



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Celebrating Our Centennial!

Vol. 105 No. 108

Sunday, September 7, 2014

75¢ plus tax

Tammi's Top of the Lake

... Page 10

Firefighter helped battle Oregon blaze

... Page B1

Pet therapy comes to Okeechobee

... Page B5

Sleepy? Pull off the road, save a life

... Page B6

Lake Levels

14.46 feet

Last Year: 15.54 feet



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



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

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Stephanie Quesinberry (right) was named Raulerson Hospital's employee of the year on Sept. 3. Robert Lee (left) presented the award.

Quesinberry honored with the Frist Award

By Charles M. Murphy
Okeechobee News

Stephanie Quesinberry won the Frist Award as the employee of the year at Raulerson Hospital on Sept. 3.

Hospital Chief Executive Officer Robert Lee presented the award. Mr. Lee said the Frist Humanitarian Award was created in 1971 to honor employees. It is named after the founder of HCA Dr. Tommy Frist and awards commitment to the community, working hard and dedication to medicine. It honors daily dedication and caregiving which epitomizes the highest

standards of quality and personal commitment. The winner gets a cash award, a preferred parking space and a bouquet of flowers. The entire staff was on hand to honor Mrs. Quesinberry.

Winners are nominated by their peers and voted on by previous Frist Award recipients.

Mrs. Quesinberry is a product of Okeechobee High School. She joined the U.S. Navy after high school, was stationed in Bethesda, Md., and later Jacksonville, N.C.

See FRIST — Page 2

Dike plan meetings postponed

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District has postponed public meetings that were scheduled to be held later this month regarding rehabilitation efforts at the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

The meetings were scheduled for Sept. 22-25 at various locations in south Florida. The meetings are being postponed due to delays associated with modeling being conducted for the dam safety modification study of the 143-mile earthen structure.

See DIKE — Page 7

Bags collected for children in foster care

Special to the Okeechobee News

Wondering what to do with that lime-green vinyl suitcase your parents gave you in the 1970s? Give it to a foster child.

Devereux Community Based Care of Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast is collecting used — but undamaged — luggage and overnight bags for children in foster care throughout the month of September.

"Some of our children in foster care visit relatives outside of Florida, or in other parts of the state," said Christina Kaiser, Devereux CBC Community Relations Director. "They need suitcases like anyone else who travels."

In the absence of resources, needed suitcases often are purchased by the case manager who puts the child on the plane or bus, Kaiser said. "We can do better than that," she said. "Everyone has an unused

See BAGS — Page 7



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FRIST

Continued From Page 1

She used her G.I. bill to attend college. She is married to Chris Quesinberry, a former U.S. Marine and has two children, Chase, 16, and Hailey, 9. She said the Navy was a big part in her success. "It got me out of Okeechobee. I worked on patient care for six years. I got to see a lot of things and it was very exciting," she added.

Mrs. Quisenberry has worked at HCA/Raulerson for over 10 years and is currently the Director of Surgical Services. She is supervisor over four different departments and makes sure the surgical process goes smoothly both pre and post-surgery. She is very proud of a newly renovated outpatient department at the hospital. An open house will soon be scheduled for the public to see the work that has been done.

Mrs. Quisenberry was joined by her family as the award was announced.

"It was very shocking to be nominated but I was very proud," she said. "It was phenomenal and it was very emotional to have my family here."

Mrs. Quisenberry's nomination form described her as an embodiment of the Raulerson spirit and an employee who always puts the patient's needs first. She was also praised for helping to organize and support various fundraisers to benefit members of our community.

Robert Lee, CEO of Raulerson Hospital said, "Stephanie is a great asset to our team. She works hard for patients and our community every day and we are very proud of her."

Mrs. Quisenberry said she is proud of the quality of patient care at the hospital and the

direction the hospital has taken in the past few years.

"I love my career and I wouldn't change it for the world. I have followed in a lot of great people's footsteps and it is a great honor to receive this award," she said.

Nominees for the Frist Employee of the Year Award were: Maxine Collins, Pam Knight, Melissa Mills, Mike Norwood, Stephanie Quesinberry, Nick Thompson and Theresa Valyou.

The Frist Volunteer of the Year Award winner is Arlene Lester-Baker. Arlene won the Volunteer of the Year in May during volunteer week. Arlene and her husband Yogi moved to Okeechobee in 2000. She is retired from a career in accounting. Arlene has shown incredible dedication to the Hospital Auxiliary. In the two years that she has been a part of the organization, Arlene has contributed so much to the program. Robert Lee, CEO of Raulerson said, "Arlene does so much for our patients and our volunteer program. She is very engaged and dependable. We enjoy recognizing people who go above and beyond for our patients and the community."

Arlene's community involvement goes beyond the hospital; she has been a participant and supporter of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® for the past 20 years. In the few hours a week Arlene is not volunteering at Raulerson Hospital, she may be found riding a motorcycle with her husband or enjoying her grandchildren.

This year marks Raulerson Hospital's 35th anniversary of providing quality healthcare with a personal touch. To learn more about careers at Raulerson Hospital, becoming a volunteer or the healthcare services offered, visit RaulersonHospital.com.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Partly to mostly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. High around 90F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%. Rainfall near an inch.

Tonight: Partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms

mainly before midnight. Low 74F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Partly cloudy in the morning followed by scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. High 89F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly early. Low 73F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30%.

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II: "TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES"
Fri., Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 & 9:00.
Sat., Sun. & Wed. 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:00. Mon. 3:00 & 7:00

III: "LUCY"
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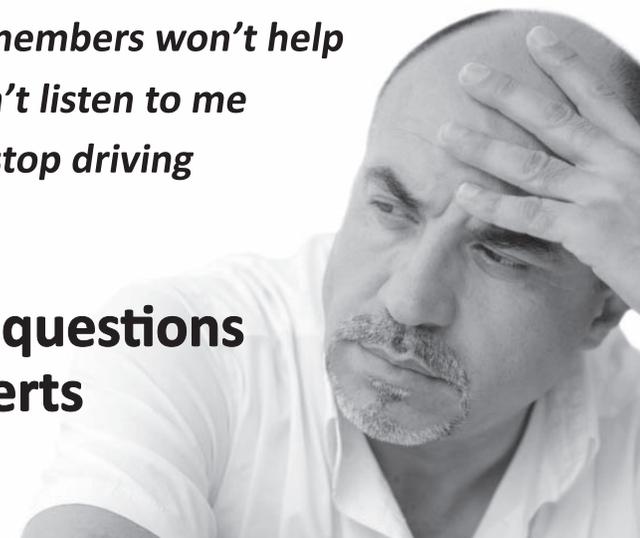
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Reflections from the pulpit

Cremation or burial?

By Rick Giles

Northside Baptist Church

As a pastor, I am frequently asked if it is OK for a Christian to be cremated. And, I know there are many people who would ask this question if the opportunity presented itself. In fact, with the rise in the cost of burial expenses which can be upwards of \$6,000, cremation is quickly becoming the preferred method of disposition. In many cases, one can be cremated for less than \$1,000. When there is a death in the family, the funeral expenses are typically required when services are rendered. As you can see, the question is mostly driven by cost. So, is cremation OK?

According to the Cremation Association of North America, and most scholars would agree, cremation probably began around 3000 BC or in the Stone Age. It was instituted through pagan ritual as a way to dispose of the dead.

In my studies, I have found that Jewish tradition has been that of entombment or burial. Christians have often followed the tradition of their homelands, which was also the traditional form of burial. I have never read in scripture that the tradition of cremation was spoken against. Thus, I cannot say emphatically that we are to abstain from the practice. To some this is the only option. So, what are we to do?

Funeral arrangements can be prepaid so that your desires are known and able

to be followed. Recently one of my family members passed away and everyone was sure that she wanted a burial. She had planned everything out, even specifying what clothes she was to be buried in. Upon her death, the costs of the burial arrangements were so astronomical that the family, sadly, could not afford to honor her wishes and she was cremated. Needless to say there were many relatives who were very upset about the decision. However, we can minimize the grief and hurt for our family members by planning ahead and alleviating this part of the process for our families. I know many folks living on a fixed income may struggle with the financial component of pre-planning, so I'd encourage you to talk with your family members and desired funeral home about your preferences and pre-payment plans that could meet your budget.

Ultimately, each person must decide for him/herself what to do. I, however, view the issue from a different perspective. I am not concerned as much, with tradition. I am concerned with Christ. In 1st Peter 2:21, we are told that we have Christ for an example and that we are to follow His steps. This means that as a Christian, or followers of Christ, we are to emulate the actions of Christ Jesus. As Jesus lived, we are to live. As a Christian, I have chosen to follow Christ Jesus. He is my example! I am doing everything that I can to live like he lived. As He is my example in Life, He is also my example in death. My Lord was not cremated; He

was buried in a tomb. My choice is to follow Jesus, even in death. I choose to be buried as He was. Therefore, I am preparing for that day ahead of time by making prearrangements.

However, even as important as those final decisions are, there is a final decision even more important; you can pre-plan where you plan to spend eternity! God has said in Romans 3:23 that "all have sinned and fall short" of His glory. He has said in His Word that the wages of sin, the earnings of the sin in our life, is death (Romans 6:23). Man is under a death sentence for sin. But God has sent His one and only Son to be the payment for that sin (v.23). He has paid that death penalty for us. In Roman 10:9 the

Bible says, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, You will be saved." This is the most important decision that you could ever make about the end of life. If you believe that God "is," then you must believe His instructions. He said believe on His Son. One must admit his own sin and ask God to forgive and save him through the sacrifice of His Son (Jesus) for you. That will settle the end for you. At this point your bodily disposition will not make much of a difference.

May God grant you wisdom and discernment as you pursue His will.

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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!

Sheriff's budget

• My compliments to the sheriff and the county commissioners, three of them anyway, for working on a budget compromise. I completely agree with the county attorney's opinion that it is not wise for the county commission to play chicken with the sheriff over public safety.

• One of the commissioners said they need a third party to look at the budget. I agree, but I don't think that third party needs to be a judge. I think it might make sense to have an accountant and/or efficiency expert look at all of the county expenses, for every department, and look for ways they could save money. Money will continue to be tight for some years. But there are ways to use the available funds more efficiently.

Barrel race

• The video of the 'barrel race' on the Okeechobee News facebook page is hilarious. It just goes to show that people in Okeechobee aren't afraid of making fun of themselves and they love to laugh.

Officials

• I often wonder why anyone would want to put themselves in a public fishbowl

these days especially with the technology that's out there and the plethora of forums that allow for such anonymous scrutiny. Fortunately for all of us there are those that are willing to step up to the plate, understanding they can't please everyone and knowing at the end of the day they put themselves out there with the intent of doing the right thing which will likely be wrong in someone's eyes.

Vote

• In the primary election, we had extremely low voter turn out. Of the more than 18,000 registered voters, only about 4,500 bothered to vote. One of the races was decided by less than 150 votes. Some people think their vote doesn't matter. But every vote counts. In the general election in November, we need every registered voter to get involved. It's easy. You can vote early, vote absentee, vote by mail or vote on election day at the polls. There are lots of choices that fit any schedule.

• This year on the ballot in the November election, the voters will be asked to renew the Children's Services Council funding. This is very important for Okeechobee. There are many programs that help our young people that will not be possible without the CSC funding. It is a very small amount of tax, but it makes a big difference for the kids. Please vote 'yes' to continue the Children's Services Council.

• If you don't bother to vote, you have no room to complain about the elected officials. For the system to work, the voters have to participate. Voter apathy is what got us into the current situation.

Pet of the week

Windsor is a class clown. He's had training and listens well. He was raised as a house dog, but the owners had to give him up. He does very well with other dogs. He is available for adoption at Okeechobee Humane Society/Pet Rescue on Highway 98, next door to the Livestock Market. For more information, contact Humane Society Pet Rescue Florida, at 863-357-1104. To see more available animals go to petfinder.com. Homes are also needed to "foster" animals who are waiting for a permanent adoptive home.



Special to the Okeechobee News

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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Call (800) 282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery. 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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Okeechobee Utility Authority Budget Summary Recap For Newspaper Fiscal Year October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

REVENUES

WATER UTILITY REVENUE	\$ 5,944,493
SEWER UTILITY REVENUE	3,691,152
OTHER GENERAL REVENUE	279,345
CAPITAL CONNECTION REVENUE	348,758
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) FUNDING	4,587,619
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT-GRANT FUNDING	300,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 15,151,367

EXPENSES (Not Including Depreciation or Amortization)

OPERATING EXPENSES-WATER DEPT	\$ 1,173,805
OPERATING EXPENSES-MAINTENANCE DEPT	1,747,406
OPERATING EXPENSES-WASTEWATER DEPT	968,322
OPERATING EXPENSES-ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT	2,236,161
OPERATING EXPENSES-METER READER DEPT	248,466
DEBT SERVICE-INTEREST PAYMENTS	966,414
DEBT SERVICE-PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS	1,849,548
TRANSFERS & RESTRICTIONS	5,661,245
GRANT FUNDED CIP EXPENDITURES	300,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 15,151,367

BUDGETED SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT) **\$ -**

BUDGETED DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS (DETAIL)

BB&T SERIES 2010A PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS	\$ 985,000
BB&T SERIES 2010A INTEREST PAYMENTS	363,370
BB&T SERIES 2010B PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS	110,000
BB&T SERIES 2010B INTEREST PAYMENTS	356,085
SRF #1 PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS	524,518
SRF #1 INTEREST PAYMENTS	158,345
SRF #2 PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS	230,030
SRF #2 INTEREST PAYMENTS	88,614
SRF #3 PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS	-
SRF #3 INTEREST PAYMENTS	-
TOTAL BUDGETED DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS	\$ 2,815,962

Other General Revenue Includes:

Penalties & Late Charges	\$ 102,347
Miscellaneous Unrestricted Revenue	50,000
Total Unrestricted Interest Income	32,998
Total Restricted Interest Income	22,000
Fire Hydrant Fund Fees	72,000
Misc Restricted Revenue	-
Contributed Capital	-
Total Other General Revenue	\$ 279,345

Capital Improvement Projects:

Proposed Capital Projects	
Funded From State Grant Sources:	\$ 300,000
Proposed other CIP Expenditures	
Funded From Internal Sources	4,141,600
Proposed Departmental Capital Expenditures	
Funded From Internal Sources	446,019

Total Proposed Capital Improvement Project Expenditures **\$ 4,887,619**

Community Events

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Club offering Sunday dinner

VFW North Post 4423, 300 N.W. 34th St., invites club members and the public alike to join the club for Lori's stuffed pork chops on Sunday, **Sept. 7**, from 1 until 3 p.m. All proceeds will benefit our veterans programs.

Raisin'em Right Club to meet

Raisin'em Right 4-H Club will hold their first meeting of the year Thursday, Sept. 11, at the Extension Office on U.S. 98 N. starting at 7 p.m. Anyone who is planning on exhibiting a steer this year needs to have your enrollment form and your entry form, along with you club dues, turned in to the Extension Office by 5 p.m. on **Sept. 8**. Club dues are \$5, plus \$1 for insurance for the year. We are welcoming new club members and are looking forward to seeing everyone. For information, call the Extension Office at 863-763-6469; Angela at 863-634-0154; or, Keith at 863-634-9108.

Restaurant hosts fundraiser

You are invited to a celebrity server benefit at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 700 S. Parrott Ave., Monday, **Sept. 8**, from 5 until 8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at Regions Bank and Brown Cow Sweetery for \$11. Tickets also include your drink. Your servers will be the Okeechobee Walk it like it's Red Hot team for the American Heart Association walk on Sept. 27. This is a fundraiser benefiting the American Heart Association in our efforts to stop the #1 killer in America.

Retired educators will meet

The Okeechobee Retired Educators Association will meet Monday, **Sept. 8**, at 11 a.m. in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's Restaurant, 608 S. Parrott Ave. Any retired educator is invited.

Church offering bingo

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 901 S.W. Sixth St., will start playing bingo on Monday nights at 7 p.m. beginning **Sept. 8**. Everyone is welcome. For information, call 863-763-3727.

FFA alumni meets Sept. 8

Okeechobee FFA alumni will have their first meeting of the year Monday, **Sept. 8**, at 7 p.m. at Yearling Middle School, 925 N.W. 23rd Lane, in the classroom of Buddy Mills. Anyone is welcome. For information, call 863-610-2946.

Udder Bunch plans meeting

The Okeechobee 4-H Udder Bunch Club will have their first meeting of the year Monday, **Sept. 8**, at 5:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Civic Center on U.S. 98 N. For information, call 863-610-2946.

Democratic group to meet

The Okeechobee Democratic executive committee will meet Thursday, **Sept. 11**, at 5:30 p.m. in the front meeting room of the Okeechobee Public Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. Any interested Democrat is are invited.

NRA Banquet slated

The annual Okeechobee Friends of NRA Banquet and Fundraiser will be held Thursday, **Sept. 11**, at the Okeechobee KOA Convention Center, 4276 U.S. 441 S. Doors will open at 6 p.m. The NRA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Proceeds from the event will support a wide range of firearm and hunter safety programs, youth and adult shooting sports programs and programs that educate the public about firearms in their historic, technological and artistic context. For information, to purchase tickets or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities call 863-634-8678; or, go to www.friendsofnra.org. Tickets also available at The Gun Shop, 2020 S. Parrot Ave.

Church plans craft fair

A Fabric and Craft Sale will be held Friday and Saturday, **Sept. 12-13**, at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Ave., from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. All proceeds will be given to the Food Pantry in memory of Sandy Brown.

Eagles plan jam session

The Fraternal Order Of Eagles Aerie #4137, 9985 U.S. 441 N., is calling out all musicians for a pickin' and grinnin' jam and barbecue Saturday, **Sept. 13**, starting at 1 p.m. Barbecue chicken dinners will be available for a \$5 donation. Members of Aerie #4137: Show your card and get a free dinner for membership appreciation. The event is open to the public. For information, call 863-763-2552.

4-H club meeting set

The Barnyard Buddies is a small animal noncompetitive 4-H club for children 5 to 18 years of age. Members learn how to select and care for small animals, including rabbit, poultry, dogs, cats, fish, snakes, gerbils, guinea pigs and hamsters. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month from September through May usually at 10 a.m. in the extension office. The first meeting of this year will be held Saturday, **Sept. 13**, at 10 a.m. at the 4-H extension office, 458 U.S. 98 N. Enrollment forms will be available at that meeting, or at the office.

Historical Society will meet

The Okeechobee Historical Society will have its first meeting after summer break Monday, **Sept. 15**, at noon in the museum on U.S. 98 N. We encourage anyone interested in joining the Historical Society to bring a covered dish and \$10 for the year's dues. We will be doing lots of activities in celebration of the upcoming City Centennial Celebration. We also request that members bring school supplies to donate to classrooms in need, if they wish. The Tantie Quilters will also resume meeting on Thursdays from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the museum building. If you are interested in doing old fashioned quilting, you are welcome to join.

Amendment 2 info offered

The Republican Party of Okeechobee invites the public to its Monday, Sept. 15, meeting at Beef O'Brady's, 608 S. Parrott Ave., starting at 7 p.m. Major Noel Stephen, from the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, will have a presentation on Amendment Two — legalization of marijuana. Come early if you want to order your dinner. For information, call 863-532-2482.

Caregiver conference planned

Overwhelmed by caregiving challenges? IRSC will host a Fearless Caregiver Conference presented by the Area Agency on Aging at the Williamson Conference Center, 2229 N.W. Ninth Ave., Monday, Sept. 18, from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Bring your questions to the experts. Lunch will be included. For information, call 954-362-8126.

Photo workshop is Sept. 25

A photo editing workshop will be held at the Okeechobee County Library, 206 S.W. 16th St., Thursday, Sept. 25, at 5:30 p.m. Bring your laptop or paper and pencil. Learn how to lighten, color correct and straighten your images like a pro. For information, call 772-07-6764.

Blood donation dates set

Community volunteers are needed to help save lives by donating blood. Scheduled bloodmobile visits in the area include the following:

- Thursday, Sept. 11, at TD Bank from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 14, at Golden Corral Restaurant from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Okeechobee High School from 7:30 until 2:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 21, at Hair Cuttery by Publix. Benefit blood drive for J. Bailey Hedrick, 15, who is fighting Hodgkins Lymphoma at DiMaggio Childrens Hospital from 2 until 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 25, at IRSC Campus from 3 until 8 p.m.

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Improve your appearance, your confidence, and your self esteem. Enhance your breast, flatten your tummy or shed unwanted fat. Let us help you look and feel your very best!



Prices quoted include board certified plastic surgeon, board certified anesthesiologist, AAAASF certified facility, pre-op lab work, and all visits pre and post op.

- Breast Lift
starting at **\$3,950**
- Breast Enlargement
(saline) **\$3,700**
- Breast Enlargement
(silicone) **\$4,700**
- Tummy Tuck
starting at **\$4,750**
- Liposuction
starting at **\$2,950**

BAGS

Continued From Page 1

bag they've forgotten about — we can use them."

Case managers working with children in foster care also need overnight or duffel bags to help move children into new foster homes.

"There's nothing worse than asking a child who is being removed from home to put her belongings into a plastic garbage bag," said Devereux CBC Chief Operating Officer Cheri Sheffer, adding that a plastic bag is sometimes all that's available to a case manager. "This child is undergoing the most traumatic experience of her young life —

treating her belongings with respect sends a message that people in our community care and want to be a part of her healing."

Collection sites are available in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. If you have a suitcase or overnight bag to donate, or if you would like to organize a collection, please contact Christina Kaiser at christina.kaiser@devereuxcbc.org. Although we appreciate all help, please keep in mind that bags should be sturdy, clean and in good shape in order to travel well.

Devereux Community Based Care of Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast is the non-profit organization responsible for every known abused, abandoned and neglected child in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. Visit the website or call 772-873-7800 for more information.

DIKE

Continued From Page 1

"Rather than provide incomplete information to the public, it is best to complete this important analysis," said Tim Willadsen, Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation Project

Manager. "Complete and accurate information is essential because it may have significant impacts on the potential solutions."

The meetings will be rescheduled for a future date. For more information on the Herbert Hoover Dike project, visit the Jacksonville District website at:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/LakeOkeechobee/Herbert-HooverDike.aspx>.

CSC All Star Cheer team sign-ups planned for Sept. 8

CSC All Star Competitive Cheer program will host a final registration Sept. 8 from 6 until 7 p.m. for children 4-18 years of age. No experience required. Registration is \$100. The sign-ups will be at CSC Gym, 810 N. Parrott Ave. For information, call Jennifer Laferty at 863-801-9229; Jennifer Busbin at 863-697-2085; or, Pam Harwas at 863-697-2124. The program is sponsored in part by Children's Service Council of Okeechobee.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

DOORS AT 6PM • SHOW AT 7PM!

JOE DIFFIE

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

WILLIAMS & REE




TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT THE CASH CAGE
OR BY PHONE 800.360.9875
 GENERAL ADMISSION \$35 / PLAYER'S CLUB MEMBERS \$25



BRIGHTON
 Real Good, Feel Good Place

17735 Reservation Road Okeechobee, FL 34974
 Highway 721 west of Lake Okeechobee on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation
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seminolebrightoncasino.com

 Like Us on Facebook! See Seminole Player's Club for complete details. Must be at least 21 years old and a Seminole Player's Club member to participate in this promotion. Management reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time based on operational and/or business concerns. Persons who have been trespassing or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or those who have opted into the self-exclusion program are not eligible. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1-888-ADMIT-IT.

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6th Year Anniversary! No dealer fees for the month of September!

<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2006 Mitsubishi Eclipse GT Auto, A/C, 6 cyl, leather int, moon roof  ONLY \$6995* U1847 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2003 Toyota Salara Convertible Auto, V6, A/C, Leather Int, Loaded  ONLY \$6495* U9664 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2002 GMC Yukon XL Auto, V8, A/C, New Tires, Loaded, Trailer Tow Pkg.  NOW \$6995 U4116 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2006 Chevy Trailblazer LS Auto, A/C, V8, Trailer Tow Pkg, Loaded  NOW \$7495 U5438 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2003 Nissan Frontier King Cab, 5 Spd, A/C,  ONLY \$6495* U0129 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2002 Chevy Suburban Auto, A/C, 7 Pass, Leather Int. Tow Pkg.  NOW \$6995 U3236 </div>
<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2005 Ford Focus ZX4 5 spd, A/C, 102,893 miles  ONLY \$3995* U3308 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2002 Suzuki Grand Vitara V6, Auto, A/C, 90,220 miles, new tires, loaded  ONLY \$5995* U2659 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2004 Toyota Tacoma A/C, 5sp, 4 cyl, bedliner, new tires  ONLY \$7495* U3597 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> MANAGER'S SPECIAL 2002 Ford Focus ZTS 5sp, A/C, leather int., CD player, Gas Saver  ONLY \$3695* U1839 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2003 Ford Expedition 4x4 V8, A/C, 3rd row seating, trailer tow pkg  ONLY \$7495* U2624 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2000 Ford Mustang 6cyl, 5sp, A/C, new tires  ONLY \$2995* U2149 </div>
<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2002 VW Golf Auto, A/C, Loaded, GAS SAVER  ONLY \$3495* U1869 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2002 Ford Expedition EB Auto, A/C, loaded, 3rd row seating, new tires  ONLY \$4995* U1897 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2003 GMC Envoy XL 3rd row seat, Auto, A/C, 6 cyl, new tires Only 87,260 Miles  ONLY \$6995* U6833 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2001 Toyota Camry Auto, A/C, Loaded, GAS SAVER  NOW \$4695 U3311 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2003 Suzuki Grand Vitara Auto, A/C, 6 cyl, Loaded  ONLY \$4995* U2134 </div>	<div style="background-color: #FF0000; color: #fff; padding: 5px;"> 2007 Chrysler Town & Country 7 Pass, Auto, A/C, Loaded  ONLY \$6495* U5386 </div>

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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 the INI 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 INI USA style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

Garage/Yard Sales

We Buy Estates
Antiques, Collectibles,
Household, Tools,
Jewelry and etc.
Call 863-697-8906

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

Services

MOHAWK
CONSTRUCTION INC.
FILL SHELL, ASPHALT
MILLINGS, SAND,
STONE, MULCH, TOP
SOIL. LARGE OR SMALL
QUANTITIES DELIVERED
OR PICK-UP. NEAR
TOWN. JOSH 634-9486

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

Employment Full Time

NOW HIRING LOCAL & REGIONAL DRIVERS

Class A company CDL

- minimum of 2 years driving experience
- clean driving record

Our package includes: 401K, paid training, safety bonuses, paid vacations, professional uniforms, uniform cleaning service, boot program & more!

WALPOLE EOE/DFWP

Call Donnie at (800) 741-6500
or apply online www.walpoleinc.com

Cal-Maine Foods is looking for motivated and reliable person to perform maintenance and electrical duties. Electrical skills a plus. 40+hrs, good benefits
Apply at:
6800 NE 120th St.
Okeechobee Fl. 34972
or Email resume to:
dberry@cmfoods.com

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

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\$5,000 Sign-On Bonus!
Great Pay! Consistent Freight, Great Miles on this Regional Account.
Werner Enterprises:
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Needed CLASS A - CDL DRIVER must have DOT medical, drug free & clean driving history. 2.5 yrs. tanker endorsement.
Call 863.467-9800.
M-F 9:00 to 5:00.

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Employment Full Time

Now Hiring Local & Regional Drivers

Class A company CDL

- minimum of 2 years driving experience
- clean driving record

Our package includes: 401K, paid training, safety bonuses, paid vacations, professional uniforms, uniform cleaning service, boot program & more!

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New Horizons is now hiring an Outpatient Office Manager for our Okee. location. For more information and to apply online, please go to www.nhtcinc.org
DFWP/EOE

Public Relations Director
Direct sales, maintain records, monitor affairs 2 yrs Exp. ONLY RESUME.
3300 Pioneer 11 St. Clewiston, FL 33440

Employment Part Time

Grand Oaks Assisted Living Community
Experienced P/T Sous Chef. Dependable/ Independent individual needed. Drug/ Physical and Background Screening Required. Apply in Person M-F 9-3 203 SE 2nd Street

Seasonal

Bus Driver - Seasonal Position (6 to 9 months) ECMHSP is now accepting applications for Bus Driver for a Migrant Head Start Program. Responsible for providing transportation for children. Preferred: High School Diploma or GED, Commercial Driving License (class A or B), with P & S endorsement. School Bus Driver Certificate of Training and documented years of experience driving a bus. Accepted: High School Diploma or GED, Commercial Driving License (class A or B), with P & S endorsement. School Bus Driver Certificate of Training. Starting salary \$12.32 - 15.01. Personal Leave and employer-matched retirement plan. Call 252-234-7108/ fax resume 252-234-1635

Bus Monitor - Seasonal Position (6 to 9 months) ECMHSP is now accepting applications for Bus Monitor(s) for a Migrant Head Start Program. Responsible for ensuring children's safety on the bus and providing an environment, which is conducive to the optimum development of each child while they are being transported. Serve as liaison between center and families, maintaining on-going communication between the center and families. Preferred: High School Diploma/GED and CDL. Accepted: High School Diploma/GED. Starting salary \$8.66 - 10.34. Personal Leave and employer-matched retirement plan. Call 252-234-7108/ fax resume 252-234-1635

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

Seasonal

Monitor de autobus o De 6 a 9 meses cada temporada ECMHSP esta aceptando solicitudes de empleo para el puesto de monitor de autobus para un programa de Migrant Head Start. Tendra la responsabilidad de asegurarse de la seguridad de los niños en el autobus y proveer un ambiente adecuado para el óptimo desarrollo de cada niño mientras son transportados. Además servira como enlace entre el centro y las familias, manteniendo una comunicación continua entre el centro y las familias. Se requiere: Diploma de escuela secundaria/GED y COL. Se acepta: Diploma de escuela secundaria/GED. Salario inicial \$8.66 -10.34. Se ofrece permiso personal, permiso por enfermedad y beneficios de retiro con contribución del empleador Call 252-234-7108/ fax resume 252-234-1635

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

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

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

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

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

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

Financial

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

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

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

It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.

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

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EARN INCOME BY REFERRING BUSINESS OWNERS IN NEED OF FINANCING EQUIPMENT OR WORKING CAPITAL. COMMISSIONS PAID UPON CLOSING. MONEY FINANCIAL (800) 256 2988 Ext 200

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LENOVO COMPUTER, WIRELESS COMBO, 21.5" MONITOR, KEY BOARD, HP PRINTER DRAGON, WINDOWS 7 PROFESSIONAL, CENTURY LINK MODEM 64 BIT INTELIT, 468 MEMORY COST \$1,196.11 ASKING \$550.00 10 MONTHS OLD 863-467-1046

Furniture

FOR SALE - DINING TABLE 6 CHAIRS W/CHINA CABINET AND HUTCH \$350.00, SMALL MAROON CLOTH ROCKER CHAIR \$50.00, CREAM COLOR LEATHER LOVESEAT \$200.00, GOLD COLOR CLOTH DOUBLE RECLINING LOVESEAT SOFA \$200.00, 2 END TABLES-PAIR \$50.00. OR ENTIRE LOT \$650.00 CALL 863-763-8534 OR 772-971-0419

Agriculture

Seeds/Plants/Flowers

MANGO TREES IN GALLON POTS \$7.00 EACH CALL 863-357-0882

Rentals

Houses - Rent

3BD/1BA HOUSE ON 1 ACRE, CERAMIC TILE FLOORS, NEW CABINETS & COUNTER TOPS. NO PETS. FIRST, LAST & SECURITY \$850.00 A MONTH 863-634-2820

Houses - Rent

3/1 UNFURNISHED- WASHER & DRYER- DISHWASHER-TILE FLOORS THRU OUT-COMMUNITY POOL/TENNIS COURT-1ST & DEPOSIT. CALL 863-467-4371

GREAT LOCATION
NEWER 3/2 TAYLOR CREEK ISLES, APPLIANCES INCLUDED, FENCED YARD, SCREENED PORCH, SPLIT FLOOR PLAN, 2 CAR GARAGE, LARGE CONCRETE DRIVEWAY, EXCELLENT CONDITION \$1,300.00 PER MONTH CALL 863-467-9250 LINDA OR 519-746-3776 JIM

IN TOWN, 3BD/1BA CBS HOUSE IN GREAT LOCATION. CENTRAL A/C AND HEAT, NICE CORNER LOT, CARPORT. \$700/MO. 1ST, LAST & \$500 SEC. NON SMOKING. 863-634-8942

Large, clean, 4bd, 2 story home, 2800sq.ft. under air (built in 2006) 2bath + on suite, double car garage, screened porch, large fenced yard, new appliances, large kitchen. \$1250/mo + sec. depCall: (863)467-9250 or dhmcara@hotmail.com

NICE 3BD /1BA CENTRAL AIR AND HEAT, WASHER AND DRYER HOOK UP, LARGE YARD, LOCATED IN A QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD \$750.00 MO. CALL 561-506-9638

OAK PARK: 2BR, 1BA for rent, circle drive, new appliances. \$700 mo. Call 863-467-1466

OKEE In Town - 2 1/2 br./1ba., & 2br./2ba. (Screened porch, W/D) both have Lawn Service. Non Smoking. Sm pet ok. both \$750 mo. 1st, last & \$500 sec. (941) 504-3954

Houses - Rent

OKEECHOBEE - Country Hills Estates. Unique post and beam house on private 5 acre lot. 2bd one in loft, 2 ba., lrg. screen room, screened balcony with hot tub, all appliances, include W/D, \$1400. mth. 708-218-8227.

OKEECHOBEE 3BR, 2BA, CBS house, all tile, fenced yard a (1 small pet ok) \$800 mo. + 1st, last & sec. dep. Refs. needed. Call 561-596-1344

On Rim Canal - Newly renovated Brick Home. 3br./2 1/2 ba. 1 garage. Boat dock & deck. \$895mo. 772-359-1640

Office Space Rent

"Time To Move In Is Now" First 2 Months Free

"Next to Court House"



Commercial Space, 500 SF and up. 863-467-0651

Mobile Homes

Mobile Home Rent

2BD/1.5BA, CENTRAL AIR, NICE PARK, ALL UTILITIES EXCEPT ELECTRIC \$450.00/MO. CALL 812-989-3022

BUCKHEAD RIDGE 3bd./2ba Dble Wide. \$600 mo. plus sec. No pets. Call 863-763-4031

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Campers/RVs

Wanted all Travel Trailers, Motor Homes and Fifth Wheels. Any Condition, Cash paid on the spot. Call 941-347-7171

Automotive

Automobiles

2004 GRAND MARQUIS MERCURY RUNS AND DRIVES GOOD, COLD AIR, \$2,300 CALL 812-989-3022

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

2011 S.E.L. FORD FUSION, WHITE, ONE OWNER, LOW MILES, LOADED, EXCELLENT CONDITION, 6 CYL. MUST SELL \$14,000.00 CALL 214-336-7562

Office Space Rent

Public Notices

Public Notice

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Okeechobee, Centennial Celebration Ad Hoc Committee (CCAHC) meeting will be held on **Monday, September 8, 2014, 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Contact City Clerk's Office at 863-763-3372 x215, or website, cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.

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

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

By: J.D. Mixon, CCAHC Chairperson
ON 9/7/2014

Public Notices

Public Notice

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

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

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL ITEMS:
Notice is hereby given that Awesome Self Storage, in accordance with Florida Statutes Self Storage Facility Act, Sections 83-801 through 83-809, will dispose of the contents of the following storage units: Unit C359 belonging to David Stevens, unit C221 belonging to Jams Amick and unit A122 belonging to Susan Barber on Sept. 22, 2013. Contents- household goods and furnishing... Disposal will take place on that date at the Okeechobee County Landfill.
Awesome Self Storage
6489 Hwy 441 SE
Okeechobee, FL 34974
863-357-2403
467133 ON 9/7 & 9/14/2014

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

ANSWER:

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Screwdriver parts
11 ___ Dea: Roman fertility goddess
15 Like John Cage's music
16 Numerical column
17 Order with hot milk
18 Off-rd. rides
19 Sour fruit
20 Eponymous furniture designer
21 Cassowary cousin
22 Frequent service station attendant?
24 Some council members
26 South Pacific island nation
30 Sweet and sour
31 Article in some modern music
34 15-Across Irish playwright
36 Prefix with fauna
37 Vert. opposite
38 Artless
39 Boy toy?
40 Student of Elves, in Tolkien
41 Twins, in times
43 Vocal stumbles
44 View from a lodge
46 ___ Adams Wilderness: Sierra Nevada region
48 Georgia-born Hall of Famer
49 Shooter's ammo
52 Emperor before Vitellius
53 Plies may precede them
58 Mountain transport
60 Breakfast ___
61 Write tongue twisters, perhaps
63 1980s speed skating gold medalist Karin

DOWN

28 Tuberous Andean plants
29 Guard dog breed
31 Early invasion participant
32 Dive
33 Edible thistle
35 Not odd
41 Nautilus, e.g.
42 Michaelmas mo.
45 Cheated
47 Deliver a rant
50 Eastern adders?
51 Black Mass idol
54 North Carolina school
55 And
56 Pennsylvania school
57 "Now!"
59 Peace Nobel
62 Brew finish

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com

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Tammi's "TOP" of the Lake

The Best of Lake Okeechobee



By Tammi Kelly
Okeechobee News

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Fall is just around the corner folks and this breakfast recipe will surely, despite the hot Florida weather, take you to your favorite fall spot.

Pumpkin Pancakes with Maple Pumpkin Butter

Ingredients:

• To make the Maple Pumpkin Butter - 1 stick unsalted butter, softened, 2 tablespoons pumpkin puree, 1 tablespoon maple syrup.

• To make the Pumpkin Pancakes - 1 ¼ cup all-purpose flour, ¼ cup brown sugar, ½ teaspoon cinnamon, ½ teaspoon nutmeg, 4 teaspoons baking powder, 1 egg, lightly beaten, 1 tablespoon canola oil, 1 to 1 ¼ cups milk, 1 cup pumpkin puree.

Instructions:

• To make the Maple Pumpkin Butter

1. In the bowl of a stand mixer, beat together the softened butter, pumpkin puree and maple syrup. Mix until thoroughly combined. Set aside.

• To make the pancakes

1. In a large bowl, combine flour, brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and baking powder. Stir with a whisk until well mixed.

2. Make a well in the center of the bowl with the dry ingredients and add the beaten egg and oil. Add 1 cup of milk and start whisking the wet ingredients together, slowly incorporating the dry ingredients from the sides of the bowl until fully combined.

3. Add the pumpkin puree and mix well again – adding more milk as necessary to get a thick but pourable batter.

4. Heat a flat griddle over medium-low heat and grease well (we use a pastry brush to evenly coat the griddle with canola oil). The griddle is hot enough when a drop of batter immediately sizzles on it.

5. Using a ¼ cup measure, ladle the batter onto the hot griddle – this should make out a 4-inch round pancake. Cook the pancake for about 2-3 minutes (until the edges are set), then flip and cook for another 2-3 minutes. Repeat with the rest of the batter.

6. Serve immediately with a spoonful of the Maple Pumpkin Butter on top.



The Evans family would like to express our deepest appreciation to all those who have loved, prayed, supported, served, and provided for our needs in so many ways during the illness and passing of our beloved Mickey Evans.

To our community of faith, Dunklin Memorial Camp, To the Elders and Staff - Thank each of you for the countless ways you have supported us through the last chapter of Dad's journey. As his spiritual sons and daughters, you continue to honor his legacy by laying your lives down every day ministering to Christ through meeting the spiritual and physical needs of His lost lambs.

To Hugh Murrow, thank you for carrying on the vision of your spiritual father and investing all these years of your life holding up his arms when he grew weary and taking on the mantle when it became too heavy. To Nick Reynolds, thank you for taking up the torch and continuing the legacy. Thank you both for handling the countless preparations to provide for a beautiful memorial service.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Buxton Bass Funeral Home, which generously provided all final services and to their exceptional staff – especially Thomas Conway, JR., whose personal and caring attention to every detail lifted an enormous burden off our shoulders during this difficult time. Assisting him were Jim Barnhart and Ray Stone, who lightened the load as well.

To Hospice of Okeechobee – Judi Winchester, Chris Sherman, Aleatha Parks, Josilyn Coulter, and Amy Trammell for their supportive and loving end of life care services.

To Caregivers – Pat Waugh and John Michael Rickards, who became part of our family.

To the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, Okeechobee City Police Department, and Florida State Troopers for collaborating the funeral procession. To the mounted posse members Danny Faircloth and Matt Dorriety for showing such honor and respect and who also prepared the grounds. All of these law officers should be commended for laying their lives on the line for the safety of the living and the honor they provide at the time of death.

To Felicia and Wayne Maxwell of Sybil's Flowers for craftsmanship and personal delivery of the centerpiece.

To dear friends Bill and Deloris Sherman for providing the seating and rental of the Agri-Civic Center and the late Ray Domer for making the Agri-Civic Center available.

To John and Laura Munson for their labors in beautifying the Agri-Civic Center.

The special and talented More 2 Life folks for their sound equipment, videography and skills. First Baptist Church of Okeechobee who so graciously provided their facilities for the reception.

To employees of Golden Corral for their friendly and efficient service.

To all who sent flowers and made donations to Dunklin

To the Okeechobee community at large - if anybody hasn't told you today – God Loves You and we thank you for sharing His love with us!

In His Service and Yours,
Laura Maye and the entire Evans Family

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5007-H: Conners Gables modern style 3/2 with 1,980 Total Sq Ft/1,319 under air, energy efficient, built 2009. Split bdrm plan, master bdrm, and much more! ~~\$145,000~~ **NOW \$135,000** MLS # 208204

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5030-H: Okeechobee Golf Estate. 3bd/2ba on 1/2 acre. Spacious kitchen, split bdrm plan, walk-in closet. 2 car attached garage and detached golf cart storage building. **Owner Financing NOW \$160,000** MLS #207710

1006-H: Eagle Point 3/3 CBS home. 2,668 Total Sq Ft/2,010 under air on 1/2 an acre. Stainless steel appl. granite counters. Master bath, garden tub and walk-in shower. Walk-in closet, fenced in back yard. **\$184,000** MLS #208392

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5038-H: Quail Acres home with 2,908 Total sq ft/2,112 under air. Located north of town-great location to have animals! Rear porch, metal roof, ceiling fans throughout, ample circular all on 3+/- acres.

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5063-M: Large 3BR/2BA with 2,192 total sq ft/1,465 under air on 2.5+/- acres. Breakfast Bar, Sky lights, shed, fenced and cross fenced. **Make Offer! \$70,000** MLS # 208303

8006-A: 200+/- acres on Dark Hammock Rd. Mostly improved pasture, large hammock. Fenced & crossed fenced, water supply for livestock. Call for more info. **\$740,000** MLS # 208257

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Local forest ranger helps suppress Oregon wildfires

Special to the Okeechobee News

Florida Forest Service Forest Ranger Tom Hopkins returned home to Glades County after suppressing wildfires in the state of Oregon. He served 18 days fighting multiple wildfires across the state, including the Pumice Complex (Crater Lake National Park), running initial attack in the Chiloquin National Forest, and ending on the Murderers Creek Fire (John Day). As Assistant Crew Boss of a twenty-person wildland firefighting hand-crew, his days were full of eating smoke and battling flames, while at night he served as his crew liaison. The Florida Forest Service established a hand-crew consisting of 20 nationally qualified wildland firefighters who served on the front lines of wildland fire. Working side by side, the crew's main responsibility was to construct a "fireline" — a strip of land cleared of flammable materials and dug down to mineral soil — around the wildfires to control it and to mop up after the fire.

"The sense of adventure and brotherhood is what drives me to this occupation," Forest Ranger Hopkins said. "The cohesiveness and dependability that is developed between 20 strangers is amazing. Two weeks in

a high stress atmosphere will let you know just how much you need those guys."

The wildland firefighters come together from the tip of the Florida Panhandle, all the way to south Everglades, and everything in between. A hand-crew's day starts before sunrise when they obtain the operational briefing.

"Extended work hours, and sleeping on the ground is the only down side. The sense of pride, knowing we are battling nature one on one is fulfilling," Ranger Hopkins said. "Our gear weighs roughly 35-40 lbs. and climbing straight up a ridgeline is physically challenging but adrenaline, team work and humor get you through the day."

"Being the assistant crew boss on the crew is a rewarding job," said the ranger. Depending on their qualifications and skill levels, a twenty-person handcrew may be divided into squads (five firefighters each).

"The responsibility of the assistant crew boss is to make sure the crew maintains a steady work pace and to provide direction. Once the outline is there, the crew's strength as a team really dictates the pace. This crew could take on any task," he said.

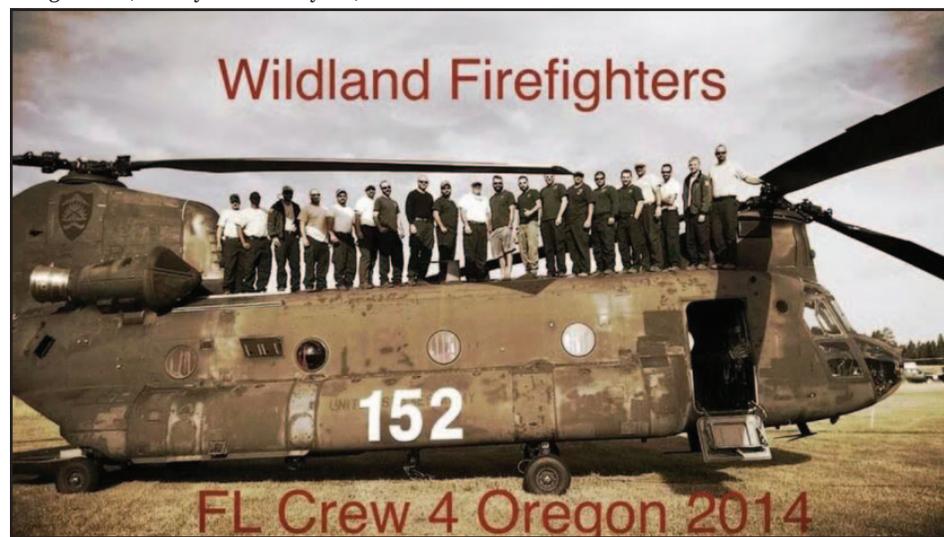
Wildfire handcrews exemplify the American spirit; they are self sufficient and are

expected to work hard. They often eat and sleep where they work, without luxury. They face danger daily and are the backbone in the fight against wildfire.

"I am ready should there be another assignment, today or next year," he said.

"There are beautiful landscapes that are at risk of unmanaged fire and I am honored to be a part of a team that prevents them from burning."

For more, see the website at www.floridaforestservice.com/wildfire.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Tom Hopkins (ninth from the right) was part of a 20 person hand-crew for a Chinook Type 1 heavy lift helicopter. The 15,000-25,000 pounds of lifting capability which allows it to operate with a larger water bucket for fire suppression.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Forest Ranger Tom Hopkins investigates areas for hot spots after a fire burned through the area



Special to the Okeechobee News

Grand Oaks residents enjoy outing

Grand Oaks' residents enjoyed an outing to Toby The Clown Foundation in Lake Placid on Aug. 28. Left to right (front row) are Fran East, Doris Woods, Ashley Christensen, Norma Kurtz, (back row) Loopy Lane, Michael, Fimplicity, and Silly Willie Jr.

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FWC to consider changes in wildlife management

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will meet Sept. 10-11 in Kissimmee at the Embassy Suites Orlando- Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road. Sessions both days start at 8:30 a.m.

The public is invited and will be provided opportunities to speak.

Some highlights of the agenda include:

- Sept. 10: Hunting proposals—A proposal for best management practices for wildlife in cooperation with agricultural stakeholders.
- Sept. 11... Marine fisheries councils

reports—Discussion of draft conservation measures for the American eel.

For the full agenda, go to MyFWC.com/Commission and select "Commission Meetings."

Can't attend meeting in person? Follow

live coverage on Twitter @MyFWC and join in the conversation by using tag #FWC2014. <https://twitter.com/MyFWC>.

Also check the Florida Channel (www.thefloridachannel.org/) for possible live webcast times.

Livestock Market Report

SEPTEMBER 1 & 2, 2014

MONDAY SALE AT 12:00PM... TUESDAY SALE AT 12:00PM

COWS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
800-1000	84.00	- 157.50	106.39
1000-1200	88.00	- 124.00	104.22
1200-1400	95.00	- 119.00	104.90
1400-1600	102.00	- 117.00	109.93

BULLS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
1200-1400	117.00	- 130.00	123.50
1400-1600	118.00	- 142.00	130.00
1600-1800	120.00	- 137.00	128.50
1800-2000	0.00	0.00	0.00

#1 STEERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	440.00	- 515.00	481.67
250-300	395.00	- 425.00	407.86
300-350	360.00	- 415.00	376.00
350-400	310.00	- 350.00	327.29
400-450	285.00	- 330.00	298.10
450-500	267.50	- 292.50	277.16
500-550	247.50	- 262.00	253.77
550-600	242.00	- 292.50	254.50
600-650	230.00	- 240.00	234.42
650-700	162.00	- 232.00	192.00

#1 HEIFERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	365.00	- 430.00	395.24
250-300	320.00	- 385.00	342.31
300-350	280.00	- 325.00	293.82
350-400	265.00	- 277.50	271.15
400-450	250.00	- 285.00	259.82
450-500	245.00	- 256.00	249.75
500-550	240.00	- 275.00	248.25
550-600	247.50	- 280.00	258.70
600-650	222.00	- 237.50	229.75

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	N	868
COWS	O	214
STRS		28
HFRS	S	36
BULLS	A	14
YRLINGS	L	23
MIX	E	22
TOTAL	0	1205

#1 1/2 - #2 STRS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	365.00	- 495.00	431.44
250-300	295.00	- 395.00	358.39
300-350	285.00	- 355.00	320.39
350-400	250.00	- 310.00	284.80
400-450	230.00	- 285.00	256.15
450-500	227.50	- 265.00	246.63
500-550	222.50	- 247.50	237.30
550-600	224.00	- 242.00	233.08
600-650	180.00	- 230.00	213.80
650-700	130.00	- 162.00	143.17

#1 1/2 - #2 HFRS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	180.00	- 400.00	311.46
250-300	255.00	- 320.00	283.40
300-350	237.50	- 275.00	259.50
350-400	230.00	- 265.00	245.49
400-450	222.50	- 250.00	238.62
450-500	220.00	- 245.00	235.62
500-550	217.50	- 240.00	230.45
550-600	187.50	- 247.50	203.13
600-650	172.00	- 222.00	197.00

Hope everyone enjoyed their Labor Day weekend. We had a good rodeo here in Okeechobee and thanks to everyone who made it possible!

Tuesday only sale this week and prices have rebounded. Cows and Bulls were \$2 - \$4 higher and feeder calves were \$8 - \$10 higher on most all classes! We should start having some big runs of cattle in the next few weeks and we will see if demand stays as high as it is now! I suspect that it will.

Animal ID disease traceability rule is coming into effect in a couple of weeks. Cattle can come to the market without a permanent tag but if they are over 18 months old and bought to go back to a ranch or farm they must be identified with a permanent ID tag by the new owner (buyer) if they do not already have a tag, either an EID tag or metal ear tag. Ranchers can go ahead and apply a metal tag (free from FDACS) to their cows and bulls and replacement heifers, when feasible, to ensure free movement and buy participation.

If you are a seller or buyer, you need to

apply for a premise ID for your operation, if you do not already have one. You can find the information and application on our website.

This is a federal and state rule, not a livestock market rule. We did not make it but we have to comply. This rule is a step forward for our cattle industry and will ensure continued demand of our product with our trading partner countries where our product is in high demand.

J & J Cattle farm, Belle Glade, topped the calf market with a high of \$5.15 bought by bellamy cattle buying.

Seth Louthan, Okeechobee, tapped the slaughter cow market with a high of \$1.22 bought by Florida Beef.

Oct 3. Bred Heifer and cow sale (taking consignments now)

Oct 10. "44 farms" Angus Bulls sale

Oct 17. "Little Creek Farms" brangus bull sale plus 50 head (registered and commercial) brangus heifers.

See ya next week!

Todd

Local FFA member to compete in national event

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) has been selected to compete for national recognition at the 87th National FFA Convention & Expo. in October.

Julie Sharpe of the OHS Brahman FFA Chapter will compete in Extemporaneous Public Speaking. National support for the Extemporaneous Public Speaking CDE is provided by American Farm Bureau Federation. The OHS chapter advisor is Marshall Gerbitz.

Extemporaneous public speaking is one of 24 national CDE areas, covering job skills in everything from communications to mechanics. Individuals are given 30 minutes to prepare a four to six minute speech covering one of 12 agriculture-related topics. Judges evaluate speaking,

presentation, content and ability to answer questions pertaining to the topic covered in the speech. Finalists are selected based on speech delivery, content and responses to the questions. National participants will advance through preliminary and semifinal rounds, with the top four speakers competing in the final round of the national event. CDEs help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively in a competitive job market.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 579,678 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,570 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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Nonnative fish provide exotic fishing alternatives

Most have no bag limits!

Special to the Okeechobee News

Florida freshwater anglers target at least 25 species of native fishes. Most are within a 45-minute drive of anyone wanting to wet a line. In addition to those, the free Florida Big Catch angler recognition program (Big-CatchFlorida.com) features six species of exotic fish from other countries and several fish species that expanded their ranges from farther north.

Of those nonnative fishes, only butterfly peacock bass were stocked intentionally by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) predecessor, during the early 1980s. At the time, expansion of numerous nonnative fish species in south Florida was causing concern. Walking catfish and several types of tilapia were well established. Species, such as piranha, electric eels and freshwater stingray had the potential to be imported by the aquarium industry and posed a threat to native species and a concern to people. Accidental introductions were largely attributed to the aquaculture industry or to individual aquarists.

To safeguard native resources, restrictions on introduction of nonnative species into the state had been passed.

Two lists exist for species that require permits for possession. Conditional species require strict adherence to detailed rules intended to prevent escape, primarily from commercial facilities. Prohibited species permits are available only under very stringent conditions for research or public display at secure facilities.

There are 41 nonnative freshwater fish species that have been observed or are known to reproduce in Florida. Another 14 species have naturally died out or been eliminated by the agency. To see the list, go to MyFWC.com/WildlifeHabitats, select "Nonnative Species" then "Freshwater Fish."

Prior to introducing peacock bass in 1984, discussions were held with leading experts from around the country. The purpose was to convert a large biomass of established nonnative fishes, which were too small to attract anglers, into a valuable recreational fishery. Researchers documented the lower



lethal temperature of peacock bass and determined they would be able to overwinter consistently only in a limited area of south Florida. The originally imported fish were not stocked, to prevent introducing foreign parasites or diseases. Instead, they were spawned and their eggs grown to fingerling size prior to stocking the offspring.

Chris Collins, associate editor of "Florida Sportsman" magazine, just wrote a story about recovery of this multimillion-dollar recreational fishery following the ultra-cold winter of 2010.

Butch Moser, a local fishing guide on and around the Lake Osborne-Ida chain of lakes in Palm Beach County, targets nonnative fish. He agrees peacock bass are back. Sight-fishing for peacocks using small gold-colored Rapalas or topwater chug baits can be extremely productive. If the water is opaque, try a live minnow. Peacock bass are the only nonnative fish designated by the FWC as a gamefish. The bag limit is two, only one of which may be 17 inches or longer in total length. Any peacock bigger than 18 inches or 4 pounds qualifies for Big Catch recognition.

Not only peacocks were slammed by the cold and are now recovering, said Moser. In late August, he said he had "never seen the fishing as good as the past few weeks." Several locks along the canal are open, and running water is attracting sunshine bass, peacock bass, clown knifefish — the whole gamut.

One of his favorites, the unique clown knifefish, are running from 3 to 10 pounds. They are often full of shad but aggressively take any 3- to 4-inch minnow. According to Moser, when hooked they back up, then

make a quick run and jump like a tarpon. They are tough to net since they back away and jump, so Moser's tip is to get the net under them when they jump.

He recommends watching for a round boil and bubbles on the surface. Cast directly to the disturbance or fish a float with a live bait 3- to 4-feet deep and kept down with light weights. In the heat of the day, shade around bridges or pilings is productive. Since clown knifefish are a relatively new (1994) introduction, with a limited range in the Osborne-Ida chain, they are not included in the Big Catch program. Catches should not be transported alive elsewhere.

Moser also enjoys catching Mayan cichlids on poppers or minnows. You'll find them in shallow water. They provide a great fight and meal. As with all nonnative fish, other than peacock bass and triploid grass carp, there is no size or bag limit; take all you catch. Those longer than 11 inches or heavier than one pound are eligible for a Big Catch certificate.

Vance Crain, an FWC fisheries biologist in the South Region, has observed increased catch rates for oscars. You can catch oscars throughout the L67A, as well as Alligator Alley, Miami Canal, Tamiami and WCA II. Cane pole anglers do well with crickets and worms, but beetle spins, small Rapalas or topwater poppers all work. Oscars have been in Florida waters since at least 1969 and are recognized in the Big Catch program. To qualify, submit a

photo of one 11 inches long or longer, or 1.25 pounds or heavier.

Brightly colored Midas cichlids shine in Miami-Homestead canals; look for clear water and sight-fish for them with little jigheads and a worm, using ultralight gear. Crain describes them as "bluegill on steroids."

Although these species have not caused major disruptions in native ecosystems or reduced harvest of native sport fishes, you should not release them (except peacock bass and triploid grass carp). Releasing fish from aquariums or moving them between water systems could produce detrimental effects and is illegal.

Check current fisheries forecasts, because conditions can vary drastically. Go to MyFWC.com/Fishing, select "Freshwater Fishing" then "Sites and Forecasts."

Instant licenses are available at License.MyFWC.com by calling 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Report violators by calling 888-404-3922, *FWC or #FWC on your cell phone, or texting to Tip@MyFWC.com. Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "more news" or scr.bi/Fish-busters for more Fish Busters' Bulletins. To subscribe to FWC columns or to receive news releases automatically, click on the red envelope on any page of MyFWC.com.

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Special to the Okeechobee News

YMCA Campers learn the three R's of recycling

Waste Management employees Teresa Chandler and Stacey Lowe taught the YMCA Camp kids about the three Rs of recycling. The kids learned about Reduce, Reuse and Recycle efforts they can do at home for our future. They also viewed a video on how the recycled materials are processed. An art contest was held on "what recycling means to me" and two camp kids were presented with a candy bucket prize for their drawings. The summer camp was hosted by Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Above, left: YMCA Summer Camp kids with counselor Hannah Mayers and director Carmen Schafer. Above, right: Winners of recycle contest Brianna Boliver, 10, and Linda Castillo, 7, with counselors and WM employees.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Kiwanis Club learns about area ministry

Morgan Lumpkin is the project director for a fresh produce store benefiting Golgotha Ministries and spoke recently to the Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee. Golgotha Ministries is a transition house for those recovering from drug and/or alcohol addiction and who have completed a Christ-centered rehabilitation program. Participants in the program go to the market, purchase the produce and then help load, unload, sort and package produce for the public. The program is designed to give the residents of the home an income while they transition back to society. Mr. Lumpkin said the program is still young and only two have completed the program with mixed results.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Okeechobee Retired Educators Quilt winner

The winner of the Okeechobee Retired Educator's Quilt drawing was drawn on Labor Day. The lucky winner is Pat O'Connor, who can no longer claim "I never win anything." Thanks to everyone who with bought a raffle ticket-those monies will go towards providing scholarships to graduating seniors who plan on going into the field of education.

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Come see for yourself!

Pet therapy teams come to Okeechobee County

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Humane Society of the Treasure Coast in partnership with the Florida Department of Health in Okeechobee County, Okeechobee Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) and the Humane Society Pet Rescue of Okeechobee, are developing a unique group of both human and canines called Pet Therapy Teams. This Unique team, both handler and pet, would go through a training program that would allow the team to help our community in the following areas:

Pet Therapy Programs

- Pawsitive Interaction is a therapeutic approach that brings together animals and special needs children.

- Pawsitive Healing is a therapeutic approach that brings together animals and people with psychological/cognitive disabilities to facilitate an individual's progress toward therapeutic goals.

- Pet Assisted Visits are provided on a regular basis to nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

- Paws to Read is an award-winning literacy program in which children are given the opportunity to read to a dog.

Humane Education Programs

- Lessons in Kindness - (K-6th grade) consist of three separate hands-on programs that teach children how to be safe around animals, how to be responsible pet

owners and how animals communicate with each other. Therapy pets are included in each program.

- The Pet Suitcase teaches children about responsible pet ownership.

Crisis Response Teams

A more advanced level of training, teams can help survivors either in a disaster or a crisis, the number of people affected psychologically is many times greater than the number of people sustaining Physical harm, damage to their homes, or the loss of possessions. Workings alongside community agencies, NATIONAL certified crisis response canine teams help replace the feelings of fear, anxiety and hopelessness with feelings of being safe.

There will be an open house to discuss organization, team requirements, benefits, roles and responsibility, training program, volunteer opportunities and answer any questions that you might have.

The open house will be held at the Florida Department of Health Auditorium on Sept. 20 at 9 a.m., at 1728 NW 9th Ave, Okeechobee, Fla. 34972.

If you are interested in joining the Okeechobee Pet Therapy Teams or you belong to an organization that would like to support the group please call Brian Sell, the Preparedness Planner for the Florida Department of Health in Okeechobee County and the Okeechobee MRC unit coordinator, at 863-462-5865, for further details.

New fertility drug may be more effective, say UF researchers

GAINESVILLE — A fertility drug used for more than four decades could soon be replaced with another drug that is 30 percent more effective in helping women become pregnant, according to a study with University of Florida ties.

In a study recently published in The New England Journal of Medicine, researchers at seven different academic centers recruited 750 couples to compare the long-used fertility drug clomiphene citrate, commonly called clomid, to letrozole, a drug initially

developed to prevent recurrence of breast cancer in women.

Of the 376 women who were given clomid, 72 became pregnant and gave birth. Of the 374 women who took letrozole, 103 gave birth.

"Letrozole works better, has about the same cost, has fewer side effects and has a slightly lower twin rate than clomid," said Dr. Gregory Christman, director of the division of reproductive endocrinology and infertility at UF. "Clomid has been avail-

able for fertility treatment for more than 40 years, but with this new information, we may soon have to reconsider its role in the treatment of infertility due to anovulation in women with polycystic ovarian disorder."

Clomid is often prescribed to women with polycystic ovary syndrome as a first step in their treatment — and that population accounts for about a third of women who seek fertility treatment, Dr. Christman said. About 1 in 20 women of childbearing age have the disorder, according to the

Office on Women's Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Women with the condition typically have fewer periods — seven cycles per year fewer than women without the condition — and therefore have fewer opportunities to become pregnant.

Dr. David S. Guzick, UF senior vice president for health affairs and president of UF Health, helped oversee the study, which was conducted through the Reproductive Medicine Trial Network.



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When lightning strikes, stay safe

Special to the Okeechobee News

Electrical strikes and surges from lightning can destroy your home, cause severe injury and even death. With the recent lightning strikes affecting residents across the nation, the nonprofit Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH)® offers the following tips to help families reduce their risk of lightning injuries and protect their home.

Protect Your Family

- Stay alert and listen carefully for the first signs of lightning or thunder. Remember, “If Thunder Roars, Go Indoors™.”

- Seek shelter. Lightning often hits before the rain begins, so don’t wait for the rain to start before leaving.

If outdoors

- Avoid water, high ground and open spaces.

- Stay away from metal objects including wires, fences and motors.

- Find shelter in a sizable building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle. Completely close the windows and don’t lean on the doors.

- Do not get under a small canopy, small picnic shelter, or stand near trees.

- If you cannot take shelter indoors, crouch down with your feet together and place your hands over your ears to minimize hearing damage from the thunder.

- Stay at least 15 feet away from other people.

If indoors

- Avoid water and stay away from doors and windows.

- Do not use landline telephone or headsets. Cell phones are safe.

- Turn off, unplug and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools, and televisions sets as lightning may strike exterior electric and phone lines inducing shocks to equipment inside.

After the storm

- Do not resume outdoor activities until at least 30 minutes after the last lightning strike or thunderclap.

- Call 911 immediately if anyone is injured and use first aid procedures. Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge, so it is safe to administer medical treatment.

Protect your home

- Use surge protective devices: These

systems protect electronic and electrical appliances from all but the most severe electrical surges or direct strikes. They should be installed at all items to be protected. A good electrical grounding system is essential.

- A whole house surge protection system can be installed on the electric meter or the electrical panel to help protect the appliances and electronic equipment in your house such as computers, TVs and DVD players. Contact your local electric company for installation information. If your utility company doesn’t offer the service, a qualified electrician can install this device at your electrical panel.

- Consider installing a lightning protection system. These systems provide a direct path for lightning to follow to the ground rather than through the home structure and its wiring. Consult a qualified contractor (UL-listed/LPI-certified or qualified electrician) for installation.

For information on protecting your family and home from severe weather, visit FLASH. To learn more about protecting your home from lightning visit the FLASH YouTube Channel.

Feeling sleepy? Save a life, pull off the road

Drowsy driving is dangerous driving

Special to the Okeechobee News

Do you fight to keep your eyes open and your head up when you are tired? All too often this scenario is real on Florida’s roadways. To help prevent crashes caused by driver fatigue and to bring awareness to the dangers of drowsy driving, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Florida Department of Transportation are teaming up with lawmakers and safety advocates during Florida’s Drowsy Driving Prevention Week on Sept. 1–7 in memory of Ronshay Dugan, who was killed in 2008.

“Alert drivers make for safer roads,” says DHSMV Executive Director Terry L. Rhodes. “To help get everyone home safely, the department reminds motorists never to drive tired.”

FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad said,

“The department recognizes that making our roads safer includes driver responsibility and encourages all motorists not to drive drowsy. Be alert every trip, every time you get behind the wheel.”

“Six years ago, the life of a little girl was tragically taken in a crash that easily could have been prevented,” said state Representative Alan Williams, who sponsored the legislation in 2010. “Drowsy driving can be eliminated by simply planning and making a conscious decision to pull over and rest when you’re tired. I applaud Ronshay’s family for keeping her memory alive and fighting to prevent other senseless deaths.”

How to prevent fatigue driving:

- Allow plenty of time to get to your final destination.

- Avoid driving at times when you would normally be asleep.

- Drink caffeine. Two cups of coffee can increase alertness for several hours.

- Drive sober.

- Get a good night’s sleep before you travel.

- Take a break every 100 miles or 2 hours.

- Take a nap — find a safe place to take a 15 to 20-minute nap, if you think you might fall asleep.

- Use the buddy system, switch drivers when needed.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov, follow us on Twitter @FLHSMV or find us on Facebook.

Corps extends comment period on Central Everglades report

Special to the Okeechobee News

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District will be extending the deadline to submit comments on the revised final report for the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). Public, state and agency comments will be accepted through October 3.

“We’re extending the comment period to honor the requests from our stakeholders to do so. This is the final review period for all interested parties and we want to make sure everyone has adequate time to review

the contents of the report and provide their input,” said Eric Bush, Chief of the Jacksonville District’s Planning and Policy Division. “We’re close to the finish line, but we want to make sure we’re not leaving anybody behind in the process and ensure we’re delivering a quality report that we can all stand behind.”

The report is available on the project’s Web page at: http://www.bit.ly/CentralEverglades_CEPP. Comments will be accepted through Oct. 3. They can be submitted electronically to: CEPPcomments@usace.army.mil or mailed to: Dr. Gretchen Ehlinger, U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

Comments and responses during the ongoing review period will be considered and incorporated as appropriate into the final report. At the conclusion of the review period, the Chief of Engineers Report (also known as a Chief’s Report) will be finalized for signature. The signed Chief’s Report will then be submitted to the administration for review. Based on this timeline, it is anticipated that the final Chief’s Report will be submitted to Congress this fall.

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Fall brings lots of opportunities for Florida hunters

By Tony Young

Special to the Okeechobee News

Even though you can hardly tell, summer is almost over. Kids have returned to school, football is back on TV, and hunting season has already been going on for a month now in south Florida. Finally, the time of year we've been waiting for is here. And although some of us still have to wait just a bit longer for our season to come in, most of us have already finished our preseason scouting, and we've hung our tree stands along well-traveled deer trails, next to a mature oak that'll soon begin dropping acorns. I don't know about y'all, but I got a bad case a BUCK FEVER!

Hunting season always comes in first in Zone A in south Florida. Archery and crossbow seasons there started Aug. 2. But the boundary line between zones A and C has changed this year.

The new line now begins at the Gulf of Mexico and runs northeast through Charlotte Harbor and up the Peace River until it intersects with State Road 70. The line then follows S.R. 70, running east until it meets U.S. 441 north of Lake Okeechobee. It then follows U.S. 441 south, where it proceeds around the eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee. The line then turns off U.S. 441 and onto S.R. 80 and runs just a

few miles before turning east and following County Road 880, running just a few miles before joining back up with U.S. 98/441/S.R. 80/ Southern Boulevard until it reaches the Atlantic Ocean.

Zone B, which makes up part of the Green Swamp Basin, lies south of S.R. 50, west of U.S. 441 and the Kissimmee Waterway, north of S.R. 60 and east of the Gulf of Mexico. This year, archery and crossbow seasons there start Oct. 18.

The line that divides zones C and D begins at U.S. 27 at the Florida-Georgia state line (in Gadsden County) and runs south on U.S. 27 until it meets S.R. 61 in Tallahassee. From there, it follows S.R. 61, running south until it hits U.S. 319. There, the line follows U.S. 319, continuing south to U.S. 98. It then runs east along U.S. 98 until it gets to the Wakulla River, where the river becomes the line, heading south until it meets the St. Marks River and continues going downriver until it meets the Gulf.

If you hunt west of that line, you're in Zone D, where archery and crossbow seasons begin on Oct. 25 this year. In Zone C (east of that line), archery and crossbow seasons open Sept. 13.

To hunt during archery season, you'll need a Florida hunting license and an archery permit. During crossbow season, you'll need a

hunting license and crossbow permit. If you're a Florida resident, an annual hunting license will cost \$17. Nonresidents have the choice of paying \$46.50 for a 10-day license or \$151.50 for 12 months. Archery and crossbow permits cost just \$5 each, and all deer hunters must have the \$5 deer permit. Anyone planning on hunting one of Florida's many WMAs must purchase a management area permit for \$26.50.

And don't forget to pick up the WMA brochure for the area you wish to hunt, because hunting season dates on many of the areas often differ from zonal dates. You can pick up a copy of WMA brochures at your local tax collector's office or read them at MyFWC.com/Hunting.

During archery season and that part of crossbow season that runs concurrent with archery, you can take both legal bucks and antlerless deer (except for spotted fawns). But after archery ends, during the remaining portion of the crossbow season, only legal bucks may be taken. The daily bag limit on deer is two. Bag limits for deer on WMAs can differ, so check the specifics of the area before you hunt.

You can hunt wild hogs on private lands year-round with no bag or size limits. On most WMAs, there's also no bag or size limits, and hogs are legal to take during most hunting

seasons except spring turkey. On a few WMAs though, bag and size limits do apply, so be sure to check the brochure for the specific area to be certain.

It's also legal to shoot gobblers and bearded turkeys during archery and crossbow seasons, assuming you have a turkey permit (\$10 for residents, \$125 for nonresidents). You can now take two turkeys in a single day on private lands, but the two-bird fall-season limit still applies, and the daily bag limit for turkeys is still one on WMAs. It's against the law to hunt turkeys in Holmes County in the fall, and it's illegal to shoot them while they're on the roost, over bait, when you're within 100 yards of a game-feeding station when bait is present or with the aid of recorded turkey calls.

The archery permit allows you to bow hunt during the archery season. On private property, a crossbow permit enables you to hunt during the crossbow season with either a crossbow or a bow. On WMAs, only hunters with a disabled crossbow permit are allowed to use crossbows during archery season. All bows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds, and hand-held releases are permitted. For hunting deer, hogs and turkeys, broadheads must have at least two sharpened edges with a minimum width of 7/8 inch.

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Local forest ranger helps suppress Oregon wildfires

Special to the Okeechobee News

Florida Forest Service Forest Ranger Tom Hopkins returned home to Glades County after suppressing wildfires in the state of Oregon. He served 18 days fighting multiple wildfires across the state, including the Pumice Complex (Crater Lake National Park), running initial attack in the Chiloquin National Forest, and ending on the Murderers Creek Fire (John Day). As Assistant Crew Boss of a twenty-person wildland firefighting hand-crew, his days were full of eating smoke and battling flames, while at night he served as his crew liaison. The Florida Forest Service established a hand-crew consisting of 20 nationally qualified wildland firefighters who served on the front lines of wildland fire. Working side by side, the crew's main responsibility was to construct a "fireline" — a strip of land cleared of flammable materials and dug down to mineral soil — around the wildfires to control it and to mop up after the fire.

"The sense of adventure and brotherhood is what drives me to this occupation," Forest Ranger Hopkins said. "The cohesiveness and dependability that is developed between 20 strangers is amazing. Two weeks in

a high stress atmosphere will let you know just how much you need those guys."

The wildland firefighters come together from the tip of the Florida Panhandle, all the way to south Everglades, and everything in between. A hand-crew's day starts before sunrise when they obtain the operational briefing.

"Extended work hours, and sleeping on the ground is the only down side. The sense of pride, knowing we are battling nature one on one is fulfilling," Ranger Hopkins said. "Our gear weighs roughly 35-40 lbs. and climbing straight up a ridgeline is physically challenging but adrenaline, team work and humor get you through the day."

"Being the assistant crew boss on the crew is a rewarding job," said the ranger. Depending on their qualifications and skill levels, a twenty-person handcrew may be divided into squads (five firefighters each).

"The responsibility of the assistant crew boss is to make sure the crew maintains a steady work pace and to provide direction. Once the outline is there, the crew's strength as a team really dictates the pace. This crew could take on any task," he said.

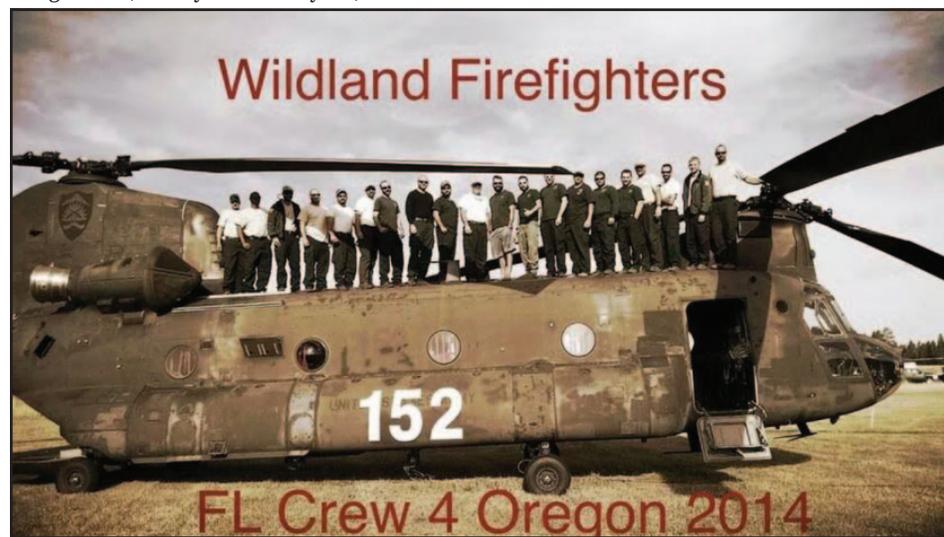
Wildfire handcrews exemplify the American spirit; they are self sufficient and are

expected to work hard. They often eat and sleep where they work, without luxury. They face danger daily and are the backbone in the fight against wildfire.

"I am ready should there be another assignment, today or next year," he said.

"There are beautiful landscapes that are at risk of unmanaged fire and I am honored to be a part of a team that prevents them from burning."

For more, see the website at www.floridaforestservice.com/wildfire.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Tom Hopkins (ninth from the right) was part of a 20 person hand-crew for a Chinook Type 1 heavy lift helicopter. The 15,000-25,000 pounds of lifting capability which allows it to operate with a larger water bucket for fire suppression.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Forest Ranger Tom Hopkins investigates areas for hot spots after a fire burned through the area



Special to the Okeechobee News

Grand Oaks residents enjoy outing

Grand Oaks' residents enjoyed an outing to Toby The Clown Foundation in Lake Placid on Aug. 28. Left to right (front row) are Fran East, Doris Woods, Ashley Christensen, Norma Kurtz, (back row) Loopy Lane, Michael, Fimplicity, and Silly Willie Jr.

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FWC to consider changes in wildlife management

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will meet Sept. 10-11 in Kissimmee at the Embassy Suites Orlando- Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road. Sessions both days start at 8:30 a.m.

The public is invited and will be provided opportunities to speak.

- Some highlights of the agenda include:
- Sept. 10: Hunting proposals—A proposal for best management practices for wildlife in cooperation with agricultural stakeholders.
 - Sept. 11... Marine fisheries councils

reports—Discussion of draft conservation measures for the American eel.

For the full agenda, go to MyFWC.com/Commission and select "Commission Meetings."

Can't attend meeting in person? Follow

live coverage on Twitter @MyFWC and join in the conversation by using tag #FWC2014. <https://twitter.com/MyFWC>.

Also check the Florida Channel (www.thefloridachannel.org/) for possible live webcast times.

Livestock Market Report

SEPTEMBER 1 & 2, 2014

MONDAY SALE AT 12:00PM... TUESDAY SALE AT 12:00PM

COWS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
800-1000	84.00	- 157.50	106.39
1000-1200	88.00	- 124.00	104.22
1200-1400	95.00	- 119.00	104.90
1400-1600	102.00	- 117.00	109.93

BULLS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
1200-1400	117.00	- 130.00	123.50
1400-1600	118.00	- 142.00	130.00
1600-1800	120.00	- 137.00	128.50
1800-2000	0.00	0.00	0.00

#1 STEERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	440.00	- 515.00	481.67
250-300	395.00	- 425.00	407.86
300-350	360.00	- 415.00	376.00
350-400	310.00	- 350.00	327.29
400-450	285.00	- 330.00	298.10
450-500	267.50	- 292.50	277.16
500-550	247.50	- 262.00	253.77
550-600	242.00	- 292.50	254.50
600-650	230.00	- 240.00	234.42
650-700	162.00	- 232.00	192.00

#1 HEIFERS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	365.00	- 430.00	395.24
250-300	320.00	- 385.00	342.31
300-350	280.00	- 325.00	293.82
350-400	265.00	- 277.50	271.15
400-450	250.00	- 285.00	259.82
450-500	245.00	- 256.00	249.75
500-550	240.00	- 275.00	248.25
550-600	247.50	- 280.00	258.70
600-650	222.00	- 237.50	229.75

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	N	868
COWS	O	214
STRS		28
HFRS	S	36
BULLS	A	14
YRLINGS	L	23
MIX	E	22
TOTAL	0	1205

#1 1/2 - #2 STRS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	365.00	- 495.00	431.44
250-300	295.00	- 395.00	358.39
300-350	285.00	- 355.00	320.39
350-400	250.00	- 310.00	284.80
400-450	230.00	- 285.00	256.15
450-500	227.50	- 265.00	246.63
500-550	222.50	- 247.50	237.30
550-600	224.00	- 242.00	233.08
600-650	180.00	- 230.00	213.80
650-700	130.00	- 162.00	143.17

#1 1/2 - #2 HFRS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG:
150-250	180.00	- 400.00	311.46
250-300	255.00	- 320.00	283.40
300-350	237.50	- 275.00	259.50
350-400	230.00	- 265.00	245.49
400-450	222.50	- 250.00	238.62
450-500	220.00	- 245.00	235.62
500-550	217.50	- 240.00	230.45
550-600	187.50	- 247.50	203.13
600-650	172.00	- 222.00	197.00

Hope everyone enjoyed their Labor Day weekend. We had a good rodeo here in Okeechobee and thanks to everyone who made it possible!

Tuesday only sale this week and prices sure have rebounded. Cows and Bulls were \$2 - \$4 higher and feeder calves were \$8 - \$10 higher on most all classes! We should start having some big runs of cattle in the next few weeks and we will see if demand stays as high as it is now! I suspect that it will.

Animal ID disease traceability rule is coming into effect in a couple of weeks. Cattle can come to the market without a permanent tag but if they are over 18 months old and bought to go back to a ranch or farm they must be identified with a permanent ID tag by the new owner (buyer) if they do not already have a tag, either an EID tag or metal ear tag. Ranchers can go ahead and apply a metal tag (free from FDACS) to their cows and bulls and replacement heifers, when feasible, to ensure free movement and buy participation.

If you are a seller or buyer, you need to

apply for a premise ID for your operation, if you do not already have one. You can find the information and application on our website.

This is a federal and state rule, not a livestock market rule. We did not make it but we have to comply. This rule is a step forward for our cattle industry and will ensure continued demand of our product with our trading partner countries where our product is in high demand.

J & J Cattle farm, Belle Glade, topped the calf market with a high of \$5.15 bought by bellamy cattle buying.

Seth Louthan, Okeechobee, tapped the slaughter cow market with a high of \$1.22 bought by Florida Beef.

Oct 3. Bred Heifer and cow sale (taking consignments now)

Oct 10. "44 farms" Angus Bulls sale
Oct 17. "Little Creek Farms" brangus bull sale plus 50 head (registered and commercial) brangus heifers.

See ya next week!
Todd

Local FFA member to compete in national event

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) has been selected to compete for national recognition at the 87th National FFA Convention & Expo. in October.

Julie Sharpe of the OHS Brahman FFA Chapter will compete in Extemporaneous Public Speaking. National support for the Extemporaneous Public Speaking CDE is provided by American Farm Bureau Federation. The OHS chapter advisor is Marshall Gerbitz.

Extemporaneous public speaking is one of 24 national CDE areas, covering job skills in everything from communications to mechanics. Individuals are given 30 minutes to prepare a four to six minute speech covering one of 12 agriculture-related topics. Judges evaluate speaking,

presentation, content and ability to answer questions pertaining to the topic covered in the speech. Finalists are selected based on speech delivery, content and responses to the questions. National participants will advance through preliminary and semifinal rounds, with the top four speakers competing in the final round of the national event. CDEs help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively in a competitive job market.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 579,678 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,570 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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Nonnative fish provide exotic fishing alternatives

Most have no bag limits!

Special to the Okeechobee News

Florida freshwater anglers target at least 25 species of native fishes. Most are within a 45-minute drive of anyone wanting to wet a line. In addition to those, the free Florida Big Catch angler recognition program (Big-CatchFlorida.com) features six species of exotic fish from other countries and several fish species that expanded their ranges from farther north.

Of those nonnative fishes, only butterfly peacock bass were stocked intentionally by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) predecessor, during the early 1980s. At the time, expansion of numerous nonnative fish species in south Florida was causing concern. Walking catfish and several types of tilapia were well established. Species, such as piranha, electric eels and freshwater stingray had the potential to be imported by the aquarium industry and posed a threat to native species and a concern to people. Accidental introductions were largely attributed to the aquaculture industry or to individual aquarists.

To safeguard native resources, restrictions on introduction of nonnative species into the state had been passed.

Two lists exist for species that require permits for possession. Conditional species require strict adherence to detailed rules intended to prevent escape, primarily from commercial facilities. Prohibited species permits are available only under very stringent conditions for research or public display at secure facilities.

There are 41 nonnative freshwater fish species that have been observed or are known to reproduce in Florida. Another 14 species have naturally died out or been eliminated by the agency. To see the list, go to MyFWC.com/WildlifeHabitats, select "Nonnative Species" then "Freshwater Fish."

Prior to introducing peacock bass in 1984, discussions were held with leading experts from around the country. The purpose was to convert a large biomass of established nonnative fishes, which were too small to attract anglers, into a valuable recreational fishery. Researchers documented the lower



lethal temperature of peacock bass and determined they would be able to overwinter consistently only in a limited area of south Florida. The originally imported fish were not stocked, to prevent introducing foreign parasites or diseases. Instead, they were spawned and their eggs grown to fingerling size prior to stocking the offspring.

Chris Collins, associate editor of "Florida Sportsman" magazine, just wrote a story about recovery of this multimillion-dollar recreational fishery following the ultra-cold winter of 2010.

Butch Moser, a local fishing guide on and around the Lake Osborne-Ida chain of lakes in Palm Beach County, targets nonnative fish. He agrees peacock bass are back. Sight-fishing for peacocks using small gold-colored Rapalas or topwater chug baits can be extremely productive. If the water is opaque, try a live minnow. Peacock bass are the only nonnative fish designated by the FWC as a gamefish. The bag limit is two, only one of which may be 17 inches or longer in total length. Any peacock bigger than 18 inches or 4 pounds qualifies for Big Catch recognition.

Not only peacocks were slammed by the cold and are now recovering, said Moser. In late August, he said he had "never seen the fishing as good as the past few weeks." Several locks along the canal are open, and running water is attracting sunshine bass, peacock bass, clown knifefish — the whole gamut.

One of his favorites, the unique clown knifefish, are running from 3 to 10 pounds. They are often full of shad but aggressively take any 3- to 4-inch minnow. According to Moser, when hooked they back up, then

make a quick run and jump like a tarpon. They are tough to net since they back away and jump, so Moser's tip is to get the net under them when they jump.

He recommends watching for a round boil and bubbles on the surface. Cast directly to the disturbance or fish a float with a live bait 3- to 4-feet deep and kept down with light weights. In the heat of the day, shade around bridges or pilings is productive. Since clown knifefish are a relatively new (1994) introduction, with a limited range in the Osborne-Ida chain, they are not included in the Big Catch program. Catches should not be transported alive elsewhere.

Moser also enjoys catching Mayan cichlids on poppers or minnows. You'll find them in shallow water. They provide a great fight and meal. As with all nonnative fish, other than peacock bass and triploid grass carp, there is no size or bag limit; take all you catch. Those longer than 11 inches or heavier than one pound are eligible for a Big Catch certificate.

Vance Crain, an FWC fisheries biologist in the South Region, has observed increased catch rates for oscars. You can catch oscars throughout the L67A, as well as Alligator Alley, Miami Canal, Tamiami and WCA II. Cane pole anglers do well with crickets and worms, but beetle spins, small Rapalas or topwater poppers all work. Oscars have been in Florida waters since at least 1969 and are recognized in the Big Catch program. To qualify, submit a

photo of one 11 inches long or longer, or 1.25 pounds or heavier.

Brightly colored Midas cichlids shine in Miami-Homestead canals; look for clear water and sight-fish for them with little jigheads and a worm, using ultralight gear. Crain describes them as "bluegill on steroids."

Although these species have not caused major disruptions in native ecosystems or reduced harvest of native sport fishes, you should not release them (except peacock bass and triploid grass carp). Releasing fish from aquariums or moving them between water systems could produce detrimental effects and is illegal.

Check current fisheries forecasts, because conditions can vary drastically. Go to MyFWC.com/Fishing, select "Freshwater Fishing" then "Sites and Forecasts."

Instant licenses are available at License.MyFWC.com by calling 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Report violators by calling 888-404-3922, *FWC or #FWC on your cell phone, or texting to Tip@MyFWC.com. Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "more news" or scr.bi/Fish-busters for more Fish Busters' Bulletins. To subscribe to FWC columns or to receive news releases automatically, click on the red envelope on any page of MyFWC.com.

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Special to the Okeechobee News

YMCA Campers learn the three R's of recycling

Waste Management employees Teresa Chandler and Stacey Lowe taught the YMCA Camp kids about the three Rs of recycling. The kids learned about Reduce, Reuse and Recycle efforts they can do at home for our future. They also viewed a video on how the recycled materials are processed. An art contest was held on "what recycling means to me" and two camp kids were presented with a candy bucket prize for their drawings. The summer camp was hosted by Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Above, left: YMCA Summer Camp kids with counselor Hannah Mayers and director Carmen Schafer. Above, right: Winners of recycle contest Brianna Boliver, 10, and Linda Castillo, 7, with counselors and WM employees.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Kiwanis Club learns about area ministry

Morgan Lumpkin is the project director for a fresh produce store benefiting Golgotha Ministries and spoke recently to the Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee. Golgotha Ministries is a transition house for those recovering from drug and/or alcohol addiction and who have completed a Christ-centered rehabilitation program. Participants in the program go to the market, purchase the produce and then help load, unload, sort and package produce for the public. The program is designed to give the residents of the home an income while they transition back to society. Mr. Lumpkin said the program is still young and only two have completed the program with mixed results.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Okeechobee Retired Educators Quilt winner

The winner of the Okeechobee Retired Educator's Quilt drawing was drawn on Labor Day. The lucky winner is Pat O'Connor, who can no longer claim "I never win anything." Thanks to everyone who with bought a raffle ticket-those monies will go towards providing scholarships to graduating seniors who plan on going into the field of education.

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When lightning strikes, stay safe

Special to the Okeechobee News

Electrical strikes and surges from lightning can destroy your home, cause severe injury and even death. With the recent lightning strikes affecting residents across the nation, the nonprofit Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH)® offers the following tips to help families reduce their risk of lightning injuries and protect their home.

Protect Your Family

- Stay alert and listen carefully for the first signs of lightning or thunder. Remember, “If Thunder Roars, Go Indoors™.”

- Seek shelter. Lightning often hits before the rain begins, so don’t wait for the rain to start before leaving.

If outdoors

- Avoid water, high ground and open spaces.

- Stay away from metal objects including wires, fences and motors.

- Find shelter in a sizable building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle. Completely close the windows and don’t lean on the doors.

- Do not get under a small canopy, small picnic shelter, or stand near trees.

- If you cannot take shelter indoors, crouch down with your feet together and place your hands over your ears to minimize hearing damage from the thunder.

- Stay at least 15 feet away from other people.

If indoors

- Avoid water and stay away from doors and windows.

- Do not use landline telephone or headsets. Cell phones are safe.

- Turn off, unplug and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools, and televisions sets as lightning may strike exterior electric and phone lines inducing shocks to equipment inside.

After the storm

- Do not resume outdoor activities until at least 30 minutes after the last lightning strike or thunderclap.

- Call 911 immediately if anyone is injured and use first aid procedures. Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge, so it is safe to administer medical treatment.

Protect your home

- Use surge protective devices: These

systems protect electronic and electrical appliances from all but the most severe electrical surges or direct strikes. They should be installed at all items to be protected. A good electrical grounding system is essential.

- A whole house surge protection system can be installed on the electric meter or the electrical panel to help protect the appliances and electronic equipment in your house such as computers, TVs and DVD players. Contact your local electric company for installation information. If your utility company doesn’t offer the service, a qualified electrician can install this device at your electrical panel.

- Consider installing a lightning protection system. These systems provide a direct path for lightning to follow to the ground rather than through the home structure and its wiring. Consult a qualified contractor (UL-listed/LPI-certified or qualified electrician) for installation.

For information on protecting your family and home from severe weather, visit FLASH. To learn more about protecting your home from lightning visit the FLASH YouTube Channel.

Feeling sleepy? Save a life, pull off the road

Drowsy driving is dangerous driving

Special to the Okeechobee News

Do you fight to keep your eyes open and your head up when you are tired? All too often this scenario is real on Florida’s roadways. To help prevent crashes caused by driver fatigue and to bring awareness to the dangers of drowsy driving, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Florida Department of Transportation are teaming up with lawmakers and safety advocates during Florida’s Drowsy Driving Prevention Week on Sept. 1–7 in memory of Ronshay Dugan, who was killed in 2008.

“Alert drivers make for safer roads,” says DHSMV Executive Director Terry L. Rhodes. “To help get everyone home safely, the department reminds motorists never to drive tired.”

FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad said,

“The department recognizes that making our roads safer includes driver responsibility and encourages all motorists not to drive drowsy. Be alert every trip, every time you get behind the wheel.”

“Six years ago, the life of a little girl was tragically taken in a crash that easily could have been prevented,” said state Representative Alan Williams, who sponsored the legislation in 2010. “Drowsy driving can be eliminated by simply planning and making a conscious decision to pull over and rest when you’re tired. I applaud Ronshay’s family for keeping her memory alive and fighting to prevent other senseless deaths.”

How to prevent fatigue driving:

- Allow plenty of time to get to your final destination.

- Avoid driving at times when you would normally be asleep.

- Drink caffeine. Two cups of coffee can increase alertness for several hours.

- Drive sober.

- Get a good night’s sleep before you travel.

- Take a break every 100 miles or 2 hours.

- Take a nap — find a safe place to take a 15 to 20-minute nap, if you think you might fall asleep.

- Use the buddy system, switch drivers when needed.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov, follow us on Twitter @FLHSMV or find us on Facebook.

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Corps extends comment period on Central Everglades report

Special to the Okeechobee News

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District will be extending the deadline to submit comments on the revised final report for the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). Public, state and agency comments will be accepted through October 3.

“We’re extending the comment period to honor the requests from our stakeholders to do so. This is the final review period for all interested parties and we want to make sure everyone has adequate time to review

the contents of the report and provide their input,” said Eric Bush, Chief of the Jacksonville District’s Planning and Policy Division. “We’re close to the finish line, but we want to make sure we’re not leaving anybody behind in the process and ensure we’re delivering a quality report that we can all stand behind.”

The report is available on the project’s Web page at: http://www.bit.ly/CentralEverglades_CEPP. Comments will be accepted through Oct. 3. They can be submitted electronically to: CEPPcomments@usace.army.mil or mailed to: Dr. Gretchen Ehlinger, U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

Comments and responses during the ongoing review period will be considered and incorporated as appropriate into the final report. At the conclusion of the review period, the Chief of Engineers Report (also known as a Chief’s Report) will be finalized for signature. The signed Chief’s Report will then be submitted to the administration for review. Based on this timeline, it is anticipated that the final Chief’s Report will be submitted to Congress this fall.

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Fall brings lots of opportunities for Florida hunters

By Tony Young

Special to the Okeechobee News

Even though you can hardly tell, summer is almost over. Kids have returned to school, football is back on TV, and hunting season has already been going on for a month now in south Florida. Finally, the time of year we've been waiting for is here. And although some of us still have to wait just a bit longer for our season to come in, most of us have already finished our preseason scouting, and we've hung our tree stands along well-traveled deer trails, next to a mature oak that'll soon begin dropping acorns. I don't know about y'all, but I got a bad case a BUCK FEVER!

Hunting season always comes in first in Zone A in south Florida. Archery and crossbow seasons there started Aug. 2. But the boundary line between zones A and C has changed this year.

The new line now begins at the Gulf of Mexico and runs northeast through Charlotte Harbor and up the Peace River until it intersects with State Road 70. The line then follows S.R. 70, running east until it meets U.S. 441 north of Lake Okeechobee. It then follows U.S. 441 south, where it proceeds around the eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee. The line then turns off U.S. 441 and onto S.R. 80 and runs just a

few miles before turning east and following County Road 880, running just a few miles before joining back up with U.S. 98/441/S.R. 80/ Southern Boulevard until it reaches the Atlantic Ocean.

Zone B, which makes up part of the Green Swamp Basin, lies south of S.R. 50, west of U.S. 441 and the Kissimmee Waterway, north of S.R. 60 and east of the Gulf of Mexico. This year, archery and crossbow seasons there start Oct. 18.

The line that divides zones C and D begins at U.S. 27 at the Florida-Georgia state line (in Gadsden County) and runs south on U.S. 27 until it meets S.R. 61 in Tallahassee. From there, it follows S.R. 61, running south until it hits U.S. 319. There, the line follows U.S. 319, continuing south to U.S. 98. It then runs east along U.S. 98 until it gets to the Wakulla River, where the river becomes the line, heading south until it meets the St. Marks River and continues going downriver until it meets the Gulf.

If you hunt west of that line, you're in Zone D, where archery and crossbow seasons begin on Oct. 25 this year. In Zone C (east of that line), archery and crossbow seasons open Sept. 13.

To hunt during archery season, you'll need a Florida hunting license and an archery permit. During crossbow season, you'll need a

hunting license and crossbow permit. If you're a Florida resident, an annual hunting license will cost \$17. Nonresidents have the choice of paying \$46.50 for a 10-day license or \$151.50 for 12 months. Archery and crossbow permits cost just \$5 each, and all deer hunters must have the \$5 deer permit. Anyone planning on hunting one of Florida's many WMAs must purchase a management area permit for \$26.50.

And don't forget to pick up the WMA brochure for the area you wish to hunt, because hunting season dates on many of the areas often differ from zonal dates. You can pick up a copy of WMA brochures at your local tax collector's office or read them at MyFWC.com/Hunting.

During archery season and that part of crossbow season that runs concurrent with archery, you can take both legal bucks and antlerless deer (except for spotted fawns). But after archery ends, during the remaining portion of the crossbow season, only legal bucks may be taken. The daily bag limit on deer is two. Bag limits for deer on WMAs can differ, so check the specifics of the area before you hunt.

You can hunt wild hogs on private lands year-round with no bag or size limits. On most WMAs, there's also no bag or size limits, and hogs are legal to take during most hunting

seasons except spring turkey. On a few WMAs though, bag and size limits do apply, so be sure to check the brochure for the specific area to be certain.

It's also legal to shoot gobblers and bearded turkeys during archery and crossbow seasons, assuming you have a turkey permit (\$10 for residents, \$125 for nonresidents). You can now take two turkeys in a single day on private lands, but the two-bird fall-season limit still applies, and the daily bag limit for turkeys is still one on WMAs. It's against the law to hunt turkeys in Holmes County in the fall, and it's illegal to shoot them while they're on the roost, over bait, when you're within 100 yards of a game-feeding station when bait is present or with the aid of recorded turkey calls.

The archery permit allows you to bow hunt during the archery season. On private property, a crossbow permit enables you to hunt during the crossbow season with either a crossbow or a bow. On WMAs, only hunters with a disabled crossbow permit are allowed to use crossbows during archery season. All bows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds, and hand-held releases are permitted. For hunting deer, hogs and turkeys, broadheads must have at least two sharpened edges with a minimum width of 7/8 inch.

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