996-3870.

Independent scientific study to consider lake schedule

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

The University of Florida Water Institute Team is conducting an independent scientific review to inform development of the new Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule.

At their Jan. 10 meeting, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) board members approved a contract with the University of Florida Water Institute to conduct an independent scientific review to help inform the development of the next Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule.

The UFWI has convened an interdisciplinary academic review team that will:

(1) acquire and synthesize existing scientific information related to the impacts of the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule on the ecology of Lake Okeechobee and the estuaries that receive lake discharges;

(2) identify knowledge gaps and additional data needed to assess the ecological

impacts and tradeoffs of proposed changes to LORS; and,

(3) develop recommendations and priorities for new efforts needed to fill gaps in existing knowledge. In particular the team will focus on effects of lake stage on the ecology of Lake Okeechobee, effects of lake discharge on estuarine conditions, and how climate change, climate variability and sea level rise could impact tradeoffs between the health of the lake, estuaries, Everglades, as well as the provision of flood control and water supply.

The scientific review team consists of:

- Wendy Graham, director, UF Water Institute (project leader;)
- Mark Brenner, professor, UF Geologic Sciences;
- Karl Havens, director, Florida Sea Grant College Program;
- Jim Fourqurean, director, FIU Center for Coastal Oceans Research;

• Jayantha Obeysekera, director, FIU Sea Level Solutions Center.

Tom Frazer, one of the original team members, will participate with the team in an ex-officio capacity due to his new role as the State of Florida's chief science officer.

The South Florida regional landscape has been engineered to provide flood protection and water supply. Lake Okeechobee is the main location for surface water storage in this system.

Historically, no water flowed from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie on the east coast, and water only flowed to the Caloosahatchee River on the west coast during the wet season, when Lake Okeechobee spilled over into a series of marshes and smaller lakes that connected with the Caloosahatchee River. As part of the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project authorized in 1948 the system was engineered with two large canals that now have the capacity

to carry large volumes of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie and the Caloosahatchee estuaries. Considerable impacts to the natural ecosystems of south Florida, including the St. Lucie Estuary, Caloosahatchee Estuary, Lake Okeechobee and the Florida Everglades stem from large deviations in the quantity and quality of freshwater delivered to these systems relative to a pre-engineered time period.

Lake Okeechobee is regulated and managed, in large part, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The SFWMD cooperates with the USACE providing information relevant to the lake's management. The USACE and SFWMD are planning a lake regulation review that will consider alternative regulation schedules that take into consideration the tradeoffs between health of the lake, estuaries and Everglades, as well as provision of flood control and water supply.

Releases to 'lower lake' have little effect on Big O level

By Katrina Elsen

Lake Okeechobee News

Residents on both coasts have what they asked for in regard to flow from Lake Okeechobee, at least for now.

There has been no flow to the St. Lucie Canal from the lake since March 30. The target flow has been set at "zero" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which controls that structure.

Releases from the lake to the Caloosahatchee River are currently set at a maximum of 1,000 cfs by the corps. The 1,000 cfs is the ideal beneficial target for dry-season flow, requested by Lee County officials, to benefit the Caloosahatchee Estuary and prevent it from having salinity levels that are too high in the dry season.

The lock at Port Mayaca is open, explained John Campbell of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He said the level of water in the canal is the same as the level of the lake, so while there is some sloshing back and forth, there is no flow from the lake at Port Mayaca.

The canal connecting Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie River is manmade. Flow at Port Mayaca is gravity-driven. If the level of Lake Okeechobee is lower than the level of the water in the St. Lucie Canal, water backflows into Lake Okeechobee. The St. Lucie Lock is 23.9 miles from the Port Mayaca Lock.

The first weekend in April, the water control structures indicated there was some backflow from the canal into the lake, at the rate of 89 cfs on April 5 and 175 cfs on April 6. Mr. Campbell said those were false readings due to some issues with one of the gauges. He said there was no measurable flow.

In February and March, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released water to the St. Lucie Canal and the Caloosahatchee River to attempt to lower the level of Lake Okeechobee in anticipation of the wet season. The theory is that dry season releases from the lake could prevent the need to re-

lease as much water during the wet season.

So in February and March, flow to the Caloosahatchee River, which needs regular flow in the dry season for the health of the Caloosahatchee Estuaries, was increased and some lake water was released to the St. Lucie Canal, which does not need any flow from Lake Okeechobee.

How much difference did those releases make? About 2 inches on Lake Okeechobee.

Let's do the math ...

From the start of the dry season in October until Feb. 23, no lake water flowed into the St. Lucie Canal.

From Feb. 23 to March 16, flow to St. Lucie was 500 cubic feet per second. That's a total of 21 days for total flow of 6,786,327,261 gallons.

From March 16 to March 23, flow to St. Lucie was 250 cfs. That's a total 1,131,054,540 gallons for the seven-day period.

From March 23 to March 30, the target was 250 cfs. That's 1,131,054,540 gallons for the seven-day period.

That brings total flow to the St. Lucie so far since Oct. 5, 2018 to 9,048,436,341 gallons released from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie.

However, all of that water was not from the lake. The water is measured at the St. Lucie Lock, which is 23.9 miles from the Port Mayaca Lock were the water enters the St. Lucie Canal from Lake Okeechobee. So it's actually less than 9 billion gallons, but just assume the whole 9 billion gallons was from the lake.

Now look at the Caloosahatchee releases. Starting on Oct. 19, the corps has been releasing water to the west, at the request of Lee County officials. The South Florida Water Management District has guaranteed the river 400 cfs flow during the dry season, to help prevent saltwater intrusion. Lee County officials have asked for a minimum of 750 to 800 cfs., even filing a lawsuit over it, and have stated 1,000 cfs would be the ideal dry season flow to the estuaries. Too

little freshwater flow makes the estuaries too saline.

In an effort to improve the health of the Caloosahatchee Estuaries, starting in October, the corps has released 800 to 1,000 cfs to the Caloosahatchee River, as measured at the Franklin Lock. The Franklin Lock is 43.4 miles from the Moore Haven Lock, where lake water enters the river. Along that 43.4 miles, local basin runoff also enters the river. So that flow at the Franklin Lock is a mixture of lake water and local basin runoff.

From Oct. 19 to Jan. 11, Caloosahatchee was 1000 cfs. That's 54,290,544,172 gallons of flow, all to benefit the estuary at the request of Lee County officials.

From Jan. 11 to Jan. 25, Caloosahatchee flow was 850 cfs. That's 7,691,170,900 gallons, also beneficial to the estuary.

From Jan. 25 to Feb. 1, flow was 700 cfs, for a total of 3,166,952,726 gallons.

Feb. 1 to Feb. 23 flow was 1,000 cfs for a total of 13,572,654,543 gallons.

From Feb. 23 to March 23, flow to Caloosahatchee was 1,800 cfs. Beneficial flow of 1,000 cfs totals 18,096,872,724 gallons; extra to lower the lake totals 14,477,498,168 gallons.

From March 23 to March 30, the target for the Caloosahatchee was 1,400 cfs. That's a beneficial flow of 1,000 cfs at 4,525,218,181 gallons total and, extra flow to lower the lake of 400 cfs, totaling 1,808,687,271 gallons.

Beneficial flow to the Caloosahatchee River since Oct. 19 totals 103,152,100,517 gallons or about 8.6 inches of water on Lake Okeechobee

Extra flow from the lake to lower Lake Okeechobee level totals 16,286,195,439 or about 1.4 inches of water on Lake Okeechobee.

To summarize the totals: The water released to the Caloosahatchee River from Oct. 19 to March 30, at the request of Lee County officials for the benefit of the Caloosahatchee estuaries, totaled about 8.6 inches of water on Lake Okeechobee.

The extra water released to the Caloosahatchee River to help lower the lake level totaled about 1.4 inches of water on Lake Okeechobee.

Those numbers assume all of the water that came through the Franklin Lock and the St. Lucie Lock came from Lake Okeechobee. History shows us some of the water that comes through those locks is local basin runoff; how much depends on rainfall in those areas.

So the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers efforts to lower Lake Okeechobee by releasing water to the C-43 and C-44 canals in February and March lowered Lake Okeechobee by a total of 2.15 inches.

The extra releases have stopped (although water still flows to the Caloosahatchee for the benefit of that estuary), and yet the lake level is dropping. Why? Evaporation and percolation are responsible for most of the water that leaves the big lake every year. Water evaporates into the air and percolates through the earth into the aquifer year-round. During the wet season, the loss to evaporation and percolation are offset by water flowing in. During the dry season, with less flow into the lake, the lake level drops. The lake needs the seasonal highs and lows. The lows allow the grasses in the marshes around the edges of the lake to grow, and when the rains come, those areas are flooded, providing spawning areas for fish and cover for small fish. The marshes are also the lake's filter system, removing nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen from the lake.

Water from the lake also flows south, which is its natural flow path, although due to flood control, it now flows through canals instead of sheetflowing over the edge of the lake. Water that flows south from the lake irrigates farms, provides flow to the Water Conservation Areas that send clean water to the Everglades and provides aquifer recharge and some water supply for cities on the lower East Coast.

Walmart prepares to remodel lake area stores

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

ORLANDO — Okeechobee and Clewiston Walmart Supercenters will be remodeled this year. Walmart expects to spend an estimated \$173 million this year in Florida through the opening and remodeling of 34 stores, as well as the launch and continued expansion of several customer-focused innovations.

“Our leadership has a fantastic vision for how we need to evolve and adopt to further position us as a leader in retail innovation, and I’m proud of the work our associates are doing to stay at the forefront of that change,” said Elise Vasquez-Warner, a vice president and regional general manager for Walmart in Florida. “If you consider that almost every innovation being tested in the company right now is happening in our state, you can see why Florida is such an important area geographically for the business. We’re certainly building off

strong momentum from last year to serve our Florida customers in new and exciting ways and help our associates work smarter, easier and faster.”

The following are examples of the customer-focused innovations that will be expanded this year in Florida.

• **Grocery pickup** — Busy customers love Walmart’s grocery pickup option. It gives them the convenience of shopping online and the ease of quickly picking up groceries without having to leave their cars. The best part: It’s all at no additional cost. Walmart plans to expand the popular program to more than 72 additional stores across the state by the end of the year. The company also recently introduced Walmart Voice Order, which allows customers to simply say “Hey Google, talk to Walmart” and the Google Assistant will add items directly to their Walmart Grocery cart.

• **Grocery delivery** — Walmart’s convenient grocery delivery service is also

proving to be a hit with customers. This year, Walmart plans to add the service to 63 stores, increasing its coverage area in the state.

• **Walmart pickup towers** — Walmart Pickup Towers are 16-foot-tall, high-tech vending machines capable of fulfilling a customer’s online order in less than a minute once they arrive at the store. It’s easy to do — once the order is ready, step up to the Pickup Tower and scan the barcode sent to your smartphone to retrieve your item. This year, Walmart plans to add 36 Pickup Towers to stores across the state.

• **Autonomous shelf scanner** — These scanners use automation to scan shelves and help identify where in-stock levels are low, prices are wrong, or labels are missing. In addition, the scanners provide a real-time view of inventory in the store — information used to direct associates to the areas of the store that need the most attention. This year, Walmart plans

to expand the technology to 32 additional stores across the state.

• **FAST unloader** — Today, product is unloaded as it arrives at the store through a complex, highly manual process that has seen little innovation over the last 50 years — until now. A new system in Walmart backrooms — known as FAST — automatically scans and sorts items that come off trucks based on priority and department, allowing associates to spend less time unloading in the backroom and more time on the sales floor with customers. This year, Walmart plans to expand the technology to 88 stores across the state.

• **Autonomous floor scrubber** — The autonomous floor scrubber uses assisted autonomy technology to perform the task of cleaning and scrubbing the concrete floors in stores. The company plans to expand the technology to 112 stores across the state this year.

Glades County in talks about a garbage program

By Chris Felker

Lake Okeechobee News

MOORE HAVEN — As Earth Day came for 2019, Glades County still remained one of a few in Florida where there is no countywide solid waste pickup arrangement for regular trash or recyclables.

Presently, residents must contract themselves with one of the two companies that serve the area, Waste Management and Progressive Waste Solutions. Commissioner John Ahern wants to change that. He said last week that they’re “a ways away” from presenting any formal proposal but that countywide pickup could be established via an assessment on property tax bills, such as is done in neighboring counties including Okeechobee.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Waste Management reports quasi-current statistics on its website pages for how Florida counties are doing on the recycling front. More on that below, but in telling the public how to get involved in recycling efforts, it concludes, “Contact your county recycling coordinators to see how you, your family, your business and your organization can help.”

Unfortunately, not every county has such a designated staff member; Glades County doesn’t really have anyone officially in that particular capacity. It does employ one full-time worker who picks up and processes the contents of several mobile recycling trailers that are placed on a rotating basis at various locations inside Glades County; the cost is offset by yearly grants from FDEP. Only plastic jugs or bottles, cardboard and paper are recycled here at present. That could change fairly soon, too, however.

Commissioner Ahern reported at the April 9 board meeting that establishing mandated participation in a countywide solid waste pickup program and perhaps a better recycling program are “another project we’re working on.”

“Yesterday, Mr. (County Manager Martin)

Murphy, David Miller (the Moore Haven city manager) and I met with Jeff Sabin and Tony Bishop of Waste Management to talk about the possible mandatory garbage pickup for the county.”

Then Mr. Ahern addressed County Board Chairman Tim Stanley. “Mr. Chairman, Jeff Sabin, I guess, has worked with you on Buckhead, and ... he’s going to reach out to you in the near future and talk about that again. But we just started that, so it’s something we’re working on.”

Mr. Stanley lives in Buckhead Ridge, at the north end of the county.

One county resident, Diane Cianfrani, plans to present a petition opposing a countwide assessment on tax bills to pay for mandatory pickup and says she has about 175 signatures so far.

The FDEP’s waste division says although



Lake Okeechobee News/Chris Felker
This is one of Glades County’s recyclables trailers; it’s policed and emptied regularly.

the state has a 75% recycling rate goal for 2020 — that’s next year — the statewide rate was only 54% in 2015, just meeting the 50% target rate specified by then in Florida statute. Twenty counties led the way with 2015 recycling rates reaching and exceeding the 50 percent interim recycling goal.

As of Jan. 1, 2015, the department also recognized over 30 businesses and other organizations with a recycling rate of at least 50 percent. The challenge, DEP says, is for the recycling efforts of other counties, businesses and governmental agencies to match or exceed those leading the pack.

Says DEP’s waste reduction main webpage: “Each of us and our families can contribute by continuing to recycle as much as possible from our homes. With strong recycling programs and strong participation

from businesses, governmental agencies, organizations, families and individuals, we can get Florida to 75% by 2020. Contact your county recycling coordinators to see how you, your family, your business and your organization can help.”

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Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/Larry Fresolone

Deputies take time to play ball

OKEECHOBEE – Two Okeechobee County sheriff's deputies, Ivan Aristy (left) and Robert Gonzalez (right), took time out of their busy day to stop and play kickball with children at a local private school, Okeechobee Church of the Trinity, when they saw the children outside. The kids had a great time, and their teacher, Holly Garrett, was very grateful.

Man accused of murder

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/OCSO

OKEECHOBEE — An Okeechobee man has been charged with second-degree murder in connection with the death of his wife.

On Friday, April 19, at 6:41 a.m., Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office dispatch received a 911 call. The caller advised that his wife tried to kill him, and he thought she was dead.

Deputies responded to the 33000



Kevin Hughes

of Northwest 192nd Avenue, Okeechobee. Deputies then made contact with the victim's husband, Kevin Franklin Hughes, 34. Deputies found the victim, 40-year-old Jennifer Minnette Benson-Hughes, lying in the front yard, deceased.

After further investigation, Hughes was arrested and charged with second-degree Murder.

Hughes is being held with no bond.

This is an ongoing investigation.

Crime Stoppers

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

PALM BEACH COUNTY — Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County needs your help in locating Wilson Poola, 36, white, male, 5 feet 6 inches tall, 240 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes, and he has multiple tattoos.

His last known address was at large in South Bay.

Poola is wanted on a warrant for failure to appear to answer to charges of leaving the scene of a crash involving serious bodily injury, and driving without a license causing



Mug Box

serious bodily injury/death. He is also wanted for violation of supervised own recognizance for charges of leaving the scene of a crash involving serious bodily injury, and driving without a license causing serious bodily injury/death.

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.

PBSO reminds to call 911 if packages look suspicious

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

WEST PALM BEACH – A resident living in Golden Lakes in Palm Beach County found a suspicious package containing a white substance outside his residence. The resident made the decision to pick up the package and transport it in his vehicle to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) headquarters.

The PBSO lobby and PBC courts were

immediately put on lockdown until PBSO Explosive Ordnance Disposal arrived and tested the substance. The unknown substance did have a trace amount of a dangerous substance. The substance was safely packaged and entered into PBSO evidence.

PBSO reminds the public to never pick up or handle anything that appears to be suspicious and to call 911.

Pahokee man arrested after high speed chase

By Cathy Womble

Lake Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE – On Friday afternoon, April 19, a Pahokee man allegedly led law enforcement on a chase through downtown Okeechobee, almost causing multiple collisions before finally crashing into the bollards protecting the generator at the Okeechobee City Fire Department and then into the generator itself before finally stopping. According to the police report, Okeechobee Police Department Officer Raul Marrero responded to a call pertaining to a reckless driver traveling westbound on State Road 70 East heading into the city, followed by Deputy Bryan Holden of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office.

Officer Marrero was told the suspect vehicle was a teal pickup truck with front end damage, and he spotted the vehicle around the 1300 block of State Road 70 East, but when he activated his siren and lights, the driver did not stop and instead, took evasive action straddling the center lane of the highway from the 1200 block to the 900 block. As they approached the signal at Eighth Avenue, this slowed the driver down, and Officer Marrero attempted to block his exit by taking the turning lane, but the driver reportedly edged his car forward trying to make the other cars move, and the vehicle in front of him moved out of his way to avoid being hit. The driver continued toward the patrol car as if to hit it, but at the last minute, he went behind it and



Genaro Medrano

the chase began again.

At the 700 block, he reportedly drove against oncoming traffic in another attempt to elude capture, but by this time, Sgt. Skip Eddings had joined the chase. Officer Marrero attempted to slow the vehicle down by getting in front of him and slowing his own vehicle down. By the 400 block, they almost had him stopped when he once again

turned into oncoming traffic causing the oncoming vehicles to stop suddenly to avoid collision.

Finally, the vehicle entered the City Hall parking lot, and Deputy Hayles, Sgt. Eddings and Officer Marrero followed him into the lot. Officer Marrero used his vehicle to block the exit to the lot, and the driver reportedly tried to make him move by driving toward him, but when he saw that he was not going to move, he jerked his vehicle to the left at the last minute and hit the bollards protecting the fire department's generator and then hit the generator itself, which finally caused the vehicle to stop.

The driver was identified as Genaro Medrano, 41. There was reportedly a strong odor of alcohol coming from his body, and an open bottle of cold beer was spilled on the seat and floorboard of the truck. Medrano refused treatment by EMS and was taken to the Okeechobee County Jail. He was charged with DUI with property damage, fleeing and eluding at high speed with no regard, aggravated assault on law enforcement and driving without a license. Bond was set at \$60,000.

Publishers Clearing House calls may be scam

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

Publishers Clearing House is famous for showing up on people's doorsteps with larger-than-life checks for millions of dollars. For many, answering the door to find that they won one of the grand prizes would be a dream come true.

Scammers know just how popular these sweepstakes are, and they've found a way to capitalize.

If you're someone who dreams of getting that special knock on your door someday, you need to be aware of a new scam to steal your money and make it nearly impossible to recover.

If Publishers Clearing House calls you, it's a scam.

On July 21, the Federal Trade Commission released a statement outlining a new scam involving Publishers Clearing House:

According to the statement, people pretending to be from Publishers Clearing House call consumers and tell them they've won a grand prize. The scammers then request a money transfer to pay for fees and

taxes, saying they need the funds before they can issue the prize.

Most scammers request the money through Western Union, MoneyGram or a prepaid card. Receiving the money through these third parties makes it almost impossible to trace, meaning consumers may never recover it.

The FTC writes that anyone who requests you send money to claim a prize is part of a scam. Additionally, Publishers Clearing House says it will never call you about a prize and will never ask anyone to pay to receive one.

If you've received a call from a scammer pretending to be with Publishers Clearing House, report it to the FTC.

Criminals who seek to separate you from your money are everywhere, so protect yourself by creating strong passwords and learning what to do if you think you've been scammed.



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 Citizens Village
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NEW! DIAL-A-RIDE

Dial-A-Ride service will be provided to the area from Bacom Point Rd. between Hooker Hwy. and Carissa Dr. in Pahokee, transporting passengers to a bus stop.



Go Glades is a pilot program, and continued service will be based on actual use.

Florida Forever acquisition to preserve habitat



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/Carlton Ward

The Okeechobee Headwaters project land in Okeechobee County will protect wildlife habitat.

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has officially acquired 1,992 acres in Okeechobee County located within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge. This acquisition is part of the Triple Diamond Florida Forever Project and conserves significant dry prairie habitat, as well as other high-quality habitats in an area of Florida known for its rare vertebrate wildlife, globally imperiled natural communities and significant hydrological initiatives.

The permanent protection of the property was made possible through the acquisition work of the Open Space Institute (OSI)

with the support of the Wyss Foundation. OSI purchased the land from the Wold family, who has actively managed the tract as a native range since 1976. OSI conveyed the property to DEP's Division of State Lands on April 17.

"This acquisition represents a successful multi-agency public and nonprofit partnership to protect property within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge," said DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein. "By working together, we are now permanently protecting nearly 2,000 more acres of high-quality, critical natural lands, which brings us to more than half of the area identified within the Triple Diamond Project."

"By permanently protecting these biologically rich grasslands in the heart of the Everglades Headwater National Wildlife Refuge, the Open Space Institute is thrilled to convey this property to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection," said Open Space Institute President and CEO Kim Elliman. "Thanks to all the partners who made this large-scale conservation project a reality, in particular the Wyss Foundation. Through their commitment and dedication, this nationally significant and unique landscape will continue to protect wildlife habitat and water quality forever, both in the immediate area and downstream into the Everglades."

"The Everglades headwaters are renowned for their incredible array of wildlife and raw beauty. Today is an exciting day for Floridians and all Americans who have secured this important piece of one of our

nation's crown jewels," said Wyss Foundation President Molly McUsic. "Permanently protecting Triple Diamond Ranch will safeguard this unique natural area for future generations, conserving one of the most biologically diverse places in the United States, and securing a critical source of freshwater for downstream communities."

With the acquisition, more than half of this project has been acquired. The parcel is bordered by Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. Other public lands in the near vicinity include Avon Park Air Force Range, Bombing Range Ridge, Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area and Blue Cypress Conservation Area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is purchasing the adjacent tract.

"The acquisition of Triple Diamond will preserve significant dry prairie, a globally imperiled natural community that supports a myriad of rare species, while providing

excellent recreational opportunities," said Julie Morris of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. "The conservation of this intact and well-managed landscape will protect thousands of acres of high-quality habitat within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and significantly contribute to the protection of water quality and quantity in the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee watershed."

Florida Forever is the state's conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving our natural resources and renewing our commitment to conserve our natural and cultural heritage. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands is Florida's lead agency for environmental management and stewardship.

Congress asked to make Florida home to Space Force

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — House Memorial 1281 by Rep. Tyler Sirois (R-Cocoa) was passed unanimously April 17 by the Florida House of Representatives. It requests Congress to approve the creation of the United States Space Force and establishment of its headquarters in Florida. The memorial follows a recent White House proposal by President Trump, and Gov. Ron DeSantis's call for the Space Force to be headquartered in Florida.

To determine the location, the U.S. Department of Defense is conducting a study on the merits of each proposed location. On Wednesday, Rep. Sirois reached out to officials at the Pentagon for further information on the study. During his remarks on the House floor, Rep. Sirois invited President Trump to visit Florida's Space Coast to review the spaceport infrastructure and to meet with the area's workforce.

In a letter to President Trump, Rep. Sirois wrote: "Florida is the ideal choice to serve as headquarters for this new branch of our nation's armed forces. Within Brevard County, on Florida's Space Coast, we have

the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, the Naval Ordnance Testing Unit at Port Canaveral, and Patrick Air Force Base — home of the 45th Space Wing. We have a robust and growing commercial aerospace sector that promotes a culture of innovation and agility. We have a civilian workforce highly skilled in avionics, advanced manufacturing, and modeling, simulation and training."

In remarks on the House floor, Rep. Sirois added: "As Florida finds itself competing with other states for the many workforce and economic benefits that accompany a new military installation, I believe Florida is the ideal choice for the headquarters of this new military command. I think Floridians, more than any other state, recognize the space program as an enduring symbol of American leadership — or as Michael Mitchell, a Space Shuttle engineer, put it: a personification of 'what a great people can do.'"

Upon approval by the Florida Legislature, copies of the memorial will be delivered to members of Congress and President Trump.

Elks now serving burgers

OKEECHOBEE — Lake Okeechobee Elks now has burgers and fries every Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. They are located at 131 N.W. 36th St. across from Circle K.

GCPA opens thrift store

MOORE HAVEN — A Bountiful Barn Thrift Store, 442 U.S. 27, Moore Haven. (next door to Cafe 27) is now open with an assortment of clothes, shoes, toys, TVs, lamps, furniture, mirrors, artwork, pictures, jewelry and home decor, as well as antiques and collectibles and much more at reasonable prices. The store is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, email bountifulbarn-thrift@gmail.com or call 863-990-2112. The Glades County Pastoral Association (GCPA) will use the proceeds from sales to help those in need during disasters, with a food and clothing pantry.

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Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

Airboaters, 4-Hers team up to clean up Lake Okeechobee

The Lake Okeechobee Airboaters Association and the Okeechobee County 4-H Sharpshooters Club once again teamed up for an Earth Day project on April 20, with a cleanup of Lake Okeechobee. The airboaters, 4-Hers and their families gathered up trash and debris from along the shoreline and the shallow areas of the lake. Teams competed to see which one could gather the most trash and debris, and who could find the most unusual discarded items.



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lives in the operating room.

Several years ago, Dr. Fox was dealing with chronic health conditions. He then tried **medical marijuana**. Unlike traditional medicine, **medical marijuana** has helped him get back on his feet and start living an active life again. Because of the positive changes in his life, Dr. Fox chooses to care for patients and spread the word about the benefits of **medical marijuana**.



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Veterans News

Legion to host events

OKEECHOBEE — American Legion Post 64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host the following events: On Wednesday, **April 24**, there will be margaritas and tacos from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. with music by Jay from 3 to 6 p.m. On Thursday, **April 25**, there will be lunch/dinner from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Friday, **April 26**, there will be a fish fry from 5 to 8 p.m. with a choice of fish, shrimp or chicken in a basket for \$6 or on a salad for \$7. Music will be provided by The Nashville Voice, Jerry Allen, from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, **April 27**, is college game day with \$9 buckets of domestic beer. On Sunday, **April 28**, there will be a Nascar Talladega tailgate party at 2 p.m. The doors will open at 5 p.m. and the kitchen will be open from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. On Monday, **April 29**, there will be five-card bingo from 1 to 3 p.m. with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. For more information, please call 863-763-5309.

VFW plans events

OKEECHOBEE — VFW Post 4423, 300 N.W. 34th St., will host the following events: On Wednesday, **April 24**, there will be an eight-ball pool tournament at 7:30 p.m. and the grill opens at 5 p.m. On Friday, **April 26**, bingo will start at 1 p.m., the grill will open at 5 p.m., and there will be Karaoke by Jerry Harmon from 7 to 10 p.m. On Saturday, **April 27**, bingo starts at

1 p.m. On Sunday, **April 28**, there will be smothered chicken with mashed potatoes or rice from 1 to 3 p.m.

VFW Post 9528 host events

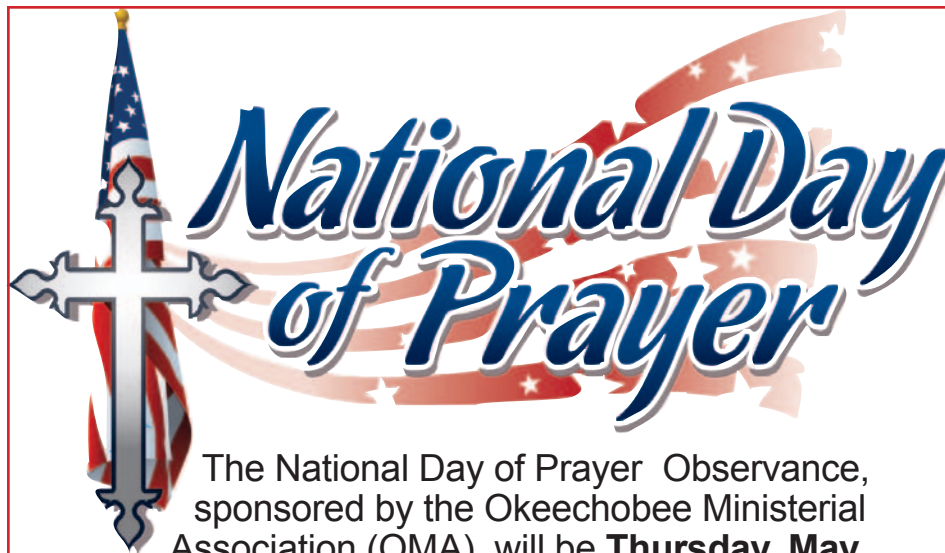
BUCKHEAD RIDGE – The VFW Post 9528, 29012 State Road 78 East in Buckhead Ridge, will host the following events: The Post will serve a beef ribs, mashed potatoes, gravy, and dessert dinner on Wednesday, **April 24**, at 5 p.m. The Post will serve dinner on Friday, **April 26**, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Menu includes grilled boneless rib eye steak, grilled pork tenderloin, fried fish and shrimp, baked and French fried potatoes, baked sweet potatoes, fried onion rings, salad, and dessert. Music by Ray Johnson from 6 to 10 p.m. The VFW Riders will serve a full breakfast from 8:30 to 11 a.m. and wings at 4 p.m. on Saturday, **April 27**. Proceeds benefit veteran services. For information, call 863-467-2882.

We want your news

AmVets hosts bingo

OKEECHOBEE — AmVets will hold five card bingo at the American Legion Post #64, 501 S.E. Second St., on Sunday, April 28 and Tuesday, April 30, from 2 to 4 p.m. For information, call 863-763-5309.

Veterans organizations around Lake Okeechobee are invited to share news in this column. Email news to okeeneews@newszap.com.



The National Day of Prayer Observance, sponsored by the Okeechobee Ministerial Association (OMA), will be **Thursday, May 2nd at noon on the lawn between the historic courthouse and the judicial building.**

The observance was initially begun in 1952 by President Eisenhower. All aspects of life are prayed for by the OMA members and various community leaders.

The faith-based kindergarten students will sing *God Bless America* and other music will be provided.

Pizza and a beverage will be provided by the Kiwanis. Come and participate in this opportunity to pray for our wonderful community of Okeechobee. Bring a lawn chair!

Post #64
501 SE 2nd St
Okeechobee
763-5309

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

MUSIC 3-6 JAY

TACO WEDNESDAY 11-6

Margarita Special

4-24

Register for a \$20 bar tab

THIRSTY THURSDAY Food 11-6

4-25

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

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

Music by JERRY ALLEN 5-8PM

4-26

SATURDAY:

College game day
 Come tailgate with us!

Bucket of Beer \$9

4-27

SUNDAY: Bingo ~Doors Open 5PM

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

Join Us for Nascar @ Talladega

4-28

MONDAY: 5 Card Bingo 1-3PM

LUNCH served at 12:30 PM

4-29

TUESDAY: Food Available Meeting Day

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What's in Season Now?

Look for these "Fresh From Florida" items in your grocery store during **April**

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 Strawberries	 Cabbage	 Eggplant	 Peanuts	 Sweet Corn	 Cantaloupe	 Grapefruit
 Potatoes	 Tangerines	 Carrots	 Guava	 Radishes	 Tomatoes	 Cauliflower
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For the *Health* of it!

Residents, visitors urged to get measles vaccine

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

MOORE HAVEN — With the increase in measles cases across the United States, the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) is urging Floridians and visitors who have not been immunized to get vaccinated.

Although measles was thought to be eradicated in the United States in 2000, the disease has reappeared in recent months in the form of outbreaks in several states. The Centers for Disease Control and Health Protection (CDC) defines a measles outbreak as three or more cases. As of April 17, 2019, one measles case has been reported to FDOH.

About Measles

Measles is an acute, highly contagious viral disease. Although it is usually considered a childhood disease, it can be contracted at any age. Generally, preschool children, adolescents, young adults and inadequately immunized individuals comprise the majority of measles cases in the U.S.

Measles is spread through the air by breathing, coughing or sneezing and is highly contagious. The symptoms of measles generally begin approximately seven to 14 days after a person is exposed to someone with measles. Symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough and rash. Anyone who

has these symptoms should contact his or her healthcare provider. There is no specific treatment for measles.

Vaccination urged

The best way to protect yourself and your family against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases is by immunization. In Florida, children should be immunized against measles with the combination measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR) and should receive two doses, with the first at 12 to 15 months of age, and the second at 4 to 6 years of age.

Adults should be vaccinated with at least one dose of MMR vaccine, with a second

dose recommended for those at higher risk such as international travelers and health care workers. People with underlying health conditions should discuss with their health care provider to determine the need for additional booster doses.

For more information on measles visit floridahealth.gov/measles.

Heart Association opposes local bill

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — The American Heart Association is speaking out against the state overreach found in House Bill 1299, a bill supported by tobacco companies and other corporate interests, which blocks local governments from doing more to protect the well-being of their communities. The bill, which has passed from the Florida House Commerce Committee, includes removing local ability to regulate tobacco marketing, taxation and minimum legal sales age.

The statement from Mark Landreth, Florida government relations director for the American Heart Association:

“House Bill 1299 would make it impossible for local communities to pass laws that would help protect children from tobacco and nicotine addiction. Big Tobacco spends more than \$600 million to target children in our state. This is about our communities, our health and our voices, and when states block communities from passing common-sense laws that protect their citizens, there are consequences. In this case, the victims will sadly be a new generation of Floridians struggling with the burden of tobacco addiction.

“In Florida, counties and cities currently have the option to build on state progress. For example, Alachua County has taken local initiative, already passing a law that increases the minimum legal sale age of tobacco products to 21, and many other Florida counties have expressed interest in doing so.

“But if the state overreach in House Bill

1299 passes, these jurisdictions will be unable to pass policies to protect the quality of life and health of their citizens. Florida’s state laws often provide a foundation which local governments can build upon, rather than a ceiling they cannot break. This bill, however, silences communities, and would be a big win for the tobacco companies hoping to prey on our children.”

Ombudsman program seeks volunteers

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

Ombudsman volunteers visit all the nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Palm Beach, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties.

There are around 20,000 long-term care beds in close to 400 facilities in these counties. These residents are served by about 40 volunteers. The volunteer ombudsmen are authorized to investigate and determine the presence of conditions that constitute a threat to the health, safety, welfare, or rights of residents of long-term care facilities. Ombudsman is very proud

of the dedicated service of these volunteers.

A few hours of your time helps protect people in nursing homes. Apply to become a state-certified volunteer long-term care ombudsman. Meal and mileage reimbursement included. For information, call 888-831-0404 or visit ombudsman.myflorida.com.

The Florida Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, administratively housed at the Department of Elder Affairs, seeks to improve the quality of life and care for all Florida long-term care residents.



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For the *Health* of it!

Health News

Dementia info program set

SOUTH BAY — An education program to learn more about dementia will be held on Saturday, **April 27**, from 10 a.m. to noon at Greater Union Missionary Baptist Church, 249 N.W. Ninth Ave. There will be a continental breakfast from 9 to 10 a.m. Learn about the differences in normal age-related memory loss and signs or symptoms of dementia.

Health conference set

BELLE GLADE — There will be a Community Health and Wellness Conference on Tuesday, **May 30**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center, 1977 College Drive. For more information, contact Linda Warren at 561-779-6734 or Coretha Moore-Smith at 561-889-4815.

Diabetes workshop planned

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. The workshops will be on Wednesdays, April 30, May 7, May 14, and May 21, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. 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.

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.



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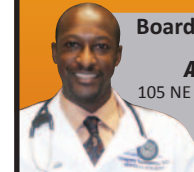


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TRIBE

Continued From Page 1

The tribe's objections to the EAA Reservoir plan, voiced at the April meeting of the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board, may have come as a surprise to the new board members, some of whom who are still struggling to learn the basics of the watershed issues. But the news came as no surprise to new SFWMD Executive Director Drew Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett, who previously worked for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, was copied on a Jan. 8, 2018, letter in which Miccosukee Tribe Chairman Billy Cypress documented these same concerns.

In the letter, Mr. Cypress urged the SFWMD to first address the need to increase flow under the Tamiami Trail before going ahead with projects that will stack up more water north of the roadway. A project of major concern to the tribe is the EAA reservoir, which was approved in 2017 by Florida Senate Bill 10.

"The tribe objects to the requirement that the water storage must be located in the EAA," Mr. Cypress wrote. "Water storage north of Lake Okeechobee makes much more sense. The requirement for southern storage was a blatant attempt to force the purchase of the sugar industry land, something pushed by environmentalists. Naturally, the farmers objected and the end result was language prohibiting the use of eminent domain being added to the bill."

The Miccosukee Tribe has a Federal Reservation and leased lands within the northern portion of Water Conservation Area 3A (WCA 3A), which is south of the EAA. Due to the proximity of the recommended plan to these lands, the tribe has expressed concerns over the conversion of the Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) to a deep water storage reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee.

In the 2018 letter, the Miccosukee Tribe states that Flow Equalization Basins provide critical water quality benefits that a deep reservoir cannot provide.

The Miccosukee Tribe also expressed concern that discharges from the STA will not meet the Tribal Water Quality Standards of 10 parts per billion total phosphorus or less. The tribe supports the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and the resto-

ration of the Everglades; however, the tribe believes that Everglades restoration should require "more clean water," states the letter.

The Miccosukee Tribe asserts that the lack of water flow under the Tamiami Trail has caused "discriminatory flooding of tribal lands" and that the planned EAA reservoir will cause more flooding of polluted water within their reservation and leased lands. The Miccosukee Tribe recommends that the decompartmentalization of the Everglades through construction of Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), the opening of the S-12 gates (water control structures that control flow under the trail), and the maintenance of culverts on the L-67 and L-29 levees take priority over construction of the reservoir.

Mr. Cypress explained that the tribal

lands are already often frequently flooded.

"Currently, the Corps of Engineers and SFWMD can put water about six times faster into the WCA-3A than they can release it into Everglades National Park (ENP). Each year the discriminatory flooding of tribal lands occurs. Water year 2017 was particularly damaging to tribal tree islands and wildlife in the Everglades. Starting in June 2017 and lasting until January 2018, six months of persistent flooding existed on tribal lands. This is totally unacceptable. The state and federal agencies are killing the tribe's homelands, our beloved Everglades. This is not 'shared adversity!' The ultimate insult to the tribe happened during the days leading up to Hurricane Irma making landfall. Anticipating further flooding, the tribe asked for flood control

pumps and we were denied. The tribe was told to seek flood relief from FEMA after the flooding of their homes had occurred. The very agencies who denied flood pumps are the ones who pumped flood waters into tribal lands, causing widespread damage," he wrote. "No other entity is required to endure six months of discriminatory flooding." The letter sent to then-SFWMD Executive Director Ernie Marks was signed by Seminole Tribe Chairman Billy Cypress, and was also copied to the Tribe's Business Council, Trey Glenn of the Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Sen. Joe Negron, the Florida Legislature, Col. Jason Kirk of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Shannon Estenez of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and Everglades National Park Superintendent Pedro Ramos.

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Jimmy McMillan Memorial Tourney is May 11

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

BELLE GLADE — The Jimmy McMillan Memorial Bass Tournament will take place on Saturday, May 11, from safe light until 3 p.m., ending with the weigh-in at Torry Island Campground & Marina. There is a guaranteed \$2,000 prize for first place. The field is limited to 250 boats and the entry fee is \$60. The second Big Bass takes a \$100 gift card donated by Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters; the highest finishing team wearing their current shirt will receive a \$50 gift card. Call 954-543-2337 for more information. Proceeds from this and other fundraisers goes to a special fund, said Connie McMillan Deaton.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/OCSO

No one kneels alone

OKEECHOBEE – Richard Schmetz of High Springs visited the Okeechobee County Sheriff’s Office on April 15, and presented Okeechobee County Sheriff Noel Stephen with a handmade cypress clock that is now proudly on display in the hallway of the administration office. The clocks are being presented by 82-year-old Mr. Schmetz to every sheriff within the State of Florida as a thank-you for all that the law enforcement community stands for. Mr. Schmetz received his inspiration after the senseless murder of two Gilchrist County deputies while they were sitting down eating lunch within that county last year. He plans to present clocks to law enforcement agencies in all 67 counties in Florida. This week, Mr. Schmetz said he finished his 57th clock. So far he has delivered 53 of them. Fifty of those were delivered personally, but three were sent via UPS. “I wanted to do something after those murders,” he said, “but I didn’t know what. I had made these clocks before and thought they might be a nice idea. They are all so appreciative, but they are the ones who deserve the recognition. I hope this inspires someone else to be kind.”



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COLT

Continued From Page 1



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Steve's horse explodes during its first time with a saddle on.

By day two of the competition, she said, trainers will be riding loosely together through the arena, then each trainer will have 12 minutes to ride their horse through an obstacle course. Judges will assign points to each trainer to determine the winner, who will walk away with a commemorative buckle.

Mrs. Beatty said her husband was inspired to launch Colt Starting Challenge USA about eight years ago after watching a friend participate in a similar event.

"He felt it was awesome to see and learned how to do it," she said. "We decided to make it our business."

They put on about 20 of the popular events each year all over the U.S., mainly at Horse Expos but also at their own hosted events. Horses are brought in from surrounding communities and must be between two and four years of age that have been halter-broke but never have been saddled, bridled or ridden. Trainers, who must have already started 50 to 100 horses or more, are randomly matched with a colt and wear cordless microphones so they can explain what they're doing to crowds.

"It draws a huge audience because it's unique and interesting," Mrs. Beatty said. "Performances are always different due to the individual styles of trainers, and horses are all different temperaments and breeds. It's never the same."

One thing all trainers have in common, she said, is their use of Natural Horsemanship methods. Contest rules prohibit the use of items such as spurs or leg restraints. The key, she said, is to build initial trust with the horse.

"Most of the time, they just ride them with a halter," she said. "Natural Horsemanship methods of horse training speeds up the process of gentling and riding a horse."

Mrs. Beatty said spectators, no matter who they are or how much they know about horses, can learn a lot from watching the training process unfold before their eyes.

For more information about the competition, and to see a great action video, visit coltstartingchallengeusa.com.

FISH

Continued From Page 1

The roundup is a three-day event that is open to teams of one to four anglers, fishing from shore or boat in the Southwest Florida CISMA area (Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties) with prizes awarded to the top team in various categories. The goal of this event is to encourage the public to target invasive species while fishing and to promote awareness of the potential negative impacts of releasing invasive species into Florida's waterways. This is an opportunity for Southwest Florida CISMA and the FWC to gather information about invasive fish distribution and abundance, both of which may help with future management of invasive fish species.

"The FWC and our partners encourage the removal and consumptive use of captured nonnative freshwater fish," said Sarah Funck, FWC Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Program coordinator. "Removing these invasive species from our waters can benefit native natural resources."

This event is free but pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, visit FloridaInvasives.org/Southwest.

In addition to special event opportunities such as this one, the FWC encourages the public to report nonnative species sightings utilizing the "IveGot1" app for Apple or Android or online at IveGot1.org.

The FWC also provides opportunities throughout the year for the public to surrender unwanted nonnative pets to be placed with pre-approved adopters without penalty at a one-day-only Exotic Pet Amnesty Day or year-round by calling the FWC's Exotic Species Hotline at 888-Ive-Got1 (888-483-4681).

For more information about freshwater invasive fish species in Florida, visit MyFWC.com/Nonnatives and click on "Freshwater Fish."

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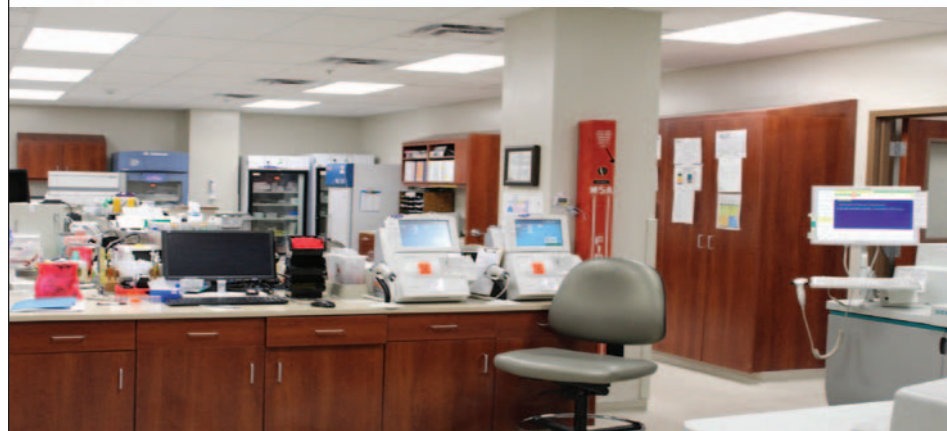
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Hendry County BOCC is seeking applications for a full-time **Highway Maintenance Technician I**. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 3, 2019 at the Human Resources Department, 640 South Main Street, LaBelle, FL 33935. A complete job posting and application forms are available on the Hendry County website at www.hendryfla.net.

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

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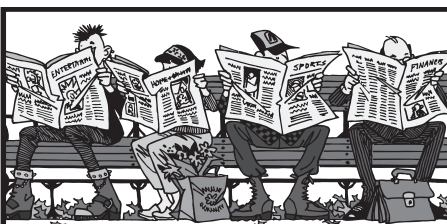
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

2001 DODGE RAM 3500 3B6MC36631M503515

2002 BUICK CENTURY 2G4WS521421143320

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

333439 ON 04/24/2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Glades County Sheriff's Office has found and impounded a cow from the Muse area near Loblolly Bay Road. Please contact Detective Sergeant Daryl Sherley at 863-946-1600 ext 2111 if you have any information or to retrieve the cow. 330505 ON 4/14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26/2019

Administration of Estates

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 472019CP000034

IN RE: ESTATE OF REBA WINCHESTER
Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the Estate of **REBA WINCHESTER**, deceased, whose date of death was October 10, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 Northwest 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with 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 PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is April 24, 2019.

Personal Representative: JOAN SHULTS

Attorney for Personal Representative: JAMES P. COVEY, ESQ. Florida Bar No. 846880 1575 Indian River Boulevard Suite C-120 Vero Beach, FL 32960 Telephone: 772-770-1600 Facsimile: 772-770-6076 Email: courtentail@coveylaw.com 332846 ON 4/24/5/1/2019

Public Notice

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE MAIN HANGAR AT LABELLE AIRPORT IN HENDRY COUNTY

RFQ No. 2019-19

Opening Date and Time: May 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Hendry County is seeking firms interested in providing construction management services in connection with the repair of the main hangar at LaBelle Airport in Hendry County, Florida. Firms submitting must have expertise in construction management services, construction, and construction engineering and inspection services. Proposers shall have all services available in-house or may propose multiple firms, which have joined together to provide the various required disciplinary services in order to offer a complete submission. Individuals and firms properly registered in the State of Florida are encouraged to submit their qualifications for consideration. All submittals (see Part IV, Submission Requirements) received in response to this RFQ will be reviewed by a County Evaluation Committee. In order to be considered, submittals must be received by the Board of County Commissioners at the C. E. Hall Building (Clerk's Office) in the Hendry County Courthouse Complex, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida by 2:00 p.m., May 8, 2019, at which time all responses to this request will be recorded in the presence of one (1) or more witnesses.

A copy of the Instructions and RFQ Documents can be obtained from the Hendry County Engineering Office, by email at konan@hendryfla.net, online at www.hendryfla.net, or by calling (863) 675-5222. Instructions and RFQ documents will be emailed upon request.

The solicitation does not commit Hendry County to award any contracts, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFQ, or to contract for any services. The County reserves the right to reject any or all submittals received as a result of this solicitation, or to cancel in part or in its entirety this RFQ, if it is in the best interest of the County to do so. The County may re-procure at the discretion of the Board.

Hendry County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Si necesita la asistencia de un interprete que hable espanol para participar en esta reunion, por favor pongase en contacto con Veronica Gonzalez al (863) 675-5324. 330658 LO 4/17/24/5/1 CB 4/18/25/5/2/2019

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE HENDRY COUNTY JAIL AND JAIL ANNEX PROJECTS

RFQ No. 2019-15

Opening Date and Time: May 1, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Hendry County is seeking firms interested in providing construction management services in connection with construction projects for the Hendry County Jail and Jail Annex. Firms submitting must have expertise in construction management services, construction, and construction engineering and inspection services. Proposers shall have all services available in-house or may propose multiple firms, which have joined together to provide the various required disciplinary services in order to offer a complete submission. Individuals and firms properly registered in the State of Florida are encouraged to submit their qualifications for consideration. All submittals (see Part IV, Submission Requirements) received in response to this RFQ will be reviewed by a County Evaluation Committee. In order to be considered, submittals must be received by the Board of County Commissioners at the C. E. Hall Building (Clerk's Office) in the Hendry County Courthouse Complex, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida by 2:00 p.m., May 1, 2019 at which time all responses to this request will be recorded in the presence of one (1) or more witnesses.

A copy of the Instructions and RFQ Documents can be obtained from the Hendry County Administration, by email at traconobles@hendryfla.net, online at www.hendryfla.net, or by calling (863) 675-5220. Instructions and RFQ documents will be emailed upon request.

The solicitation does not commit Hendry County to award any contracts, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFQ, or to contract for any services. The County reserves the right to reject any or all submittals received as a result of this solicitation, or to cancel in part or in its entirety this RFQ, if it is in the best interest of the County to do so. The County may re-procure at the discretion of the Board.

Hendry County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Si necesita la asistencia de un interprete que hable espanol para participar en esta reunion, por favor pongase en contacto con Patricia Ayala (863) 675-5220. CN 4/3,10,17,24 CB 4/4,11,18,25/2019

INVITATION TO BID CONSTRUCTION SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE 16th TERRACE IMPROVEMENTS, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

Bid No. 2019-18

OPENING DATE AND TIME: MAY 22, 2019 at 2:00 P.M.

Sealed Bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida, for "Construction Services in connection with the 16th Terrace Improvements, Hendry County, Florida". In order to be considered, bids must be received by the Board of County Commissioners, c/o the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Attn: Barbara Butler, at the C.E. Hall Building, Room A-226, Hendry County Courthouse Complex, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida by **May 22, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**, at which time all responses to this request will be recorded in the presence of one or more witnesses.

A copy of the Instructions and Bid Documents can be obtained online at www.hendryfla.net under the Public Information tab, or from the Hendry County Engineering Department, located at 99 E Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida (for pick up), or by calling (863) 675-5222.

Firms are encouraged to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference** on **Wednesday, May 15, 2019, at 1:00 PM** at the Engineering Department, 99 East Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida 33935.

The solicitation does not commit Hendry County to award any contracts, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFQ, or to contract for any services. The County reserves the right to reject any or all submittals received as a result of this solicitation, or to cancel in part or in its entirety this RFQ, if it is in the best interest of the County to do so. The County may re-procure at the discretion of the Board.

Hendry County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Si necesita la asistencia de un interprete que hable espanol para participar en esta reunion, por favor pongase en contacto con Veronica Gonzalez al (863) 675-5324. 332136 CN 4/24/5/1,8,15/2019 CB 4/25/2,9,16/2019

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

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

Public Notice

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE OF WORK PLAN

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to "The Water Rights Compact Among the Seminole Tribe of Florida, The State of Florida, and The South Florida Water Management District", the **6th Amendment to the 32nd Annual Work Plan** of the Seminole Tribe of Florida has been submitted to the South Florida Water Management District (District).

The Seminole Tribe of Florida (Tribe), 6073 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33024, has submitted, on April 16, 2019, the **6th Amendment to the 32nd Annual Work Plan**. The Work Plan describes existing and proposed activities on Seminole land. The work proposed includes two (2) projects in the Big Cypress Reservation and one (1) project in the Brighton Reservation: **Big Cypress Reservation - 1) NW Canal Street Force Main Connection -** The Tribe is proposing to install approximately 140' of linear wastewater utilities within the District's right-of-way along NW Canal Street. The 140' of piping will connect new homesites with existing utility services. The project has no wetland impacts. 2) Joshua Jumper 4" EQIP Well - The Tribe is proposing to install one (1) 4" water well for livestock operations consumption. **Brighton Reservation - 1) USGS Monitoring Stations -** The Tribe is proposing to construct two (2) new USGS Advanced Doppler Velocity Meters within the District's canal right-of-way. The project has no wetland impacts. The Brighton Reservation is located in Glades County, Township 40 South, Range 32 East; Township 39 South, Range 32 East; Township 39 South, Range 33 East; Township 38 South, Range 33 East. The Irmoakalee Reservation is located in Collier County, Section 11, Township 47 South, Range 29 East. The Big Cypress Reservation is located in Broward County, Township 48 South, Range 35 East, and in Hendry County, Township 47 South, Ranges 32-34 East. The Hollywood Reservation is located in Broward County, Townships 50-51 South, Range 41 East. Coconut Creek Tribal Trust Land is located in Broward County, Section 18, Township 48 South, Range 42 East.

Interested persons may comment upon the Amendment or submit a written request for a copy of the Amendment by either of the following methods: 1) Submitting a written request to: Regulation Division, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406; or 2) Submitting an electronic request at permits@sfwmd.gov. Such comments or requests must be received within 30 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this Amendment. A copy of the Staff Report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an Administrative Hearing regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request therefore after reviewing the Staff Report.

332964 CLEW, GCD 04/24/2019

NONJUDICIAL PROCEEDING TO FORECLOSE MORTGAGE BY TRUSTEE FILE NO.: 18-033185

PALM FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., A FLORIDA CORPORATION, Lientholder,
vs.
LINDSEY KATHLEEN HULLETT Obligor

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING

TO: Lindsey Kathleen Hullett
1210 Central Drive
Beaumont, TX 77706-4644

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a TRUSTEE'S NON-JUDICIAL PROCEEDING to enforce a Lien has been instituted on the following Timeshare Ownership Interest at Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows described as:
An undivided 0.2535% interest in Unit 59 of the Disney's Polynesian Villas & Bungalows, a leasehold condominium (the "Condominium"), according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof as recorded in Official Records Book 10857, Page 4004, Public Records of Orange County, Florida and all amendments thereto (the "Declaration").
The default giving rise to these proceedings is the failure to make payments as set forth in the Mortgage encumbering the Timeshare Ownership Interest as recorded in the Official Records of Orange County, Florida. The Obligor has the right to object to this Trustee proceeding by serving written objection on the Trustee named below. The Obligor has the right to cure the default and any junior interest holder may redeem its interest, for a minimum period of forty-five (45) days until the Trustee issues the Certificate of Sale. The Lien may be cured by sending certified funds to the Trustee payable to the Lientholder in the amount of \$17,943.59, plus interest (calculated by multiplying \$7,590 times the number of days that have elapsed since April 17, 2019), plus the costs of this proceeding. Said funds for cure or redemption must be received by the Trustee before the Certificate of Sale is issued.

Valerie N. Edgecombe Brown, Esq.
Cynthia David, Esq.
Nicholas A. Woo, Esq.
Michael E. Carleton, Esq.
David Cramer, Esq.
as Trustee pursuant to Fla. Stat. §721.82
P.O. Box 165028
Columbus, OH 43216-5028
Telephone: 407-404-5266
Telexcopier: 614-226-5613
333260 LO 4/24/5/1/2019

REQUEST FOR BID (RFB) NO. 600000955 CATTLE GRAZING, MARTIN COUNTY, FL

The Procurement Bureau of the South Florida Water Management District, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406, will receive sealed bids up to the 2:30 p.m. opening time on **May 10, 2019**, for a land lease for approximately 403.22 acres more or less, for the purpose of cattle grazing located in:

•Section 18 and 19, Township 40 South, Range 42 East, Martin County, Florida
•Section 13, Township 40 South, Range 41 East, Martin County, Florida

An **OPTIONAL SITE VISIT** will be held on April 24, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. Interested bidders will meet at the following location:

The property is accessed from I-95 or Florida Turnpike to Indiantown Road (SR706). Head west 2 miles on Indiantown Road to Gulf Stream Citrus. Head north 2 miles on Gulf Stream Citrus. After crossing Cypress Creek head east. 25 miles to an access road through existing cattle grazing lease and head north 1 mile on the access road and through the tunnel under the Florida Turnpike and I-95 (see enclosed access map).

Transportation will be the responsibility of interested attendees.

All bids must conform to the instructions in the RFB. Interested respondents may obtain a copy of the complete RFB (1) at the above address; (2) by downloading the solicitation from our website at www.sfwmd.gov/procurement; (3) by calling 561-682-2011 or (4) by calling the 24-hour **BID HOTLINE 800-472-5290**. The public is invited to attend the bid opening. **Further information on the status of this solicitation can be obtained on our website -www.sfwmd.gov.**

332973 ON 04/10, 17, 24/2019; CB & IB 04/11, 18, 25/2019

Public Notice

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT CIVIL COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION Case No. 47-2018-CA-000141

VILLAGE CAPITAL & INVESTMENT, LLC Plaintiff, vs. LOU ANN THOMAS MCARTHUR, SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR R M K FINANCIAL CORP. D/B/A MAJESTIC HOME LOAN ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause on January 18, 2019, in the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida, Sharon Robertson, Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell the property situated in Okeechobee County, Florida described as: BEGINNING AT THE SE CORNER OF LOT 2, BLOCK 202, OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA, FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE PROCEED IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY OF SAID BLOCK 202 AND ALONG AN IMAGINARY EXTENSION OF THE SAID EAST BOUNDARY A DISTANCE OF 170 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE PROCEED AT RIGHT ANGLES IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION A DISTANCE OF 150 FEET; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES, PROCEED IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION A DISTANCE OF 170 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE PROCEED IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION OF 150 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. LESS THE NORTH 20 FEET OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED RESERVED FOR STREET PURPOSES. SAID PROPERTY BEING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST.

and commonly known as: 909 SW 3RD ST, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder for cash, in the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, on May 22, 2019 at 11:00 AM.

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

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2019.

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

Invoice to: Laura E. Noyes (813) 729-0919 x1515 Kass Shuler, PA 1505 N. Florida Ave., Tampa, FL 33602-2613 ForeclosureService@kasslaw.com 312871 ON 4/24/5/1/2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION: CASE NO.: 18000177CAAX

REVERSE MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, INC., Plaintiff, vs.

GEORGE N. PALMER; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; PREFERRED CREDIT, INC.; LINDA PALMER A/K/A LINDA J. PALMER; UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure re: dated the 19th day of March, 2019, and entered in Case No. 18000177CAAX, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein REVERSE MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, INC. is the Plaintiff and GEORGE N. PALMER UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; and PREFERRED CREDIT, INC. LINDA PALMER A/K/A LINDA J. PALMER UNKNOWN TENANT N/K/A MACK MITCHELL, IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. SHARON ROBERTSON as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3RD STREET, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, 11:00 AM on the 22nd day of May, 2019, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOTS 4 AND 5 OF BLOCK 4, GRANADA TERRACE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 63, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

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

Dated this 19th day of March, 2019.

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

326046 ON 4/24/5/1/2019

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Glades County is seeking proposals for exotic and nuisance vegetation treatment followed by supplemental plantings in three (3) wetland areas within Glades County Business Park. The proposals must be adequately respond to the Scope and Bid Schedule included within this document.

The attached Wetlands Exhibits show the location of wetlands that Glades County has responsibility to maintain. The entrance to Glades County Business Park is located off State Road 27 and County Road 78 West in Glades County.

The Glades County Board of County Commissioners meets on May 14, 2019 and wishes to have proposals reviewed by staff in advance of the meeting. To meet this timeline, Glades County requests that signed proposals be received by email or mail by 3:00 PM on May 8, 2019. Submit proposals to:

Martin Murphy County Manager PO Box 10 Moore Haven, FL 33471 MMurphy@mglades.com

Questions regarding the Request for Proposal should be directed to Martin Murphy by email or phone at (863)946-6125. 333117 GCD 4/24/2019

Public Notice

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 17000105CAAXMX

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR NOVASTAR MORTGAGE FUNDING TRUST, SERIES 2007-2, Plaintiff, vs. FORREST GAINER, JR A/K/A FORREST R GAINER, JR A/K/A FORREST R GAINER, et al. Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 01, 2018, and entered in 17000105CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the NINETEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR NOVASTAR MORTGAGE FUNDING TRUST, SERIES 2007-2 is the Plaintiff and FORREST GAINER, JR A/K/A FORREST R GAINER, JR A/K/A FORREST R GAINER A/K/A FORREST GAINER; BOBIE JO GAINER A/K/A BOBIE JO COLLINS A/K/A BOBIE JOE GAINER A/K/A BOBIE GAINER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FORREST GAINER, JR A/K/A FORREST R GAINER, JR A/K/A FORREST R GAINER A/K/A FORREST GAINER NIKKA FAYE GAINER are the defendant(s). Sharon Robertson as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, 312 Northwest 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972, at 11:00 AM, on May 22, 2019, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF OKEECHOBEE STATE OF FLORIDA TO WIT: THE NORTH ONE-HALF (1/2) OF LOT 20, LAZY SEVEN RANCH ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGES 10 AND 11, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND BEING FURTHER DESCRIBED BELOW BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 20, BEAR NORTH 89 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 22 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 781.00 FEET; THENCE BEAR SOUTH 00 DEGREE 57 MINUTES 46 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 135.26 FEET; THENCE BEAR SOUTH 23 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 01 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 4.63 FEET; THENCE BEAR SOUTH 89 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 22 SECONDS WEST TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE WEST LINE OF LOT 20, A DISTANCE OF 781.00 FEET, THENCE BEAR NORTH 23 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 01 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 4.63 FEET; THENCE BEAR NORTH 00 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 135.26 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Property Address: 142 SW 72ND TER, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974-1538 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 2nd day of April, 2019.

Sharon Robertson As Clerk of the Court By: Sandra L. Crech As Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. 329152 ON 4/24/5/1/2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR GLADES COUNTY GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 18000134CAMXAX

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE RMAC TRUST, SERIES 2016-CIT, Plaintiff, vs. BETSY R. VALENTINE, GENE L. WARRENSFORD A/K/A GENE L. WARRENSFORD, FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION, METROPOLITAN MORTGAGE COMPANY, BUCKHEAD RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION 1, UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION 2, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BETSY R. VALENTINE, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered April 9, 2019 in Civil Case No. 18000134CAMXAX of the Circuit Court of the TWENTIETH Judicial Circuit in and for Glades County, Moorehaven, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE RMAC TRUST, SERIES 2016-CIT is Plaintiff and BETSY R. VALENTINE, GENE L. WARRENSFORD A/K/A GENE L. WARRENSFORD, FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION, METROPOLITAN MORTGAGE COMPANY, BUCKHEAD RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION 1, UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION 2, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BETSY R. VALENTINE, are Defendants, the Clerk of Court (SANDRA BROWN), will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the south door steps of the Glades County Courthouse, 500 Avenue J, Moore Haven, FL 33471 at 11:00 AM in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 23rd day of May, 2019 at 11:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

Lot 163, of Buckhead Ridge 5th Addition, Unit No. Three, a subdivision in Section Number 35, Township 38 South, Range 34 East, Glades County, Florida, recorded in Plat Book 3, Pages 46 and 47, of the Public Records of Glades County, Florida.

Together with a 1979 Twin Doublewide Mobile Home with VIN # T247P485A and T247P485B and Title # 16359887 and 16359886. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens, must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 9th day of April, 2019.

Deputy Clerk CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT As Clerk of the Court By: Tami Simmons

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC 110 SE 6th Street, Suite 2400, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 rfpaccounts@mcclallaraymer.com Counsel of Plaintiff

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Sheila Mann, Court Operations Manager, whose office is located at the Lee County Justice Center, 1700 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, Florida 33901, and whose telephone number is (239) 533-1700, within two working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. 331460 GCD 4/24/5/1/2019

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

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

Public Notice

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 18-000112-CA-MXAX

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR HILLDALE TRUST Plaintiff, vs. ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST ALZORA CHILOUS, DECEASED, WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEE OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, et al. Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated APRIL 9, 2019, and entered in Case No. 18-000112-CA-MXAX of the Circuit Court of the TWENTIETH Judicial Circuit in and for Glades County, Florida, wherein Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as trustee for Hilldale Trust is the Plaintiff and ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST ALZORA CHILOUS, DECEASED, WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEE OR OTHER CLAIMANTS , ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST ANGELA T. COLEMAN, DECEASED, WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEE OR OTHER CLAIMANTS UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANGELA T. COLEMAN, ALMETA FRANKESIA BROWN, ANNESHA TAMIKA CHILOUS, RICKY LAMAR CURRY, and CECIL JAMES COLEMAN the Defendants. Sandra Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for Glades County, Florida will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at are held on the front steps of the Glades County Courthouse, 500 Avenue J, Moore Haven, Florida 33471 FLORIDA RURAL LEGAL SERVICES, 3210 CLEVELAND AVENUE, FORT MYERS, FL (239) 334-4554 at 11:00 AM on 16th day of May, 2019, the following described property as set forth in said Order or Final Judgment, to wit:

LOTS 3 AND 4, BLOCK 48, OF MOORE HAVEN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 35, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK OF COURT NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER 60 DAYS, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.

If the sale is set aside, the Purchaser may be entitled to only a return of the sale deposit less any applicable fees and costs and shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, Mortgagee's Attorney. DATED at Glades County, Florida, this 10th day of April, 2019.

SANDRA H. BROWN, Clerk Glades County, Florida Tami Simmons Deputy Clerk

"In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons in need of a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding shall, within seven (7) days prior to any proceeding, contact the Administrative Office of the Court, Glades County, 500 Avenue J, Suite 102, Moore Haven, FL 33471, Telephone (863) 946-6010, via Florida Relay Service."

Apre ako ki fev amerikans With Disabilities Act, tout moum kin ginyin yun bezwen spesyal pou akomodasyon pou yo patisipe nan pwogram sa-a dwe, nan yon tan rezonab an ninpot aranjman kapab fet, yo dwe kontakte Administrative Office Of The Court i nan nimero, Glades County, 500 Avenue J, Suite 102, Moore Haven, FL 33471, Telephone (863) 946-6010 i pasan pa Florida Relay Service.

En accordance avec la Loi des "Americans With Disabilities", Les personnes en besoin d'une acomodacion speciale pour participer a ces procedures doivent, dans un temps raisonable, avante d'entreprendre aucune autre demarche, contacter l'office administrative de la Court situe au, Glades County, 500 Avenue J, Suite 102, Moore Haven, FL 33471, Telephone (863) 946-6010 Via Florida Relay Service.

De acuerdo con el Acto 6 Decreto de los Americanos con Impedimentos, Inhabilitados, personas en necesidad del servicio especial para participar en este procedimiento debran, dentro de un tiempo razonable, antes de cualquier procedimiento, ponerse en contacto con la oficina Administrativa de la Corte, Glades County, 500 Avenue J, Suite 102, Moore Haven, FL 33471, Telephone (863) 946-6010 Via Florida Relay Service. 330314 GCD 4/17/24/2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No. 2018 CA-000191

FARM CREDIT OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, ACA, Plaintiff,

vs. ALLEN L. EISELE, AND TENANT #1, AND TENANT #2, THE NAMES BEING FICTITIOUS TO ACCOUNT FOR UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated the 18th day of March 2019, and entered in the above-entitled cause in the Circuit Court of Okeechobee County, Florida, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, at 11:00 a.m. on the 15th day of May 2019, at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 2nd Floor, Jury Assembly Room, located at 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, the interest in real property situated in Okeechobee County and described as:

LOT 5, LESS THE EAST 75 FEET, BLOCK 25, BET HER ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 12, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

Dated: March 19, 2019.

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

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

Plaintiff's Counsel Matthew E. Bobulsky, Esq. Esposito Law Group, PA PO Box 9266, Bradenton, FL 34206 941-251-0000 326064 ON 4/17/24/2019

Public Notice

Public Notice

Final Notice for Public Review of a Proposal to Support Activity in the 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland

April 24, 2019 Florida Department of Economic Opportunity 107 E. Madison St. MSC-400 Tallahassee, FL 32399 850-717-8411

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 to determine the potential effect the Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Programs activity in the floodplain and/or wetland will have on the environment.

DEO has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values. The alternatives were: (i) to proceed with the housing rehabilitation of affected homes located within Alachua County, Baker County, Bradford County (exclude zip code 32091), Charlotte County, Citrus County, Columbia County, DeSoto County (exclude zip code 34266), Dixie County, Flagler County (exclude zip code 32136), Gilchrist County, Glades County, Hamilton County, Hardee County, Hendry County (exclude zip code 33935 and 33940), Hernando County, Highlands County (exclude zip code 33825 and 33870), Indian River County, Lafayette County, Lake County, Levy County, Manatee County, Marion County, Martin County, Nassau County, Okeechobee County, Pasco County (exclude zip code 33523), Pinellas County, Putnam County, Sarasota County, Seminole County (exclude zip code 32771), St. Johns County (exclude zip code 32145 and 32084), Sumter County, Suwanee County, and Union County, and (ii) not undertaking the action "No Action". No additional alternatives were considered.

The proposed project involves housing rehabilitation to be funded by HUD. The Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement program may include properties located within the floodplain area. At this time, the exact number and locations of the properties to participate in the program are unspecified, however, eligible applicants are homeowners whose primary residence was damaged by Hurricane Irma in the above listed counties. With approximately 5,627,731 acres within the 100-year floodplain, DEO anticipates assisting homes throughout each county. The Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement program will consist of the following activities:

- Repair, reconstruction or replace of housing units damaged by Hurricane Irma, which may include code compliance and mitigation against future storm impacts, including elevation.
• The completion of work to homes that have been partially repaired.
• Repairs to, or replacement of manufactured, modular and mobile homes impacted by Hurricane Irma.
• Temporary housing assistance based on individual homeowners needs and their participation in the Housing Repair Program.

This activity will have no significant impact on the environment because of the following mitigation measures that will be taken to minimize adverse impacts: Option A: Homes to be rebuilt in their original location are to be elevated adhering to the federal and/or state requirements.

Option B: Homes damaged may be relocated to a new area within the current developed property with possible elevation per floodplain requirement. Option C: Refer the homeowner to either the Land Acquisition for Affordable Workforce Housing or Voluntary Home Buyout Program.

A no action alternative was rejected because no action would not provide the residents with financial assistance to rebuild and recover from Hurricane Irma. Although the project may be located in the 100 year floodplain and/or wetland, the improvements cannot be undertaken in any other location due to the scope of the project. Therefore, it has been determined there are no practicable alternatives other than to proceed with the outlined work.

The proposed improvements will conform to applicable floodplain protection standards. The proposed action will not affect natural or beneficial floodplain values, and residents of the community will benefit from the project. Failure to provide these improvements will make it difficult for residents to recover from Hurricane Irma.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and/or wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public education tool, and can facilitate and enhance federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains and/or wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by DEO at the following address on or before May 3, 2019 via mail to: 107 E. Madison St. MSC-400, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399. DEO also encourages electronic submission of comments by email to: cdfg.cr@deo.myflorida.com.

A full description of the project may be reviewed at the above address Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you need additional information or have questions, please contact Geoff Amison, Environmental Program Manager, at James.amison@deo.myflorida.com or 850-717-8422.

Kenneth Lawson, Executive Director Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Environmental Certifying Official 332683 LO 4/24/2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2018CA000299

FLAGSTAR BANK, FSB, Plaintiff,

vs. JASON BIRCHFIELD, Defendants.

CLERK'S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on March 19, 2019 in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash on May 8, 2019 at 11:00 AM, EST at 312 Northwest 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, in the Jury Assembly Room, the following described property:

LOTS 5 AND 6, BLOCK 25, NORTHWEST ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 25, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property address: 1009 NW 3RD ST, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972. ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE. Dated: March 19, 2019.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OKEECHOBEE COUNTY By: Sandra L. Crech Deputy Clerk

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4383 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. 333409 ON 4/24/5/1/2019

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Public Notice

Public Notice

**OKEECHOBEE COUNTY
PROPERTY APPRAISER, TAX COLLECTOR
& DRIVER'S LICENSE BUILDING
PROJECT NO. 2019-04**

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed BIDS will be received by Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners at the **Okeechobee County Historic Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 123, Okeechobee, FL 34972 until 3:00 pm on May 28, 2019**. Bids will be publicly opened in room 201 and read aloud. Any BIDS received after the time specified will not be accepted.

The BIDS shall be based on the following:

Scope of work includes, but is not limited to, furnishing all materials, equipment, and labor for the new Property Appraiser, Tax Collector & Driver's License Building as shown in the Drawings and described in the Specifications and Bid Documents. For complete requirements, please see Bid Documents and Drawings.

Bid Documents may be downloaded from the Okeechobee County website at: <http://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/> under Bids and Proposals tab.

All materials furnished and all work performed shall be in accordance with the Drawings, Specifications and Contract Documents pertaining thereto, which may be examined at or obtained from the County Website.

If it becomes necessary to revise or amend any part of this bid, an addendum will be issued and will be posted on the Okeechobee County website at: <http://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/> under Bids and Proposals tab.

It is the sole responsibility of the bidders to check the website to ensure that all available information has been received prior to submitting a bid.

A **MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING** shall be held at **2:00 p.m. on May 7, 2019 at the Historic Courthouse, 2nd Floor, Room 201, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972**. Bidder's attendance is **mandatory**. All Bidders are required to attend the pre-bid meeting to inspect the site conditions and to receive questions from respondents on any issues considered relevant to the requirements of the project.

Any **questions** pertaining to the project specifications or scope of work will be addressed to the Okeechobee County Facilities Maintenance, Donnie Oden in writing only via email at dsavelly@co.okeechobee.fl.us or fax at (863) 763-5529 no later than **May 14, 2019 at 5:00 pm**.

Only Bid documents obtained from Okeechobee County are acceptable for bidding.

Each bid must be accompanied by an acceptable Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond, or Certified Check, made payable to "Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners", in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total Bid Amount.

The Bidder, if awarded the Contract and the bid amount is \$100,000 or more, will execute and file acceptable performance and payment bonds equal to 100% of the contract price within ten (10) calendar days after written notice of the award of contract. No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the date set for opening of bids. The **Payment and Performance Bonds must show the Owner's name, Project Name and Project Number**.

Okeechobee County accepts no responsibility for any expense related to preparation or delivery of proposals. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, accept Bids in any order or combination, accept or reject portions of Bids, make modifications to the work after bidding, and waive any informality/inconsistency in the Bids if they deem it in their best interest to do so.

Unless specifically prohibited by law or regulation, said bid includes an assignability clause that allows for the assignment of all or part of the specified deliverable items.

Okeechobee County has a local vendor preference which is contained within the County's current procurement policy. Definitions, allowances and exemptions can be found in this policy. You are encouraged to review the latest version to ensure compliance with and exceptions to the local vendor preference policy. The County's vendor preference policy can be found on the County's website at <http://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/government/country-procurement-policy>.

Bidders will confine their bids to the project in its entirety. Partial bids will not be accepted.

Each bidder will submit with this bid, evidence that the bidder complies with all state and local requirements, to perform the work described in said Bid and provide a Schedule of Values in said Bid.

If in the opinion of the bidder, inconsistencies appear to exist in the specifications, it is the bidder's responsibility to seek clarification from the Okeechobee County Facilities Maintenance. Additionally, it is incumbent upon all bidders to conduct a personal investigation as to requirements of the County.

The Board of County Commissioners has the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids must be sealed and the outside of the envelope MUST be marked: **"BID – OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER, TAX COLLECTOR & DRIVER'S LICENSE BUILDING, PROJECT NO. 2019-04"**.

BIDDER MUST SUBMIT (1) ORIGINAL AND (2) COPIES OF THE BID.

Sharon Robertson, Clerk of Court
Okeechobee County, FL
Terry W. Burroughs, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, FL

333118 ON 4/24/2019

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

**NOTICE OF FINAL AGENCY ACTION
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Notice is hereby provided that the South Florida Water Management District:

- On September 18, 2018, issued an Environmental Resource Permit with conditions, Permit Number 26-01213-P, Application Number 150604-4 to Alico, Inc., whose address is 10070 Daniels Interstate Court, Suite 100, Ft. Myers, FL 33913, to construct and operate a stormwater management system for a water storage project known as Alico Northern Everglades-Payment for Environmental Services. This is a dispersed water storage project for improvements on private agricultural lands. The project is on 35,186 acres in Hendry County, Florida located within Sections 1-5 and 8-36, Township 45 South, Range 31 East, Sections 11-14, 23-26 and 35-36, Township 45 South, Range 30 East, and Sections 4-9, 16-21 and 28-33, Township 45 South, Range 32 East.

- On April 12, 2019, issued a modification to the above-described Environmental Resource Permit, by Application Number 181227-4. The modification replaced Exhibit 3.0, Alico, Inc. NE-PES Project Operations and Monitoring Plan, dated August 11, 2017, of the above-described permit, with a revised Exhibit 3.0, Alico, Inc. NE-PES Project Operations and Monitoring Plan, dated April 2019.

A copy of the permit can be obtained by contacting the Regulatory Records Management Section, during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, Regulation Division, by telephone at 561-682-6911, by e-mail at permits@sfwmd.gov, or by accessing the permit directly from the District's website (www.sfwmd.gov) using the Application/Permit Search on the eFiling page.

The District's agency action is final unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes before the deadline for filing a petition.

As required by Sections 120.569 and 120.60(3), Fla. Stat., the following is notice of the opportunities which may be available for administrative hearing or judicial review when the substantial interests of a party are determined by an agency. Please note that this Notice of Rights is not intended to provide legal advice. Not all of the legal proceedings detailed below may be an applicable or appropriate remedy. You may wish to consult an attorney regarding your legal rights.

RIGHT TO REQUEST ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected by the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD or District) action has the right to request an administrative hearing on that action pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Fla. Stat. Persons seeking a hearing on a SFWMD decision which affects or may affect their substantial interests shall file a petition for hearing with the Office of the District Clerk of the SFWMD, in accordance with the filing instructions set forth herein, within 21 days of receipt of written notice of the decision, unless one of the following shorter time periods apply: (1) within 14 days of the notice of consolidated intent to grant or deny concurrently reviewed applications for environmental resource permits and use of sovereign submerged lands pursuant to Section 373.427, Fla. Stat.; or (2) within 14 days of service of an Administrative Order pursuant to Section 373.119(1), Fla. Stat. "Receipt of written notice of agency decision" means receipt of written notice through mail, electronic mail, or posting that the SFWMD has or intends to take final agency action, or publication of notice that the SFWMD has or intends to take final agency action. Any person who receives written notice of a SFWMD decision and fails to file a written request for hearing within the timeframe described above waives the right to request a hearing on that decision.

If the District takes final agency action which materially differs from the noticed intended agency decision, persons who may be substantially affected shall, unless otherwise provided by law, have an additional Rule 28-106.111, Fla. Admin. Code, point of entry.

Any person to whom an emergency order is directed pursuant to Section 373.119(2), Fla. Stat., shall comply therewith immediately, but on petition to the board shall be afforded a hearing as soon as possible.

A person may file a request for an extension of time for filing a petition. The SFWMD may, for good cause, grant the request. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the SFWMD prior to the deadline for filing a petition for hearing. Such requests for extension shall contain a certificate that the moving party has consulted with all other parties concerning the extension and that the SFWMD and any other parties agree to or oppose the extension. A timely request for an extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

A petition for administrative hearing must be filed with the Office of the District Clerk of the SFWMD. Filings with the Office of the District Clerk may be made by mail, hand-delivery, or e-mail. Filings by facsimile will not be accepted. A petition for administrative hearing or other document is deemed filed upon receipt during normal business hours by the Office of the District Clerk at SFWMD headquarters in West Palm Beach, Florida. The District's normal business hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Any document received by the Office of the District Clerk after 5:00 p.m. shall be deemed filed as of 8:00 a.m. on the next regular business day. Additional filing instructions are as follows:

- Filings by mail must be addressed to the Office of the District Clerk, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406.
- Filings by hand-delivery must be delivered to the Office of the District Clerk. Delivery of a petition to the SFWMD's security desk does not constitute filing. It will be necessary to request that the SFWMD's security officer contact the Office of the District Clerk. An employee of the SFWMD's Clerk's office will receive and file the petition.
- Filings by e-mail must be transmitted to the Office of the District Clerk at clerk@sfwmd.gov. The filing date for a document transmitted by electronic mail shall be the date the Office of the District Clerk receives the complete document. A party who files a document by e-mail shall (1) represent that the original physically signed document will be retained by that party for the duration of the proceeding and of any subsequent appeal or subsequent proceeding in that cause and that the party shall produce it upon the request of other parties; and (2) be responsible for any delay, disruption, or interruption of the electronic signals and accepts the full risk that the document may not be properly filed.

INITIATION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Pursuant to Sections 120.54(5)(b)4. and 120.569(2)(c), Fla. Stat., and Rules 28-106.201 and 28-106.301, Fla. Admin. Code, initiation of an administrative hearing shall be made by written petition to the SFWMD in legible form and on 8 1/2 by 11 inch white paper. All petitions shall contain:

1. Identification of the action being contested, including the permit number, application number, SFWMD file number or any other SFWMD identification number, if known.
2. The name, address, any email address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner and petitioner's representative, if any.
3. An explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination.
4. A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the SFWMD's decision.
5. A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate.
6. A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the SFWMD's proposed action.
7. A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the SFWMD's proposed action.
8. If disputed issues of material fact exist, the statement must also include an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes.
9. A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the petitioner wishes the SFWMD to take with respect to the SFWMD's proposed action.

MEDIATION

The procedures for pursuing mediation are set forth in Section 120.573, Fla. Stat., and Rules 28-106.111 and 28-106.401–.405, Fla. Admin. Code. The SFWMD is not proposing mediation for this agency action under Section 120.573, Fla. Stat., at this time.

RIGHT TO SEEK JUDICIAL REVIEW

Pursuant to Section 120.68, Fla. Stat., and in accordance with Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.110, a party who is adversely affected by final SFWMD action may seek judicial review of the SFWMD's final decision by filing a notice of appeal with the Office of the District Clerk of the SFWMD in accordance with the filing instructions set forth herein within 30 days of rendition of the order to be reviewed, and by filing a copy of the notice with the clerk of the appropriate district court of appeal.

333441 LO 4/24/2019

Public Notice

Public Notice

**NOTICE OF JOINT MEETING AMONG THE HENDRY COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, GLADES COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, OKEECHOBEE
COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND
PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Notice is hereby given that the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners, Glades County Board of County Commissioners, Martin County Board of County Commissioners, Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners and Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners will hold a joint meeting to discuss Lake Okeechobee and other matters of mutual interest at 6:00 p.m. on May 7, 2019, at the Okeechobee High School, Lecture Auditorium, 2800 HWY 441 North, Okeechobee, Florida.

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

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Okeechobee County Administrator's Office not later than four (4) days prior to the proceeding at 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 123, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, or call 863.763.6441. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 800.222.3448 (voice) or 888.447.5620 (TTY).

Hendry County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

332084 LO 4/24 CB 4/25/2019

**INVITATION TO BID
SAND AND GRIT REMOVAL AT THE PORT LABELLE UTILITY
SYSTEM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT,
HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**Bid No. 2019-14
OPENING DATE AND TIME: MAY 8, 2019 at 2:00 P.M.**

Sealed Bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida, for "Sand and Grit Removal at the Port Labelle Utility System Wastewater Treatment Plant, Hendry County, Florida". In order to be considered, bids must be received by the Board of County Commissioners, c/o the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Attn: Barbara Butler, at the C.E. Hall Building, Room A-226, Hendry County Courthouse Complex, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida by **May 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**, at which time all responses to this request will be recorded in the presence of one or more witnesses.

A copy of the Instructions and Bid Documents can be obtained online at www.hendryfla.net under the Public Information tab, or from the Hendry County Engineering Department, located at 99 E Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida (for pick up), or by calling (863) 675-5222.

The solicitation does not commit Hendry County to award any contracts, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of responses to this ITB, or to contract for any services. The County reserves the right to reject any or all submittals received as a result of this solicitation, or to cancel in part or in its entirety this ITB, if it is in the best interest of the County to do so. The County may re-procure at the discretion of the Board.

Hendry County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Si necesita la asistencia de un interprete que hable español para participar en esta reunion, por favor pongase en contacto con Veronica Gonzalez al (863) 675-5324.

332049 CN 4/17/24/51 CB 4/18/25/5/2/2019

**NOTICE OF JOINT MEETING AMONG THE GLADES COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, HENDRY COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS AND PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Notice is hereby given that the Glades County Board of County Commissioners, Hendry County Board of County Commissioners, Martin County Board of County Commissioners, Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners and Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners will hold a joint meeting to discuss Lake Okeechobee and other matters of mutual interest at 6:00 p.m. on May 7, 2019, at the Okeechobee High School, Lecture Auditorium, 2800 HWY 441 North, Okeechobee, Florida.

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

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Okeechobee County Administrator's Office not later than four (4) days prior to the proceeding at 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 123, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, or call 863.763.6441. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 800.222.3448 (voice) or 888.447.5620 (TTY).

Glades County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

332062 GCD 4/24/2019

Fictitious Name

Notice Under

Fictitious Name Law

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute," will register with the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporation the fictitious name, to wit: **COWBOY WAY AUTO BODY** Under which we expect to engage in business at:

300 E COWBOY WAY
in the City of LABELLE County of HENDRY, Florida 33938 That the parties interested in said business enterprise are:

TIMOTHY R PARMENTER
Dated at LABELLE, HENDRY County, Florida this 11th day of April, 2019.
By: TIMOTHY R PARMENTER
332119 ON 4/24/2019

**Notice Under Fictitious Name
Law Pursuant to Section 865.09,
Florida Statutes**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **MLB OPT**

located at **2008 Showboat Lane** in the County of HENDRY, in the City of Labelle, Florida 33935 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.
Dated at Labelle, Florida, this 18th day of April, 2019.

Carmelina Cadena

332061 LO 4/24/2019

**Administration
of Estates**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 2019-CP-009
Division: Probate**

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF:

EILEEN A. LANIER,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of **EILEEN A. LANIER** deceased, whose date of death was December 13, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Glades County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 500 Avenue J #102, Moore Haven, Florida 33471. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with 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 PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

The date of first publication of this notice is April 24th, 2019.

Petitioner:
Patricia D. Curran
1128 Palm Court
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

Attorney for Petitioner:
JEFFREY A. FADLEY, P.A.
Fla. Bar No. 035667
Attorney for Decedent:
180 NW 3rd Avenue, Suite A
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: (863) 763-5733
Facsimile (863) 763-6199
333213 ON 4/24/5/1/2019

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332692 GCD 4/24/2019



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Notice to Creditors

Notice to Creditors

Dissolution of Marriage/Divorc

Dissolution of Marriage/Divorc

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.: 472019000070CPAXMX IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CODY NICHOLAS GORHAM, Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of CODY NICHOLAS GORHAM, deceased, File Number 472019000070CPAXMX, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatuured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatuured, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. The date of first publication of this Notice to Creditors is April 24th, 2019. Personal Representative: ROGER B. GORHAM 7321 Skyhawk Avenue Hobe Sound, FL 33455 Attorney for Personal Representative: BRIAN VASSALLO, ESQ. Florida Bar No. 01511114 1401 Forum Way, Suite 501 West Palm Beach, FL 33401 Telephone 561-471-2800 Fax: 561-471-2818 Primary: brian@vassalloblotta.com Secondary: margaret@vassalloblotta.com 332299 ON 4/24;5/1/2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 472019DR000131 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: ANTHONY DEWAYNE MATHIEU, Petitioner/Husband, and CHRISTINE NICOLE THOMPSON MATHIEU, Respondent/Wife. NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION TO: Christine Nicole Thompson Mathieu Unknown Address YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution of Marriage, including claims for dissolution of marriage, payment of debts, division of real and personal property, and for payments of support, has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on Rebecca H. Boldt, Petitioner's attorney, whose address is 180 NW 3rd Ave., Suite C, Okeechobee, FL 34972, within 30 days of first publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court at Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, either before service on Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings. DATED this 18th day of April, 2019. SHARON ROBERTSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY: Arlene Nealis Deputy Clerk 332126 ON 4/24;5/1,8,15/2019

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

- ACROSS 1 Selection process including the Sky and the Sun 10 Anna of "The Emoji Movie" 15 Lip-syncing accompaniment? 16 "Me too" 17 Bingo center square 18 Hasbro game that requires twisting and pulling 19 Spacewalk initials 20 Ready for fumigation 22 Metaphorical low area, with "the" 23 Gathering tools 25 Film dialect that uses subject-object inversion 27 1990s gaming release, initially 28 "LOTR" initials 29 Visitor center 30 Course with fruit, perhaps 33 Sure-footed critters 34 Licorice, e.g. 35 Increase 37 Commented on EweTube? 40 Ironically, designation for the fourth film release in a classic sequence 44 Remove the zest from 46 Record no. 47 Tablets brand ... or, cutely, what they treat 49 Saves for the future 51 Hardly taciturn 52 Whack 53 Andalusian city on the Costa del Sol 55 One in a conflict, maybe 56 Utter 58 2017 hit comedy about a women's weekend getaway 60 QB's protection, in football lingo 61 Type of gland 62 Hangs 63 Where I-35 and I-80 intersect 26 Visored military cap 28 Companion of A-Rod 31 Works on programs 32 Where some subs are fixed 36 Belief 37 No-parking area 38 Literary France 39 Lang. test for top students 41 Cajun confection 42 Skincare brand from the Greek for "beautiful wax" 43 Envision 45 Fast flight 48 Inclines 50 Engaged in 51 Explorer da Gama 54 Latch (onto) 57 Arles article 59 Piece of TNT?

Answers to Today's Puzzle can be found on Page 4

SUDOKU 3 9 6 2 6 7 8 7 3 1 7 3 4 5 1 5 2 7 9 3 6 1 5 Level: Intermediate

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

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-63 indicating starting points for words.

By Andy Kravis and Erik Agard ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

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PBSC adds women's soccer, drops softball

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

LAKE WORTH BEACH — Palm Beach State College leadership has made the decision to add a women's soccer program and discontinue the college's softball team.

The women's soccer team will begin play in the fall of 2021, and PBSC looks to hire a coach as soon as possible in order to begin recruiting for that season.

"We are extremely excited to be adding women's soccer to our athletic programs," said Palm Beach State College President Ava L. Parker. "This allows us to engage with our community in new ways and continue to impact our area with new and exciting offerings."

Over the last 10 years, participation in high school girls' soccer has outpaced softball, and that trend has also been seen on Palm Beach State campuses. The soccer club has had record amounts of participation, with over 100 participants in the last year and on-the-field successes in the local Beaches Adult Soccer League. The club, which began in 2012, has grown to include students from multiple PBSC campuses.

By adding a women's soccer program, the college will be able to increase the diversity of its athletics offerings, provide a new outlet for student life and give the community an opportunity to connect

with the college through the world's most popular sport.

In order to provide this new program, the college leadership made the difficult decision to close the softball program at the end of the 2020 season. Softball at PBSC has a proud history and will leave a lasting legacy of success, sportsmanship and academic excellence.

"We are committed to the success of our student athletes both on and off the playing field. As we make this change we will stay dedicated to all of our teams in their academic and athletic endeavors," said PBSC Athletics Director Tom Seitz.

Palm Beach State is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), which has more than 525 member schools, and is also part of the Florida College System Activities Association (FCSAA), which is the governing body for state college athletics in Florida. PBSC has five varsity teams competing in the FCSAA and NJCAA Region 8, which include baseball, men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball.

For more information on Palm Beach State Panthers athletics, visit PBSCPanthers.com.

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Submit your favorite Easter photos
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photos by
noon April 30



Lake Okeechobee
News



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Yearling bats come alive against Moore Haven

By Richard Marion
Lake Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE — The Moore Haven Middle School Lady Terriers softball team made the trip up to Okeechobee to face the Yearling Middle School Lady Bulls on April 17.

The home crowd at the Okeechobee High School softball field were still finding their seats when the Lady Bulls jumped out



Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
The Moore Haven Lady Terriers didn't have trouble putting runners on base during their game against Yearling Middle School. But the Lady Bull defense was always able to leave them stranded.

to an early lead.

Yearling already had two runs on the board by the time Lady Bull Mallory Collier stepped up to the plate with a runner on first. Collier increased that lead by hitting a inside the park home run to go up 4-0 in the first inning.

But Moore Haven was able to show some resilience after going down early.

Despite being an away game a big crowd from Moore Haven was in the stands in Okeechobee to support their Lady Terriers. Moore Haven was able to cut the lead in half 4-2 during the second inning, but looked to be on the verge of taking the lead before a pop fly retired the side with the bases loaded.

In the bottom of the second inning, however, Yearling's offense started to run away with the game. A flurry of hits by Yearling and untimely errors by Moore Haven gave the Lady Bulls plenty of breathing room.

By the bottom of the third Yearling had tacked on eight more runs to go up 12-4.

Collier kept up her hot streak for Yearling, sending a long fly ball that fell just short of the center field fence to bring in another run.

This kind of big offensive showing is something the Lady Bulls have been building to all season. Yearling coach Kelci Breaux says the team was focused on defense during the first few practices.

"We haven't really had much time to work on hitting," said Breaux. "I solely



Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Lady Bull Arianna Grancedos takes a big lead at second base in Yearling's game against Moore Haven on April 17.

wanted to focus on defense to start out with because even though offense is important because that's how you win games, defense is important for controlling those games. So we're just now getting to the point where we're working with batters on offense."

Moore Haven was able to bring in one more run, but Yearling's offense proved to be too much to overcome and the Lady Bulls went on to win 18-3.

Now the Lady Bulls are preparing to take

the field again on April 24 against Pemaayetv Emahakv Charter School (PECS).

PECS will be taking on both Okeechobee middle schools, Yearling and Osceola Middle School, in a doubleheader.

The first game starts at 4:30 p.m. on the softball field at Okeechobee High School.

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Big Lake Athlete of the Week: David Gonzalez

By Richard Marion
Lake Okeechobee News

Glades Central High School senior David Gonzalez is this week's Big Lake Athlete of the Week for his performance with the Glades Central Raiders baseball team.

Gonzalez leads the Raiders with 10 hits and eight RBIs for the season and currently has a .344 batting average.

Raiders head coach Rene Leon says Gonzalez's play took a step up during his junior year in 2018.

"He's always been a very coachable kid," said Leon. "He's so consistent and not only in hitting but also defense, Great pitcher and great third basemen. I'm honored and thankful to have the opportunity to coach him. It makes my job easier to have a kid like that."

Gonzalez is coming off a 2018 season which saw him earn a nomination for the 5A player of the year with a season batting average of .351.

In addition to his accomplishments in athletics, Gonzalez maintains a 3.6 GPA at



Special to the
Okeechobee News/Rene
Leon

Glades Central senior David Gonzalez currently leads the Raiders in batting with a .344 batting average.

Glades Central High School.

Gonzalez has been a part of the Raiders baseball program for three years now and Leon believes he has the potential to continue playing baseball at the collegiate level.

Over the past three games Gonzalez has gone four-for-six with three RBIs and four walks. One of those games was a blowout 15-5 Raiders win over Pahokee on April 18.

Junior Cristian Rodriguez was able to flash some offensive skills against Pahokee, leading the Raiders with two hits and three RBIs and stealing two bases, while freshman pitcher Miguel Perez stood on the mound for Glades Central, striking out seven.

For now Leon says he wants to see the Raiders close out the regular season strong. Glades Central hosts LaBelle at 6 p.m. on April 26.

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.

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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OHS softball team sweeps Glades Day and Moore Haven

By Richard Marion
Lake Okeechobee News

Three lake area softball teams battled last week and one clear winner was able to emerge from the fray.

Okeechobee beat Glades Day 11-1 in their game on April 16, dropping the Lady Gators to 5-7 on the year.

Glades Day head coach Sherri Paez says she was hoping the Lady Gators would play stronger against the Lady Brahms, but that they are still the number one seed in their district. Despite the loss to Okeechobee Paez says she's ready to see what the Lady Gators can do in the 2A district 7 tournament.

After traveling to Okeechobee Glades Day will now move on host Clewiston on April 24 on what will be the Lady Gators senior night. The Lady Gators swept Clewiston in two games last year and Paez says she expects her team to play well again.

Two days after the Glades Day game, Okeechobee made the short trip down to Moore Haven to face a Lady Terrier team

that had been able to put together a 10-6 season up to that point, already improving from their 8-8 season a year ago.



Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Lady Brahman Alexandria Fulford gets a base hit that brings home Madison Hargraves.

was the Lady Brahman offense that stole the show.

Okeechobee head coach Mary Huff de-

scribed her team as underdogs after losing veteran players like Jillian Crosby, Megan Hargraves, Lauren Bostwick and Kassie Weldon following the 2017-18 school year. New veterans like Underhill, Alexandria Fulford, Brooke Santiago, Janel Aponte, Halle McDuffie and Lillian Henry have stepped up to help lead the underclassmen on the team.

The wins against Glades Day and Moore Haven cap off a four-game winning streak for the Lady Brahms. That winning streak was finally broken when Okeechobee fell to Wellington 3-2 in extra innings on April 22.

Okeechobee will now host Harmony on April 25 on the Lady Brahman's senior night.

Moore Haven will host their senior night on April 25 when they play at home against Lake Placid. The Lady Terriers beat Lake Placid earlier this year 17-12 after pulling off a wild comeback in the final two innings.



Lake Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Glades Day junior Ashlyn Bifolck checks her swing as a pitch sinks into the dirt in the Lady Gators game against Okeechobee on April 16.

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#U3319

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#U3318

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#U1314

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Sweet Life in Hendry County

Deputy Nunemaker named Deputy of the Year



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

Deputy Jeff Nunemaker stands with the surviving women who were removed from the back of the truck and their families.

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

On Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017, Deputy Jeff Nunemaker, Clewiston High School school resource officer, was traveling on State Road 29 heading into Hendry County for his tour of duty.

Approximately 6 miles north of State Road 78, Deputy Nunemaker came up on a vehicle crash involving a box truck and a SUV-type vehicle. Both vehicles came to rest in the southbound lane and the passenger compartment of both vehicles were fully engulfed by fire.

Deputy Nunemaker stopped and exited his patrol vehicle to check for injuries and/or life. He observed two subjects in the ditch close to the burning vehicles and a third subject on the northbound shoulder of the roadway. Deputy Nunemaker then

saw two subjects in the rear of the burning box truck. Deputy Nunemaker climbed into the cargo area of the fully engulfed box truck and removed a male subject, bringing him to a safe location. Deputy Nunemaker again entered the fully engulfed box truck and removed an unconscious pregnant female, bringing her to safety.

Deputy Nunemaker with the assistance of bystanders removed the two subjects located in the ditch near the fully engulfed vehicles to a safe location. Deputy Nunemaker, under true emergency circumstances, acted to prevent loss of life and by his direct intervention saved the lives of three subjects.

Deputy Nunemaker knowingly placed himself in imminent danger in his heroic pursuit to save the lives of three subjects.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

Deputy Jeff Nunemaker accepts both the Medal of Valor and the Life Saving Award from Hendry County Sheriff Steve Whidden.

Clewiston set to choose city manager in May

By Chris Felker
Lake Okeechobee News

CLEWISTON — Finance Director Shari Howell, acting interim city manager again for the second time in six months, reported on the search for a permanent replacement in the position that's been vacant since late November for commissioners last week.

"The city has contracted with a search firm, Colin Basinger & Associates, to locate and help hire a city manager. We have gotten to the point where we have advertised. We have gotten a project schedule from the firm that's doing this for us, and the firm

has gotten a few good applicants," she told the commissioners at their regular meeting April 15. "They requested last week that they go out and re-advertise because they weren't comfortable with the number that they had because some of them fall out. It's typical. It is not going to cost any more and it has not affected the schedule. We're still on for (the second full week of) May when we'll have one-on-one and commission interviews," said Ms. Howell.

Commissioner Julio Rodriguez said he'd spoken with the search firm and that "I told Colin today that 'I want you to send the three best.' But we need to agree on a

number to bring in. He feels three (will be sufficient) ... we paid this firm \$25,000 and I want to take the information they give us, and that's how I'm going to base my vote."

Mayor Mali Gardner and the other commissioners said they would be fine with having a choice of from three to five candidates to meet and greet during the beginning of May, and noted that there will be a public reception at city hall when residents will be able to interact with the candidates. But they also said they wanted to keep an open mind.

Ms. Howell stated also that "it's my intention to meet with staff to get prepared

for budget workshops because can't wait until June," noting that the city government's audit is under way as well and that the sooner they are able to get a new city manager on board, the better.

Mr. Rodriguez, Mayor Gardner and the other commissioners also said they wanted to look at additional compensation for Ms. Howell due to the extra work she has been shouldering. She said that she declined their last bonus; however, several commissioners said there would be no declining a well-deserved bonus or raise this time.

Lab provides results for diagnosis and treatment

Electa Waddell

Hendry County Medical Center

CLEWISTON — When it comes to treating many medical conditions, time is of the essence. Having a clinical laboratory available locally at Hendry Regional Medical Center allows fast and accurate results, meaning the medical team can more quickly diagnose conditions and prescribe treatments.

“Fast results matter, especially when it comes to emergencies and acute medical conditions,” said Suresh (Sam) Gupta, MS, Laboratory Administrative Director at HRMC. “It can be hard to get access to clinical laboratories in rural communities. We are fortunate to have lab testing available here in Hendry County.”

Clinical laboratories use specimen samples to assess a person’s health and monitor the effectiveness of treatments.

Lab assessments are essential to helping physicians diagnose and treat patients. From emergencies to routine screenings, lab results give physicians deeper insight into a patient’s condition for accurate diagnosis and treatment.

At Hendry Regional Medical Center, the onsite clinical laboratory can provide results for many tests within 24 hours. Common tests include urinalysis, hematology, chemical profiles to check heart, liver and kidney functions, cholesterol



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/HRMC
At Hendry Regional Medical Center, the onsite clinical laboratory can provide results for many tests within 24 hours.

screenings, drug testing, tests for certain infections and more.

The clinical laboratory specializes in microbiology, which involves the processing of bodily fluids, such as blood and urine, for tests that determine the pres-

ence of bacterial infections.

According to Gupta, lab testing provides physicians with much of the objective information on a patient’s health status.

“Physicians rely on accurate laboratory

information for diagnosing and monitoring a large number of health conditions,” Gupta said. “We are fortunate to be able to perform most of our clinical testing in-house so we can provide fast, life-saving treatment for our patients.”

The HRMC laboratory is certified for test procedures, licensed for service under Florida CLIA certification, and is fully inspected and accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP).

We are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by ten Florida-licensed technologists and technicians.

Outpatient collection services are provided Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Hendry Regional in Clewiston, and in LaBelle at Hendry Regional Convenient Care Center from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Physicians may also arrange for after-hour collections by contacting the laboratory directly at 863-983-9121.

For more information about the clinical laboratory at Hendry Regional Medical Center or to learn about local healthcare services, please visit www.hrmc.us or call the hospital at 863-902-3000.

A walk through time: Castaways on the wild shores

By Butch Wilson

Clewiston Museum director

The sun blazed like fiery red fingers, probing the evening sky, until the passage of night slowly descended and vanquished the sun’s last appendages of light. Now only the glowing lanterns shielded the Spanish galleon from the darkness, as the sea’s tempest strengthened, threatening the ship’s voyage through the dreaded Florida Straits.

The navigator and two sailors clung fearfully to the massive tiller as huge, gray-bearded waves hissed and rolled upon the lumbering ship, sending tons of green, white, frothy water streaming across the ship’s deck. Deck hatches, securely battened down, resisted the raging tropical storm’s deluge of water but failed to stop the foreboding storm that intensified within the ship’s hull. The ship’s interior was gripped in the pervasive smell of fear that swept over the men, women and children in cold waves of pungent perspiration as they huddled like lost souls in the darkness.

Suddenly a plunge of the galleon into a wave sent a shudder through the ship. A loud moan erupted from the dying ship as its timbers cracked and splintered on the hidden reef that held the ship rigid in its jagged jaws. Cold, merciless waves struck and battered the impaled ship, until it tore apart amidst the wails and shrieks of the living and dying that were swept into the pitiless sea.

It was morning and those who had

survived the horrible night now looked up stupefied, as tall, brown Calusa warriors, armed with clubs, walked menacingly toward them along the storm-littered beach.

This fictitious yarn is not true but reflects the hardships and dangers that the early sailors and passengers endured along the coast of Florida. The perils of the voyage were heightened because there was no refuge for the castaways. In the early 1500s, death or a life of enslavement was the norm for castaways. It is time to take “A Walk in The Past” and listen to the tall tales of Fontanado and other shipwrecked castaways, who encountered the Calusa on the wild shores of Florida.

Escalante Fontaneda was 13 years old when taken captive by the Calusa. He was a slave among the Calusa for 17 years until rescued in 1566, by a Spanish expedition sent by Don Pedro Menendez in search of his lost son and a water route across south Florida. Fontaneda returned to Spain after his rescue and later wrote his memoirs in 1575.

In his memoirs, Escalante Fontaneda describes the beginning of his voyage: “On board this ship were the two sons of Alonso De Mesa and their uncle. They were all rich, and I the poorest among them, yet I had twenty-five pesos of fine gold. My father (who was a commander) and my mother had both served his Majesty in Peru, and subsequently in Cartagena, where they established a colony.

I, as well as one of my brothers, was born there. They were sending us to Spain to be educated, when we were shipwrecked on the Florida coast; as well as the fleet from New Spain, commanded by the son of Don Pedro Menendez (Adelantado of Florida).”

He and others, including his brother, survived the shipwreck, but were taken captive by the Calusa Indians. His older brother and the other survivors of that fateful night never returned to Spain. Their bones and the bones of many other shipwreck survivors are scattered across Florida, but remain to this day silent witnesses to the brutality they received at the hands of the Calusa and other Indian nations in South Florida.

The brutality and executions that European castaways received at the hands of some Indian nations is likened to a two-edge sword. Florida Indian nations were subjected to cruelty by the roving Spanish expeditions that passed through their territories in search of gold. Spanish journals record instances where trained attack dogs were used to kill Indian captives, simply because they failed to provide information. Spanish slave ships plied the Florida coast capturing Indians and separating families forever. The seeds of hatred and bitterness were planted deep in the hearts of wronged Indian nations that later bore fruit, when shipwrecked men, women and children were cast on their shores. Many of the shipwreck survivors were killed immediately by the

Indians, when discovered on the beaches. Others became slaves, enduring the harsh physical hardships, knowing their only hope was rescue. This desperate hope was recorded on a clam shell found in Glades County by an archaeologist in the early 1900s. A rough map is inscribed on the shell, indicating where the Spanish captive was living. The Indians used shells as trade items, and no doubt the captive was hoping the shell map would one day bring Spanish rescuers.

Enslavement was an ironic twist of fate for wealthy passengers, who weeks before had lived the lives of gentlemen and noble ladies with Indian slaves to do their every bidding. Now they were most miserable and probably longed for just the simple comforts that they had provided to their slaves. Even more ironic was the fate awaiting black runaways, fleeing slavery in Cuba, or the black slaves that were journeying with their owners, only to find that they must succumb to slavery again on the shores of Florida.

The year 1492 was the beginning of “life-and-death” struggles between multiple cultures that clashed and fought until the 18th century in the Americas. It is sad but true that history repeats itself and that we fail to learn from the past.

Blue-green algae: Can't live with it; can't live without it

By **Katrina Elsen**

Lake Okeechobee News

Want to know what the world would be like without “blue-green algae”?

Hold your breath for five minutes.

Now make that 10 minutes.

Now make that forever.

Before cyanobacteria, there was no breathable oxygen on the planet.

According to “the Rise of Oxygen,” published in 2003 by *Astrobiology Magazine*, “Cyanobacteria or blue-green algae became the first microbes to produce oxygen by photosynthesis, perhaps as long ago as 3.5 billion years ago and certainly by 2.7 billion years ago.”

Cyanobacteria — the scientific name for what we call “blue-green algae” — is the oldest known life form on the planet. It produced the oxygen that allowed oxygen-breathing life forms to evolve on planet Earth.

Without the cyanobacteria there would have been no dinosaurs, let alone humans.

According to *Ecology.com*, algae and cyanobacteria produce 70 to 80 percent of the oxygen in the atmosphere today. That makes sense when you think about it. Water covers three-quarters of the Earth. Cyanobacteria and algae are in the water.

The “cyan” in the name refers to the color blue. Cyanobacteria is not actually algae. Cyanobacteria are prokaryotes. Algae are eukaryotes. What's the difference? Simply put, eukaryotic cells have a nucleus containing their DNA; prokaryotic cells do not have a nucleus.

So why do we call it “blue-green algae”?

It's really tiny — microscopic. It's only visible to the unaided human eye when it reproduces rapidly into a “bloom” — that's a lot of cyanobacteria in one place. And when it does that, it looks a lot like actual algae. You can't tell the difference just by looking at it.

Where does it come from? Everywhere.

Remember, it's the oldest life form on the planet. Over billions of years, cyanobacteria has gotten very good at adapting to changing conditions. Cyanobacteria has mutated, and continues to mutate to keep adapting. Cyanobacteria can be found in freshwater, salt water and brackish water. Cyanobacte-

ria has been found in the desert and in the arctic.

How does it move around? Cyanobacteria usually relies on water currents to move around. But it can move up and down in the water column by inflating or deflating gas vacuoles — like tiny balloons inside a single cyanobacterium. That on a NOAA image, it might look like it is “covering” Lake Okeechobee, but when fishermen go out on the lake, they do not see anything but water, fish, birds and alligators. Also the NOAA images aren't regular photographs. They are computer-generated images that based predictions of the presence of cyanobacteria. The NOAA images can't tell what kind of algae or cyanobacteria is present, they predict it based on estimated chlorophyll levels, which are based on light.

Cyanobacteria is also carried from place to place by things in the water — boats, wading boots, fish, birds, otters, manatees, alligators ... anything that moves through or in the water could carry cyanobacteria. It's microscopic. It could be on your boat and you might not even see it.

Some researchers believe that cyanobacteria might even travel through the air. Remember, after billions of years on the planet, it's very good at adapting and surviving.

There are thousands of species of cyanobacteria. Scientists do not even agree on just how many thousands of species there are. Estimates range from 2,000 to 8,000 species of cyanobacteria on the planet. Let's just say “a LOT.”

And here's the scary part: Some — not all — species of cyanobacteria can release toxins that are harmful to humans.

Note: Just because a species of cyanobacteria can release toxins does not mean it will. Whether or not toxins will be produced and how concentrated the toxins will be depend on other factors. What all of those factors might be and how combinations of different factors affects the cyanobacteria is the tricky part because scientists are still working on those questions. Scientists have theories, but we don't know for sure. And what we don't know, can hurt us.

So ... why are we seeing so much toxic algae in recent years, not just in Florida but worldwide?

A major factor scientists do agree on: We're feeding it too much.

Cyanobacteria has simple needs. To reproduce, it needs heat, nitrogen and phosphorus. Freshwater blue-green algae also needs low salinity, but remember, cyanobacteria is also present in brackish water and salt water. The sun provides the heat. Nitrogen and phosphorus can come from natural sources. For example, phosphorus is readily available in the soil in Florida. Decomposing plants can release nutrients into the water. Rains can wash nutrients into the water. Some cyanobacteria can use nitrogen from the air (an example at how good cyanobacteria is at adapting and surviving.)

The more phosphorus and nitrogen the cyanobacteria has available to consume, the more rapidly it reproduces.

There was plenty of phosphorus and nitrogen in the ecosystem for the cyanobacteria before humans moved into the Florida peninsula. Human action has increased the nutrient load. Which means in some waterways close to heavily populated areas, the cyanobacteria now has a virtual all-they-can-eat buffet, contributing to rapid reproduction into blooms.

Unfortunately for humans, rapid reproduction into blooms is one of the things that appears to cause it to release toxins. And when it is in an enclosed canal, the blooms are more confined and that also apparently is a factor that causes the cyanobacteria to release more toxins. Changes in salinity as the cyanobacteria moves from the freshwater lake to the coastal estuaries can cause the cyanobacteria to die — and when it dies it might (doesn't always but might) release toxins.

In the open lake, fishermen report cyanobacteria blooms are feathery and ephemeral. They come and go, either pushed about by wind or disappearing into the water column, Florida Department of Environmental Protection tests also show that toxin levels in the big lake are usually low, even when NOAA shows cyanobacteria present in much of the lake.

In the canals and marinas, cyanobacteria grows into thick mats, which makes it (you guess it) more likely to release toxins.

How can we help?

- Support state and federal programs to reduce nutrient load into waterways. Some programs are already in place, such as the FDEP Dairy Rule which requires dairies to control the run off from their farms. They use berms, retention ponds and sprayfields to recycle the nutrients in the waste from the dairy cows. More programs are needed to control all sources of nutrient load into the waterways.

- Support stricter water quality standards and stricter enforcement of the standards on the state and federal level.

- If your home has a septic tank, make sure it is pumped out regularly (at least once every five years, more often if you have a large family) and that the drain field is inspected to make sure it is functioning properly. All septic tanks leak into the drain field — it is what they are designed to do — but a malfunctioning septic system can pollute the groundwater and/or result in runoff that is high in nitrogen.

- Switch from septic to sewer if your neighborhood has the option of a sewer lines.

- Support stricter environmental standards for sewer and septic systems throughout the state.

- Plant “Florida Friendly” grass and landscape plants that are adapted to the local climate and soil and, after they are established, will not need as much fertilizing or watering. Vegetation can also help filter any runoff that leaves your property. Learn more about Florida Friendly plants at <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu>, or contact your local county extension office.

- Before you apply fertilizer to your yard or garden, have the soil tested to find out if you need to add fertilizer, and if so, how much. Over fertilizing wastes money and contributes to nutrient load in the runoff.

- Do not put grass clippings or other yard waste in canals. Decomposing vegetation releases nutrients into the water.

- Don't litter! Trash and debris that is left along roadways can wind up in canals.

- If you live on a canal or waterway, plant deep-rooted plants along the shoreline to filter runoff and help prevent soil erosion.

Comment sought on watershed protection plan

By **Katrina Elsen**

Lake Okeechobee News

The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Protection Plan (LOWPP) was approved by the Florida Legislature in 2000 “to protect and restore surface water resources by improving hydrology and water quality for the Northern Everglades Systems, according to Ansley Marr, project engineer, Office of State Policy and Coordination, South Florida Water Management District.

On April 18 at a stakeholders meeting in the Okeechobee SFWMD office, Ms. Marr introduced an interactive website where anyone can review LOWPP and comment on the 85 projects and processes that are

underway or planned.

Go to www.sfwmd.gov/lowpp for the interactive website. There is a short video with general information about the Lake Okeechobee Watershed and an explanation of the website, along with links for projects in the Upper Kissimmee, Lower Kissimmee, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, East Lake Okeechobee, South Lake Okeechobee, West Lake Okeechobee, Fisheating Creek, Indian Prairie and Lake Istokpoga watersheds.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDEP) and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) are tasked with

evaluating the LOWPP progress so far and making recommendations for changes or additions to the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Plan (LOWCP) by June. Public comment will be accepted online through May 2.

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for phosphorus was set by FDEP in 2001 at 105 metric tons, plus 35 metric tons of atmospheric load (direct rainfall into the lake contains some phosphorus). Most years, the load is three or more times higher than the maximum set. In 2017, due to Hurricane Irma, it was about 10 times the maximum. The website has phosphorus load data for each of the basins for Water Years (WY) 1991-2018. It also shows land

use changes through 2016.

Ms. Marr said content is provided for those who want to “dive deep” into the data. She said the website is for the collection of public comments. No one will respond directly to those who comment.

Gary Ritter, of Florida Farm Bureau, asked if the website had data about the changes to the watershed before 1991. He noted that best management practices (BMPs) implemented by the dairy industry prior to 1991 significantly reduced the phosphorus load to the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough watershed. Ms. Marr said the website does not include that data.

Hendry deputies receive Life Saving Award

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

On Feb. 13, 2019 Deputy Sheriff Darren McNeil of the Hendry County Sheriff's Office, responded to U.S. 27 and K Square Road in reference to a vehicle crashing into the canal that was filling up fast with water. Deputy McNeil advised that when he arrived, the vehicle was upside down and halfway submerged, and none of the windows were visible. At that time, Deputy McNeil, assisted by off duty firefighter Robert Hinton Jr., jumped into the canal, broke the passenger side window, and pulled a young girl to safety. Deputy Sheriff D. McNeil jumped into the canal with complete disregard for his own safety and assisted in saving the life of a 16-year-old girl.

On Feb. 14, 2019, Deputy Sheriff Blake Branaman, also of HCSO, was in the area of Flaghole Road just south of Kilpatrick Road when the dispatcher advised of a vehicle crashing into the canal with three individ-

uals trapped inside. Deputy Branaman advised that when he arrived, the vehicle was upright but the rear end was sinking fast. At that time, Deputy Branaman jumped into the canal and swam to the back of the vehicle because the rear window was already broken. When he got to the rear window, he assisted two children and their mother out of the vehicle to safety. As soon as he got the mother out of the vehicle, the vehicle sank immediately.

Both Deputy Darren McNeil and Deputy Blake Branaman received the Sheriff's Life Saving Award because under true emergency circumstances, they acted to prevent the loss of lives either by exercising appropriate first aid procedures or by direct intervention. The Life Saving Award is awarded to an employee for competent and expedient action that is directly accountable for sustaining or saving a human life.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Deputy Sheriff Darren McNeil, of the Hendry County Sheriff's Office, is presented with the Life Saving Award by Sheriff Steve Whidden.

Officers awarded Meritorious Conduct Award



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News
Sgt. James Hester and Deputy Randy Bone were awarded the Meritorious Conduct Award due to their diligence and perseverance.

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

On Feb. 25, 2019, Sgt. James Hester and Deputy Randy Bone responded to a call in the community of Pioneer Plantation and had received information that the man was not in his right mind and was making threats to kill himself.

When deputies arrived on scene they found the man sitting in a chair with a knife to his chest. He told deputies that he wanted to kill himself. Many commands were given for him to drop the knife and he would not comply. Deputies calmly spoke with him trying to get him to put the knife down. Hester and Bone were able to take custody of the man without any injuries to him or the deputies.

In what could have been a devastating situation where a man was prepared to take his own life, both deputies recognized the severity of the situation and took immediate action that prevented all parties from being seriously injured. Both Sgt. Hester and Deputy Bone were presented with the Sheriff's Meritorious Conduct Award.

This award is for service rendered in the line of duty where the employee, because of his/her diligence and perseverance, performs a difficult task in which a human life is protected. Pictured from left to right are Deputy Sheriff Randy Bone, Sheriff Steve Whidden, Sgt. James Hester.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

HCSO recognizes telecommunicators

Sunday, April 14, marked the beginning of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW), a week that gives communities and emergency communications centers a chance to honor those who help save lives in times of personal or national crisis. The week ran through April 20. During NPSTW, many communities take the time to thank 9-1-1 telecommunicators, communications staff trainers, supervisors and managers of communications centers, those who maintain radio and emergency phone systems, and other public safety telecommunications staff across the country who work hard every day serving the public. The Hendry County Sheriff's Office recognizes its telecommunicators.

Corps adjusts lake flows

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District continues to monitor conditions and has adjusted releases from Lake Okeechobee accordingly.

Starting Saturday, April 20, the corps reduced the pulse release to the Caloosahatchee estuary to a seven-day average rate of 800 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the W.P. Franklin Lock and Dam (S-79). Flows to the St. Lucie estuary remain at zero cfs as measured at the St. Lucie Lock and Dam (S-80). This schedule will remain in effect until further notice. Additional runoff from rain in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie basins could occasionally result in flows that exceed one or both targets.

Lee County officials have asked for a minimum of 750 to 800 cfs. flow from the lake, as measured at the Franklin Lock on

the Caloosahatchee River. They have stated that 1,000 cfs is the ideal dry season flow. The SFWMD has set the minimum flow at 400 cfs. This year, the corps has tried to give the Caloosahatchee estuary the ideal freshwater flow in the dry season, to help improve the health of the estuary.

Thursday's lake stage was 11.56 feet NGVD. During the previous week, lake levels were reduced by 0.21 feet, with an overall 0.62 foot reduction in the past 30 days. The corps will continue to monitor conditions and adjust flows as necessary. Any changes in flows to the estuaries will be announced to the public. For more information on water level and flows data for Lake Okeechobee, visit the Corps' water management website atsaj.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/WaterManagement.aspx.

Beck Construction evolves name and introduces new logo

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

LaBELLE — Beck Construction LLC, a family-owned and operated construction and home services firm with customers throughout the state — especially in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades and Hendry counties — has evolved its company name and introduced a new logo.

Established in 2003, Beck Construction will now be called Beck Companies — an umbrella entity that encompasses subsidiary construction, home services, properties and roofing divisions. Construction will still include residential and commercial construction services, and home services will still include electrical, plumbing and HVAC. The properties division will tie renting/selling and managing residential and commercial properties together.

Bryant Roofing — Beck's commercial and residential roofing company — will also be a division of Beck Companies, with an extended name that reflects that concept and encompasses the Beck Companies brand standards.

Just as the logo unifies Beck with its home-inspired design and new color palette, graphic style and fonts, so will the new name unify the brand, making it clear that this is a multi-disciplined enterprise of significance.

This comes after Beck Companies' growth and success



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

Beck Construction LLC has a new logo and new name, making it clear that this is an enterprise of significance.

growth and success drove it to hire additional employees, as well as launch its very first website — BetterWithBeck.com — develop its new brand on Facebook and Instagram, and take to the streets with its new vehicle wraps. These visually tie the overarching brand to all division-level brands, as well as apply the new “Better With Beck” positioning line, which introduces Beck Companies' points of advantage and sets the tone for memorable division-based messages.

“Beck Companies has general contract-

ing, electrical, mechanical, roofing, plumbing and real estate licenses. We have an extensive product line and are always ready to make repairs, real estate transactions and your vision a reality with our construction division — all Better With Beck!” said owner Derek Beck. “Today, with an overarching identity, my team and I can reach our commercial and residential markets without causing our customers confusion or fatigue. What better way to continue our strong reputation and celebrate our rapid growth?”

Beck Companies is headquartered at 170 E. Oklahoma Ave. in LaBelle, with a location expansion coming soon. For more information or to schedule an array of services, call (239) 260-4022 or go to BetterWithBeck.com.

Roland Martin Marine Center series starts Saturday

By Chris Felker

Lake Okeechobee News

CLEWISTON — The Roland Martin Marine Center Series of fishing tournaments begins Saturday, April 27, with the first qualifying round.

Other qualifiers will take place June 1, Aug. 3 and Oct. 26. Launch is at the city ramps in Clewiston at safe light, with weigh-in at 3 p.m. at the marina.

Payouts, based on 100 boats participating, are \$5,000 for first, \$2,000 for second, \$1,300 for third, \$1,100 for fourth and \$950 for fifth, with lesser purses paid for sixth through 10th placers, between \$850 and \$550.

In the championship round, purses are \$20,000 for first, \$7,000 for second, \$3,500 for third, \$2,500 for fourth and \$2,000 for fifth, and smaller prizes decreasing from \$1,600 for sixth to \$950 for 10th.

For more information, visit RMMCseries.com.

A news release from the marine center stated that the organizers are “proud to welcome HUK as the presenting sponsor. Noting that the Roland Martin Marine Center Series is the highest paying team tournament trail in Florida, “we’re looking forward to a great season,” said Luis Perez, HUK manufacturer rep for Florida. “Going on five years with the marina, they’ve been a big part of our growth in Florida as well as helping strengthen our presence in the freshwater market.”

Along with being the presenting sponsor, the HUK Contingency Program

is awarding \$250 per event to the highest placing finisher wearing a HUK shirt, hat, jacket or rain gear that comes across the stage during weigh-in. Should both team members weigh in together on stage, the contingency will be split.

“We began in the Southeast region with a strong saltwater presence,” said Perez. “As one of our original and best retailers in the Okeechobee area, we value our relationship with Roland Martin Marina,” he added. “Thanks to the marina, our popularity and market share in the freshwater segment across Florida, as well as the U.S., continues to grow.”



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News/Brenda Barnes

Excited children find the hidden art

LaBELLE — On a Thursday evening, Brenda Barnes' grandchildren, Jayna and Kellan Williamson, enjoyed the food at the Chowdown Food Truck event. They painted ceramic animal figurines at the Barron Park House Art Gallery and got even more excited when they found the hidden art in the Barron Park area.

Hendry County ‘Amnesty Week’

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

April 22-27 is “Amnesty Week” in Hendry County in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season, The Clewiston Transfer Station, 1350 Olympia Avenue, will be open Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, 7 a.m. to noon. The LaBelle Transfer Station, 1280 Forestry Road, will be open Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, 7 a.m. to noon.

Amnesty week is for the unincorporated areas of the county. Identification will be re-

quired. The program is for residential waste only. Transfer station feeds will be waived for the residents of the unincorporated areas of Hendry County for:

- Yard waste: No single branch or limb longer than 4 feet in length or larger than 4 inches in diameter;
- Construction debris: lumber, shingles, drywall, glass, tiles wire, etc.;
- White goods: Washers, stoves, water heaters, etc.; and furniture: sofas, mattresses, chairs, etc.

For more information, call 863-675-5252.

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- JERRY & KAREN COCHRANE
- GREAT FLORIDA INSURANCE
- CLEWISTON WOMEN'S GOLF ASSC.
- AGAPE HOME THRIFT STORE
- ROYAL PALM TRAILER PARK
- CALOOSA HUMANE SOCIETY
- BAIR'S ELECTRICS SERVICES, INC
- JERICHO INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY MINISTRY
- POP WARNER COUGAR FOOTBALL



YMCA to run city's summer camp programs

By Chris Felker

Lake Okeechobee News

CLEWISTON — The newly renamed Sky Family YMCA Inc. will be operating the city's summer camp for children ages 5-12 again this year after an agreement was approved by the City Commission on April 15.

The company formerly known as Sky Valley YMCA was contracted to conduct the summer camp programs from June 3 through Aug. 9 at the Clewiston Youth Center, 110 W Osceola Ave.

Monday through Friday, the program will be available from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., with supervision by one adult for every 18 enrollees, with a site coordinator acting as

a liaison with the city staff. Activities will include:

- A lunch and afternoon snack provided each day through the summer food program.
- Recreational activities designed to improve children's physical fitness.
- Character development activities incorporating the YMCA's four (4) core values of caring, respect, honesty, and responsibility.
- Structured leisure time including socializing, reading, and playing board and card games.
- Field trips.
- Coordinated programs with the local library.
- Designated swimming times, with the

use of the city's pool at the Youth Center.

According to acting interim City Manager Shari Howell, C.S. Mott Swimming Pool for camp participant scheduled swim times. The summer camp scheduled swim times for the participants will be Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from the hours of noon to 2 p.m.

"The Sky Family YMCA Inc. is the same entity that Hendry County utilizes and has contracted with ... to provide a summer camp program in Harlem as well as the western side of LaBelle. This program will mirror that, and will be a 10-week program. The only change is that in previous years they would split the camps into 7-to-3 and then offer extended sessions for an additional fee," Ms. Howell said.

She stated that she'd attended a meeting

they conducted and said that because of staff planning, they decided not to do that here, but rather just to offer 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for \$70 a week, and then parents can pick up their children anytime until 6.

"They use our pool, and in the contract it says that we would charge a fee per lifeguard, and for cleaning, if additional services are needed," she said. "They have an off-site field trip every week, and we do what I call outreach, with the city police, public safety, fire and EMS. They typically will have a day when they come," Ms. Howell stated.

Scholarships are offered, with financial assistance based on income, but the city is not involved with that, she said.

The commissioners voted 5-0 to approve the camp plan for summer 2019.

City fires engineer, pushes ahead on bridge

By Chris Felker

Lake Okeechobee News

CLEWISTON — Commissioners voted 4-1 on April 15 to terminate Clewiston's contract with its lead engineering firm, Johnson-Prewitt & Associates, because of improprieties in their official paper trail and how work was done for the C-21 waterfront bridge replacement project.

The local firm has had a relationship with the city dating to 1977.

The City Commission was about to vote on a resolution pushing forward the state/SFWMD grant agreement for design of the new C-21 bridge for the Lake Okeechobee waterfront park. The resolution was to OK two amendments to the project agreement with the South Florida Water Management District. City Attorney Gary Brandenburg said he recommended approval but pointed out that they'd need to deal with one paragraph, which states that Johnson-Prewitt had been retained as subcontractors.

"It does not appear they were, in fact, subcontracted to do any of those services," he said. Apparently the commission had thought the firm had been hired, which Mr. Brandenburg said was reasonable since Johnson-Prewitt associate Tommy Perry was the city engineer and had made presentations under former City Manager Al Perry (no relation) to the commission about the C-21 work. Also, the commissioners had directed him to continue the work.

He said he the commissioners could have expected "that their city manager and their city engineer would come back and do the appropriate paperwork to make that so. It does not look like that ever happened."

So when T. Perry submitted to the city a one-page invoice for \$350,000 under the contract even though the final part — the bridge design itself — still had not been delivered to the SFWMD, and also failed to supply documentation of his firm's hours worked and of a subcontractor he had procured to do the design, Mr. Brandenburg said he was informed the payment would be illegal. The bridge design, for which Mr. Perry said he would get a subcontractor, would constitute more than 50% of the project cost,

the city attorney explained, and thus could not have been engaged by the engineering firm or even the city manager because of the amount involved. Purchases over \$25,000 must receive formal city commission approval.

According to Mr. Brandenburg, Mr. Perry then caused a disturbance in City Hall the previous week, made an irate, threatening phone call to him and visited the workplaces of several city commissioners to berate them also. Mr. Brandenburg said that beyond the improprieties in their arrangement, Mr. Perry's outbursts were unprofessional and unacceptable. "I do believe Tommy's firm should be terminated as your city engineer. And I believe that we should hire another one of your engineers to pick up this job and move it forward," he said.

Commissioner Melanie McGahee made the motion. Commissioner Julio Rodriguez seconded, saying that despite their ability previously to work together for many years, Mr. Perry had embarrassed him by storming into his business the previous week and yelling about people thinking he was a criminal.

Vice Mayor Michael Atkinson said he was voting against the motion, stating his support for Mr. Perry and his firm and saying that he remembered the commission itself authorizing him to do the work.

Mayor Mali Gardner agreed with Mr. Rodriguez and said she'd support the motion; Commissioner Kristine Petersen lamented the loss to the city of its "historical information" but said she'd side with the majority.

Mr. Brandenburg pointed out that Mr. Perry is "required at no charge to the city to turn over all public records in his possession from the beginning of his representation until now, upon the request of the city" and that the city's action gave him 10 days' notice of termination. He suggested that the acting interim city manager, Finance Director Shari Howell, designate which of the two other firms should replace it, and commissioners requested she do so. Mr. Perry said, simply, "I'd like to say that we enjoyed working for the city for many years."

Brown Sugar Festival Events

CLEWISTON — The 41st annual Brown Sugar Festival will feature the following events:

- Saturday, April 27, Gospel Festival Harlem Pavilion, 4 to 8 p.m.
- Sunday, April 28, Brown Sugar Bingo, Harlem Civic Center, Seventh Street, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 1, Pioneer Dinner, Harlem Civic Center, Seventh Street, 6 p.m.

- Friday, May 3, Talent Show, Clewiston Middle School Gymnasium, 601 W. Pasadena Ave., 7 p.m.

- Friday, May 3, Alumni Association Annual Banquet, Harlem Civic Center, Seventh Street, 6:30 p.m.

- Saturday, May 4, Brown Sugar Parade, Florida Avenue, 10 a.m.

- Saturday, May 4, Brown Sugar Festival, Harlem Academy Avenue, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Clewiston FYI

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

CLEWISTON — Dates to Remember:

- May 6 — City Commission workshop and meeting;
 - May 7 — Hendry County Board of County Commissioners Lake O Joint Meeting;
 - May 14 — Special magistrate hearing;
 - May 16 — Golf Course Advisory Board meeting;
 - May 20 — City Commission workshop and meeting.
- Code Enforcement Officer Debbie McNeil reports:
- Code cases opened: 23;
 - Case reinspections: 22;
 - Notice of violations: 3;
 - Notice of hearings: 0;
 - Code cases resolved: 22;
 - Code lien search requests completed: 1;
 - Rental inspections completed: 8;
 - Next scheduled magistrate hearing: May 14.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports: Hurricane season is around the corner. May is Tree Trimming Amnesty Month. You must call the office at 983-1471 and get pre-approved to get the "Special Pick-up" fee waived.

The Public Works Department got word this week from the Transfer Station staff, saying anything over 6 feet long will be denied. So residents disposing of debris must make sure nothing is longer than 6 feet long for the city to pick up.

Mosquito Control: Trap counts: Golf

course 121; Okeechobee Blvd. trap failed; Sports Complex trap failed; Saginaw trap failed; Harlem trap failed. Trap counts last week were at a level to warrant a ground mission on the south side of U.S. 27.

Paving Projects: Nothing new to report. Expected to have contractor's signed contract back by end of week.

Country Club roof: The roof is expected to be finished this week.

Trinidad Park FRDAP Grant: The picnic pavilion is finished. The new picnic table and park bench will be installed on Thursday.

Street Division: (1) Eight oaks were planted around the picnic pavilion this week and 40 palms were planted in the median on U.S. 27. (2) Potholes were run for two days. (3) The final grade around the Trinidad Park bathroom was set.

Facility Maintenance: Plumbing problems in the library were repaired.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports: The Lakeport Garden Club will have their annual tournament here at the Clewiston Golf Course on May 4.

The Clewiston Tiger Booster Spring Fling Golf Scramble Tournament is scheduled for May 11.

All merchandise has been marked down in our end of the season sale.

Summer memberships start May 1.

Utilities Director Danny Williams reports: Electric crews repaired and replaced street light fixtures throughout town; removed vegetation from power lines; replaced old underground services with new lines on Lopez St.; and sprayed weed suppression at substation and around workshop.

Think Florida Friendly (landscape) year-round

By Ben Kafka

Horticulture Program assistant

Okeechobee County Extension Office

The goal of FFL (Florida Friendly Landscapes) is to “protect Florida’s unique natural resources by conserving water, reducing waste and pollution, creating a wildlife habitat and preventing erosion.” This high-level goal is something to keep in mind in our own gardens and landscaping.

In the last section of this article, it will be shown how to locate resources and information to have a Florida Friendly Garden.

As an Okeechobee gardener it’s always good to try and keep the following nine principles from the UF (University of Florida) in mind when setting up your garden or helping someone with theirs.

The nine principles of Florida Friendly Landscaping

• **Right plant, right place** Choose plants that need very little, if any, irrigation and understand their requirements. Some of the things to consider for each plant in this regard are your soil, will it grow in your zone (we are in 9b in Okeechobee), amount of sun or shade the plant needs, their location to other plants in terms of projected size, and “are they invasive?”, “Will this grow too big and block a window or interfere with other plants?” See last section for resources that can help you with this.

• **Water efficiently:** Overwatering is not good for a plant and can cause root rot. A good example of a plant that does not like a lot of water is milkweed. In addition, it raises your water bill and it is not good for the watershed when you’ve fertilized or used pesticides. Remember to turn off automatic irrigation

systems if you have them when it rains. Legally we are required to also be using rain sensors for automatic irrigation systems.

• **Fertilize appropriately:** Research your plants to find out their fertilization requirements. Whether you bought seeds or seedlings from a nursery or outlet store, they might have some of this information on the label. It also makes sense to research the plant for this information by searching the internet. More on how to do this in the last section. It’s helpful if you know the scientific name of the plant as it is a unique identifier. For instance, there are many plants called “butterfly plant” by vendors e.g. Milkweed (*Asclepias*) of which there are over 200 varieties, Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja madagascariensis*) and Blue Butterfly Flower (*CLERODENDRUM UGANDENSE*). Fertilizing appropriately also requires knowing you pH and soil buffer (organic content that will hold water). If you do not have the proper pH for your plant the fertilizer will not be absorbed properly. Also note, that at different times in your plant’s life cycle, different fertilizer may be required e.g. during flowering, fruiting and hibernation.

• **Mulch:** Mulch protects against soil erosion as well as keeping down weeds and retaining soil moisture. Straw seeding mulch with tack is good, cheap and can be gotten online (Amazon) or locally at outlet stores such as Tractor Supply. If you want to buy wood mulch or potting soil in bulk, you can get bags of it at the big outlet stores or Landscape Products in Okeechobee, will sell it to you in cubic yards. One cubic yard, fills up a 4x8 pick-up truck bed. This is very economical if you have the space to store it and the need.

• **Attract wildlife:** Make your yard attractive to pollinators, birds, bees, butterflies. The UF encourages providing a habitat for animals displaced by urban development e.g. rabbits,

bats, squirrels, lizards, etc. Some of the things to think about in this regard are, restricting pesticide use, providing bird baths, supplying berry bushes and wild flowers.

• **Manage yard pests responsibly:** Integrated Pest Management (IPM) emphasizes planning, maintenance and organic/ low-toxicity controls to ensure the health of plants. For example, you can get rid of aphids on your plants if you spot them early and hose them off with water. If that doesn’t do it, spray with soapy water using dish soap. If that still doesn’t work, consider Pyrethrin, which is an organic spray made from chrysanthemums.

Instead of killing or trapping rabbits and squirrels munching on your vegetables, put up a chicken wire fence. There are also simple electrical fences that run off solar to consider. Buy ladybugs (you can get them on the internet) and/or beneficial wasps.

To control caterpillars on your vegetables use BT. Remember that caterpillars are the larva of butterflies and moths though, so you may have to weigh what is more important to you. Most caterpillars on your vegetables will be from moths, however cabbage, broccoli, kale and collards are susceptible to caterpillars from the Great Southern White butterfly. Research plants that discourage pests near your vegetables e.g. Marigolds. Spray fungal infections with copper or neem oil.

• **Recycle:** No reason to give valuable nutrients to the landfills. Mulch your yard clippings and collect your vegetable waste (better if organic) and compost it along with shredded leaves and even shredded junk mail and boxes. For composting you’ll need one to use two parts brown (carbon) to one part green (nitrogen). Brown compost would be shredded leaves, bark, boxes, paper. Green would be vegetable wasted and lawn clippings.

• **Manage stormwater runoff:** Use swales, porous pavers, rain barrels to keep rainwater on site, allowing it to percolate into the ground or for further use. The goal is to reduce runoff that can carry fertilizer, pesticide and other toxins into the aquifer.

• **Protect the waterfront:** Living off a canal or on the lake it is important to limit the pesticides and fertilizer that can enter there. These can harm wildlife as well as encourage the production of unwanted algae. It is recommended to keep a 10-foot maintenance-free zone between your landscape and the water to prevent this. Even if you don’t live near a body of water, our sandy soil in Okeechobee allows the above, to get into our watershed fairly easily if we are not careful, so it’s good to be aware of water runoff and where we are using pesticides and fertilizer.

• **Find information and resources:** To find information about your plant needs in our area, the first recommendation would be to search UF’s website. You can do this by searching your browser’s search engine using the following syntax, “<plant to search> site:ifas.ufl.edu e.g. tomato site:ifas.ufl.edu”.

To further restrict it to the edis publications of UF, use “<plant> site:edis.ifas.ufl.edu”. This will give you a detailed fact sheet on the plant if it exists in their database. Sometimes the information will not be found there and you need to broaden your net a bit and just search the whole web using your own words to filter out the noise. Another source of information is calling your local agricultural extension. Florida has one in every county. The Okeechobee County Extension phone number is 863-763-6469.

Corps awards contract for culvert replacement

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Jacksonville District has awarded a contract to replace the 26th and final water control structure within the Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) as part of the ongoing rehabilitation project for the earthen structure surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

The USACE awarded the contract on April. 11 for \$23.5 million to Kiewit Infrastructure South Co. of Orlando. The contract calls for replacement of Culvert S-284 (HP-5) along Harney Pond Canal in Glades County, northwest of the lake. This water control structure provides drainage and flood reduction to landowners in the area.

“This award represents the 16th construction contract for the replacement of 26 water control structures since 2011,” said Project Manager Timothy Willadsen. “S-284 (HP-5) is the final culvert replacement in the Herbert Hoover Dike Project.

“Over \$500 million has been spent on water control structures as part of the ongoing rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike since 2011,” Mr. Willadsen stated.

Rehabilitating the Herbert Hoover Dike is one of the USACE Jacksonville District’s top priorities. With more than \$1 billion invested in rehabilitation efforts since 2001, dike rehabilitation has received more funding over the past few years than any other dam-safety construction project in the nation.

Additionally, the corps has allocated \$514 million from the Bipartisan Budget Act passed by Congress in 2018 along with \$100 million in contributions from the State of Florida to complete rehabilitation efforts by 2022.

In addition to replacing and abandoning water control structures, the Corps anticipates constructing cutoff walls, armoring and raising embankments, and other work that will decrease risk.

For further information about Herbert Hoover Dike, visit the website at saj.usace.army.mil.

Ombudsman project seeking volunteers

A few hours of your time helps protect people in nursing homes. Apply to become a state-certified volunteer long-term care ombudsman. Meal and mileage reimbursement included. For information, call 1-888-831-0404 or visit ombudsman.myflorida.com.

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CLEWISTON HOMES / MOBILE HOMES

- 2/2 Log Cabin 304 Flagler St. **\$180K**
- 4/3.5 Large lot w/pool 1205 Pinewood **\$439,9K**
- 2/2 Condo Bass Capitol #704 **Reduced \$102,9K**
- 3/1 Cottage Style, updated 420 W. Circle **\$139K \$119,9K**
- 3/2 704 Arkansas Ave. **\$21,990**
- 3/2 1525 Hendry Isles Blvd Custom Built home of 4.86 ac **\$325K**
- 3/2 343 Obispo Ave. **\$87K (PENDING)**

MOORE HAVEN / LAKEPORT/LAKE PLACID

LAKE ACCESS:

- 2/2 w/boathouse, 1075 Lowry Lane, Lakeport **\$174,9K**
- 2283 River Rd., Moore Haven **\$174,9K (PENDING)**
- 2/2 w/add. lot for 2nd home, boat dock permit available

COMMERCIAL / INVESTMENT PROPERTY

- Industrial Park 3013 C.R. 835 (Open storage and Warehouse) Call for details
- 516 E Sugarland Hwy **\$59,9K**
- Medical office 51 Ave. J, Moore Haven **\$139,9K**
- Lrg. Warehouse/Manufact. Bldg. 1165 Evercane Rd., Clewiston **\$1,095,000**
- US 27 Frontage, South Bay, Lrg. Warehouse w/ rail, newly remodeled. **\$1,500,000**



3/2 1525 Hendry Isles Blvd.
\$325K

ACREAGE, LAND & LOTS

- Res. Lot 402 Pincrest, Moore Haven **\$7K**
- 6 Buildable lots available in Sky Valley, Clewiston Starting at **\$19K**
- 28 ac. Hwy 27 Frontage **\$16K** per acre, Venus, FL
- 77 ac. **\$11.5K** per acre, Venus, FL (great hunting)
- 10 ac. **\$12.5K** per acre, Venus, FL (Wknd retreat)
- 901 Yacht Club Way **\$8,9K**
- Moore Haven Lots Starting at **\$10K**
- 20 Acres Hwy 80 Frontage **\$18.5K** per acre owner financing
- 1.25 ac. 625 N. SENDERO St. Montura **\$12,5K (PENDING)**
- 11 ac. 329 E. Obispo Ave. **\$22K**

528 E. Sugarland Hwy, Clewiston, FL See our other listings at www.rawlsrealestate.com.

Legislators asked to #SlowTheFlow



Rep. Toby Overdorf (center), Mary Ann Martin and Ramon Iglesias participated in the rally at Florida's Capitol to voice their support for state funding to expedite plans for water storage north of Lake Okeechobee to "slow the flow" of the untreated water into Lake Okeechobee and affecting coastal estuaries.

Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — On April 17, elected officials, business owners and North Florida college students originally from the Glades communities gathered in Waller Park at the Florida Capitol to voice their support for state funding to expedite plans north of Lake Okeechobee to "slow the flow" of the untreated water flowing into Lake Okeechobee and affecting coastal estuaries.

"Slowing the flow north of Lake Okeechobee will help alleviate the discharges to the east and the west when combined with other planned projects by up to 80%. It is the key to fixing the big problem in the State of Florida with water. We have to fix Lake Okeechobee and treat Lake Okeechobee as the filter it was intended to be, not a reservoir to hold muddy water," said top Fishing League Worldwide (FLW) bass angler Scott Martin.

"I want to thank the Senate for funding it for \$50 million, and I want to encourage the House to get fully behind this project and fund it even more."

Clewiston Mayor Mali Gardner said: "It is important to us that this funding be appropriated to make this investment for the very future of not only the lake communities and the town that I love, but also for our coastal neighbors. It is the right project, it is the right time, and I ask everyone who is involved in making this decision to please stand up for Lake Okeechobee. It is truly one of the best natural resources the State of Florida has."

"I saw this lake 40 years ago, and it was a sight to behold," said the owner of Roland and Mary Ann Martin's Marina & Resort in Clewiston, Mary Ann Martin.

"We need to slow the flow, we need to have storage north of Lake Okeechobee, we need to clean that water before it comes into our lake. We have a job to do, and we depend on the Legislature here in Tallahassee to help us promote the mighty momentum to make Lake Okeechobee great again."

The Martin Marina's general manager, Ramon Iglesias, said: "The Lake Okeechobee

Watershed Restoration Project is a crucial step forward for everyone who calls Lake Okeechobee and the lands around it home. Increasing storage capacity, restoring wetlands, controlling the damaging discharges; the pursuit of these goals is something that anyone who knows anything about the ecosystem should support. Lake Okeechobee is invaluable to every Floridian, and projects like these are exactly what is needed to help our children and grandchildren thrive along its shores."

The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project, which is part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), is a large-scale planning effort being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District to identify opportunities to improve the flows into the lake. The project's main objectives are:

- Increasing watershed water storage capacity, thereby improving Lake Okeechobee's water levels;
- Improving both the quantity and timing of discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries;
- Restoring wetlands;
- Improving current and future water supplies.

According to the South Florida Water Management District, the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project combined with other planned storage and treatment projects will help achieve the CERP's goal of achieving an 80% reduction of coastal discharges from Lake Okeechobee.

Anglers for Lake Okeechobee (ALO) is a community fishing group dedicated to protecting Lake Okeechobee. We are anglers (professional and recreational), marina owners, boat owners and fishing guides. We want to see Lake Okeechobee cared for and the estuary crisis fixed and are committed to focusing on the science. For more information, visit AnglersforLakeO.org.



Special to the Lake Okeechobee News

On April 17, elected officials, business owners and North Florida college students originally from the Glades communities were among those gathering in Waller Park at the Florida Capitol to voice their support for state funding to expedite plans for holding untreated water north of Lake Okeechobee.

Golf tournament scheduled

LAKEPORT — The Lakeport Garden Club will host their 10th annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, **May 4**, at the Clewiston Golf Course, 1200 San Luiz Ave., at 8:30 a.m. BBQ pork sandwiches will be available for \$5. For information, call 863-227-1144.

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.

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