



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 109 No. 74

Friday, June 22, 2018

50¢ plus tax

Local student to serve on state SWAT board

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Sheriff hosts town hall meeting to discuss budget

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Catch a Florida Memory

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Residents build Fairy Houses

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Lake Levels

14.02 feet

Last Year: 12.21 feet



Pogey's Family Restaurant
1759 S. Parrott Ave.
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Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level

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Okeechobee News/Richard Marion

Front row (left to right) John Richards, Jacoah Spencer, Matthew Beville, Ruben Guerrero, Cody Clanton and Izaak Alaniz. Middle row (left to right) David Busbin, E.J. McQueen, Levi Larson, Kylar Koedam and Deuce Stokes. Back row (left to right) Ruben Guerrero, Cody Clanton, James Beville and Bobby Koedam.

All-Stars baseball team heads to state tournament

By Richard Marion
Okeechobee News

The 2018 8U Okeechobee All-Stars came away with the championship in their district tournament held in Avon Park on June 15, 16 and 17.

The All-Stars played teams from Sebring, Lake Placid and Avon Park over the course of the three-day tournament.

The tournament began on June 15 with the All-Stars losing to their rival Lake Placid in a

close game of 7-6. But the team was able to bounce back during the second day of the tournament, beating Sebring 8-4 and Avon Park 10-7.

This led to a rematch with Lake Placid, and because Okeechobee had lost to them on the first day of the tournament, it meant the All-Stars would have to beat their rival twice in back-to-back games to win the championship. Beating Lake Placid twice wouldn't be an easy task, as they had just

shut out Avon Park 11-0 the day before the final.

True to form, Lake Placid jumped out to an 11-4 lead early in the third inning. But the young players on the All-Stars showed their resilience and were able shut down the Lake Placid offense and battle back to take a 12-11 victory by the end of the game.

The second game wasn't quite as dramatic, however, as

See **TEAM** — Page 8

Governor's order does not change lake flow

By Katrina Elskén
Okeechobee News

Florida Gov. Rick Scott wants to send excess freshwater from Lake Okeechobee south, but existing water conveyance structures, direct rainfall south of the lake, the Tamiami Trail and the Department of the Interior make that difficult, if not impossible.

Heavy rain in May — some areas

See **LAKE** — Page 10

Should school day start later?

School board won't change school schedule this year

By Richard Marion
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board has decided to delay a decision on whether to change school start times in the district. The topic was on the agenda for a workshop held on June 19. The school board will take up the issue of school start times again at their January 2019 meeting.

See **SCHOOL** — Page 8

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OHS youth elected to serve on statewide SWAT board

Special to the Okeechobee News

At the Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) regional meeting on June 9, Mariah Spelts of Okeechobee County was elected as a Region 4 Youth Advisory Board (YAB) representative by a consensus of SWAT youth from Indian River County south to the Florida Keys.

SWAT is Florida's statewide youth-led movement to combat the tobacco industry. The SWAT Youth Advisory Board is a 16-member group of students who are elected annually by their peers to serve as regional representatives and youth advisors for the statewide tobacco program. There are four representatives elected for each of Florida's four tobacco control regions.

The Youth Advocacy Board works in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health's Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida to

help plan the SWAT organization's direction and goals and provide input on the state's youth prevention efforts. Students work with county grantees to support initiatives that educate their peers about tobacco use, help protect youth from tobacco and strengthen local policies.

"I wanted to run for the state board because I see the problems that tobacco causes in my local community," said Ms. Spelts. "I want to help create a new generation of youth that are tobacco-free."

Ms. Spelts plans to focus on changing the social norms that using tobacco makes you cool and working with local tobacco staff to help educate the community of the harmful effects of electronic cigarettes.

"Mariah is the first student from Okeechobee County to ever serve on the statewide SWAT board and will be a great

representation for her school and county," said Okeechobee County SWAT Coordinator Courtney Moyett. "She has been a member of our local SWAT club for the past three years and will serve as president of the SWAT club at Okeechobee High School during this upcoming school year. Mariah is a proven leader, and I am looking forward to seeing all that she does with her new position."

SWAT aims to empower, educate and equip Florida youth to revolt against Big Tobacco. The group is a movement of inspired youth working together to de-glamorize tobacco use. Its efforts aim to shape tobacco-free norms, and make tobacco less desirable, less acceptable and less accessible.

To learn more, visit SWATFlorida.com or tfp-okeechobee.org.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Courtney Moyett, SWAT coordinator, and Mariah Spelts are proud to represent Students Working Against Tobacco.

Highlands summer tram tours

Special to the Okeechobee News

SEBRING — Effective June 23, Highlands Hammock's guided, narrated tram tour of the park and restricted areas where visitors may observe alligators and other wildlife will be limited to running at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The tour takes approximately one hour and 15 minutes and provides visitors with the opportunity to observe wildlife relatively close-up. The tram departs from the picnic area, runs through the hammock, pauses on a bridge in a cypress swamp, and continues through pine flatwoods before running down the South Canal wetland. Deer with young fawns are often sighted at this time of year, and gopher tortoises may be seen foraging along the road through the pineland. Butterflies are now feeding on pickerel weed and other nectar plants all along South Canal. The tram is wheelchair-accessible. Visitors are advised that pets are not permitted on tram tours. Tickets are sold only at the Hammock Inn Concession and may be purchased one day in advance or on the day of the tour. The Hammock Inn is currently open on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for the summer. Concession hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily operation of the Hammock Inn Concession

and a full schedule of park tram tours will resume during the fall. Tram tickets for adults and youth ages 13 and older are \$10 per person. Tickets for children ages 6 to 12 are \$5 per person. Children 5 or younger get to ride for free. For more information, call the Hammock Inn at 863-402-0061. Park entry fees of \$6 per vehicle (includes up to eight people) and \$4 per single-occupant vehicle apply.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Species of swallowtail butterflies, including this Eastern tiger swallowtail, are frequently seen feeding on pickerel weed and other nectar plants along South Canal.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Partly cloudy in the morning followed by scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. High 89F. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

Tonight: Isolated thunderstorms during the evening, then partly cloudy overnight. Low 72F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 30%.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Thunderstorms likely. High 87F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 80%.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy skies during the evening will give way to cloudy skies overnight. Low 71F. Winds light and variable.

Sunday: Thunderstorms likely. High 87F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 80%.

Sunday Night: Scattered thunderstorms in the evening. Partly cloudy skies overnight. Low 71F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 50%.

In the Military

Petty Officer First Class Caleb Smith, from Okeechobee, currently serves with Transient Personnel Unit at Naval Station Norfolk, the largest Navy base in the world. Smith has served in the Navy for eight



Caleb Smith

years and works as an electrician's mate who is responsible for maintenance of operation of the electrical and engineering plant.

"The Navy has taught me how to learn, lead and mentor sailors from all different backgrounds," said Mr. Smith.

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Public Forum/Speak Out

Speak Out comments can be shared in several ways. Comments on local issues are welcome on the newspaper's website at 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!

Father-daughter dance

• “The B.R.A.T. Club’s annual father-daughter dance was an awesome event. It made me smile to see the photos of the dads and their daughters having such a good time. What great dads we have in Okeechobee. From the photos, you can see how much they love their little girls. What a precious memory that will be for both the dads and the girls.” -- K. Booker

• “O.M.G. The girls are all precious!” -- Kelly Owens

- “It’s wonderful that they were having fun together.” -- Delia Rsanmiguel
- “Some amazing dads!” -- Stephanie Rogers
- “So cute! This night will never be forgotten! Good job, Dads.” -- Julie Ard Reno
- “Outstanding job to all the dads and to the B.R.A.T. Club for putting it on.” -- Gina Bohannon
- “I love this town!” -- Danielle Groover

‘EEPWs’

• “The name says it all: ‘Emergency Estuary Protection Wells.’ By using deep well injection technology, water managers could send water to tide by pumping it deep into the boulder zone, which flows out into the ocean miles from shore. This could be a temporary solution to the lake releases that are harming the estuaries, and prevent damage to the estuaries while long-term projects are built to increase freshwater storage. The plan makes sense, which is why the Bull Sugar folks and Everglades Trust will probably oppose it.” -- J. Zimpel

Distracted driving in Okeechobee

Work had me on the way to southern Martin County the other day, and I was on State Road 710, headed for Indiantown, when the minivan in front of me crossed the double yellow line into the oncoming passing lane. I watched as the van continued until it was halfway across the oncoming lane, before it was quickly steered back into our lane. In the following few minutes, between the Martin County line and Indiantown, I watched in horror as that same van crossed the center line, or drifted off onto the shoulder of the road, no less than five times. I was watching this from a distance, as I had no intention of getting involved in a high-speed crash that was probably going to happen if this continued. The minivan would also not maintain speed, and would slow down, or suddenly accelerate and close quickly on the car in front, only to quickly hit brakes at the last moment. I could only draw one conclusion from this, the driver was a “distracted driver” probably either talking on or texting with a cellphone.

I find distracted drivers easy to identify in traffic. They are slow to react to a green light and tend to accelerate slowly or not maintain normal spacing between cars. When underway, they tend to weave in the traffic lane, and are slow to react to the car in front of them slowing down or stopping. And, most obviously, they never, ever use a turn signal. Driving in Okeechobee during the afternoon commute, it is universal that the people in the cars and trucks around me have a cellphone held to their heads.

A little bit of research shows that Florida is the SECOND WORST in the nation for driving distracted, ahead of only Louisiana. According to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, in 2016 there were almost 50,000 crashes involving distracted drivers in Florida, which is more than five crashes every hour. These distracted driving crashes accounted for more than 3,500 serious injuries and 233 deaths.

The thing about distracted driving is you are not giving the driving of the vehicle your whole attention; you are splitting your attention between your device and the driving and, by doing so, you are slowing your reaction time by about 40 percent. At 50 miles per hour, a driver focused on his driving will travel the length of a football field to come to a stop. With the distraction of the cellphone, that distance is increased by 40 percent.

All of that said, the thing that really amazed me is that talking on a cellphone while driving is not against the law in Florida. Texting while driving is illegal in Florida and can result in points on your license, but it doesn’t seem to be enforced very much as we have all seen people texting and driving. Talking on a cellphone is NOT illegal even if it is documented to be the cause of so many accidents and even deaths caused by car crashes.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles recommends that if you must use a cellphone while driving, you should pull to the side of the road. They also recommend that you simply ignore a ringing cellphone while driving, and let it go to voice mail. If you know you are expecting a call or must use a cellphone while driving, be prepared. Make sure the phone is within easy reach, use it hands-free if you can, and only use the phone for emergencies.

The iPhone that I use for work has a “do not disturb” feature that knows when I am driving, and unless I specifically turn off that feature, the telephone will not ring while I’m traveling in my work truck. It will tell the caller to leave a message, and alerts me when I get out of the truck. My personal cellphone is connected via Bluetooth to my personal truck. If I’m in the truck and underway and the telephone rings, I can answer the call with the push of a button on the steering wheel. It mutes the radio, and allows me to talk to a mic that is built into the truck and keep my hands on the wheel and my eyes on the road. The radio even displays who is calling if it is a number from my contacts list. I feel that this is better, but still don’t like to talk on the phone while I’m driving.

According to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, drivers between 20 and 24 are responsible for the highest number of distracted-driving crashes, closely followed by 25- to 29-year-olds and 15- to 19-year-olds. In 2016, they accounted for more than 20,000 vehicle crashes. However, I don’t feel that the younger generation are the only ones that are guilty of distracted driving in Okeechobee. We have a large elder population, and I see plenty of them with cellphones in use whenever I’m out on the road.

So, be careful out there, folks! Try putting the phones down and paying attention to your driving. The life you save may be your own — or maybe mine.

Tom Timmons

Class of 1999 raising money for scholarships

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

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

“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.”

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.

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.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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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.



Sheriff to 'maintain transparency' with public meeting

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Sheriff Noel E. Stephen will be presenting a town hall meeting with the focus being to host a discussion for the agency's 2018-19 budget on Wednesday, June 27, between 6 and 7 p.m. at the Okeechobee County Historic Courthouse in the Okeechobee Board of County Commissioners Chamber Room 122.

The event will be broadcast live on the Board of County Commissioners website, www.co.okeechobee.fl.us.

In an interview on June 19, Sheriff Stephen gave an insight to the June 27 discussion, stating: "With this town hall meeting I want to maintain my transparency, take input and discuss what needs to happen with our agency with members of the community. The budget that I've submitted for 2018-19 is a little over a 14 percent increase. Almost 8-9 percent is to adjust the starting

salary of the deputies, and changing the starting pay has to be consistent through to the rank of lieutenant. Three percent of the increase is due to the recent state-mandated School Resource Officer requirement. Less than 3 percent will be to bring on an additional seven staff members, with three to be dispatchers, two on the Criminal Apprehension Team (CAT), an additional crime scene evidence technician along with a detention deputy for the jail."

The sheriff explained that the CAT focuses on high burglary, theft, traffic violation and general problem areas in the community faced by law enforcement.

Sheriff Stephen continued: "I know the struggle with the 14 percent increase is going to be very hard for people to accept, but the problem is that we are losing our average five- or six-year employees to agencies that can provide them with \$15,000 more per year. I understand we can't pay what the coastal agencies do — that we are losing our

deputies, too — but if I can at least halfway bridge the gap, from currently losing two deputies per month to one per month, that will be a considerable cost savings to the taxpayers of the county and to the agency."

According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Annual Criminal Justice Agency Profile Report from the 2015 year, with the exception of Highlands County Sheriff's Office, Polk, Osceola, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Glades County Sheriff's Offices all paid their deputies more than Okeechobee. In 2017, Highlands County surpassed Okeechobee which has maintained a steady \$34,000 entry salary.

"I've estimated the cost to train a three- to five-year deputy, the investment the county has in them at that point, equates to approximately \$75,000 per year. These three- to five-year deputies are just getting to the point where they are operating efficiently," stated the sheriff.

Currently there are four road patrol shifts

with 10 deputies per shift. Of the 40 front-line call-taking deputies, over half of them have less than one year of experience.

Sheriff Stephen further explained: "Bridging the gap, I feel, will be cost-effective to the taxpayers and beneficial to the sheriff's office. By offering an additional \$6,000 to our new hires, it will make us competitive with the adjacent counties that our deputies are leaving for. I feel in the long run our sheriff's office will run more efficiently, effectively and economically."

Sheriff Stephen capped off his statements during the interview by saying, "The purpose of this meeting is to inform the public. I know not everyone will agree, and I understand the sustainability concerns, but as the sheriff I feel this is necessary and something that needs to be discussed in order for us to work together."

For additional information, contact Connie Curry at 863-763-3117, extension 5022, or email at ccurry@okeesherriff.com

Garbage truck reported on fire, found to have leaked hydraulic fluid

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

A vehicle fire was reported in the afternoon of Wednesday, June 20.

According to an Okeechobee County Fire Rescue report, at 12:42 p.m. on June 20, a vehicle fire was reported and crews were dispatched to 2927 E. Center St.

The report noted that while crew were en route, dispatch notified them that the fire had been extinguished.

Upon arrival, firefighters found a garbage truck in the middle of the road with two men standing by the truck with nothing showing. When units approached the vehi-

cle, it was reported that approximately 3 to 5 gallons of hydraulic fluid had been spilled on the ground, and they confirmed the fire had been extinguished.

The report noted that a small area was filled with smoke between the cab and dump area. It was cooled down with a water

extinguisher, and crews utilized absorption equipment for the hydraulic fluid that leaked onto the ground.

A total estimated property and contents financial loss of \$1,000 was assessed. The garbage truck was turned over to Waste Management.

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).

- Chantaval Demetrus Young, 34, Northwest 45th Street, Miami, was arrested June 19 on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with failure to appear - grand theft. He is being held without bond.

- Erica Inez Seals, 37, South 38th Street, Fort Pierce, was arrested June 19 by Deputy Sergeant Fred Bradley on a DOC felony warrant charging her with violation of probation - sale or delivery of a controlled substance and violation of probation - possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute. Her bond was set at \$2,500.

- Amanda Lee Olivas, 38, State Road 70 West, was arrested June 19 on a felony charge of violation of probation. She is being held without bond.

- Pardell Keyon Rembert, 26, Northeast 14th Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested June 19 by Deputy Ben Vuleta on felony charges of possession of firearm by convicted felon, aggravated assault and a misdemeanor charge of battery. He was also arrested by Deputy Daniel Eng on two Okeechobee County warrants charging him with failure to appear - driving a motor vehicle without a valid driver license and failure to appear - failure to appear. Bond was set at \$14,500.

- Dawn Michelle Morris, 48, South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested June 20 by Deputy Quinton Speed on a DOC felony warrant charging her with four counts of violation of probation - dealing in stolen property and four counts of violation of probation - giving false information to a secondary metals recycler (less than \$300). She is being held without bond.

- Jesse James King, 54, Northeast 14th Street, Okeechobee, was arrested June 20 by Deputy Corporal Kristin Gray on felony charges of escape, resisting officer with violence and misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance (cannabis) without a valid prescription and trespass of unoccupied structure or conveyance. His bond was set at \$8,500.

- Matthew Shane Tate, 37, Northwest Fifth Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested June 20 by Deputy Quinton Speed on a Highlands County felony warrant charging him with four counts of violation of probation. He is being held without bond.

- Casey Torria Casen, 39, Northeast 14th Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested June 20 by Deputy Daniel Eng on a felony charge of burglary with assault or battery and a misdemeanor charge of criminal mischief with property damage (less than \$200). His bond was set at \$51,000

- Antonio Ray Perez, 34, Bravo Avenue, Moore Haven, was arrested June 20 by Deputy Quinton Speed on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with grand theft (more than \$300 but less than \$5,000). His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Kayla Jasmine Corrales, 23, Northwest 20th Street, Okeechobee, was arrested June 20 by Deputy Matthew Huffman on felony charges of aggravated battery and child abuse without causing great bodily harm. Her bond was set at \$12,500.

- Miranda Brooke Rexroad, 24, Northeast 60th Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested June 20 by Deputy Joseph Hall on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging her with aggravated battery. Her bond was set at \$10,000.

- Dwayne Allen Rexroad, 54, Northeast 60th Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested June 20 by Deputy Sgt. Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with aggravated battery. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Jason Matthew Farmer, 42, Serene Lane, Lorida, was arrested June 20 by Deputy Joseph Hall on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with violation of probation - driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$1,000.

- Alfredo Rodriguez, 40, was arrested June 20 by Deputy Ryane Ammons on a Miami-Dade County felony warrant charging him with false and fraudulent insurance claims. He is being held without bond.

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

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 St., 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 are free! A live DJ will be playing music from the 1950s and '60s. Enjoy family fun at this free event. Lots of awesome classic automobiles. Come on out and see!

Fourth of July at Lakeport

Lakeport Community Association, 1059 Red Barn Road, Lakeport, will host a **Fourth of July** celebration at 2 p.m. There will be food, live music, bounce houses, water slides, games and more. Please bring a lawn chair.

Community Events

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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, 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

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 hold CPR classes

Okeechobee Department of Health, 1728 N.W. Ninth Ave., will hold 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 veterans services. For information, call 863-467-2882.

Ladies night out planned

The Leadership Class of 2018 will host a Ladies Night Out at IRSC Williamson Center, 2229 N.W. Ninth Ave., on Saturday, **June 23**, from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and there will be tons of vendors, drawings, prizes and more. For information, call Kara at 863-763-9312, Lori at 863-697-2829 or Sherry at 863-697-9053.

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 veterans services. For information, call 863-467-2882.

AMVETS host 5-card bingo

Join AMVETS Post 200, 3651 U.S. 441 S.E., Suite 6, on Sunday, June 24, at 2 p.m. for five-card bingo. Food will be available at 1 p.m. For information, call 863-484-8135.

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.

Shrine Club hosts dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, 1855 S.W. 53rd St., off of SR 78 W., next to Fast Break, will hold a spaghetti dinner Tuesday, **June 25**, from 4 until 7 p.m. for an \$8 donation. This event is open to the public and all members of the Shrine Temple. Entertainment will be provided by Southern Daughter. For information on the activities of the Okeechobee Shrine Club or to lease the club, contact the Shrine Club at 863-763-3378.

VFW 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.

Town hall meeting set

Sheriff Noel E. Stephen will present a town hall meeting on Wednesday, **June 27**, at the Historic Okeechobee County Courthouse in the BOCC chamber room 122 from 6 to 7 p.m. The topic of discussion will be the sheriff's office budget. Join live on the BOCC website, www.co.okeechobee.fl.us. For information, call Connie Curry at 863-763-3117 Ext 5022 or email to ccurry@okeesherrif.com.

Camp puts on a production

The sixth annual migrant theater camp presents "Junie B. Jones Jr. The Musical," for one night only, 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.

Obituaries

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

Mary 'Scotty' Swan Albert, 77

SEBRING — Mary "Scotty" Swan Albert died June 15, 2018. She was born March 31, 1941 in Greenock, Scotland. A resident of Sebring for 20 years, she was a member of the Eagles. She was the Head Chef at the Burt Reynolds' Theatre from 1982 – 1989. She enjoyed shopping and spending time with her grandchildren.

Mrs. Albert was preceded in death by Jake Harley.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Gerald "Jerry" Albert, of Sebring; son, Brian Albert (Karen), of Okeechobee; brother, Graham Harley; sisters, Susan Harley and Margaret Harley, all of Scotland; seven grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

No services will be held at this time.

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.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Elks donate to D.A.R.E. Program

The Lake Okeechobee Elks Lodge #2871 and the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office are working together to ensure the local D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program remains in our community. The D.A.R.E. program is administered in all elementary schools, both public and private, for the fifth grade. This year through a \$2,000 Gratitude grant, the local Elks Lodge is helping ensure the D.A.R.E. program continues by assisting with the local budgeting needs. The local Elks recognized that, due to the need for additional resource officers assigned to schools, this program could suffer. The Lake Okeechobee Elks Lodge will assist, utilizing a grant. The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks assists and supports such local needs through the Elks National Foundation Community Investments Program (CIP) that invests over \$12.3 million annually in Elk communities across the country through many local lodge grants, helping the Elks meet other local needs. For information on the Elks, contact your local lodge or Michelle Harper at 863-634-6397. Elks Care, Elks Share! Pictured in the back row (left to right) are Sheriff Noel E. Stephen, Michelle Harper-Krnotch, Bill Yamello, Patty Walters, Clif Matson, Ernie Basil and Deputy Sergeant Michael Hazellief. In the front row (left to right) are Dera Muszick and Shirley Matson.

Catch a Florida Memory when you go saltwater fishing this summer

Special to the Okeechobee News

Summer fishing season is heating up, and you're invited to Catch a Florida Memory with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) by participating in any of three fun and exciting Saltwater Angler Recognition Programs. See if you can catch all 71 species in the Saltwater Fish Life List. Caught a big fish that warrants bragging rights? Submit it to the Saltwater Reel Big Fish program. And be sure to check out the nine categories of Saltwater Grand Slams that challenge anglers to catch three specific fish in a 24-hour period.

Anglers of all ages and skill levels can earn various prizes such as certificates, shirts, hats, rods and reels, dehooking tools, rubber-coated nets and more. Successful anglers receive recognition in Florida Saltwater Recreational Fishing Regulations booklets and on the club members page of Catcha-FloridaMemory.com, plus the chance to win monthly raffle prizes courtesy of generous program partners.

Catch a Florida Memory programs are not only fun and rewarding, but they also promote fisheries conservation. Anglers are encouraged to target a diversity of species to help decrease fishing pressure on the most sought-after fishes. Catch-and-release fishing and responsible fish handling practices

are emphasized, and anglers do not have to harvest their catches to qualify. Photos of the angler with each catch are required and could even be featured in FWC publications or on social media.

Saltwater Fish Life list

Can you catch them all? Similar to a birding life list, this program allows anglers to track their progress at catching 71 different species of saltwater fish. Anglers who catch at least 10 different Life List species can join the Saltwater Fish Life List 10-Fish Club and receive a prize pack including a certificate of accomplishment and a colorful shirt, plus be eligible for additional prizes as they catch 30, 50 and all 71 fish on the list. Anglers who complete their Life List by submitting all 71 fish will be awarded a grand prize! Get started today and print your Saltwater Fish Life List or request to receive one by mail at CatchaFloridaMemory.com.

Saltwater Reel Big Fish

Don't let that whopper of a fish turn into just a whopper of a story. Memorialize your Saltwater Reel Big Fish by submitting a photo of you with your catch and a photo of the fish over a measuring device. This program includes 30 different species in both adult and youth (15 and younger) categories. Successful participants receive a prize pack including a certificate of accomplishment and a colorful shirt, and are eligible for additional

prizes as they catch five, 10, 15 or all 30 different Saltwater Reel Big Fish species. Plus, anglers who submit all 30 species will get a grand prize!

Saltwater Grand Slams

Can you meet the challenge? FWC has nine different Saltwater Grand Slams that award anglers for catching three specified fish within a 24-hour period, and the categories may surprise and challenge you. From the Inshore Grand Slam consisting of red drum, spotted seatrout and flounder to the Florida Grand Slam of permit, tarpon and bonefish, these challenges will make you work to increase your fishing skills. The program even includes a Small Fry Grand Slam for anglers 15 and under who catch a pinfish, catfish and grunt. Successful anglers receive a prize pack with a certificate of accomplishment and a colorful shirt showing the fish from their Grand Slam, and can win additional prizes when they catch three, six, or all eligible Grand Slams. Plus, a grand prize will be given to anglers who complete all eligible slams!

Learn more about Catch a Florida Memory programs and submit catches today at CatchaFloridaMemory.com. Keep track of who's catching what on the Catch a Florida Memory Facebook page, Facebook.com/CatchaFLMemory. Want to learn more about saltwater fishing? View how-to videos



Special to the Okeechobee News
Catch a Florida Memory with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) by participating in any of three fun and exciting Saltwater Angler Recognition Programs.

at MyFWC.com/SaltwaterFishing. And brush up on your saltwater fish identification skills at MyFWC.com/FishingLines.

Have questions? Are you a business or organization that would like to partner with Catch a Florida Memory? Email Angler-Recognition@MyFWC.com or call 850-487-0554.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Donation made to Outreach

The Tuckahoe biker club donated food and a check to Big Lake Missions Outreach for their food drive. Big Lake Missions Outreach would like to thank the club for their generosity.

National FFA Scholarship awarded

Special to the Okeechobee News

INDIANAPOLIS — The National FFA Organization awarded a \$1,000 Built Ford Tough scholarship to Shelby Kirton of Okeechobee High School. The scholarship is sponsored by Built Ford Tough Gilbert Ford. Mr. Kirton plans to use the funds to pursue a degree at University of Florida.

This scholarship is one of 1,829 awarded through the National FFA Organization's scholarship program this year. Currently, 114 sponsors contribute more than \$2.5 million to support scholarships for students.

For 34 years, scholarships have been made available through funding secured by the National FFA Foundation. This generous funding comes from individuals, businesses and corporate sponsors to encourage excel-

lence and enable students to pursue their educational goals.

The 2018 scholarship recipients were selected from 8,831 applicants from across the country. Selections were based on the applicant's leadership, academic record, FFA and other school and community activities, supervised agricultural or work experience in agricultural education and future goals.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 653,359 student members who belong to one of 8,568 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization is also supported by 344,239 alumni members in 2,051 alumni chapters throughout the U.S.



Okeechobee News/Keli Trimnal

Fire rescue helicopter training

St. Lucie County Air Rescue and instructor Dave Hollman visited Okeechobee County on June 14 to help with training Okeechobee Fire Rescue in landing zone procedures, patient transfers and emergency procedures inside a helicopter. Pictured are Captain Justin Hazellief, driver Daniel Ciorrocco, Firemedic Jeremy Morgan, Lieutenant Robert Walters, Firemedic Dustin Hendon, Firemedic Jamie Gwilt, firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician Matthew Coleman, Dr. Dave Hoilman and firefighter/EMT John Peiler.

TEAM

Continued From Page 1

Okeechobee rolled over Lake Placid 10-0 in game that had to be ended in the fourth inning due to the mercy rule.

Now, the team is attempting to raise funds to help with the costs of attending the state tournament in Bristol, from June 29 through July 4.

Stephanie Busbin, mother of one of the players on the team, says the funds will help pay for traveling costs and a hotel for the team.

The team is offering three levels of sponsorship for businesses or individuals: gold, which costs \$250 and gets the sponsor their name and logo on a T-shirt and a "thank you" plaque from the team; silver, which costs \$100 and gets the sponsor their name and logo on a T-shirt; and, bronze, which covers any donation under \$100 and gets the sponsor a team photo.

The All-Stars have received five gold sponsorships so far from local businesses Hazellief & Prevatt Realty, Xtreme Property Services, Rite Tire, Anthony Bertram Hauling and JBL Industrial Services.

If you'd like to reach out to offer support or become a sponsor of the team, you're encouraged to call coach Ruben Guerrero at 850-321-7795.

Also, the team is hosting a car wash at Pritchard's Insurance on June 23 starting at 8:30 a.m., with the cost being whatever people would like to donate. The All-Stars will also be out in front of Publix on June 25 raising money by selling raffle tickets for two

coolers full of fishing bait and gear.

For a few of the players on the All-Stars it will be their second trip to Bristol, as six members made it to the state tournament as T-ball players in previous years.

The team is now in the midst of practicing all week in anticipation of the tournament. Okeechobee County Sheriff Noel E.



Special to the Okeechobee News
Okeechobee County Sheriff Noel E. Stephen stopped by the All-Star's practice to wish the team well in the state tournament.

Stephen stopped by one of their practices on June 20 to wish the team well.

Lance Richard, father of one of the players and unofficial "voice of the All-Stars," is amazed at the young team's chemistry.

"It's been awesome how well they've jelled," explained Mr. Richards. "It looks like they've been playing together forever."

SCHOOL

Continued From Page 1

The issue arose because recent studies have shown that later start times are beneficial to high school students. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), during puberty, adolescents become sleepy later at night and need to sleep later in the morning as a result in shifts in their circadian rhythm. Circadian rhythm is the internal body clock that regulates biological processes in a 24-hour cycle. It helps ensure certain body functions work in harmony with our sleep/wake cycle, including body temperature and secretion of hormones such as melatonin, which is key to helping us sleep.

Most public middle and high schools in the United States start before 8:30 a.m., and that combination of late bedtimes and early school start times results in most adolescents not getting enough sleep.

Researchers at the Boston Children's Hospital have noted that being out of biological sync with school schedules forces adolescents to wake up when they are at their lowest level of alertness (the equivalent of 3 a.m. for adults). They also miss out on rapid-eye-movement (REM) sleep, which is concentrated in the early-morning hours and is critical for forming memories and learning new information. On weekends, late bedtimes and late wake times become even more extreme, contributing to the phenomenon termed "social jet lag" and exacerbating sleepiness on school days.

During the workshop, Okeechobee Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy presented data that suggested that schools with later start times have fewer absences than schools with earlier start times. Creekside High School located in St. Johns County, Florida, has a start time of 9:15 a.m., and only 5.7 percent of students have missed 21 days or more. At OHS, class begins at 7 a.m., and 21.86 percent of students have missed 21 days or more. Both schools have a similar population of around 2,000 students. Creekside has also earned a gold medal in 2018 from U.S. News and World Report based on their students' performance on state-required tests and how well they prepare students for college.

The Okeechobee County School District published a survey seeking the opinions of parents, students and teachers within the district on changing school start times. On the question of whether the current 7 a.m. start time is too early at OHS, the results showed the community was almost split; 51 percent of respondents said no, while 48 percent said yes.

The school board also heard from representatives of the school district's department of transportation on what would need to be done if start times changed. Because of the number of buses available and the turnaround time between schools, the only way to accommodate a later high school start time would be to combine high schoolers and middle schoolers onto the same bus schedules.

This would also push elementary schools to start earlier, and the school board was not comfortable with elementary age children

waiting at bus stops in the dark before the sun rises.

The board also considered shifting every school's start times 30 minutes later, but worried that may not be a big enough change to make a difference.

The domino effect that comes with changing school start times along with the community's 50/50 vote in the survey gave board Chairwoman Jill Holcomb pause in instituting any drastic changes this school year.

"I do think high school starts too early, but I don't want it to start too late as well," said Ms. Holcomb. "I want to be able to move it without impacting after-school activities or jobs."

Board member Malissa Morgan agreed with Ms. Holcomb.

"I'm afraid if we move the time too much, it'll be a domino effect and a lot of other things will be impacted," explained Ms. Morgan.

Unable to come up with a solution and not feeling comfortable in disrupting things, the board agreed to look further into the issue and consider it again in their January 2019 meeting.

"This has a potential to impact every family in this district," said Mr. Kenworthy. "Everyone has developed their life around our school times, and I feel like June is too late in the game to make changes this year."

The school board has asked Mr. Kenworthy to get more feedback on the proposed change from the individual principals in the Okeechobee County School District.

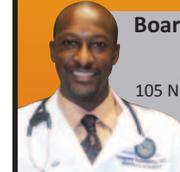


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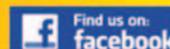
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LAKE

Continued From Page

received more than 400 percent of average rainfall — left all of South Florida saturated with freshwater. As runoff from the Kissimmee River basin flowed south into Lake Okeechobee, the lake level quickly rose. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers tries to keep the lake on schedule between 12.5 and 15.5 feet above sea level. Higher levels damage the lake's ecology by drowning the marshes along its shores. These marshes are critical habitat for fish and wildlife and also help clean the water. Higher levels also threaten the stability of the earthen Herbert Hoover Dike.

During hurricane season, the corps tries to leave enough capacity in Lake Okeechobee to anticipate the heavy flows from storms, which can cause the lake to rise as much as 4 feet in a few weeks.

On June 1, the corps started flowing up to 1,800 cubic feet per second (cfs) east to the St. Lucie from the lake as measured at the St. Lucie Lock, and up to 4,000 cfs west to the Caloosahatchee at the Moore Haven Lock.

Flow south of the lake is currently limited by the capacity of the canals and by the Tamiami Trail, which acts as a dam bisecting the Everglades from Tampa to Miami. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) calls for raising part of the roadway. The corps recommended 11 miles of raised bridging. Currently only 1 mile of raised bridging has been completed; another 2.6 miles is under construction.

An additional barrier to flow south is the Department of the Interior, which has blocked flow under the Tamiami Trail to protect the nesting area of the Cape Sable sea sparrow. To protect the nesting grounds, two of the S-12 gates (which would allow flow under the trail) are closed. On June 20, flow under the trail was 1,316 cfs — about 700 million gallons per day. If all of the S-12 gates were open, that flow could nearly double. This would still only be a fraction of the water that has been flowing east and west since June 1.

Flow south is also limited by restrictions on phosphorus levels. While the Lake Okeechobee inflows from the north average around 140 parts per billion of phosphorus, water entering Everglades National Park must be no more than 10 ppb. So the

water that flows through the lake must be sent through Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) to be cleaned before it can be sent south into the Everglades.

Due to heavy rainfall in May, those STAs were at or above capacity when the releases east and west started June 1.

On June 20, water from the lake was flowing south at 1,031 cfs to the STAs, then into the Water Conservation Areas. Clean water from the WCAs was flowing at a rate of 1,316 cfs to Everglades National Park.

On Wednesday, June 20, Gov. Scott directed Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Noah Valenstein to issue an order urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to take emergency actions to help redirect the flow of water out of Lake Okeechobee to the south. This order is in response to the Army Corps decision to release water from Lake Okeechobee west to the Caloosahatchee River and east to the St. Lucie River estuaries and the Indian River Lagoon. Since the corps began releasing water from Lake Okeechobee this year, DEP has continued to respond to reports of algal blooms in both rivers, as well as continued reports on Lake Okeechobee.

Gov. Scott said: "In previous years, we have seen algae blooms develop in our waterways due to the federal water discharges from Lake Okeechobee. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers directs these discharges when the dike is nearing capacity and at risk of breaching. Unfortunately, the federal government has had decades to fix the dike that they operate, but have failed to do so. In response, I have put up state funding to fix the federal dike and I have secured an agreement from the Trump administration to expedite the repairs. Also, working with the Florida Legislature, I signed a law that accelerated the EAA reservoir to move more water south of the lake, to help ease these discharges. But, while we continue to wait on the federal government's action on the dike and EAA reservoir, we are going to do all we can to protect our waterways as we enter the hot summer months in Florida.

"I am directing DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein to issue a Secretarial Emergency Order urging the Army Corps and SFWMD to take emergency actions to lower lake levels and help redirect the flow of water out of Lake Okeechobee to the south. Two years ago, we saw the devastating impact of releases from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuar-

ies, which caused widespread algal blooms and led to the declaration of a state of emergency in four counties. We are taking immediate action to do everything in our power to solve this problem.

"With this order, and the cooperation of the Army Corps and other federal agencies, the state will continue to work to mitigate and minimize the impacts of algal blooms we witnessed in the past. We will continue to fight to secure federal action and urge the federal government to authorize the EAA reservoir and fully fund the Herbert Hoover Dike repairs."

DEP Secretary Valenstein said: "We want to take every step possible to allow the Army Corps and water management district to proactively address high water levels and move more water south and away from our communities. While lake releases will continue to depend on the Army Corps' water operations, the state is committed to providing flexibility to the Army Corps, while also standing alongside Floridians."

Prior to the Army Corps' releases, the SFWMD was already maximizing opportunities to lower water levels in all three water conservation areas south of the lake, and this emergency order will provide additional opportunities to move clean water out of the water conservations areas to the south. SFWMD continues to make use of all available water storage, including recently completed components of Gov. Scott's Restoration Strategies Plan, such as the A-1 and L-8 Flow Equalization Basins.

On Thursday, the corps announced that it will slightly reduce the flows east and west starting Friday.

Starting Friday (June 22), the target flow for the Caloosahatchee Estuary will be reduced to 3,000 cfs as measured at W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam (S-79) located near Fort Myers. The target flow for the St. Lucie Estuary will be reduced to a seven-day average of 1,170 cfs as measured at St. Lucie Lock & Dam (S-80) near Stuart.

Because these releases will include local flow, the actual flow from the lake will be less than the target flow number. For example, on June 20, 1,760 cfs was flowing into the Caloosahatchee from local basin runoff. With the new schedule, that would have meant only 1,240 cfs could have been released at Moore Haven.

"The discharges over the past three weeks have stopped the rise in the lake," said Col. Jason Kirk, Jacksonville District commander. "Inflows have also slowed since late May. Based on current conditions, the guidance under the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule calls for reduced flows."

On Thursday, the lake stage was 14.05 feet. The corps will release water to the St. Lucie Estuary from the lake in a "pulse" fashion, which means flows will vary during the seven-day release period. Additional runoff from rain in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie basins could also occasionally result in flows that exceed targets.

"The pulse releases will be set up to include two consecutive days of no flow for the St. Lucie Estuary," said Col. Kirk. "This should allow some tidal flushing, which will help aquatic life in the estuary."

The corps is working with state officials to determine what other actions can be taken to address water management challenges in South Florida.

Col. Kirk said while they appreciate the

need to protect the estuaries, the governor's order does not change the way the corps follows the existing Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS).

"In collaboration with the South Florida Water Management District and in consultation with our regional headquarters and federal resource agencies, we constantly seek to identify and implement the optimal solutions in a system with limited options," said Col. Kirk. "Our close federal-state partnership serves us well in day-to-day operations as it does in our shared pursuit of Everglades restoration wherein we're working to implement long-term improvements to South Florida's water quantity, quality, timing and distribution."

Church Directory



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Come and share in the word of God

Trinity Free Will Baptist Church

Sunday School 10:00 am
 Sunday Worship 11:00 am
 Sunday Bible Study 6:00 pm
 Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 pm

Pastor: Thomas Dees

1840 NE 39th Blvd. (Cemetery Rd)
 Okeechobee, Florida 34972
 Telephone: 863-763-4962

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Col. Jason Kirk held a press conference next to the Herbert Hoover Dike near South Bay on Thursday.

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Okeechobee

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Bible stories  **games**
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50,000 acres preserved through rural and family lands protection program

Special to the Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — The governor and Cabinet on Wednesday, June 13, approved the preservation of more than 8,300 acres through four cost-effective conservation easements, which prevent future development of the land and allow agricultural operations to continue to contribute to Florida's economy. The purchases are part of the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, where the state partners with Florida's farmers and ranchers to preserve active agricultural operations and their immense economic and environmental benefits. Today's partnerships increase the total land preserved by the program to over 50,660 acres through 45 conservation easements.

Since 2011, the current governor and Cabinet have approved the acquisition of 38 projects totaling more than 47,000 acres.

"We must continue to prioritize the conservation of our agricultural lands and

world-renowned natural spaces," said Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam. "Through the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, we partner with farmers and ranchers to preserve the invaluable pieces of our rural economy and environment to help preserve what makes Florida such a special place to live."

The easements approved June 13 include Goolsby Ranch in Highlands County, Howze Ranch in Manatee County, Sampala Lake Ranch in Madison County and Rodman Plantation in Putnam County.

The governor and Cabinet partnered with the United States Air Force to purchase the conservation easement for Goolsby Ranch in Highlands County, which will preserve the ranch's 4,476 acres of working row crops, dairy and cattle operations. Goolsby Ranch is within the designated sentinel landscape of Avon Park Air Force Range, acting as a military base buffer, and is cru-

cial for protecting military training missions. It is also located within the Bombing Range Ridge Florida Forever Project and connects neighboring conservation easements.

The governor and the Cabinet partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture to purchase the conservation easement for Howze Ranch in Manatee County, which will preserve the ranch's 929-acre Commercial Crossbred cattle operation. A majority of the ranch is kept in native condition for free-range grazing. Howze Ranch is located within the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever Project, and it provides vital habitat for native wildlife.

The purchase of an additional 1,400 acres on Sampala Lake Ranch will bolster the preservation of the working cattle ranch's natural resources. This conservation easement is adjacent to another RFLPP easement within this project. This property combines open space, aquifer recharge and working agri-

cultural lands with wildlife corridors.

The purchase of a conservation easement at Rodman Plantation in Putnam County will preserve 1,583 acres of high-quality silviculture and working cattle operations. This property provides vital habitat for native wildlife and connects agricultural lands with wildlife corridors.

Florida agriculture has an overall economic impact estimated at more than \$120 billion annually, making it the state's second-largest industry. The agriculture industry supports more than 2 million jobs in Florida.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Grand Oaks gets magical

The residents of Grand Oaks made Fairy Houses. These residents constructed these little houses themselves. They are very proud of them. This is just an example of the artistic things they do and make to help these sweet people feel confident and purposeful. The houses were completed Monday, June 18. This was a continuing project over a period of days.

Left: Jean Wallace shows off her craft work, a suitable home for a tiny fairy. Center: Helen Wilson is proud of her fairy house. Right: Ruth Durham's fairy house is ready for occupants.

AA meetings scheduled in Okeechobee County

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

POISON
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Smokeless tobacco's direct and repeated contact with the gums causes the gums to recede and become diseased, leading to loose teeth.

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Employment

Employment - Full Time

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Call M-S(863)467-9800

Hospice of Okeechobee

Director of Clinical Services
(2) Full Time RN Positions
Contact Gail Gemtrup
863-467-2321

Insurance License 440 or 220

We're looking for a bright, talented, sales-minded professional who has a passion for the insurance industry and wants to work in an energetic, positive environment.
E-mail resume
admin@myarmacum.com

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 equivalency.

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

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If you are interested in applying, please visit seminolepd.com and

click under employment to download the application.

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

Employment - Medical

Medical Assistant

Full Time - Must have 1 year exp in the medical field, OB/GYN experience helpful, ability to maintain confidential info & Strong Customer relations skills. Bilingual Spanish/English pref'd. Fax resume to (561) 472-9692 or apply at Florida Community Health Center, 1100 N. Parrott Ave, Okeechobee, FL. EOE/DFWP. e-mail jobs@fchcinc.org

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



Financial

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

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

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



Rentals

Apartments

OKEECHOBEE Available June Unique updated Loft Style 2BD/1BA \$795.00/MO.

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.

Sorry, NO PETS. Call M-S 9am-6pm 813-956-5150

Business Opportunities

Business Opportunities

Employment - Full Time

Employment - Full Time

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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

107 SW 17th St • Suite D

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NO PHONE CALLS

Apartments

TAYLOR CREEK CONDO: 1BR, 1BA fully furn. \$900/mo. water/power ind. Sec. dep. req. & background ck. 863-634-0024.

N.W. OKEE

2 BR, 1 BA, \$725 mo. \$2175 to move in.
2 BR, 2 BA, \$775 mo. \$2325 to move in.
561-346-1642

Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."

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TREASURE ISLAND 21,000SQ. 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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Okeechobee EOE/DFWP



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Mobile Homes - Rent

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Mobile Homes - Sale

MOBILE HOME for sale waterfront, 1bed/1bath, washer, dryer, screen-porch, furnished. \$6500 call 772-579-1989.



Recreation

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Public Notices



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READING A NEWSPAPER HELPS YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY.



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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE WILL MEET TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018 IN ROOM 302 OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT 3209 VIRGINIA AVENUE, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34981-5596.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE - 12:00 PM.
CLARK ADVANCED LEARNING CENTER GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 1:30 PM.
PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE - 2:00 PM.
BOARD POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE - 2:15 PM.
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - 2:30 PM.

ANY PERSONS SEEKING TO APPEAL THE DECISIONS OF THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE. 270270 ON 6/22/2018

Administration of Estates

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO. 472018CP000025

IN RE: ESTATE OF FRANCIS A. HANNAH A/K/A FRANCIS ALAN HANNAH Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Francis A. Hannah a/k/a Francis Alan Hannah, deceased, whose date of death was February 1, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 Northwest 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972.

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

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

NOTWITHSTANDING 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 first publication of this notice is April 4th, 2018.

Personal Representative: Ernest Hannah 2693 Elder Way Wolverine Lake, Michigan 48390

Attorney for Personal Representative: Renée Marquis-Abrams Florida Bar Number: 0984220 Neil Griffin Marquis, Chartered P.O. Box 1270, Fort Pierce, Florida 34954 Telephone: (772) 464-8200; Fax: (772) 464-2566 E-Mail: rmarquis@neilgriffin.com Secondary E-Mail: spsee@neilgriffin.com 268956 ON 6/15/22/2018

LEGAL NOTICE

A public auction will be held at TOTAL ROADSIDE SERVICES, located at 3176 Hwy 710 E, Okeechobee 34974 at 9:00 a.m. On the date listed below Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, make and model as follows:

AUCTION 7/24

2018 Jeep RENEGADE

VIN: ZACCJAB6JPH33468

AUCTION 7/10

2001 GMC Sierra 1500

VIN: 2GTEK19T111361780

AUCTION 7/11

2009 BMW 328i

VIN: WBAAW833539P136055

AUCTION 7/11

2004 GMC Envoy

VIN: 1GKE516S346138847

AUCTION 7/10

2002 MAZDA

VIN: JM1BJ45321611886

Terms of sale are CASH ONLY, no checks will be accepted. The seller reserves the right of final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Said automobile will be sold "as is" with no guarantees.

Location: 3176 Hwy 710 E 863-357-8772 270275 ON 06/22/2018

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2018TD789

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

Certificate No: 1770 Year of Issuance: June-01-2016

Description of Property: SUNSET STRIP AIRPARK LOT 22

1-23-37-34-0020-00022-0000

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:

ANDY GODWIN ANGEL GODWIN BRIAN GODWIN CHARLES D GODWIN ESTATE OF CHARLES D GODWIN KIPPY GODWIN RYAN GODWIN

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 10:00 A.M., on the 2nd day of August, 2018. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Frances Conner Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 266933 ON 6/15,22,29;7/6/2018

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2018TD790

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

Certificate No: 3309 Year of Issuance: June-01-2016

Description of Property: NORTHWEST ADDITION TO OKEECHOBEE PLAT BOOK 1 PAGE 25 LOTS 15 & 16 BLOCK 24

3-16-37-35-0160-00240-0150

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:

ALLEN ALDRIDGE ALLEN HOWARD ALDRIDGE ANN ALDRIDGE HEATHER ALDRIDGE MARY BULLINGTON

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 10:00 A.M., on the 9th day of August, 2018. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Frances Conner Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 267895 ON 6/22,29;7/6,13/2018

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2018TD786

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

Certificate No: 1876 Year of Issuance: June-01-2016

Description of Property: A CONDOMINIUM PLAT OF THE HAMMOCK CABINS AT PINE CREEK AS RECORDED IN CONDOMINIUM BOOK 1 PAGES 72-77 PHASE 1 UNIT 19

1-01-35-35-0020-00000-0190

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:

MILLER PCLLC

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 10:00 A.M., on the 2nd day of August, 2018. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Frances Conner Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 266934 ON 6/15,22,29;7/6/2018

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2018TD787

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

Certificate No: 2803 Year of Issuance: June-01-2016

Description of Property: BEING A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 35 TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH RANGE 35 EAST OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA AND BEING A PORTION OF PARCEL A TAYLOR CREEK ISLES SECTION FIVE ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3 PAGE 92 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID PARCEL A TAYLOR CREEK ISLES SECTION FIVE SAID POINT LYING ON THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF US HIGHWAY 441 AKA STATE ROAD NO 15 THENCE BEAR SOUTH 67 DEG 36 MIN 04 SEC WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID PARCEL A AND ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF US HIGHWAY 441 FOR A DISTANCE OF 400.10 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 67 DEG 36 MIN 04 SEC WEST ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID PARCEL A AND ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF US HIGHWAY 441 FOR A DISTANCE OF 213.45 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND AS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS OR BOOK 343 PAGE 1496 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA THENCE BEAR NORTH 56 DEG 17 MIN 12 SEC WEST ALONG THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID OR BOOK 343 PAGE 1496 FOR A DISTANCE OF 58.13 FEET TO THE NORTH CORNER OF SAID OR BOOK 343 PAGE 1496 SAID POINT LYING ON THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID PARCEL A BEING ALSO THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SE 18TH TERRACE THENCE BEAR NORTH 00 DEG 10 MIN 27 SEC WEST ALONG SAID WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF PARCEL A AND ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SE 18TH TERRACE FOR A DISTANCE OF 385.59 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHEAST AND HAVING FOR ITS ELEMENTS A RADIUS OF 35.00 FEET AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 67 DEG 46 MIN 31 SEC THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE FOR AN ARC LENGTH OF 41.40 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY OF SAID CURVE SAID POINT LYING ON THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID PARCEL A BEING ALSO THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SE 38TH TRAIL THENCE BEAR NORTH 67 DEG 36 MIN 04 SEC EAST ALONG SAID NORTHERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF PARCEL A AND ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SE 38TH TRAIL FOR A DISTANCE OF 67.61 FEET TO A POINT THENCE BEAR SOUTH 22 DEG 23 MIN 56 SEC EAST PARALLEL WITH THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID PARCEL A FOR A DISTANCE OF 426.97 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. 1.717 ACRES

1-35-37-35-0100-00000-000A

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed: GJC PROPERTIES INC

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 10:00 A.M., on the 2nd day of August, 2018. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Frances Conner Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 266935 ON 6/15,22,29;7/6/2018

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2018TD792

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

Certificate No: 2846 Year of Issuance: June-01-2016

Description of Property: THE RECLAIMED LAKE BOTTOM OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE LYING IN SECTION 18 TOWNSHIP 38 SOUTH RANGE 35 EAST OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS A STRIP OF LAND LYING ALONG THE NORTHWEST SHORE OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE AND BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 746 PAGE 211 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA BOUND ON THE WEST BY THE STATE 17 FOOT CONTOUR LINE AS DESCRIBED IN THE EAGLE BAY SURVEY AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1 PAGE 31 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA AND ALSO BOUNDED ON THE WEST BY OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 655 PAGE 1423 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA AND ALSO BOUNDED ON THE WEST BY OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 264 PAGE 540 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA BOUNDED ON THE SOUTH BY THE EASTERLY PROJECTION OF THE NORTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THAT PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 264 PAGE 540 TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE L D4 CONVEYANCE CANAL

1-18-38-35-0A00-00000-0000

Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly Room, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 10:00 A.M., on the 9th day of August, 2018. SUBJECT TO CURRENT TAXES

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Frances Conner Deputy Clerk

NOTICE REGARDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Court Administration no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, 1.772.807.4370 within two working days of your receipt of this notice. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8771; IF YOU ARE VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 1.800.955.8770. 267893 ON 6/22,29;7/6,13/2018

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Regular Session on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the "Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom" at the Historic Courthouse, 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of such proceedings is made, which record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Administrator's Office not later than four (4) working days prior to the proceeding at 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Room 123 Okeechobee, Florida 34972, or call 863.763.6441. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 1-800-222-3448 (voice) or 1-888-447-5620 (TTY).

Terry W. Burroughs, Chair Board of County Commissioners Okeechobee County, Florida

Sharon Robertson, Clerk Board of County Commissioners Okeechobee County, Florida /s/ Paula Poskonj Deputy Clerk 262483 ON 6/22/2018

READING A NEWSPAPER HELPS YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY.



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Do Your Part RECYCLE

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS 1 Nickel or dime 5 Zenith 9 Toboggan, e.g. 13 Fairy tale villain 14 Visitor from space 15 Soft drink nut 16 "You almost had it" 19 2016 Hall of Fame inductee Griffey Jr. 20 Weighty books 21 Curved fastener 22 Flabbergast 23 UPC-like product ID 24 "Mork & Mindy" or "Mike & Molly" 32 Beef cut 33 Reason for a cold sweat 34 GI chow 35 Writing fluids 36 Parking 38 Gaucho's weapon 39 Dental suffix with Water 40 Slim racetrack margin 41 Slightly open 42 Event where many dress as Stormtroopers or Klingons 47 Question 48 Grandson of Eve 49 Malice 52 Sans serif font 54 Hawaiian tuna 57 What polar opposites have 60 Tiny pasta used in soup 61 Washington's Sound 62 "Agreed!" 63 Smile ear to ear 64 Enjoy a novel 65 After 1-Across, pregame football ritual, and what's literally found in this puzzle's circles

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

Grid of crossword puzzle answers with words like GOOGLENOW, ACUTE CARE, UTAHN, LETS SLIDE, SAGES, ELF SALE, MERLOT, NOIR, TERROR, ED A, ATTEN DUET, ICON, MAS, PETS, SMART, LOITER, DOTIME, MINTOREO, SAG, YVES, IAMS, SHUSH, PTA, MEDIAN, TREE, LYCEES, GLAM, BAR, ALTON, GOONADATE, TEENS, USMARINES, ERS, SMESALADY

xwordeditor@aol.com

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-65 indicating starting positions for clues.

DOWN

- 1 Tilt to the side, as one's head 2 Look at wolfishly 3 Small laundry room appliance 4 Nintendo's Super

REAL ESTATE DIRECTORY

BLUE HERON POOL HOME!



~ BLUE HERON POOL HOME! 2006 CBS home, 3 bd/ 3 ba/ 2 car garage 37' deep, for your Bass Boat! 2053 Sf under air - 3571 Sf TLA. Foyer, open concept, formal dining, 10' ceilings, surround sound and speakers at pool. Cherry Cabinets, granite, stone backsplash, SS appliances, pantry. Split plan. Closet organizers. Spacious master suite. Screen enclosed pool, outdoor kitchen with bar. Home MADE FOR ENTERTAINING! **MLS#212763 \$279,000** Call Lori (863) 634-1457

SW SECTION



PERFECT LOCATION Immaculate 2015 CBS Custom Home. 3 Bd/ 2 Ba/ 2 garage. Office or 4th bd. Grand foyer, 10-12 ft ceilings, open concept, split floor plan, lighted display features. Open kitchen, 2 pantries. Master bdrm opens to 13x22 lanai. 2063 Sf under air - 2916 TLA. High efficiency-low utilities. Shared fence line with a 50 acre parcel of land! **MLS#212771 \$247,000** Call Lori (863) 634-1457

~Our Priorities are simple..They're Yours!

Lori Mixon (863)634-1457
Lic. Real Estate Broker LMixon@MixonGroup.com





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

Hazellief & Prevatt Realty Inc.



MOTIVATED SELLER

5002-H: SUN & COUNTRY RANCHES: FT. DRUM AREA CUSTOM BUILT ON 4.73± ACRES. Spacious throughout with 3,474 Total Sq ft/2,321 under air. Open concept, high ceilings. Too many extras to list. **MUST SEE. MLS # 212031**



2.56± ACRES

5064-H: R BAR ESTATES 3BD/2BA on 2.56 +/- acres, 2,473 Total sq. ft./1,775 under air. Vaulted ceilings and much more. Mature oak trees. Overlooks large pasture w/abundant wildlife! Large pets welcome. Call for more info. **MLS # 212328 \$270,000**

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Newly REDUCED Price! Home on 1 Acre




NE SECTION~ 4bd/2ba 1973 manufactured home on 1 acre, fully fenced. 2,830 sq feet under roof, Wood burning fireplace. Spacious laundry/utility w/new dryer in 2018. Encl Fl room runs length of home, screened patio, attached 2 car carport, above ground pool installed 2016, new pump in 2017. Septic pumped in 2018, New well pump in 2015, metal roof in 2008. Detached 512 sq ft work shop w/ carport overhang.
Offered at \$85,000 Call Julia Parker at 863-801-3489



Julia Parker
863.801.3489 | Office: 863.763.6000



BLUE HERON COUNTRY CLUB




MLS# 209428 MLS# 209429

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



Vicki Anderson, Lic. RE Broker
863.634.4106








2005 DWMH - 441 S ON RIM CANAL WITH LAKE O ACCESS! 2/2 has been beautifully updated. Enjoy beautiful sunsets and lush landscaping with true Florida shrubberies. Detached carport and 12x24 workshop/10x20 boat house with lift on 200 ft of seawall!
MLS #212762 \$264,000 Call Erica 610-1490

863.610.1490 | EHarvey@MixonGroup.com






3/2 FULLY FURNISHED with everything including dishes and linens. Large island kitchen with breakfast area. Home has carpet and tile. Split bedrooms and large master bath with walk-in closet. Inside laundry room. Screened porch. This one is a must see! **MLS #212665 \$95,000**



Melody Hodges
Realtor®
863-697-1975
MHodges@MixonGroup.com



SEMINOLE COVE: 2/2 FULLY FURNISHED with a canal behind the home. Screened porch and nice size driveway to park boat and car. Home has laminate flooring in living area. Washer and dryer are conveniently located in home. Move in ready. **MLS #212738 \$74,900**



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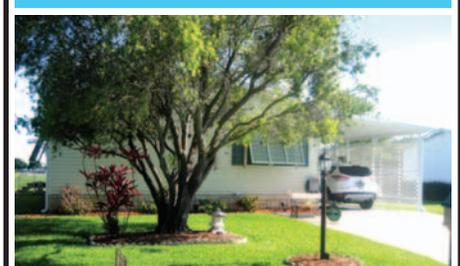


TAYLOR CREEK ISLES 2BD/2BA DWMH.
 Large Florida room, lots of storage. Boat lift and patio. Must see! 10 minutes by water to lock. **\$174,900**
 Call Jeff Anderson 863-697-2424

We're with you...from your first home to your dream home



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



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

Lake O Real Estate
 4251 Hwy 441 S.
 Okeechobee, FL 34974
 Office: (863) 763-5253
 LakeOre.com




C-1775: BUCKHEAD RIDGE Remodeled, 2BD/2BA frame house has 2 family rms spread over 1766 sq ft. Newly remodeled kitchen, solid oak cabinets, new counter tops, and new SS appliances. Too many remodeled items to list! Must see! Boat ramp and seawall w/newly built dock, 2 storage bldgs, carport, completely fenced! **\$147,000. Call Dallan at 863-697-2139**

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 Office: (863) 763-4010
THE TUCKER GROUP LLC
 Ag Team

Brandon D. Tucker Owner / Lic. R.E Broker of Record
Bobby H. Tucker Owner / Lic. R.E Broker Associate
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Heartland Region Office:
 104 NW 7th Ave., Okeechobee FL 34972
Treasure Coast Office:
 901 SW Martin Downs Blvd Suite 201, Palm City, FL 34990



SPECTACULAR- 3Bd/3BA 4,056' Home on 1+/- Acre. Totally Remodeled Inside & Out! Large bonus room with full bath. Florida Room opens onto the over-sized Pool area. Large Kitchen w/plenty of cabinets, granite countertops, Huge Master Suite, and living area is open and spacious. MLS 212574 **\$329,000 Call Vangela McFarland (863) 261-3630**



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



MOUTH OF TAYLOR CREEK- Adorable 3 Br/2Ba home on the canal. Huge Master in loft with 2 additional bedrooms down stairs. Pine Floors, Brick Fireplace, Oak Cabinets w/ Quartz Counter tops, Stainless Appliances, 2 porches, security system, Amazing brick kitchen floors. cathedral ceilings. MLS 212749 **\$199,000 Call Katie McFarland (863) 261-8338**



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



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



FOUR SEASONS Spacious 4Bd/2Ba home on 1/2 acre. 2,052 under air. Open concept kitchen with solid wood cabinets, tile floors. Newly remodeled bathroom with lots of upgrades, huge master suite. 2 Large outbuildings built in 2013 and a shed. MLS 212742 **\$132,000. Contact Samantha Saucedo (863) 801-2101**



8.89 ACRES
NEW LISTING
BRAND NEW - STILL IN CONSTRUCTION PHASE -Located in exclusive Sherman Wood Ranches. 3Br/2Ba with 2,450 sqft living and 3,218 sqft TLA. Recessed lighting, hybrid elec water heater, hurricane windows, all wood cabinets, granite countertops, ss appliances. ALL THE UPGRADES! **\$549,900 Call Jerri Lynn Hill (863) 634-6796**



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



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



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



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



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



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

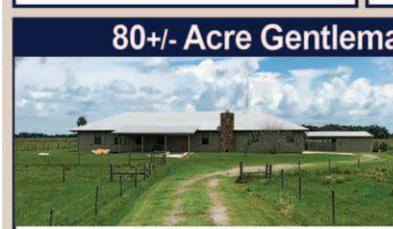


TREASURE ISLAND Spacious 3/2 MH located on deep canal in Treasure Island. This property features a large CBS addition, screened in dock, 2 shed and more. MLS 212224 **\$121,000 Call Kaydee Yates (863) 623-8863**



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

80+/- Acre Gentleman's Cattle Ranch
2 Homes with 75+/- Acre Equine Horse Farm



SPACIOUS 4,400 sq ft Ranch Style Home. 4Br/ 2Ba, stone fire place, open front porch, screened enclosed back porch and attached two car garage. Home is constructed with Cypress exterior, galvanized roof and beautiful white pine floors, walls and ceiling throughout entire interior of house. The property consist of 80 +/- grazable acres, cow pens, one stall horse barn with tack room, dog pens and enclosed equipment barn. MLS 212427 **\$875,000 Contact: Bryan (863) 634-5792**



HIGHLY IMPROVED 75+/- Acre Horse Farm in Desirable SE section of Okeechobee. 2 Custom Homes, Totally remodeled! Main 3Br/2Ba house has porches on 3 sides that overlooks the pastures. Smaller 3/2 home also offer custom cabinets, granite counters Both homes have metal Roofs. Main barn has 24 stalls as well as 2 smaller stables, 11 paddocks w/shade sheds, fenced w/horse wire w/ lanes in between. Well-maintained. Ideal for Boarding, Training, Mare Motel, also, good for cattle. MLS 212373 **\$995,000 Call Vangela (863) 261-3630**

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*See dealer for complete details.



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SAVINGS: \$6,600

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*See dealer for complete details.



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SAVINGS: \$4,000

\$27,400

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*See dealer for complete details.



NEW 2018 BUICK CASCADA

MSRP \$37,035
SAVINGS: \$3,500

\$33,535

STOCK #18337
*See dealer for complete details.



NEW 2018 BUICK ENCLAVE ESSENCE

MSRP \$49,345
SAVINGS: \$5,500

\$43,845

STOCK #18327
*Must own company vehicle under Select Brand Program.



NEW 2018 GMC TERRAIN SLE

MSRP \$31,705
SAVINGS: \$2,347

\$29,624

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*See dealer for complete details.



NEW 2018 GMC SIERRA 1500 CC SLT

MSRP \$50,025
SAVINGS: \$10,056

\$39,969

STOCK #18381
*See dealer for complete details.



NEW 2018 GMC ACADIA

MSRP \$33,930
SAVINGS: \$2,081

\$31,583

STOCK #18377
*See dealer for complete details.



NEW 2018 GMC YUKON SLE

MSRP \$53,865
SAVINGS: \$3,000

\$50,865

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*See dealer for complete details.



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