# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 103 No. 33 | Friday, March 16, 2012 | 50¢ Plus tax

**March for Babies raises $43,500**
... Page 14

**OUA out of 'best tasting water' contest**... Page 5

## Lake Levels

**12.83 feet**
**Last Year: 11.87 feet**


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


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Okeechobee News/**Katrina Elsken**

## Fun at the County Fair!

**Connie Lopez and her 2-year-old granddaughter Ella enjoyed meeting a friendly giraffe in the petting zoo at the Okeechobee County Fair. The zoo sells cups of feed to visitors who want to feed the animals. The fair is under way this week at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. The entrance is off State Road 710. For more on the fair, see page 11.**

# SFWMD leases violated?

## Water managers accused of 'selective enforcement'

**By Eric Kopp**
Okeechobee News

*Editors note: In a telephone conversation on Friday, March 9 Louis E. Larson Jr. asked to set up a meeting with reporter Eric Kopp for Wednesday, March 14 with himself, Ricou Hartman and Jeffrey Clemons. Due to a desire to give the readers the complete story, the Okeechobee News delayed publication of this article, which was originally scheduled for the Sunday, March 11 edition. However, the three men did not come to the newspaper office on Wednesday and did not contact Mr. Kopp to cancel the meeting or to reschedule.*

Information has come to light that actions of a local cattle company on property being leased from the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) are apparently accepted by water managers, even though they may violate the terms of that lease.

These actions by the Old River Cattle Company of Okeechobee include baling hay and, at one time, using water from the L-59 canal without a permit from SFWMD.

Numerous phone calls were placed to the SFWMD seeking comment and answers to questions but none have been returned.

The Old River Cattle Company is currently leasing 4,701 acres of non-contiguous parcels in Glades County.

And while it may appear to be an innocuous violation, it is stated on the first page of that lease that: "Lessee may utilize

See **SFWMD** — Page 16


Steve Hoskins
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# Free Florida Panther ebook offered

In an effort to help spread awareness about Florida's state animal, Sylvan Dell Publishing will offer the "Felina's New Home: A Florida Panther Story" eBook free on March 16-17, for Save the Florida Panther Day. This book follows the fictional story of a young Florida panther as her forest home begins to shrink and human interaction threatens to destroy the forest for both her and other endangered Florida animals.

"Felina's New Home," winner of both the President's Book Award and the Bock Book Award for Children's Literature, has been highly praised by many environmental groups, including Cougar News, the Cougar Rewilding Foundation, and the Friends of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

"A charming and important story about the importance of conservation and preservation, Felina's New Home takes children into the rapidly shrinking natural world of one of the world's most rare, beautiful mammals and brings a message of hope that it is not too late for Florida panthers, one of the most endangered species in the world. Felina carries a timely and important lesson for children and adults alike," says Lisa Ostberg, 2010 President of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

To view the free eBook on March 16-17, visit the Sylvan Dell Publishing website at www.sylvandellpublishing.com and click on the Florida panther icon. For questions or concerns, call Sylvan Dell Publishing directly at 877-243-3457 or email info@sylvandellpublishing.com.

Sylvan Dell Publishing's mission is to excite children's imaginations with artistically spectacular science, math, and nature-themed stories. Founded in November of 2004, Sylvan Dell has grown to include more than 75 authors and illustrators in the United States and Canada, and 70 titles—honored as finalists or winners of over 70 book awards. Sylvan Dell's Science and Math Through Literature Program integrates science, math, geography, character skills, and language learning through fun, cross-curricular activities. Sylvan Dell also provides more online educator resources than any other publisher in the United States. For more information, visit www.sylvandellpublishing.com.

# OCA collecting Easter Basket items

Okeechobee Christian Academy is organizing the annual Easter basket give away for children less fortunate in our community. Seacoast National Bank has generously donated 100 baskets for students to fill. They are collecting items such as grass, snacks, candy, small toys, stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons, bubbles, cellophane bags to wrap up the baskets, etc. The student body will assemble the baskets and then they will be distributed by Communities in Schools. The number of baskets that can be assembled depends on the amount of the donations received. Last year they were able to distribute over 100 baskets! Donations can be made at Okeechobee Christian Academy located at 701 S. Parrott Avenue by March 30. If you are interested in helping out or if you have any questions please call the school office at 863-763-3072. You can also visit our website at www.okeechobeechristianacademy.net

## Okeechobee Forecast

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**Today:** Patchy fog before 8am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 83. East northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. East wind around 5 mph.

### Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. East northeast wind between 5–10 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. East northeast wind around 5 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. East northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Sunday Night**: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. East northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. East wind between 5 and 15 mph.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. East wind between 5–10 mph.

## Weatherization helps cut electric bills

Okeechobee Non Profit Housing Inc., is collaborating with Indiantown Non Profit Housing Inc., to implement a weatherization program provided by the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs. Low income families in Okeechobee County can obtain funds through the program to add insulation and make other improvements to their homes that will held cut electric bills. The program is open to both homeowners and renters. In the case of a renter, the owner of the rental property must agree to pay 10 percent of the cost of the improvements. The program mission is to reduce heating and cooling costs by improving the energy efficiency of the home.

Strategies include sealing windows and doors to prevent waste of heating and cooling, attic insulation, installation of smart thermostats for central health and cooling, replacing inefficient refrigerators, and many other improvements at no cost to the applicant. For more information, contact Okeechobee Non Profit Housing Inc. by calling 863-467-5525, or stop by the office at 115 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Okeechobee.

**NOTICE OF VACANCIES**
**PLANNING BOARD/ BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS**

The Board of County Commissioners of Okeechobee County, Florida is seeking interested persons for appointment to the Okeechobee County Planning Board/Board of Adjustments and Appeals. The appointment of one or more regular or alternate members is for the remainder of a three year term expiring March 1, 2014, or for the remainder of the alternate member's three year term expiring March 1, 2013.

This Board conducts public hearings and renders decisions on special exception, variances and appeals; conducts public hearings prior to making recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on changes in zoning and amendments to the County's land development regulations and comprehensive plan; considers and approves certain site plans and development orders, and performs other duties as established by the County's land development regulations. The Board is also designated as the Local Planning Agency for the County. Board members are appointed to represent the public interest and must be residents of Okeechobee County.

Applications may be obtained from the County Administrator's Office at the Historic Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 123, Okeechobee, Florida. Applications may also be downloaded from www.co.okeechobee.fl.us. Completed applications, along with proof of residency in Okeechobee County, must be submitted to the County Administrator's Office no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30,2012.

Margaret Garrard Helton, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

**Publish: March 16, 2012**

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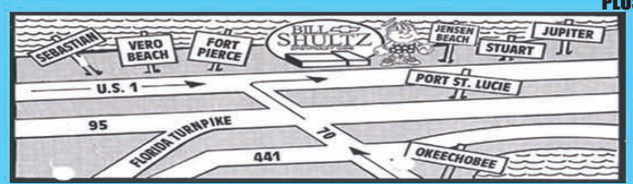


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# Public Forum/Speak Out

*Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!*

## County help

• I have had several occasions that I have asked the county for donations for a non-profit organization that I am affiliated with and on each occasion I have been denied. No explanation other than "we don't do that anymore." The first instance was the use of the agri civic center that was sitting vacant in use for our event that would bring not only recognition to the County for their support but also possible other events to the Center. The response was yes you could rent it for a fee, plus pay a maintenance worker to be there during event, plus pay for light usage during the event. Mind you, this was before the "mandated" light usage fee that the County now imposes on the citizens as well. The second instance was here recently where I ask for use of tables and chairs (which have been loaned out for years to different non-profit organizations for their events). It saddens me most of all because one of their own passed away recently from cancer and they could care less about donating tables/chairs, use of facilities, or help in any way for research so no one else will be affected by this awful disease. Thankfully, there still are some wonderful folks and businesses that are willing to help out a great cause, it is very unfortunate the Okeechobee County isn't one of them.

• I don't think they are discriminating against anyone non-profit. They haven't let anyone use the agri-civic center for free and this has been a problem since the start. We, the taxpayers, paid for that white elephant and we can't even use it for public events. When a private citizen paid for Fourth of July Fireworks so the community would have a show, the county charged them for using the parking lot at the agri-civic center. They didn't even use the building. The people watching the show just parked there. That was the last Fourth of July Fireworks show the community had.

## School lunch

• Show up on taco salad day. Get a good look at the taco filling. It's called "hamburger crumble" on the bag. It looks just like light brown mush.

• How hard is it to cook real food? Yes, you have to get up early and cook it so it will be fresh for the children, and yes, it is a bit "hard." I have done it for 15 cowhands and they eat like there is no tomorrow. Beans and rice and a couple of vegetables and meat and biscuits and honey or cane syrup and they fill up and are ready for the rest of the day. Just get it done and get over it, people. It is the same if you cook for five or 5,000...it just takes a bit more people. Just cook real food and the children will eat or not eat but I would venture a guess that they will eat. If you start with dry beans and rice it is very inexpensive and fill in with fresh vegetables and some good protein and a dessert of some kind that is actually appetizing. You have it made!

• It seems the answer is to have one choice. That way those with last lunch won't be short changed. Have one choice and feed everyone the same meal. Post the lunch menus a week in advance so that parents will know what is being served. That would be fair to everyone and it would be more cost effective too. If they are worried that some kids will refuse to eat and make themselves sick, then have peanut butter and jelly sandwiches as an option. Those can be made to order and you wouldn't waste anything.

## USA grown produce

• Why is it that we vote people in office that put laws into effect that protect the public and make the American farmer adhere to certain standards and then we go to the grocer and buy the cheaper vegetables, etc. from other countries that don't have our standards? It is cheaper that is why. Maybe we don't care so much about our health after all?

• This is a green economy, farming is a dirty business, it encourages some to work under slave conditions to harvest crops. Tractors, combines and harvesters run on diesel fuel. Have you ever smelled diesel exhaust? Ugh, stinky! Our current administration is working on an algae based biofuel that will not harm the environment and I'm sure that wind generation and solar will be powering your tractor soon. Until then China will supply our stores with natural organic produce lovingly nurtured in a clean communist environment.

# Guest Commentary

## Helping small businesses and entrepreneurs: The Key to America's Recovery

**By U.S Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16)**

The past few years have been tough for families and businesses in every part of our country. However, our region has been particularly hard hit. Here in Okeechobee County, the unemployment rate was 10.3 percent in the most recent survey from the Department of Labor.

Unfortunately, the proliferation of regulation and red tape handed down from Washington, D.C. has only further burdened our job creators—particularly startups and small businesses—and prevented them from growing and putting our neighbors back to work.

In the last five years, we have seen a 23-percent decline in new business creation, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This decline, caused by the proliferation of federal regulation, has both contributed to the present economic downturn and prevented our national recovery. By some estimates, the loss of these new businesses has cost our economy approximately 2 million new jobs.

We cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the past. We need a new approach that recognizes that startups and small businesses are the real job creators that can lead us to economic recovery.

It's time that we made these commonsense reforms that will help startups and small businesses expand and create jobs. After all, it's startups like Apple, Chipotle, and Google that grew and created over forty million American jobs in the last three decades. We need to unleash that American entrepreneurial spirit.

Recently, the House of Representatives passed a bipartisan legislative package, the Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act, to do just that. Our bill had overwhelming bipartisan support, clearing the House by a 390-23 vote. This bipartisan legislation would spur economic growth and create jobs by removing barriers that have slowed and stopped the expansion of startups and small businesses. These barriers include the burdensome initial public offering process and a lack of access to capital.

The JOBS Act would enable startups and small businesses to raise capital more easily by allowing companies to advertise for new investors and pool investments from smaller investors. It would allow community banks to invest in more local entrepreneurs by modifying securities regulations. The bill addresses the prohibitive cost of going public—a significant roadblock to expansion—by easing the shareholder threshold regulations that hit small businesses with costly requirements before they have the capital to comply. Finally, our legislation removes the ban on "crowdfunding," so that startups can pool investments from multiple, smaller investors.

Together, these pro-entrepreneurship and pro-jobs reforms will reduce the regulatory burden that has encumbered startups and small business owners. These reforms will enable small businesses to go public sooner, grow faster, and create more jobs.

Given this bill's widespread support in the House, and its support from President Obama, the Senate should take up this jobs package and pass it quickly. The American people, and especially the people of Okeechobee County, cannot afford for this critical legislation to join the list of nearly 30 bipartisan jobs bills that have passed in the House but cannot get a vote in the Democrat-run Senate.

## Electric bill assistance is available for seniors

Okeechobee Senior Services is currently taking applications for the EHEAP grant. You must be sixty or over or have someone in the household sixty and over. This grant will pay for electric bills and space heaters. You must have a Final Notice. Call Sheila at 863-462-5180 to find out the documentation you will have to apply.

## Yard sale for Children's Ranch

Real Life Children's Ranch Yard sale is open on Tuesday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come on out and get great bargains. The ranch welcomes all donations that are in good condition and can be sold. They are in need of clothing items.


OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Additional copies of the newspaper are available for 50 cents Wednesday and Friday and 75 cents for Sunday at the office. Home delivery subscriptions are available at $18.00 for three months.

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**Our Purpose...**
The Okeechobee News is published by Independent Newspapers of Florida. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.

**We Pledge...**
- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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# OUA drops out of 'best tasting water' contest

**By Pete Gawda**
Okeechobee News

We'll never know if Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) has the best tasting drinking water in the area this year. Illness prevented OUA from competing in the 2012 Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest sponsored by the Florida Section, American Water Works Association (FSAWWA), Region VIII.

On the day of the contest, a water plant operator was to bring a fresh sample to the contest. John Hayford, OUA's executive director, said that the utility was short handed because of illness and could not spare someone to deliver the sample.

The panel of judges, consisting of Jeremiah Johnson, City of Fort Pierce Planning Board Chair, Thomas Perona, City of Fort Pierce Commissioner, JoAnn Faiella, City of Port St. Lucie Mayor, Tod Mowery, St. Lucie County Commissioner and Scott Echler, FSAWWA Region VIII Past Chair, presented the award to St. Lucie County Utilities.

The other utilities participating in the contest were Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, Martin County, South Martin Regional Utilities, Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie West, Vero Beach, Indian River County, Silver Lake and the City of Stuart.

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

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Debi Large**

## Shower of kindness

**The ladies of Pirates Cove and ATC Retreat Mobile Home Parks recently held a baby shower for the Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee. They brought outfits, diapers and many other items that will be used in the Baby Boutique where clients are able to earn and spend their "baby dollars." The ladies played a few games, enjoyed cake and thrilled Lisa Lumpkin and Debi Large from the Pregnancy Center with their great kindness.**

# CenterState Bank hosts grand opening

CenterState Bank's Okeechobee branch will host a grand opening event at their new branch location, 2100 S. Parrott Ave., Okeechobee, on Friday, March 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will feature True Country 100.9 DJs, free food and beverage and an opportunity to enter CenterState's Life's a Breeze Contest for a chance to win a 2012 Mustang convertible. The Mustang will be onsite during the event, and attendees will be able to speak with "Switch Agents" about moving their banking to CenterState and receiving "Three Free" - a

free gift, free checking and free debit card when a new, qualifying account is opened.

CenterState Bank also offers many business banking products, featuring Completely Free Business Checking. For more information, please call Tabitha Trent at 863-763-5573.


**Phone Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers**

The Florida Public Service Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are $18.80 per month and business services are $26.50 to $31.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink offers Lifeline service to customers who meet eligibility requirements. The federal Lifeline program is undergoing some changes in 2012, but customers may be eligible if they participate in certain federal or state assistance programs or have a household annual gross income at or below 135% of the federal poverty level. Lifeline is available for only one wireline or wireless telephone per household. Lifeline is not transferrable and documentation of eligibility is required to enroll. Qualifying residents of American Indian and Alaskan Native tribal lands may be eligible for additional discounts.

Lifeline eligible subscribers may also qualify for reliable home high-speed Internet service up to 1.5Mbps for $9.95* per month for the first 12 months of service. Further details are available at centurylink.com/internetbasics.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

***CenturyLink Internet Basics Program** – Residential customers only who qualify based on meeting income level or program participation eligibility requirements, and requires remaining eligible for the entire offer period. First bill will include charges for the first full month of service billed in advance, prorated charges for service from the date of installation to bill date, and one-time charges and fees described above. Qualifying customers may keep this program for a maximum of 60 months after service activation provided customer still qualifies during that time. Listed High-Speed Internet rate of $9.95/mo. applies for first 12 months of service (after which the rate reverts to $14.95/mo. for the next 48 months of service), and requires a 12-month term agreement. Customer must either lease a modem/router from CenturyLink for an additional monthly charge or purchase a modem/router from CenturyLink for a one-time charge, and a one-time High-Speed Internet activation fee applies. A one-time professional installation charge (if selected by customer) and a one-time shipping and handling fee applies to customer's modem/router. **General** – Services not available everywhere. CenturyLink may change or cancel services or substitute similar services at its sole discretion without notice. Offer, plans, and stated rates are subject to change and may vary by service area. Deposit may be required. Additional restrictions apply. **Terms and Conditions** – All products and services listed are governed by tariffs, terms of service, or terms and conditions posted at centurylink.com. **Taxes, Fees, and Surcharges** – Applicable taxes, fees, and surcharges include a carrier Universal Service charge, carrier cost recovery surcharges, state and local fees that vary by area and certain in-state surcharges. Cost recovery fees are not taxes or government-required charges for use. Taxes, fees, and surcharges apply based on standard monthly, not promotional, rates.

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# A 'watchdog' with manners?

A legitimate role for the press is that of "the public's watchdog." Most citizens can't spend the time necessary to personally observe their public officials at work, or to determine how well public institutions are carrying out their public mission.

But too many newspapers these days act more like "mad dogs" than "watchdogs."

We're proud to be different. We try to carry out our "watchdog" role as humble representatives of the public, always maintaining a courteous tone and our reputation for purposeful neutrality.

How are we doing?

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

*Community Service Through Journalism*

# Community Events

## North VFW announces weekend plans

The North VFW, 300 NW 34th St has a weekend full of fun planned. The grill will be open on Friday 5-9 p.m. with karaoke hosted by D & K Karaoke (Danny & Kathy) 7-10 p.m. Saturday, there will be burgers on the grill noon-2 p.m., Bar Bingo 1 p.m. and Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner at 5 p.m. There will be a St. Patrick's Day Party beginning at 7 p.m. with karaoke hosted Steve On A Stick 6-9 p.m. Proceeds go towards veterans assistance programs. Be sure to stop by and join in fun.

## The North Moose happenings

The North Moose Lodge #1753, 159 NW 36th St.will be having bingo on Friday at 6:30 p.m. with bonanza start at 5 p.m. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, there will be a Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner served 5:30-7:30 p.m. at a cost of $6 per meal with karaoke hosted by Cowboy 7-10 p.m. Sunday breakfast will be served 8-11 a.m. for $5 per meal. Don't miss out on some good food & great entertainment. Proceeds go towards Moose Charities.

## B.R.A.T. Club plans dance

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

## Cypress Eagles to host Friday dinner night

Cypress Hut Eagles will host dinner night this Friday, **March 16** from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Variety of meals offered. All proceeds to benefit Community Charity Fund. Public is welcome. For information, please call 863-467-1154.

## CenterState plans grand opening event

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

## Eagles to host Steak Night

Friday, **March 16** is Steak Night at the North Eagles, 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee. Jay and the SHO NUFF Band will entertain. Dinners Start at 5:30 p.m., until 9 p.m. Music at around 8 p.m. Proceeds go to the F.O.E. community benefit fund.

## YF&R to host annual Scholarship BBQ

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

# Obituaries

*Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing obits@newszap.com. Customers may also request photos and links to online guest books. A link to the obituaries is available at www.newszap.com.*

## Hudd Lee Gorham, 59

OKEECHOBEE — Hudd Lee Gorham, age 59, of Okeechobee, passed away Wednesday, March 14, 2012, in Raulerson Hospital. He was born June 30, 1942, In DeMoines, Iowa, to Valdon E. and Betty Sue (Huddleston) Gorham.

There will be no public services.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, Fl 34972. On-line condolences may be made at www.buxtonfuneralhome.com.

## Margie N. Amick, 91

OKEECHOBEE — Margie N. Amick, 91, of Okeechobee, died peacefully on Wednesday, March 13, 2012, in Vero Beach.Mrs. Amick was born March 28, 1920, in Pikeville, Ky. She had been a resident of Okeechobee since 1982, coming from Pikeville.

Survivors include her son, Jimmie Joe Amick of Okeechobee; daughter, Frankie Rowlett of Athens, Tenn.; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Joe W. Amick.

Private services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Cox Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory in Vero Beach. Online condolences may be sent at www.coxgiffordseawinds.com.

## Richard Homer Ellsworth, LCDR (Ret.)

OKEECHOBEE — Richard Ellsworth, LCDR (Ret.), age 67, of Okeechobee, passed away on Wednesday, March 14, 2012.

He was born Sept. 1, 1944, in Gloversville, N.Y., to Homer and Amy Loucks Ellsworth.

He joined the United States Navy on August 29, 1964. He completed "A" School and Nuclear Power Training where he was sent to his first command the diesel submarine the USS Cubera (SS 347) where he earned his dolphins. He served aboard the US Falgot (DER 324) during the Viet Nam War. Throughout his military career he was looked upon for his extensive knowledge of not only the Nuclear Power Plant operation but also his knowledge of overall submarine operation. He worked with Admiral Rickover during the construction of the S8G Prototype in New York. His love for the military was only surpassed by his love for his family which he will carry with him.

After his retirement from the US Navy he went to work for Florida Power & Light as a Quality Assurance Engineer, he retired from FP&L after 15 years. At FP&L he would travel around the country ensuring that components used in the operation of the St. Lucie Power Plant were maintained properly.

After working with FP&L he worked with Marco Migliaro developing testing procedures to ensure the operation of items developed by Vector Electronics functions as described.

He came to Okeechobee from Port St. Lucie in 2004. He was a member of the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church; the Okeechobee Masonic Lodge No. 237; Amara Shrine Center; Past Patron of the Okeechobee Chapter No. 128, OES; and was the first Base Commander of the Henry Breault Memorial Treasure Coast Base, United States Submarine Veterans.

Mr. Ellsworth was preceded in death by his mother, Amy Ellsworth; first wife, Sandra Ellsworth; and sister, Amy Aline Ellsworth.

He is survived by his wife of twelve years, Jerry Ellsworth of Okeechobee; father, Homer Ellsworth of Northville, N.Y.; children, Stephanie Morgan (David) of Port St. Lucie, William Ellsworth (Samantha) of Greensburg, Pa., Wendy Bennett of Hernando Beach, Fla., Robin Cabrera (Robert) of Safety Harbor, Fla., and Jennifer LaFontaine (David) of Purcellville, Va.; eleven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; siblings, Ronald Ellsworth (Sue) of Rochester, N.Y., Sue Trembly (Jack) of Hilton, N.Y., and Karen Bogusz (Gary) of Broadalbin, N.Y.; and many nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, March 17, 2012, from 10 a.m. until service time of noon in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee. Services will begin at noon with the Order of the Eastern Star and Masonic services, followed by a traditional service with Rev. Loy D. Mershimer, pastor of the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, officiating. Military services will follow.

In memory of Richard Ellsworth, donations may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607, Attention Development.

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th Street, Okeechobee, Florida (863) 763-1994.

On-line condolences may be made at www.Buxtonfuneralhome.com.

## Roger Smith, 58

OKEECHOBEE — Roger Smith, age 58, of the Brighton Reservation, died Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at Florida Hospital, Lake Placid. A native Floridian, Roger spent his lifetime in the Okeechobee area.

Roger graduated from Moore Haven High School where he was a four year letterman in football. His enthusiasm for sports carried over into his adulthood as each of his daughters was involved in various sports.

Like his brother Fred, former President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and his brother Jack, Jr., five time Council Representative, Roger was involved in Tribal Government. Twice he served as Council Representative and also held a seat as a Board Representative at Brighton Reservation. Roger also had involvement in the Tribal cattle industry as he was a lifetime cattle owner.

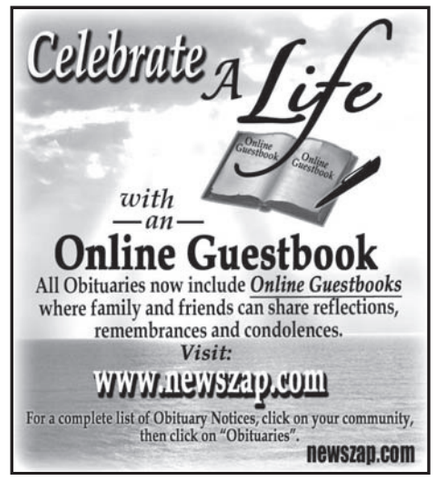
Roger was preceded in death by his father, Jack Smith Sr.; and mother, Leona Micco Smith; brothers, Richard, Fred, and Paul Smith; and a grandchild, Blair Osceola.

He is survived by Diane Smith, his wife of 38 years; daughters, Dana (Richard) Osceola, Amanda (John) Smith, both of Brighton, Trisha (Marcellus, Jr.) Osceola, Brittany (Mark) Smith, both of Hollywood; 14 grandchildren; brother, Jack Smith, Jr.; sisters, Nellie Smith, Oneva (Buster) Baxley, Linda Tommie, Mahala (John) Madrigal, all of Brighton; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held today, March 16, 2012, from 9 a.m. until service time of 10 a.m. at the Veterans' Building at the Brighton Reservation. Burial will follow at Ortona Cemetery.

Friends may send online condolences to www.buxtonseawinds.com

Arrangements are under the care of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home, 3833 SE 18th Terrace, Okeechobee, Fla.



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# Community Events

## Cypress Eagles to host St. Patrick's Day event

Saturday, March 17, starting at 3 p.m., the Cypress Hut Eagles will host St. Paddy's Day festivities. Serving corned beef dinner by Lorraine for $6 per plate with all proceeds to benefit Community Charity Fund. Music by Cripple Creek. The public is welcome. Call 863-467-1154 for more information.

## VFW St. Patrick's Day dinner

VFW Post 9528, Buckhead Ridge, on Hwy. 78 West, will serve Corned Beef, cabbage, carrots, new potatoes and dessert, from 12 – 4 p.m., on Saturday, **March 17**, for $8. At 2 p.m. awards given to fireman, policeman, EMT, teacher and worker of the year. Show by Shirley Derr from Ft. Lauderdale. Donations to the homeless vets. For information, call 863-467-2882.

## Eagles North to host St. Patrick's Day

Eagles North, 9985 Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee invite you on Saturday, March 17, to wear Green St. Patrick's Day. Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinners. Proceeds for the dinners will go to help pay expenses for two of our members in need. CARD BINGO and dinners start at 4 p.m.

## Cypress Hut Eagles to hold fried chicken dinner

On Sunday, **March 18**, the Cypress Hut Eagles, at 4701 S.E. Hwy. 441., will hold a fried chicken dinner from 1–5 p.m., for $6 per dinner. The public is welcome. Proceeds will go to the Community Charity fund.

## BHR Ladies Auxiliary host Sunday breakfast

Sunday, **March 18**, Buckhead Ridge Ladies VFW Auxiliary will hold their monthly breakfast. Sausage, gravy, biscuts, eggs any way you want, also coffee and orange juice for a donation of $5. The public is welcome! All donations are for our Veterans and families.

## Stroke and Osteoporosis screenings offered

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

## Special movie comes to Brahman Theatre

October Baby is a movie distributed by the same film company that brought you Fireproof and Courageous. October Baby opens at Brahman Theater the weekend on Friday, **March 23**. You can pre-purchase tickets at the Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee, 500 N.W. 6th Street or Serenity Coffee Shop. Check out the trailer at: www.octoberbabymovie.net. For more questions call the Pregnancy Center at 863-467-8748.

## Orchid and Garden Clubs to meet

On the third Monday of the month, **March 19**, The Garden Club will meet at 6 p.m. and the Orchid Club at 7 p.m. at the Okechobee County Extension Office, 458 U.S. Highway 98 N. The Orchid Club will offer a repotting workshop led by Victor Elliott. Bring a prorblem orchid to discuss or a favorite to show. The Orchid Club has a new gardening tool kit. Learn the tools you'll need for repotting and dividing. For more information please all the Extension Office at 863-763-3189.

## Cypress Eagles to host meat loaf dinner

On Tuesday, **March 20**, the Cypress Hut Eagles, at 4701 S.E. Hwy. 441., will hold a meat loaf dinner with potatoes and the works, from 5–7 p.m., for $6 per dinner by Carla. Proceeds will go to the Community Charity fund.

## Free memory screenings at VNA

The Alzheimer's Association and St. Mary's Memory Disorder Center are offering Free memory screenings at VNA, 208 S.E. Park Street, in Okeechobee, on Friday, **March 23**, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Appointments are required. Call Donna True at 1-800-861-7826, Ext. 501.

## Pregnancy Center has movie tickets

**March 23** is opening day for "October Baby," a movie distributed by Samuel Goldwyn Films, the same Film Company that brought you "Fireproof" and "Courageous." Please prepurchase your tickets by buying them at The Pregnancy Center of Okeechobee, 500 NW 6th Street, 467-8748 or Serenity Coffee Shop, 601 SW Park St., 824-2287. The movie will be playing at our own Brahman Theater. You may see a movie trailer at www.octoberbabymovie.net.

# Abandonment of Pine Ridge Park utilities raises questions

**By Pete Gawda**
Okeechobee News

The water and wastewater situation for the residents of Pine Ridge Park is murky at best right now.

The owners of the water and wastewater treatment plants have announced their intention to abandon the system. Pending court documents name the Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) as receiver for the system. The matter will be adjudicated on April 12. On that date OUA could start operating the system as a receiver. At this time OUA officials have little idea of what they are getting into.

For one thing there are no maps of the system. John Hayford, OUA's executive director, said one of his utility's first tasks, if they are named as receiver, will be to get with the owners and try to create a map of the system. If any repairs have to be made OUA will pay the costs up front. Then it would be up to the OUA Board of Directors if the residents of Pine Ridge Park would be assessed for those costs.

Mr. Hayford said the OUA would not be responsible for any fines that might have been imposed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). However, any corrective action required by a DEP violation would to have to be taken by the OUA. At this time Mr. Hayford knows of only one DEP violation that would have to be corrected.

There is a mortgage on the property, which will remain the responsibility of the owners. OUA would just operate the plants and distribution system.

"The record for collections leave a lot to be desired," said Mr. Hayford. He was unaware of the condition of the financial records.

"It's gong to be a busy time as we gather information and try to move forward," Mr. Hayford said.

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III: "DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX"
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# Corps of Engineers addresses River Acres residents concerns

**By Pete Gawda**
Okeechobee News

Like the late General Douglas McArthur, Col. Al Paterno, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Jacksonville District, returned.

Col. Paterno and some of his staff came back to River Acres subdivision again on Tuesday afternoon, March 13, to address concerns of the residents that were raised at his Sept. 28, 2011, meeting with them. Residents had expressed concerns about the Kissimmee River restoration project that has impacted their subdivision.

Okeechobee County Commissioner Brian Culpepper, who resides at River Acres, was at the meeting. He called it "encouraging" and said it showed that COE was working in good faith to handle residents' problems.

Residents were informed that the contractor, American Earth Movers, will repair damage to area roads caused by construction equipment. Canal banks, not generally located adjacent to residential lots, that were excavated/graded as part of the project will be graded and sodded to the slope limits established in the contract. On those canal bank adjacent to residential lots, with the owners' permission COE will remove unpermitted structures such as docks and bulkheads and slope and sod the canal banks.

Another complaint arising from the September meeting was the possible contamination of potable well water. A letter dated Nov. 28, 2011, to residents gave information on two laboratories capable of performing well tests.

Some of the residents near the bridge that was constructed in connection with the restoration project had complained that vibrations from the compaction machine used caused cracks to their houses. Those claims are under investigation. There was also a claim of a fuel spill in the water that was investigated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The complaint of rust-colored staining and the release of a petroleum-like sheen from the canal bank appeared to be naturally occurring coloring and the sheen from the release of groundwater from the canal bank. No odor or other evidence of a petroleum release was found.

At the Sept. 28 meeting a resident presented a video tape of an alleged fish kill. The quality of the videotapes was very poor.

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

# This is National Flood Safety Awareness Week

TALLAHASSEE—Florida Division of Emergency Management officials are inviting residents and visitors to take note the week of March 12–16, of National Flood Safety Awareness Week. During this week, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), are partnering to raise awareness regarding the many ways floods can occur, the hazards associated with floods, and what Floridians can do to protect life and property.

"Whether from storm surge or excessive rainfall, flooding can be experienced at any time of year, in any area of the Sunshine State," said Bryan W. Koon, Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. "I encourage all Floridians to take time during this important week to learn how to determine their home's flood risk, stay safe during flood events, and to review and update family disaster plans."

### Facts on flooding in Florida:

•Flooding is one of Florida's most frequent hazards.

•All three types of floods can occur in Florida:

Areal floods are the most common type of flood and can cause considerable damage in urban areas. Areal floods occur due to prolonged rainfall over several days, intense rainfall over a short period of time, or when a river or stream overflows, flooding the surrounding area.

Flash floods occur within six hours of a rain event, or following a sudden release of water held by a dam or levee.

River flooding can be forecasted but still can cause extensive damage.

For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management and to GET A PLAN!, please visit: www.FloridaDisaster.org. Follow us on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/FLSERT or on Facebook at http://www.Facebook.com/FloridaSERT.

## Okeechobee Arrest Report

**The following individuals were arrested on felony or driving under the influence (DUI) charges by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the Department of Corrections (DOC).**

• Guage John Gonzalez, 19, Reservation Road, Okeechobee, was arrested March 13 by Deputy Patricia Massung on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with two counts of violation of probation - armed robbery with a deadly weapon (gun) and two counts of violation of probation - armed burglary with explosive or weapon. He is being held without bond.

• Ovidio Bravo-Diaz, 35, N.W. 46th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 13 by Deputy Cari Arnold on a Palm Beach County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence. He is being held without bond.

• Travis Arterius Spencer, 23, was arrested March 13 by Deputy Cari Arnold on a Wakulla County warrant charging him with failure to appear - possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell. He is being held without bond.

• Alfred J. King III, 54, N.W. 46th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 13 by Deputy Brian Cross on felony charges of grand theft auto and criminal mischief. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of assault. His bond was set at $13,500.

• James David Hatfield, 20, S.E. 66th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested March 14 by Deputy Howard Pickering on a felony charge of dealing in stolen property and a misdemeanor charge of defrauding a secondary metal recycler. His bond was set at $10,500.

• Bruce Bolling, 49, was arrested March 14 by Deputy Greg Popovich on a Broward County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence. He is being held without bond.

• Richard Lee Yates, 55, N.W. 30th St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 14 by Deputy Leland Schoonmaker on a felony charge of driving while license suspended and a misdemeanor charge of no motorcycle endorsement. He was released on his own recognizance.

• Johnny Lynn Braswell, 30, N.W. 308th St., Okeechobee, was arrested March 15 by Deputy Corporal Aric Majere on a DOC/Washington County warrant charging him with violation of probation - possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute. He is being held without bond.

*This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.*


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# B.A.S.S. to host Bassmaster Elite Power-Pole Slam on Lake Okeechobee

## Tourist Development Council presents WaterFest F.U.N. alongside tourney

B.A.S.S. will host the Power-Pole Slam, March 22–25, on Lake Okeechobee, Fla., the second of eight Bassmaster Elite Series professional bass fishing tournaments scheduled in 2012.

The contest pits 99 of the top bass anglers in the world, including fishing legend Kevin VanDam and 2012 Bassmaster Classic champion Chris Lane, against each other as they compete for the $100,000 prize and a coveted spot in the 2013 Bassmaster Classic set for Feb. 22–24 in Tulsa, Okla.

From watching the first boats launch at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 22, and the weigh-in at C. Scott Driver Park on Sunday at 4 p.m., to participating in the family-friendly WaterFest F.U.N. events , the activities planned throughout the weekend are free and open to the public (unless otherwise noted), including:

• The full field of anglers launch at Lake Okeechobee at 7:30 a.m. on March 22 and March 23. Public launch viewing is available from C. Scott Driver Park, off State Road 78 on the Kissimmee River.

• The official weigh-in takes place at 4 p.m. on March 22 and March 23 at C. Scott Driver Park.

• On Saturday, March 24, the Top 50 anglers launch for semi-finals of Power-Pole Slam at 7:30 a.m.

• At 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 24, WaterFest F.U.N. activities begin at the Okee-Tantie Recreation Area, on State Road 78, on the north shore of Lake Okeechobee at the mouth of the Kissimmee River.

• At 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 24, official semi-finals weigh-in begins at C. Scott Driver Park.

• On Sunday, March 25, the top 12 anglers launch at 7:30 a.m. for the final day of Power-Pole Slam competition.

• WaterFest F.U.N. activities start at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 25.

• At 4 p.m., on Sunday, March 25, the official final weigh-in for 2012 Power-Pole Slam winner starts in C. Scott Driver Park.

Other activities planned throughout the Power-Pole Slam weekend include the opportunity to pose questions to Elite Series pros, angler autograph and photo sessions and the opportunity to learn tips and techniques from some of the best bass anglers in the world.

Fans can register to win items such as a Kevin VanDam jersey in the Bass Pro Shops booth, a dream fishing trip with Mike Iaconelli at the Power-Pole booth, and prizes in the Carhartt area. Yamaha will offer demonstration tours and "Hooked Up" will broadcast from the Toyota Hooked Up Stage.

WaterFest F.U.N. activities will include a B.B.Q. Cook-Off, along with displays and demonstrations highlighting Okeechobee County natural resources, outdoor activities and community information.

For more than 40 years, B.A.S.S. has served as the authority on bass fishing. The organization advances the sport through advocacy, outreach and an expansive tournament structure while connecting directly with the passionate community of bass anglers through its Bassmaster media vehicles.

The Bassmaster brand and its multimedia platforms are guided by a mission to serve all fishing fans. Through its industry-leading publications — Bassmaster Magazine and B.A.S.S. Times — comprehensive website Bassmaster.com and ESPN2 and Outdoor Channel television programming, Bassmaster provides rich, leading-edge content true to the lifestyle.

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The organization is headquartered in Birmingham, Ala. For more information, visit www.bassmaster.com.

# Okeechobee County Fair is under way this week

Special to the Okeechobee News

A carnival midway, a livestock show, a petting zoo and local arts and crafts displays are just some of the attractions of the 2012 Okeechobee County Fair.

The county fair, at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center, opened Tuesday runs through Sunday. The fair opens at 5 p.m. Friday and at noon on Saturday and Sunday. The public entrance is off State Road 710.

On Friday, March 16 gate admission is $5. Ride armbands are $25 and are good all day. The steer show is at 3 p.m. with the Beef Breeding Show to follow. Equine exhibitions will be at 5 p.m. and jackpot barrel races at 6:30 p.m. The Okeechobee Idol finals will be at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, March 17, gate admission is $5. Ride armbands are $25. The beef breeding and grooming show will be at 9 a.m. Horse exhibitions will be at 10:30 a.m. Barrel racing will be at 1 p.m. The Youth Livestock Sale starts at 2 p.m., including dairy, steer, beef breeding, swine, lambs and goats.

The fair will feature Jackie Steil in concert on Saturday, March 17, at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Daily entertainment at the fair will also include Lucky Bob Extreme Juggling and Magic, D.J. Ken Keller of WOKC, exotic animal shows, pig talent shows, Motors at the Midway displays and monster truck rides.

On Sunday, March 18, gate admission is $5. One child gets in free with every paying adult. Ride armbands are $25.

OKeechobee News/**Katrina Elsken**

**Playing in the corn box is popular with young visitors to the Okeechobee County Fair. The fair continues through Sunday. For more photos online see the Okeechobee News page on Facebook.**


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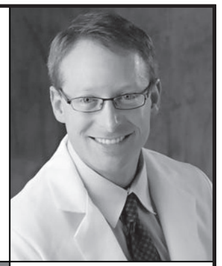

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# Spine surgeon opens Okeechobee office

By Pete Gawda
Okeechobee News

Dr. Pasquale Montesano, orthopaedic spine surgeon of Palm Beach Spine Specialists, has expanded his practice from his West Palm Beach office by opening a second office at 1124 S. Parrott Ave in the White House Plaza.

To become a spine specialist, a doctor must first become board certified in orthopaedics and then take further specialized training.

"I take care of all types of spine injuries," Dr. Montesano said. That includes sport injuries, diving injuries, injuries from falls, lower and mid-back pain, broken neck, back deformity and infections and tumors of the spine.

After many years of practicing on the west coast, Dr. Montesano came to Florida, where he is on the staff at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach.

Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

**Dr. Pasquale Montesano, left, of Palm Beach Spine Specialists, is assisted by Ty Scrivens, right, who is a Certified Surgical First Assistant.**

Dr. Montesano is assisted by Ty Scriven, a Certified Surgical First Assistant, who manages the office. Patients are seen in Okeechobee from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday only. The Okeechobee telephone number is 863-261-8059. The West Palm Beach number is 561-833-4869.

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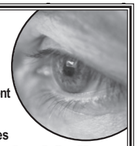

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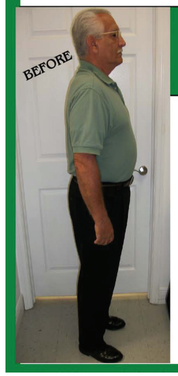


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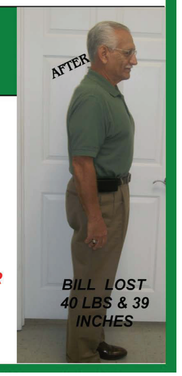


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# Annual March for Babies event raises $43,500

Held on March 10, March for Babies, the premier fundraising event for the March of Dimes, combined fun, food, and fundraising. Twenty-nine teams, plus individual walkers, raised $43,500 to fund research so that all babies can be born healthy. The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.

This year's teams were: A Child's World, Big Lake Eye Care, B.R.A.T. Club, Central Elementary School, Difference Makers, Everglades Elementary School, Faith Academy Pre-School, Florida Community Health Centers, Gilbert Chevrolet, Law Office of Cassels & McCall, North Elementary School, Okeechobee Achievement Academy, Okeechobee County School District, Okeechobee Freshman Campus, Okeechobee High School Beta Club, Osceola Middle School, Publix Super Markets, Regions Bank, Sanz Family, Seacoast National Bank, Seminole Elementary School, Seminole Tribe of Florida, South Elementary School, Stepping Stones Academy, Team Inspiration, Wemmer Family Orthodontics, Wheel Times (School Board Transportation), Winn-Dixie Supermarkets, and Yearling Middle School.

The crowd was welcomed by Chair, Russ Brown, who is the Provost of the Okeechobee campus of Indian River State College. Mr. Brown thanked the participants for their support, and introduced the 2012 Okeechobee Ambassador Family, Allen and Moe Queen, who shared their family's story. Mr. Brown also introduced the committee for March for Babies 2012: The committee for March for Babies 2012 was: Briseida Ayala, Magi Cable, Jennifer Cannon, Karen Cassels, Teresa Chandler, Dr. Patricia Cooper, Kristy Crawford, Teresa Lara, Laura McCall, Pat O'Connor, Sharon Vinson, and Betty Williams.

Over 400 people took part in the 3.2 mile walk, and were treated to refreshments at the 5 Spirit Stations along the way, sponsored by Publix Super Markets, CenterState Bank, Healthy Start Coalition, Okeechobee Health Care Facility, and Wemmer Family Orthodontics. The award for Favorite Spirit Station went to Publix Super Markets.

The following award winners were recognized: Top Fundraising Individual: Kathleen Shatto of Seacoast National Bank; Top Fundraising School: Everglades Elementary; Outstanding Team Spirit: Okeechobee Achievement Academy; Top Online Fundraising Team: Law Office of Cassels & McCall; Top New Team: Difference Makers; Team with the Greatest Year-Over-Year Increase: Gilbert Chevrolet; Volunteer Spirit Award: Dr. Patricia Cooper; Favorite T-shirt: Faith Academy Preschool.

The Top 10 Fundraising Teams were: (1) Seminole Tribe of Florida; (2) Seacoast National Bank; (3) Difference Makers; (4) Publix Super Markets; (5) Everglades Elementary School; (6) North Elementary School; (7) Law Office of Cassels & McCall; (8) Gilbert Chevrolet; (9) Central Elementary School; and (10) Okeechobee High School BETA Club.

Chairman's Club awards were given to those teams who did not make it into the Top 10, but who raised at least $1,000: A Child's World, Florida Community Health Centers, Okeechobee County School District, Seminole Elementary School, South Elementary School, and Stepping Stones Academy.

Seacoast National Bank was the Premier Sponsor for the event; Publix Super Markets was the Top Corporate Sponsor, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida was a Corporate Site Sponsor. Other sponsors included: Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, Center State Bank, Children's Services Council, Everglades Farm Equipment, Farm Bureau, FPL, Golden Corral, Healthy Start Coalition, Law Office of Cassels & McCall, Okeechobee Health Care Facility, Linda and Chuck Syfrett, State Farm Insurance (Gretchen Robertson), Syble's Flowers, United Way, Wemmer Family Orthodontics, and Women's Health Specialists. The B.R.A.T. Club sponsored the pre-walk continental breakfast, and Waste Management sponsored the post-event biscuits and sausage gravy breakfast. Media sponsors were WAVE 92.7, Oldies 103.7, and CBS Channel 12. The March of Dimes also wants to thank Jenna Taylor Lute, Okeechobee County, Okeechobee News, Okeechobee County Sheriff's Department, City of Okeechobee Police, and Sandra Pearce Photography for their invaluable assistance.

For those who still want to send a donation, checks should be made payable to the March of Dimes and can be mailed to 112 43rd Avenue SW, Vero Beach, Florida or to P.O. Box 968, Okeechobee.

Okeechobee News/**Katrina Elsken**

**The annual March for Babies was held in downtown Okeechobee on March 10. The event was a huge success bringing in over $40,000 in funds to fund research and promote healthier babies.**

Special to the Okeechobee News/**Laura McCall**

**Chair Russ Brown and March for Babies committee member, Pat O'Connor, present the award for Top Fundraising School to Everglades Elementary.**

Special to the Okeechobee News/**CES**

# Central Elementary School honors Students of the Week

**Central Elementary School is pleased to announce the names of Students of the Week for the week of March 4-9, including: Keyla Albarram, Savannah Burdeshaw, Pablo Varillas, Grace Anne Thomas, Jenna Ramaglia, Colt Davis, Juan Solorzano, Maricela Orozco, Rosalinda Caballero, Vicente Torres, Joshua King, Kevin Galdanez, Jesshyia Swanson, Anja Koivunen, K'Lynn Tijerina, Jasmine Shanks, Khamari Jones, Rileigh Yukovich, Anacely Velazquez, Yaire Ayala, Beyonece Garcia, Lauren Sills, Jorge Romero, Julian Tinajero, Megan Jones, Katlyn Garcia and Jason Blackstone.**

ENGAGEMENT

## MIRANDA TRENT & JEB CHANDLER

Donnie and Pam Trent, announce the engagement of their daughter, Miranda Trent, to Jeb Chandler, son of Marilyn Chandler and the late Dalton Chandler. The bride is a graduate of OHS, received a Bachelor of Biomedical Science from the University of South Florida, and a Masters in Physician Assistant Studies from Alderson-Broaddus College. She currently works as a Physician Assistant at Gateway Medical Group. The groom is a graduate from OHS, received a degree in Fire Science from IRSC. He currently works as a Firefighter/EMT in Osceola County. The couple plans to marry March 24, 2012.

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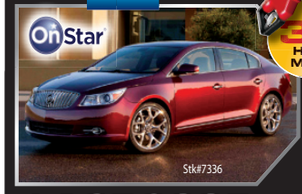


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# SFWMD

Continued From Page1

the premises solely for the purpose of cattle grazing in accordance with the terms, conditions, covenants and provisions of this lease and those incidental uses which are directly related thereto and approved in writing by lessor in lessor's absolute discretion."

No language could be found in that lease that permits hay baling.

## Leases extended without going out to bid

On Dec. 13, 2011, SFWMD extended Old River's lease until March 14, 2022.

Water managers also signed 10-year lease extensions in December for James and Beatrice Prescott, Elsie Lanier, Otis P. Clemons and Alisa Sherman.

SFWMD officials say District policy allows them to extend the leases of those leaseholders who are in good standing without putting them out to bid, even though Florida state statute 373.093 states that the District must advertise their intention to lease the land. That ad is required to be published in a newspaper in the county in which the land is found, and that the ad should run once each week for three weeks.

These leases also require the lease holders to obtain all necessary federal, state, local, regional and other governmental approvals and permits.

However, SFWMD records show that no water use permits were obtained for the Glades County property until nine months after torrential rains from Tropical Storm Fay caused the L-59 canal to flood landowners in the area, as well as Buckhead Ridge.

The L-59 canal runs from the Indian Prairie Canal to the Kissimmee River.

Records show that a now-defunct company known as Pomcor purchased stocks in companies owned by J.F. Pearce (Indian Prairie Groves, Sixty Nine Ranch and J.F. Ranch, Inc.) then formed Pomcor-458 Acres, LLC, and leased the 4,701 acres to Ricou Hartman.

SFWMD then acquired the acreage, now referred to as the Pearce-Pomcor Tract, from Pomcor.

Ricou Hartman, who owns Hartman Realty in Palm City, made a lease with Pomcor and the District then assumed that lease in May of 2006. The District renewed the lease with Mr. Hartman on March 21, 2007, and again on Feb. 12, 2008. That lease was again renewed with Mr. Hartman and another party—Old River Cattle Company—on June 12, 2008.

Mr. Hartman is listed as a manager of that company. State records show that Louis E. 'Woody' Larson Jr. is the principal agent of the Old River Cattle Company. Mr. Hartman and Jeffrey O. Clemons, of Okeechobee, are listed as managers.

SFWMD records show that Mr. Hartman did not receive a water use permit for the property until May 14, 2009, which was after the culverts had been removed following the flooding event brought on by Fay.

And despite these two documented lease violations, the District's real estate division issued the extensions to Old River and Mr. Hartman.

Armed with the new extensions, these lease holders can now apply for federal funds under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). For Old River, if they are approved, their EQIP funds would total $168,000.

Records show Old River is paying a total of $55,380.92 a year for the three parcels. That breaks down to about $11.79 per acre.

Jeffrey Woods, the assistant state conservationist for financial assistance programs with the United States Department of Agriculture's office in Gainesville, said he could not release the names of lease holders who have applied for EQIP funding.

However, if they are approved for EQIP funds their names can be released.

Courtesy photo/**Florida Department of Agriculture**

**This Feb. 24, 2012, photo of the former site of a citrus grove that was destroyed because of canker also shows bales of hay on property being leased from the South Florida Water Management District by Old River Cattle Company. The lease states that the property is to be used solely for cattle grazing and contains no provisions for hay baling.**

## Hay baling documented

When the District acquired the Pearce-Pomcor Tract they also acquired 243 acres of citrus groves—a majority, of which, had already been destroyed due to citrus canker. A photo of that area taken by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on Feb. 24, 2012, shows the groves are no longer there.

But, that same photo also shows a number of round bales in a pasture being leased by Old River Cattle Company.

According to a Glades County rancher who has land in the middle of the three non-contiguous parcels owned by the District that is being leased by Old River, he has seen someone cut hay, bale it and haul it off the property.

He said the last time hay was cut there was in February of this year.

"Most of the hay I've seen go out is on a semi or gooseneck. The semis and goosenecks are going down range and off property and toward Okeechobee County, but I haven't followed them," said rancher John Austin Collier. "They've been hauling hay and cutting hay here on different fields at least once a year from 2006 until 2012—weather permitting. But, I've seen very little used on this place."

When asked if Old River representatives should have known that hay was being cut on their property, Mr. Collier said, "if I saw it, they should have seen it."

Mr. Collier also has a cattle grazing lease with the District, similar to Old River's. But, he continued, he is not allowed to bale hay under that lease or use water from the L-59 canal.

Ironically, said Mr. Collier, the property leased by Old River was actually offered to Twin Sisters Water Use Area. Twin Sisters is made up of Jeanette Peeples, Byron and Janet Storey, Mr. Collier and his wife Kim, and their families.

"In a proposed dispersed storage settlement, Ruth Clements (SFWMD real estate specialist) offered us the lease on the property as part of a settlement over a flooding issue but we declined. We weren't looking for a grazing lease," said Mr. Collier. "And, we were not looking to interfere with the lessees in any way, shape or form."

He went on to say the Twin Sisters property, as well as nearby property belonging to D.L. Pearce and Mark Hunter Pearce, has been flooded periodically in the past 20 years due to three culverts on the L-59 canal that were in disrepair. But the worst flooding episode came in August of 2008 when Tropical Storm Fay dumped copious amounts of water across the area. Some areas saw as much as 25 inches of rain.

Mr. Collier said there is one parcel, of the three non-contiguous parcels, that had water flowing from the L-59 through those three culverts onto 2,500 to 2,700 acres from 2006 until 2008 with no consumptive use permit and no oversight.

## L-59 canal water use questioned

He went on to say Twin Sisters will be asking Herschel Vineyard, secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), to review all permits issued on the L-59 canal, all flooding events and all actions taken by the District pertaining to permits and flooding from 1992 until the present day.

"Hopefully, this review will avoid any litigation with the water management District and we'll be able to lay this issue to rest once and for all," added Mr. Collier.

After that "flooding event," Mr. Hartman applied for and was given a water use permit on behalf of the Old River Cattle Company.

Mr. Collier pointed out that since that 2008 flooding event the District took the culverts out of the right of way of the L-59 and that the current tenants have had to rely on water holes, artesian wells or 2-inch wells for water—the same way Twin Sisters property owners and the Pearce families have had to for the last 20 years.

Still, despite all of this, the District maintains that Old River "... is meeting the District's property management needs and is in good standing at this time," stated Gabriel Margasak, a member of SFWMD's media department, in an e-mail.

He also stated that SFWMD staff routinely inspects the property and has found that the land is in good condition.

But, scoffed Mr. Collier, it's odd that water managers inspect this land and have periodic fly overs in helicopters yet they have failed to see the large round bales of hay dotting the landscape as well as the 2,500 to 2,700 acres of property that was being irrigated without a consumptive use permit.

"They only see what they want to see, enforce what they want to enforce and they hold others accountable without ever holding themselves accountable," he added.

## Waterfest FUN Festival planned

The Okeechobee County Tourist Development Council, the Bassmasters Elite Series and the "O.L. Raulerson, Jr." BBQ have joined to create the "Waterfest F.U.N. Festival." This event is to be held at the Scott Driver Pavilion, located at 10101 State Road 78 West Okeechobee. The dates of the festival are Saturday, **March 24**, and Sunday, March 25. Festival opens at 10 a.m., and the weigh-in is at 3 p.m. each day. The festival will have educational activities, entertainment, Florida storytellers, Historical displays, outdoor sports demonstrations and a Barbecue Competition.

## Glades Electric announces annual meeting

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

# Teacher contract negotiations to continue

**By Charles M. Murphy**
Okeechobee News

A memorandum of agreement so Okeechobee schools can evaluate their teachers was adopted unanimously by the Okeechobee School Board and overwhelmingly approved by union members in recent days.

Negotiations continue on contract language, salaries and other issues which include evaluations of teachers. The agreement adopted Tuesday night is for the current school year and was necessary to allow proper evaluations and so the schools can conform with state guidelines.

It's agreed that evaluations will be completed by June 1. Each teacher will be evaluated on at least one walkthrough, one informal evaluation of at least 15 minutes, one scheduled planning conference, one formal observation of at least 30 minutes, one reflective conference, collected data and any artifact(s) submitted for consideration by the instruction employee.

Various winter sports athletes who excelled in 2011-2012 were recognized by the School Board. They included Jonathon Kemp who advanced to the state finals in wrestling, and Elisia Garcia, who advanced to state in girl's weight lifting. Kemp, a senior, could enroll in a military college and continue his wrestling career in college.

The District Champion boys soccer team was also honored. Five of the players, Erick Garcia, Serafin Espinoza, Diego Vargas, Hunter Pritchard and Sergio Vargas were named to the all state team by the Florida Athletic Coaches Association. Garcia was also named Treasure Coast Player of the Year and played last weekend at the University of South Florida in the FACA All State game. He is considering several colleges which include Georgia Southern.

The board also honored several students who will participate in the State Science and Engineering Fair this year. Jacie Harvey and Aubrie Reister of Yearling Middle School, and Ryan Daniel and Johnathan Fox of Osceola Middle School were honored. Caleb Crews of the Okeechobee Freshman Campus was honored for representing Okeechobee in both the state and international science fairs.

The board also honored Everglades Elementary School music teacher Kathleen Wilson who retires after 24 years of service to the district.

The board also voted to expel six students from the Okeechobee Achievement Academy.

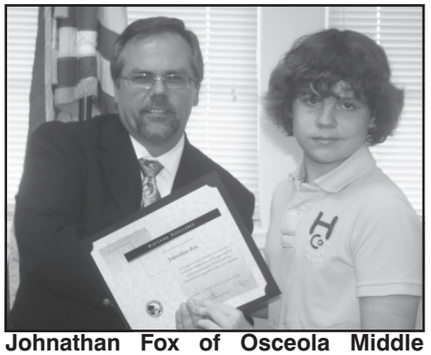
Six schools received A+ School recognition funds from the State Department of Education. Central Elementary received $38,227; $48,419 for Everglades Elementary; Seminole received $43,716; South Elementary received $29,330; Yearling Middle School received $52,601; and Okeechobee High School $86,981. The money is divided into bonuses for teachers and staff and can be used to purchase school supplies for the classrooms.

The board scheduled a special meeting for Monday, March 26, at 6 p.m. to discuss with their attorney the ongoing contract impasse with the Okeechobee County Educator Association. They intend to plan the procedure they will use and set the date and time of that appeal hearing.

Okeechobee News/**Charles Murphy**

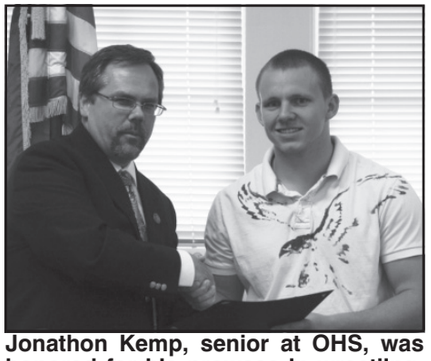
**Teacher Cynthia Letcher was honored for coordinating the District Science Fair this year by Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy.**

**Caleb Crews of the Okeechobee Freshman Campus was recognized for his participation in both the State and International Science and Engineering Fairs this year.**



**Johnathan Fox of Osceola Middle School was honored for qualifying for the State Science and Engineering Fair.**

**Ryan Daniel of Osceola Middle School was honored as he qualified to represent the school system at the State Science and Engineering Fair.**



**Jonathon Kemp, senior at OHS, was honored for his prowess in wrestling. Kemp participated in the Florida State Finals in Lakeland in February.**

**Elisia Garcia, a freshman, was honored along with weight lifting coach Tyrone Smith. Garcia qualified for the State Tournament in Kissimmee in girls weight lifting this year.**

PENTECOSTAL

Bible Church of God
*"Your Place of Destiny"* - *Jeremiah 29:11*
3666 E. Hwy 70 • Okeechobee
(Old Elks Lodge)
Sunday School - 9 am
Sunday Worship - 10 am
Tues. & Thurs. - 7:30 pm
Prayer Service: Tues. & Thurs. 6:30 - 7:30 pm

*Nursery Available at All Services*
Office Hours
CLOSED Mondays
Tuesday - Friday 9 am to 5 pm
(863) 357-2264
Bishop Robert J. Banks, Jr. Pastor

PENTECOSTAL

REAPING THE HARVEST
www.okeechobeecog.com
Okeechobee Church of God
Sunday Services 8:30 & 10:45 AM
Wednesdays 7 PM
Pastors Mark and Madonna Smith
(863) 763-4127

Sunday
Traditional Worship at 8:30am
Sunday School at 10am
Comtemporary Worship at 10:45am
Evening Worship 6pm
Wednesday
Mid Week Worship at 7pm
Children and Youth Classes are Available on Sunday Morning and Wednesdays
301 NE 4th Ave. • (863) 763-4127
2 Blocks Behind the McDonalds on SR 70E

BAPTIST

Welcome
You are welcome to come visit and enjoy the traditional worship and music.
Come and share in the word of God
Trinity Free Will Baptist Church
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Bible Study 6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 pm
Pastor : Thomas Dees
1840 N.E. 39th Blvd (Cemetery Rd)
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863-763-4962

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
"Come worship with us."
Sunday
8 & 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:30 Christian Education
12:30 Holy Eucharist in Spanish
Wednesday
6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Service
200 NW 3rd Street
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# Online Classifieds

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## Announcements

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

## Garage/ Yard Sales

**GARAGE SALE -** MULTI FAMILY - Sat. March 17th, 8am-3pm, 2271 SW 21st Street. A little bit of everything!

**LARGE MULTI-FAMILY** OKEECHOBEE, Saturday, March 17th, 7am-4pm, (Hwy. 441 SE next to the former Old Habits Restaurant). Furniture, Clothing, Tools, Toys and Much More!

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

**OKEECHOBEE** - 2025 SE 9th Ave Blue Heron, Friday 16th Saturday 17th, 8:30 to 2:30. kids furniture, appliances, clothes, Cd's/DVD's, books, and more.

## Garage/ Yard Sales

**Yard Sale**
Saturday 17th, 7am-??
907 NE 30th Ave
Hess trucks, fishing stuff, tools, guns, lots of dishes, pots and pans.

## Services

**Golf Cart** Repairs, parts, carries Powertron and US batteries. Will buy unwanted and not working golf carts. Locally owned & Operated Call Dan at 863-610-0479

## Employment

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

## Employment Full Time

EXPERIENCED
**Commercial Kitchen Cook**
Wanted for nights and weekends.
Applicant must be able to pass a drug test, physical and FDLE background screen. EOE

Apply in person at
406 Northwest 4th Street
Okeechobee

**Sunshine PayDay Loans**
Full time Clerk needed to travel among locations in Okeechobee, Clewiston and Labelle.
Cash handling experience A plus
Fax Resumes to:
863-678-2170

## Employment Full Time

**Project Manager**
Local, Established Construction Company is hiring a Project Manager. Duties include (but not limited to): Labor and material scheduling, Budgeting, Labor organization and management, quality control. Experience/Education preferred - Critical Thinking Skills a must. Fax resume to 863-467-5017 or call 863-634-8980

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

## Employment Full Time

## Employment Wanted

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

## Financial

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

## Business Opportunities

**NOTICE**

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

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

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

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

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

## Services

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

## Property Management

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

## Merchandise

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

## Tools

**GENERATOR 8K**
13,500 Start/Surge Watts Briggs & Stratton Model EXL8000 Industrial Engine, Electric Start, New Battery, Like New Less Than 5HRS. Cost $1,500 Sell $750 Call 772-359-9550

## Wanted To Buy

**CASH FOR** CARS - No Title Needed, Any Condition. FREE TOWING. (863)484-2012

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

## Agriculture

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

## Farm Miscellaneous

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

## FOR RENT Rentals

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

## Apartments

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

**GREAT LOFT** Style 2/1 Apartment recently upgraded on first class Ranch 13 minutes from town center: $495.00 per month, filtered water, trash disposal, lawn care and pest control. Call Debbie M-F, 8:30 to 4:00. 863-467-9800.

## Condos/Townhouses Rent

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

## Houses - Rent

**2/2 Very** Clean and Beautiful Home in Kings Bay. 1st and Security $750 mo. Ask for Vicki 561-255-4377

## Houses - Rent

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

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

**Lazy 7** Area 3/2/2 ceramic tile, split plan. Kids and pets welcome. 863-634-9330 or 963-467-2541

## Roommate

**Looking for** a roommate to share a 4 bedroom house, all appliances including washer and dryer. $400 per month. Call for more information 863-634-9560

## Real Estate

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

## Farms - Sale

**OKEE -** 2BR, 2BA on 5 fenced acres w/barn. Just five miles from town. Owner financing. (863)467-1950.

## Houses - Sale

**3/2 Water** Front,Stucco House,big shed. 9490 Hwy 78 W. $85,000, $10,000 down.
Dble Wide MH 4412 SE 28th St. Brindaban area.$52,000, $10,000 down.
Call 863-763-6043

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

## Houses - Sale

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

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

## Lots - Sale

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

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

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

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

## Mobile Homes

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

## Mobile Home Rent

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

**Lovely Completely** Remodeled 3bd/2ba Mobile Home in Country Setting. For more info Call Stan 863-385-2613

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

## Mobile Home Sale

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

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

**FOR SALE**
3 Bedroom Mobile Home with 2 lots & access to river.
44 Boondock Rd. $35,000
Call 863-763-2346 or 863-610-4625

Shop here first! The classified ads

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

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

## Recreation

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

## Boats

**16ft Pontoon** 48HP Motor & trailer.
20ft Pontoon 70HP Motor & trailer.
12ft John Boat at 9420 Hwy 78 West
Call 863-763-6043

## RV Space Rent

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

## Automotive

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

## Pickup Trucks

**1986 Toyota** Xtra-Cab pick-up, runs & drives, needs a little TLC . $2,250.0 OBO Ask for Alan 561-951-0871

## Public Notices

For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

## Public Notice

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY gives Notice that it shall hold a public hearing before the Okeechobee County Planning Board sitting as the Local Planning Agency. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 27th, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan of Okeechobee County, Florida and to consider transmittal of the amendment to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

The proposed comprehensive plan amendment is described as follows:

Jose Fanjul, property owner and applicant. Request to reclassify approximately 620 acres from the Rural Estate future land use classification to the Rural Activity Center classification. The change would increase the density for residential development from 1 unit per 5 acres to 1 unit per acre and allow for up to 15 acres of commercial development. The subject property is in Section 24, Township 37 South, Range 36 East, Okeechobee County, Florida. The property is on the east side of SE 128th Avenue, north of Quail Woods subdivision.

A copy of the proposed amendment shall be available for inspection by the public during normal business hours at the Okeechobee County Planning and Development Department, 1700 NW 9th Avenue, Suite A, Okeechobee, Florida, 34972. Interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed amendment, and may submit written comments to the Planning and Development Department prior to the hearing.

If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the local planning agency with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, that person will need a record of the proceedings, and he 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.
412512 ON 3/18/2012

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**2012TD013**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2301** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **BASS SUBDIVISION LOTS 22 & 23 BLOCK 6**

**1-15-37-35-0080-00060-0220**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**ELYSEE AUGUSTIN**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410755 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

## Public Notice

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**2012TD012**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1870** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES LOT 20 BLOCK 12**

**1-15-36-35-0040-00120-0200**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**MAUREEN M WEBER**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.,** on the **12th day of April, 2012.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410753 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

## Public Notice

**NOTICE OF SALE**
**To Satisfy Owners Lien**

70 West Self Storage
2190 SR 70 West
Okeechobee, FL 34972
3-31-2012 @ 10:00 AM

Unit #207 Sidney Sands
Unit #246 Dixie M. Tommie
Unit #429 Danielle C. Arnold
Unit #457 Annie L. Coffey
Unit #466 Antonio R. Bonilla
412457 ON 3/16 & 3/23/2012

## Public Notice

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**
**CASE NO. 2012-CP-031**

IN RE: ESTATE OF
**ROSE M. McNAIR,**
Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Ancillary Summary Administration)**

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of ROSE M. McNAIR, deceased, File Number 2012-CP-031, by the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee County, Okeechobee, Florida 34972; that the decedent's date of death was June 9, 2009; that the total value of the estate is $6,993.00 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:

**New Saint Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church of Okeechobee, Florida, Inc.**
**PO Box 836**
**Okeechobee, FL 34973**

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE.
ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this Notice is March 16, 2012.

Person Giving Notice:
REGINALD R. MCNAIR
509 62nd Avenue
Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743
Attorney for Person Giving Notice:
COLIN M. CAMERON, ESQUIRE
Florida Bar No.: 270441
200 N.E. 4th Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 763-8600
412465 ON 3/16,23/2012

**NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW**

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute," will register with Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations the fictitious name, to wit:

Gilbert Mowers

Under which we expect to engage in business at:

315 S. Parrott Ave.
Okeechobee, FL 34974

In the City of Okeechobee/County of Okeechobee, Florida.
That the parties interested in said Business enterprise are:
Parrott, Inc.

Dated at Okeechobee, Okeechobee County, Florida this the 14th day of March, 2012.
BY: Marie Culbreath
412561 ON 3/16/2012

## Public Notice

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**2012TD009**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1270** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOT D OF TRACT 14 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 14 34 34S 33E**

**1-34-34-33-0A00-00014-D000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**BEREZINA SENIS**
**JUNIA BERNARD**
**MURLANDE BERNARD**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410746 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

## Public Notice

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**2012TD002**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **147** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOT C OF TRACT 25 E1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 25 SECTION 10 AS TO THE SOUTHERN COLONIZATION COMPANY PLAT OF TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH RANGE 33 EAST ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4 PAGES 3-3E INCLUSIVE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA**

**1-10-34-33-0A00-00025-C000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**PATRICK J CONROY**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410726 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

## Public Notice

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**2012TD003**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **284** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOT M OF TRACT 16 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF S1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 16 SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH RANGE 33 EAST**

**1-13-34-33-0A00-00016-M000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**DEVON B SEATON**
**EVONDOR PROPERTY INC**
**LAING JOY**
**MICHELLE E WILLIAMS**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410729 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

## Public Notice

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**2012TD014**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **2400** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **EL MIRA SOL LOTS 14 TO 18 INC BLOCK 30**

**1-18-37-35-0020-00300-0140**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**ACREAGE PROPERTIES INC**
**JEAN TRAYLOR WILSON ESTATE**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410757 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

## Public Notice

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**2012TD011**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1863** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCHES LOTS 11 & 16 BLOCK 11**

**1-15-36-35-0040-00110-0110**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**EDWARD F HOWERTON**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410750 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

## Public Notice

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**2012TD016**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **JOSEPH ZACHARY GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **90** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOTS M & N OF TRACT 11 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF S1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 11 & E1/2 OF W1/2 OF S1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 11 09 34S 33E**

**1-09-34-33-0A00-00011-M000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**ELDA JACQUET**
**JOANUER JACQUET**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410722 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

## Public Notice

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**2012TD015**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that **CRYSTAL J TRIMBLE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1986** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **BASSWOOD UNIT 2 LOT 18 BLOCK 32**

**1-05-37-35-0020-00320-0180**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**SURINDRA PHAGU**
**TULAMATLLE PHAGU**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410754 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**2012TD005**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1142** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOT G OF TRACT 27 W1/2 OF E1/2 OF S1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 27 29 34S 33E**

**1-29-34-33-0A00-00027-G000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**JAMES R REYNOLDS**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410732 ON 3/16,23,30;4/6/2012

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**2012TD018**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **JOSEPH ZACHARY GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **101** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOTS K & L OF TRACT 17 E/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 17 & W1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 17 09 34S 33E**

**1-09-34-33-0A00-00017-K000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**DELSA LOPEZ COLLAZOS**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **26th day of April, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
412007 ON 3/16,23,30; 4/6/2012

## Public Notice

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**2012TD004**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1007** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOT L OF TRACT 16 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 16 27 34S 33E**

**1-27-34-33-0A00-00016-L000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**MELTINI LOUKAS**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410731 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**2012TD019**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **JOSEPH ZACHARY GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **510** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOT G OF TRACT 26 W1/2 OF E1/2 OF S1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 26 17 34S 33E**

**1-17-34-33-0A00-00026-G000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**IRMA EARLEY**
**SUSAN OCONNOR**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **26th day of April, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
412010 ON 3/16,23,30;4/6/2012

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**2012TD017**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **JOSEPH ZACHARY GAZZA** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1485** Year of Issuance: **May-30-2008**

Description of Property: **NEW OKEECHOBEE HEIGHTS SECTION A LOTS 24 TO 27 INC BLOCK 20**

**1-06-36-34-0010-00200-0240**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**FRANCES E ANSBRO**
**JAMES L ANSBRO**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012**.
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410749 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

## Public Notice

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**2012TD008**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1211** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOTS J & O OF TRACT 10 W1/2 OF E1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 10 33 34S 33E**

**1-33-34-33-0A00-00010-J000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**LURALE MARCH**
**PATRICK OKEEFE**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012.**
**SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES**

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410744 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**2012TD007**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1190** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOT L OF TRACT 27 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 27 32 34S 33E**

**1-32-34-33-0A00-00027-L000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**JOHN P LAWRENCE**
**THOMAS E LAWRENCE**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410743 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**2012TD006**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1145** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOT J OF TRACT 31 W1/2 OF E1/2 OF N1/2 OF S1/2 OF TRACT 31 29 34S 33E**

**1-29-34-33-0A00-00031-J000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**PEARL C NEUGEBAUER**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410742 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

## Public Notice

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

**2012TD010**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that **NEAL KEYS TRUSTEE** the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificates for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No: **1313** Year of Issuance: **June-01-2009**

Description of Property: **LOT D TRACT OF 11 W1/2 OF W1/2 OF N1/2 OF N1/2 OF TRACT 11 35 34S 33E**

**1-35-34-33-0A00-00011-D000**
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**GLADYS DIAZ**
**ROBERTO DIAZ**

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida **10:00 A.M.**, on the **12th day of April, 2012.**
SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
/s/ Robin R. Parrish
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later that seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770.
410748 ON 3/2,9,16,23/2012

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
### CASE NO. 47-2011-CA-000365

PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff,
VS.
FENTON JOHN MOORE, DECEASED HIS/HER RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT; AND THE AFOREMENTIONED NAMED DEFENDANT AND SUCH OF THE AFOREMENTIONED UNKNOWN DEFENDANT AND SUCH OF THE UNKNOWN NAMED DEFENDANT AS MAY BE INFANTS, INCOMPETENTS OR OTHERWISE NOT SUI JURIS; UNKNOWN TENANT(S); WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO WACHOVIA BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; et al.
Defendant(s)

**NOTICE OF ACTION-FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS**

TO: FENTON JOHN MOORE, DECEASED HIS/HER RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT; AND THE AFOREMENTIONED NAMED DEFENDANT AND SUCH OF THE AFOREMENTIONED UNKNOWN DEFENDANT AND SUCH OF THE UNKNOWN NAMED DEFENDANT AS MAY BE INFANTS, INCOMPETENTS OR OTHERWISE NOT SUI JURIS
including any unknown spouse of the Defendant, if remarried and if said Defendant is dead, his/her respective unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lien holders, and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant; and the aforementioned named Defendant and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendant and such of the unknown named Defendant as may be infants, incompetents, or otherwise not sui juris.

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

A Parcel of land lying and being in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 3, Township 34 South, Range 35 East, Okeechobee County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section 3, run North 0° 30' 41" West along the Easterly boundary of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 3, a distance of 118.21 feet to a point on the Easterly Right of Way of a 66 foot Country Road, thence north 31° 05' 04" West a distance of 1,669.62 feet to the Point of Beginning. Thence continue Noth 31° 05' 04" West a distance of 320.00 feet, thence North 58° 58' 41" East, a distance of 680.9.8'feet, thence south 31° 01' 19" East, a distance of 319.26 feet, thence South 58° 58' 56" West, a distance of 680.63 feet to the Point of Beginning.
More commonly known as 32484 Northeast 4th Drive,
Okeechobee, FL 34972

This action has been filed against you, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, to it on Plaintiffs attorney, Weltman, Weinberg & Reis, Co., L.P.A., whose address is 550 West Cypress Creek Road, Suite 550, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309, on or before 30 days after date of first publication, and file the original with the Clerk of the Circuit Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Witness my hand and seal of this Court on the 28th day of February, 2012.

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Okeechobee County, Florida
By: Arlene Nealis, Deputy Clerk

Weltman, Weinberg & Reis, Co., L.P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff
550 West Cypress Creek Road, Suite 550, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Telephone No.: 954-740-5200 Facsimile: 954-740-5290
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Corrie Johnson, ADA Coordinator, 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
411390 ON 3/,9,16/2012

### NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute," will register with Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations the fictitious name, to wit:

**Tammy A. Clifford**
**DBA Blondies Eatery**

Under which we expect to engage in business at:

**6275 US Hwy 441 SE**
**Okeechobee, FL 34974**

In the City of Okeechobee/County of Okeechobee, Florida.

That the parties interested in said Business enterprise are:

**Tammy A. Clifford**

Dated at Okeechobee, Okeechobee County, Florida this the 5th day of March, 2012.
BY: Tammy A. Clifford
412422 ON 3/16/2012

### NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute," will register with Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations the fictitious name, to wit:

Gil Culbreth Real Estate

Under which we expect to engage in business at:

401 S. Parrott Ave.
Okeechobee, FL 34974

In the City of Okeechobee/County of Okeechobee, Florida.

That the parties interested in said Business enterprise are:

Culbreath Realty, Inc.

Dated at Okeechobee, Okeechobee County, Florida this the 14th day of March, 2012.
BY: Marie Culbreath
412560 ON 3/16/2012


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## Public Notice

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**
**PROBATE DIVISION**
**CASE NO. 2012CP000030**

IN RE: ESTATE OF
**ORDELLE ANN FINNEY**
Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The name of the decedent, the designation of the court in which the administration of this estate is pending, and the file number are indicated above. The address of the Court is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are indicated below.

If you have been served with a copy of this notice and you have any claim or demand against the decedent's estate, even if that claim is unmatured, contingent or liquidated, you must file your claim with the court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF A DATE THAT IS 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS NOTICE.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with the court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

EVEN IF A CLAIM IS NOT BARRED BY THE LIMITATIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE, ALL CLAIMS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN FILED WILL BE BARRED TWO YEARS AFTER DECEDENT'S DEATH.

The date of death of the decedent is December 1, 2011.

The date of first publication of this Notice is March 16, 2012.

Personal Representative:
JERRIE GAYLORD
4400 E Shore Drive
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Attorney for
Personal Representative:
COLIN M. CAMERON, ESQ.
200 N.E. 4th Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 763-8600
Fla. Bar No. 270441
412463 ON 3/16,23/2012

**NOTICE OF SECOND/FINAL CERTIFICATION OF TAX ROLL**

Pursuant to Section 193.122, Florida Statutes, W.C. Sherman, Property Appraiser of Okeechobee County hereby gives notice that the 2011 Tax Roll for Okeechobee County was recertified and extended to the Tax Collector on the 14th day of March 2012 for the collection of Taxes.
412558 ON 3/16/2012


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## Public Notice

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City Council of the City of Okeechobee will meet in Regular Session on **Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.**, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that no stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based. Please contact City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website www.cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372 for assistance.

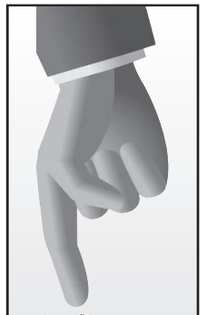
by: James E. Kirk, Mayor
Lane Gamiotea, CMC, City Clerk
412374 ON 3/16/2012

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE WILL MEET TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012 IN ROOM 302 OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT 3209 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34981-5596.

BOARD POLICY
REVIEW COMMITTEE -
2:30 P.M.

ANY PERSONS SEEKING TO APPEAL THE DECISIONS OF THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE.
412448 ON 3/16/2012

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# Sports news in brief

**By Charles M. Murphy**
Okeechobee News

• Samantha Harrell had 11 strikeouts and allowed just two hits as Okeechobee improved to (9-2) with a 4-1 victory over the Lady Chargers of Suncoast in Riviera Beach on Tuesday night.

Ashley Watson went 2 for 3 at the plate while Sarah Davis had three hits which included a double for the Lady Brahmans. The Lady Brahmans allowed nine runs in the sixth inning as they fell at St. Lucie West Centennial on Wednesday afternoon 10-5. Watson had an RBI single and Kathy Simmons added a two-run single for the Brahmans, (9-3). Samantha Harrell allowed just one hit through the first five innings and struck out six batters.

• It's that time of year when everyone is looking for a great spot to cool off! The Okeechobee County Sports Complex Pool will be open for Spring Break—Tuesday, March 20 – Friday, March 23, from 1–5 p.m. and on Saturday, March 24, from 6-9 p.m. Admission will be $3 per person.

• The Okeechobee Parks & Recreation Department is accepting registration for the Spring Adult Softball League. The deadline is 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 5. League fees are: Men-$375, Women-$325 and Co-ed-$325. There is an organizational meeting for all interested players, managers and officials on Wednesday, March 28, at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center on Hwy. 98 N. Registration is conducted at the Recreation Dept. at 640 N.W. 27th Lane (Sports Complex). For more information, call 863-763-6950.

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

# Poetry contest open to local area poets

Central Point Fine Arts is sponsoring a Poetry Contest which is free and is open to Okeechobee residents. There are 50 prizes totaling $5,000, with a $1,000 grand prize for the last poet standing. Poems of 21 lines or fewer on any subject and in any style will be judged by the contest director Dr. Joseph Cameron.

Entrants should include their name and address on the same page as the poem, and a winners' list will be sent to them.

Entries must be received by April 20 and can be submitted via mail to Free Poetry Contest, PO Box 3336, Central Point, Oregon 97502, or enter online at www.freecontest.com. For more information, contact Joseph Cameron, email: JC1@mighty.net, or phone: 541-946-8805.

# Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

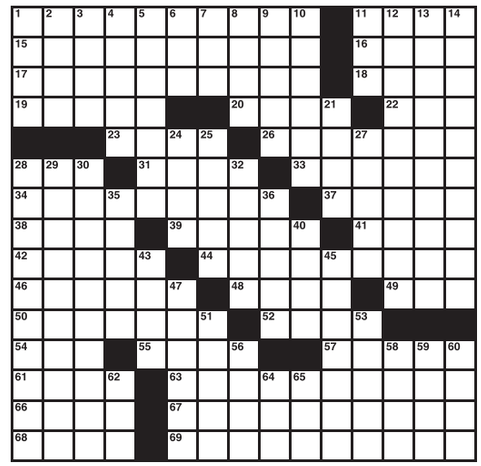
**ACROSS**
1 Vacation destination
11 Invoice nos.
15 Like some avian plumage
16 Sikh leader
17 Almighty
18 Rush order
19 Café container
20 Union requirement
22 Letter run
23 Aid for making columns
26 Flu treatment, at times
28 Sample, in a way
31 Flights
33 Challengers
34 Three-time Grammy Award winner for comedy
37 "Same here"
38 69-Across source
39 Popular toast
41 Morning or evening, e.g.
42 Let in
44 Michigan city where the first Domino's Pizza opened
46 One- to ten-yr. investments
48 First name in architecture
49 Org. that included the Benelux countries
50 Waist management items
52 Big mouths
54 Covered up
55 19-Across prefix
57 Holly portrayer
61 Court edge
63 Special treatments
66 Sport
67 Voters
68 Singing syllables
69 Urban runoff cause

**DOWN**
1 With 7-Down, something read during a lecture?
2 First name in humor
3 Some are deadly
4 Lyric poet
5 Nullifies
6 General on a menu
7 See 1-Down
8 Marsh stalk
9 Lecture reaction, perhaps
10 Be present
11 Turkish bigwig
12 It helps maintain posture
13 Silk Road component
14 Like some fast planes
21 Bedroom accessory
24 They need tending
25 Like some 24-Down
27 Play area
28 Point maker
29 "That's news to me!"
30 Existing at the beginning
32 Reach
35 FDR, HST, etc.
36 1985 National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame inductee
40 Former Maltese currency
43 Miffed, with "off"
45 Uncultivated
47 Roughly 35-cubic-foot measures
51 Silvery food fish
53 Old Toyota
56 Logical beginning?
58 Pants part
59 Usher ending, once
60 River of Flanders
62 Gp. with many pieces
64 "Lookin' Out My Back Door" band, briefly
65 Bill source

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | A | B | L | E | | L | A | C | E | | S | K | I | M |
| A | L | O | E | S | | A | J | A | X | | T | A | R | A |
| S | I | X | T | H | | R | A | R | A | | E | T | O | N |
| | | | H | A | R | D | R | O | C | K | M | Y | N | A |
| S | A | F | A | R | I | | | M | T | A | | D | O | G |
| P | I | L | L | P | A | P | A | | A | S | P | I | R | E |
| A | D | O | | | T | E | T | E | | E | I | D | E | R |
| | | | B | E | A | C | H | C | O | M | A | | | |
| A | N | S | O | N | | S | O | U | R | | | V | E | T |
| R | O | M | A | N | O | | S | A | L | T | P | I | T | A |
| M | V | I | | U | R | N | | | O | I | L | P | A | N |
| B | E | D | S | I | D | E | M | A | N | N | A | | | |
| A | L | G | A | | E | W | O | K | | C | S | P | A | N |
| N | L | E | R | | A | S | T | I | | A | M | U | S | E |
| D | A | N | K | | L | Y | O | N | | N | A | P | P | Y |

xwordeditor@aol.com



By Barry C. Silk
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# SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

**Fun By The Numbers**

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

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

ANSWER:

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

# OHS girls tennis team shuts out Clewiston

**By Charles M. Murphy**
Okeechobee News

Three Brahman players had shutout wins as Okeechobee overwhelmed the Lady Tigers of Clewiston 6-1 in girls high school tennis action Tuesday afternoon at the Okeechobee Sports Complex.

It was a strong performance for Jenna Rath, Vanessa Watt and Jessica Luna who were relentless in their strong ground strokes against their opponents.

Rath displayed strong power as she overwhelmed Sussy Tamez. Vanessa Watt displayed a strong overall game, precise serves, and good court coverage in an 8-0 victory over Victoria Rodriguez. Jessica Luna was also impressive as she defeated Amatuallah Seymour 8-0.

In other matches Alley Lopez defeated Cecilia Montejo 8-1. Anessa Levy won the Tigers only match in #1 singles with an 8-6 win over Samantha Rivero.

In doubles matches the team of Rivero and Watt defeated Levy and Tamez 8-1. Lopez and Kayla Orr teamed up to defeat Rodriguez and Seymour in #2 doubles.

Watt said while she hasn't won as many matches as she did last year as the #5 singles player, she has been pleased with her improvement this year.

"It was nice and we both played a good match. I was glad to pull out the win," she said.

Watt said she can't think about her district title last year now that she is a #3 singles play with tougher opponents. She said all she can do is focus on each match and do her best.

"I feel I'm doing pretty well. The season has gone by really fast and the team has to make the best out of what we have left," she added.

Luna is the only senior on the girls squad this year. She said she really takes her role as a leader seriously because the younger girls have a lot of talent and have the potential to be really good.

"Every time I win a match it is something good for me. We have a strong team this year and I know we'll do really well in districts," she explained.

Luna said her serve was a big part of her win on Tuesday. She is a four-year letter winner but this is the first year she's gotten to play regularly.

"I like being in the top five and getting to play this year. I want to be a leader and show the other girls that we can all achieve," she added.

The Brahman boys earned a forfeit win as Clewiston failed to show up for the match.

Okeechobee News/**Charles Murphy**
**Vanessa Watt returns a serve during her match with Clewiston's Victoria Rodriguez.**

# Okeechobee high school baseball team defeats Ft. Pierce

**By Charles M. Murphy**
Okeechobee News

Dalton Murray drew a bases-loaded walk to drive home Brad Coleman with the winning run in the bottom of the seventh as the Okeechobee High School Brahmans defeated Fort Pierce 5-4 in a District 12-7A game Tuesday night at Brahman field.

Ft. Pierce had scored a run in the top of the inning to tie the score but Okeechobee rallied to win in walk-off fashion against the old rival Cobras.

Tyler Barber pitched five strong innings for the Brahmans (6-3) and added the big blow, a three-run homerun in the Brahman's four-run rally in the fourth inning.

Jesse Stebbins reached base three times, once on a first-inning double for Okeechobee. Marcus Sigmon had a double and triple and Eddie McKenna had two hits for Fort Pierce, (2-6). Alex Estremera got the win in relief for the Brahmans with two innings of relief.

Coach Jeff Blackstone said it was a quality win against a scrappy district opponent. "I thought my guys showed some resilience when the Cobras scored twice to tie the game. I'm proud of them and the way they scratched out the win."

Blackstone had to smile when Barber returned to the lineup after a three-game absence due to an Achilles injury. His tall right hander is a key piece if the Brahmans are to make post season play this year.

Barber showed he was healthy in the fourth as he drilled a fastball over the fence in left field to give the Brahmans a 4-2 lead. Barber's blow followed a walk to Stebbins and a double by Dalton Murray. Estremera had scored on a passed ball earlier in the inning. Barber said he had noticed the Ft. Pierce pitcher had struggled with his off-speed pitches before his at bat and that he looked for a fastball and got one in the center of the plate.

"He threw it right there, I threw my hands at it and it was gone," he added.

Barber was injured in the Centennial game and hadn't pitched in three weeks. He allowed runs in the first and third, but was around the plate and pretty sharp for four innings. He was helped out in the fifth as Christian Crews made a nice running catch in the right center field gap that helped the Brahmans hold onto a 4-3 lead.

"I was decent on the mound, but I still need to work on some things and get a feel for pitching again. Crews did a great job running down an important out. I also like having Tyler Finney at shortstop, he handles some tough hard hit balls every game," Barber added.

Barber insisted he should be 100 percent for the District Tournament in April.

Blackstone said the team played small ball in the seventh to win the game. Coleman reached on an infield hit and the ball was thrown away which allowed him to reach second. From there Finney was walked intentionally and Estremera laid down a perfect bunt down the first base line. By the time the Cobras first basemen fielded the ball, he had no base to throw to and the bases were loaded. Stebbins flied out to short center field for the first out but Murray was walked on four straight pitches to end the game.

"Bunt defense has been critical this year. Our opponents have made some plays against us and fortunately tonight we got it done on our end," Blackstone added.

The Brahmans will travel to Port St. Lucie on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. Saturday the Brahmans host one of the best teams in the area, the Park Vista Cobras at 2 p.m.

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# Lady Brahmans flag football beats Ft. Pierce

**By Charles M. Murphy**
Okeechobee News

Quarterback Kyla Hargraves threw for 269 yards and four touchdowns to four different receivers as the Okeechobee High School Lady Brahmans flag football team shut out Fort Pierce 27-0 on Wednesday night at Brahman Stadium.

Hargraves completed a three-yard touchdown pass to Maranda Serrano in the first quarter, a 23-yard touchdown to Carley McCoin in the second quarter, a 17-yard touchdown to EJ Edwards in the third quarter, and an 18-yard touchdown to Paige McCrary in the fourth quarter to lead the Brahman offense.

Hargraves said the Cobras didn't have much of a pass rush so she had plenty of time to pick out her targets. "They were letting our receivers get behind them a lot. It was obvious when they lined up. My receivers were open and I just threw it ahead of them and they ran and got to the balls."

The defense played well as the Cobras stuck to an option ground game. Shad'Asia Williams had a pair of QB sacks, one of which was in the end zone to score a safety for the Brahmans.

The Cobras also had numerous penalties which included personal fouls for flag guarding, charging and illegal blocks as they mostly struggled on offense.

Coach Bruce Jahner said there is no doubt that flag football is a contact sport, "There was a lot of contact but the girls stayed focus. We didn't make many bad mistakes and most of the penalties were on Fort Pierce. We hung in there and played solid."

Hargraves completed 19-28 passes for the Brahmans. McCrary had eight receptions for 114 yards. McCoin added four receptions for 91 yards. Serrano had three catches for 24 yards. Maci Thomas had two receptions for 20 yards and Edwards had two catches for 20 yards. Tiffany Bowers had one rush for 12 yards. Morgan Crawford had a pass defense for the defensive unit.

Jahner said he feels the defense adjusted well to the ground attack Fort Pierce showed. The Cobras were unable to complete any passes of over 10 yards in the game.

Okeechobee News/**Charles Murphy**
**Shad'Asia Williams grabs a flag for the Brahman defense during their big win over Fort Pierce.**

"I know the teams in Palm Beach County will pass more but this is a great start to our season. I feel we played very dominantly and our coaching staff did a great job," he added.

He also praised his QB for her poise and the accuracy of her passes. He noted many of the receivers have played with Kyla for three years and know their routes.

Hargraves said it is good to have tall and athletic receivers like Serrano, McCrary and McCoin who get open on a consistent basis.

"If I ever feel like I'm in trouble I just throw it as far as I can. They are so tall they can just jump up and get the ball," she added.

The Brahman JV defeated Fort Pierce 26-0. Natasha Sullivan caught two touchdown passes. Katelynn Jolly returned an interception for a score. Kailey Hoover threw a touchdown pass and scored on a rushing touchdown. Taylor Trent added a touchdown pass for Okeechobee.


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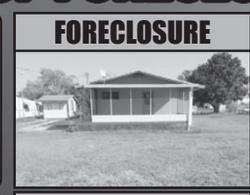
1001-H: Oak Tree Place In town condominium conveniently close to everything. Porch just off the kitchen area. Seller very motivated to sell. Unit #10-G Make offer! ~~$52,000~~ NOW $39,000 MLS #203425

FORECLOSURE



3006-H: Treasure Island lake access. CBS and frame home with front & back screen porch. Whether you're looking for a weekend retreat or a place to call home. $53,900 MLS #205626

REDUCED

5011-M: Four Seasons 2006, 2br/2ba MH on ½ acre. Great location for east coast commuters! Fenced yard with 4 sheds, wooden front porch. Motivated seller, make an offer! ~~$78,000~~ NOW $65,000 MLS #204129

REDUCED

3003-H: King's Bay - 2 Bd 2 bath, screened porch, concrete driveway. Easy to show. HOA includes pool, clubhouse, tennis court, and lawn. ~~$54,000~~ NOW $47,900 MLS #205169

REDUCED

3004-H: King's Bay - 2 Bedroom 2 bath, enclosed back porch and screened front porch, garage, appliance stay. HOA. Easy to show. ~~$54,000~~ NOW $47,900 MLS #205168

REDUCED

4002-H: Buckhead Ridge Lake Access two story 3 bd/2 ba. Upstairs & downstairs kitchen, lg storage bldg, hurricane shutters, seawall, RV Prkg. 2,560 sq. ft. of living. Way too much to list! ~~$399,000~~ NOW $349,000 MLS #204356

• 20+/-ACRES NW 72nd Ave. **Not buildable** Seller is open to offers. $40,000 MLS #205495 • FORECLOSURE 20+/-acres located in a rural area of NW Okeechobee County. Pasture land suitable for cattle/agriculture. **Not Buildable** $38,000 MLS #205578 • 50.4+/-acres SR 710 MLS #204068 • Blue Heron Lot S.E. 14t CT. $20,900 MLS #205527 • Basswood Lot NW 33rd Ave $6,000 or better offer. MLS #205239

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