



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 109 No. 73

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

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Corps hosts meetings about EAA reservoir

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Property owners question plan for wetlands north of lake ... Page 5

Pharmacy spots, reports falsified prescription

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Wells could protect estuaries

... Page 11

Lake Levels

14.07 feet

Last Year: 12.05 feet

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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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Ty Smith named head football coach

By Richard Marion
Okeechobee News

Longtime Brahman defensive coordinator and assistant coach Ty Smith has been named the new head coach of the football program.

Mr. Smith takes over for former head coach Chris Branham who announced his resignation from the program on June 11 to pursue another coaching opportunity in Georgia. The decision to make Mr. Smith the head coach was announced late Monday afternoon, June

18, by Okeechobee High School Principal Dylan Tedders.

"I've read about horror stories of programs being left this late in the season without a coach," said Mr. Tedders. "I feel we, at OHS, See COACH — Page 5



Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

Skate park reopens

Altis Crowell grinds the rail at the Okeechobee skate park. Crowell has been skating in the Okeechobee skate park since it first opened and is happy with the new updates to park. For the story, see page 3.

Father-daughter dance is a hit

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Building Relationships Among Teens (B.R.A.T.) Club hosted its Fourth Annual Father-Daughter "Ties & Tiaras" event on Saturday, June 16. Fathers and daughters of all ages came out to enjoy the fun.

Attendees received a keepsake photo upon entry, along with a keepsake painted handprint, and

enjoyed dinner consisting of "kids' fun food."

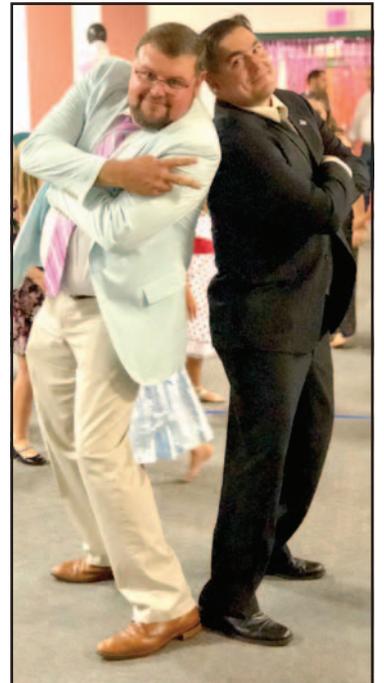
After dinner the fun began! Games included "Cookie to the mouth," Limbo, "Hungry Hippo," Musical Chairs, and a lip-sync contest for dads.

"Lasting memories were made

See BRAT — Page 8



Special to the Okeechobee News Devon Faison and Denija Browdy were dressed in style for the "Ties and Tiaras" event for fathers and daughters.



Special to the Okeechobee News Marcos Montes De Oca and Jack Nash show off their moves at the father-daughter dance.



Accident?



Gerald Lefebvre

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Okeechobee, Florida

Ortona Lock repairs complete; normal operations resume

Special to the Okeechobee News

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District has resumed normal operations at the Ortona Lock on the Okeechobee Waterway, following completion of maintenance and repairs.

Completion of the work allowed the corps to resume normal operations as of Sunday, June 17, locking vessels on demand between 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the last lockage beginning at 4:30 p.m., seven days a week.

"We know that everyone who uses the Okeechobee Waterway has been anxious to have the lock back open and operational. We recognize these repairs have posed an inconvenience to boaters, both commercial and recreational," said Carol Bernstein, Jacksonville District Operations Division chief. "Our thanks goes out to the boating community for their patience and understanding while we completed repairs to keep our infrastructure safe and our waterways open in the future. Planned maintenance minimizes the chance of costly emergency closures in the future, which typically take much longer to complete."

"This was the first lock closure along the Okeechobee Waterway in six years. We had to inspect and maintain our locks, and re-

place the gate seals," said Gary Russ, chief of the South Florida Operations Office located in Clewiston. "Despite the long days and tough work, this was a great team effort. We waited for manatees to move to safety and electrical storms to pass, and worked long hours in the South Florida heat. Wayne Sullivan's team of skilled workers brought years of knowledge and experience and worked together as a team, each person depending on others to get the job done. It was a job well done."

Maintenance is necessary periodically to repair aging and damaged infrastructure, in addition to improving public and vessel safety. Repairs required the lock chamber to be dewatered for crews to perform inspections, replace gate seals and repair Manatee Protection System (MPS) components. During the closure, barges, floating cranes and divers worked in the lock entrance, requiring vessel operators in the area to use minimal speed and caution for safety.

The Corps of Engineers published a notice to navigation interests and coordinated with marinas, commercial and recreational vessels, and members of the public in advance of the closure of the Ortona Lock for maintenance June 4 through 16.

The Ortona Lock is located on the Caloosahatchee River, 15.5 miles west of the

Moore Haven Lock on the west side of Lake Okeechobee, and 27.9 miles east of the W.P. Franklin Lock near Olga and Fort Myers. The Ortona Lock and Dam were constructed in 1937 for navigation and flood control purposes. The Ortona Lock is one of five locks

located along the 152-mile Okeechobee Waterway, which allows safe passage of vessels from the Atlantic Ocean near Stuart to the Gulf of Mexico at Fort Myers.

Learn more about the Ortona Lock: <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/OrtonaLock>.



Photo courtesy USACE/Gary Russ

The Ortona Lock has reopened for navigation after completion of maintenance and repairs.

Army Corps of Engineers hosts series of public meetings to seek input

Special to the Okeechobee News

JACKSONVILLE — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District will host a series of public meetings to discuss and seek input on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the South Florida Water Management (SFWMD) District Section 203 Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Southern Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) study.

Interested individuals, groups and agencies are encouraged to attend one of the meetings to learn more and provide comments on the environmental review of the study.

Each public meeting is expected to last approximately from 6 to 8 p.m., beginning with an open house at 6 p.m. and a formal presentation at 6:30 p.m., followed by a period for formal public comment. Corps and water management district staff will also be available after the meeting to answer questions:

- Tuesday, June 26, at Lee County Hyacinth and Mosquito Control District, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, 33971.

• Wednesday, June 27, at John Boy Auditorium, 1200 South W.C. Owen Ave., Clewiston, 33440.

• Thursday, June 28, at John F. and Rita M. Armstrong Wing Blake Library, 2351 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, 34996.

Note: Use of the library meeting rooms does not imply library endorsement of the aims, policies, or activities of any group using the room.

The draft EIS is available for review at: www.saj.usace.army.mil/SFWMDEAAReservoir.

"Public engagement is an important part of the environmental review process, and we encourage all interested individuals, groups and agencies to attend one of the public meetings, review the draft environmental impact statement, and provide your input," said Col. Jason Kirk, Jacksonville District commander.

The corps is accepting public comments

on the draft EIS for the South Florida Water Management District Section 203 EAA Southern Reservoir and STA study through July 24. Submit comments by email to EAA-Reservoir@usace.army.mil.

Submit comments by mail to: Stacie Auvenshine, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

The corps has prepared a draft EIS to evaluate and document potential environmental effects of the SFWMD's proposed plan in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The draft EIS uses information from SFWMD's environmental analysis that has been incorporated into the study as an appendix.

"We continue to advance our environmental review of the South Florida Water Management District's EAA Southern Reservoir study," said Col. Kirk. "The EAA Southern Reservoir will provide storage that creates beneficial flexibility in South Florida water management."

As part of the EAA Southern Reservoir and STA environmental review process, an initial scoping period was conducted to solicit public input on the corps' development of the draft EIS for the SFWMD's Section 203 EAA Southern Reservoir and STA study. Public comments were accepted through April 30. A matrix of the comments received during this time is included within the draft EIS. Furthermore, comments received on this draft EIS will also be incorporated within the matrix upon development of the final EIS.

There are two ongoing concurrent processes as part of the required federal actions on the SFWMD's Section 203 EAA Southern Reservoir and STA. There is the current environmental review of the SFWMD's study

by the Jacksonville District, and a simultaneous review by the administration. Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 authorizes non-federal interests to undertake feasibility studies of proposed water resource development projects for submission directly to the secretary of the Army. The SFWMD submitted their study to the assistant secretary of the Army for civil works on March 30.

Congressional approval of this plan will result in a post-authorization change report to modify features within the Central Everglades Planning Project, which was authorized as a federal project by Congress in 2016.

Additional information on the SFWMD's EAA Southern Reservoir and STA is available on its website at: <https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/cepp-project-planning/ea-reservoir>.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Partly cloudy. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. High 91F. Winds light and variable.

Tonight: A few clouds. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. Low 73F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Intervals of clouds and sunshine. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. High 91F. Winds light and variable.

Thursday Night: Thunderstorms during the evening, then becoming clear overnight. Low 71F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 80%.

Friday: Partly cloudy with afternoon showers or thunderstorms. High around 90F. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Friday Night: Mostly clear skies. Low 72F. Winds light and variable.

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Skate park reopens with updates; plans for a completely new park in future

By Richard Marion
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Parks and Recreation Department has reopened the skate park at 350 N.W. Sixth Ave.

Working with skate park designers Spohn Ranch along with the county's own maintenance department, they've installed all-new skate lite wood surfaces on all the ramps and made some minor structural repairs.

Okeechobee County Parks and Recreation Community Services Director Albert Scoggins estimates that the project cost \$11,000 to \$13,000.

"Basically what we've done is just replaced all the wood on the ramps," explained Mr. Scoggins. "There's been no changes to the layout of the park or the equipment there. One of the things since we've redone it is we leave the skate park

open at all times. Now, there are no lights out there, so they can only skate from dawn to dusk, but it is unsupervised."

"That's been a trend the past several years when it comes to liability issues. Years ago, when skate parks began to take off, liability was a great concern. They would have to be staffed, waivers would have to be signed, and there were attendants to supervise the kids using it. Over the past few years, it's been determined that having a skate park doesn't create any more liability for the entity that owns it than does a playground or a baseball field."

The skate park is free to use and is open seven days a week from dawn until dusk.

Okeechobee resident Debby Huntley says her kids have used the skate park for nine years and they're grateful the park is back open.

"I never really realized how nice and convenient it was until it was closed," Ms. Huntley said. "I drove the kids to Ramp 48 in Fort Lauderdale, Fletcher Park in Lakeland, Willoughby skate park in Stuart, Jock Leighton Skatepark in Palm City, and Skate Park of Tampa so they could skate while our park was closed."

Local skater Jared Sadler is hoping the park reopening will help bring back together some of the skateboarding community in Okeechobee. He is encouraging skaters to come out to the park on national "Go Skateboarding Day" on June 21 to enjoy both the park and a great day of skating.

Mr. Sadler is also looking into eventually hosting skate competitions at the park. If you'd like to help organize, join or support the competitions, you're encouraged to call Jared at 863-801-5830.

The updates to the ramps come after the Okeechobee County Board discussed performing a redesign and complete renovation of the park at the commissioners' September meeting in 2017.

Ultimately, the county commissioners decided to repair the existing skate park. But Mr. Scoggins says the eventual redesign and renovation of the skate park are still on the horizon.

"As we go into our budget," Mr. Scoggins said, "we're looking at placing a skate park renovation into our capital improvement plan. We haven't decided if that'll be year two, three or five of the plan. But it will be in there for the upcoming budget. Once it's in there, it'll be a question of what we want to build and how do we want to build it. I think we'll do it the same way we did the wooden jungle, in that we'll probably have a design day with a company where skaters as well as others could come out and help sketch out and discuss the features that are appealing to them. I think one of the nicer features of a skate park is a bowl, so I imagine the new park will have a bowl in there. There's lots of options.

"Once we do the renovation, we'd like to make sure we give the community something that's new, exciting and unique to Okeechobee, which could make it a destination for skateboard enthusiasts in Florida."



Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

Local skater Ryan Revels is happy to see the skate park back open.

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APPLICANTS SOUGHT TO FILL CITY COUNCIL SEAT

The City of Okeechobee is accepting applications to fill a vacant City Council seat through January 4, 2021. **The deadline to apply is July 20, 2018, at 4:30 PM** in the Office of the City Clerk at 55 SE 3rd Ave, Okeechobee, FL, 863-763-3372 x 9814.

Applicants must be a resident and registered voter of the City of Okeechobee at the time the application is filed. Information and applications may be printed from the website www.cityofokeechobee.com or by contacting the Office of the City Clerk.

By: Lane Gamiotea, CMC, City Clerk

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 okeechobeenews.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!

Sea sparrow

According to the South Florida Water Management District, the flow of water south under the Tamiami Trail is restricted until July 15 by the Department of the Interior, to protect the nesting area of the Cape Sable sea sparrow. Readers had these comments.

- "The bird is where it is because it was driven from its original habitat by Mother Nature. So we are protecting it in its unnatural habitat. Now, doesn't that have 'federal government' stamped all over it?" – J.P. Sasser
- "Open the locks!" – Pete Tyson
- "We can always just bring it back. Have none of these people seen Jurassic Park?" – Clay Humphries
- "Wildlife adapts. Soon enough we will be forced to do so as well ..." – E.J. Bach
- "The bird would move if the water ran high. It just would. And you know it. But it would only be high when nature dictated it." – Ed Killer

Grand theft auto

An article about four juveniles accused of grand theft auto brought these comments.

- "Set an example; say, five years in prison ..." – Phil Baxter
- "Juvenile records should only be sealed for misdemeanors. Felonies should have the possibility of staying with you. How many out there are pulling this trash because they know they aren't of age yet and it's not going to follow them?" – Heidi Lynn
- "It's time for Okeechobee to wake up and start protecting itself from these criminals. They are way beyond youthful offenders and are harming people's lives. Dangers to society should be removed from society." – Charles Moore
- "Parents should be held just as ac-

countable for not keeping their minor children under their supervision. Felony charges for everyone." – Ashley Sexton

Algae is from many sources

Photos and reports shared at the June 14, South Florida Water Management District meeting showed algae is entering the St. Lucie estuary from many sources, not just from Lake Okeechobee. Readers shared these thoughts.

- Look into building some kind of filters for the Lake Okeechobee releases so the whining clueless can't blame their problems on Lake Okeechobee. They aren't going to look somewhere else until Lake Okeechobee is removed from the equation." – Heidi Lynn
- "I live on Taylor Creek right by the locks. Whenever they release water from Lake Okeechobee, you can see the algae coming down Taylor Creek going right into the lake. I tried telling reporters on the Treasure Coast, but I have not seen one reporter watching the algae go into the lake." – Carrier Currier
- "Would people rather flood than have water moved? It's Florida ... get used to it. Be happy we don't go under like other states." – Elijah Ezekiel
- "It should be no surprise to anyone that algae is in all freshwater and, when there is a heavy rain, the dead-end canals are flushed out by runoff and it all gets into the waterways. People don't usually call DEP to report algae in dead-end canals on private property. If they did, DEP would need to increase staff, as they would not be able to keep up with the testing. Algae is everywhere!" – K. Booker
- Martin County folks need to stop playing the victim and making up conspiracy theories. We all feel sorry for the river, but nobody feels sorry for you because everyone knows you refuse to work on cleaning up your part of this problem because it doesn't fit your conspiracy theories." – Valerie Peters

Coquina

- "Non-elected persons using Coquina Water Control District website to bash citizen, make false claim in March meeting minutes that police removed such person from the bank for causing a disturbance. Police report states exact opposite. Who is allowing slander to be posted on the government website?" – Anonymous

Letter to the Editor

A political opinion

My kids asked me what I hope to accomplish by writing to the editor. It's cathartic for me.

This election has made me a basket case. Coming from a big family, you could bet there would be different opinions, but I sure wasn't prepared for not wanting to even talk to a brother who voted for this fool.

I'll be the first to admit I didn't vote when

I was first eligible. I always felt one vote couldn't make that much difference.

Now, at 75, I know better.

So, my goal, beside venting to maintain sanity, is to let as many people as possible know what I know.

Maybe you don't have time or access to various sources of information. Well, I do. So, stay tuned. Maybe you'll get informed.

J.T. Martin

Guest Commentary

Glades community seeks solutions

By Tammy Jackson-Moore
Special to the Okeechobee News

In recent weeks, Congressman Brian Mast has made political statements regarding the discharges from Lake Okeechobee, urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to stop them.

What's revealing about these statements is that his concerns about the water quality in Stuart weren't expressed prior to the discharges, when the local health department's warnings were closing beaches due to high amounts of enteric (fecal) bacteria in the water.

It is unfortunate that Rep. Mast would let his political mission to get re-elected interfere with the mission we all share to clean up our water locally. More than a decade ago, our Glades communities took the difficult and expensive step to convert septic tanks to sewer, because as the research shows, septic tanks are one of the leading contributors to pollution.

Instead of blaming Lake Okeechobee,

the congressman should be addressing the actual cause of the problem and looking for solutions: local basin runoff in the St. Lucie watershed.

According to the University of Florida's 2015 Water Institute report, "On average, 70-80 percent of the freshwater discharge and 65-80 percent of the nutrient load to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries originates in the local basins, with the remaining balance contributed from Lake Okeechobee." This is a significant part of the problem that Rep. Mast cannot ignore.

As for sending more water south, there is simply no place to send it because the Water Conservation Areas are completely full with water and the Tamiami Trail continues to largely block the flow of water south to Everglades National Park. Additionally, we need to get a handle on the more than 95 percent of the water that comes into Lake Okeechobee from the north.

I urge Congressman Mast to ignore the political consultants and follow the scientists, who tell us the water quantity problem happens north of the lake, and the water quality problems are happening in his own community.

Suicide awareness group has regular meetings

A support group for parents whose children have attempted suicide and for parents whose children have taken their own lives meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Church of God, 912 N.W. Park Street.

Help save lives by donating blood

The need for blood donations doesn't stop for summer vacations. If you are in good health and over the age of 17, you can help One Blood ensure area hospitals have a safe blood supply ready to handle emergencies.

June blood drives in Okeechobee include:

- Tuesday, June 26, at Okeechobee Sheriff's Office from noon to 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 26, at Walmart from 1:30 to 7 p.m.
- Friday, June 29, at Walmart from 2 to 7 p.m.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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The Okeechobee News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 763-3134 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

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Our Purpose...

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We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.

- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



Wetlands project proposed north of Lake Okeechobee

By **Karina Elskén**

Okeechobee News

A shallow reservoir and increased wetlands are proposed just north of Lake Okeechobee adjacent to the Kissimmee River in Glades County.

The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project LOWRP) includes a Wetland Attenuation Feature with a footprint of approximately 12,500 acres, 80 Aquifer Storage and Recover (ASR) wells, restoration of the Paradise Run wetland and restoration of the Kissimmee River Center wetland, according to a presentation made to area landowners June 18 at the Williamson Center at the Indian River State College Dixon Hendry Campus in Okeechobee.

Brandon Tucker, a member of the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board, said "there is a need for storage north of the lake because we have to take care of Lake Okeechobee.

"This is somewhat personal a little for me," Mr. Tucker continued, explaining that some of the people who own the land within the proposed project footprint are people he has known his whole life.

He said he can support the project only if "I am completely at peace with what we are going to do here."

Mr. Tucker said that based on the information he has so far, he believes the tentatively selected plan is the best plan that has been presented to date.

"It's a plan I would support for a variety of reasons," he said.

This is a federal project, a Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) program, a federal program with the Corps of Engineers, and SFWMD is the local sponsor," explained Jennifer Leeds, SFWMD section administrator for Everglades Policy and Coordination.

She said LOWRP projects will benefit Lake Okeechobee and also reduce harmful releases from the lake to the coastal estuaries.

The sites for the projects were restricted to the boundaries of CERP, she explained.

"We look at storage features that could be sited in these boundaries," Ms. Leeds said. Proximity to the Kissimmee River and to Lake Okeechobee were also factors.

She said the goals of LOWRP are to improve the quantity, timing and distribution of flows coming into the lake, to maintain ecologically desired lake stage ranges more often, to benefit fish and wildlife habitat around the lake, to reduce the estuary discharges from the lake and to provide water supply.

LOWRP includes 80 ASR wells, which would be located on right-of-way SFWMD already controls. These wells, which would have

a footprint of less than half an acre per cluster, could provide 488,000 acre-feet of storage per year. (An acre-foot is the amount of water to cover 1 acre of land 1 foot deep.)

"It is important for us to co-locate the ASR wells with an above-ground lake feature," she said. "Having a feature that is situated right adjacent to the lake allows us to pull water off the lake and put it in the storage area."

She said water could be pumped into the shallow storage area from the river or from the lake.

Water would also be pumped from the river onto the wetlands areas, giving the plants in the wetlands the opportunity to remove some of the nutrients from the water, and then returned to the river.

She said using land close to the lake makes the projects most efficient, and thus the best buy for taxpayers.

Ms. Leeds added that they did not want to do anything to disturb the Kissimmee River restoration work that is already underway, so areas near the river farther north were not considered as good options.

"When we get into drought times, instead of having water cutbacks, the ASRs will allow us to put water back into the lake," she continued.

She said the plans have taken seepage concerns and locations of endangered species into

consideration.

The 12,500-acre wetland attenuation feature would hold water 1 to 4 feet deep, she said.

The L-shaped project footprint would be about a quarter-mile off State Road 78, leaving the frontage on SR 78 in private ownership.

If the project is approved by the SFWMD board, land acquisition, including appraisals and negotiations to buy the land, could begin in 2022. She said the first opportunity to ask Congress for funding will be in the Water Resources Development Act in 2020.

"Even though we aren't in position to start buying land or start exchanging land, we're close," said Ray Palmer of the SFWMD real estate section. "When it is your land, you want to know as much as you can as soon as you can. Next year, we can start talking to people about possible land exchanges," he said, explaining that they will offer to trade landowners for land the district owns that is not needed for this project or other projects.

"We would like to get to know you better, find out what your desires are before we get to the point where we are going to send out a letter and let you know we are appraising your property for acquisition," he said.

"We feel this is the best project we have right now that is actually going to provide some benefit to the lake," said Ms. Leeds.

Glades County landowners question plan for reservoir

By **Katrina Elskén**

Okeechobee News

Glades County residents who own the land within the footprint of the tentatively selected Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Plan want assurances that the project will actually benefit Lake Okeechobee.

At the June 18 meeting with South Florida Water Management District officials at Indian River State College, many expressed frustration with past dealings with the state and federal governments. They also expressed concerns that the project may be detrimental to neighboring properties.

SFWMD already owns part of the land in the proposed project footprint of the wetlands attenuation area — a 12,500-acre, L-shaped area that would provide shallow storage of 1 foot to 4 feet in depth. SFWMD also owns part of Paradise Run, where wetlands would be restored. Approximately 100 parcels ranging of varying sizes from a few acres to 1,800 acres are owned by 48 individuals and groups, according to SFWMD. The project footprint includes 15-20 structures, including some homes, barns and out-buildings, according to Jennifer Leeds of SFWMD.

Keith Pearce, the most outspoken property owner at the meeting, owns about 1,800 acres. He said the project footprint includes all but about 100 acres of his land.

He said his family has ranched that area since the 1900s, running cattle there on open range before the lake was diked. Mr. Pearce said he is the fifth generation to run the ranch and he had planned to pass it on to his son.

Trading property is not a good option, he explained, because the SFWMD does not own any property "worth a third" of his land near the river and the lake. While the average cow/calf beef ranch operation in Florida needs about 5 to 10 acres per cow/calf pair, the lush

grass growing on the former lake and river beds means he only needs about 3 acres to sustain a cow/calf pair, he explained.

"You are going to destroy some of the best agricultural land in this state," he said.

Mr. Pearce said he does not think the project will hold water when the lake level drops because the water will move underground.

He said if they want to clean up the water entering the lake, they should clean it at the source of the problem — the orange groves and sod farms north along the Kissimmee River. He explained he has tests to prove that phosphorus levels leaving his cattle ranch are lower than the levels of the water entering it from the SFWMD canals.

"The system is broken," he said. "We've been doing this for 22 years, and we've got projects that have never been completed. We have seen places that have turned into jungles.

"We should have funding in place, appropriated and then, at that point, you start your research and do your homework and come to the landowners at that time to purchase it," said Mr. Pearce. "Don't leave us hanging out to dry."

Brad Phares said his property is not in the footprint but that he's concerned the project will "leak and seep."

"If you think that is not going to be an issue for me and my family, we need to start rethinking everything," he said. "I am not denying that we need something to address storage.

"Somewhere along the process, we are supposed to have a point where the geologists were going to come out and explain this," he said. "There is a big difference between the ivory-tower world of theory and boots on the ground where you've lived here all your life and you have seen what has happened," he continued.

"The fluctuation in that lake draws water far further than anyone wants to admit," he said.

"When the locks are open, surface water disappears at Buck Island Ranch. When the locks are closed, that water pipes back up," he said.

Glades County Commissioner Tim Stanley asked about the frontage on State Road 78. He was assured that the project is set back a quarter of a mile and the property on the highway will remain in private ownership. Mr. Stanley said with Bass Pro taking over the Okee-Tantie Recreation Area, that property will be valuable to Glades County's tax base.

"Before we close on anything, I want to know that geotechnically we can use the property," said SFWMD Governing Board member Brandon Tucker.

"We will make sure this is really going to

work, not just come in and buy the property and 15 years later find out we're not going to use it. We are going to make sure if we're going to buy your land, we're going to be able to use it for public benefit."

Mr. Tucker asked landowners to allow SFWMD staff on their land for geotechnical evaluation.

"The best way to figure out where we are going is to let us on the property," he said. "Let us figure out if this is going to work. If I find out today that half of that footprint is unusable, my opinion just changed.

"Let us on the property. Let us find out what is going on and then we can give you some straight, clear answers," he said.

COACH

Continued From Page 1

are lucky to have someone like Ty who is willing to step up and lead a program of which he has been such a vital part of the growth over his football coaching career."

Mr. Tedders met with Mr. Smith on June 18 to discuss the possibility of taking over the program. Mr. Smith reportedly felt that the program was in a good spot with 60 students already coming to summer workouts.

Mr. Smith already has an academic plan for the students when school opens. He plans to recruit around 10 teachers to provide tutoring and mentoring to the student athletes. This would happen immediately after school to ensure academics is a priority and establish the habits of finishing homework before leaving the school campus.

He also has a plan in place for fundraising and a group of parents and supporters who

will be willing to assist. There is a core group of returning assistants that have been with the program over the years that will help smooth the transition.

"I asked him if he would be interested in this position long-term, and he wasn't against the possibility," Mr. Tedders said. "We can get through this season and reassess the state of the program and make a decision on the best way to proceed."

"He is comfortable taking over the program, and I am comfortable with him in this position. Players, parents and supporters are asking, 'Who's coming in to coach?', and the program needs to put this question past them and move forward with the work of preparing."

Outgoing coach Chris Branham voiced his support of the decision.

"Best decision that could have ever been made for the program and Ty," said Mr. Branham. "He is the best coach I know and one of the best men I know."

Community Events

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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! For information, 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.

Legion will serve tacos

American Legion Post 64, 501 S.E. Second St., will serve margaritas and tacos from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Wednesday, **June 20**. The grill will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entertainment by Jay runs from 3 until 6 p.m.

Bingo and dinner to be held

Big Lake VFW Post #10539, 3912 U.S. 441 S., will host a five-card bingo on Thursday, **June 21**, at noon. That night, an Auxiliary dinner will be served with stuffed shells for a \$7 donation, from 5 to 7 p.m., and entertainment will be provided by Ray Johnson from 6 to 9 p.m. For information, call 863-763-2308.

Town Hall meeting by the GOP

The Okeechobee Republican Party invites you to attend a festive event with an Old-Fashioned Town Hall meeting where you can meet and hear candidates in city, county and some state races express their views on current Issues. Come and bring your family for free hot dogs, drinks, popcorn, music and balloons for the kids – at Veterans Memorial Park on West Park Street in downtown Okeechobee on Friday, **June 22**, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

VFW will serve steak dinners

Big Lake VFW Post #10539, 3912 U.S. 441 S., will host a steak dinner with salad, baked potato and garlic bread on Friday, **June 22**, from 5 to 7 p.m. Music will be performed by Jay Boree from 7 to 10 p.m.

Oasis Lounge opens Friday

The Okeechobee Shrine Club Oasis Lounge, 1855 S.W. 53rd St., will be open this Friday, **June 22**, and Saturday, June 23, from 5 to 10 p.m. For the first hour and a half, all drinks are \$1 off. There will be hot dogs for sale. Popcorn is free! For information, call Keith at 863-643-2682.

Legion will host dinner

On Friday, **June 22**, come and enjoy dinner at the American Legion, 501 S.E. Second St. Everyone is welcome. Dinner will be fish, shrimps or chicken and french fry baskets, for a \$6 donation and is served from 5 until 8 p.m. with music from 6 to 9 p.m. For information, call 863-763-5309.

DOH will give CPR classes

The Okeechobee Department of Health, 1728 N.W. Ninth Ave., will conduct a 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.

VFW will serve breakfast

The VFW Riders are serving breakfast at Post 9528, 29012 State Road 78 W., on Saturday, **June 23**, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. All proceeds will go to veteran services. For information, call 863-467-2882.

Legion opens Sunday bingo

American Legion 64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host Sunday night bingo on **June 24**, 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. The legion is now offering a chicken dinner from 1 to 7 p.m. with all the fixings for a \$5 donation.

AMVETS serves breakfast

The AMVETS will serve breakfast on Sunday, **June 24**, at VFW Post 9528, 29012 SR 78 W., from 8:30 to 11 a.m. All benefits go for veteran's services. For information, call 863-467-2882.

Mural presentation to be held

Okeechobee Main Street invites you to the presentation of Main Street's sixth mural project, dedicating two murals honoring Chief Osceola and the Battle of Okeechobee located at 114 S.W. Fifth Ave. Meet the artist Tracie Sparks and the mural sponsor Sonny Elliott on Monday, **June 25**, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The artist's reception will follow on location in the Osceola Building.

Legion hosts 5-card bingo

American Legion Post #64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host five-card bingo on Monday, **June 25**, from 1 to 3 p.m., with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. For information, call 863-763-5309.

Auxiliary will serve dinner

The VFW Auxiliary will serve a sausage, peppers and onions dinner with macaroni salad and dessert on Wednesday, **June 27**, at Post 9528, 29012 SR 78 W. All proceeds will benefit Florida military veterans in distress. For information, call 863-467-2882.

Camp puts on a production

The sixth annual migrant theater camp presents "Junie B. Jones Jr. The Musical," for one night only on Thursday, **June 28**, at 7 p.m. in the OHS lecture hall. The show is free and open to the public.

Butterfly Garden update set

Okeechobee Main Street invites you to the Butterfly Sculpture Project presentation on Saturday, **June 30**, at 4 p.m. at the Hamrick Butterfly Garden, downtown Flagler Park number six. An artists' reception will follow at Nutmegs, 515 S.W. Park St.

Summer reading camp set

A summer reading camp is being sponsored by Okeechobee Children's Services Council, which is open to all students of Okeechobee public schools. There are certified teachers and free snacks. The camp will be held at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 1258 N.E. 13th Street now through **July 1**. The camp is Tuesday through Thursday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. For information, call Mrs. Baker at 321-749-7924.

Flea Market hosts car show

The Big O Flea Market, 3600 U.S. 441, will host a Classic Car & Truck Show on Sunday, **July 1**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission, registration and parking is free! A live DJ will be playing music from the 50s and 60s. Enjoy family fun at this free event. Lots of awesome classic automobiles. Come on out and see!

Arts and crafts show set

The Big O Flea Market, 3600 U.S. 441, will host its inaugural Arts & Crafts Show on Saturday and Sunday, **July 7 and 8**. Many craft vendors are participating. Come out and support local artists and talent. Enjoy free admission and parking. Hope to see you there!

Backyard chickens workshop

Come learn about the basics of backyard chickens on Thursday, **July 19**, from 4 to 5 p.m. at the UF/IFA Extension Office, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring. There is a \$10 registration fee. You can register online at www.eventbrite.com/e/backyard-chickens-tickets-4582633371 or call 863-402-6540.

Take the reading 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!

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

Class of 1999 raising money

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.

"Students must be in financial need and a senior at Okeechobee High School. Further criteria for this scholarship can be obtained from the OHS guidance office."

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.

Obituaries

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

Kenneth Loyd Cox, 71

OKEECHOBEE — Kenneth Loyd Cox died June 17, 2018. He was born Nov. 25, 1946 in Woodstock, Va. to Isaac Graham and Isabel Louise (Cook) Cox. He proudly served our country in the United States Navy. He was a member of the New Testament Baptist Church and enjoyed motorcycles, golf, and fishing.

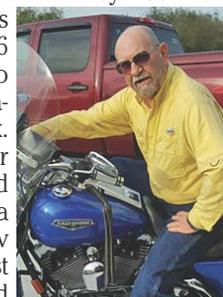
Mr. Cox was preceded in death by his parents; and his brothers, Paul Cox, Lee Cox, and Doug Cox.

He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Shirley Cox; son, Marc Elad (Teresa), all of Okeechobee; brother, Richard Cox (Carol), of South Carolina; sister, Gail Cosby, of Tennessee; and grandson, Grayson Elad; and many other family members and friends.

Visitation will be 12 p.m. until services at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 21, 2018 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Interment will be at South Florida National Cemetery.

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

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



Fraudulent prescription forms reported by pharmacy; 3 arrested

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

Three men were arrested on the afternoon of Monday, June 18, for their alleged involvement in attempting to acquire controlled substances with fraudulent prescription forms.

Taron Eric Rolle, 23, Bartow, was arrested June 18 on five counts of felony charges of possession of a prescription form without the signature of a practitioner. His bond was set at \$50,000.

Jamari Dobard, 20, Southwest 20th Street, West Park, was arrested June 18 on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (phenergan-codeine) by fraud. His bond was set at \$10,000.

Juwan Renard Magwood, 20, Northwest First Street, Hallandale Beach, was arrested June 18 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of violation of probation – burglary of unoccupied dwelling. He is being held without bond.

According to arrest reports by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force, at approximately 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 14, Walmart Pharmacy made contact with law enforcement and provided information in regard to a fraudulent prescription for 300 ml of liquid phenergan-codeine. The alleged doctor on the prescription was “Rokshana Shariea M.D.” with a practice address of 204



Taron Rolle

S.E. Park St. in Okeechobee.

Per Walmart Pharmacy protocol, employees attempted to contact the office and learned that the doctor’s office information was fake. The fraudulent prescription was collected and turned in to evidence at the Okeechobee County Sheriff’s Office. The pharmacy technician provided a physical description of the suspect to law enforcement.

The report continued that at approximately 2:30 p.m. Monday, June 18, task force members received a call from Walmart asset protection associates who informed them that the suspect with the fake prescription had arrived at the store. Task force members were reportedly informed that after the prescription was denied, the suspect ran away from the pharmacy area of the store and left through the front doors of the store. Asset protection personnel, however, were able to keep visual contact with the suspect as he got into the front passenger seat of a black four-door Kia that proceeded through the Walmart parking lot and toward U.S. 441.

Task force members reportedly conducted a felony traffic stop on the vehicle in the middle of the travel lane in the 300 block of U.S. 441. All occupants were ordered out of the vehicle and detained one at a time. K-9 Samba was utilized to perform a free-air sniff of the vehicle during the stop and gave a positive alert. Prior to the vehicle’s search,



Jamri Dobard

digital photographs were taken of the interior. In the trunk of the car, a brown bag was reported to contain miscellaneous men’s clothing items, shoes and two FedEx envelopes. Inside one of the envelopes were five blank prescription forms. One of the prescription forms contained the names of Emilio Suarez D.O., Cindy M. Hernandez M.D., Daniel L. Kaplan M.D. and Yohanna Deno M.D. with a practice located at 4950 S. Le Jeune Road in Coral Gables; and another blank prescription with the names of Emilio Suarez D.O., Steven Kanner D.O., Kevin Gilbert M.D., and William M. Demarchi M.D. P.A. with a practice located at 1000 N.E. 56th St. in Fort Lauderdale. The other three pre-

scription forms were blank with no information contained on them.

All occupants were transported to OCSO for interviews, and the vehicle was towed from the scene by BMJ Towing Inc.

Audio and digitally recorded interviews took place at OCSO. It was discovered that one of the vehicle’s occupants, Magwood, had been placed on community control on April 10 and did not have permission or authorization to leave Broward County.

The reports concluded that Dobard, Magwood and Rolle were arrested, transported and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on the aforementioned charges.

AA meetings are 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.

Saluting Our Soldiers

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(Not shown actual size)

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Simply submit your photo along with the form to the left to:

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Or e-mail the information in the form, along with a photo to: jlimoges@newszap.com. Please include "Saluting Our Soldiers" in the subject line.

Please, no copyrighted photos without proper release.

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, June 27th



Special to the Okeechobee News
 (Above) Dads and daughters seem to have solved the height difference as they dance to the music. (At left) David Joyner enjoyed the limbo game at the B.R.A.T. Club's annual father/daughter dance. (Below) The Cha-Cha slide was popular with the girls.



BRAT

Continued From Page 1

for all, and the event was simply precious. It is awesome to see the dedicated fathers make this special date with their daughters," said B.R.A.T Club President/Founder Teresa Chandler Bishop.

This event is successful due to the labor of volunteers and sponsors, including: Beef 'O' Brady's, Bella Rose, Buxton & Bass, Ding-A-Ling Deli, Domino's, Fishing Head-

quarters, Golden Corral, Heartland Magazine, Our Village, Okeechobee County School Board, Okeechobee The Magazine, *Okeechobee News*, Papa John's, Parrott Island Grill, Publix, Sheriff Noel Stephen, Shirley Palmer, The Lounge at the Sanctuary, Tin Fish, Walpole Inc., Waste Management, OK Corral Gun Club, and WOKC/Glades Media.

View additional photos and videos at the B.R.A.T. Club Facebook page.

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SUMMER'S FRESHEST

FROM SOUTHERN FARMS TO YOUR PUBLIX





Floridians encouraged to test for HIV this year

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Florida Department of Health in Okeechobee County recognizes June 27 as National HIV Testing Day. This year's theme is "Test Your Way. Do It Today," which serves as a reminder that HIV testing has never been more convenient because there are more ways than ever to get tested.

"In 2016, 39,782 people received an HIV diagnosis. Although that annual number is a decline of 5 percent since 2011, approximately 1.2 million people are at still at high risk for HIV and could benefit from comprehensive HIV prevention strategies. There are more HIV prevention options available than ever before. Talk to your doctor about which options are right for you," said Tiffany L. Collins, the Okeechobee administrator and health officer.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all individuals 13-64 years old be tested for HIV at least once during their lifetime, and persons at increased risk for HIV infection be tested at least annually.

Florida remains a national leader in HIV testing, with over 1,400 registered HIV test sites (including each county health depart-

ment (CHD) and community-based organizations), which provide high-quality, confidential testing services at low or no cost. Last year, more than 340,000 HIV tests were conducted through Florida's registered HIV test sites. Testing is also available through doctor's offices and other healthcare facilities.

HIV testing and treatment is available at your local health department: 1728 N.W. Ninth Ave., Okeechobee. For appointments, call 863-462-5800. Walk-ins are welcome.

With early diagnosis, individuals can begin appropriate treatment and care, resulting in better health outcomes. Studies have shown that providing antiretroviral therapy as early as possible after diagnosis improves a patient's health, reduces transmission and can eventually lead to undetectable HIV viral loads.

HIV-negative individuals are encouraged to reduce the chance of contracting HIV by using prevention strategies. As part of our strategic efforts to eliminate HIV in Florida, the department is working to make Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) medication available at no cost at all 67 CHDs by the end of this year. PrEP is a once-daily pill

that can reduce the chance of acquiring HIV in HIV-negative individuals. PrEP should be used in conjunction with other prevention methods such as condoms to reduce the chance of infection. According to CDC, taking PrEP daily reduces the chance of getting HIV by more than 90 percent.

PrEP will be made available through CHD Sexually Transmitted Disease and Family Planning Clinics, and patients can be provided with up to a 90-day supply of medications. Some CHDs may offer PrEP through a specialty clinic. Find a PrEP provider near you with the department's PrEP Providers List.

You can locate HIV counseling, testing and referral sites by visiting www.Know-YourHIVStatus.com or texting 'FLHIV' to 898211.

For more information, call the Florida HIV/AIDS Hotline at 1-800-FLA-AIDS or 1-800-352-2437; en Español, 1-800-545-SIDA; in Creole, 1-800-AIDS-101. To chat with a live counselor at the Florida HIV/AIDS Hotline, visit www.211bigbend.org/flhivaidshotline.

About the Florida Department of Health The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board,

works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @HealthyFla. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.



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Your body has a bone to pick with you about your diet

Special to the Okeechobee News

Most people know that when you look for a house, you want a place with "good bones." In other words, if the structure of the home is in good shape, most people feel they can fix up the rest. If a home doesn't have good bones, the rest of it doesn't matter.

The same can be said of your body. If you don't take care of your bones, the rest of your body will quickly fall into disrepair.

"Taking care of your bones doesn't require a lot of maintenance, but that doesn't mean it should be overlooked," says Dr. Victor M. Romano, a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon and author of Finding The

Source: Maximizing Your Results — With and Without Orthopaedic Surgery (www.romanomd.com).

"Just a little moderate exercise and eating some of the right food and drinks is all that is required."

Vitamin D, for example, is important for the absorption of calcium and aids in improving muscle strength and balance, Dr. Romano says. A deficiency of vitamin D can cause soft, thin, brittle bones. Moderate weight training is always recommended to keep bones strong, even for senior citizens.

Dr. Romano recommends that instead of taking calcium pills, the best way to get calcium into the body is with a healthy diet. He

suggests a few ways to add calcium to your diet to keep bones healthy:

- Start the day with calcium-fortified orange juice.
- Cook cereals with skim milk or almond milk (instead of water) or add two tablespoons of nonfat dry milk.
- Spread low-fat cream cheese on bread or toast instead of butter or margarine.
- Add low-fat cheeses to sandwiches, salads and pizzas.
- Add sardines to salads or sandwiches.
- Include higher-calcium greens, such as spinach, broccoli and kale, in your salad.
- Enjoy low-fat or fat-free yogurt with berries for dessert.



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Jenna Tenniswood Bryan, D.M.D.
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'All to the Glory of God' will be presented locally

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Big Lake-Highlands Men's Chorale premiere concert will be at Oakview Baptist Church this Saturday, June 23, at 7 p.m.

The Big Lake-Highlands Men's Chorale, under the direction of Mike Zierdan, will present a concert by men from Okeechobee and Highlands counties and will feature hymn arrangements and the stories behind the songs.

Conductor Zierdan has contributed countless hours to the arts in Okeechobee County. He has taught music for the Okeechobee County school system, ministered in various churches and has been an integral part of both the Okeechobee Community Choir and the Community Theatre. He currently serves as director of music for the First Baptist Church at Lake Josephine (a bit north of Lake Placid).

The birth of this new community choir

happened almost by accident.

Mr. Zierdan recalled: "One day, while going through my mail at the church, I happened upon a book of men's choral music. After thinking about the voices in my current choir, combined with known male talent within our community, the Big Lake-Highlands Men's Chorale was born. After a few phone calls, everything seemed to fall into place. We are so excited to show our appreciation to our God and to our community through our concerts."

"All to the Glory of God" will be presented on Friday, June 22, at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine, 111 Lake Josephine Drive, Sebring, and on Saturday, June 23, at Oakview Baptist Church, 677 S.W. 32nd St. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be collected to cover expenses and will be shared with the host church.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Big Lake-Highlands Men's Chorale members are (from left) John Gardner, Jim Clark, John Higgins, Bill Packard, Jerry Rose, Jay Hundley, Patrick Van Tassel, Craig Curtis, Joe Wolff, Kevin Kinnaird, Mike Zierden, John DeYoung and Jeff Parsons. Not shown are David Cline, Otto Rodrequis, Al Young and Russ Gibbard.

Okeechobee churches host special events and VBS

Oakview Baptist Church, 677 S.W. 32nd St., invites all to Vacation Bible School, through June 22, from 6 to 9 p.m. This is a free event for ages three to adult. Nursery available for children under the age of three whose parents attend a class. For information, call 863-763-1699.

The **First United Methodist Church**, 200 N.W. Second St., will host Vacation Bible School from June 25 to June 29 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., for school age children from Pre-K to Fifth grade. High school students are welcome to volunteer for extra community service hours. For information, call Emily Streelman at 863-261-3933.

There will be a Vacation Bible School titled "Shipwrecked by Jesus" on June 25 through

29, at **Fountain of Life Church**, 1302 S.W. 32nd St., from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. To register, call 863-763-8954.

Faith Alive Family Church, at 3075 S.W. Third Terrace, is non-denominational and Pastors Paul and Jen Smith would like to invite all to worship. Sunday service and kids church is at 10:30 a.m. On Wednesday, adult and youth (6th-12th grade) service is at 6:30 p.m. Find them on Facebook at Faith Alive Family Church. On Facebook, they are live on Sunday mornings. For information, call 863-623-4233.

Treasure Island Baptist Church, 4209 Hwy. 441 S.E., comes with an exciting message of hope, and a vision to reach out to all people in Okeechobee and the surrounding

area. Pastor Douglas T. Ryan graduated from Hobe Sound Bible College. Be looking out for him in your community as he boldly encourages people everywhere to start a new exciting life with Jesus Christ as their guide. We

welcome all to our family of friendly people who just seek to show you an outpouring of God's love. Our service on Sunday starts at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. We also invite all to our Wednesday or Sunday evening gathering at 6:30 p.m.

The **Pentecostals of Okeechobee**, 405 S.W. 10th Ave., have services on the followings days and times: Sunday school, all ages is at 10 a.m.; Sunday word and worship is at 11 a.m.; Tuesday prayer meeting is at 6:30 p.m.; and Wednesday worship, Bible study and kids church is at 7 p.m. Pastor Raymond Warren can be reached at 863-634-4567, email: pentecofokee@yahoo.com, www.okeepentecostals.com. Spanish services are also available; call for times of services.

Church of Our Saviour, Episcopal Church, 200 N.W. "Third St., would like to extend an invitation for you to come and worship with us. All are welcome. Come as you are. Church services are Sunday 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday, 6 p.m. A nursery and a comfort room are available for your use. We

offer an Adult Forum and Bible Study on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and Children's Church (ages pre-k through high school) Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Visit our website for more information, churchofoursaviourokeechobee.org, or call the church office Tuesday through Friday 863-763-4843.

Christ Fellowship Church, 701 S. Parrott Ave., invites all to worship with us. Service times are Sundays, 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. Childcare and children's programming, nursery through fifth grade, is provided. We have services for students, grades 6-12, on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Services are exciting, casual, and relaxed. Come as you are and expect to feel welcomed as our guest. Visit our website, gochristfellowship.com, or call 561-799-7600 for more information.

Okeechobee Missionary Baptist Church, at 4212 U.S. 441 N., would like to invite all to worship in church

services. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m., with Sunday morning worship at 10:45 a.m. Sunday night Baptist Training Course (BTC) is at 5:30 p.m., followed by Sunday evening worship at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening Bible Study is at 7 p.m., with Wednesday evening Youth Discovery Bible clubs at 7 p.m. For more information call Pastor Donny Raney at 863-763-3681.

Chamber of Commerce News

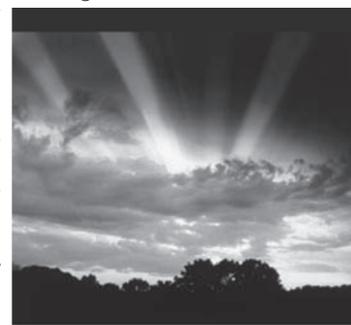
- Join the chamber, county and city for the Summer Business Exchange Luncheon on Wednesday, July 18, from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Indian River State College Dixon-Hendry Campus (Williamson Center — 2229 N.W. Ninth Ave.) In a crisis you pick up the phone and dial the familiar numbers you learned as early as kindergarten and help is on the way. In the next five minutes as you answer questions being asked of you ... and relay information, all the while ... a team of highly trained professionals are working together to get to you and be prepared to help you overcome your newfound obstacle. The men and women who are Okeechobee's First Responders will speak from a variety of departments on the processes they use in their line of work and how you as a citizen can protect yourself! The world we live in today can be really scary ... if we're not prepared! Register today and let's all get prepared.

The cost of lunch is just \$15 and can be paid by credit card when you pre-register online or stop by the chamber and pay by cash or check. This event is brought to you courtesy of Green Design Construction & Development, one of the chamber's newest corporate sponsors. Thank YOU Green Design Construction & Development!

- July's Chamber After Hours will be on Thursday, July 19, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Florida Community Health Center, located at 2015 U.S. 441 North (Fred Brown Children's Center). Mr. Jones and his staff are anxious to have you visit and see their facility and be present as they introduce their two new doctors. How exciting! Be sure to stop in, take time to network with friends and new acquaintances as you snack on refreshments. Hope to see you there. As always, all chamber events are open to the public.

- We've already started on the 2019 Business After-Hours schedule, and January is already booked! If you're interested in having your business host one of our after-hours for next year, please call the chamber; we'll get you on the schedule! We want to showcase as many chamber businesses as possible, whether it's a ribbon-cutting for a new business, an anniversary, renovation, or a move to a new location. Let us help you!

If your business would like to host an early morning Rise Up with the Chamber breakfast, please give us a call at 863-467-6246. You can host it at the chamber or at your place of business and we'll arrange for the three guest speakers. We currently have September and October available.



Places of Worship

Share your news and photos for this column by email to okeenews@newszap.com

Taylor Creek lock to close June 25-26

Special to the Okeechobee News

WEST PALM BEACH — The S-193 navigation lock at Taylor Creek is scheduled to be closed to boat traffic entering and leaving Lake Okeechobee on June 25 and 26.

Staff from the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Okeechobee Field Station will be making upgrades to the

lock's manatee protection system. Manatee protection devices installed at district locks use sensors to detect when a manatee is present in the lock chamber and prevent the gates from closing.

For more navigation notices and schedules for SFWMD locks, visit www.sfwmd.gov/navigation.

Water managers struggle with 'bird' problem

By **Katrina Elsken**
Okeechobee News

Efforts to save one endangered species seem to be at odds with the health of the coastal estuaries, the Everglades and Florida Bay.

Water conservation areas (WCAs) north of the Tamiami Trail are filled with clean water. Water managers want to send more water south under the Tamiami Trail to Florida Bay. More water going south would benefit Florida Bay, and it would also mean less water released east and west from Lake Okeechobee to the coastal estuaries, where excess freshwater disrupts the salinity levels of the estuaries.

"We've been having a lot of conversations with our federal partners, both the Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service about the situation that is in WCA 3-A and the other conservation areas," John Mitnik, South Florida Water Management District (SFW-

MD) chief engineer, explained to the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board at its June 14 meeting.

He said SFWMD is seeking a deviation to the water schedules to address the high water levels in the WCAs.

Water control structures on the western side of WCA-3 are closed due to the constraint on water flow associated with the protection of the Cape Sable seaside sparrow, he explained. "The structures will remain closed until July 14 in coordination with the sparrow breeding season."

Currently, only about 1,000 to 1,200 cubic feet per second is discharging to Everglades National Park. That flow could double with existing water control structures, but the Department of the Interior is blocking it.

If water managers could increase flow out of the WCAs, they'd free up storage capacity south of the lake and move some water south from Lake Okeechobee, he said.

"This is the third year in a row that we are going into the wet season with the levels all

up at or close to their maximums," he said. "We've got above-average rainfall for the next several months."

Governing board member James Moran said they should weigh the salvation of the species of the bird against flooding in people's homes and ruining the agricultural industry in southwest Miami-Dade County.

"I'm just wondering, because it's my understanding that the sparrow nests that we are spending millions and almost billions of dollars to circumvent, that area isn't even a natural habitat for them," said SFWMD governing board member Melanie Peterson. "It was like a home away from home. They kind of moved there because their home got flooded and now they are established there, and the DOI (Department of the Interior) is kind of hell-bent in shoring up that area and keeping that nesting area strategic in their habitat.

"My question is, has anyone discussed the possibility of relocating this habitat, these birds to where they belong, so that we

can implement this system?"

"I think it is really crazy to think we're spending millions to divert water around an artificial area that they were never meant to nest in, in the first place," she said.

"I'm just wondering if relocation of this species is even on the table because as we know, if the water rises, the birds will move. We've shown that throughout our whole system."

She said they have seen wading birds move into the STAs when habitat they like is created.

"Does anyone really think birds will just stand still and drown?" she asked.

"At what point do we have a serious discussion, a high-level discussion, about relocating a small contingent of an endangered species so we can get along with the restoration projects as well as flood control for 8 million people?" she said.

Governing board Chairman Federico Fernandez said this is an important issue they will continue to pursue.

Heavy rainfall this year brings challenges for SFWMD

By **Katrina Elsken**
Okeechobee News

Mother Nature presented the South Florida district with water supply and flood control challenges this year, according to a report presented June 14 at the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board (SFWMD) meeting.

Dry season brought only 56 percent of average rainfall, with a total of about 8.7 inches of rain, explained John Mitnik, South Florida Water Management District chief engineer.

In the month of May, the weather changed drastically, with 300 percent of average rainfall for the month.

"Just during the month of May alone, we received close to 11.5 inches of rain

throughout the entire district," he said. "In the month of May alone, we received more than we did in the entire dry season."

The Martin and St. Lucie County basins received closed to 450 percent of normal rainfall for the month of May.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) 1 and 2 received about 12.5 inches of direct rainfall.

Due to the direct rainfall, the WCAs have gone above what was previously considered the high water line, he said.

Mr. Mitnik said he is getting a lot of questions about the L-8 Canal and the S-310 lock. Since the May rains started, both structures have been moving water north into Lake Okeechobee by gravity flow.

The L-8 Canal is in the western portion of Palm Beach County, and receives runoff

from Corbett and Dupuis wildlife manage areas, he explained.

"That basin has to wait for the basins along the C-51 Canal to drain, so we're talking about the Village of Wellington, Royal Palm Beach and those areas. We have to wait for those areas to drain before we are able to start moving water from L-8 to tide," he continued.

"Typically what happens is the L-8 will start to stage up.

"It got close to 17.5 to 18 feet," he said. "Normally we try to keep it around 13 to 13.5 feet."

Water in the L-8 Canal flows south to the C-51 Canal, or, if the level of water in the canal is higher than the lake level, the water can flow north into Lake Okeechobee.

At the height of the rains, the L-8 Canal

was discharging 1,000 to 1,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) north into Lake Okeechobee. Mr. Mitnik said.

He said water is now moving more south out of the L-8 basin and then east to tide, although about 100 cfs is still flowing into the lake.

The S-310 lock structure near the City of Clewiston provides flood control for the residents and businesses in the city. Clewiston is about 16 feet above sea level. Until Lake Okeechobee reaches 15.5 ft., the S-310 lock remains open to gravity flow.

This is gravity flow, he said.

The WCA system is large in area, but there is limited capacity to move water in and out of the WCAs.

'Emergency Estuary Protection Wells' proposed as temporary fix to lake releases

By **Katrina Elsken**
Okeechobee News

An emergency fix to harmful freshwater releases to the coastal estuaries could be built in just two to three years, while long-term solutions may be decades away.

"We are working on long-term solutions. We are working on projects such as C-43 and the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration projects. Even on the most aggressive schedule, the EAA storage reservoir is years away," South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board Chairman Federico Fernandez at the June 14 board meeting.

"It is not going to be a silver bullet, and it is not going to solve all of our problems."

He said an emergency fix could be implemented in a two- to three-year time frame: "deep injection wells, or as I like to call them, 'Emergency Estuary Protection Wells.'"

Deep injection wells send water through the earth into the boulder zone, in effect

sending the water to tide by pumping it straight down.

District scientists estimate some of these deep injection wells could be ready in as little as two to three years using proven technology that is already being used in 250 parts of the state by utilities, Mr. Fernandez explained.

"The technology is proven. We have already looked at having anywhere from 30 to 150 of these 'Emergency Estuary Protection Wells.' They would address some of the flows to the tune of about half a million to 2.5 million acre-feet of water," he continued.

"That's a lot of water that wouldn't end up in the Caloosahatchee estuary and on the beaches of Sanibel," he said.

"Emergency Estuary Protection Wells' would only have to be used in emergency situations, in our heavy rain situations like that, or like we had last year with Irma and the storms around Irma," he said. They would be used only when the level of Lake

Okeechobee is rising so rapidly that the Corps of Engineers has no choice but to release water east and west to the coastal estuaries.

"It wouldn't compromise any of our other restoration projects," he said. "While these larger restoration projects were being built, 'Emergency Estuary Protection Wells' could take that discharge water from the lake and protect the estuaries."

The wells could be used both as a stopgap measure and along with other restoration projects, as the district works on the long-term massive water storage projects.

"We're only doing a pilot program right now," said board member James Moran. "I think we should be full speed ahead on this."

"These deep injection wells need to be moved up to save the estuaries," Mr. Moran said.

"Bureaucracy takes too long. We need to think outside the box," said board member Brandon Tucker.

"Let's get the show on the road. Let's get this done. If we had these wells today, we wouldn't be dealing with the discharges," he said.

"Somebody was criticizing the use of those wells, and saying 'it would just be wasting that water.' To me, it is just sending that water to tide without having to bomb the estuaries with harmful discharges," said board member Daniel O'Keefe.

"We're not in the business of ignoring the fact that water is a resource," said Mr. Fernandez. "Emergency Estuary Protection Wells' would be a stopgap measure while work continued on other projects to send the excess water from Lake Okeechobee south to Florida Bay.

"I think all of us here have been around long enough to know the effects of drought ... no one is advocating for wasting water," he said.

Woman arrested after a scene at movie theater

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News



Helena
Hoehn

A 19-year-old Okeechobee woman was arrested after she allegedly harassed employees and patrons of the Brahman Theatre III and became involved in a physical altercation with law enforcement.

Helena Elizabeth Hoehn, Southeast 43rd Trace, was arrested June 16 on felony charges of unauthorized possession of a forged driver license, resisting an officer with violence and misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct, violation of trespass af-

ter warning, and battery. Her bond was set at \$6,500.

According to an arrest report by Officer Raul Marrero, at 9:28 p.m. on Saturday, June 16, he and Officer Ryan Holroyd responded to the Brahman Theatre III — in the 1600 block of South Parrott Avenue — in regard to a trespass complaint.

Upon arrival, the officers met with the manager, who reportedly informed them that Hoehn supposedly came into the theatre and asked the counter attendant for some water. When the employee went to get the water, Hoehn apparently went around the counter and entered the concession area. The manager then reportedly said that Hoehn needed to leave the area and wait until the employee could assist her.

The report continued that Hoehn apparently became upset and told the manager that “she was free and could go where she wanted.” The manager then asked Hoehn to leave, which resulted in Hoehn violently pushing the manager and telling her, “no” before Hoehn left the concession area.

The manager then reported asking one of the employees to contact law enforcement, but before their arrival Hoehn supposedly followed a young boy into the male bathroom — which resulted in the boy running out of the room and into a theatre — and apparently began to harass a mother with an autistic child.

The manager provided the mother with a voucher for having to deal with Hoehn’s harassment, stated the report.

After the arrival of the officers, the manager took them to the theatre in which Hoehn was seated, and she was escorted into the lobby where she became combative. The report stated that Hoehn pushed both officers in an attempt to knock them down before being apprehended.

The report concluded that during a search of Hoehn’s person, officers located two different driver licenses, one from Florida and the other from South Carolina. It was discovered that the South Carolina license was a forgery with a fake name and address. Hoehn was arrested, transported and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on the aforementioned charges.

Arrest Report

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

- Albert Rodriguez Lewis, 40, Malibu Bay Drive, West Palm Beach, was arrested June 14 by Deputy Ryane Ammons on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) with intent to sell. He was released on his own recognizance.

- Miguel Diego, 30, Southwest Yalaha Street, Indiantown, was arrested June 14 by Deputy Corporal Marcus Collier on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (cannabis) without a valid prescription and possession of a controlled substance (cannabis oil) without a valid prescription. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Veronica Nicole Garcia, 22, Northwest 19th Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested June 15 by Deputy Sergeant Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging her with six counts of cashing or depositing item with intent to defraud. Her bond was set at \$30,000.

- Ryan Jeffrey Euard, 26, Lake Road, Atlantic, Pa, was arrested June 16 by Dep-

uty Cpl. Bryan Lowe on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (diazepam) without a valid prescription and a misdemeanor charge of knowingly driving while license suspended. His bond was set at \$5,500.

- Lorey A Gillam, 58, Northwest 272nd Street, Okeechobee, was arrested June 16 by Officer Jessica Francis on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (clonazepam) without a valid prescription and possession of a controlled substance (hydrocodone bitartrate and acetaminophen). Her bond was set at \$3,000.

- Charles William Hawk Jr., 28, Okeechobee was arrested June 17 by Deputy Robert Gonzalez on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) without a valid prescription and misdemeanor charges of two counts of possession of drug paraphernalia and one count of possession of a controlled substance (cannabis) without a valid prescription. His bond was set at \$3,500.

- Donald Craig Ferris, 28, U.S. 441 Southeast, Okeechobee, was arrested June 17 by Deputy Jonathon Gove on a felony charge of unarmed burglary of a dwelling. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Jeff Omelus, 18, Second Avenue North, Lake Worth, was arrested June 17 by Deputy Kenneth Hernandez on a felony charge of battery on detention or commitment facility staff. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Mitchell Ray Hatfield, 28, Southeast 43rd Street, Okeechobee, was arrested June 18 by Deputy Sgt. Fred Bradley on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with unarmed burglary of an occupied dwelling. His bond was set at \$15,000.

- David Allen Vanegas, 13, Northwest 151st Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested June 18 by Deputy Devon Satallante on an Okeechobee County juvenile take and hold warrant charging him with unarmed burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, criminal mischief (\$1,000 or more), and grand theft (more than \$300 but less than \$5,000). He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail and then transported to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

- Lasene Pack, 49, Southeast 20th Court, Okeechobee, was arrested June 18 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) without a valid prescription and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. Her bond was set at \$5,750.

- Kimberly Ann Johnson, 46, Southeast 38th Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested June 18 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (alprazolam) without a valid prescription. She is being held without bond.

- Michael Lee Graf, 43, U.S. 441 Southeast, Okeechobee, was arrested June 18 by

the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) without a valid prescription and misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and driving a motor vehicle without a valid driver license. His bond was set at \$6,000.

- Quavian Akeem Dozier, 20, Northwest Fourth Street, Okeechobee, was arrested June 18 by Detective James Pickering on a felony charge of failure to redeliver hired or leased personal property. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Anthony Beltran, 52, Northwest First Parkway, Okeechobee, was arrested June 18 by Deputy Tim Miller on a State of Tennessee felony warrant charging him with three counts of violation of probation. He is being held without bond.

- Robert Wade Hardister, 26, Southeast Federal Highway, Stuart, was arrested June 18 by Deputy Sgt. Fred Bradley on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with grand theft of motor vehicle. His bond was set at \$5,000.

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

SFWMD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fight Old World climbing fern

Special to the Okeechobee News

WEST PALM BEACH — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board on Thursday, June 14, approved a budget amendment that will clear the way for up to \$2 million per year in federal funding to help fight the spread of invasive lygodium, also known as the Old World climbing fern, in the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in western Palm Beach County.

The funding will come from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which manages the refuge. USFWS leases the refuge land from the State of Florida under an

agreement that includes numerous performance measures, including controlling the spread of invasive plants.

“We must control the spread of invasive plants such as lygodium to protect the investment of billions of Florida taxpayer dollars to restore the Everglades. SFWMD has shown it is committed to fight this invasive fern, and this money offers assistance with the federal government’s obligation,” said SFWMD Governing Board member Jim Moran, who spearheaded efforts to forge an agreement with USFWS to ensure more federal funding to fight lygodium in the refuge.

Lygodium has overrun countless tree is-

lands, and its spread has increased by about 600 percent in the refuge over the past two decades. The invasive fern can cause the collapse of tree islands, a crucial part of the habitat in the ridge and slough ecosystem of the Everglades. It also increases the risk of wildfires spreading.

The budget amendment passed June 14 accepts \$1.25 million to \$2 million in funding from USFWS into SFWMD’s land management budget this budget year. SFWMD has already spent about \$2 million in state funding from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission this budget year but those funds have now been exhausted.

The USFWS funds will allow the district’s contractors to continue eradicating lygodium from tree islands in the refuge.

Under the agreement, USFWS must also give SFWMD up to \$2 million in funding each year for the next several years to keep fighting the spread of lygodium in the refuge. USFWS is also required to develop a new public use plan that potentially expands recreational uses in the refuge such as hunting. USFWS has already conducted several public meetings, and a draft of that new plan is expected to be released soon.

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Miscellaneous Notices

Announcing the Retirement of Kenneth F. Haas, M.D., F.A.C.G.
 He would like to thank all the patients who entrusted him with their care over the past 20 years. Copies of Medical Records may be requested by visiting 305 NE Park Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 or call 863-484-8154.

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

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EEO/AA/VP Employer

Okeechobee Christian Academy is seeking highly motivated, professional certified teachers who promote rigor, excellence, and Christian values in the area of Elementary Education for the 2018-2019 school year. A willingness to enhance the existing team atmosphere while maintaining an attitude of ambition is a must. Applications may be acquired in the Okeechobee Christian Academy office, located at 701 S. Parrott Ave. Okeechobee, FL. Call the office with questions (863) 763-3072.

Employment - Full Time

Employment - Full Time

The Seminole Police Department is now hiring Certified Police Officers. You must be a U.S. Citizen, 19 years of age or older and possess a high school diploma or a GED equivalent. **Benefits:** Starting salary of \$69,171.21 (with an annual 5% step for the first eight years). All uniform equipment provided. Take home car program. PPO Health Insurance 401K Clothing Allowance. If you are interested in applying, please visit seminolepd.com and click under employment to download the application.

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Financial

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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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 Very Clean and well maintained. Situated 12 min. outside of town off Hwy 70 East. Great setting, lawn service, onsite management, pest control included, w/d hook-up.
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Commercial Property

TREASURE ISLAND
 2100SQ. FT. METAL BUILDING 2 ROLL UP DOORS BEHIND LAKESIDE CARWASH. \$1,000/MO. YEARLY LEASE, FIRST-LAST+ SEC. CALL TAB 863-610-1027

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LAKEPORT 2BD/1BA
 CENTRAL AIR & HEAT, COMPLETELY FURNISHED, WASHER & DRYER \$800.00/MO PLUS ELECTRIC. ALSO AVAILABLE 1BRDM HOUSE CALL 618-309-1938

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Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

Dissolution of Marriage/Divorc

Dissolution of Marriage/Divorc

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO.: 16000448CAAXMX

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC.

Plaintiff,
vs.
JAMES E. LOWE, et al
Defendants.

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

RE-NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Granting Plaintiffs Motion to Reschedule Foreclosure Sale filed May 30, 2018 and entered in Case No. 16000448CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the NINETEENTH Judicial Circuit in and for OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, Florida, wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC., is Plaintiff, and JAMES E. LOWE, et al are Defendants, the clerk, Sharon Robertson, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, beginning at 11:00 AM in the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Second Floor, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972, in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes, on the 11 day of July, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Lis Pendens, to wit:

Lot 11, Block 12, BASSWOOD INCORPORATED, according to plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, page 22, public records of Okeechobee County, Florida.

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

Dated at Okeechobee, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, Florida, this 5th day of June, 2018.

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

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC.

c/o Phelan Hallinan Diamond & Jones, PLLC, Attorneys for Plaintiff
2001 NW 64th Street Suite 100, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309 954-462-7000

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

SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptación para poder participar de este procedimiento o evento, usted tiene derecho, sin costo alguno a que se le provea cierta ayuda. Favor de comunicarse con Corrie Johnson, Coordinadora de A.D.A., 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 por lo menos 7 días antes de que tenga que comparecer en corte o inmediatamente después de haber recibido esta notificación si es que falta menos de 7 días para su comparecencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva o de habla, llame al 711.

KREYOL: Si ou se you moun ki kokobe ki bezven asistans ou aparey pou ou ka patisipe nan prosedu sa-a, ou gen dwa san ou pa bezven peye anyen pou ou jwen on seri de ed. Tanpri kontakte Corrie Johnson, Co-ordinator ADA, 250 NW Country Club Drive, suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 O'mwen 7 jou avan ke ou gen pou-ou paret nan tribunal, ou imediatman ke ou resevwa avis sa-a ou si le ke ou gen pou-ou ale nan tribunal-la mwens ke 7 jou; Si ou pa ka tande ou pale byen, rele 711.

267460 ON 6/13,20/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. CASE NO. 17000263CAAXMX

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF CVALT, INC., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2006-0C3, MORTGAGE PASSTHROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-0C3,

Plaintiff,
vs.
SOLIS, ELIDIO, et al.,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment entered in Case No. 17000263CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the 19TH Judicial Circuit in and for OKEECHOBEE County, Florida, wherein, THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF CVALT, INC., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2006-0C3, MORTGAGE PASSTHROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-0C3, Plaintiff, and, SOLIS, ELIDIO, et al., are Defendants, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at THE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3RD STREET, 2ND FLOOR, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA, at the hour of 11:00am, on the 18th day of July, 2018, the following described property:

LOT 14 AND THE NORTH ONE-HALF (N 1/2) OF LOT 15, BLOCK 69, CONNERS HIGHLANDS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 21, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

DATED this 7th day of June, 2018.

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

IMPORTANT

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

267889 ON 6/20/27/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 17000031CAAXMX

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC OBA CHAMPION MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff

vs.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST, JAMES WILLIAM JACKSON, DECEASED, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 25, 2018, and entered in Case No. 17000031CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth in and for Okeechobee County, Florida in which Nationstar Mortgage LLC dba Champion Mortgage Company, is the Plaintiff and The Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Lienors, Creditors, Trustees, or other Claimants claiming by through, under, or against, James William Jackson, deceased, United States of America Acting through Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, William J. Jackson, 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 in Spouses, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Or Other Claimants are defendants, the Okeechobee County Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash into the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, Okeechobee County, Florida at 11:00AM on the 11th day of July, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTH ONE-QUARTER (1/4) CORNER OF SAID SECTION 30, SAID POINT LYING ON THE CENTERLINE OF S.W. 16TH STREET (A/K/A OLD DIXIE HIGHWAY); THENCE SOUTH 25 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE HOPKIN'S MEANDER LINE, A DISTANCE OF 55.37 FEET TO THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID S.W. 16TH STREET AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING;

THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 25 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID MEANDER LINE, ALSO BEING THE EAST-ERLY LINE OF THOSE PARCELS OF LAND DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK (ORB) 311, PAGE 699 AND OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 168, PAGE 751 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, A DISTANCE OF 354.63 FEET TO THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF SAID PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 168, PAGE 751;

THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 44 MINUTES 28 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID PARCEL DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 168, PAGE 751 AND THE NORTH LINE OF THAT PARCEL DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 251, PAGE 702, SAID PUBLIC RECORDS, A DISTANCE OF 210.00 FEET TO THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A PRIVATE ROAD (BEING 30 FEET IN WIDTH);

THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 138.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT IN SAID RIGHT OF WAY, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 7.42 FEET AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 67 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 32 SECONDS;

THENCE NORTHERLY AND EASTERLY ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, A DISTANCE OF 8.75 FEET TO THE POINT OF REVERSE CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT IN SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A PRIVATE ROAD, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 37.42 FEET AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 67 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 39 SECONDS;

THENCE EASTERLY AND NORTHERLY ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, A DISTANCE OF 44.18 FEET TO THE POINT OF ANGENCY OF SAID CURVE;

THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST, CONTINUING ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A PRIVATE ROAD, A DISTANCE OF 138.80 FEET TO THE FORESAID SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF S.W. 16TH STREET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 29.76 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

A/K/A 1713 SW 40TH DRIVE, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

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

Dated in Okeechobee County, Florida this 30th day of May, 2018.

Sharon Robertson
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Okeechobee County, Florida
By: Sandra L. Crech
Deputy Clerk

Albertelli Law Attorney for Plaintiff

P.O. Box 23028 Tampa, FL 33623 (813) 221-4743 16-014023

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 Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

266390 ON 6/13,20/2018

NOTICE: The Okeechobee County Construction Industry Licensing Board will hold regular monthly meetings on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. in the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium, 1728 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. The regular meeting schedule for the year 2018 is as follows:

July 10, 2018	August 7, 2018	September 4, 2018
October 2, 2018	November 6, 2018	December 4, 2018

Prior to each meeting, the agenda for that meeting will be available at the Community Development Department, 1700 NW 9th Avenue, Suite A, and on the Okeechobee County website.

Members of the public shall have the opportunity to be heard at public meetings. Any person desiring to appeal any decision by the Construction Industry Licensing Board with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. Community Development Department tapes are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Department.

For further information on the meeting schedule or a particular meeting, contact the Community Development Department at 863-763-5548.
268049 ON 6/20,24/2018

South Florida Water Management District 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406 permits@sfwmd.gov

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, that the application(s) for permit described below has been received for project(s) in Okeechobee County. The application(s) and future additional application documents can be obtained by any of the following methods: 1) Accessing the District's website (www.sfwmd.gov) and clicking on Applicant/Permit Search on the ePermitting page; 2) Submitting a written request to the South Florida Water Management District, Attn: Regulation Division, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406; or 3) Submitting an electronic request at permits@sfwmd.gov.

Oke Land Turf LLC (Okeeland Turf) PO Box 833143, Miami, FL 33283, has submitted Application 180514-1 for modification of Water Use Permit 47-01084-W to irrigate 271.69 acres of agricultural lands. The water will be withdrawn from the Surficial Aquifer System and the project is located in Sections 32,33, Township 37 South, Range 35 East. 269368 ON 6/20/2018



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Wanted all Travel Trailers, Motor Homes and Fifth Wheels. Any Condition, Cash paid on the spot Call 954-789-7530



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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on FRIDAY THE 6TH DAY OF JULY, 2018 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows

2008 CHRYSLER 300 2C3LA4R358H329087

2007 LINCOLN MARK LT 5LTPTW18587FJ09958

2001 GMC JIMMY 1GKCS18W21K129356

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

269907 ON 6/20/2018

Administration of Estates

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 2018-CP-096

In re: Estate of **MARY ALMA GARCIA** Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Administration of Estates

The administration of the estate of MARY ALMA GARCIA, deceased, whose date of death was November 9, 2017, and whose social security number is XXX-XX-9669, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOT WITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is June 13, 2018.

Personal Representative: **BARBARA M. OLIVER**, 3497 SE 21st Court Okeechobee, FL 34974

CONELY & CONELY, P.A.
P.O. Drawer 1367
Okeechobee, Florida 34973
Telephone: (863) 763-3825
Primary E-Mail Address: toonely@conelyandconely.com
Secondary 1 E-Mail Address: blanier@conelyandconely.com
Secondary 2 E-Mail Address: services@conelyandconely.com
By: Tom W. Conely, III
Florida Bar No. 096482
267911 ON 6/13,20/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 2018-CP-098

In re: Estate of **GLENN JACKSON BASS, a/k/a GLENN J. BASS**, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of GLENN JACKSON BASS, a/k/a GLENN J. BASS, deceased, whose date of death was April 24, 2018, and whose social security number is XXX-XX-1401, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOT WITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 47-2017-DR-000410

IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF **ROBERT L. LAZENBY** Petitioner/Husband, and **JOANNE DEBORAH BENJAMIN**, Respondent/Wife.

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (NO CHILD OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT)

TO: **JOANNE DEBORAH BENJAMIN**
411 SE 3rd Place
Dania, Florida 33004

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any to it on, **JEFFREY A. FADLEY, P.A.**, whose address is 180 NW 3rd Avenue, Suite A, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 on or before July 17, 2018 and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. **If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you as the relief demanded in the petition.**

The action is asking the court to decide how the following real or personal property should be divided: **None.** Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep this Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to address(es) on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: May 30, 2018.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Deputy Clerk

2655680 ON 6/6,13,20,27/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 472018DR000131

IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF: **DONOVAN W. GRAY**, Petitioner/Husband, and **TABITHA BARBER GRAY**, Respondent/Wife

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION

TO: **Tabitha Barber Gray**
Last Known Address
1110 SW 4th Street
Okeechobee Florida 34974

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution of Marriage, including claims for dissolution of marriage, payment of debts, division of real and personal property, and for payments of support, has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on Rebecca H. Boldt, Petitioner's attorney, whose address is 180 NW 3rd Ave., Suite C, Okeechobee, FL 34972, within 30 days of first publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court at Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, either before service on Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

DATED this 26th day of April, 2018.

SHARON ROBERTSON
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: Arlene Nealis
Deputy Clerk

265325 ON 5/30 6/6,13,20,27/2018

Administration of Estates

The date of the first publication of this notice is June 13, 2018.

Co-Personal Representatives:
GLENN KEITH BASS
20184 Highway 98 North
Okeechobee, FL 34972
CLYDE JEFFREY BASS, SR.
16250 N.W. 190th Road
Okeechobee, FL 34972

CONELY & CONELY, P.A.
P.O. Drawer 1367
Okeechobee, Florida 34973
Telephone: (863) 763-3825
Primary E-Mail Address: toonely@conelyandconely.com
Secondary 1 E-Mail Address: blanier@conelyandconely.com
Secondary 2 E-Mail Address: services@conelyandconely.com
By: Tom W. Conely, III
Florida Bar No. 096482
267741 ON 6/13,20/2018



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Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Siri counterpart
- 10 Inst. with a weekly "Big Picture Science" radio program
- 14 Short-term hospital service
- 15 Demonym that may have a second "a"
- 16 Ignores
- 17 Wise guys
- 18 One of the Noldor, in Tolkien
- 19 Pitcher's goal
- 20 Kind of red
- 21 Dark genre
- 23 Holy ___
- 25 Child expert LeShan
- 26 When many take breaks
- 28 Work with a partner
- 29 Dropbox's blue box, for one
- 30 More, to Nadal
- 32 Chain with day care
- 34 Lollygag
- 37 Stay in the cooler
- 38 Refreshing ice cream with blended cookies
- 40 Mattress problem
- 41 First name in couture
- 42 Brand at 32-Across
- 44 "Pipe down!"
- 48 Child support org.
- 49 Road safety feature
- 51 Family ___
- 52 Schools abroad
- 54 Genre of the late David Bowie
- 56 Dove shape
- 57 "Iron Chef America" host Brown
- 58 Step out
- 60 Hunger Games competitors
- 61 "We don't promise you a rose garden" sloganeer
- 62 Transposes letters, say
- 63 Tom Jones hit written by Paul Anka

DOWN

- 1 Lead source
- 2 Spotted cat
- 3 Company
- 4 Alfa Romeo sports cars
- 5 More, to minimalists
- 6 Flash
- 7 Got down pat
- 8 Diner kitchen shout
- 9 Minute
- 10 Heineken logo feature
- 11 It's trained on a nest
- 12 Name meaning "God's gift"
- 13 Flash
- 15 Tweeter, say
- 20 Phrases on seals
- 22 Sends in
- 24 Musical piece
- 27 Icel. is its only member without a standing army
- 29 "Perhaps"
- 31 Soap, for example
- 33 Short stops?
- 34 She played Arwen Undómiel in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy

- 35 Albee's "The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?," e.g.
- 36 Enjoy The Atlantic
- 38 Government nutrition guide
- 39 "Holy cow!"
- 43 Wilde tragedy
- 45 Roger Ebert's Illinois birthplace
- 46 Ready for dinner

- 47 Reason for Luther's excommunication
- 49 Target section
- 50 Family matriarchs
- 53 Ages
- 55 "The Social Network" actress Rooney ___
- 58 Gloomy one
- 59 Pickles on "Rugrats"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	A	U	T	E		P	A	O		A	R	B	Y	S	
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xwordeditor@aol.com

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21			22		23			24				25		
26				27		28						29		
			30		31		32			33				
	34	35				36		37						
38							39		40					
41					42			43		44		45	46	47
48				49					50		51			
52			53				54			55		56		
57							58				59			
60							61							
62							63							

By C.C. Burnikel

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

ANSWER:

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