

Glades County DEMOCRAT



Vol. 90, No. 21

Thursday, May 24, 2018

50¢ plus tax

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Lake Levels

13.57 feet

Last Year: 11.16 feet

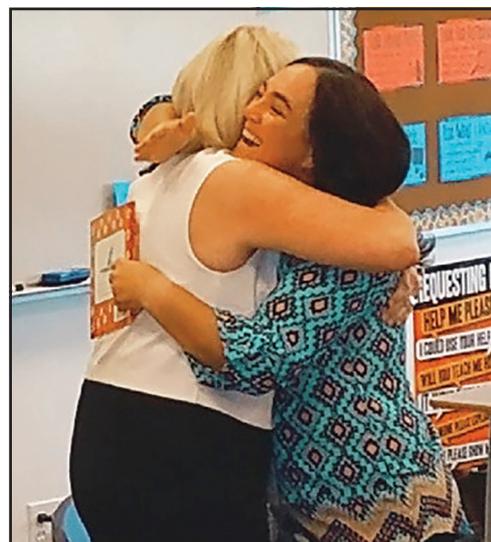
Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level

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Prescott is Teacher of the Year finalist

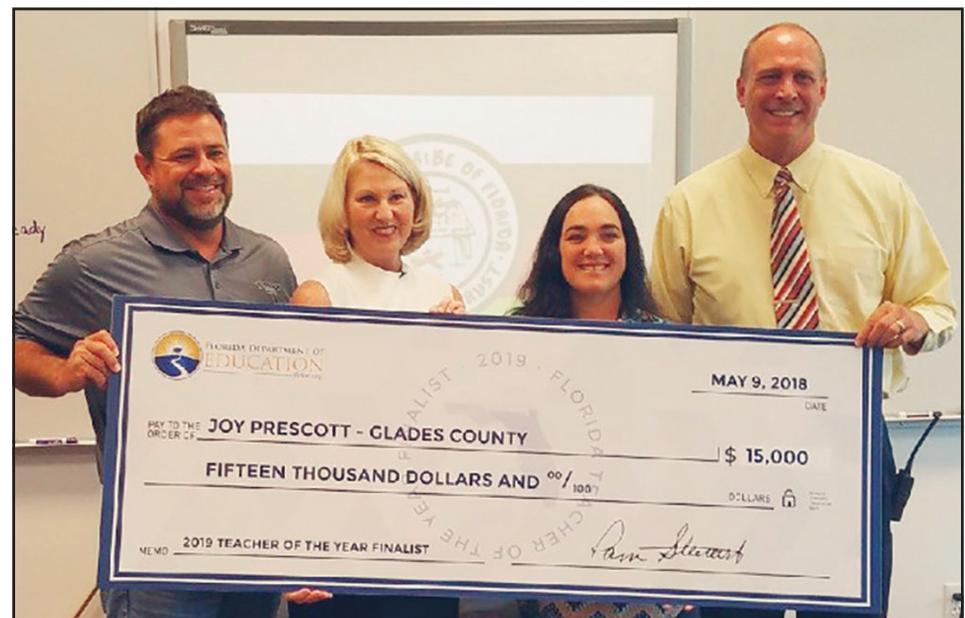


Special to the Glades County Democrat
Florida Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart hugs fourth-grade teacher Joy Prescott after surprising her at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School with the news that she was one of the five finalists for Florida's Teacher of the Year.

By Richard Marion
Glades County Democrat

On May 9, Florida's Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart made the trip to Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School (PECS) in Glades County to present fourth-grade math teacher Joy Prescott with a check for \$15,000 and inform her that she is one of the five Teacher of the Year finalists for the state.

"When they walked into my classroom, it



Special to the Glades County Democrat
Celebrating the Teacher of Year Finalist announcement are (from left to right) Glades County Schools Superintendent Scott Bass, Commissioner Pam Stewart, Joy Prescott and Principal Brian Greseth.

was the most surreal moment of my entire career," said Mrs. Prescott. "Never in a million years did I think I would be one of the finalists. Every emotion you can imagine was happening in the moment."

This year's five finalists were chosen from more than 198,700 public school teachers throughout the state. The statewide Teacher of the Year will be announced at the annual Florida Teacher of the Year Gala on July 13 in Orlando. Each district's Teacher of the Year

will receive \$10,000, and the state winner will receive a total of \$20,000.

"Joy Prescott is an excellent example of a teacher who exemplifies commitment, determination and the importance of being a lifelong learner," said Commissioner Stewart. "After 17 years as an educator, Prescott continues to pursue professional development opportunities to help her empower students

See TEACHER — Page 14

Guardians ad Litem 'speak for the child'

By Matteo Tullio
Glades County Democrat

The State of Florida Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program is a network of professional staff and community advocates, partnering to provide a strong voice in court and positive systemic change on behalf of Florida's abused and neglected children. There are currently GAL Programs in all 20 judicial circuits in Florida.

The program's mission is simple and clear, "I am for the Child." The vision statement from the program to accomplish their mission reads, "The Florida Guardian ad Litem Program will continue to be a powerful and effective voice advocating for the best interests of Florida's abused, abandoned

and neglected children and be recognized and respected as a partnership of community advocates and professional staff. To the fullest extent possible, this vision will be realized through volunteers who will advocate as Guardians ad Litem for the children they serve."

According to the GAL Program 2018 Annual Report, when a child is abused, abandoned or neglected and cannot remain at home in a healthy, safe environment, he or she is removed and a court case begins. The GAL Program is appointed by the judge to represent the child's best interest and is the only party in the case that focuses exclusively on the child.

Florida's GAL Program represents the best

interests of children alleged to be abused, abandoned or neglected who are involved in court proceedings. This means advocacy for things the law says the child is entitled to, such as a permanent home within a year, and working to ensure child-centered decisions are made by having a thorough understanding of the facts and the child. GALs visit children regularly to understand their circumstances, wishes and needs, and to explain the process in a way they can understand. GALs give children a voice and help them find their own.

The GAL Program uses a team approach to represent children using GAL volunteers, child advocate managers and best-interests

See GAL — Page 14



Work on dike at Clewiston ending soon, but only briefly

By Chris Felker
INI Florida

CLEWISTON — Two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials briefed local authorities and residents at a recent Clewiston City Commission meeting about the corps' progress on the Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation Project on the south end of Lake Okeechobee.

Most everyone was pleased to learn that construction work on Culvert 2, near the Clewiston Lock and the city's public parkland, boat launches and parking area at the dike, is nearing completion. After that, which will be "about September," reported Ingrid Bon, project manager for the USACE Jacksonville District, there will be a lull in activity near Clewiston for a few months before work gets started on the dike cutoff wall from Lake Harbor west through the city and then on through Moore Haven and Lakeport up to the Harney Pond Canal.

Accompanied by South Florida Operations Office Chief Gary Russ, Ms. Bon showed a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the areas where the cutoff wall has been completed, where gap closures are being done now and where planning is underway for the wall's western extension into what the corps calls Common Inundation Zones B and C.

Thirty-eight percent of the total cutoff wall has been completed thus far, with 21.4 miles done in Reach 1. Nine culverts have been replaced around the lake so far and one removed (32 percent of those being addressed); while work is continuing on 17 culvert replacements (53 percent of the total), Reach 1 cutoff wall gap closures and a 6.6-mile cutoff wall extension (12 percent of the total wall) from Belle Glade to Lake Harbor.

Still planned are 28.6 miles of cutoff wall (50 percent of the total) from Lake Harbor west; two culvert replacements (6 percent); three culvert abandonments (9

percent); the Harney Pond Bridge armoring; and embankment raising at the S-71 and S-72 culverts near Lakeport, between the Harney Pond and Indian Prairie canals.

"The main goal is to safeguard human life. This is a project that addresses flood risk reduction," Ms. Bon said. "We've been doing work since 2011 at a very steady pace. Funding has been steady, which has allowed us to keep our schedule as we had planned it back in 2009-2010. Certainly the completion of this project is something that the citizens of Hendry County want to see since then FEMA can take a look again at the dike as a measure for flood protection and include it in their maps, thus adjusting flood insurance rates."

She said that there are still two contract awards to be made in 2018 for water control structures, "and at that point they will all be under contract." Ms. Bon added the cutoff wall gap closures are necessary because "we had to leave some gaps because of utilities, because we were trying to find a way to tie into existing water control structures."

She explained that there will be a roughly six-month break for the Clewiston area, between the end of work on Culvert 2 and the beginning of construction on the cutoff wall westward, because that 7-mile portion is still under detailed design. The contract is scheduled to be awarded in June 2019, and project completion, she said, is expected in September 2022.

One thing that Clewiston commissioners were concerned about, regarding the cutoff wall portion to be built starting next year, was whether people still would be able to use the recreational facilities in the area, including the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST) atop the dike and the areas directly on Lake Okeechobee. The corps' short answer is no. The levee will be closed on the lake side to activities such as use of boat ramps, picnicking and bank fishing; however, the Clewiston

Lock and land-side facilities will remain open. Also, contractor access to the levee west of Culvert 2 will continue to be used the entire time, until 2022.

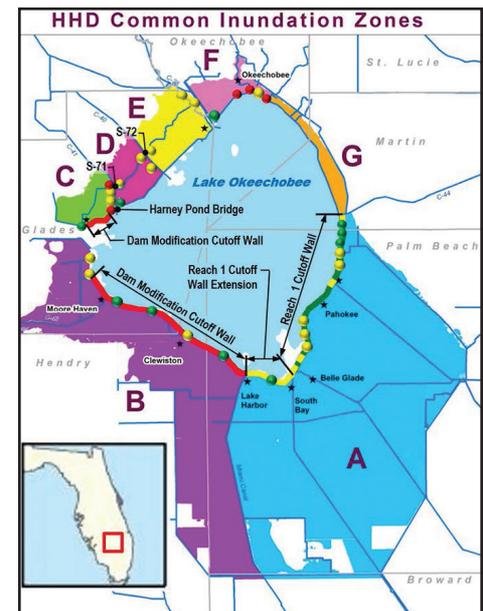
Mayor Mali Gardner asked whether the levee park would be closed for the duration. "We will open up the area of the Clewiston park as soon as we finish that, between the Clewiston Lock and Culvert 2; it will be on the order of months, depending on the contractor. It might be six to nine months, perhaps," Ms. Bon answered. But she added, "The only boat facility that will be affected is the boat ramp on the lake side."

The mayor also asked about trail access, and it was explained that the LOST will be closed both east and west of the Clewiston Lock and the city parkland until the cutoff wall is finished in those areas. Mr. Russ said he would continue to send updated LOST maps to the city as work is done so the public will be informed about closures.

City staff and Commissioner Phillip Roland pointed out the damage being done to city roads by heavy trucks used for the construction and asked if they would be repaired under the project. Ms. Bon replied that the USACE is not allowed to use any of the money for that purpose.

Mayor Gardner thanked Ms. Bon and Mr. Russ for the extensive report but noted that there would have to be further meetings soon to coordinate USACE's plans with the city's blueprints for park

enhancements, housing development and better access to the lake for recreational purposes in that area.



The Clewiston News/Courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Map shows inundation zones around the lake; green lines and dots show completed cutoff wall and culverts; yellow, ongoing wall and culvert construction; and red, planned wall portions and culverts to be abandoned.



The Clewiston News/Courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Aerial view of Culvert 2 on the Herbert Hoover Dike at Clewiston.



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We Pledge ...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust.
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, 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 to the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



**Glades camp applications
being accepted at schools**

Special to the Glades County Democrat

The Glades Education Foundation's push to create a two-week summer camp getaway for children ages 5-12 that won't be too costly for parents has succeeded. Applications are now being accepted at the county's three elementary schools for kids to participate. They must be returned to the school offices at Moore Haven Elementary School (MHES), West Glades School and Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School no later than the last day of school, Friday, June 1. The camp, whose participants will meet at MHES for activities and field trips July 9-20, is being made possible by contributions from several individuals and organizations, including the Glades County Youth Livestock organization, the GEF and County Commissioner Donald Strenth on behalf of the county.

Glades at a Glance

BHR VFW serves dinner

The Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528, 29012 State Road 78 W. in Buckhead Ridge, is serving dinner on Friday, May 25, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Grilled boneless rib eye steak, grilled pork tenderloin, fried fish and shrimp, baked sweet and regular potatoes. For information, call 863-467-2882.

Meals served at Legion Post

Moore Haven American Legion Post 299, 600 River Road in Moore Haven, is sponsoring dinners in the post hall on each Friday and Saturday evening starting at 6 p.m. The post is sponsoring breakfast each Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon. Both events are open to the public and there is a small charge. Preparation and serving are under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Sparks. For information, call 863-946-2556.

Verterans to be honored

Moore Haven American Legion Post 299 will sponsor the Memorial Day service on Monday, May 28, at the pavilion in the Ortona Cemetery, beginning at 11 a.m. The program includes prayers, a color guard presentation, music by several singers, the giving of a Quilt of Valor to a veteran, and a speaker to be announced. American flags are being placed by the Palmdale Baptist Church on the graves (over 250) of all veterans buried in the cemetery. Everyone is invited to attend. Complimentary refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the service. For information, call Kirby Sullivan at 863-946-2556.

BHR VFW serving fish

The VFW, 29012 SR 78 W. in Buckhead Ridge, will host a fish, fries and slaw dinner on Wednesday, May 30, at 5 p.m. to benefit veteran services. For information, call 863-467-2882.



Special to the Glades County Democrat/MHES

Safety Patrol tours Washington D.C.

Moore Haven Elementary School (MHES) Safety Patrol students went to Washington, D.C., during the week of May 7. During their busy week, they were able to tour the White House, the U.S. Capitol and George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, in the Virginia countryside. They explored Smithsonian Institution museums, learned about the people and events behind the D.C. memorials and monuments, walked through Arlington National Cemetery and danced the night away on a dinner cruise down the Potomac. Everyone had an unforgettable experience while visiting the nation's capital.

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Do-it-yourself tips to prepare homes for hurricanes

Special to INI Florida

ORLANDO — The keys to effective disaster preparedness — be informed, make a plan and take action — apply to all of us, but people with access and functional needs or disabilities should approach preparedness planning with additional considerations.

Additional considerations could include:

- Creating a support network. Check with those who can assist you, if needed. Keep a contact list in a watertight container in your emergency kit. Learn more at ready.gov/kit.
- Planning ahead for accessible transportation for evacuation or getting to a medical clinic. Work with local services, public transportation or paratransit to identify local or private accessible transportation options.
- Informing a support network where your emergency supplies are; you may want to give one member a key to your house or apartment.
- Knowing location and availability of more than one facility for dialysis if dialysis is

part of a health maintenance plan or routine or other life-sustaining treatment.

- Preparing to use medical equipment if a power outage occurs.
- Wearing medical alert tags or bracelets.
- Making note of the best way to communicate with you in an emergency if you have a communications disability.
- Planning how to evacuate with assistive devices or how to replace equipment if lost or destroyed. Keep model information and note where the equipment came from such as Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance.

Build a kit

In addition to having basic survival supplies, an emergency kit should contain items to meet individual needs in various emergencies. Consider items used daily and those needed to add to a kit.

Tips for People who are deaf or hard of hearing

- Include: A weather radio with text display and a flashing alert
- Extra hearing-aid batteries
- A TTY

- Pen and paper in case you have to communicate with someone who does not know sign language

Tips for people who are blind or have low vision:

- Mark emergency supplies with Braille labels or large print. Keep a list of your emergency supplies on a portable flash drive, or make an audio file that is kept in a safe place where you can access it.
- Keep a Braille, or Deaf-Blind communications device in an emergency supply kit.

Tips for people living with a mobility disability:

- If you use a power wheelchair, have a lightweight manual chair available as a backup. Show others how to operate your wheelchair.
- Know the size and weight of your wheelchair, and if it is collapsible for transportation.
- Keep an extra mobility device such as a

cane or walker, if you use one.

If you use a seat cushion to protect your skin or maintain your balance, and you must evacuate without your wheelchair, take your cushion with you.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management, in coordination with each local emergency management agency in the state, developed a registry to allow residents with special needs to register with their local emergency management agency to receive assistance during a disaster. The statewide registry provides first responders with valuable information to prepare for disasters or other emergencies. To register, please visit www.snr.floridadisaster.org

For more on the tips above and disaster planning for those with access and functional needs or disabilities, or for children, visit Ready.gov. The range of needs runs wide and effective planning runs deep. Be ready for hurricanes — and for any other disaster ... and help those who may need neighborly assistance.

Disaster preparedness tips for people with disabilities

Hurricane season begins June 1

Special to INI Florida

Florida has had about twice as many hurricane landfalls in recorded history as any other state, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. There are several easy steps homeowners can take to reduce the chances their property becomes a statistic.

Hurricane season begins Friday, June 1, so Florida homeowners should consider the following do-it-yourself tips to protect their

property:

- Install storm shutters to protect windows from strong winds.
- Identify somewhere to secure outdoor items like furniture, garden tools, toys and garbage cans. Strong winds can turn these items into projectiles that may damage homes and cause injuries.
- Clean gutters and downspouts. Leaves, twigs and debris can clog them and prevent rainwater from efficiently draining away from homes.
- Buy flood insurance. Most home insurance policies do not cover the expensive damage of hurricane-related flooding. National Flood Insurance Program policies

become effective 30 days after the date of purchase so homeowners should purchase one before it's too late. Learn more at www.floodsmart.gov.

For Hurricane Irma recovery information, visit www.FEMA.gov/IrmaFL.

Follow FEMA and the Florida Division of Emergency Management on Twitter at @FEMARegion4 and @FLSERT. You may also visit FEMA and the Division's Facebook pages at [Facebook.com/FEMA](https://www.facebook.com/FEMA) and [Facebook.com/FloridaSERT](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaSERT).

Contact local officials about permits before starting work

Special to INI Florida

Homeowners who are still repairing or rebuilding Hurricane Irma-damaged property should contact local officials before starting work. Florida homeowners should contact their local building permit office before starting repairs or rebuilding Hurricane Irma-damaged property. Local emergency management officials do not grant construction permits.

Construction that may require permits includes plumbing, electrical system, foundation and structural repairs. FEMA does not provide permits.

Some communities may also enforce other requirements like elevation for those who are repairing or rebuilding a home.

A local emergency manager can direct homeowners where to get more information about permits and learn about other requirements. They may find contact information for their local emergency manager online at www.floridadisaster.org/counties.

Advice about Contractors

Hiring a licensed contractor may help prevent future structural and financial problems. That's why it's important to ensure contractors who are rebuilding homes or making repairs are licensed in Florida.

Licensed contractors in Florida must carry general liability insurance and worker's compensation.

Always require a written contract. Be sure to read it carefully and understand what it says.

Never pay the full cost of the job upfront and ask for a receipt.

Get more than one estimate. Compare them and if one is much lower than the others and seems too good to be true it probably is.

Verify a contractor's license online at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation's website: www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr.

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FHP troopers issued Narcan to save lives on roads

Special to INI Florida

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), a division of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), is now issuing Narcan to troopers in an effort to save lives, a strategy by the agency to fight against the opioid epidemic. Naloxone, the lifesaving drug commonly known by its brand name Narcan, can take just seconds to revive an overdose victim.

“The FHP is part of a concerted, collaborative effort to combat the opioid crisis, which has a far-reaching impact,” said DHSMV Executive Director Terry L. Rhodes. “Safety for our troopers and those we serve has been and always will be the department’s number one priority, and it’s critical that our members can safely perform their jobs to help prevent any unnecessary injuries or deaths in our state.”

This week, troopers in Broward, Palm

Beach, St. Lucie, Martin and Indian River counties were the first members of FHP to be issued Narcan due to the increasing number of overdose deaths in those counties. Narcan was to be issued to additional troopers throughout other areas of the state this year.

“FHP knows firsthand the seriousness of the opioid crisis and the department is taking the necessary steps to adapt our techniques and arm our troopers with the tools that will

ensure the safety of the public and FHP,” said Colonel Gene S. Spaulding, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. “With the rise of deaths associated with the use of fentanyl and carfentanil, it is important to have this antidote available to our troopers, who are often the first to arrive on scene on Florida roadways.”

The Narcan units will assist FHP members when they encounter an overdose situation while on patrol and help protect first responders who may be accidentally exposed and overcome by the effects of dangerous opioids. Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid and is 10,000 times more potent than morphine. Extremely small doses of these drugs have been determined to be fatal, and even exposure from minor skin contact has been known to cause severe medical issues including death.

Reflections from the Pulpit

Pentecost: A spirit that overcomes all obstacles

TBy he Reverend Samuel S. Thomas, Ph. D.+

Saint Martin’s Church, Clewiston

Years ago, I took four courses in German during summer vacations. They were taken in Strassbourg, France and taught in French!

I’d spend my weekends visiting German cities near the French border and going to a local movie on the Saturday evening. My language abilities were very limited and I’d only pick up a few words here and there, but I realized that I could understand the story on the screen. Perhaps I didn’t understand 100 percent; but I knew when I was seeing a powerful love story or a historical drama about a part of the world I did not know. I also learned that even this greater barrier between people, language differences, could be overcome with an open attitude and willingness to try.

I made my way around in some of the local restaurants and didn’t starve even when I wasn’t entirely sure about what I had just ordered! I also learned that others were usually helpful when they realized this visitor was having difficulty; a spirit of cooperation, of oneness, made what might be disasters into enjoyable memories. Something that might have been scary at first led me to share things I might not otherwise have known or seen. I’ve gained a great deal more respect for others who struggle with languages and who have come here; resolving to be as helpful and as understanding as possible when it is obvious that someone is struggling while mastering

my language of birth.

I’ve also been able to share in worship services where another tongue was used in the celebration. I knew I was among kindred spirits and have always been welcomed on such occasions.

The Book of Acts gives biblical account of the Day of Pentecost, and has taken a special meaning for me. This day is commemorated by many as the birthday of the Church. It is about disciples gathering on this fiftieth day after Easter and Luke writes “...they were all together in one place (Acts 2:1).” That passage has come to mean for me that they were “together” more than just in the sense of physical presence. Those who were there were at one, spiritually, with each other. The passage goes on to mention that God’s Spirit rested on them and they “began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4).” Despite a barrier that is almost insurmountable, they were moved by God to be at one, and they were.

I have learned that I can share with others even when there are barriers; and that God’s Spirit shares with me when my efforts to communicate with Him seem to leave me at a loss for words. The account in Acts goes on to tell that, in spite of the great differences “...we hear them telling in their own tongues the mighty works of God (Acts 2:11).” This day of the birthday of the Church is the moment of the Lord’s commission to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and Lo I am with you always, to the close of the age (Matthew

28:19ff)” is now realized.

How is this possible? It is possible because of God’s Spirit inhabiting those who were called to establish His body here on earth, His Church, and to go to the literal ends of the earth to do it. It has happened no matter what the language, no matter what the era, no matter what the political entity, no matter what the opposition.

I have noted that when regimes are in place that reject the place of religion in their national lives it seems to be more a matter of suppression than elimination. With the culmination of such regimes and an opening of doors to the faiths that were once suppressed, suddenly there is a resurgence of believers. I have observed that it is never a case of starting all over again, but the appearance of a faith that was already waiting to be a part of a new order.

A language is spoken that is heard once more: the Pentecost experience comes alive. The Lord makes His presence once more and the birthday of His body of faithful is celebrated again. Pentecost has been regarded by many as the third great Church holiday, along with Christmas and Easter. For some reason, it has not gained the same place in secular society as the other two; but nevertheless deserves to be remembered. Maybe it’s like the birthdays we all celebrate; we may not remember our earthly coming into the world, but we surely are present and alive! That may be our heritage of Pentecost; even if the date is obscured, the faithful are sure present and alive in this world. That’s what matters; that’s what the Lord wanted.

Obituaries

Johnnie Melvin Durance, 66

LOUISVILLE, Tenn. — Johnnie Melvin Durance, of Louisville, Tenn., formerly of Clewiston, passed away on Friday, May 11, 2018, due to a long illness at Specialty Select Hospital at Fort Sanders in Knoxville, Tenn.

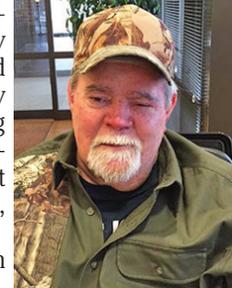
He was preceded in death by his parents, James William and Vera Mae Durance; sister, Martha Hunter; and granddaughter, Kiesha Ann.

Johnnie is survived by his wife of 35 years, Flo Durance, of Knoxville, Tenn.; four children, Brenda Filyaw of Dayton, Tenn., John and Kathy Durance of Jefferson City, Tenn., Joshua Nagorny of Ohio, and Corey Durance of Iowa; grandchildren, Jessica, Nathan, Austin, Kayla, Kaylee, Michael, Abby, Harley, Victoria, Stacy Jr., Kori, Jacob, and Taylor; eight great-grandchildren, Celeb, Kylie, Kaigyn, Mia, Lilly, Kyren, Clara, Willow; ten siblings, Billy, Hersel, David, Paul, Joe, Joyce, Mary, Linda Gale, Julie, Maudeen; numerous nieces and nephews; and his sisters in Christ, Brenda and Linda.

Over many years he worked as a commercial fisherman, a heavy equipment operator with United States Sugar Corp in Florida, and worked construction before he was disabled. Johnnie will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

A Memorial Service will be held at Evangel Assembly of God, 350 S Berner Road, Clewiston, on Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Gary Corley officiating. The family will welcome friends prior to the service at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made in Johnnie’s memory to East Tennessee Children’s Hospital, The Development Office, P. O. Box 15010, Knoxville, TN 37901-5010 or St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Arrangements by Cremation Options, Inc. (865)6WE-CARE (693-2273) www.cremationoptionsinc.com



Financial preparedness important for Floridians

Hurricane season begins June 1

Special to INI Florida

ORLANDO — When disaster strikes, having access to personal financial, insurance, medical and other records is crucial for starting the process of recovery.

Download FEMA’s Emergency Financial First Aid Kit at go.usa.gov/xQWVJ. It has tips to help reduce the financial impact of disasters. It also contains a checklist of all documents that may be needed after a disaster.

Keep some cash at home in a safe place. Have small bills on hand because ATMs and credit cards may not work during a disaster.

Obtain property — homeowners or renters — insurance. It will ensure having financial re-

sources to repair, rebuild or replace damaged property.

All Floridians should buy flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program because homeowners insurance does not typically cover flooding. Learn more online at fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program.

Arrange to get benefits electronically, as mail service may be disrupted for weeks. This also eliminates the risk of stolen checks. Purchase a portable charger to keep cellphones and other devices charged when the power goes out to continue to pay monthly bills online.

Prepare ahead by collecting all important records and storing them in a safe place, either in a safety deposit box, on an external drive or the cloud. In an emergency it will prove invaluable to know where to find all vital documents.

Personal documents

- Photo ID for all household members
- Birth certificates
- Social Security cards
- Proof of military service
- Pet ID tags

Financial & legal documents

- Housing payments
- Insurance policies
- Sources of income
- Tax statements
- Medical Information
- Physician information
- Health insurance cards
- Immunization records
- Medications

For more recovery information, visit www.FEMA.gov/IrmaFL

Ortona center to have phone line installed

By Chris Felker
Glades County Democrat

Two matters of special concern to western Glades County residents came up at the commissioners' regular meeting earlier this month, one that brought prompt action and another that will require further discussion and planning.

Commissioner Donna Storter Long, who represents District 2, introduced 18-year Ortona resident Shirley Nugent, who is president of the Ortona Community Association (OCA) and wanted to talk to the board about the lack of communications at the county-owned community center there.

Mrs. Nugent first thanked the board for providing the "beautiful facility," adding that the OCA takes good care of the building "and we use it frequently, almost daily."

She noted that it's used as a polling place and soon will be designated as a Red Cross shelter, provides space for many OCA activities including weekly bingo during season, and even houses a volunteer-operated, two-week children's summer program without any outside help or financing. She said she was concerned about safety and emergency response because "there is no telephone line to the building and, although most of us all use cellphones, they will not operate inside the building due to weak signals in the area and because of our metal roofing."

The OCA's membership, she explained, mostly "consists of senior citizens with some medical alert devices which do not work inside of the building; also, we realize that the radios of our first responders, police, EMTs and firefighters, cannot receive or send in-

side our building."

Mrs. Nugent said she'd done a lot of checking into possible solutions, talking with AT&T and Verizon, learning that micro-cells are no longer available ("although I have no idea what those are"), trying hotspots via cellphones (which also don't work) and even pricing satellite internet service.

All those options either were too expensive or impossible at present because there's no cell tower nearby, she explained.

She said the least expensive option was to get a regular land line installed by Century Link and added that the OCA would pay for a telephone and the monthly service fee.

"We respectfully ask the board to consider helping OCA become safer with phone service in the center," Mrs. Nugent concluded.

Board Chairman John Ahern said he was sure the county would have to authorize installation of phone service since it owns the building, and Commissioner Tim Stanley wondered aloud whether other community associations would come seeking the same consideration.

Commissioner Donald Strenth moved that the county pay for installation of a phone line and let the OCA purchase a phone and pay monthly fees, Mr. Stanley seconded the motion, and the board approved in a 5-0 vote.

During public comment, Diane Cianfrani, who lives in Muse, raised the issue of the community's firehouse, which was damaged during Hurricane Irma.

"This week will make eight months since Irma destroyed a lot of properties in our county, and I drive by that firehouse quite of-

ten," she began. "So there's been rumor that it's going to be torn down, it's going to be moved; I've heard it's not worth repairing, so my question is what's going to happen with the firehouse? This will have an impact on a lot of homeowners' insurance. What is the intent of the board to replace our firehouse?"

Board Chairman Ahern answered: "I've been there and it has not been repaired, so you're correct on that. I think it was turned in on an insurance claim."

Former County Manager Paul Carlisle, who is under contract as a county consultant, confirmed that.

"It was. And it's severely damaged and molded ... it's really not a facility that can be restored," he said, adding: "There is an application in for mitigation money to rebuild the station, so it'll be the board's decision on how we want to rebuild it. There is conversation that we would rebuild a joint station out behind the West Glades Elementary School; there's property there so we can still adequately service Muse and ... that whole area."

Commissioner Long asked, "When you say joint, you're talking about a fire rescue/EMS station, right?"

Mr. Carlisle said, "Yes. Because the station that EMS is in now is on Lykes Brothers property, we have a long-term lease; but, in my opinion, it would be more beneficial to build it on property the county would have

control over if you're going to spend that kind of money."

Mrs. Long responded: "I really like the idea of having the joint EMS station and fire department on the school property, which we could lease and wouldn't be an issue. But ... we need to start looking forward on that. If we don't, nothing is going to happen."

Mr. Ahern directed that the matter be put on the agenda for the commissioners' night meeting, at 6 p.m. Monday, May 28.

On another issue, Public Safety Director Bob Jones asked the county board for a consensus on permission to let his staff move generators around in preparation for hurricane season. "During the hurricane we had issues at Muse with the generator, and I was talking to (Public Works Director) Jerry (Randolph) and a couple of others, and we got a grant for a transfer switch and pad at Ortona. Well, we have the old generator from the courthouse that we want to move out there ... and then we'll take the old generator from the health department and put it in Muse. I think there'll be minor expenses that we'll be able to absorb within the department. Maybe a roof might be needed in Ortona, but that's yet to be seen; so if there's no objection we're going to start moving forward with that."

Chairman Ahern thanked him for bringing it up, and commissioners assented to the action.



Special to the Glades County Democrat/MHES

MHES Tropicana winners

Congratulations to the Moore Haven Elementary and Middle School 2018 Tropicana Public Speaking Contest winners!

Fourth-grade winners: Harley Pryor, first place; Ayden Thomas, second place; and Luke Flynn, third place.

Fifth-grade winners: Cross Fulford, first place; Allyson Lara, second place; and Lindsay Miller, third place.

Sixth-grade winners: Caydence Cisneros, first place; Brady Bass, second place; and Jaliyah Thomas, third place.

Congratulations, Grads!

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Safe-boating precautions can help save lives

Special to INI Florida

Although Florida's boating season never really ends, the traditional start is marked by National Safe Boating Week — a time for boaters to focus on simple and effective steps that make boating safer. Leading the nation with nearly 1 million registered vessels across the state, Florida is the boating capital of the world and is world-renowned as a prime boating spot for residents and visitors. Each year, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) officers respond to far too many tragic and preventable boating accidents, so they want all boaters to remember to boat safely.

"Florida is an incredible boating destination," said Maj. Rob Rowe, leader of the FWC's Boating and Waterways Section. "The upcoming Memorial Day holiday and National Safe Boating Week, May 19-25, present an opportunity to emphasize the importance of remaining safe while boating.

"Our officers are committed to keeping people as safe as possible, but we need the public's help," Maj. Rowe said. "We want to reach as many boaters as we can to help them understand that most boating accidents are preventable."

Boaters can enjoy their time on the water even more by taking a few safety precautions such as wearing a life jacket, using an engine cutoff switch lanyard, designating a sober boat operator, paying attention and keeping a proper lookout, having an emergency locator beacon, filing a float plan, and taking a boating safety class.

The FWC's 2017 Boating Accident Statistical Report indicates there were 766 reportable boating accidents in Florida last year, resulting in 67 fatalities. This represents a 7 percent increase in the number of accidents, but the same number of fatalities as compared to 2016. The leading cause attributed to boating accidents in 2017 was the operator's inattention or lack of a proper lookout (24 percent). Falls overboard has been the leading type of fatal accident since 2003, with drowning as the leading cause of death.

Accidents can often be prevented if boat operators pay attention to everything going on around their vessel, maintain a proper lookout and if everyone on board is wearing a life jacket. Fifty-two percent of boating-related deaths last year were attributed to drowning, which life jackets are designed to prevent.

"A lot of people say they don't wear life jackets because they are uncomfortable," said Maj. Rowe. "But with newer inflatable models that are belt packs or suspenders, you hardly know you're wearing one. FWC officers wear inflatable life jackets all the time while on the water."

The FWC has released compelling life jacket testimonials from three North Florida families whose lives have been changed by wearing — or not wearing — a life jacket when things went wrong on the water. These dramatic accounts provide vital information and a call to action for every boater to enjoy Florida's waters safely while wearing a life jacket.

An engine cutoff switch lanyard is a safety device that is attached from the boat operator to the ignition. If it is disconnected, the engine will shut down, potentially preventing a boater who has fallen overboard from being injured by the moving propeller of a runaway boat.

Boating education is critical. In 2017, 67 percent of boat operators involved in fatal accidents had no formal boater education. Florida's current boating safety education law applies to boaters born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, and who operate a vessel of 10 horsepower or greater.

"Safe boating is really the key to enjoying your time on the water, and education is a major component," said Maj. Rowe. "2018 marks the year that if a boater is age 30 or younger, they are required to have a boating safety education card in order to operate a vessel of 10 horsepower or greater."

FWC officers patrol our waterways in an effort to keep all boaters safe by checking that they have the required equip-

ment and are operating safely. Ensure your encounters with FWC officers are positive ones by planning ahead and paying attention while on the water.

To report people who are operating boats dangerously, call 888-404-FWCC (3922) or text Tip@MyFWC.com. More information can be found by visiting MyFWC.com/Boating. You can even search there for the Florida Public Boat Ramp Finder to help you find a great place to launch your boat.



Special to INI Florida
Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission officials conduct boating safety checks to make sure boaters have proper safety equipment.

Prices and offers effective May 15 - May 28, 2018.

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UP TO **50% OFF**

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West Glades School celebrates Children's Book Week

West Glades School (WGS) had daily themes for Children's Book Week that included "Be Cool at School!" (wear sunglasses and a hat); "T-Shirt Tuesday!" (wear favorite Panther T-shirt); "Reading Rocks so Wear Your Funky Socks!" (wear holiday, mismatched, silly socks); and "Be a 'Jean'-ius and Read Every Day!" (wear jeans). On Friday, students and staff were encouraged to dress as their favorite book character or to "Score with a Good Book!" (wear favorite team gear). WGS Panthers love to read and join in this celebration that had its beginning back in 1919.

Special to the Glades County Democrat/WGS



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United Way raises \$322,400

Special to the Glades County Democrat

LABELLE — The 2017-18 campaign for the United Way of Hendry & Glades raised a total of \$322,430 for its 27 United Way partner agencies. The announcement was made by the United Way Campaign Chairs Tommy Perry and Carey Soud at the “Swing Into Spring” event at RiverBend Motorcoach Resort.

Mr. Perry said as he unveiled the campaign thermometer: “I am extremely pleased to tell you we have made our campaign goal. Our community can be proud that it recognizes and supports the organizations that help our neighbors in need to have a better life. Considering Hurricane Irma and the need in our community, reaching goal was critical so that we can fully fund the entire network of United Way partner agencies and programs that help thousands of people in our community.”

Nearly 200 people attended the dinner, which also featured music by Caloosahatchee and Lee Conwell, a large silent auction, live auction and other games. Swing Into Spring is the signature fundraising event for United Way of Hendry and Glades. It was sponsored at the Platinum level by Verandah; Gold level by Pat and Stanley Heath, Child Care of Southwest Florida and Kiwanis Club of LaBelle; Silver level by White’s Furniture & Appliances and CenterState Bank; and at the Bronze level by Johnson-Prewitt & Associates, Sue and Tim Stanley, McDonald’s, Lyons Printing, K&M Drugs, U.S. Sugar and First Bank. A photo booth for all of the attendees to have their pictures taken was sponsored by Direct Industrial Products. The Heads-Tails game was sponsored by Muddy Water Entertainment.

Master of Ceremonies was Paul Puletti, Hendry County schools superintendent, and LaBelle Mayor David Lyons gave the invocation. Dr. Joe Pepe of the Department of Health was the auctioneer for the live auction. There were 65 items donated by businesses and members of the community to the auctions.

Lisa Sands, United Way of Hendry and Glades manager, said, “I want to thank RiverBend Motorcoach Resort, Lee Conwell, Ca-

loosahatchee, Sprout Catering, our MC Paul Puletti, auctioneer Dr. Joe Pepe, and Keepsake Plants for helping make the event so successful. Special thanks to our sponsors, and the volunteer committee, consisting of committee chair Sally Berg, Vanessa Fischel, Karan Roach, Mary Bartoshuk, Kristina Rodriguez, Terri Lazar and Diane Johnson, who dedicated several months of preparation for the event.”

All money raised is used to fund the 27 United Way partner agencies and 65 programs that provide direct client services in Hendry and Glades counties. Cliff Smith, president of the United Way, commented: “This is a wonderful community, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity. Every gift has made a difference because when added together, they make a real impact and change people’s lives for the better.”

In the past year, over 29,500 people visited the Hendry and Glades United Way Houses in LaBelle, Clewiston and Moore Haven. United Way 211 handled over 1,300 calls by Hendry and Glades residents seeking assistance. In September, United Way 211 became the Storm Information Hotline during Hurricane Irma, and took more than 40,000 calls from people in Southwest Florida.

Some of the agencies that will receive funds from the 2017-18 United Way of Hendry and Glades Campaign include: Abuse Counseling and Treatment, The Salvation Army, Harry Chapin Food Bank, Children’s Advocacy Center, Child Care of Southwest Florida, Healthy Families and many others.

In addition to raising funds for human service organizations, the United Way promotes partnerships and collaborations among agencies, helping them to work together focusing on issues and solutions that continue to improve lives.

If you know someone who needs help or if you would like to volunteer, please call United Way at 800-887-9234 or simply dial 2-1-1. You can also visit www.UnitedWayLee.org for more information.



Special to the Glades County Democrat/WGS

Glades County recognizes West Glades students

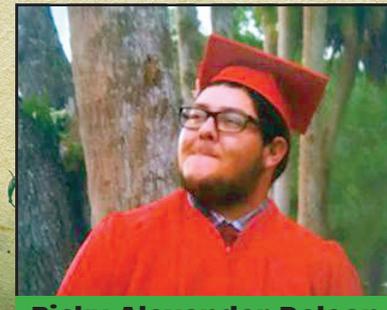
West Glades School (WGS) students were recognized at the May 10 Glades County School Board Meeting for completing the Sunshine State Challenge. The purpose of this statewide reading motivational program is to encourage students to read independently for pleasure. WGS has 17 students who read 10 of the 15 books and 11 students who read all 15 books. These 28 students were rewarded on May 23 with a trip on a limo party bus to Fort Myers, where they had lunch at Chuck E Cheese and received a personal tour of Barnes and Noble Bookstore. Thanks to Florida Power & Light for funding through the Glades Education Foundation that purchased their Sunshine State books and financed the reward trip for West Glades students.



HENDRY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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congratulates all of the 2018 High School Graduates of our Employees’ Families!

 <p style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">Bluesky Friday - MHS</p>	 <p style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">Efrain F. Santiago - LHS</p>
 <p style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">Joseph Ronnie Harvill CHS</p>	 <p style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">Kadie Helvey Glades Day School</p>
 <p style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">Kla'mente Jones - CHS</p>	 <p style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">Marileysis Carabello - CHS</p>
 <p style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">Patrick Helfin - MHS</p>	 <p style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">Ricky Alexander Deleon LHS</p>

Floridians are being reminded to get ready for hurricane season

Special to INI Florida

The Florida Department of Health is reminding every Floridian to anticipate this year's rapidly approaching hurricane season by making preparations during National Hurricane Preparedness Week. Every hurricane season should be treated as a serious threat, especially after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and Nate last year.

"Last summer, Hurricane Irma's path was unpredictable and threatened every part of Florida at some point," said state Surgeon General and DOH Secretary Dr. Celeste Philip. "Hurricanes can pose a risk to anyone, even if your area is not in the predicted path. That's why every Florida resident and visitor needs to have an updated emergency plan and a well-stocked emergency supply kit. I also strongly encourage individuals with special needs and their families to register now with your local emergency management office for special needs shelter accommodation."

The department recommends the following tips to prepare for the 2018 hurricane season:

- Determine the risks to your home, property or business;
 - Develop or update an emergency evacuation plan and review the plan carefully with your family — don't forget to include your pets in your evacuation plan;
 - Make sure you have adequate insurance by contacting your insurance company or agent;
 - Assemble a disaster supply kit;
 - Strengthen your home and complete any needed repairs;
 - Identify your trusted sources of information for any severe weather event or hurricane. Credible and timely information is very important to taking the appropriate actions in the event of an emergency; and
 - Complete a written hurricane plan and keep it in a safe, easily accessible location.
- The Florida Division of Emergency Manage-

ment offers a checklist for your emergency plan.

Everyone living in Florida should have an emergency preparedness kit that meets your specific needs. Some items you may want to include in your kit are:

- Water (at least one gallon a day per person);
- Non-perishable packaged or canned food (enough for at least three to seven days);
- Any necessary medication (enough for two weeks);
- Written instructions for care and medication (including medication dosages, a list of medical devices you use and a list of your doctors);
- First aid kit;
- Flashlights with extra batteries;
- Pet care items (including any pet medications); and
- Other important documents (stored in a waterproof container).

In certain situations, it may be safest for you to evacuate from your house to a more secure location like a shelter. If you have a disability or a special need such as a medical condition, please register with your local emergency management office. All emergency management offices maintain a list of people within the community with a disability or a special need so they can be assisted quickly during an emergency.

To find contact information for your county's emergency management office, you can visit <https://www.floridadisaster.org/counties/>

The Florida Department of Health's website also has valuable information that can help you plan for emergency situations: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/index.html>

To get information on special needs shelters in your county, visit the Florida Special Needs Registry: <https://snr.floridadisaster.org/Signin?ReturnUrl=%2f>

ATTENTION: PARENTS!



We will be publishing a **Special Tribute** to the **Graduating Class of 2018!**

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Central County Water Drainage District is looking to hire a Highway Maintenance Tech. Duties include, Operating basic highway maintenance and traffic equipment to maintain, repair and clean highways and right-of-ways; • Moves and loads supplies and materials; • Maintains, repairs, and installs traffic signs, route markers, and pavement markings; • Performs emergency response activities such as: clean-up, traffic control, lane closures, placement of signs, and erecting barricades; • Performs equipment maintenance such as: minor repairs, preventative maintenance, re-fueling, and pre-trip inspections; • Performs miscellaneous labor tasks; • Performs job documentation • Performs related job duties as assigned. Cleans debris from roadways and right a ways. Must possess a valid driver's license

Applications may be picked up at Central County Water Drainage District, 475 S. Cabbage Palm Street, Clewiston FL (Montura Ranch Estates) 33440.

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Public Notice

Public Notice

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

Bids will be received by the District One Office until 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 14, 2018 for the following Proposals:

E1R77-R0 – Sign Installation, Repair, Replacement and Pavement Markings Removal and Replacement District-Wide.
Budget Amount: \$410,800.00

Z1053-R0 – Pre-Event Emergency Cut and Toss in Charlotte, Collier, Lee, Hendry, and Sarasota Counties.

Z1054-R0 – Pre-Event Emergency Cut and Toss in Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, and Lee Counties.

Z1055-R0 – Pre-Event Emergency Cut and Toss in DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Polk Counties.

Z1057-R0 – Pre-Event Emergency Generator Installation District-Wide.

Z1058-R0 – Pre-Event Traffic Signal Repair District-Wide.

Z1060 – Pre-Event Single and Multi-Post Signs in Charlotte, Collier, Lee, Hendry, and Sarasota Counties.

Z1061 – Pre-Event Single and Multi-Post Signs in Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, and Lee Counties.

Z1062 – Pre-Event Single and Multi-Post Signs in DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties.

Complete letting advertisement information for this project is available on our website at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/contractsadministration/district1/>; or by calling (863) 519-2599, 262302 CN/CB 5/24,31/2018

Public Notice

Public Notice

PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING NOTICE

The Joint Glades/Hendry Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. and a regular Board meeting at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at the Glades Health Department Conference Room, 1021 Health Park Drive, Moore Haven, FL 33427

All meetings of the Local Coordinating Board are open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Marcia Staszko at the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) by calling 863-534-7130 ext. 128 or by email at mstaszko@cfrpc.org at least seven days prior to the meeting.

The CFRPC planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes he/she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or familial status may file a complaint with the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, at 863-534-7130. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status.

260230 CN/CB 5/17,24/2018

Public Notice

Public Notice

HIGHLAND GLADES WATER CONTROL DISTRICT
NOTICE OF
2018 ANNUAL LANDOWNERS MEETING
&
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all owners of lands located within the boundaries of the HIGHLAND GLADES WATER CONTROL DISTRICT that, pursuant to applicable laws, a meeting of the landowners of the HIGHLAND GLADES WATER CONTROL DISTRICT will be held on **Monday, June 11, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative, 3rd Floor, West Sugar House Road, Belle Glade, Florida, for the following purposes:

1. Electing Supervisor(s);
2. Receiving annual reports and taking such action with respect thereto as the landowners may determine; and
3. Transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

The Board of Supervisors meeting will commence immediately thereafter and the purpose of this meeting is to approve the budget and set the non-av valorem assessment rate for Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 and to transact any and all business that may come before the Board.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Supervisors with respect to any matter considered at such 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.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District's Attorney, Charles F. Schoech, at (863) 675-5220 at least five (5) calendar days prior to the Meeting. DATED this Thursday, the 17th day of May, 2018.

By: Charles F. Schoech, Esq.
263084 BGS 5/24,31/2018

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 31st 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 May 16, 2018, the **6th Amendment to the 31st Annual Work Plan**. The Work Plan describes existing and proposed activities on Seminole land. The work proposed includes one (1) project in the Big Cypress Reservation and one (1) project in the Brighton Reservation: **Big Cypress Reservation** – 1) Ten (10) 4" EQUIP Cattle Water Wells – the Tribe is proposing to install ten (10) 4" water wells for beef cattle consumption. The proposed water wells will be required to provide water to the cattle within the fenced pasture areas to maximize the full use of the pasture land. **Brighton Reservation** – 1) Five (5) 4" EQUIP Cattle Water Wells – the Tribe is proposing to install five (5) 4" water wells for beef cattle consumption. The proposed water wells will be required to provide water to the cattle within the fenced pasture areas to maximize the full use of the pasture land. The Big Cypress Reservation is located in Broward County, Township 48 South, Range 34 East, and in Hendry County, Township 47 South, Ranges 32-34 East. 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.

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@sfwm.d.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 thereafter after reviewing the Staff Report.

263312 CN 5/24/2018

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 31st 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 May 16, 2018, the **6th Amendment to the 31st Annual Work Plan**. The Work Plan describes existing and proposed activities on Seminole land. The work proposed includes one (1) project in the Big Cypress Reservation and one (1) project in the Brighton Reservation: **Big Cypress Reservation** – 1) Ten (10) 4" EQUIP Cattle Water Wells – the Tribe is proposing to install ten (10) 4" water wells for beef cattle consumption. The proposed water wells will be required to provide water to the cattle within the fenced pasture areas to maximize the full use of the pasture land. **Brighton Reservation** – 1) Five (5) 4" EQUIP Cattle Water Wells – the Tribe is proposing to install five (5) 4" water wells for beef cattle consumption. The proposed water wells will be required to provide water to the cattle within the fenced pasture areas to maximize the full use of the pasture land. The Big Cypress Reservation is located in Broward County, Township 48 South, Range 34 East, and in Hendry County, Township 47 South, Ranges 32-34 East. 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.

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@sfwm.d.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 thereafter after reviewing the Staff Report.

263319 GCD 5/24/2018

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

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

Public Notice

Public Notice

HENDRY COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER
ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE
RELATING TO SOLID WASTE

Notice is hereby given that the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on June 12, 2018, at 5:00 p.m., at Clewiston City Hall, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, Florida, to consider an ordinance relating to solid waste entitled as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HENDRY COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 1-10, HEALTH AND SANITATION, ARTICLE V, SOLID WASTE AND MANDATORY COLLECTION UNIT SERVICE AREA, SPECIFICALLY SECTION 1-10-83, DEFINITIONS AND SECTION 1-10-96, RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONTRACTOR AND CUSTOMER FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS OF LAW; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, INCLUSION IN CODE, AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The meeting is open to the public. All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Hendry County Commission with respect to any matter discussed at such 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.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for inspection on weekdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the County Attorney, 110 Broward Avenue, LaBelle, Florida.

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

Hendry County is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Si necesita la asistencia de un interprete que hable español para participar un esta reunion, por favor pongase en contacto con Myra Johnson al (863) 675-5240, 263614 CN/CB 5/24/2018

HENDRY COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER
ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO
SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Notice is hereby given that the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on June 12, 2018, at 5:00 p.m., at Clewiston City Hall, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, Florida, to consider an ordinance relating to security and public safety entitled as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HENDRY COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 1-2, ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE XIV, SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY; MORE SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 1-2-251, EMPLOYMENT SCREENING FOR POSITIONS CRITICAL TO SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY, SECTION 1-2-253, FINGERPRINT PROCESSING AND SCREENING, AND SECTION 1-2-256, EMERGENCY CONDITIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS OF LAW; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, INCLUSION IN CODE, AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The meeting is open to the public. All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Hendry County Commission with respect to any matter discussed at such 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.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for inspection on weekdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the County Attorney, 110 Broward Avenue, LaBelle, Florida.

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

Hendry County is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Si necesita la asistencia de un interprete que hable español para participar un esta reunion, por favor pongase en contacto con Myra Johnson al (863) 675-5240, 263615 CN/CB 5/24/2018

HENDRY COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER
ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE
RELATING TO WRECKER SERVICES

Notice is hereby given that the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on June 12, 2018, at 5:00 p.m., at Clewiston City Hall, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, Florida, to consider an ordinance relating to wrecker services entitled as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO WRECKER SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR GEOGRAPHIC APPLICATION; PROVIDING FOR WRECKER BUSINESS QUALIFICATIONS AND LEVELS OF SERVICE; PROVIDING FOR FEES FOR WRECKER SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS OF LAW; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, INCLUSION IN CODE, AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The meeting is open to the public. All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Hendry County Commission with respect to any matter discussed at such 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.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for inspection on weekdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the County Attorney, 110 Broward Avenue, LaBelle, Florida.

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

Hendry County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Si necesita la asistencia de un interprete que hable español para participar un esta reunion, por favor pongase en contacto con Myra Johnson al (863) 675-5240, 263620 CN/CB 5/24/2018

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Public Notice

Public Notice

HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners will hold a special meeting on June 5, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. at the Hendry County Courthouse Commissioners Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, Florida for a ceremonial check presentation by the Director of the Division of State Fire Marshal, Bureau Chief of Fire Standards and Training, and the State Volunteer Fire Coordinator.

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.

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

Hendry County is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Si necesita la asistencia de un interprete que hable español para participar un esta reunion, por favor pongase en contacto con Myra Johnson al (863) 675-5240, 263193 CN/CB 5/24/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION
CIVIL ACTION
Case #: 2012-CA-000751

Bank of America, N.A.
Plaintiff,
-vs-
Cristela Rodriguez, Natural Guardian of Laisha Alfaro, a Minor; Cristela Rodriguez, Natural Guardian of Juan Alfaro, a Minor; Laisha Alfaro, a Minor; Juan Alfaro, a Minor; Gustavo Antonio Alfaro, Jr, a/k/a Gustavo Alfaro, Jr; Unknown Spouse of Gustavo Antonio Alfaro, Jr; a/k/a Gustavo Alfaro, Jr; Bozalla M. Cruz; Rene Cruz; Okeechobee Landings, Inc. d/b/a Easy Life Subdivision
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgment, entered in Civil Case No. 2012-CA-000751 of the Circuit Court of the 20th Judicial Circuit in and for Hendry County, Florida, wherein Bank of America, N.A., Plaintiff, and Cristela Rodriguez, Natural Guardian of Laisha Alfaro, a Minor are defendant(s), 1, Clerk of Court, Barbara S. Butler, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at 25 EAST HICKPOCHEE, 2ND FLOOR, LABELLE, FL 33935, AT 11:00 A.M. on June 27, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 121, HOLIDAY ISLES, UNIT NO. THREE, A SUBDIVISION IN SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 43 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGES 115 AND 116, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH THE DOUBLE WIDE MOBILE HOME YEAR 1995, MAKE CRESCENT LIMITED, INC/ CRESTMOBILE VIN NUMBER 146M8973A AND VIN NUMBER 146M8973B, WHICHBY INTENTION OF THE PARTIES AND UPON RETRIEVAL OF THE CERTIFICATE OF TITLE AS PROVIDED IN§1319.261 F.L.A. STAT., SHALL CONSTITUTE A PART OF THE REALTY AND SHALL PASS WITH IT.

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 the ADA Coordinator: 700 Monroe Street, Suite 1213, Fort Myers, Florida 33901 (239) 533-1521 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Barbara S. Butler
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Hendry County, Florida
J. Bevis
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: SHAPIRO, FISHMAN & GACHE, LLP
2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360 Boca Raton, Florida 33431
(561) 998-6700 (561) 998-6707
262232 CN 5/17,24/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2010CA000325CA

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.
Plaintiff,
vs.
VANESSA GARRETT; et al.,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sale will be made pursuant to an Order Resetting Sale entered on April 30, 2018 in Civil Case No. 2010CA000325CA, of the Circuit Court of the TWENTIETH Judicial Circuit in and for Hendry County, Florida, wherein, BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. is the Plaintiff, and VANESSA GARRETT; HENDRY COUNTY, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST; THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEE, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS are Defendants.

The Clerk of the Court, Barbara S. Butler will sell to the highest bidder for cash at 25 E Hickpochee, 2nd Floor, LaBelle, FL 33935 on June 27, 2018 at 11:00 AM EST the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 21 AND THE EAST 15 FEET OF LOT 22, BLOCK 16, BELMONT SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 9, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY 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.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on May 16, 2018.

CLERK OF THE COURT
Barbara S. Butler
J. Bevis
Deputy Clerk

ALDRIDGE I PITE, LLP, Attorney for Plaintiff
1615 South Congress Avenue Suite 200, Delray Beach, FL 33445
Telephone: (844) 470-8804 Facsimile: (561) 992-6965
Primary E-Mail: ServiceMail@aldridgeipite.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2010CA000325CA

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.
Plaintiff,
vs.
VANESSA GARRETT; et al.,
Defendant(s).

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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.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on May 16, 2018.

CLERK OF THE COURT
Barbara S. Butler
J. Bevis
Deputy Clerk

ALDRIDGE I PITE, LLP, Attorney for Plaintiff
1615 South Congress Avenue Suite 200, Delray Beach, FL 33445
Telephone: (844) 470-8804 Facsimile: (561) 992-6965
Primary E-Mail: ServiceMail@aldridgeipite.com

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 Dawn Oliver, Administrative Services Manager, whose office is located at the Hendry County Courthouse, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida 33935, and whose telephone number is (863) 675- 5374, 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.

263080 CN 5/24,31/2018

GAL

Continued From Page 1

attorneys. GAL volunteers bring a community-based, common sense approach to children's cases. They are supervised and supported by child advocate managers who help them navigate the complex dependency system. Best-interests attorneys provide essential legal counsel, attend hearings and depositions, negotiate outside of the courtroom and take on appeals. The unique perspective and expertise of each team member complements the others and all are critical in advocating for the best interests of children.

GAL volunteers are the eyes and the ears of the court providing firsthand accounts of the child's situation at critical points in the case through reports to the judge. The GAL gives the child a voice and helps the child find his or her own voice unlike other dependency stakeholders with caseloads of many children – the GAL volunteer serves two children at a time on average. This enables GAL volunteers to get to know their children, visit their homes and schools, and develop a relationship with each child. Having a firsthand understanding of the child enhances the GAL team's advocacy because the case can be seen from the child's perspective and advocacy built around the child's unique needs. The GAL Program has over 170 lawyers representing children's best interests. Legal advocacy of the best interests of children must be well-informed, proactive and tailored to the unique needs of each child. GAL best-interests attorneys advocate for things like expedited permanency, compliance with statutory time frames, stability in placements and schools, appropriate healthcare, including mental health treatment, visitation, involving children in court hearings when it is in their best interests, and normalcy activities.

The GAL Program's Appellate Team litigates in all of Florida's appellate courts. The GAL Program uses appellate advocacy to make systemic changes for children's best interests. The GAL appellate team has coordinated litigation to make case law more child-centered in the area of adoption intervention and in the consti-

tutional analysis of least restrictive means. The decisions of the appellate courts affect all children, and the GAL Program ensures children's legal interests are at the forefront in appeals, appearing in over 580 appellate cases in 2017.

The GAL Program advocates for systemic improvements for the thousands of children it represents by championing legislation that furthers children's best interests. The GAL Program worked with legislators to pass laws allowing children to use facility and therapy dogs in dependency court, to give foster and adoptive parents free access to state parks, and to make permanent the Keys to Independence Program, which helps kids in out-of-home care get driver licenses. In 2018, the GAL Program is advocating to improve the quality of representation in dependency court and to expedite permanency for children through bills to streamline the identification of legal fathers and more meaningfully engage incarcerated parents in case plans. In 2017, the GAL Program expanded pro bono opportunities in its "Defending Best Interests" initiative. Attorneys volunteer to write the legal argument in a child's case on appeal with support from the GAL Program. The initiative has received enthusiastic support, especially from the Appellate Practice Section of The Florida Bar. Attorneys help children reach permanency by defending judicial determinations of best interests, children benefit from advocacy by some of Florida's top lawyers, and the state saves money.

Section 39.01305 authorizes appointment of attorneys for certain children with special needs, such as a developmental disabilities diagnosis. The GAL Program must attempt to find attorneys to serve pro bono, and if a volunteer attorney cannot be found, an attorney from a registry is appointed. The GAL Program is working to improve the number and quality of attorneys representing children. The GAL Program provides training opportunities to registry attorneys, including providing scholarships to an annual conference focused on topics unique to these children. The GAL Program is also working to remove barriers for pro bono attorneys to serve through legislation that will enable volunteer attorneys to have due process costs paid by the state. The GAL Program is also collaborating with The Florida Bar

since she was in kindergarten and was actually her physical education teacher throughout elementary school, is proud of her accomplishment.

"Joy has always been a go-getter," said Mr. Greseth. "She's always been a hard worker that cares about other people. I think she has a great shot at winning this. I'd be extremely excited and proud if she won. The only bad thing is that I would lose her for a year because she would be traveling and working with other teachers around the state, but I wouldn't want to hold her back; she can do a lot of good."

Mentoring teachers wouldn't be a new experience for Mrs. Prescott, because at PECS she does exactly that with new teachers arriving at the school. She also spends time after school tutoring struggling students and serves on committees that contribute to the overall school culture. And she was instrumental in the school's adoption of an app that helps teachers stay connected with one another and with students and their families.

"Being a teacher is what I've always wanted to do," Mrs. Prescott said. "My whole life I knew that this is exactly where I wanted to be."

Foundation using its Pro Bono Matters website to more effectively identify pro bono attorneys who are interested in representing children with special needs.

The GAL Program is fortunate to be supported by a not-for-profit organization in each of the 20 judicial circuits. These organizations provide critical support to a wide range of GAL Program initiatives, such as volunteer appreciation events, securing grants and even employing staff. They also give invaluable assistance to the children represented by the GAL Program from sports equipment to clothing, and even paying for services such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) when a provider does not.

Speak Up for Kids is the non-profit organization for the 15th Judicial Circuit whose sole purpose is to support the GAL program in Palm Beach County by funding projects and needs that are not supported through other sources. Their website states that in Palm Beach County there are nearly 1,400 children involved in dependency court proceedings and that there are nearly 300 children every year that require the voice of a GAL volunteer to speak for the child's best interest. If you wish to donate or make contact with the organization, their office is located at 205 North Dixie Highway, Suite, 2.2100, West Palm Beach FL 33401, and can also be contacted via telephone 561-408-7779 or email at info@speakupforkidspsc.org. Speak Up for Kids is currently looking for individuals to RSVP for Tuesday April 17, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza off State Road 7 in Wellington who will be donating back 20% to the organization.

Approximately 11,022 GAL volunteers have given over 258,555 hours of their time, driven 2,211,648 miles and have represented 38,332 children so far this year.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer Guardian ad Litem, visit guardianadlitem.org, galpsc.org or contact the 15th Judicial Circuit Office – located in the Palm Beach County Courthouse at 205 North Dixie Highway, Suite 4.1100 Juvenile Justice Wing, in West Palm Beach, FL 33401 – via telephone at 561-355-2773. You can also email GALRecruitment15@gal.fl.gov or call 561-355-6224. The 15th Judicial Circuit's program solely encompasses the county of Palm Beach. The circuit director is Michelle Canady.

Not only is there a volunteer aspect but also career opportunities. The GAL Program is seeking hard-working, dedicated individuals who want to make a difference in a child's life. Qualified individuals are needed to provide best interests advocacy for abused, neglected and abandoned children. The GAL Program is an equal employment opportunity, drug free workplace employer. Background checks are required as well as driving record checks for positions requiring driving.

The center is accepting applications at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS-dIPfRWWhmyTI2Q3XF6P9mLzlh7WmCAnIX-4nx0F3d9sWlfqylg/viewform?usp=sf_link. Interested students should apply before May 30. Any questions can be addressed to Amanda Lehrian of the Hendry Glades Curtis Center, at alehrian@fsw.edu.

TEACHER

Continued From Page 1

to develop the skills necessary to succeed academically and personally. I appreciate that she sets high expectations and provides her students the support and encouragement they need to meet and exceed them. I am thrilled to congratulate her on this tremendous honor."

Mrs. Prescott got her start in education as a third-grade teacher at Central Elementary in Okeechobee, and she was inspired to become an educator by two people very close to her.

"The biggest teachers to have an impact on me were my mom and dad," Mrs. Prescott explained. "They inspired me completely. They were hard-working, and always wanted a better life for me. I was the first in my family to graduate college. They pushed me to be who I am today. I also want to thank PECS Principal Brian Greseth for giving me a shot. That school is the best of the best. I feel like any of the teachers there could be in my position now. They push me and make me want to do better for my students."

Mr. Greseth, who has known Mrs. Prescott

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Report sightings of northern bobwhite quail on your land

Special to INI Florida

To help restore the state's northern bobwhite quail populations, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is asking private landowners to report sightings of bobwhite quail on their land.

Landowners can go to a new FWC webpage to record when and where they see northern bobwhite quail on their property: MyFWC.com/QuailSightings.

Hearing bobwhite quail calls also qualifies as a sighting.

The information collected will be useful to biologists in the FWC's Landowner Assistance Program, who collaborate with private landowners on the restoration of bobwhite quail habitat. Bobwhite quail populations in Florida have declined by an estimated 82 percent over the past 50 years, primarily due to loss of habitat.

"I encourage landowners to get involved and let us know when you see or hear bobwhite quail on your land. The more landowners who decide to report their bobwhite quail sightings to the FWC's new webpage, the more data we will have on the current locations and abundance of bobwhite quail throughout the state," said Morgan Richardson, who heads the FWC's Landowner Assistance Program. "Your participation will help us improve our efforts to restore bobwhite quail populations in Florida."

The National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative in its State of the Bobwhite 2017 report mentions how FWC's private lands biologists "provided technical assistance and cost share opportunities to landowners, creating roughly 8,000 acres of new bobwhite habitat throughout the state – nearly doubling last year's acreage total."

More than 19 million acres of Florida's

nearly 35 million acres are in private ownership. The land management practices encouraged by the FWC to maintain and restore bobwhite quail habitat include:

- Planting low-density longleaf pine forests (less than 500 trees per acre).
- Frequently doing prescribed burns.
- Planting and maintaining field borders with native plants, providing food and cover for bobwhite quail.

The FWC wants to record sightings of wild quail, not pen-raised quail that are released for hunting. Sightings of bobwhite quail that are current or within the past year are preferred, but older sightings may be reported if the year and month are known.

Learn more about the Landowner Assistance Program at MyFWC.com/LAP where you can contact an FWC private lands biologist.

The FWC also relies on citizen scientists to report sightings of other species. Go to

MyFWC.com/Get-Involved and click on "Citizen Science" and then "Sightings."



Special to INI Florida/**FWC**
Bobwhite quail populations in Florida have declined by an estimated 82 percent over the past 50 years.

Be prepared: Buy National Flood Insurance now

Special to INI Florida

ORLANDO — One of the best ways to prepare for hurricane season is to buy insurance.

Nearly a million property owners filed claims for various insured losses from Hurricane Irma, according to the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation, with estimated insured losses totaling nearly \$8 billion. More than 750,000 of the 900,000 claims were made by residential property owners. With 1.7 million National Flood Insurance Program policies, Florida has the largest percentage — 35 percent — of NFIP policies in the entire system. When Irma made landfall Sept. 10, 2017, many homeowners, renters and business owners had flood insurance policies, but many more did not.

Flooding can occur anywhere, even in low-risk areas. Almost 25 percent of claims come from areas not considered at high risk for flooding and receive one-third of all federal flooding disaster help.

Homeowners, renters and business insurance does not typically cover flood damage, making it important for Floridians to buy an NFIP policy now. An NFIP insurance policy becomes effective 30 days after it is purchased. Flood insurance pays policyholders even if there is no federal disaster declaration.

Floods are the most common and most costly natural disasters in the United States. Without flood insurance it may be too expensive for owners to repair or rebuild.

NFIP policyholders have been paid more than \$887 million to repair and rebuild since Irma. Many policyholders received up to 50 percent advance payments — nearly \$121 million — to minimize waiting for money to start work.

By mid-March this year, 97 percent of the more than 28,000 submitted NFIP claims had been closed, with an average payment of \$49,000.

Homeowners, renters and business owners who live in NFIP-participating communities are eligible to purchase flood insurance through an insurance agent or an insurer participating in NFIP.

To find out if a community participates in NFIP, ask an insurance agent or go online to www.fema.gov/cis/FL.html.

A single-family residential building can be insured up to a maximum of \$250,000 and its contents up to \$100,000. Renters can cover contents up to \$100,000. Non-residential property owners can insure their building up to \$500,000 and contents up to \$500,000.

The cost of a policy depends on the flood risk, but the average annual cost for a homeowner is approximately \$700.

To find an agent who sells flood insurance, contact the NFIP Referral Call Center at 800-427-4661.

For information on general flood insurance questions, contact your local floodplain administrator, NFIP at 800-427-4661, or your

insurance agent. TTY users may call NFIP at 800-427-5593. Email FloodSmart@dhs.gov to request information in a language other than English. Information also is available at www.FEMA.gov, at frequently asked questions and at www.FloodSmart.gov. For more recovery information, visit www.FEMA.gov/IrmaFL, or follow us @FEMARegion4 on Twitter and on FEMA's Facebook page.

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CONGRATULATIONS

WHEELS FOR "A's" WINNER 2018

Victoria Gomez

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