



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 109 No. 63

Sunday, May 27, 2018

75¢ plus tax



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Memorial Day
Reflections

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Marrero

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animals featured

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Lake Levels

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Tourney raises money for Kayler's family

By Richard Marion
Okeechobee News

On May 19, the Nik Kayler Memorial Tournament was held to honor the late fisherman who tragically passed away in January on Lake Okeechobee as well as to raise money for his wife and daughter.

Starting at safe light, over 100 boats launched onto Lake Okeechobee to compete in the tournament. And despite the rainy weather, the tournament had a great turnout. The memorial tournament also featured a raffle, silent auction and 50/50 drawing held at Okee-Tantie under the pavilion.

First place in the tournament took home \$2,500, with second

winning \$1,250 and third \$1,000. Fifty percent of the entries were donated to the family of Nik Kayler, with the other half paid to the participating field.

Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters owner Mike Krause reports that all together, the tournament raised over \$23,000.

"The turnout was amazing," said Mr. Krause. "The amount of people and just the support we had from the community was outstanding. I can't say enough good about Okeechobee. The people came out, knowing how bad the weather was going to be, sometimes for nothing more than to buy a barbecue sandwich.

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Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Fishermen hold up their catches during the weigh-in at the Nik Kayler Memorial Tournament on Saturday, May 19.

Okeechobee shows support for children's mental health

By Jane Kaufman

Special to the Okeechobee News

It seems that wherever we turn in 2018, someone is mentioning mental health. We see it in national news stories, read about it in internet commentary and even hear it discussed in scripted television series and movies. We are inundated with messages concerning the importance of positive mental health but rarely given a reason why.

The Harvard University Center on the Developing Child (2013) helps us to fill in those blanks: "Sound mental health provides an essential foundation of stability that supports all other aspects of human development — from the formation of friendships and the ability to cope with adversity to the achievement of success in school, work and community life."

That is to say, our entire lives are affected by the status of our mental health, as positive mental health leads to positive growth.

Life happens, however, and the world is not a perfect place. Traumas occur — violently rattling psyches, genetics are passed from parent to child, and often mental illnesses occur. With seventy-five

See HEALTH — Page 5



Special to the Okeechobee News

Representatives from the Okeechobee Children's Mental Health System of Care, 211, Martha's House, New Horizons, Suncoast Mental Health, Legacy and Tykes and Teens met with students throughout lunch periods at OHS on May 10.

Happy Memorial Day

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Sea turtle nesting begins in May

Special to the Okeechobee News

May is the beginning of sea turtle nesting season on many of Florida's sandy beaches. Beachfront property owners and beach visitors can help nesting turtles and hatchlings by turning off or shielding lights that are visible from the beach at night.

"People's efforts to keep our beaches as dark as possible at night, without affecting human safety, can make a tremendous difference for nesting sea turtles," said Robbin Trindell, head of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) sea turtle management program. "Female sea turtles and their hatchlings can be disturbed or confused by artificial light, whether it comes from a house, a flashlight or a cellphone camera."

Sea turtle nesting is starting now on beach-

es from the Gulf coast, including northwest Florida, to the state's northeast Atlantic coast and from Miami-Dade County south to the Keys. Nesting began earlier in March along Florida's southeast Atlantic coast from Brevard County south to Broward County.

Florida is a critically important destination for nesting sea turtles. More loggerhead turtles nest here than anywhere else in the continental United States, with nearly 97,000 loggerhead nests counted statewide during the 2017 nesting season. Leatherback and green sea turtles also nest in significant numbers in Florida.

What are the basics of being sea-turtle friendly?

- It's a sea turtle night, turn off the light — After sundown, turn off any lights not necessary for human safety. Use long-wavelength

amber LED lamps for lights that must stay lit and shield lights so they are not visible from the beach. Remember to close shades or curtains.

- Sea turtles get lost in the light — On the beach at night, don't take flash photos or use bright cellphones or flashlights.

- Sea turtles are protected and must be respected — Stay back and give sea turtles space if you see one on the beach at night. Don't touch a nesting turtle because it may leave the beach without nesting if disturbed. Remember, it is illegal to harm or disturb nesting sea turtles, their nests, eggs or hatchlings.

- Clear the way at the end of the day — Beach furniture, canopies, boats and toys left behind on the sand may become obstacles that block nesting and hatchling turtles. Fill in any holes dug in the sand.

- Help hatchlings home by leaving them alone — Do not handle hatchlings crawling toward the water. Any interference or disturbance by people, such as getting too close or taking flash photos, increases the chances the hatchlings will get confused, go in the wrong direction and not reach the ocean quickly.

The FWC works to conserve Florida sea turtles, including coordinating nesting beach survey programs around the state. People can help by reporting sick, injured, entangled or dead sea turtles to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline: 1-888-404-3922, #FWC or *FWC on a cellphone or text Tip@MyFWC.com.

Learn more about Florida's sea turtles at MyFWC.com/SeaTurtle.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Thunderstorms likely. High 78F. Winds SE at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 100%.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Low 72F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Thunderstorms likely. High around 80F. Winds SSE at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 100%.

Monday Night: Scattered thunderstorms. Low 71F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Tuesday: Scattered thunderstorms in the morning becoming more widespread in the afternoon. High 82F. Winds S at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 90%.

Tuesday Night: Thunderstorms during the evening, then cloudy skies overnight. Low 72F. Winds light and variable.

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Special to the Okeechobee News

Candidates for judge meet

The Republican Club of Okeechobee hosted the candidates for Okeechobee County judge at Cowboys restaurant on Monday, May 21. From left to right are Roger Azcona, Rebecca Boldt, Donald Chinquina, Deborah Hooker and William Wallace.

New dugout roof, shade cloth planned for sports complex ball field

By Katrina Elsen

Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County commissioners May 24 opted to delay the roof project for the score tower and dugout at the Darrell Enfinger Sports Complex so they can also install shade cloth at the same time.

At the May 24 meeting, the county administrator recommended the board award the re-roofing bid to Close Construction LLC for \$66,300.

County Commissioner David Hazellief asked why the county had not combined the re-roofing project with installation of shade cloth, which is also planned for that area.

“To do this project, you have to take the safety netting down,” he said. “It doesn’t make any sense to take the netting down and put it back up, and then take it down again to replace the shade cloth.”

He said they will have to close the field for the re-roofing and would have to close it again to put in the shade cloth.

He said he wants the spectators to have shade.

“Let’s do it all at one time,” agreed Commission Chairman Terry Burroughs. “In order to do that, bring us back the estimates for the cloth, then when that is done, we can put the roof up and put the shade cloth up at one time.”

“It’s silly to close the field down twice,” said Commissioner Bryant Culpepper.

Commissioner Hazellief noted it will be more expensive to put in shade cloth, “but it will be beneficial to have this area covered so the parents of the little kids there will have some protection from the sun.”

“I agree it would be very beneficial for everyone to have shade added,” said Commissioner Bradley Goodbread.

He said the commission should have

information about the shade cloth options and the lifespan and warranty before they make a decision.

“I agree shade is needed, but I need all of the information before the decision is made,” said Commissioner Kelly Owens.

Desktop Support Technician

Description: The Okeechobee County Clerk’s Office is seeking a Desktop Support Technician to assist with computer systems installations, maintenance and support. The working Environment includes Microsoft Windows OS, Office 365/Exchange, Adobe office products, and several department specific software packages. The support technician will be responsible for desktop/laptop hardware, peripherals, software and network support. As a support technician you will be expected to exhibit troubleshooting skills in the following areas: Resolution of virus infections, spy-ware, gray-ware, phishing and other internet attacks against computers and networks. You must have knowledge in basic router configuration and networking. Knowledge and experience with Microsoft VMWare and virtualization is desired.

Requirements: Candidates must have experience installing Microsoft Windows operating systems, Microsoft Office 2010/2016, and must be able to provide troubleshooting resolutions for end-users.

Special Requirements:

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Class of 1999 scholarships

A Class of 1999 - Scholarships page has been set up on GoFundMe.com/.

The page states: “Here we are ... 20 years after walking across the stage in the OHS gym to receive our high school diploma. It’s time for us to give back — to thank our community for taking care of us, remember the friends we walked alongside of but lost along the way, and give our support to a brighter future for the students graduating OHS in 2019. Your donation will go toward scholarships that will be given to OHS seniors for both a remembrance of classmates we’ve lost and a celebration of furthering education from the Class of 1999 at the 2019 OHS Scholarship Night.



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Public Forum/Speak Out

Speak Out comments can be shared in several ways. Comments on local issues are welcome on the newspaper's website at okeechobee.news.net, in the comments section following each article. Or, you can mail or drop off written, anonymous or signed opinions at the Okeechobee News office, 107 S.W. 17th St. Suite D., Okeechobee, FL 34974; or, email anonymous or signed Speak Out comments to Okeeneews@newszap.com. Thanks for participating in our discussion of local issues!

13 Reasons Why

The Okeechobee News' stories about a teen suicide pact continues to spark discussion online, especially in regard to the report that the teen's suicide attempt mimicked a scene in "13 Reasons Why" and the teen referenced the Netflix series in texts.

• "Sad situation. But I don't see how a parent could blame a TV show, instead of taking a step back and assessing the situation. Yeah, she clearly used it as a guideline of how and what to do, but if you didn't teach your kids that TV is entertainment and there is a difference between TV and real life, that's on you. Sorry, it might sound rough, but maybe this could act as a warning for other parents." — Frankie Hodges

• "The link between the rise of smartphone use and the rise of teen depression is well doc-

umented by the Centers for Disease Control. Parents need to get kids off the cellphones, get them to talk to people face to face again. Turn the phones off at night so they can get some sleep." — K. Booker

• "It's really not that hard to set a parental control on Netflix or control your kids' phones. This show wasn't made for kids. It was made for both young and old people to understand the realities of the world." — Barron Jones

Burglaries

The Okeechobee News' story about a rash of burglaries in Kings Bay and the Treasure Island area lead to these reader comments.

• "What about the cameras in Kings Bay? Also, many homeowners have them that may have picked up something." — Tina Troendle

• "My valuables come out of my vehicle with me and are next to me and my .45. Sad that it has to be that way, but this is now our reality." — Margie Billie

• "I keep my gun loaded. Trust me, it's not worth it." — Anthony Neswick

• "Be smart. Lock your doors. Do not leave valuables in your car. Do not leave your car unlocked. Do not leave your keys in the car. Don't make it easy for the thieves to take what is yours. Get to know your neighbors. Know who belongs in your neighborhood and who does not. Call the cops if you see suspicious activities. We can all be part of the solution." — J. Zimpel

REVIVE Youth Event is Thursday, May 31

Special to the Okeechobee News

Local youth pastor and writer Aaron Hall is the catalyst for bringing the REVIVE Outreach event to Okeechobee. REVIVE is all about proclaiming Jesus and praying for revival! Their hope is to see students and young adults come into an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ and empower them to pray for revival. REVIVE is putting on its first "Revive Night" on Friday, June 1, at Oakview Baptist Church in Okeechobee. REVIVE Outreach will also be teaming up with other youth groups and churches for mission and outreach opportunities in the future.

The best way to describe the event is, it's a simple, gospel-saturated multi-church event to bring youth (sixth through 12th grades) together who need to hear about Jesus Christ.

Mr. Hall said: "REVIVE began when I was

in Asheboro, N.C., in February 2018 speaking at Winter Splash for my friend, Jericho. I sensed the Lord putting this desire in my heart to put this event together." He continues, "It's twofold, really ... to see people come together with the hope of reaching more students and young adults with the hope found in Christ and to pray for revival. If we want to see our town reached, our schools, our homes, it must begin with each of us crying out to God for revival within ourselves."

Preceding REVIVE, on Thursday, May 31, at 6:30 p.m. there will be a prayer service at Oakview Baptist Church to pray for the event the next day. All people are welcome to come together to pray for those serving, those attending and, most importantly, for God to pour out His Spirit on our young people.

Six churches have partnered to bring this event to Okeechobee, with the hope of reach-

Reflections from the Pulpit

Give 'em Watts, boys!

By Loy Mershimer

Okeechobee Presbyterian Church

This week I visited with Dick and Marlene Burns, true stalwarts of church and community who have led a faithful life. For example, Marlene has authored a book titled "Kids, Kids, Kids: My life raising 100 foster children over 30 years." And another person recently witnessed, "She brought me to God!" Anyway, while talking with this amazing couple, I learned yet another amazing fact: Dick claims Isaac Watts as a great-great-grandfather!

When I heard this, I exclaimed, "Not THE Isaac Watts!" "Not the prolific hymn writer and theologian!" To which they responded, with big smiles, "Oh, yes!" (Note: Isaac Watts wrote *Joy to the World* and *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, along with 750 more hymns and theological reflections. Watts wrote gospel-centered songs, clearly teaching the theology of grace and sovereignty of God — and he paid for his biblical views, banished from Oxford and Cambridge and state-religion pulpits. This didn't stop him from excelling as a pastor, singer, writer, and tutor, though. He put the Psalms in "New Testament form," and gave them music, leading a whole generation in biblical worship. By the time of the Revolutionary War, most freedom-loving American churches used the Watts Hymnal — psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs framed with Watts' anointed pen.)

Dick and Marlene regaled me with Isaac Watts' exploits, and suddenly, a portion of Revolutionary War history flashed into my mind. "Let me tell you a story of your ancestor, which you probably don't know!" I said. And so the scene shifted from Okeechobee to Colonial America, in a moment.

On June 23, 1780, British forces engaged the Continental Army at the Battle of Springfield. The smoke of the guns filtered in the summer haze, and the American fighters began to give ground, running low on paper wadding needed to pack ball and powder in the muskets.

Present at the battle was a Presbyterian chaplain, Rev. James Caldwell. Caldwell was a fighting chaplain, one of the "long regiment of black coats," which the Redcoats feared: Preachers who would lead Colonials in battle, treating it as a spiritual war — a war for the souls of humans, in freedom of worship. Caldwell paid a heavy price for his patriotism — his wife had been shot through an open window by a British unit, and Caldwell would soon be assassinated himself, by a Loyalist to the British Crown. But here, at the Battle of Springfield, Caldwell was very much alive — and undaunted by the mere absence of paper wadding for the weapons.

As the American soldiers wavered — crying out for "Wadding! Wadding!" — Caldwell dashed into a nearby church and grabbed the WATTS HYMNALS! He ran back to the men, tearing out the pages, shouting, "GIVE 'EM WATTS, BOYS! GIVE 'EM WATTS!"

The eager warriors of the Continental Army grabbed the sacred pages, and wadded their weapons with aplomb. They now returned the British fire — with spiritual as well as physical projectiles! And need it be said that they won the day? The Battle of Springfield was the last major engagement in the northern colonies, and it was an American victory — because of Isaac Watts and a fighting, singing chaplain!

Friends, on this Memorial Day, let us give thanks for faithful spirit warriors such as Isaac Watts, James Caldwell, Dick and Marlene Burns, and a host of others — men and women "of whom the world is not worthy."

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:1-2)

Happy Memorial Day!



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TOURNEY

Continued From Page 1

think we raised over \$1,000 on barbecue sandwiches alone.”

The winning weight at the tournament was 38 pounds and 5 ounces on a five-fish limit, with the biggest fish prize weighing in at a whopping 9 pounds, 11 ounces. It was a productive day on the lake for the fisherman, as more than a quarter of them caught over 20 pounds during the tournament.

Mr. Krause, along with John Tavano and Breezy McMillan, played an instrumental role in pulling together the resources needed to have the tournament and fundraiser.

The memorial tournament caps off what has been a tremendous outpouring of support for Nik's wife, Kelly, and their daughter. In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, people not only from Okeechobee but all around the world donated close to \$90,000 to the family via a donation page set up on the website gofundme.com, completely blowing past the original goal of \$15,000.

Mr. Krause is unsure whether the tournament will become an annual event.

“I had a number of people come up to ask me if this was going to be a yearly thing,” he said. “I talked to Kelly that afternoon and

told her I couldn't make a promise that I couldn't keep, because I put everything I had into this tournament, and physically and mentally I was just whipped. But sometime later on as our season starts up and I see everyone else's schedule for next year, I will look at it again. I'll see if it's something we're able to do. Can't say yes and can't say no; right now it's a possibility that we'll bring it back yearly.”

In a post on the official Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters Facebook page, Mr. Krause summed up the event by saying: “There are no words that can truly describe what took place. Yes, there was a fishing tournament to honor one of us, but more importantly to me, it was about a family. The Fishing Family doing what the Fishing Family does.”

One commenter on the post made the case for why the memorial tournament should be an annual event, saying: “I know it was an incredible amount of work for everything involved, but there is no better way to honor Nik than an annual tournament that focuses on boater safety. Thank you, Mike!”

Regardless of whether the event becomes yearly, it was still an outstanding example of the Okeechobee community coming together to support a family in their time of need.



Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters owner Mike Krause (center) performed master-of-ceremony duties during the weigh-in for the tournament.

HEALTH

Continued From Page 1

percent of mental health disorders developing by the age of 24 (National Institute of Mental Health), awareness of this issue is vital.

The first step in supporting children's mental health is recognizing that, just like adults, mental disorders can, and do, exist in children of all ages, races, cultures and economic backgrounds. We must be aware that these disorders are medical conditions, rather than simply weaknesses or negative character traits. Just as type one diabetes isn't a personal lifestyle choice, neither is mental illness. Unfortunately, a pervasive stigma exists throughout our society, placing blame and shame on mental health disorders and those individuals coping with them.

Beginning in 2006, SAMHSA (the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Agency) launched a national day of awareness, drawing attention to the importance of

mental health throughout childhood and youth and attempting to negate all stigmas attached to mental illness. This year, National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day was on Thursday, May 10.

After a statewide proclamation by Gov. Rick Scott, the State of Florida initiated a social media campaign to celebrate the occasion. You can share your support of children's mental health throughout the month of May by joining us and using the hashtags #notalone, #letstalkaboutit, and #itstartshere. Let children and youth across the state and the nation know that you support them. Share stories of your own struggles and triumphs, advice on ways you've made it through, and statements of affirmation for those who may still be struggling.

We showed our support across Okeechobee by wearing green — the color of children's mental health awareness month, and sharing knowledge and support through two local events. On the morning of May 10, students at OHS had an opportunity to chat with local mental health and community providers during their lunch periods,

learning about services and opportunities available to teens in our area and taking pledges to support mental health.

That evening, families across Okeechobee were invited to join us in the Williamson Education Center at IRSC for a fun and informative evening filled with information about the educational rights of children with IEPs and 504 Plans. This event was hosted by the Okeechobee Children's Mental Health System of Care and featured keynote speakers Wendy Coker, the Okeechobee County schools' director of ESE, and Sandy Akre, director of FDLRS Galaxy. Guests enjoyed a light meal, informative discussions and activities for all ages, including special activities for children ages 3 and up, throughout the presentations.

Though National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is officially behind us, there are still things you can do to show your support. Help us create a community where the stigma of mental illness no longer exists. Ask questions to learn the truths about mental health, promote facts and honest information and keep an open mind when

interacting with the world around you.

For more information on the System of Care, children's mental health awareness and awareness day events, contact Jane Kaufman, System of Care family coordinator, at 863-462-5125, extension 135.



Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee, the Healthy Start Coalition, school district administrators, mental health agencies and the Okeechobee County Library were just some of the many locals who showed their support for children's mental health awareness by wearing green on May 10.

BBB scam alert: Impostors using Facebook for grant scams

Scammers continue to con Facebook users out of thousands of dollars with phony government grant offers. You may be among the many Facebook users who have been approached by “friends” claiming you are eligible to receive a “free” U.S. government grant. In the end, there is no free government grant but, instead, an elaborate scheme to steal your personal information and money.

The scam generally works like this: You receive a message on Facebook detailing information on free grant money from the government. This message may come from a recently added Facebook friend, a family member or a long-term friend. The message

may reference other Facebook users, or people in your friends list, that have successfully received the grant. The message may even include a link to a law office, phony government website or a real U.S. government website to appear legitimate. Sometimes the user sending you the message uses the name and photo of a real government official or well-known public figure.

No matter who is sending the message, or how they word it, eventually you will be asked to supply personal information and a payment for processing fees. Unfriend and block these users immediately. If the message came from a person you know in real

life, it is likely that their account has been hacked or their profile has been cloned. Contact them offline, as they may not be aware they've been compromised and report the abuse to Facebook.

According to BBB ScamTracker data, there have been 508 reports of Facebook government grant scams submitted to BBB in the past three years, with losses totaling \$361,744.

BBB has more information on grant scams in general and tips for avoiding them here. In addition, here are some tips you should always keep in mind on Facebook:

- Be careful with friend requests from

strangers. We all want to have new friends, but try to keep your social-network friends to folks you know outside of the social media platform. If it appears the request is from a business contact or friend of a friend, send them a message after accepting to test their legitimacy. If they don't seem real or connected to your life, unfriend them.

• Don't blindly trust your current Facebook friends. You may receive a message from someone you have known all your life. That doesn't mean you must trust them explicitly. If the message seems out-of-character, their account may have been hacked or cloned. Contact them offline and let them know.

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Legion opens Sunday bingo

American Legion 64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host Sunday night bingo on **May 27**, at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the bingo area. All proceeds will benefit the American Legion veterans' programs. The event is open to the public.

VFW hosts lasagna dinner

VFW Post #4423, 300 N.W. 34th St., will host a lasagna dinner on Sunday, **May 27**, from 1 to 3 p.m. For information, call 863-763-0818.

Amvets host 5-card bingo

Join Amvets Post 200, 3651 U.S. 441 S.E. Suite 6, on Sunday, **May 27**, at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, May 29, at 2 p.m. for five-card bingo. For information, call 863-484-8135.

Legion will host 5-card bingo

American Legion Post #64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host five-card bingo on Monday, **May 28**, from 1 to 3 p.m. with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. For information, call 863-763-5309.

Shrine Club hosts dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, 1855 S.W. 53rd St., off of U.S. 78 W., next to Fast Break will hold a spaghetti dinner Tuesday, **May 29**, from 4 until 7 p.m., for an \$8 donation. The event is open to the public and all members of the Shrine Temple. For information on the activities of the Okeechobee Shrine Club or to lease the club, contact the Shrine Club at 863-763-3378.

Summer play camp set

Summer play camp will be held from June 11 through July 27, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee Civic Center, 1750 U.S. 98 N., for kids ages 5 to 13. Registration is from now through **May 31**, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Park and Recreation Dept., 1718 N.W. Ninth Ave. For information, call 863-763-6950.

Library will host programs

Each week, beginning **June 1**, the Okeechobee Library, 206 S.W. 16th St., will host a free program. From cooking to crafts to giant games, every week will be a different and fun experience. Be sure to check the summer calendar to see what programs you'd like to attend. All events are free and open to all ages. You must be registered to attend. For details and to register, call 863-763-3536 or come in to sign up.

Join the Wild Orchid walk

The Okeechobee Orchid Club will be on the annual Wild Orchid walk on **June 2**. Anyone interested in joining, contact Sue at 561-762-2788.

Trash Fish tourney to be held

The 10th annual Lake Okeechobee Airboat Association Trash Fish tournament will be held on Saturday, **June 2**, at Okee-Tantie Airboat Landing, 1043 U.S. 78. For information, call Jamie Mellette at 561-718-3077 or Rob Jones at 561-722-6572.

DOH will hold CPR classes

Okeechobee Department of Health, 1728 N.W. Ninth Ave., will hold CPR/AED and basic first aid certification class on Tuesday, **June 12**, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, **June 23**, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information, call Chuck Akers at 772-260-9026 or Sara Yates at 863-532-3436.

Library hosts Reading Camp

Ms. Kim at the Okeechobee County Library, 206 S.W. 16th St., is excited to announce that the "Summer Reading Camp" will be every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. from Wednesday, **June 20** through July 25. Camp is for ages 8 years old and under. If they have a sibling that is older, they may attend as well. Parents must attend! Call 863-763-3536.

Democrats to meet June 20

The Okeechobee Chapter of the Democratic Party of Florida welcomes you to attend the monthly meeting held Wednesday, **June 20**, at 6:30 p.m. at Beef O' Bradys, 608 S. Parrott Ave. Please arrive by 6 p.m. if placing a food order.

DOH will hold CPR classes

Okeechobee Department of Health, 1728 N.W. Ninth Ave., will hold CPR/AED and basic first aid certification class on Saturday, **June 23**, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information, call Chuck Akers at 772-260-9026 or Sara Yates at 863-532-3436.

Swimming lessons offered

Swimming lessons are offered in Okeechobee for ages six months and up at the Okeechobee County Sports Complex Swimming Pool in June and July. Registration for the classes starts on June 7 and 8 between 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. For more information on the lessons, you're encouraged to contact the swimming pool located in Sports Complex at 863-467-7667.

Library hosts challenge

The Okeechobee Library, 206 S.W. 16th St., will team up with Scholastic from now through **Sept. 7**, as students take the pledge to read as many minutes as they can this summer! To join, simply call the library at 863-763-3536 or come in to sign up with a librarian. Students will receive a pledge certificate along with a username and password. By logging reading minutes on the Scholastic website, students can unlock digital rewards and complete weekly reading challenges online. Reading minutes will also count towards special summer prizes and events at the library. Join the fun and sign up today!

Skate Park is open again

The Parks & Recreation Department is proud to announce the re-opening of the Okeechobee Skate Park at Kiwanis Park located at 350 N.W. Sixth Avenue. The Skate Park has been closed for several months in anticipation of installing new skate-lite wood surfaces on all of the ramps and some structural repairs to several modular frames. The Skate Park is open seven days a week from dawn to dusk.

Fire/Rescue offers free blood pressure checks

Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue is offering free blood pressure checks from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at:

- Fire Station #1, 504 N.W. Sixth Street,
- Fire Station #2, 3511 S.E. 38th Ave., and,
- Fire Station #4, 1199 N.E. 168th St.

Please understand that if you stop by a station and there is no staff there, they are out on an emergency call. Please stop back later.

CSC meeting canceled

The Children's Services Council meeting for June 14, has been canceled. There will be a special meeting held on Tuesday, **June 12**, at 5 p.m.

AA meetings scheduled in Okeechobee County

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are regularly scheduled in the Okeechobee:

- Monday through Friday: noon open meetings at First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St.;
- Monday, 6:30 a.m., closed meeting at Okeechobee Christian Church 3055 S.E. 18th Terrace (Wolff Road);
- Monday at 6:30 p.m. open meeting at, Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott;
- Tuesday at 8 p.m. closed discussion meeting at Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St.
- Wednesday at 8 p.m. closed men's meeting at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 901 S.W. Sixth St.; and,
- Wednesday, at 7 p.m., a speakers meeting at Detox of South Florida, 608 N.E. Second Ave.;
- Thursday, noon, closed Step Study, at Okeechobee Christian Church, 3055 S.E. 18th Terrace.
- Thursday at 8 p.m., Big Book meeting at Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St.;
- Thursday at 6 p.m., open women's meeting at Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St.
- Friday at 8 p.m., speaker meeting at Church of Our Saviour 200 N.W. Third St.;
- Saturday at 7:30 p.m., closed meeting at Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott;
- Sunday at 7:30 p.m., open meeting, Step Study, at Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St.

More Community Events can be found at **OkeechobeeNews.net** in the Community section.

Obituaries

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

Lorene P. Mott, 88

MARIANNA — Lorene P. Mott passed from this life Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at Mariana Nursing and Rehab Center. She was born in Bartow, Fla. on June 23, 1929, to Jason Hudson and Sylvia Merritt Parker.

Lorene worked as a homemaker for most of her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and two brothers, Steve and Buddy Parker.

Lorene is survived by her son, Freddy Lee Mott; and her sister-in-law, Linda Parker.

Memorialization will be by cremation.

Family and friends may sign the online register at www.brownfh.net

Harold Athel Douglas, 87

Theresa Nix Douglas, 80

INDIANTOWN — Harold Athel Douglas died May 24, 2018.

He was born June 3, 1930 in Okeechobee to Elisha Jefferson and Lillian Mae (Hulsey) Douglas. He proudly served our country in the United States Marines during the Korean War.

Theresa Nix Douglas died May 22, 2018. She was born Sept. 12, 1937 in Okeechobee to Rual Eugene and Emma Lee (Underhill) Nix. She was a homemaker.

Harold and Theresa were lifelong residents of Indiantown. They were a perfect team in raising their children and their cattle. She volunteered with Hospice of Okeechobee. He enjoyed fishing. They had the gift of hospitality. They were members of the Family Worship Center and faithful ministers of their Lord.

Harold and Theresa were preceded in death by their son, Steve Douglas. Harold was preceded in death by his brothers, Travis and Milton Douglas; and sister, DeeCee Douglas Bass. Theresa was preceded in death by her brother, Norris Eugene Nix.

They are survived by their son, Marshall Douglas (Susan), of Indiantown; daughter, Robin Douglas McDonald (John), of Oviedo; Harold's brothers, Dr. Edward Douglas and David Douglas (Carolyn); Harold's sister, Juanita Walker, all of Okeechobee, Theresa's sisters, Betty Sweatt, of Okeechobee, and Martha Uptegrove, of Bartow; four grandchildren, Austin Douglas, Dominique Spears, Katrina Alvarez, and Brittany Durden; and ten great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, June 2, 2018 at Family Worship Center of Indiantown.

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

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



Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

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

COWS	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG
975-1765	51.00	57.00	
1025-1850	56.00	63.00	HIGH
925-1345	46.00	52.00	LOW

BULLS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG
1105-2255	78.00	80.00	
1195-1995	80.00	86.00	HIGH
1245-1520	75.00	76.00	LOW

STEERS MED & LARGE 1:	LOW:	HIGH:
170-260	215.00	280.00
325-345	190.00	194.00
355-375	170.00	182.00
410-445	157.00	170.00
455-490	152.00	164.00
510-545	134.00	160.00

STEERS MED & LARGE 2:	LOW:	HIGH:
270-280	200.00	202.00
310-335	180.00	188.00
355-390	160.00	172.00
415-440	148.00	158.00
465-495	142.00	154.00
520-540	130.00	147.00

STEERS MED & LARGE 3:	LOW:	HIGH:
265-290	182.00	187.00
330-345	170.00	178.00
375-395	158.00	162.00
420-440	140.00	146.00
470	140.00	140.00

Prices were mixed this week. Slaughter classes were \$1-\$3 higher on cows and bulls. Feeder calves were \$1-\$3 lower. Cow prices could have been sparked by Memorial Day. Feeder calf market is in a lull probably having to do with winter pasture, yearling clean up and transitioning into summer pasture. We could see a little rise after the bottleneck effect is over and the China trade deal worked out, hopefully sooner than later.

No sale Monday, May 28. Thank all those who've served our country! We'll be receiv-

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	486	493
COWS	174	235
BULLS	10	23
TOTAL	670	751

HEIFERS MED & LARGE 1:	LOW:	HIGH:
210-220	200.00	202.00
260-285	162.00	178.00
305-345	160.00	170.00
355-395	150.00	160.00
405-445	142.00	152.00
455-485	138.00	148.00
510-545	132.00	142.00
555-590	127.00	138.00
615-640	120.00	127.00

HEIFERS MED & LARGE 2:	LOW:	HIGH:
240-290	148.00	166.00
315-345	150.00	158.00
360-390	140.00	149.00
420-440	132.00	142.00
460-490	126.00	134.00
520-540	128.00	130.00
565-595	120.00	126.00

HEIFERS MED & LARGE 3:	LOW:	HIGH:
225-240	167.00	170.00
285-295	140.00	144.00
325-340	140.00	144.00
360-395	134.00	138.00
410-435	128.00	132.00
480-575	112.00	121.00

ing cattle on Monday for Tuesday's sale on May 29.

Mike & Quinn Ashton, Lorida, topped the calf market with a high of \$2.80 bought by Oak Creek.

Blocker Ranch, Immokalee, topped the slaughter cow market with a high of \$.63 bought by Florida Beef.

For sale:
Six Brahman bulls, 2-3 yrs old and 125 crossbred mid-age pairs.
Call Matt or Jeff

Okeechobee Tractor Supply to host farmers' market

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee Tractor Supply Company store is hosting a Farmers' Market on Saturday, June 2. From 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., local farmers will sell locally grown, fresh produce, along with other seasonal products.

"This is a great opportunity for members of our community to support local farmers while also getting to enjoy deliciously fresh food," said Todd Thomas, manager of the Okeechobee store. "As a company, we believe in fostering community relationships and this event allows us to do just that."

Shoppers can expect to find many goods for sale including arts and crafts, baked goods, homemade crafts and jewelry.

Participating vendors will have tables set up at the tented space by the storefront where they will showcase their goods.

Some of the local vendors participating include:

- 441 BBQ & Grill
- Everlovin Evelynns Empanadas
- Cheesy Cakes
- Sassy Button Bows

This event is open to the public and will take place at 3371 U.S. 441 South. For more information, please contact the Okeechobee Tractor Supply store at 863-467-7844.

About Tractor Supply Company
Tractor Supply Company (NASDAQ: TSCO) is in its 80th year of operation and, since be-

ing founded in 1938, has grown to become the largest rural lifestyle retail store chain in the United States. With 28,000 team members, 1,700 stores in 49 states and an e-commerce website, Tractor Supply is passionate about serving its unique niche, as a one-stop shop for recreational farmers, ranchers and all those who enjoy living the rural lifestyle. Tractor Supply offers an extensive mix of products necessary to care for home, land, pets and animals with a focus on product localization, exclusive brands and legendary customer service that addresses the needs of the Out Here lifestyle.



www.OkeechobeeLivestockMarket.com

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Kindergarten registration open

The Okeechobee County School Board will conduct kindergarten registration at the following schools:

- Wednesday, May 9, Central Elementary School – 863-462-5077
- Friday, May 11, Everglades Elementary School – 863-462-5108
- Monday, May 14, South Elementary School – 863-462-5087
- Wednesday, May 16, Seminole Elementary School – 863-462-5116
- Friday, May 18, North Elementary School – 863-462-5100

If your child will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2018, you should begin gathering the following information required by law to enter public school:

- Legal proof of birthdate
- Up-to-date immunization record
- Health exam record that has been completed by a physician since Sept. 1, 2017
- Proof of residence (FPL statement; OUA statement, etc.)

Please contact the school your child will attend to schedule an appointment for kindergarten registration. If you do not know which school your child should attend, contact the Student Services Office at 863-462-5000, extension 260.

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BLUE HERON COUNTRY CLUB



MLS# 209428



MLS# 209429

Waterfront Lots with Lake Okeechobee Access. **\$85,000** each

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Home on 1 Acre

NE SECTION~ 4bed/2bath 1973 manufactured home on 1 acre, fully fenced. 2,830 sq feet under roof, Wood burning fire place. Spacious laundry/utility w/ new dryer in 2018. Encl Fl room runs length of home, screened patio, attached 2 car carport, above ground pool installed 2016, new pump in 2017. Septic pumped in 2018, New well pump in 2015, metal roof in 2008. Detached 512 sq ft work shop w/ carport overhang. **Offered at \$99,000** Call Julia Parker at 863-801-3489



Julia Parker

863.801.3489 | Office: 863.763.6000



Sharon Prevatt, 863-634-7069
David Hazellief, 863-610-1553
Se Habla Español



1016-H: IN THE CITY Freshly painted 2BD/1BA Frame Construction home. 1,148 Total Sq Ft/760 under air. Great location close to everything!
MLS # 212339 \$75,000



2002-H: Taylor Creek 5BD/3BA on a beautiful lake access lot, balcony overlooks the water. 3,226 Total Sq Ft/2,358 under air, spacious open concept w/family rm & fireplace. Screened back porch with fenced back yard, seawall and boat dock. **\$265,000** MLS # 212118

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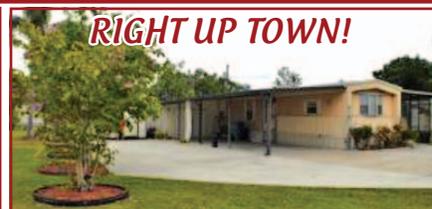


SEMINOLE COVE

~Delightfully charming and beautifully maintained DWMH. 2 Bd/ 2 Ba/ 41 ft long Carport.10x14 Florida Room. Country kitchen w/ sparkling white cabinets. Large foyer and wide hallway. Both spacious baths. Newer metal roof and 2013 A/C. Irrigation with well. Concrete slab under home. 11x13 workshop. 1258 Sf under air - 2255 TLA. Turnkey with furniture. PERFECT! **MLS#212562 \$110,000** Call Lori (863) 634-1457



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RIGHT UP TOWN!

~Three blocks from launching your boat! Great Winter Home. Well maintained 2 bd/ 1 ba/ 14x40 carport. MH has 12x25 same level addition.1140 Sf under air - 2148 TLA. Fully furnished. 14x20 workshop, storage shed. NEW 12x14 screened room. This property has plenty of concrete parking plus RV parking. **THIS ONE'S A KEEPER!** **MLS#212372 \$78,000** Call Lori (863) 634-1457



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L-1790: Kissimmee River Estates - Rental Income Property - Two turn-key furnished homes plus 1000 sf work shop. The first home, a CBS 3/1, has been remodeled. The second home, 3/2 MH, has two living areas, separate dining room and an en-suite master bath. Both have alarm systems. **\$160,000** Call Dallan 863-697-213

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ANCIENT OAKS 55+ COMMUNITY. Active Lifestyle. 2 B 1 B Park Model (2005) on the canal side. What a VIEW! Comes nicely furnished. Washer & Dryer and small freezer. Metal Hurricane shutters. Storage everywhere! Outside shed. Owner says sell! **\$79,000** Call Jody 863-634-1285



SEMINOLE COVE- 55+ COMMUNITY. 3 BED 2 Bath-Master bath is custom built! Tile floors/Laminate. Brand new roof and newer AC/Hot Water Heater. Screened Fl rm with glass sliding windows. Living Room- & separate den. 3rd bedroom is a craft/media room but can be made back into bedroom. All this comes furnished! Quaint neighborhood. Enjoy the Good life! **\$132,500** Call Jody 863-634-1285



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POOL HOME

SPECTACULAR- 3Bd/3BA 4,056' Home on 1+/- Acre. Totally Remodeled Inside & Out! Large bonus room with full bath. Florida Room opens onto the over-sized Pool area. Large Kitchen w/plenty of cabinets, granite countertops, Huge Master Suite, and living area is open and spacious. MLS 212574 **\$359,000** Call Katie McFarland (863) 261-8338



RIVER OAK ACRES NEWLY REMODELED 4Bd/2Ba/2CG on 2.57 acres. Located on dead end street. 2,736 TLA CBS Home with metal roof, home is truly a gem! Call for appointment MLS 212609 **\$290,000.** Contact **Samantha Saucedo (863) 697-2818**



FALL IN LOVE with this Beautiful 2006 3Br/2Ba home with over 3,000 SF TLA! Setting on 10.57 Acres. Located off of HWY 98 North. Open concept, Granite counter-tops in kitchen. Pantry is also safe room, HUGE bedrooms with walk-in closets. Fireplace, Hurricane shutters, Tile throughout, Woolley shed in back with pond in front. **\$425,000** Call Jerri Lynn (863) 634-6796



AIRI ACRES - 2016 Custom Home 3Bd/2Ba 3243' TLA, Open floor plan, formal living area, dining, family room and custom kitchen, wood cabinets, granite countertops. Master bedroom opens to back porch overlooking golf course, huge bathroom with walk-in shower and garden tub. Home features 14 foot ceilings, oversized doors and windows, tile throughout, large utility room, back screened-in porch and 2 car garage. **\$305,000** Call Vangela (863) 261-3630



OKEECHOBEE ESTATES - Impressive and quaint CBS 3Br/1Ba house with large addition for family/dining area. Nicely remodeled, includes above ground pool, fenced private back yard. Large laundry room, could be 2nd bathroom. Covered patio. Landscaped and private! **\$159,000** Jerri Lynn Hill (863) 634-6796



WATERFRONT BEAUTY! CBS 3Bd/ 2BA/ 2-Car Garage. Hurricane shutters, enormous living room, GIANT Florida room over looking the canal w/ covered boat dock and lift. MLS 212588 **\$260,000** Call Katie McFarland (863) 261-8338 or Samantha Saucedo (863) 801-2101



DIXIE RANCH ACRES- 3 bedroom 2bath CBS HOME with 2,534 TLA. Beautiful 10 acres, mature oaks, property has outbuilding, with additional living quarters. Bring you animals! Call today to schedule your showing appointment. **\$299,000** Call Vangela McFarland (863) 261-3630



BUCKHEAD RIDGE IMMACULATE 3BR/2BA DWMH Updated with front porch and wrap-around back porch. Boat house with lift. CLEAN CLEAN CLEAN! **\$159,000** Call Vangela McFarland (863) 261-3630



OASIS VILLAGE - Spacious 3Br/2Ba DWMH in this lovely 55+ plus community! Large kitchen with island, laminate wood & tiled floors through out, Florida room, huge carport, shed. Community offers a Pool, Laundry facilities, Shuffle Courts, Bocce Ball, Community Hall. Lawn care is included! MLS 211835 **\$89,900** Call Priscilla Gonzalez (863) 697-2818



BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY SETTING with plenty of privacy. 2Br/2Ba MH. Large porches, screened room, spacious floor plan w/third room that is currently being utilized as a bedroom, roomy kitchen and inside laundry. Huge barn style work shop, cow barn, chicken coop, animal pens. Fenced & cross fenced. All equipment, tools, and furnishings are negotiable. Come take a look! MLS 212626 **\$175,000** Call Priscilla Gonzalez (863) 697-2818



MOUTH OF TAYLOR CREEK- CBS 2Bd/ 2BA/ with 2-Car Garage also detached Carport, Laminate flooring, back porch, in-ground pool. Waterfront with water on both sides. Great for 1st time homebuyers or commuters. **\$140,000** Call Katie McFarland (863) 261-8338



FOUR SEASONS Cozy and Cute! This 2Br/1Ba CBS home sits on a quiet street with a fenced yard and several Oak trees. Great for East Coast Commuters! MLS 212189 **\$119,900.** Contact Priscilla Gonzalez (863) 697-2818



BASSWOOD - Cute 2Br/1Ba home. Close to town, schools and shopping. Chain linked fence around property. Located on paved road. **\$90,000** Contact Jerri Lynn Hill (863) 634-6796 or Billy Hill (863) 634-0516 for more information.



TREASURE ISLAND - Cute 2Br/1Ba little CBS home on LARGE lot, located at the end of the cup-de-sac with water views on two side of lot. Very private setting with Lake Okeechobee access, priced to sell. **\$124,900** Call Jerri Lynn Hill (863) 634-6796 for more information.



TREASURE ISLAND Spacious 3/2 MH located on deep canal in Treasure Island. This property features a large CBS addition, screened in dock, 2 shed and more. MLS 212224 **\$121,000** Call Kaydee Yates (863) 623-8863



SEMINOLE COVE One of the only 3Br/2Ba homes in Seminole Cove that's currently available for purchase! Partially furnished, well maintained, and is move in ready! Seminole Cove has a great neighborhood MLS 212578 **\$120,000** Call Katie McFarland (863) 261-8338

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Citizen Observation Patrols an invaluable resource

By OCSO

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Citizens Observation Patrol (COP) Volunteer Program has been credited numerous times with being a primary factor in decreasing crimes such as theft, burglaries and motor vehicle theft. COPs provide a visible presence in the community while fostering partnerships with local businesses and residential areas to identify and expand opportunities to deter criminal activity and reduce crime.

Now, with over 30 members, the COP Volunteer Program is making a positive impact in Okeechobee County. Members help to deter crime by conducting patrols in agency cars and on foot.

At 10:53 a.m. Sunday, May 20, COP partners Jim and Beverly McVeigh were conducting house checks in the area of Oasis Village.

The pair noticed an unfamiliar vehicle at one of the residences and spoke with the driver of the vehicle, who gave them a story that they knew to be false. The McVeighs documented the description of the suspect, vehicle and the tag, photographed the vehicle and contacted OCSO dispatch.

Deputies arrived and retrieved the information from the McVeighs. Subsequently, a suspect was arrested and charged with burglary.

OCSO Sheriff Noel E. Stephen stated: "These men and women provide an extension of our eyes and ears that we otherwise could not afford. This is an excellent example of great teamwork! I appreciate the job done by all my men and women, both paid and volunteers, to making our community better each and every day!"

OCSO extends a sincere "Thank you" for a job well done.



Okeechobee News/OCSO

On behalf of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), Deputy Jack Nash (left) acknowledged the actions taken by the agency's Citizen Observation Patrol volunteers Beverly (center) and Jim McVeigh (right). On Sunday morning, May 20, the pair conducted house checks at Oasis Village and took note of an unfamiliar vehicle. They spoke with the driver, who provided information they knew to be false, then notified the sheriff's office. A suspect was found, arrested and charged with burglary. OCSO extends a "thank you" for a job well done.

OCSO Investigations

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office investigated reports of the following crimes last week:

ASSAULT

- 7200 block of U.S. 441 North
- 4500 block of Southeast 23rd Court
- 7200 block of U.S. 441 North

BURGLARY

- 2500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 4600 block of Southeast 28th Street
- 1600 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 1600 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 2500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 2800 block of Northeast Fifth Trail
- 900 block of Northwest 36th Street

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 1600 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 2300 block of Northwest Sixth Street
- 7200 block of Northeast 11th Lane

- 3000 block of Southeast 21st Court
- 1600 block of Northeast 14th Lane
- 500 block of Northeast 14th Avenue

FRAUD

- 500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 4000 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 6600 block of Southwest Ninth Street
- 1600 block of State Road 78 West
- 3400 block of Northwest 24th Avenue

THEFT

- 8100 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 600 block of State Road 78 West
- 3700 block of Southeast 36th Avenue
- 500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 6600 block of Southwest Ninth Street
- 1500 block of State Road 70 East
- 100 block of U.S. 98 North
- 900 block of Northwest 23rd Lane
- 3000 block of Southeast 38th Avenue

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Meet the officer: OPD's Raul Marrero

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News



Raul Marrero

Officer Raul Marrero was born as the middle child, having an older and younger brother, in 1968 and grew up in a town located on a beach in Puerto Rico. He has been a resident of Okeechobee for the past 18 years. "I was asked to come to the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) in 2000 to help with the disturbance in the jail, and was then asked by then-Okeechobee County Sheriff O.L. Raulerson to stay," Officer Marrero stated.

As a youngster in a beach town, Officer Marrero "spent every minute of it at the beach," noting that there was no lack of activities. "There were lots of things to do: fishing, snorkeling, watching the birds, surfing, hanging out with the commercial fishermen at the wharf and helping them catch fish. They would always give me part of the catch, and my parents loved that; I always came home with seafood," he said. The infrequent moments when he was not at the beach were spent playing with friends. "We would play war in the woods close to the river, it was like capture the flag but with BB guns. Man, we were rough!"

Officer Marrero graduated from high school at age 16 from the Ramey Job Corps Center. His favorite subject was history, and about that he said, "It fascinated me to learn about the historical connections between events that happened and how they played

a role in our present." His favorite sport was football. "I loved playing football! You could let out your frustration and the pent-up energy. I believe that football kept me from getting into a lot of trouble growing up," he said. His favorite part of attending school was getting to see his friends who lived in other neighborhoods, while he held a dislike for his school food and for bullies, stating: "Our cafeteria was awful! I also could not stand the bullies, and since I was kind of rough, I would ask them to pick on me, but most of them would not as they were chickens anyway."

Officer Marrero is also a veteran of the United States Army, having served for five years on active duty and attained the rank of specialist (E-4) with a primary military occupational specialty — which identifies a specific job — as a combat medic and his secondary specialty of artillery. He explained: "I wanted to be in the Army since I was a kid. My dad, his grandpa and my great-uncle had all been in the military also, so to me it was natural to join the Army." Officer Marrero's military life took him across the Pacific Ocean to the Korean peninsula, where he turned 18.

"It was during the Cold War, and at that time it was the most dangerous place you could go in the Army. It was an experience that I am glad to have had." He said the most difficult aspect of participating in the military was his time spent away from those who meant the most, family and friends. Officer Marrero explained: "When I left for Korea, Raul Jr. was 11 months old, and when I returned he was almost 2 years old. He was walking and talking, and had no clue who I

was."

Officer Marrero began working at the age of 13, delivering on a newspaper route. His worst job, he conveyed, was at the Okeechobee Boys School. When asked why he chose a profession in law enforcement, Officer Marrero answered, "I was recruited into this profession, and then after a few years, I realized that I liked it." As mentioned earlier, Officer Marrero has worked for OPD for two years but actually has 20 years in total as a law enforcement officer, as he was an OCSO deputy and police officer in his hometown in Puerto Rico previously. He said the job has taught him: "If you do not take care of the community that you live in, then you are not going to like the community you live in. Some people do not like us (cops), but without us they would not like to live here too much. The thin line between order and chaos is what ensures our happiness."

Officer Marrero credited OCSO Captain John Rhoden as his biggest career influence, stating, "He would tear up your police reports and pick out all of the grammar errors, get your attention when you were not being safe and, above all, taught me that 'you can do this job even if it tears you up inside.' He used to tell me all the time, 'They're people, too,' and to have compassion and respect for the people that we deal with." Officer Marrero is not the first member of his family to work in the law enforcement field, as his dad, uncle and older cousin all were correctional officers. He also has an uncle who was a prosecutor and another cousin who is a judge.

Officer Marrero is also currently working

on his associate's degree in criminal justice from Indian River State College. He noted that his favorite subject to study is constitutional law and that one of his most memorable moments was from a midterm exam. "Dr. Ackerman asked us to summarize six chapters in Modern Language Association style of 300 words for each chapter, complete with citations, in under four hours for a midterm exam. In other words, he wanted you to do six 300-word essays in four hours."

Officer Marrero is the father to six children: Raul Jr., 32; Ivan, 29; Katelyn, 22; Joseph, 20; Alivia, 10; and Noah, 9. He enjoys his spare time with his family, going to church and adventuring to new places as they love to travel.

Other than the present time period, Officer Marrero said he would like to have lived during the American Revolution and that he would like to have met Benjamin Franklin and French aristocrat and military officer Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette. "Franklin thought outside of the box, bettered himself through self-teaching and was one of the first American philosophers. Lafayette believed in our innate yearning for freedom, regardless of country or race," Officer Marrero said of the historical figures.

If he could possess one superhuman power, Officer Marrero said he would like "the power to detect veracity," or conformity to facts. "That way you could sort out the truth."



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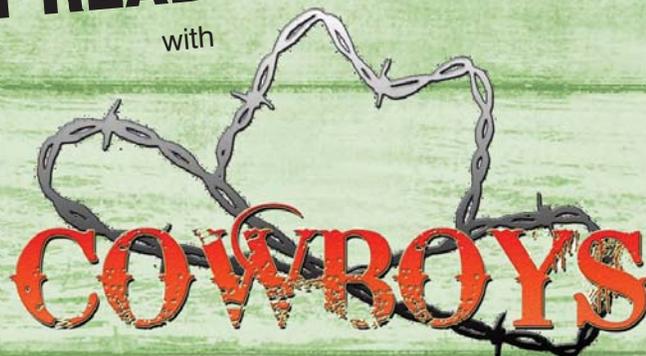
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Financial

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.

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Public Notices

Administration
of Estates

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY,
FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No.
472018CP000075CPAXMX**

IN RE: ESTATE OF
Sarah Nieves
a/k/a Sarah Heredia
a/k/a Sarah A. Ruiz
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Sarah Nieves a/k/a Sarah Heredia a/k/a Sarah A. Ruiz, Deceased, whose date of death was June 28, 2016, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the

Announcements

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Public Notice

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 47-2018-CA-000050

PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO NATIONAL CITY BANK, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO HARBOR FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK,
 Plaintiff
 vs.
 CARSON A. BENJAMIN, et al,
 Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: **NYLSOLA GRANT**
 Last Known Address: 209 NE 5th Avenue
 Okeechobee, FL 34972
 Current Address: Unknown

ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEE, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS.

Last Known Address: Unknown
 Current Address: Unknown
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE WEST ONE-HALF (W 1/2) OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST; THENCE N 00 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 16 SECONDS W, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID W 1/2 OF SECTION 23, A DISTANCE OF 2567.70 FEET TO POINT PAS SHOWN ON MAP OF SIMONE ESTATES, DATED JUNE 21, 2004; THENCE S 88 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 54 SECONDS W, ALONG THE LINE DEFINED BY POINT P AND POINT Q OF SAID MAP, A DISTANCE OF 2383.82 FEET TO SAID POINT Q; THENCE S 86 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 18 SECONDS W, ALONG THE LINE DEFINED BY SAID POINT Q AND POINT JON SAID CENTERLINE OF THE 70.00 FOOT WIDE INGRESS, EGRESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT AS SHOWN ON SAID MAP OF SIMONE ESTATES, A DISTANCE OF 2029.66 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE S 86 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 18 SECONDS W, ALONG SAID LINE WHICH IS NON RADIAL, A DISTANCE OF 2123.33 FEET TO SAID POINT JON SAID CENTERLINE AND THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHEAST AND HAVING A RADIUS DISTANCE OF 300.00 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID CENTERLINE AND ARC OF SAID CURVE, THROUGH A DELTA ANGLE OF 46 DEGREES 11 MINUTES 08 SECONDS AND A CHORD OF 235.33 FEET BEARING N 23 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 39 SECONDS E, AN ARC DISTANCE OF 241.83 FEET TO POINT KON SAID CENTERLINE AND A POINT OF TANGENCY; THENCE N 46 DEGREES 11 MINUTES 13 SECONDS E, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, A DISTANCE OF 1264.84 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHEAST AND HAVING A RADIUS DISTANCE OF 300.00 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID CENTERLINE AND ARC OF SAID CURVE, THROUGH A DELTA ANGLE OF 41 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 05 SECONDS AND A CHORD OF 214.54 FEET BEARING N 67 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 16 SECONDS E, AN ARC DISTANCE OF 219.39 FEET TO A POINT OF TANGENCY; THENCE N 88 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 18 SECONDS E, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, A DISTANCE OF 814.47 FEET TO POINT MON SAID CENTERLINE; THENCE S 05 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 46 SECONDS E, A DISTANCE OF 1087.37 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SUBJECT TO AND TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT OF INGRESS, EGRESS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES UNDER THAT CERTAIN GRANT OF EASEMENT RECORDED AUGUST 5, 2004 IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 539, PAGE 192, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A NW 72ND AVE, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Albertell Law, Plaintiffs attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 23028, Tampa, FL 33623, and file the original with this Court either before June 8th, 2018 with service on Plaintiffs attorney, or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

This notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in the Okeechobee News.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this court on this 2nd day of May, 2018.

SHARON ROBERTSON
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: Sharon Bennett
 Deputy Clerk

****See the Americans with Disabilities Act**

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

ON 5/20,27/2018

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Roasting bird
- 6 Kennel racket
- 10 Doze, with "out"
- 14 How writers often work
- 15 NATO alphabet ender
- 16 Ancient Andean
- 17 Lift
- 20 Bar sing-along
- 21 Quasi-convertible option
- 22 Rock gp. with winds and strings
- 23 Mil. training site
- 25 Pizzeria
- 29 Nervous giggle
- 32 "Cure Ignorance" online reader
- 34 Glamorous Gardner
- 35 Windy-day window noise
- 37 Strummed strings
- 38 Lift
- 42 Linen fiber source
- 43 Newspaper space measurement
- 44 So last week
- 45 Take in the wrong way?
- 47 Split with the band
- 51 Pet shelter mission
- 53 Apt name for a cook?
- 55 Put the cuffs on
- 56 Does one's part?
- 58 Elves, at times
- 61 Lift
- 65 Curved entrance adornment
- 66 Drop
- 67 Nautical table listing
- 68 "Okay, granted"
- 69 "Bossypants" memoirist Fey
- 70 Mail-order-only company until 1925

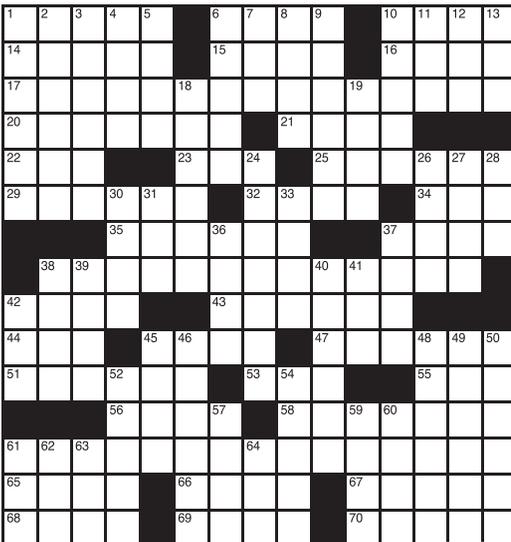
- 4 Draft category
- 5 "Quo Vadis" emperor
- 6 Tenochtitlán native
- 7 Play about automatons
- 8 Like much desert
- 9 Acquisition on a blanket, perhaps
- 10 Brand with a flame over the "I" in its logo
- 11 Artist Yoko
- 12 Big name in bar code scanners
- 13 Dennings of "2 Broke Girls"
- 18 Hybrid tennis attire
- 19 Ticked off
- 24 Besmirches
- 26 Powerful shark
- 27 Say with certainty
- 28 Carrier to Oslo
- 30 Cereal "for kids"
- 31 Work on a church
- 33 Many a "Hunger Games" fan
- 36 Bluffer's giveaway
- 37 Colorado natives
- 38 Cobalt

- 39 "Aw, shucks!"
- 40 Harder to see, as shapes
- 41 Have-at link
- 42 Voting yes on
- 45 "That stings!"
- 46 Hit a winning streak
- 48 New York lake near Utica
- 49 Pantry
- 50 Dominate the thoughts of
- 52 Hidden stockpile
- 54 Iota preceder
- 57 California's Valley
- 59 D-Day transports
- 60 ___-dieu: kneeler
- 61 New Year's party handout
- 62 Clearance rack abbr.
- 63 Fort Worth sch.
- 64 Many holiday guests

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com

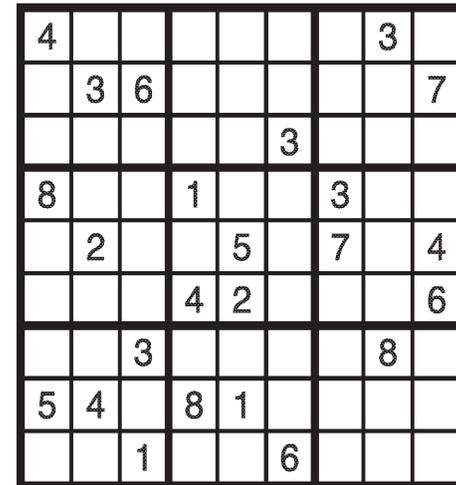


By Bruce Yenzke and Gail Grabowski
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DOWN

- 1 Small jewelry box
- 2 Acid neutralizer
- 3 "Little grey cells" detective

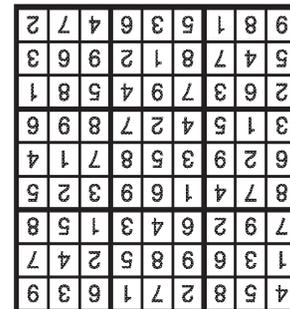
SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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



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Administration of Estates

personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

Administration of Estates

OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is May 20th, 2018.

Eric C. Barkett
 2165 15th Avenue
 Vero Beach, FL 32960
 Personal Representative

Eric C. Barkett
 Jackson & Barkett
 Attorney for Personal Representative
 2165 15th Avenue
 Vero Beach, FL 32960
 Telephone: (772) 567-4355
 Florida Bar No. 0820547
 Email Addresses:
 ebarkett@jbbverolaw.com
 262928 ON 5/20,27/2018

Avoid gas pump card skimmers this Memorial Day weekend

Special to the Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — Ahead of this Memorial Day weekend, Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam is providing Floridians and visitors simple tips to avoid identity-stealing card skimmers placed on gas pumps.

“Floridians and visitors shouldn’t have to worry about losing their hard-earned money to scammers who prey on victims at gas pumps. A few simple steps can help prevent identity theft,” said Mr. Putnam.

Travelers can take the following steps to avoid skimmers at gas stations:

- Pay in cash inside the store to ensure credit card information stays safe.
- Check to make sure the gas pump dispenser cabinet is closed and has not been tampered with.
- Use a gas pump closer to the front of the store. Thieves often place skimmers at the gas pumps farther away from the store so they are not noticed as quickly.
- Use a credit card instead of a debit card. Credit cards have better fraud protection, and

the money is not deducted immediately from an account.

- If using a debit card at the pump, choose to run it as a credit card instead of putting a PIN number in. That way, the PIN number is safe.

- Monitor bank accounts regularly to spot any unauthorized charges.

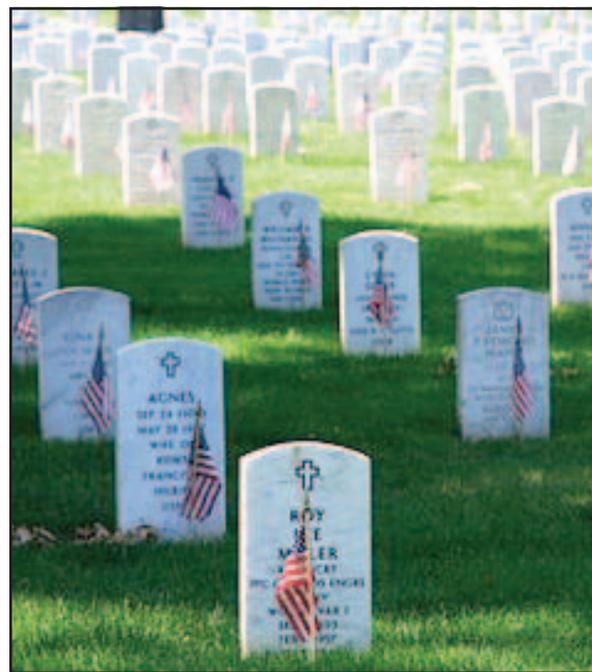
- Consumers who suspect their credit card number has been compromised should report it immediately to authorities and their credit-card company.

Consumers who suspect that a gas pump has been tampered with should contact the gas station manager, local law enforcement or the department’s consumer protection and information hotline at 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or, for Spanish speakers, 1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832).

The department regularly inspects gas stations and analyzes samples of petroleum products to ensure consumers are being offered quality products at a fair measure. For more information, visit FreshFromFlorida.com.

OCSO office closed Monday

The Okeechobee County Sheriff’s Office informs the public that the administration offices will be closed on Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day. As you gather with family and friends this weekend for barbecues, pool parties, the beach or wherever you are, please take a moment to remember why we acknowledge Memorial Day. Remember that all of the veterans have made sacrifices so that our freedoms may be preserved. OCSO would also like to extend a sincere “thank you” to veterans of the past, present and future. Please be safe, and don’t drink and drive!



Okeechobee News/OCSO



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Audubon reminds beachgoers and boaters to share the shores

People and birds expected to enjoy Florida's beaches this Memorial Day weekend

Special to the Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — Millions of visitors flock to Florida's beaches on Memorial Day weekend, and Audubon Florida reminds beachgoers and boaters to enjoy the beach while respecting posted fencing around nesting shorebirds and their fluffy chicks. Florida's beaches are nurseries for species such as snowy plovers, black skimmers and least terns.

"Just like people, birds love our beaches, too! This Memorial Day weekend, we're asking beachgoers and boaters to give nesting birds some space," said Julie Wraithmell, Audubon Florida's executive director. "Eggs and fluffy chicks are on our sandy shores and tree islands right now, and the end of May is a critical time for Florida's iconic coastal birds."

Many nesting sites are visibly posted and

well-marked on Florida beaches to protect them from human disturbance. Unfortunately, when boaters or beachgoers enter posted areas, they may unintentionally cause the death of chicks and eggs. When parents are frightened from nests, chicks and eggs are left vulnerable to predators, overheating in the summer sun, crushing under foot (in beach nests), or falling and drowning in water beneath the nest (from tree nests). A single disturbance can destroy an entire colony.

"Whether or not human disturbance is intentional, the sad result for birds is the same," said Dr. Marianne Korosy, Audubon Florida's director of bird conservation. "By following Audubon's easy tips, we can all work together to ensure this holiday weekend is safe and enjoyable for people and birds."

Volunteer "bird stewards" chaperone nesting bird colonies on many Florida beaches. These stewards help educate beachgoers about nesting colonies while reminding them not to enter protected areas. For more information or to volunteer,

email FLConservation@audubon.org.

Audubon's Memorial Day weekend beach tips:

- Keep your distance. Respect areas posted with signs, even if you don't see birds inside them. Birds, eggs and nests are well-camouflaged.
- Leave no trace. Take all your trash with you and always dispose of fishing line and tackle appropriately.
- Avoid disturbing birds. If birds take flight or appear agitated, you are too close.
- Keep pets leashed and far away from birds. Even on a leash, dogs are perceived as predators by birds.
- Don't feed birds or wildlife. Feed-

ing attracts predators such as crows and gulls that will prey on eggs and chicks of beach-nesting birds.

- Keep quiet and calm near nesting areas. Beach activities like flying kites or using personal fireworks can cause parents to abandon nests. Help prevent a catastrophe for vulnerable chicks and eggs.
- Look out for nesting birds, even outside of posted areas. Beach-nesting birds sometimes nest outside of posted areas. If you notice birds circling noisily overhead, you may be near a nesting colony. Leave quietly and enjoy from a distance.

Fire/Rescue offers free blood pressure checks

Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue offers free blood pressure checks from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at:

- Fire Station #1, 504 N.W. Sixth Street,
- Fire Station #2, 3511 S.E. 38th Ave., and,
- Fire Station #4, 1199 N.E. 168th St.

Please understand that if you stop by a station and there is no staff there, they are out on an emergency call. Please stop back later.



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Okeechobee Youth Livestock Dairy Show 2018



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce
Some who compete in the Okeechobee Youth Livestock Show work with the same animals for more than one year, rather than selling the animal at the end of the first year. Abby Arnold showed a non-sale cow in the Dairy Show.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce
Kathryn Montes De Oca showed a non-sale cow in the dairy show at the county fair.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce
Hannah Williams showed a non-sale cow in the dairy show at the county fair.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce
Lacey Campbell showed a non-sale cow in the dairy show at the county fair.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce
Cole Verano showed a non-sale cow in the dairy show at the county fair.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce
Josh Larson showed a non-sale cow in the dairy show at the county fair.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce
William Castaneda showed a non-sale cow in the dairy show at the county fair.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce
Zoe Walther showed a non-sale cow in the dairy show at the county fair.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Sandra Pearce
Alyssa Marcum had a non-sale cow in the dairy show and received the award for Grand Champion Ayrshire.

Okeechobee City Hall to be closed for holiday

Okeechobee City Hall offices will be closed Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day. The website, cityofokeechobee.com, allows you access 24/7. The office will reopen on Tuesday, May 29, at 8 a.m.